

Sociology 104

18 November 2013

Crack Panic Epidemic Notes

- expansion phase
- plateau phase
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- cocaine was created in 1960
- 150000 pounds by 1986
- Coca-Cola made with cocaine
- Freud played a role in studies on cocaine
- self medication was the norm in the 60's
- cocaine was marketed as a general tonic- for fever, sinus problems
- first snortable cocaine --catarrh powder
- Oregon was the first to restrict the use of cocaine for non-medical use
- pure food and drug act- have to disclose the contents of the drug on the bottle somewhere when sold in the store
- 1903 Coca-Cola took cocaine out of their product
- coca leaves
- amphetamines became the substitute for ...coca leaves? Cocaine?
- during the 1970's, primarily used among the upper classes because its expensive but as the decade progresses the demand begins to grow
- smuggled cocaine to the US
- 1974- cartel moved 20-30 kilos per week
- by early 80's they were moving hundreds of kilos of cocaine
- because they smuggled so much of it, the price of cocaine drops and becomes more of a middle class drug
- few people still smoked cocaine in 1981
- free-based it: removed base of cocaine, involves chemicals, flammable
- took place at parties, after hour clubs,
- start to see early signs of the crack epidemic taking place (free-basing)
- crack: free basing using baking soda to create a paste that is dry and then smokable
- occurred in the Bahamas because there was a lot of cocaine
- knowledge about how to make crack cocaine begins to spread in the early 1980's
- 1981: the publication of The Natural Process: Base-ic Instructions and the Baking Recipe
- sold next to pipes in stores
- “freeway” Rick Ross was apparently the first mass distributor of cocaine
- Hip hop artist Rick Ross named himself after “Freeway” Rick Ross
- incubation phase:
 - freebasing
 - knowledge of how to make cocaine
 - still inexpensive (middle-class drug)

- expansion phase:

- crack becomes "the" drug that addicts are using
- cocaine had a devastating effect on the areas it hit
- 1986- "high point" of crack cocaine in the US
- heart seizes when a hard hitting amphetamine is ingested
- Led Bias' death was used as an example of how cocaine is bad
- 1986- house of representatives passed the "Anti-Drug Abuse Act"
- instituted federal work place urine testing, new funds for police to crack down on drug use, funding going to treatment centers for drug abuse
- emphasis was clearly on punishment for drug abuse
- called for longer sentences, increased fines, elimination of probation
- crack babies:
- weighed very little, on incubators
- prenatal alcohol exposure has the same harms as cocaine and crack smoking during pregnancy
- mandatory minimums take away the power of the judge
- problem: led to huge increase of incarceration rate in the US
- possession of 5 grams of cocaine brings a mandatory 5 year prison sentence
- latinos were much more likely to be caught smoking the drug than americans

20 November 2013

RCT & Differential Association Notes

-RCT: Rational Choice Theory

- people weigh costs and benefits and act
- we have "Bounded Rationality": we make shortcuts based on imperfect information
- recognizes that we don't have full information to weigh costs and benefits
- ex. can see security guards but cant see security cameras
- rationality bounded by drunkenness, lack of seeing camera,
- make cost/benefit analysis
- Choice-Structuring Properties: things about criminal activity that make them more or less attractive
- ex: (cost/benefit ex.)(car thief deciding whether or not to take a few extra minutes to steal a car with the club on the wheel vs. the car with no club on wheel.)
- availability of certain weaponry
- rational doesn't necessarily imply good
- ex. Adam Lanza: Newtown gunman had access to gun safe,
- soft targets vs. hard targets
- boston massacre: essentially a soft target- so many people, cant survey the entire course of the race.
- waited until there was a mass of people in order to inflict as much damage as possible
- involves some sense of rationality (picked a place where there weren't a lot of police, used careful planning with pressure cooker as bomb in backpack)
- RCT can explain big and small crimes and can point to crime-control policies
- differential association theory: Edwin Sutherland (1883-1950)

- wrote about a new approach to understanding crime
- 1. Criminal behavior is learned
- 2. Criminal behavior is learned in interaction with other persons in a process of communication.
- 3. The principal part of the learning of criminal behavior occurs within intimate personal groups.
- 4. When criminal behavior is learned, the learning includes (a) techniques of committing the crime, which are sometimes very complicated and sometimes very simple; (b) the specific direction of motives, drives, rationalizations, and attitudes.
- 5. The specific direction of motives and drives is learned from definitions of legal codes as favorable and unfavorable.
- 6. A person becomes delinquent because of an excess of definitions favorable to violation of law over definitions unfavorable to violation of law.
- 8. The process of learning criminal behavior by association with criminal and anticriminal patterns incorporates all the mechanisms that are involved in any other learning.

- inhalation learning: (with marijuana) different from smoking a cigarette, how long do you hold the smoke in?
- learn to enjoy the experience
- unless you learn to enjoy the experience you wont continue to smoke marijuana

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- Objectivist
- Rational choice Theory
- Differential Association

- D.L. Rosenhan- "being sane in insane places"
- pretends to be insane in order to avoid prison time by going to a mental hospital
- insanity label is just as strong as the bars in jail
- once you're assigned a label, others view you through that lens
- took pseudo-patients and had them pretend they had a mental illness, told nurses they heard voices, etc.
- they had to show their sanity and prove that they were sane in order to get released from the mental hospital
- all these patients were diagnosed with schizophrenia and stayed in the mental hospital for an average of 19 days
- represents a false-positive: a result that is a false result
- “labels are sticky”
- context dependent: judge people based on where you find them
- labels come before the action

-Howard Becker: "Outsiders":