

Drug Strategy

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How Deadly Are Illegal Drugs?

- Fewer deaths than legal drugs, or alcohol, or tobacco, or suicide, or firearms, or ...
- Heart disease kills 40x as many
- Data source <http://DrugWarFacts.org>

Prohibition Motives

- **Not designed to reduce addiction!**
- Power, fear, corruption, racism, incarceration
- John Ehrlichman, Nixon's policy chief
- "The Nixon campaign ... had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people." "by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify ... Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

Enforcement Flexibility

- Police, DA have tremendous discretion
- May prosecute, plea bargain, or ignore
- Politically unpopular complaints “lost”
- Powerful enforcement tool

As Disease

- Regarding heart disease, obesity, ...
- No jail time for too many doughnuts
- Don't hunt ice cream distributors
- Failed dieters can try yet again
- Treat drug addiction similarly

Comparing Drugs

- Alcohol is my standard for comparison
- Popular, easily prepared, addictive, destructive
- Cannabis is safer
- Meth is nasty
- Heroin contaminants are toxic
- Fentanyl powerful, dangerous
- Need a scientific assessment of inherent danger of recreational drugs

Drug Amnesty Program

- For addicts, dealers, suppliers
- Turn in your stash
- Go to treatment
- No jail time
- No criminal record
- Get some help
- Career help would be nice too

Novel Approach – Not Here

- Prescribe heroin for addicts
- Vastly cheaper, safer than street drugs
- No toxic contaminants
- Reduces addiction, theft, disease
- See "The case for prescription heroin"
<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2015/05/the-case-for-prescription-heroin/>
- Probably very illegal

Highly Focused Enforcement

- Alcohol is legal – not a target
- Marijuana is safer – ignore it
- \$5,000 bounty for sellers of meth, contaminated heroin, (fentanyl, synthetic opioids)
- \$25,000 bounty on wholesale suppliers of meth, ...
- Attack wholesale supply, not addicts
- Reduce use of nasty drugs
- Reduce crime, addiction

Preliminaries

- Drug amnesty
- Solid treatment program (triage center)
- Work with DA, judges, state, feds, ...
- Public meetings
- Advertise the plan
- 6-month advance notice
- Give people a way out

Overall Goals

- Less addiction
- Switch to safer drugs
- Reduce crime, enforcement, social costs
- Connection – not addiction
- Treatment – not punishment
- Healing, life

Enjoy Connection, Cure Addiction

