

Illicit but Healing: A Field Guide to the Medical Uses of 'Illegal' Substances

Psilocybin (aka Magic Mushrooms, Shrooms)

Legal Status: Schedule I (US), decriminalized in select US cities & countries

Medical Uses: Treatment-resistant depression, PTSD, anxiety, addiction

Source:

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/newsroom/news-releases/psilocybin-treatment-for-major-depression-effective-for-up-to-a-year>

Conditions Treated: Depression, PTSD, Anxiety, Addiction

MDMA (aka Ecstasy, Molly)

Legal Status: Schedule I (US), approved for PTSD therapy trials

Medical Uses: PTSD, anxiety in terminal illness, couples therapy

Source: <https://maps.org/mdma/>

Conditions Treated: PTSD, Anxiety, Trauma

LSD (aka Acid)

Legal Status: Schedule I (US)

Medical Uses: Cluster headaches, depression, existential anxiety

Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6007659/>

Conditions Treated: Cluster Headaches, Depression, Anxiety

Ketamine (aka Special K)

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Legal Status: Schedule III (US), approved for clinical depression treatment

Medical Uses: Treatment-resistant depression, suicidal ideation, chronic pain

Source: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/ketamine-relieves-depression-symptoms>

Conditions Treated: Depression, Suicidal Ideation, Chronic Pain

Ayahuasca / DMT (aka Yagé, Spirit Vine)

Legal Status: Schedule I (US), legal in some religious contexts

Medical Uses: Addiction, PTSD, existential trauma, spiritual crisis

Source: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fphar.2016.00035/full>

Conditions Treated: Addiction, PTSD, Spiritual Crisis