



[View PDF](#)Access through [University of Victoria](#)[Other access options](#)

International Journal of Drug Policy

Volume 100, February 2022, 103518

Research paper

Psychedelic use is associated with reduced daily opioid use among people who use illicit drugs in a Canadian setting

Elena Argento ^{a, b}, M. Eugenia Socias ^{a, b}, Kanna Hayashi ^{b, c}, JinCheol Choi ^b, Lindsay Mackay ^a, Devon Christie ^a, M-J Milloy ^{a, b}, Kora DeBeck ^{b, d}  [Show more](#) [Outline](#) | [Share](#)  | [Cite](#) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2021.103518>[Get rights and content](#)

Highlights

- Recent psychedelic use was associated with 55% reduced odds of daily opioid use.
- This is the first longitudinal study to link psychedelic use with lower daily opioid use.
- More studies are needed to elucidate the therapeutic potential of psychedelics.

Abstract

Background

Research into the therapeutic and naturalistic uses of psychedelics for improving outcomes related to mental health disorders has generated increasing interest in recent years. While controlled clinical trials of psychedelics have signaled benefits for treating substance use disorders, this area has not been well studied in the context of naturalistic psychedelic use. This study sought to investigate the possible relationship between recent naturalistic psychedelic use and subsequent daily illicit opioid use among people who use drugs (PWUD).

Methods

Data (2006–2018) were drawn from three harmonized prospective cohorts of community-recruited PWUD in Vancouver, Canada. We used multivariable generalized linear mixed-effects modeling (GLMM) to estimate the independent association between psychedelic use and subsequent daily illicit opioid use.

Results

Among 3813 PWUD at baseline, 1093 (29%) reported daily use of illicit opioids and 229 (6%) reported psychedelic use in the past six months. Over study follow-up after adjusting for a range of potential confounders, psychedelic use remained independently associated with a significantly reduced odds of subsequent daily opioid use (Adjusted Odds Ratio: 0.45; 95% Confidence Interval: 0.29 to 0.70).

Conclusion

While confirmation in other settings is required, these findings align with growing evidence that psychedelic use may be associated with detectable reductions in subsequent substance use including illicit opioid use.

[Previous](#)[Next](#) 

Keywords

FEEDBACK 

[Recommended articles](#)

[Citing articles \(0\)](#)

[View full text](#)

© 2021 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

[About ScienceDirect](#)

[Remote access](#)

[Shopping cart](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Contact and support](#)

[Terms and conditions](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

We use cookies to help provide and enhance our service and tailor content and ads. By continuing you agree to the [use of cookies](#).
Copyright © 2021 Elsevier B.V. or its licensors or contributors. ScienceDirect® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.
ScienceDirect® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.