



**Julia Schrof**

*Losing Touch with Reality: The Unspoken Association Between Smoking Marijuana and Psychosis*

How many of your close family and friends smoke marijuana? According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, cannabis continues to be the most used addictive drug. This systematic review sought to identify whether there is a link between regular marijuana use and psychosis (episodic breaks from reality) and if so, which populations are most at risk for developing psychosis. The majority of articles reviewed were in agreement that there is an association between regular marijuana use and the development of psychosis. The World Health Organization states that 45 million people worldwide have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and 20 million people with schizophrenia. These psychiatric conditions often cause psychoses. Is marijuana safe in these individuals? As both medicinal marijuana use and the legalization of recreational marijuana increase, it is extremely important for medical providers to have conversations with patients about their increased risk of developing psychosis as a result of marijuana use.