

City of Missoula  
Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Agenda

**Date:** June 15, 2022, 10:20 AM - 11:50 AM  
**Location:** ZOOM Webinar  
**Members:** Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

**Attend by computer:**

[Join the meeting](#)

**Attend by phone:**

Cell phone users: 1-253-215-8782, 1-213-338-8477, or 1-267-831-0333

Landline users: 1-888-475-4499 or 1-877-853-5257

Webinar ID: 880 6449 2180

Password: 027222, Press \*9 to raise your hand to be recognized for public comment

**Watch the meeting:**

[Web stream \(live or on demand\)](#), [YouTube](#), or Spectrum Cable Channel 190

For more ways to watch the meeting and submit public comment, see the Citizen Participation Guide.

*Issues? Call the City Clerk 406-552-6078.*

*If anyone attending this meeting needs special assistance, please provide 48 hours advance notice by calling the City Clerk Office at 406-552-6073.*

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	Pages
<b>1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS</b>	
1.1. Roll Call	
1.2. Approval of the Minutes	
1.2.1. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2022 PSO meeting	1
<b>2. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	
<b>3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS</b>	
3.1. A resolution supporting entheogenic plant practices	4
	Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan
<b>Recommended motion:</b>	
Adopt a resolution addressing entheogenic plant practices in the City of Missoula.	

**3.2. Re-entry Challenges for Returning Citizens and Local Resources**

Kristen Jordan

25

**Recommended motion:**  
Information only presentation

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

## Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

June 8, 2022  
10:30 AM  
ZOOM Webinar

**Members present:** Stacie Anderson (chair), Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

**Members absent:** Jennifer Savage

### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

#### 1.2 Approval of the Minutes of May 11, 2022 PSO meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### 3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### 3.1 Continued COVID Funding

Missoula County Health Officer/Department Director D'Shane Barnett reported that COVID-19 response operations have been scaled back significantly, largely due to the federally funding source that covers testing and vaccine activities going away at the end of this month. Activities that have not been federally funded for sometime include: case monitoring, case investigation, and contract tracing. In response to this, the testing center has been closed as of May 19. Before making this move, community health providers were consulted. Ultimately, COVID-19 case investigations can not be discontinued because they are a reportable disease. Moving forward, a skeleton crew will be used and that is what the requested funds will be used for.

**Moved by:** Amber Sherrill

Commit an additional \$120,927 in American Recovery Plan Act funds for continued Health Department COVID response for July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

AYES: (11): Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Jennifer Savage

**Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)**

#### 3.2 Interlocal Agreement with Missoula County for Health Services

D'Shane Barnett explained that two years ago the legislature passed HB121 and HB257 which necessitates that a change be made as to how the Board of Health does business. This updated interlocal creates a governing body, separate from the Board of Health.

Under these new bills, the Board of Health does not have the authority to establish the health code. The governing body will now put health code in place, with a couple of exceptions. These exceptions do not apply to emergency rules, unless the governing body repeals the rule. If the governing body does not repeal the rule, the rule will stay in effect for the duration of the emergency. This does not apply to property specific actions, such as a health code issue with a restaurant. Health code violations will continue to be processed by the Board of Health.

Also, the Missoula County Board of Health will no longer hire the Health Officer. The Health Officer is a County employee and will be hired by process led by the County Commissioners. This process allows for the Missoula City Council to appoint someone to the Search Committee, if they so choose. The Search Committee will make the recommendation to the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners then become the hiring body for the health officer.

Dale Bickell discussed the 60/40 cost split in the tax support that the City provides.

*(Note: Gwen Jones was not present during the vote.)*

**Moved by:** Amber Sherrill

Approve and authorize the mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County to Cooperate in the Provision of Health Services.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

**Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)**

### **3.3 Livestock Exemption for Youth Agriculture Organization Projects**

Heidi West introduced an idea to increase urban youth involvement in agricultural educational opportunities and to increase participation in the Missoula County Fair. She shared the current animal ordinance language and discussed the barriers in the language to keeping animals within the city limits. She is seeking support in allowing goats, sheep and additional poultry within the city limits. This exemption would apply strictly to meat animals that are auctioned off at the Fair.

Ms. West is proposing to implement a free animal permit process under Title 6. She pointed out that this would all be a short term project that would have minimal impact on neighbors, as participants get their animals in about April/May and auction them off in August.

Ms. West wanted to see what sort of support she would receive from the committee before moving to the next steps. As she gleans more information, she will update the committee.

**Moved by:** Sandra Vasecka

Direct staff to assist in the creation of a Livestock Exemption for Youth Organization Projects

AYES: (11): Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Jennifer Savage

**Vote results: Approved (11 to 0)**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

11:35pm



**City of Missoula, Montana  
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

**Committee:** Public Safety, Health and Operations

**Item:** A resolution supporting entheogenic plant practices

**Date:** May 18, 2022

**Sponsor(s):** Daniel Carlino; Kristen Jordan

**Prepared by:** City Clerk Office

**Ward(s) Affected:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

**Action Required:**

Consider, discuss, and approve a resolution addressing entheogenic plant practices in the City of Missoula.

**Recommended Motion(s):**

Adopt a resolution addressing entheogenic plant practices in the City of Missoula.

**Timeline:**

Committee discussion:	April 20, 2022
Council action (or sets hearing):	TBD
Public Hearing (if required):	n/a
Final Consideration	n/a
Deadline:	n/a

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**

Practices with entheogenic plants and fungi have been considered sacred to human cultures for thousands of years, and the use of entheogenic plants have shown to be beneficial to the health and well-being of individuals and communities in addressing mental disorders and illnesses via scientific and clinical studies. However, in 1970 the federal government criminalized most entheogenic plants and fungi in the United States.

The criminalization of entheogenic plants and fungi has disproportionately harmed vulnerable populations. The criminalization has increased difficulty for affected Missoulians to have access to affordable, secure housing, stable employment, and non-bias information. The greater weight of the social, cultural, and economic impacts has disproportionately harmed minorities and the disadvantaged.

However, there is a movement across the country with dozens of local and state governments involved to stop further harm from the criminalization of entheogenic plants and fungi. This resolution recommends that we join that movement of reducing harm to humans by declaring that the investigation and arrest of individuals involved solely with the adult use of entheogenic plants be not a funding priority for the City of Missoula

**Financial Implications:** N/A

**Links to external websites:** These municipalities passed very similar resolutions: [Oakland, CA](#) , [Santa Cruz, CA](#) , [Ann Arbor, MI](#) , [Washington DC](#) , [Somerville, MA](#) , [Cambridge, MA](#) , [Northampton, MA](#) , [Easthampton, MA](#) , [Washtenaw County, MI](#) , [Grand Rapids, MI](#) , [Hazel Park, MI](#) [Seattle, WA](#) , [Arcata, CA](#) , [Detroit, MI](#) , [Port Townsend, WA](#)

Resolution

**A resolution addressing entheogenic plant practices in the City of Missoula**

**Whereas**, Entheogenic Plants, based on the term “entheogen”, originally conceived from a working group of anthropologists and ethnobotanists in 1979; and defined herein as the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and natural materials and/or their extracted compounds, limited to those containing the following types of compounds: indole amines, tryptamines, and phenethylamines; and

**Whereas**, substance abuse, addiction, recidivism, trauma, post-traumatic stress symptoms, chronic depression, severe anxiety, end-of-life anxiety, grief, diabetes, cluster headaches, and other conditions are plaguing our community and that the use of Entheogenic Plants have been shown to be beneficial to the health and well-being of individuals and communities in addressing these afflictions via scientific and clinical studies and within continuing traditional practices, which can catalyze profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth; and

**Whereas**, practices with Entheogenic Plants have long existed and have been considered to be sacred to human cultures and human interrelationships with nature for thousands of years, and continue to be enhanced and improved to this day by religious and spiritual leaders, practicing professionals, mentors, and healers throughout the world, many of whom have been forced underground; and

**Whereas**, seeking to improve their health and well-being through the use of Entheogenic Plants puts them in fear of arrest and prosecution; and

**Whereas**, the Entheogenic Plant practices of certain groups are already explicitly protected in the U.S. under the doctrine of religious freedom – such as the use of ayahuasca by two churches, a Santo Daime congregation and the União do Vegetal; and

**Whereas**, The United Nations considers Entheogenic Plant material used for ritual purposes as excluded from Schedule 1 substances; and

**Whereas**, Entheogenic Plants have been shown to alleviate treatment resistant cases of opiate and methamphetamine addiction at significantly higher rates than all other treatments for addiction. In addition, Entheogenic Plants reported to be beneficial for addiction therapy related to specific work-related PTSD encountered by first responders such as EMT, police, and firefighters, as well as military veterans; and

**Whereas**, Entheogenic Plants can lead to experiences that are reported as mystical or experientially similar to near death experiences and that are can be demonstrably beneficial in treating addiction, depression, PTSD, and in catalyzing profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth; and

**Whereas**, Entheogenic Plants that contain phenethylamine compounds can be beneficial in healing drug and alcohol addiction and for individual spiritual growth, and have been utilized in sacred initiation and community healing by diverse religious and cultural traditions for millennia and continuing use as religious sacraments in modern times; and

**Whereas**, psilocybin, naturally occurring in Entheogenic Plants, can alleviate end-of-life anxiety for hospice and terminal cancer patients, can reduce prison recidivism, and can effectively treat substance abuse, depression, cluster headaches; and

**Whereas**, a Johns Hopkins University study on “healthy-normals” found that psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experiences, which were considered one of the top five most meaningful experiences in a subject’s life for over 75% of their subjects within the first year after the study, and also found continuing positive life-style changes after a 14-month follow-up; and



**Whereas**, the City of Missoula has declared its core values, “in the wake of a national reckoning to systemic inequities” to include Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in Resolution 8533, and has vowed to utilize these, and their related values, as a lens through which the City of Missoula can guide future policies and practices; and

**Whereas**, the criminalization of entheogenic plants and fungi, instead of fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture rooted in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, targets vulnerable populations, who are met from the community with increased difficulty in being able to access affordable housing, stable employment, and non-bias information. The greater weight of the social, cultural, and economic impacts are being perpetuated against minorities and the disadvantaged; and

**Whereas**, the City of Missoula wishes to declare its desire not to expend City resources in any investigation, detention, arrest, or prosecution solely based on alleged violations of state and federal law regarding the use of Entheogenic Plants and Fungi as a standalone offense; and

**Whereas**, enforcement of laws regulating the possession and use of Entheogenic Plant and Fungi has not been a high priority for the City of Missoula with very little public funds directed toward proactive investigation or prosecution of such cases. In conclusion, the investigation and arrest of individuals involved solely with the adult use of entheogenic plants on the federal schedule 1 list is currently not a funding priority for the City of Missoula; and

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Mayor and City Council hereby declare that it shall be the policy of the City of Missoula that no department, agency, board, commission, officer or employee of the city, including without limitation, Missoula Police Department personnel, shall use any city funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of laws for the use and possession of Entheogenic Plants by adults as a standalone offense. This resolution is non-binding and only applies to the Missoula City police and Missoula City departments and does not apply to county, state, or federal enforcement; and

**Be it further resolved**, this resolution does not authorize or enable any of the following activities: commercial sales or manufacturing of these plants and fungi, possession of or distributing these materials in schools, driving under the influence of entheogenic plants or compounds, public disturbance or jeopardizing public safety or co-occurring offenses; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Missoula City Council directs the City administration to instruct the City’s state lobbyists to work in support of decriminalizing all Entheogenic Plants and plant-based compounds that are listed on the Federal Controlled Substances Schedule 1 and contain indole amines, tryptamines, and phenethylamines for adults; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Mayor and City Council direct the City Clerk to furnish a copy of this resolution to the Missoula County Attorney to make them aware of the City Council’s policy on adult use of Entheogenic Plants or plant-based compounds on the Federal Schedule 1 List that contain indole amines, tryptamines, and phenethylamines; and

**Be it further resolved**, that if any provision of this resolution is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to any statute regulation or judicial decision or its applicability to any agency person or circumstances is held invalid the validity of the remainder of this resolution and its applicability to any other agency person or circumstance shall not be affected.

**Passed and adopted** \_\_\_\_\_.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

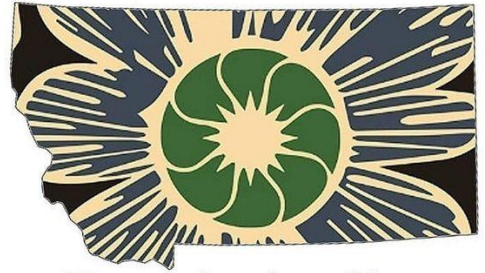
Martha L. Rehbein  
Legislative Services Director/City Clerk

John Engen  
Mayor

# A resolution addressing entheogenic plant practices



Decriminalize  
Nature  
Missoula



Decriminalize  
Nature  
*Montana*

# Entheogens Defined

- Entheogens are defined herein as the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and natural materials and/or their extracted compounds, limited to those containing the following types of compounds: indole amines, tryptamines, and phenethylamines
- Entheogens can benefit psychological and physical wellness, support and enhance religious and spiritual practices, and can reestablish human's unalienable and direct relationship to nature.



# Current Research: Physical Health

## Cell Reports

Article

### Psychedelics Promote Structural and Functional Neural Plasticity

Graphical Abstract



Authors

Calvin Ly, Alexandra C. Greb,  
Lindsay P. Cameron, ...,  
Kassandra M. Ori-McKenney,  
John A. Gray, David E. Olson

*Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 47 (5), 372–381, 2015  
Copyright © Taylor & Francis Group, LLC  
ISSN: 0279-1072 print / 2159-9777 online  
DOI: 10.1080/02791072.2015.1107664

 **Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group

## Indoleamine Hallucinogens in Cluster Headache: Results of the Clusterbusters Medication Use Survey



# Current Research: Recidivism, Crime Reduction, IPV

Original Paper

**Hallucinogen use and intimate partner violence: Prospective evidence consistent with protective effects among men with histories of problematic substance use**

Zach Walsh<sup>1</sup>, Peter S Hendricks<sup>2</sup>, Stephanie Smith<sup>3</sup>, David S Kosson<sup>3</sup>, Michelle S Thiessen<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Lucas<sup>4</sup> and Marc T Swogger<sup>5</sup>



Journal of Psychopharmacology  
1-7  
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DOI: 10.1177/0269881116642538  
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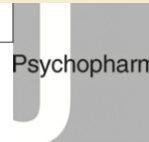
The New York Times

**In Brazil, Some Inmates Get Therapy With Hallucinogenic Tea**

Short Report

**Hallucinogen use predicts reduced recidivism among substance-involved offenders under community corrections supervision**

Peter S Hendricks<sup>1</sup>, C Brendan Clark<sup>2</sup>, Matthew W Johnson<sup>3</sup>, Kevin R Fontaine<sup>1</sup> and Karen L Cropsey<sup>2</sup>



Journal of Psychopharmacology  
2014, Vol 28(1) 62-66  
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sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav  
DOI: 10.1177/0269881113513851  
jop.sagepub.com  
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Original Paper

**Psilocybin use is associated with lowered odds of crime arrests in US adults: A replication and extension**

Grant M Jones<sup>1</sup> and Matthew K Nock



Journal of Psychopharmacology  
2022, Vol. 36(1) 66-73  
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art by Elmer W. Smith

# Current Research: Curing Substance Use Issues

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00952990.2017.1320802>



OPEN ACCESS

## Treatment of opioid use disorder with ibogaine: detoxification and drug use outcomes

Thomas Kingsley Brown, PhD<sup>a</sup> and Kenneth Alper, MD<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of California, San Diego, CA, USA; <sup>b</sup>Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

## Ibogaine Detoxification Transitions Opioid and Cocaine Abusers Between Dependence and Abstinence: Clinical Observations and Treatment Outcomes

Deborah C. Mash<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Linda Duque<sup>1</sup>, Bryan Page<sup>3</sup> and Kathleen Allen-Ferdinand<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Neurology, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, United States, <sup>2</sup> Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, United States, <sup>3</sup> Department of Anthropology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, United States, <sup>4</sup> General Medical Practice, Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis

*Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, 2014, 7, 101-116

101

## Psychedelics as Medicines for Substance Abuse Rehabilitation: Evaluating Treatments with LSD, Peyote, Ibogaine and Ayahuasca

Michael Winkelman\*

ORIGINAL RESEARCH article

Front. Psychiatry, 24 April 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2018.00136>

## Assessment of Alcohol and Tobacco Use Disorders Among Religious Users of Ayahuasca



# Current Research: Depression & Anxiety

Original Paper

## Efficacy and safety of psilocybin-assisted treatment for major depressive disorder: Prospective 12-month follow-up

Natalie Gukasyan<sup>1</sup>, Alan K Davis<sup>1,2</sup>, Frederick S Barrett<sup>1</sup>, Mary P Cosimano<sup>1</sup>, Nathan D Sepeda<sup>1</sup>, Matthew W Johnson<sup>1</sup> and Roland R Griffiths<sup>1,3</sup>



Journal of Psychopharmacology  
2022, Vol. 36(2) 151–158  
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Psychological Medicine

cambridge.org/psm

Original Article

Cite this article: Palhano-Fontes F et al (2019). Rapid antidepressant effects of the psychedelic ayahuasca in treatment-resistant depression: a randomized placebo-controlled trial. *Psychological Medicine* 49, 655–663. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291718001356>

Received: 13 February 2018  
Revised: 16 April 2018  
Accepted: 24 April 2018

## Rapid antidepressant effects of the psychedelic ayahuasca in treatment-resistant depression: a randomized placebo-controlled trial

Fernanda Palhano-Fontes<sup>1,2</sup>, Dayanna Barreto<sup>2,3</sup>, Heloisa Onias<sup>1,2</sup>, Katia C. Andrade<sup>1,2</sup>, Morgana M. Novaes<sup>1,2</sup>, Jessica A. Pessoa<sup>1,2</sup>, Sergio A. Mota-Rolim<sup>1,2</sup>, Flávia L. Osório<sup>4,5</sup>, Rafael Sanchez<sup>4,5</sup>, Rafael G. dos Santos<sup>4,5</sup>, Luís Fernando Tófoli<sup>6</sup>, Gabriela de Oliveira Silveira<sup>7</sup>, Maurício Yonamine<sup>7</sup>, Jordi Riba<sup>8</sup>, Francisco R. Santos<sup>9</sup>, Antonio A. Silva-Junior<sup>9</sup>, João C. Alchier<sup>10</sup>, Nicole L. Galvão-Coelho<sup>5,11</sup>, Bruno Lobão-Soares<sup>5,12</sup>, Jaime E. C. Hallak<sup>4,5</sup>, Emerson Arcoverde<sup>2,3,5</sup>, João P. Maia-de-Oliveira<sup>2,3,5</sup> and Dráulio B. Araújo<sup>1,2</sup>



art by Elmer W. Smith

Clinical Trial > J Psychopharmacol. 2016 Dec;30(12):1165–1180.

doi: 10.1177/0269881116675512.

## Rapid and sustained symptom reduction following psilocybin treatment for anxiety and depression in patients with life-threatening cancer: a randomized controlled trial

Stephen Ross<sup>1 2 3 4 5 6</sup>, Anthony Bossis<sup>7 2 4</sup>, Jeffrey Guss<sup>7 2 4</sup>, Gabrielle Agin-Liebes<sup>8</sup>, Tara Malone<sup>7</sup>, Barry Cohen<sup>9</sup>, Sarah E Mennenga<sup>7</sup>, Alexander Belsler<sup>10</sup>, Krystallia Kalliontzis<sup>2</sup>, James Babb<sup>11</sup>, Zhe Su<sup>3</sup>, Patricia Corby<sup>2</sup>, Brian L Schmidt<sup>2</sup>

Original Paper

## Psilocybin produces substantial and sustained decreases in depression and anxiety in patients with life-threatening cancer: A randomized double-blind trial

Roland R Griffiths<sup>1,2</sup>, Matthew W Johnson<sup>1</sup>, Michael A Carducci<sup>3</sup>, Annie Umbricht<sup>1</sup>, William A Richards<sup>1</sup>, Brian D Richards<sup>1</sup>, Mary P Cosimano<sup>1</sup> and Margaret A Klinedinst<sup>1</sup>



Journal of Psychopharmacology  
2016, Vol. 30(12) 1181–1197  
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# John Hopkins Study: “Healthy Normals”



Psychopharmacology  
DOI 10.1007/s00213-006-0457-5

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

## **Psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experiences having substantial and sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance**

R. R. Griffiths · W. A. Richards · U. McCann · R. Jesse

> [J Psychopharmacol](#). 2008 Aug;22(6):621-32. doi: 10.1177/0269881108094300. Epub 2008 Jul 1.

## **Mystical-type experiences occasioned by psilocybin mediate the attribution of personal meaning and spiritual significance 14 months later**

[Rr Griffiths](#) <sup>1</sup>, [Wa Richards](#), [Mw Johnson](#), [Ud McCann](#), [R Jesse](#)

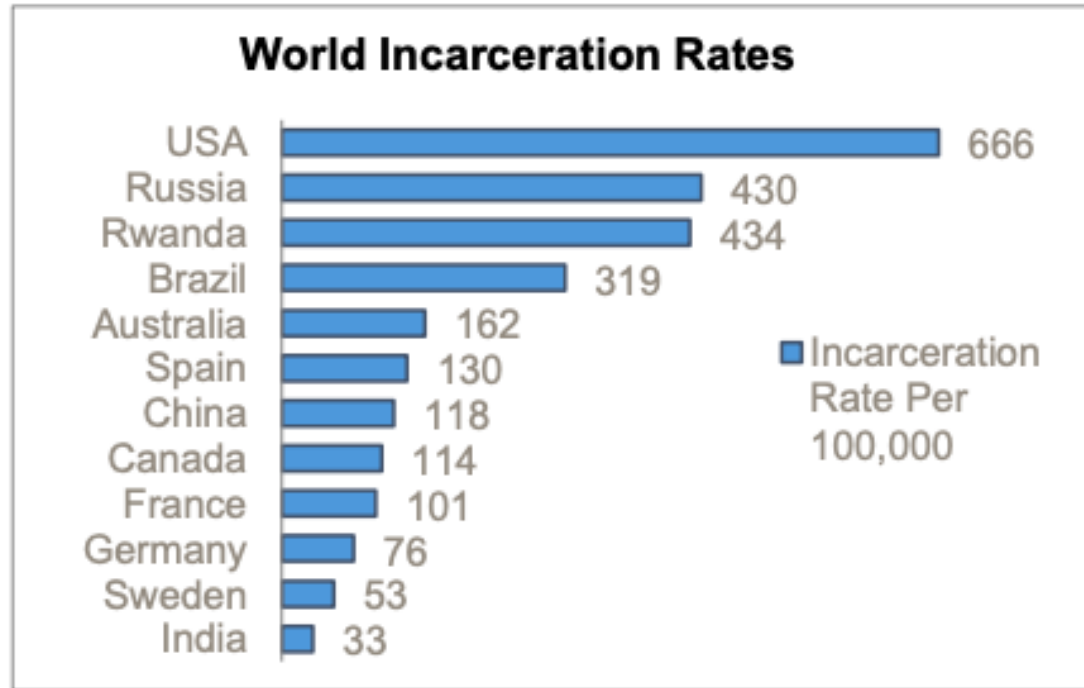


# Working Towards Humane Drug Policy

The United States government leads the world in rates of incarceration.

Arrests for entheogenic plants make it harder for Missoulians to:

- 1) Find secure employment
- 2) Find secure, affordable housing
- 3) Receive non-bias information



Source: *International Centre for Prison Studies, World Prison Brief.*<sup>3</sup>

# Working Towards Humane Drug Policy

The United States drug policies have disproportionately harmed Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) in the United States and in our community.

Arrests for entheogenic plants make it harder for Missoulians to:

- 1) Find secure employment
- 2) Find secure, affordable housing
- 3) Receive non-bias information

(2010-2018 [Study](#) by ACLU)

## MONTANA

ACLU

### 2018 SUMMARY

Montana ranks

**1st**

in the nation for largest racial disparities in arrests for marijuana possession

Black people were

**9.6x**

more likely than white people to be arrested for marijuana possession ↑

Arrests for the possession of marijuana made up

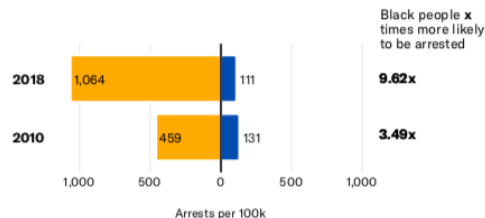
**45%**

of all drug arrests in the state ↓

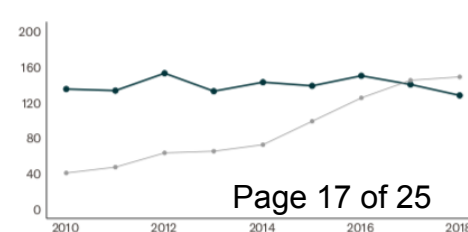
Direction of → indicates increase or decrease since 2010.

### ARRESTS OVER TIME

Rates of Black arrests compared to white arrests for marijuana possession, per 100k people



Statewide marijuana possession arrest rates compared to all other drug arrest rates, per 100k people

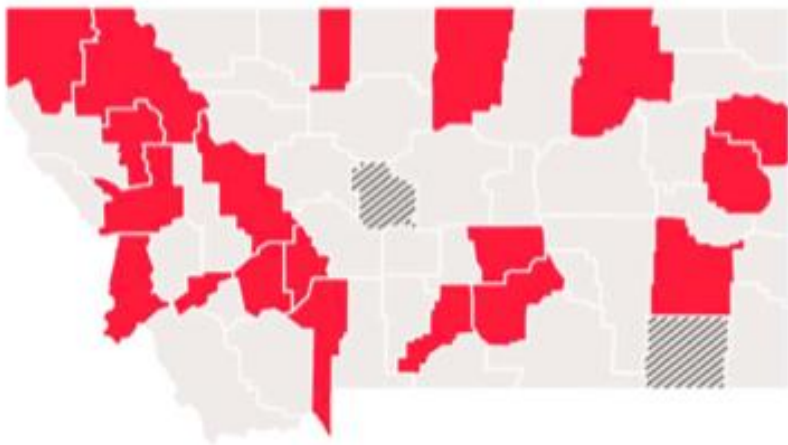


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# Working Towards Humane Drug Policy

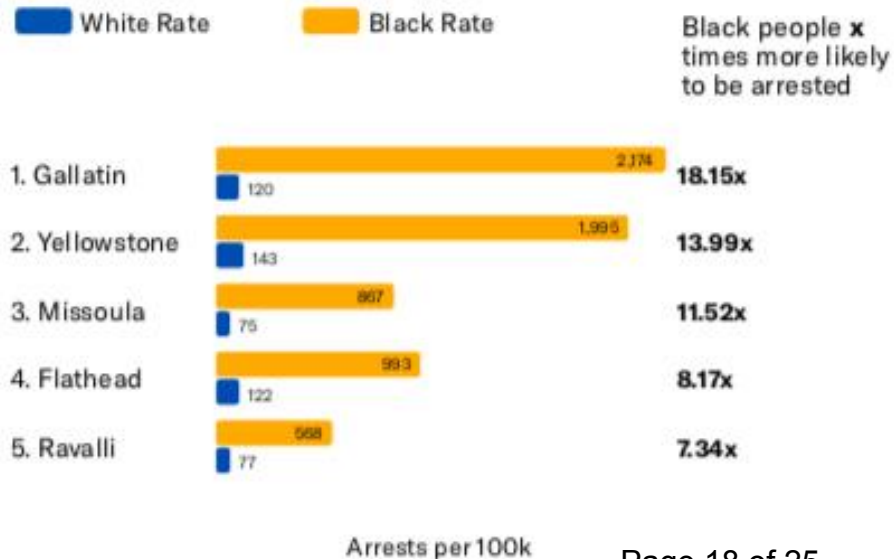
## BY THE COUNTY

All counties with **racial disparities** above the national average (3.64x)



## Counties with the largest racial disparities

Counties with a pop. of >30,000, a data coverage of >50% and at least 25 marijuana possession arrests are included.



# Decriminalization Policy Nationwide

Cities/states that have decriminalized entheogens:  
Denver, Oakland, Santa Cruz,  
Ann Arbor, Washtenaw  
County, MI, Oregon,  
Washington DC, Somerville,  
Cambridge, Northampton,  
Eastampton, Seattle, Arcata,  
Detroit, Port Townsend,  
Hazel Park



art by Elmer W. Smith

# After Decriminalization

Denver study: No threat to public health or safety

No known reports of emergencies or increased crime related to entheogens in the decriminalized cities

There has been no major increase in arrests related to the distribution of psilocybin mushrooms and no major cartel elements or organized crime. According to limited and preliminary university-level observational research for Colorado, most individuals set a positive intention prior to use and reported using psilocybin mushrooms for self exploration and mental health.

**In March 2021, the Denver Psilocybin Mushroom Policy Review Panel (the Panel) unanimously agreed that decriminalizing psilocybin has not created any significant public health or safety issue since May 2019.**

There have been no significant negative impacts on public safety as a result of decriminalizing psilocybin possession in the City of Denver.



# What This Means for City Council

- This not a complex legalization or regulation model, we are simply asking to not arrest individuals for growing, gathering, and gifting entheogens.
- To continue making entheogens not a funding priority for law enforcement or other agencies in Missoula
- To restrict budget expenditures for investigation, persecution, arrest for solely entheogenic issues
- To call upon the County Attorney to cease prosecution of persons involved in use of entheogens
- To instruct city's lobbyists to support at state level



The background of the slide is a dense, close-up photograph of green leaves, likely from a plant like basil or mint. The leaves are vibrant green and have a slightly glossy texture. The lighting is soft, creating subtle shadows and highlights across the foliage. The overall composition is a textured, naturalistic pattern.

**THANK YOU**



## VIEWPOINT

## Two Models of Legalization of Psychedelic Substances Reasons for Concern

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In 1973, the federal government classified psychedelics as schedule I substances, rendering possession illegal, even for research purposes except under tightly regulated circumstances. Although these restrictions have hindered research on the therapeutic uses of psychedelics for decades, recent studies have brought increasing attention and enthusiasm to the potential benefits of psychedelic treatment.<sup>1</sup> Accompanying this revival of psychedelic research have been initiatives by states and localities to legalize psychedelic possession and use. Two of the most ambitious measures, in Oregon and California, take different paths to legalization. This Viewpoint reviews these initiatives and the concerns they raise by looking to the cautionary precedents involving the legalization and commercialization of other controlled substances.

### Models of Psychedelic Legalization

Oregon became the first state to legalize broad clinical use of psilocybin, a schedule I psychedelic, through a November 2020 ballot initiative, the Oregon Psilocybin Services Act. The new law charged the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) with implementing clinical psilocybin regulation and licensure for treatment by the end of 2022. To guide the OHA in doing so, it created the Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board, with members from psychology, allopathic and naturopathic medicine, public health, and other professions. Oregon appears to be expecting the federal government to ignore psilocybin use under the new law, as it has in states that have legalized the possession of marijuana, which is another schedule I drug.

In contrast, California Senate bill 519 would make California the first state to legalize the possession, personal use, and noncommercial sharing of psychedelics by adults, although similar local ordinances already have been adopted in Denver, Colorado; Oakland, California; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Cambridge, Massachusetts. The bill was passed by the California Senate in June 2021 and, as of July 12, 2021, awaits action in the California Assembly. The bill also requires the state's Department of Public Health to study and report on approaches "to promote safe and equitable access...in permitted legal contexts." Should it fail to pass the Assembly, a 2022 ballot initiative with similar goals is being prepared.

### Potential Benefits and Unknown Risks of Psychedelic Agents

Psychedelic research is still preliminary in many ways, although some studies have shown promising effects on depression, suicidality, substance use, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).<sup>1</sup> In a phase 2 clinical trial of 59 selected patients, there was no significant differ-

ence between psilocybin and escitalopram for treating depressive symptoms.<sup>2</sup> In a phase 3 trial involving 91 patients, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) was more effective than placebo for treating PTSD symptoms ( $d = 0.91$ ).<sup>3</sup> However, most of the literature on psychedelics has been limited by small sample sizes, difficulties with blinding given the subjective effects of psychedelics, and exclusion of participants with comorbidities, histories of drug use, and personal or family histories of psychotic disorders.<sup>1-3</sup> The extent to which findings like these may generalize to larger and more representative patient samples is unknown.

Serotonergic psychedelics, such as psilocybin, must be distinguished from other substances that are also sometimes called psychedelic and included in these legalization measures, such as the entactogen (ie, a compound that creates a sense of empathy and emotional connection) MDMA. The neurobiological mechanisms of neither class are fully understood, although according to many investigators the "mystical experiences" are critical to the clinical benefits of serotonergic psychedelics and empathetic effects to those of MDMA.<sup>1</sup>

More importantly, current evidence for the risk profiles of these classes is notably different. The epidemiology and acute toxic effects of MDMA, including hyperthermia, hypertension, seizure, arrhythmia, and psychosis, have long been subject to careful study,<sup>4</sup> enabling an evidence-based discussion of the risks of their use. In contrast, even though serotonergic psychedelics appear to have low abuse potential, their risks outside carefully controlled trials are not well understood. Early case reports of psychedelics precipitating psychotic episodes have led to understandable concern about their effects on people predisposed to psychotic disorders. The few large-scale surveys focusing on serotonergic psychedelics obtained illicitly offer conflicting guidance on this and other risks.

A study of 1993 psilocybin users who experienced "bad trips" reported that 62% characterized them as among the 10 most "challenging" experiences in their lives, 10.7% reported having put themselves or others at physical risk, and 2.6% had become physically violent.<sup>5</sup> Ten percent of respondents reported symptoms lasting more than 1 year, with a small number of cases consistent with "enduring" psychosis (rather than substance-induced psychosis, which is, by definition, transient).<sup>5</sup> Yet, other studies have suggested that history of psychedelic use was associated with decreased suicidality and distress<sup>6</sup> and found no relationship between lifetime psychedelic use and current psychotic or other symptoms,<sup>7</sup> although the incidence of transient, psychedelic-induced psychosis is uncertain.

### The Diverse Roots of Psychedelic Advocacy

Despite the preliminary nature of the scientific evidence, the push for legalization of psychedelics is driven by the confluence of at least 4 factors. First is popular media, which have encouraged remarkable public enthusiasm about psychedelics, perhaps beyond that warranted by the current state of evidence. Second is the growing concern about the adverse effects of the criminalization of substance use, including high rates of incarceration in marginalized communities. These first 2 have led to a third: funding from a small number of wealthy enthusiasts in support of legalization of psychedelic substances. The fourth factor is the prospect of commercialization and resulting tax revenue. Venture capital firms and other investor-driven companies see opportunities to develop treatments and build clinics to profit from popular interest in psychedelics. State legislators have perceived that legalization of psychedelic substances, along with drugs such as cannabis, is a potential, easily tapped source of revenue for their cash-strapped states.

Although both therapeutic potential and positive effects of decriminalization are important considerations, advocates tend to give limited attention to countervailing concerns. Yet, if legalization is followed by commercialization, with psychedelic shops proliferating (like the cannabis boutiques that have opened in cities where that drug has been legalized), vulnerable populations may have unprecedented access to these substances. Moreover, the contribution of psychedelics to the criminalization and incarceration of Black individuals and other disenfranchised groups is not entirely clear; it may be several orders of magnitude less than that of other criminalized substances, such as cocaine and cannabis.

### Lessons From Legalization and Commercialization of Drugs

Cannabis legalization offers an instructive analogy to the extraclinical legalization of psychedelics proposed in California. As with psychedelics, commercial interests encourage the perception that marijuana poses less psychiatric risk and offers greater benefit than the evidence suggests. Concerns about decriminalization are also critical to cannabis legalization efforts, and perhaps are more warranted than for psychedelics.

Although the results of cannabis legalization are debated, they are, at best, mixed. Benefits of decriminalization are clearly robust given the disproportionate frequency of incarceration for cannabis possession among disenfranchised groups, and other benefits in-

clude relief from specific types of pain. However, in states that have legalized cannabis, cannabis use disorder increased by 25% in people aged 12 to 17 years from 2008 to 2016 and by 36% in those older than aged 26 years.<sup>8</sup> This may increase as commercialization progresses. For persons who use cannabis, use for self-medication, losses in social functioning, impaired driving, and psychiatric comorbidities have all increased with legalization.<sup>9</sup> Perhaps most concerning, strong correlations between legalization and increasing prevalence of psychosis and consequent hospitalization have been reported. In Portugal, which decriminalized cannabis use in 2001, hospitalization in public hospitals for psychotic disorders increased from 24 in 2001 to 588 in 2015, and the proportion of patients with concomitant cannabis use disorder rose from 0.87% to 10.60%.<sup>10</sup>

Alternatively, even with strictly clinical use, as proposed for psilocybin in Oregon, non-evidence-based marketing may supplant evidence-based practice. As with the proliferation of for-profit chains of ketamine clinics, some firms now envision networks of psychedelic clinics for indications beyond treatment of depression. Investigative reports suggest that many ketamine clinics fail to screen patients properly, offer ketamine for indications and at doses not supported by appropriate evidence, lack a psychiatrist or other mental health professional on staff, and promote their services with claims far exceeding the evidence base. Because ketamine was already approved for use as an anesthetic, its off-label use is unregulated, in contrast to the US Food and Drug Administration Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies required for the administration of esketamine, which is an intranasal formulation of ketamine.

### Due Care in Psychedelic Legalization

The promise of therapeutic benefit from psychedelics is appealing, but overly rapid legalization and commercialization may short-circuit prudent legal reforms. There are other ways of accomplishing some of the goals of legalization while limiting the risks, such as deprioritizing enforcement of laws against psychedelic possession (as some cities have already done). Yet, the current debate creates a sense of urgency for decriminalization and a promise of solving a mental health "crisis" that may obscure potential harms of rapid implementation, largely unknown but potentially foreshadowed by prior experience. Slowing the rush to legalization of psychedelics to clarify the evidence, giving policy makers and the public better information, and to develop careful regulatory policy would be wise.

#### ARTICLE INFORMATION

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**City of Missoula, Montana  
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

**Committee:** Public Safety, Health and Operations

**Item:** Re-entry Challenges for Returning Citizens and Local Resources

**Date:** June 6, 2022

**Sponsor(s):** Kristen Jordan, Ward 6

**Prepared by:** same

**Ward(s) Affected:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

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**Action Required:**  
No action required

**Recommended Motion(s):**  
I move the City Council: Information only presentation

**Timeline:**

Committee discussion:	June 15, 2022
Council action (or sets hearing):	n/a
Public Hearing (if required):	n/a
Final Consideration	n/a
Deadline:	n/a

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**  
Benny Lacayo works with Welcome Back. Welcome Back! is a community of people returning to Missoula, MT after incarceration, who are committed to helping each other succeed. Welcome Back is an affiliate of the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative in partnership with Partners for Reintegration. June is "Reentry" month, and Mr Lacayo will be providing Council members with information about what it's like being a Returning Citizen and information on "Reentry" month, including community opportunities to understand the current approach to incarceration and inspire an imagination for how a more progressive an compassionate approach might better serve the needs of this community and the individuals and families therein.

**Financial Implications:**  
n/a

**Links to external websites:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/welcomeback2missoula/>