

## Chapter 9

# Alcohol and Other Drugs



- Definitions of drugs vary from society to society
  - Alcohol part of western culture
  - Peyote use as a religious ritual among Native Americans
  - Coca and South America
- Definitions vary over time



## **Drugs and Social Diversity**

- Definitions of drugs have varied over time in the United States
- Attitudes toward cocaine
  - Cocaine early on was seen as a medical panacea
  - Racism and cocaine usage
- Immigrants and drug use
- U.S. Congress and the Harrison Act of 1914



## Changing Views of Alcohol

- Alcohol is one of the most widely used drugs
  - Alcohol was important in colonial America
  - Alcohol became associated with undesirable immigrants
- Temperance Movement
- The Eighteenth Amendment and Prohibition







## Changing Views of Alcohol

- Prohibition
  - Organized crime and bootlegging
- In 1933 Prohibition ended with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment



## The Extent of Drug Use

- Most everyone uses some type of drug legal or illegal
- In 2000 government survey
  - Six percent of the population over the age of twelve used some illicit drug
  - The trend has gone downward



# Why do People Use Drugs?

- Five reasons behind use
  - 1. Therapeutic use
  - 2. Recreational use
  - 3. Escapism
  - 4. Spiritual or psychological use
  - 5. Social Conformity



### Use and Abuse

- The distinction between using a drug from abusing a drug
- 1. Use that goes against accepted medical practices
- 2. Effect of the drug
  - Mental harm
  - Physical harm
  - Social harm



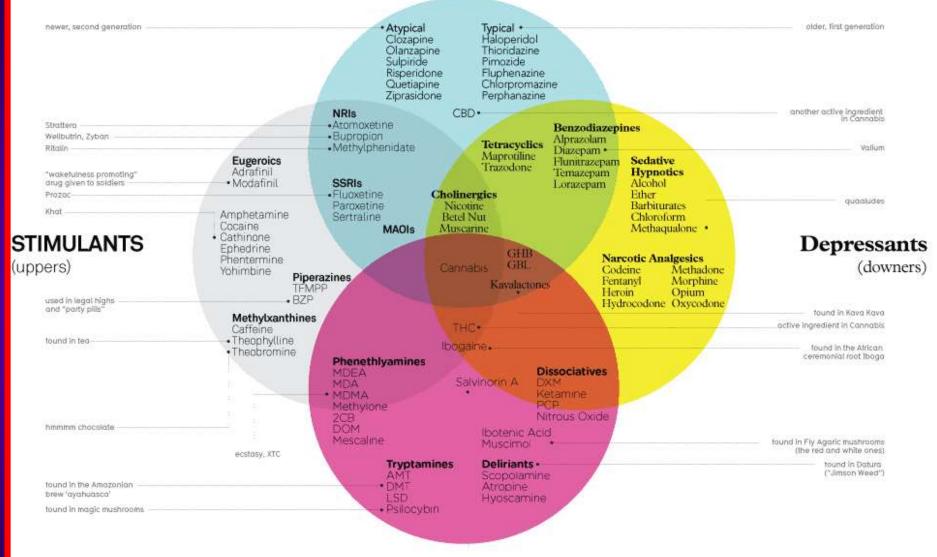
# Addiction and Dependency

- Addiction a physical or psychological craving for a drug
  - Withdrawal symptoms
  - Complex
- Dependency a state in which a person's body has adjusted to regular use of a drug
  - Need for the drug to feel normal





#### Anti-Psychotics (tranquillizers)



from Salvia divinorum

#### Hallucinogens

(trips)



- Stimulants drugs that elevate alertness, changing a person's mood by increasing energy
  - Caffeine
  - Nicotine
  - Cocaine and Crack
  - Amphetamines
  - Ritalin





- Depressants drugs that slow the operation of the central nervous system
  - Analgesics
    - Over the counter pain relievers
  - Sedatives and hypnotics, and alcohol
  - Antipsychotics
    - Lithium and Haldol (Used to treat Schizophrenia)



- Hallucinogens stimulants that cause some hallucinations
  - LSD
  - Peyote
  - Psilocybin (Mushrooms)
  - PCP
  - Ecstasy
  - Others... (Designer Drugs)



- Cannabis
  - Marijuana
  - Hashish
  - Constitutes 80% of Illegal Drug Use
- Steroids androgenic
  - Anabolic steroids

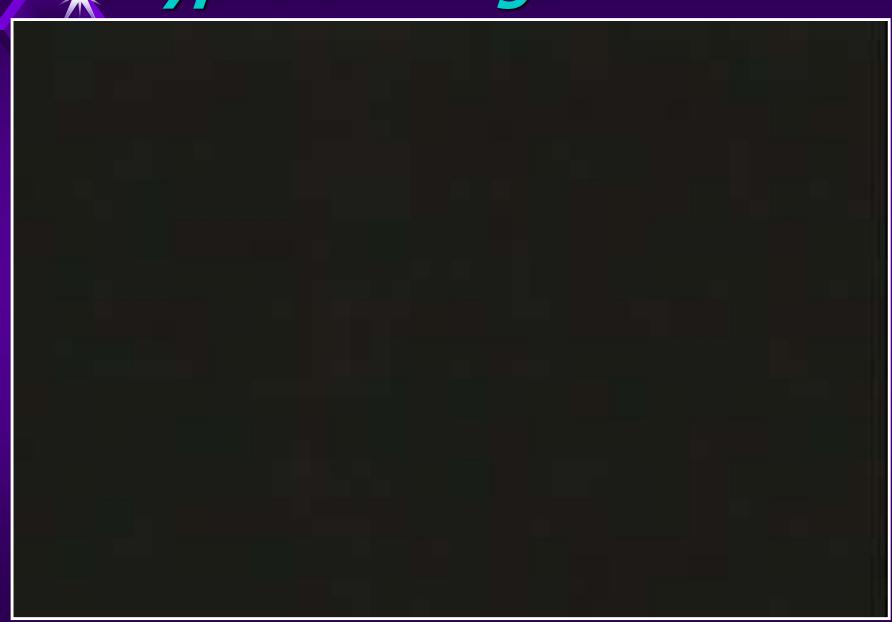






- Steroid Use Can Lead to:
  - Improved Athletic Performance
  - Liver Tumors
  - High Blood Pressure
  - Infertility
  - Baldness
  - Male Breast Development
  - Female Facial Hair







- Prescription Drugs
  - 15 Million Americans Use Prescription Drugs in a Nonmedical Way
  - Painkillers (Analgesics) are the most abused
    - Codeine, Valium, Percodan, and Vicodin
  - People can build a tolerance to painkillers requiring a large dose
  - Abusers often obtain several prescriptions at the same time from multiple doctors

# Drugs and Other Social Problems

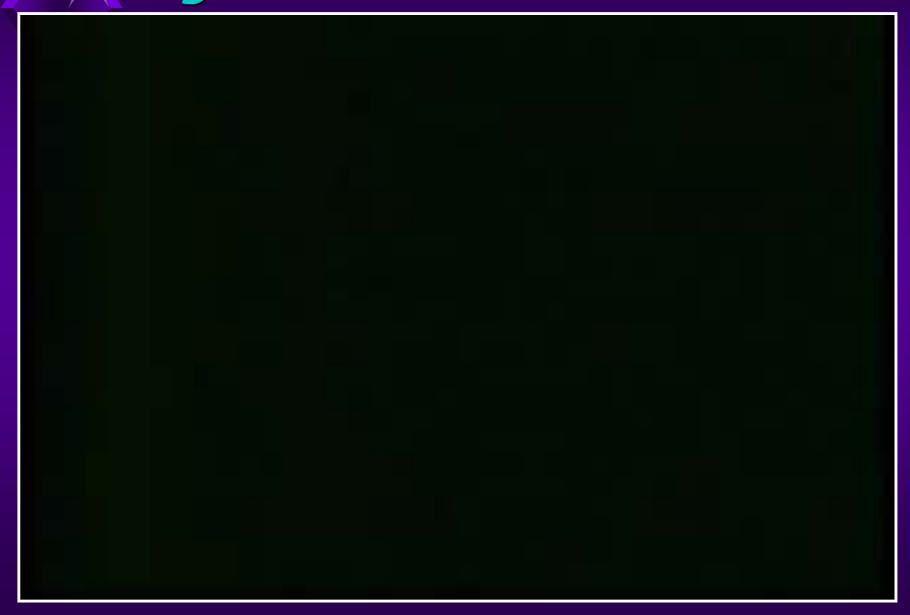
- Problems of Family Life
  - Drug use and child neglect
    - Effect inhibitions
    - Effect judgment
  - Impacts family relationships and roles
    - Codependency among family members
  - Financial problems
  - Educational (school) problems
  - Legal problems



### Drugs and Other Social Problems



### \*Drugs and Other Social Problems



# Drugs and Other Social Problems

#### Homelessness

- Half of homeless men have a drinking problem
- Twenty percent of homeless women have a drinking problem
- Drugs and homelessness
  - Drugs cause homelessness
  - Homelessness leads to drug use



#### **Health Problems**

- Many people die from the use of illegal and legal drugs
- Effects physical and psychological well being
- Prenatal exposure
  - Premature delivery
  - Low birth weight
  - Birth defects



#### **Health Problems**

- Sharing needles and HIV
- U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Needle exchange program and the reduction in the spread of HIV
- Educational information on the sterilization of needles



### Drugs and Other Social Problems





#### **Crime**

- Drug use and crime
  - Violent offenders and drug use
  - Drug enforcement policies cause crime
  - Drug trafficking and violence
  - Crime to support a drug habit

# \*\* Drugs and Other Social Problems

### **Global Poverty**

- Illegal drugs in the U.S. are a part of the global economy
- Poverty in poor nations and the production of drugs
  - Opiates in Asia
  - Hashish from Middle East and West Africa
  - Cocaine from South America



### **Global Poverty**

- Source of income and capital for poor nations
- Demand for drugs from rich nations
  - Each Year Americans Spend \$65 Billion on Heroin, Cocaine, Marijuana, Hashish, and other Illegal Drugs



- Link with drug use and terrorism
- Buying illegal drugs at home, puts money in the hands of terrorists abroad
- Some believe that U.S. Government is overstating the link

# Social Policy: Responding to the Drug Problem

### Strategies to Control Drugs (4)

- 1. Interdiction stopping drugs from entering our country
  - DEA
  - U.S Customs Service
  - Border Patrol
  - U.S. military

# Social Policy: Responding to the Drug Problem

### **Strategies to Control Drugs (4)**

- 2. Prosecution
- Prosecuting drug dealers and incarceration
- Mandatory sentencing
  - Punishing the poor and minorities

# Social Policy: Responding to the Drug Problem

#### **Strategies to Control Drugs (4)**

- 3. Education
  - Dare (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)
  - Public advertisement campaign
- 4. Treatment
  - In and out patient treatment
  - AA
  - Narcotics Anonymous

# The War on Drugs

- The Nixon Era: Drugs as "Public Enemy Number One"
  - Created the DEA Overseas our government antidrug operations
  - Nixon administration and treatment programs
- Main thrust was enforcement over treatment

### \*\*The War on Drugs

#### The Reagan Era: Zero Tolerance

- Defining the drug problem as moral challenge
- Increased the federal budget to fight the drug problem
- Interdiction and the use of the CIA and Military
- Mandatory jail time
- Forfeiture laws



The Bush Years (1989-1992): The War Goes On

- Office of National Drug Control Policy
- William Bennett the first drug czar
- Tough laws







The Clinton Era: More of the Same

- Treatment over incarceration
- Later years tougher enforcement

### War on Drugs

- George W. Bush
  - Terrorism took public attention away from drugs
  - Looked at prosecution as primary strategy
  - U.S. spends more than \$40 Billion per year to prosecute and jail drug offenders

### Social Policy: Responding to the Drug Problem

#### **Counterpoint: Decriminalization**

- Removing the current criminal penalties that punish drug users (3 Benefits)
  - Government could regulate the quality of the drug
  - The cost of the drugs would go down, users would have less need to commit crimes to support their drug habit
  - We would no longer have to pay for those onemillion people jailed for drug crimes

### Social Policy: Responding to the Drug Problem

- Zurich: Legalization that Failed
  - Police stopped making arrests
  - City health stations provided heroin and methadone, clean needles, & condoms
  - 8,000 Needles per day were handed out
    - The Situation was out of control
- Netherlands: Legalization that Works
  - Cannabis Cafés were established (marijuana & hashish)
  - People are free to use but not sell these drugs

## Structural-Functional Analysis: Regulating Drug Use

- The functions of a drug for the operation of society
  - Economic functions
    - Jobs for many people
  - Social and cultural functions
    - Alcohol, Caffeine, Ritalin etc.
- Drugs as dysfunctional for the operation of society
  - The more disruptive a drug's effects, the stronger measures society takes

# Symbolic-Interaction Analysis: The Meaning of Drug Use

- The social meanings and definitions that people attach to a drug, its use and users
  - Sacred (alcohol)
  - Religious rituals (peyote)
  - Harmful (depends on time/place)
- How individuals make sense out of drugs
  - Drug use is a learned behavior

## Social-Conflict Analysis: Power and Drug Use

- Focus is on how power and wealth shapes social life and society
- Power and drug laws
  - Outlaw the "drug" of immigrants & minorities
- Power and the regulation and enforcement of laws
  - Powerful people control the tobacco and alcohol industry
- Power and punishment
  - The powerless go to jail



#### Conservatives: Just Say No

- Moral values in the analysis of the drug problem
- Lack of family and religion at the heart of the problem
- Drug use as a function of self-centered hedonism
- Drugs cause crime and the erosion of morality
- Get tough on drug dealers and users



#### Liberals: Reform Society

- Personal choice and freedom
- Treatment and education approach
- Tolerant view of "soft drugs"
- Legalization of marijuana
- Support law enforcement for hard "drugs"

#### Radical Views: Right-Wing Libertarians and the Far Left

- Libertarians people who favor the greatest individual freedom possible
- Oppose government efforts to regulate drugs
- Favor individual choice and freedom
- Drug use should be left up to the individual
- Radical left drug laws reflect the interest of the dominant group