

SCIENCE & HEALTH

Psychedelics Use Associated With 55 Percent Decrease In Daily Opioid Consumption, Study Finds



Published 3 days ago on November 16, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



The use of psychedelics like LSD, psilocybin, mescaline and DMT is associated with a significant decrease in illicit opioid consumption, according to a new study.



Researchers looked at data from “three harmonized prospective cohorts of community-recruited” people with substance misuse disorders. A total of 3,813 individuals were involved, including 1,093 who reported illicit opioid consumption and 229 who said they’d used psychedelics in the past six months.



“Recent psychedelic use was associated with 55% reduced odds of daily opioid use,” the Vancouver-based study, published last week in the Journal of International Drug Policy, found.

While there have been numerous studies connecting legal marijuana access to reduced opioid use and fewer overdose deaths, this is “the first longitudinal study to link psychedelic use with lower daily opioid use,” the paper says.

“Over study follow-up after adjusting for a range of potential confounders, psychedelic use

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While there’s not a clear explanation for the trend—and the researchers urged additional studies—psychedelics like psilocybin and MDMA have been touted as potentially powerful tools in mental health treatment, effectively treating conditions like severe depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and addiction.

“These findings align with growing evidence demonstrating that psychedelic use may be associated with detectable reductions in subsequent opioid use, and warrant further research on psychedelics for opioid and other substance use disorders,” the study’s lead author, Elena Argento of the University of British Columbia, told Marijuana Moment.

“This study found naturalistic psychedelic use to be independently associated with a significantly reduced odds of subsequent daily illicit opioid use among a community-based sample of [people who use drugs],” the study concluded. “More research with controlled trials and longer-term follow-up is required to elucidate the therapeutic potential of psychedelics to augment existing interventions for substance use disorders, including among more diverse populations. Additional qualitative studies would also provide opportunities to improve understanding of the possible psycho-social mechanisms underpinning psychedelic experiences.”

Another recent study found that when people use cannabis together with psychedelics, it was “associated with higher scores of mystical-type experience, ego-dissolution and visual alterations.”

With respect to marijuana alone, a study published earlier this year found that cannabis use is associated with significant reductions in dependence on opioids and other prescription drugs, as well as an increase in quality of life

Another study released last year determined that states with active medical marijuana laws saw certain opioid prescription rates drop nearly 20 percent compared to prohibition states.

Using Marijuana With Psychedelics Intensifies The Mystical Experience, Study Finds



Marijuana seems to increase the effects of psychedelics, intensifying the experience, according to a new study. Researchers at Imperial College London analyzed online surveys from 321 people who described various aspects of their psychedelics experience and reported on whether they used cannabis at the same time and, if so, how much.

What they found was ... Continue reading

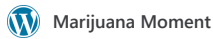


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Marijuana Legalization In Canada Did Not Result In Increased Traffic Injuries, Study Finds



Published 1 week ago on November 12, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



Canada's move to legalize marijuana did not result in increased traffic injuries, a new study has found.

In a paper published in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence, researchers said they sought to investigate claims that establishing the cannabis legalization law, which took effect in October 2018, would make roads less safe, as prohibitionists frequently argue.

But after analyzing Ontario and Alberta emergency department data from April 2015 to December 2019, however, they couldn't find any evidence to support that hypothesis.

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Intensifies The Mystical Experience, Study Finds



Published 2 weeks ago on November 8, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger



Marijuana seems to increase the effects of psychedelics, intensifying the experience, according to a new study.

Researchers at Imperial College London analyzed online surveys from 321 people who described various aspects of their psychedelics experience and reported on whether they used cannabis at the same time and, if so, how much.

What they found was that consuming marijuana concurrently with substances like psilocybin, LSD, DMT, ayahuasca or mescaline increased the intensity of the trip in a dose-dependent manner.

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SCIENCE & HEALTH

Legalizing Marijuana Reduces 'Race-Based Arrests,' American Medical Association Study Finds



Published 2 weeks ago on November 2, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger





States that legalize or decriminalize marijuana see “large reductions in race-based arrests among adults” while those that maintain prohibition continue to experience “increases in arrest rate disparities,” a new study in a major scientific journal published by the American Medical Association found.

The research looked at data from 43 states and identified a clear pattern. It might seem obvious on its face, but ending or loosening laws criminalizing cannabis is associated with significant arrest decreases compared to states that have maintained prohibition.

The analysis of arrests, which specifically focused on trends related to race, compared data



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