

Schizophrenia in Long-Term Care

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Unanswered Attendee Questions

Question: Do you know what percentage of individuals with Schizophrenia struggle with substance abuse?

Answer: The prevalence of substance abuse in schizophrenia varies, but most authors have estimated 40-70%.

Question: First, thank you for reiterating that the mom's parenting is not the issue [in a Schizophrenia diagnosis]! 13 years ago, our son was diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder while he was in medical school. He was released from school after passing his boards and came home. We discovered that he was using marijuana very, very heavily. He was having paranoid delusions. After a few months we had him admitted to Broadlawns, where he was diagnosed with severe depression. He has now been off any meds for years; no longer uses marijuana (replaced with smoking). He has been employed well, has a great sense of humor, very bright and increasing tremendously in self-confidence. He remains introverted, but can easily carry on a deep conversation with family, friends, and guests.

Would you please address the issue of heavy marijuana use and schizophrenia? By the way, his providers would not talk to me because of my "bad parenting."

Answer: Cannabis use (whole plant) is a definite risk factor for schizophrenia. But oddly, CBD has actually shown some benefits. The scenario you described isn't typical for schizophrenia, since it sounds like he doesn't have many residual symptoms. I'm glad that it was such a good outcome. It's common that families are frustrated by lack of contact with the providers of their adult family members. I would suggest that you check out the [NAMI website](#) if you haven't already.