



Matthew Kahl

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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)

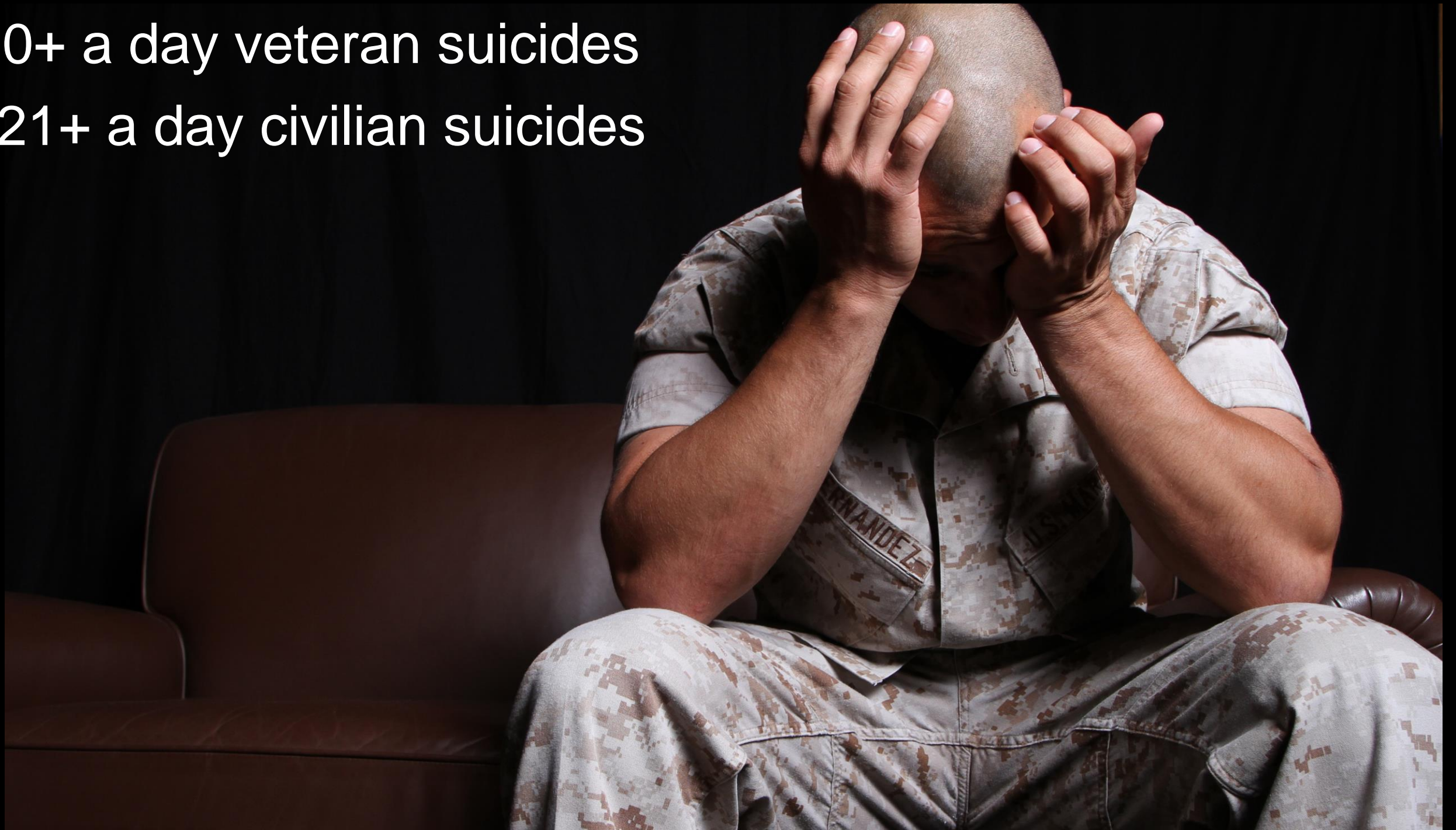
- Spinal Injuries
- Amputations (phantom limb)
- Gunshot wounds
- Shrapnel



PTSD

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

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



Treatments

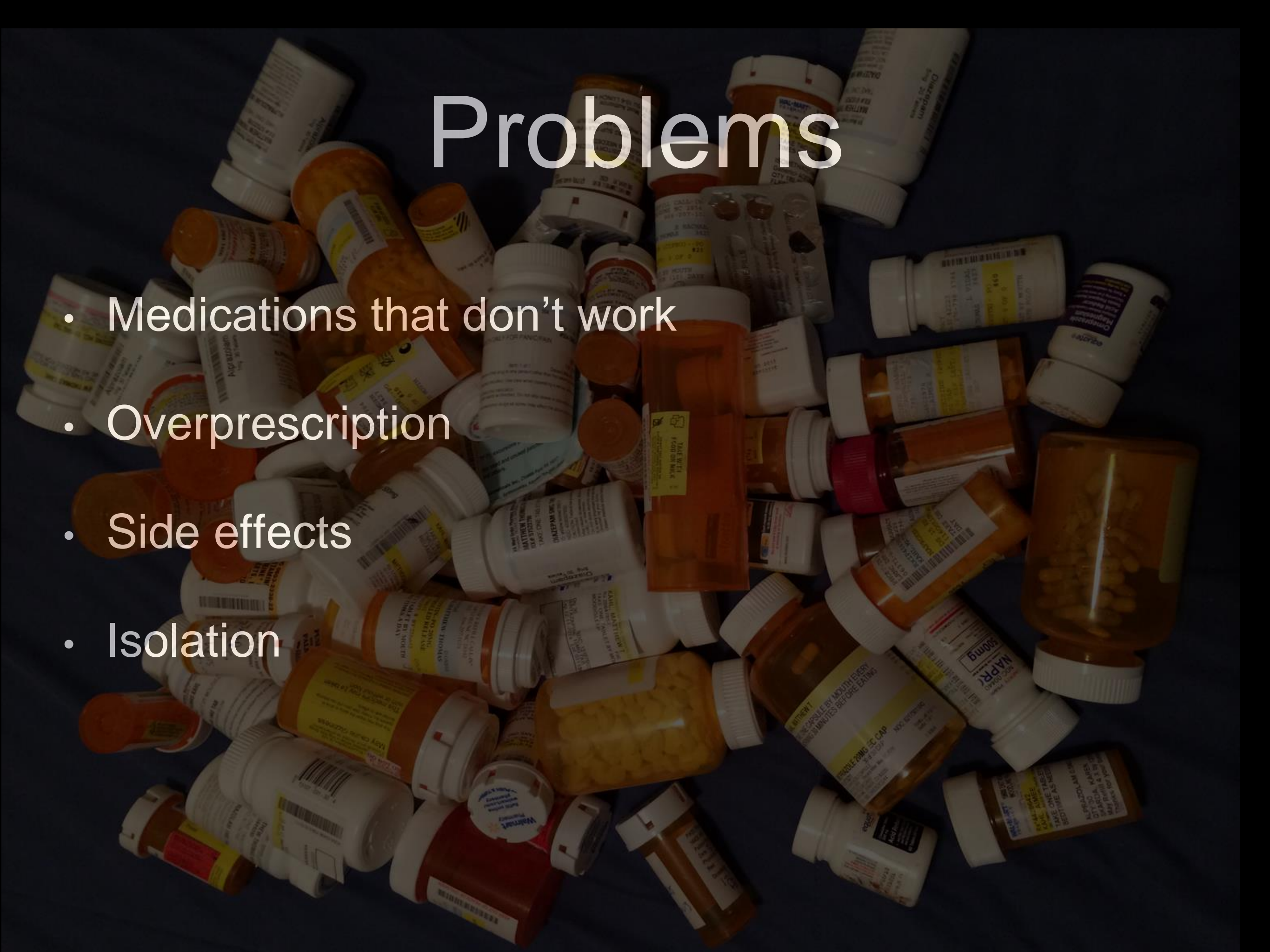
- Opiate narcotic analgesics
- Antidepressants (SSRIs, SNRIs)
- Antipsychotics
- “Mood stabilizers”
- Neuroleptics
- Benzodiazepines
- Stimulants



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

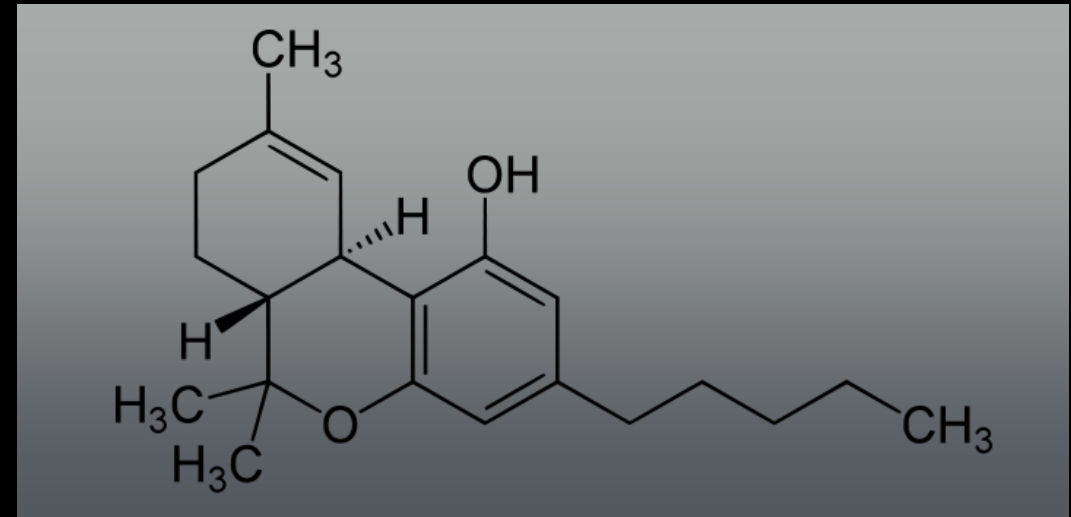




This is what you give up when you start using cannabis.

Δ^9 Tetrahydrocannabinol

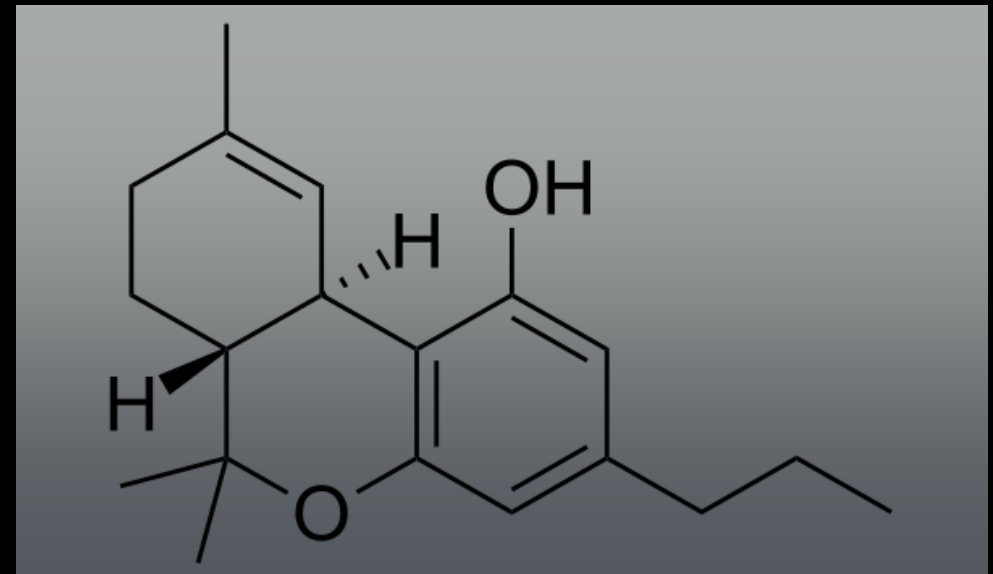
- Main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis
- CB1 Receptor agonist
- Needed for efficacy in mental health issues and TBI
- Emotion, mood, thinking
- Side effect: Anxiety



THCV

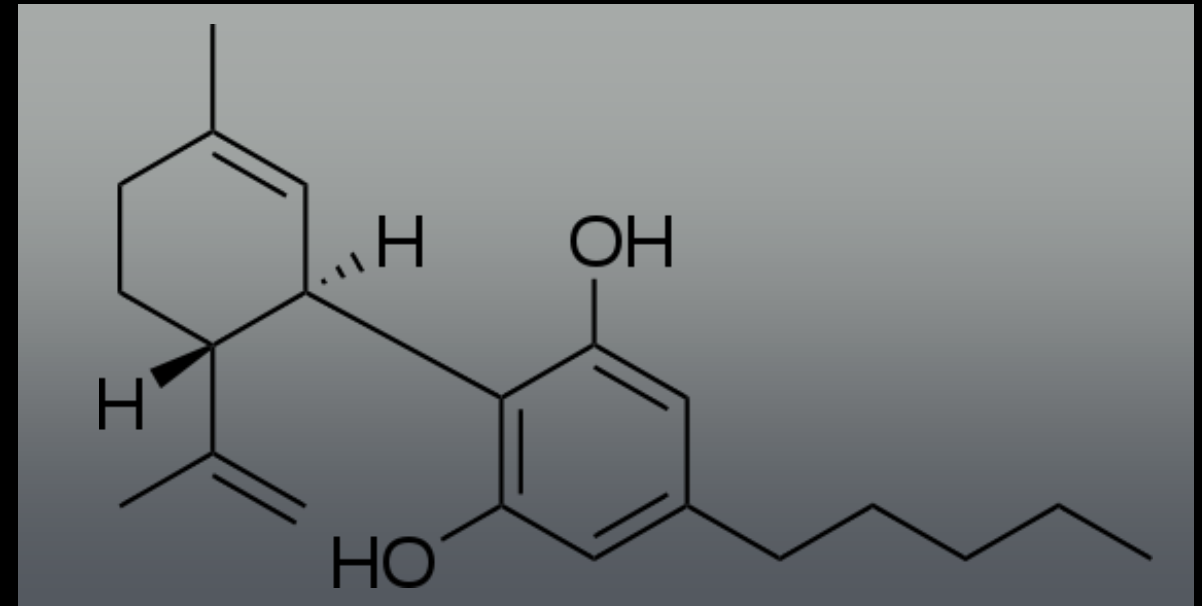
(Tetrahydrocannabivarin)

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



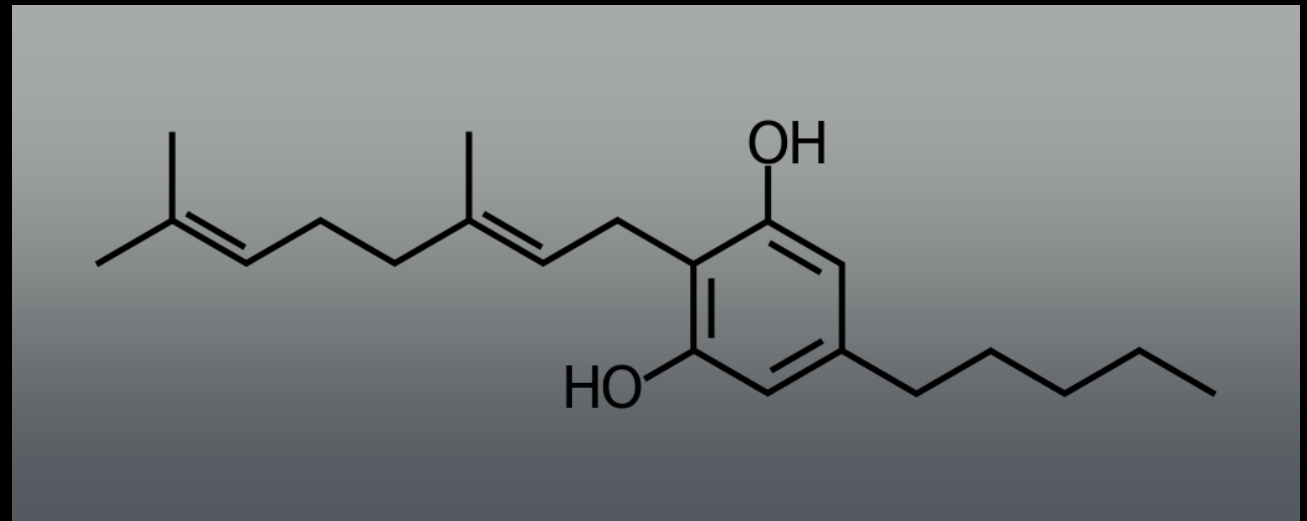
Cannabidiol (CBD)

- “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"

VNRRTM
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.



“Freedom, equally, for everyone.”

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



VNR

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