



DRUGS IN SOCIETY

CAUSES, CONCEPTS AND CONTROL

4th
edition

MICHAEL D. LYMAN & GARY W. POTTER

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USED BOOKS
4th edition

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Preface

Despite decades of widespread enforcement, interdiction, prevention efforts, and treatment initiatives, the problem of drug abuse and trafficking continues to flourish in American communities and neighborhoods across the country. The extent of the problem has accelerated to the point that most of us know of someone who has been affected in some way by substance abuse.

One of the many lessons to learn from studying America's drug problem is that change is an inevitable part of the drug abuse crisis. We cannot develop a sound drug control policy unless we first become students of history. Things are different in the twenty-first century than they were in the mid-1980s when crack cocaine first appeared on the nation's drug scene. For that matter, things are different now than they were 20, 30, and even 50 years before that. Not only do the drugs of abuse themselves change, but patterns and trends of drug abuse also shift from one decade to the next. For example, over the decades, the focus of the nation's drug abuse problem has shifted from opium to marijuana to LSD to PCP to cocaine, and today we look at so-called club drugs, such as Ecstasy, as one of the prevailing national threats to human health and public safety. Furthermore, people who traffic drugs are also keenly aware of the element of change in the drug business. When factors such as competition from rival criminal groups or effective law enforcement measures place pressures on criminal trafficking organizations, their methods of manufacturing, transportation, and marketing must also be modified. Many of today's drug-trafficking organizations have become extremely resourceful in adjusting to political, economic, and social changes in the drug trade.

Indeed, domestic political agendas greatly affect the manner in which our government and society deal with the drug problem, and clearly such changes vary from one administration to the next. One of the ironies of the drug problem is that, for the most part, people want the same things: safe neighborhoods, safe highways, drug-free workplaces, drug-free schools, addiction-free babies, and so forth. However, individual politics and values often dictate different ways out of achieving these goals. Political agendas affect the philosophies of dealing with both drug abuse and drug offenders, which in turn dictate which resources and how many resources will be made available to deal with the nation's drug problem. So with all of these variables at work, it is little wonder why finding a resolution to America's drug problem is so difficult.

This brings us to the purpose of this book. *Drugs in Society: Causes, Concepts, and Control*, Fourth Edition, deals with the three most pivotal areas of today's drug problem: drug abuse, drug trafficking, and drug control policy. We should acknowledge that the preparation of any book is a considerable undertaking and this one is no exception. Furthermore, any text dealing with drug abuse necessitates periodic updating, because it is a diverse subject that encompasses numerous disciplines such as sociology, politics, psychology, medicine, criminal justice, public policy, and law.

Many social, political, and private policy changes have set the stage for this text, and this is precisely the premise of this fourth addition—change. It is a book about drugs, addictions, dealers, corrupt officials, “narcs,” the courts, personal and public values, public policy, the laws, and the rising numbers of ruined communities and families throughout the country. Put simply, it is designed to give the reader insight into formulating possible solutions to America's drug dilemma.

Drug abuse is a sensitive public issue. Discussions typically generate the political volatility of other heated social issues such as abortion, gun control, and capital punishment. It is therefore one of our primary goals to address the subject in a realistic fashion with objective consideration given to both liberal and conservative social perspectives. This book, designed to offer a logical flow of information, is organized in three parts: Understanding the Problem, Gangs and Drugs, and Fighting Back. Each contains chapters that focus on the many critical areas of America's drug problem and give the reader a foundation for critical thinking and rational decision making within this complex multidisciplinary field.

We would like to extend a sincere “thank you” to the many individuals who assisted in the preparation of this project. Specifically, thanks is most offered to the many friends and associates in the drug enforcement profession, our colleagues in criminal justice and higher education, and the always helpful people at the National Institute of Justice, the National Center for Drugs and Crime Control, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. A special thanks is well-deserved by the good people at Anderson Publishing Company and their capable management, editorial, and production staff. Their belief in our work helped make this fourth addition of *Drugs in Society: Causes, Concepts, and Control* a reality.

In an effort to ensure accuracy and readability in the book's organization and content, we would like to encourage any and all comments about this text for use in future editions. Please feel free to contact us at any time in this regard. Again, we would like to thank you for adopting this textbook, and we hope that it provides you with a meaningful learning tool for understanding drugs in society.

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Introduction

For many Americans, the drug problem is an abstract one involving other people and occurring somewhere else: heroin and crack are abused by the poor in outlying ghettos; cocaine and pharmaceuticals are used by the very rich; other drugs are consumed by fast-trackers in the entertainment industry. Even drug busts on local television feature characters from neighborhoods on the far side of town—certainly not where we live. However, as responsible citizens living in a modern society, we can no longer adopt an out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality with regard to drug abuse. We must begin by being honest with ourselves about the realities of drug abuse—assuming a more proactive attitude. For example, most of us are very well acquainted with the most abused drug in the country: alcohol. Statistics show that the fatal consequences of alcohol abuse outweigh those associated with any other drug. In addition, the scores of people involved with the illicit drug trade, from members of organized crime groups to casual dealers, have no respect for American laws, legitimate forms of commerce, or a safe and prosperous society.

As the drug industry begins to command more loyalty from some parts of the population than does the law, the civil government and the principles of a truly free society slowly erode. Already in some South American countries the drug industry has, practically speaking, replaced civil government. In 1995, Columbia's President Ernesto Samper was shown to have received \$6 million from the now defunct Cali cartel during his campaign. Mexican traffickers have taken on cocaine and methamphetamine as new illicit drug enterprises, expanding their operations, influence, and profit. Heroin has undergone a newfound popularity among affluent drug abusers, and in the year 2000 many forms of drug abuse by teens were once again on the upswing. *Drugs in Society: Causes, Concepts, and Control*, Fourth Edition, addresses these and many other important issues associated with drug abuse in the United States.

Perhaps accepting the problem—that is, not assuming it is someone else's problem—is the first step in identifying workable solutions. This is the primary focus of Part I, "Understanding the Problem," which addresses the history of drug abuse and the development of drug control policy, drug pharmacology, theories of drug abuse, and the role of source countries in drug

trafficking. Part One also focuses on drug-related crimes that support the illicit drug industry and are at the core of many senseless acts of violence in neighborhoods around the country.

Organized gangs bankrolled by the lucrative drug trade are not only rooted in major U.S. cities but have long since expanded to communities of all sizes. Not only are traditional organized crime groups like the Mafia involved in drug trafficking, but also nontraditional gangs that include many inner-city youth groups as well as newly emerging Asian youth gangs. Such gangs have become reliant on the drug trade for fast money and local control of criminal enterprises in their communities.

In many American cities, Mexican cartels strive for control of neighborhoods sales of cocaine and methamphetamine by using violence to maintain that control. Outlaw motorcycle gangs such as the Hell's Angels have added the drug trade to their many other criminal endeavors. These organizations and others are the focus of Part II of this book—"Gangs and Drugs"—which discusses the involvement of organized crime in the drug trade.

As Americans accept the reality of drug abuse, we are faced with many questions: How have things gotten so far out of hand? What do we do now? Do solutions to the problem lie in the area of public health, culture, sociology, education, or criminal justice? Each of these areas offers some explanation. Part III, "Fighting Back" considers what is being done and what can be done to best deal with the problem. In doing so, its chapters discuss the role of federal drug enforcement organizations, drug laws, and drug enforcement initiatives. Additionally, critical issues such as drug courier profiling, covert police initiatives, legalizing medical marijuana, needle exchange programs, drug testing in the workplace and at home, and drug abuse in sports are all examined.

As an aid to our readers, numerous critical thinking questions have been provided throughout each chapter. These are designed to promote thought and discussion about some of the more important dynamics of the American drug abuse problem. We have also provided reading objectives at the beginning of each chapter along with important terms at each chapter's conclusion. All of these features are created to provide the student of drug abuse with a means not only to understand the problem but also to formulate realistic public policy responses.

Today, drugs in society present a myriad of social problems. Drugs threaten our standard of living and the quality of our neighborhoods. Drugs can ruin not only the lives of drug users but the lives of those who love them as well. They drain society of precious public resources that could be put to work elsewhere. Society has responded by passing criminal and civil laws as well as implementing myriad social programs, each designed to deal with some aspect of the nation's drug abuse problem. Some of these initiatives have proved more successful than others, but limited as any initiative is, we can only hope that we can rise as a nation to meet the challenge.

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Part I

Understanding the Problem

One of the assumptions of this book is that an educated society is better prepared to respond to the problem of drug abuse than one that is ill-informed. To that end, the first six chapters are designed to give the reader the essentials regarding the nation's drug abuse crisis. To begin, we discuss the social and health consequences of these drugs. Next is an in-depth review of the drugs most commonly abused in our schools and neighborhoods, followed by an overview about how drugs of abuse emerged in modern society and what circumstances led to the gradual social control of them. We then offer an overview of the international and domestic drug trafficking problem, providing an understanding of the origins of illicit drugs. Finally, drug-related crime is discussed in the context of predatory, political and white-collar criminal behavior related to the drug trade. Each of these areas will prepare the reader for a discussion of organized criminal activity in the illicit drug trade, discussed in Part II.

