



# Matthew Kahl

Executive Director  
Veterans for Natural Rights  
Veteran, US Army 101st Airborne Infantry  
March 2007 - December 2011  
Afghanistan

LIVE

FREE

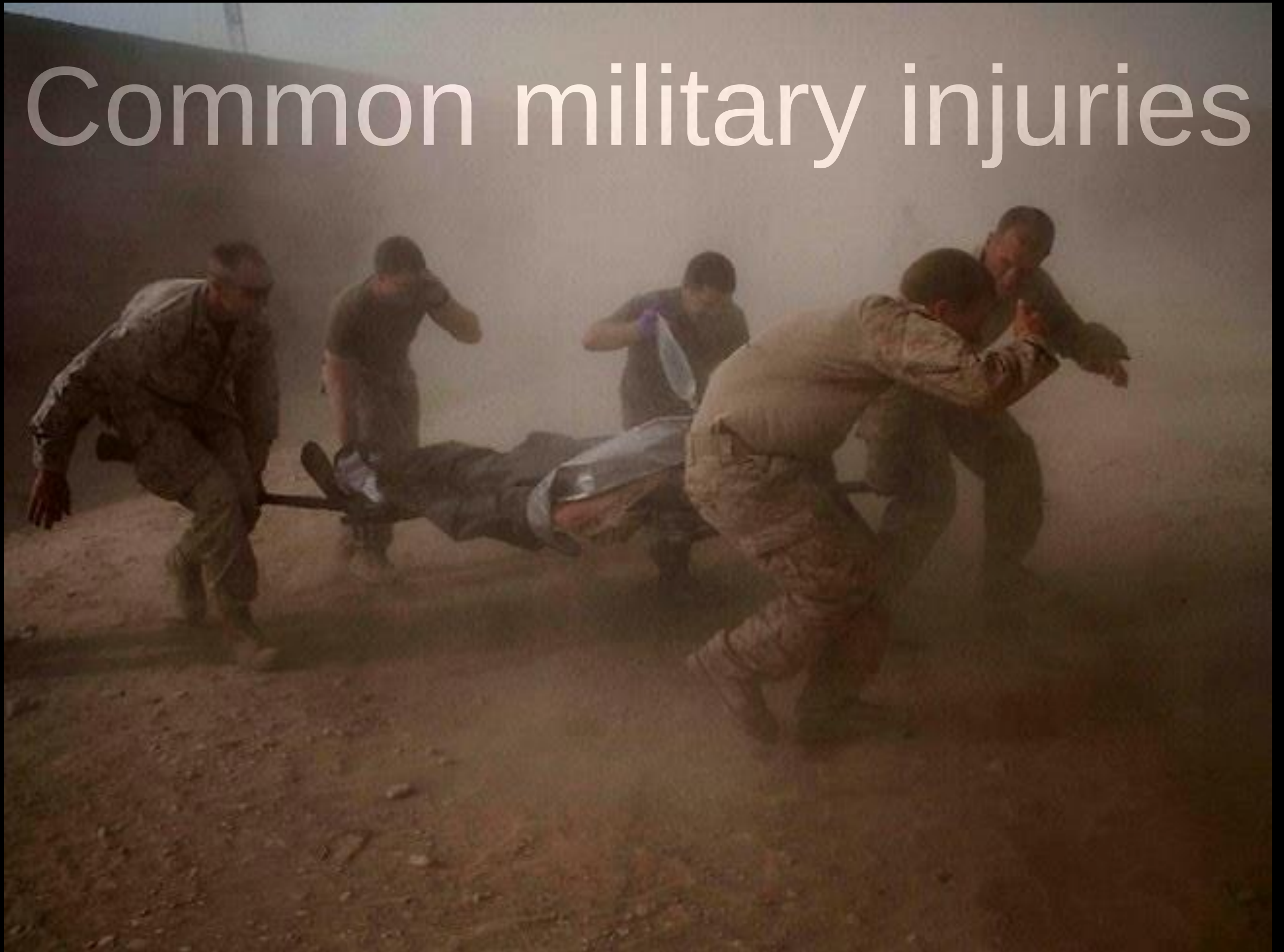


OR

DIE



# Common military injuries



# TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)

- blasts
- head wounds
- concussion
- post-concussive syndromes
- ischemia
- cognitive deficits -  
reading, memory,  
comprehension



# Nerve Damage (Neuropathy)

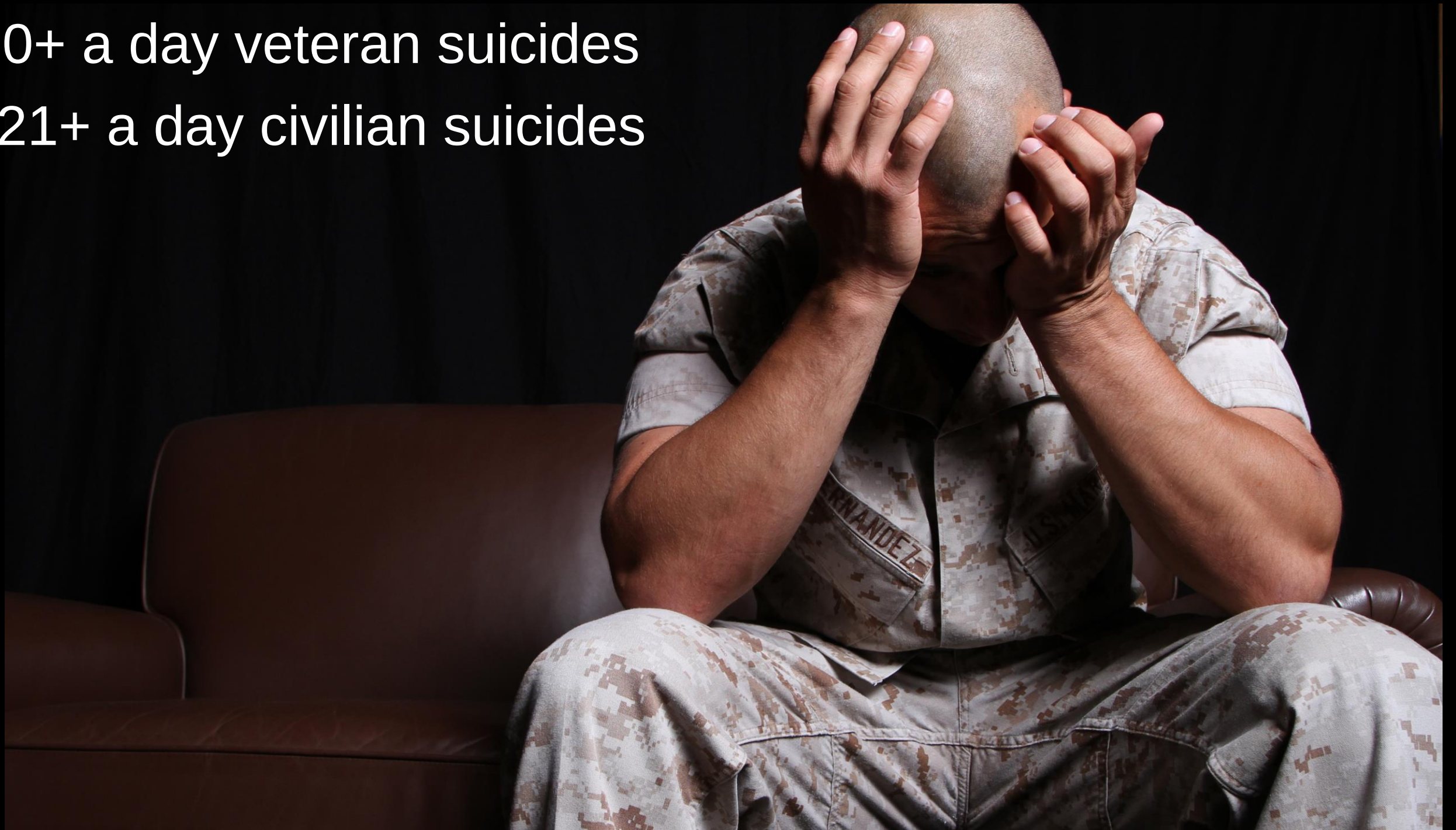
- Spinal Injuries
- Amputations (phantom limb)
- Gunshot wounds
- Shrapnel



# PTSD

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

20+ a day veteran suicides  
121+ a day civilian suicides



# Treatments

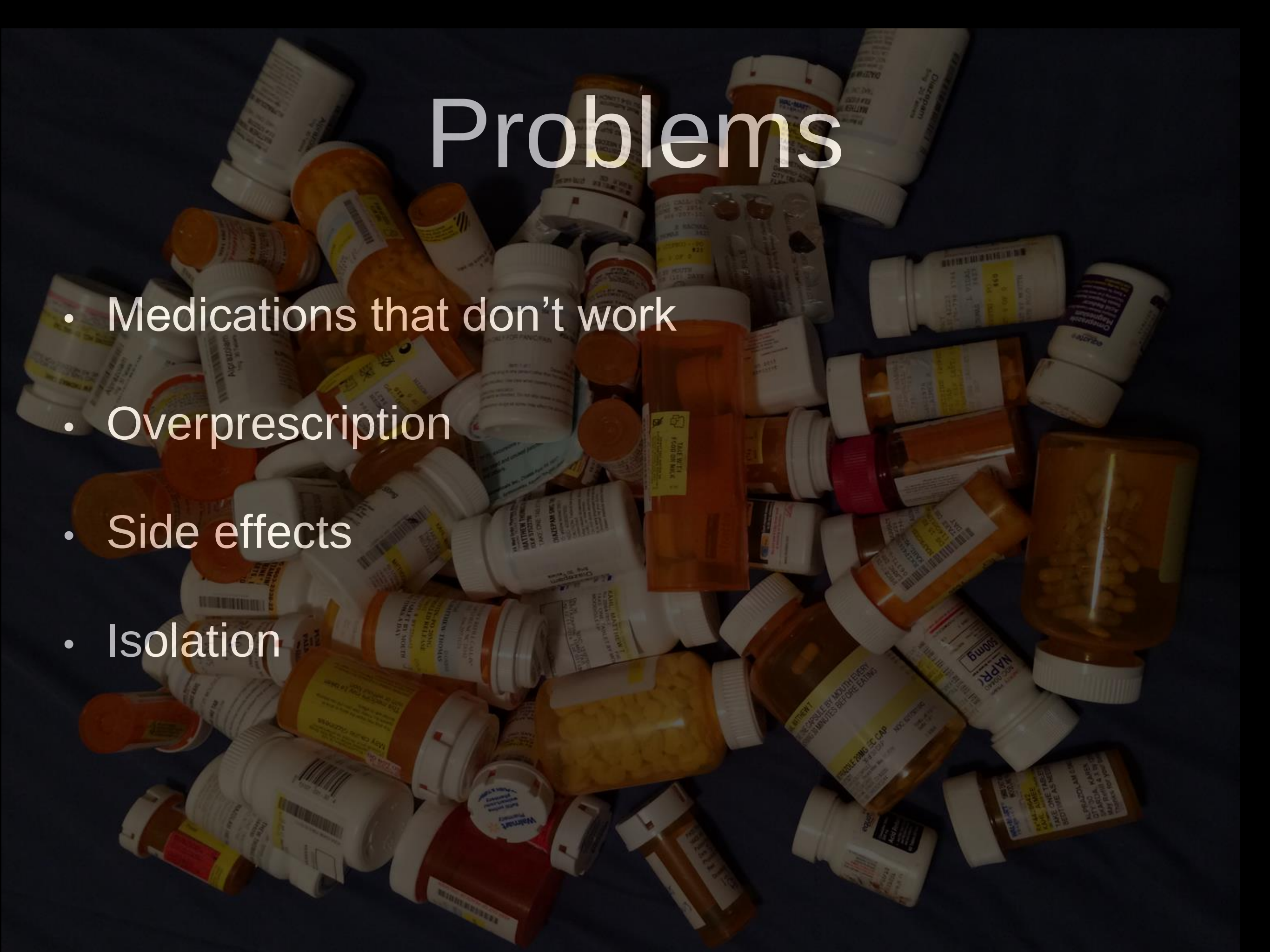
- Opiate narcotic analgesics
- Antidepressants (SSRIs, SNRIs)
- Antipsychotics
- “Mood stabilizers”
- Neuroleptics
- Benzodiazepines
- Stimulants



morphine, fentanyl, oxymorphone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, tramadol, buprenorphine, propoxyphene, meperidine, codeine, loperamide, docusate, sennosides, zolmitriptan, sumatriptan, rizatriptan, butalbital, phenobarbital, isomethiacin, dichloralphenazone, valproate, topiramate, propranolol, amitriptyline, imipramine, verapamil, gabapentin, pregabalin, phenytoin, zonisamide, lamotrigine, fluoxetine, paroxetine, escitalopram, sertraline, duloxetine, venlafaxine, bupropion, buspirone, trazodone, quetiapine, ziprasidone, prednisone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, methocarbamol, carisoprodol, cyclobenzaprine, baclofen, metaxolone, diazepam, alprazolam, clonazepam, midazolam, ondansetron, mirtazapine, promethazine, hydroxyzine, meclizine, atomoxetine, amphetamine, zolpidem, zopiclone, eszopiclone, benzonatate, diclofenac, indomethacin, meloxicam, antipyrine, tolmetin, mefloquine, naproxen, omeprazole, ranitidine, famotidine, cimetidine, lovaza, benzocaine, articaine, and lidocaine patches.

# Problems

- Medications that don't work
- Overprescription
- Side effects
- Isolation

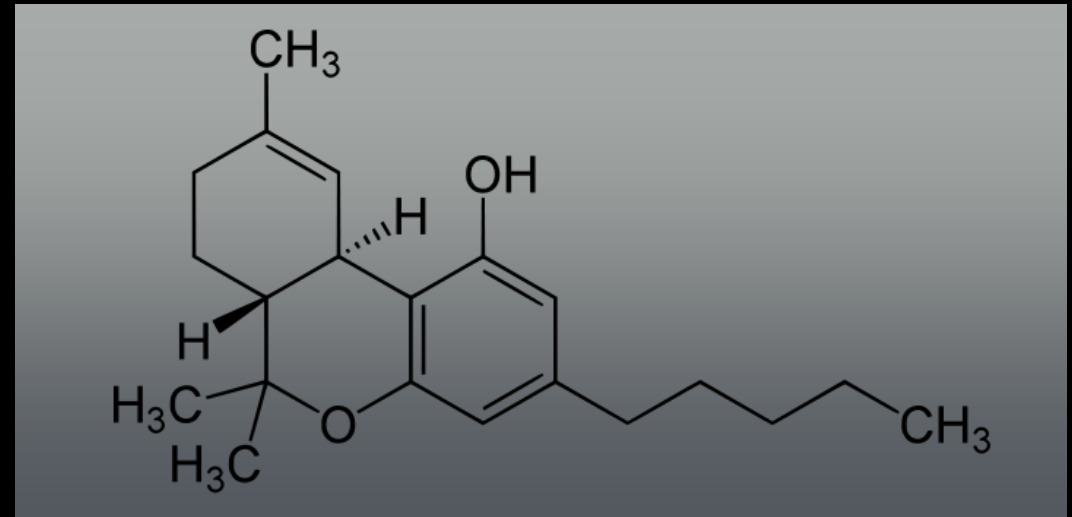




**This is what you give up when you start using cannabis.**

# $\Delta^9$ Tetrahydrocannabinol

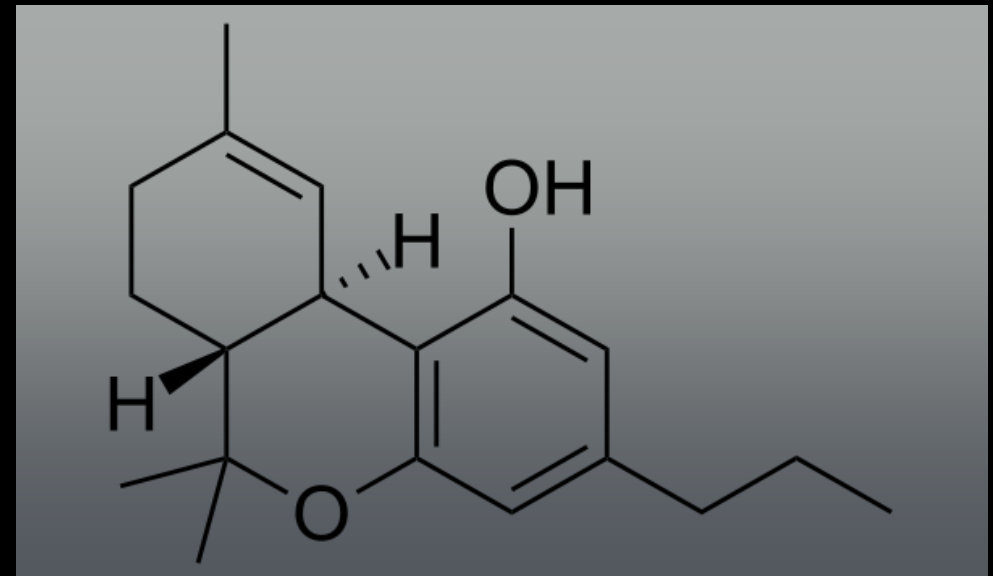
- Main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis
- CB1 Receptor agonist
- Needed for efficacy in mental health issues and TBI
- Emotion, mood, thinking
- Side effect: Anxiety



# THCV

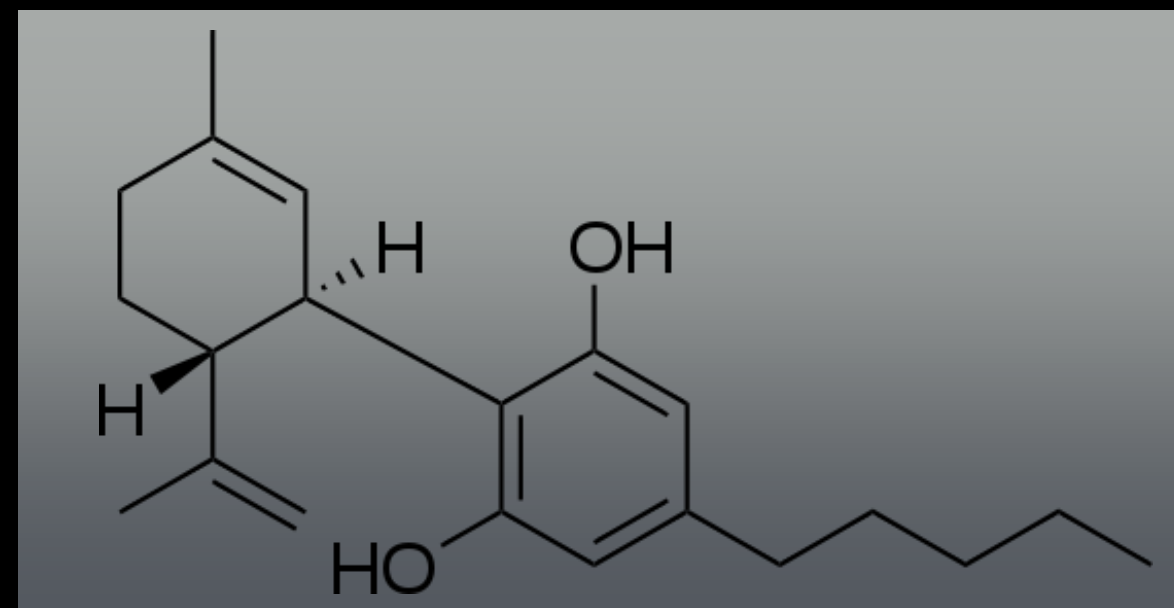
## (Tetrahydrocannabivarin)

- Increases psychoactivity of THC
- Shown to be useful in reversing cognitive deficits caused by TBI
- Analgesic
- East African landraces



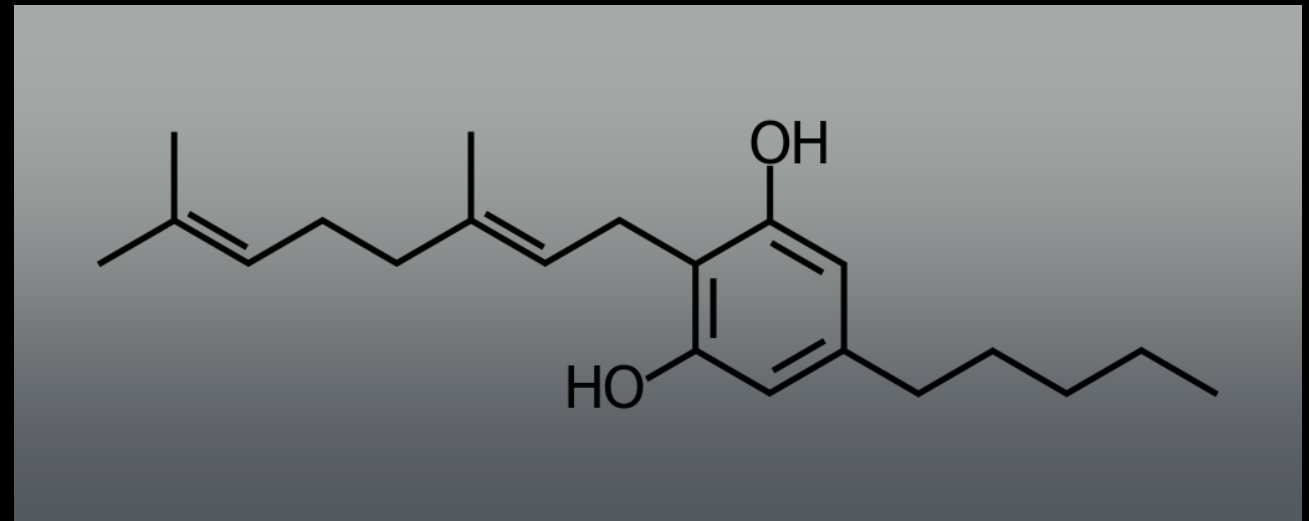
# Cannabidiol (CBD)

- “Non-psychoactive” - CB2 Receptor agonist
- Anticonvulsant for TBI-induced seizures
- Antidepressant
- Anxiolytic
- Antipsychotic - fewer side effects than typical
- Potent anti-inflammatory
- Powerful anti-ischemic for TBI
- Effective in pain, but higher doses are needed
- Bone stimulant



# Cannabigerol (CBG)

- “Non-psychoactive”
- Stimulates neurogenesis
- Shown to be beneficial in TBI
- Relieves pain
- Bone stimulant



# CANNABIS



is NOT a magic bullet. It is a synergistic shotgun.

# Isolation and Community

- Broaden your idea of what medicine is
- Diet, Meditation, Writing, Art, Yoga, Exercise
- Canine, Equine, Farming therapies
- Plant medicines; Cannabis, Ayahuasca
- Whatever breaks the isolation of the veteran may save his life that day



# Clinical efficacy studies



- Dr. Sue Sisley  
(University of Arizona)

# Fighting against barriers to access and research: COLORADO



- 2013 moved to Colorado; started giving away free cannabis to veterans.
- **December 16, 2014** - CDPHE hearing allocating \$11M for marijuana research, \$9.1M from marijuana tax revenues directly appropriated for 8 studies on clinical efficacy; **Dr. Sue Sisley**, \$2.1M for studying cannabis in combat vets with PTSD
- **Thursday, July 15, 2015** - BoH denied PTSD as a qualifying condition for MED MMJ card
- **May 2017** - Passage of **SB17-017** “Medical Marijuana for Stress Disorders”
- At **3:56pm June 5, 2017** Governor Hickenlooper signed **SB17-017**, “Medical Marijuana for Stress Disorders”

VNRR<sup>TM</sup>  
VETERANS FOR NATURAL RIGHTS



# Rights



Veterans for Natural Rights formed from a small group of veterans all across the country dedicated to insuring individuals' natural rights, such as the right to manage one's own healthcare and cultivate sacred plants for healing.

We formed to insure the freedoms we served to protect are afforded to our brothers and sisters all across the nation.

Not just veterans, but ALL people.

# VNIR<sup>TM</sup>

## VETERANS FOR NATURAL RIGHTS

“Freedom, equally, for everyone.”

*We build communities where veterans can heal,  
find their voice,  
and change the world.*



**VNR**

Veterans for Natural Rights

VETERANS

NATURAL

RIGHTS

VNR

