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Alcohol restrictions 'led to more marijuana use'

ALEISHA PREEDY

Alcohol restrictions had led to an increased use of marijuana in remote Aboriginal communities, a study has shown.

The study — published in the Australian Journal of Health — highlights the link between indigenous poverty, poor health and a lack of opportunities with substance misuse.

Study authors Kate Senior and Richard Chenhall from the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin said the move from alcohol and petrol sniffing to marijuana has created new domestic problems.

"Efforts to control substances such as alcohol should address the dynamics of alcohol and drug use in totality, as well as interventions that are able to contend with the underlying social determinants of indigenous health," Dr Chenhall said. "We are seeing drug dealers coming into these communities and selling marijuana and people are smoking it within the household, where as before people were drinking alcohol on the edge of communities."