

## DRUGS

- To Sociologists, drug use is a social behavior, and societies influence drug policies and drug use in different ways.
- National Academy of Sciences
  - Native Americans drinking alcohol
    - natural scientists
      - genetics - NA lack protective gene
        - more susceptible to alcohol effects
    - social scientists
      - Problem began with displacement of NA
      - poor quality of life
      - Alcoholism was more of a symptom than a problem

Sociologists say that drug use is a social behavior

- learned behavior
- multiple people there
- social learning process
  - learn how to construct the effects as positive

## DRUG POLICIES

- some societies don't think drugs are dangerous so they don't have laws against them.
  - wine at church
  - pharmaceuticals
  - criminalized by how society constructs them

### DEA

- schedules up to 5
  - how addictive they are
    - 5 lowest, 1 highest
- Schedule 1 and 2 are dangerous
  - only difference
    - 1 no medical benefits
    - not completely illegal
- When drug is in lower classes it is given a schedule
  - coca-cola was a pain medication containing cocaine
  - cocaine became addicting
    - prohibition
    - a lot of referencing of the devil & sin
- heroin- synthesized by morphine because morphine was so addictive
  - chemically the same

- both really addictive
- meth - medication
  - treat asthma
  - gave soldiers to keep them awake & help their performance
- molly - actually an old drug
  - referenced by celebrities
  - MDMA
    - basically the same chemicals as meth
    - very slow when hit the drug market, resurfaced because of celebrities
    - worked really well for people with anxiety disorders
- DEA will host court hearings
  - experts on both sides
  - more of a judicial process
  - first judge said MDMA was safe under medical watch
  - recommended that MDMA should be on schedule 3
    - made MDMA schedule 1 anyway
    - mostly about politics

#### Weed

- could get doctor's permission
- people thought gov should focus on bigger problems
- demand for medical weed increased
- made fluid extract
- new drugs replacing marijuana
- put on schedule 1 list
- overall decrease in England and Wales
  - completely illegal
- opposite in America
  - has been an increase
- attitude toward marijuana changed
  - asking for legalization
  - "just an herb" its natural
  - chemically better for you

#### Baseball player died of overdose from crack cocaine

- many athletes died of overdoses after this
- associated with criminality & lower classes

## MEDIA

- media got involved in “crack baby” myth
  - harsher sentences for crack & not cocaine
  - lady followed crack children
    - not really any differences
    - both pairs mentally behind
      - poverty has the lasting effects not the drugs
- Myth - babies born with drugs in their system are set up for a lifetime of problems

## Needle exchange programs

- people permission to clean needles
- able to reduce the amount of HIV patients by 80%
- pulled funding, then continued to fund, then pulled it again
  - deserve more punishment then rehabilitation

## PROGRAMS

- socially constructed
- kid died in drunk driving
  - mom started program against drunk driving
  - raised drinking age to 21
  - more restrictive punishments and policies
- D.A.R.E.
  - drug awareness
  - local police officers
  - kids are supposed to pledge not to do this at the end
  - funded by government
  - found out that program didn't work at all
  - children given the DARE program are more likely to drink and do drugs
  - receiving millions of dollars a year even though multiple studies prove it isn't effective at all
  - reasons they still use DARE
    - problem is complex never expected it to work
    - improve relationships with police but not long lasting
    - government already put a lot of money into the program & it's hard to just stop using it because it's been used for so long
- AA
  - personal responsibilities
  - keeps people into the program
  - replicated for other issues