

PRESS RELEASE

(immediate release)

June 8, 2023

Four million ayahuasca drinkers worldwide and no directly related deaths

ICEERS report estimates the number of people drinking ayahuasca worldwide and analyzes fatalities reported by the media

A recent report published by [ICEERS](#) (International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, and Service) sheds light on the number of people taking ayahuasca worldwide and analyzes the fatalities the media associated with the consumption of this plant medicine. Various sources were analyzed, including drug consumption surveys, academic research, media reporting, and insights from retreat centers. The report offers approximate figures based on a thorough analysis of the sources available.

"This report not only gives us a detailed picture of those people taking ayahuasca around the world, but also underscores the importance of honoring and supporting the Indigenous Amazonian communities that have been the traditional bearers of this knowledge," said Carlos Suarez Alvarez Suarez, lead author of the study.

Based on extensive research started in 2020, ICEERS estimates that more than four million people in the Americas, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand have consumed ayahuasca at some point in their lives. Approximately 820,000 people did so in 2019 alone. Only 10% of these four million people belong to Indigenous groups where ayahuasca has traditionally been an integral part of their knowledge systems.

The report also dismantles some concerns regarding ayahuasca and its association with several deaths reported by the media. Among the 58 deaths linked to ayahuasca worldwide, not a single autopsy has attributed the fatalities to acute ayahuasca intoxication, specifically referring to the traditional brew of *Banisteriopsis caapi* and *Psychotria viridis*.

Social, economic, and environmental implications

This report was intended to contribute to public debate and inform the development of public policy. It provides an overview of the expansion of ayahuasca and the social,

economic, and environmental implications it entails. It also provides a basis for future research and serves as a reminder of the need for safety and ethical standards in ceremonial ayahuasca settings.

The executive summary of the report is now available in both English and Spanish on the ICEERS website. The full 196-page report includes a detailed analysis of each death associated with ayahuasca, consumption statistics by country, and an in-depth analysis of the data collected. This document is available to any interested person or organization upon request. ICEERS will publish a series of articles on its website to present the details of this research in the coming weeks.

More information:

[Ayahuasca. Global Consumption and Reported Deaths in the Media](#)

Contact us:

ayanumbers@iceers.org