

“Drugs in American society: Can we control it or is this substance controlling us?”

Andrea Taylor

Axia College of University of Phoenix

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you read or hear the word “Drugs”? Are your reactions of a negative or positive manner? Drugs, legal and illegal, have been around since the beginning of time. So, how does something intended to help or cure individuals of pain and disease, also become a form of addiction and ruin so many lives? Drugs have become both a problem and solution in American society. While drugs are both beneficial and dangerous, the effect it has on the lives of many Americans, on a daily basis, has an alarming result.

Drugs are defined as any chemical matter used to change the purpose of living things and the organisms that contaminate them. Drugs are used in many different ways, the picture below shows different instruments used in distributing drugs in an individual’s system.



<http://www.ohsinc.com/Drug>

_User_Paraphernalia_example_1.jpg

Drugs have many uses both helpful and harmful to the human mind and body. Substance abuse is a problem affecting all sectors of American society. (U.S. Department of Health Services, 1997) It crosses all societal boundaries, in both urban and rural areas. It affects genders, every ethnic group, and people in every tax bracket. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1997) Drugs have a massive effect on both the young and older generation of society. A number of drugs are very addictive, causing different levels of chemical reaction to the brain. Other drugs can be used over a lengthy amount of time and cause unavoidable desires and habitual use.

In the same way, drugs are used to ease pain they can also cause it. Drugs can treat the common cold and cure cancer in one dose. The same drugs or similar ones can mentally and physically destroy an individual inside out and take lives. There a wide variety of drugs from weight loss medicine, sleep aids, and prescribed medication for health and mental problems. Each medication has its own purpose and side effects. Many drugs are meant for self – improvement but cause many unwanted results. For example, a national survey conducted by