

## Did you know?

**Salvia** (*salvia divinorum*) is an herb which is commonly found in southern Mexico, and Central and South America.

The potent main ingredient, *Salvinorin A* activates opioid receptors in the brain that act differently than the opioid receptors for heroin or morphine.

Salvia was traditionally ingested by chewing the leaves, like chewing mint leaves or by drinking the juices extracted from the plant.

Salvia is more commonly smoked the same way that marijuana is smoked: in a joint, water pipe (bong), or in a vaporizer.

Salvia is not a regulated drug under the Controlled Substances Act and although several states have passed recent laws to regulate its use, Massachusetts has no such state laws.

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has Salvia listed as a “drug of concern” and considers classifying it as a Schedule I drug. Other Schedule I drugs are marijuana and LSD.

Salvia users usually experience hallucinations or psychotomimetic episodes which are episodes that mimic psychosis and can last anywhere from 1-30 minutes but are extremely intense and can cause psychotic breaks and other serious mental health problems not commonly related to Marijuana.

Salvia is legal and available for sale at local North Shore “head shops,” or shops that sell tobacco products.

Currently, Salvia is cheaper and easier to find than Marijuana on the North Shore. Local North Shore communities are seeing a marked rise in use by teenagers resulting in accidental overdose and/or hospitalization.

\*\*Information courtesy of National Institute on Drug Abuse

For more information on the effects of hallucinogenic drugs, see NIDA’s *Research Report on Hallucinogens and Dissociative Drugs* at [www.nida.nih.gov/ResearchReports/hallucinogens/hallucinogens.html](http://www.nida.nih.gov/ResearchReports/hallucinogens/hallucinogens.html).

For more information on *salvia divinorum* and the Controlled Substances Act, visit [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugs\\_concern/salvia\\_d/salvia\\_d.htm](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugs_concern/salvia_d/salvia_d.htm).

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