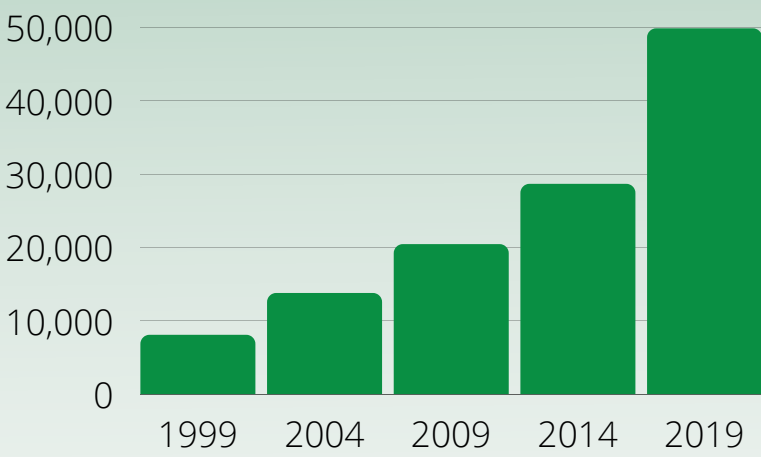


# MOTHER NATURE'S RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID CRISIS

HOW ONE HALLUCINOGENIC PLANT COULD ALTER TREATMENT OUTCOMES IN ADULTS SUFFERING FROM OPIOID USE DISORDER

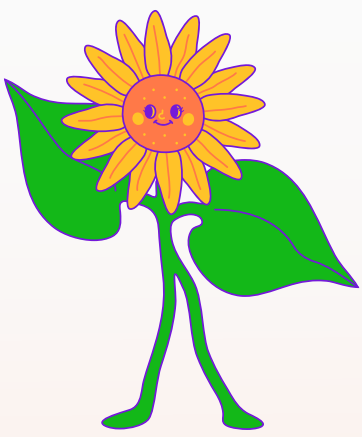


## THE ISSUE AT HAND:

From 1999-2019 the number of overdose deaths from opioids nationwide has increased from 8,050 to 49,860, making it evident that Opioid Use Disorder has become a crisis in the United States.

## CURRENT WESTERN TREATMENT - METHADONE

- Methadone HCl is used as a replacement therapy for opiates in the United States.
- Methadone in and of itself is still addictive, but it's viewed as a safer alternative to illicit opiates.
- The cost of Methadone Maintenance averages out to be about \$126 a week, which can be especially problematic for individuals who don't meet the criteria for Medicaid.
- Using Methadone Clinics in opioid detoxification can put the individual at a high risk for relapse after they leave.
- In a study done on 4 Outpatient methadone clinics, only 7 patients out of a sample size of 184 maintained complete sobriety.

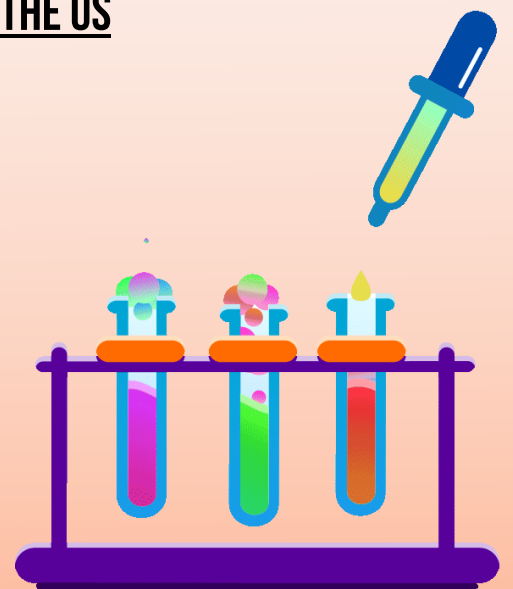


## IBOGAINE - AN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT OPTION

- Ibogaine is an indole alkaloid derived from the root bark of a plant grown in West Africa called *Tabernanthe iboga*.
- It is used in the Bwiti religion as an initiation ritual for its psychedelic effects, and is used in many indigenous cultures in Africa to treat fatigue and physical maladies.
- In various research studies, ingestion of Ibogaine has shown to bypass the physical withdrawal symptoms of Opiates as well as lessening or completely eliminating drug craving. This was discovered by self-treating heroine addicts in the 1960s.
- In every study that was reviewed regarding the effectiveness of Ibogaine, the majority of the participants in each sample reported having maintained sobriety and a decrease in drug cravings and withdrawal symptoms.

## BIG PHARMA - THE CONSTRAINTS ON BRINGING IBOGAINE TO THE US

- In order for a drug to be legal in the United States, it must get approval from the Food and Drug Administration.
- There are 4 phases of clinical trials that must be conducted before a pharmaceutical company can get FDA approval - these trials look at the safety and efficacy of drug products to determine if their therapeutic index is within an acceptable range.
- The average cost of these drug trials averages out to be about \$2-3 billion
- Pharmaceutical industries rely on having the ability to get a patent on the drug that they are testing so that they can show proof of potential profit margin to their investors
- In other countries, where detox clinics are using Ibogaine, adverse cardiovascular effects in a few participants.



QR Code for references

