

The MAPS Bulletin in prison

People who receive MAPS in prison are occasionally denied access to the Bulletin, or to enclosures that are perceived by prison officials as promoting drug use. The following is excerpted from a letter about such a situation:

I wrote you back in January or February to tell you that the prison officials had confiscated a MAPS publication. I told you that I was filing an Administrative Remedy to appeal that decision and I sent you a copy.

Well, the Warden denied my Administrative Remedy saying the publication was a threat to security and that it promoted drug use. So I sent another Administrative Remedy to the regional administrator in Atlanta. After several weeks of delay, they gave the publication to me (it was the Summer 1996 issue) and asked if I would withdraw my appeal. Since I got what I had wanted, I went ahead and withdrew the appeal. I'm told that this is the first time someone won on this issue (at FCI Jesup) in seven years.

I'm not sure that you care, but since I said that I would keep you updated, I wanted to make sure I did. Enclosed are the most pertinent papers from the process. I really enjoy your publications and I appreciate the work you do. •

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National Institutes of Health Research on Ecstasy

Interested in participating in research? Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and the National Institutes of Health are collaborating to investigate the long-term effects of (±) 3,4 Methylendioxyamphetamine (MDMA, "Ecstasy") on brain serotonin neurons.

Participants will stay in a clinical research facility for five days and four nights and receive a volunteer fee of \$500.00 (or one hundred dollars per test day). Johns Hopkins University arranges and pays for travel. Meals are provided. No MDMA is actually given during the course of testing.

MDMA has been shown to produce long-lasting damage to serotonin cells in rats and monkeys. We hope to learn whether the use of this drug produces similar damage in humans, and if so, whether there are behavioral consequences. Serotonin is involved in the regulation of many behaviors including mood, hunger, pain perception, sleep, and cognition.

Over the course of the 5-day study, subjects will participate in a variety of psychological and biological tests that evaluate serotonin functioning.

In order to be eligible for this research project, volunteers must be between 18-65 years of age and agree not to take illicit drugs for a period of three weeks prior to the first day of the study. Please note that we will conduct blood and urine tests.

If you are currently using Ecstasy or have used it in the past, we would be interested in hearing from you. •

For more information, please contact:
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The URL for this research is www.welch.jhu.edu/~klowe. •

