

DISCRIMINATION IN U.S. DRUG LAWS

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TIME PERIOD	GROUP	DRUG	RESULT
Late 19 th century	Chinese immigrants	Smoked opium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opium smoking dens popular among Chinese men are shut down. - Press report sensational stories about Chinese men luring white women into opium dens, then intoxicating and raping the women. - Importation of smoked opium regulated, at first heavily taxed, later banned altogether.
Early 20 th century	Southern black men	Cocaine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black male cocaine users portrayed as uncontrollable beasts with superpowers and tendency to sexually assault white women. - Special bullets adopted in the South to subdue black men under the influence of cocaine. - Southern whites succeed in pushing through federal legislation against cocaine.
1930's	Mexican immigrants	Marihuana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican immigrants seeking work bring with them a tradition of marihuana smoking new to Americans. - Hearst newspaper company cites marihuana as cause of nationwide addiction, violence, and youth corruption. - Propagandized "Reefer Madness" airs on TV. - Hearst releases false reports of Hispanic men going psychotic, violent, and raping white women after smoking marihuana.
1960's	Young hippies	LSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growing counterculture of rebellious drug-using youths threatens conventional society and politics. - Harvard professors fired for promoting the role of LSD in psychotherapy. - LSD federally banned without scientific basis. - Exaggerated media warnings depict LSD users as psychotic, suicidal, and susceptible to rape.

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1980's to Present	Inner city blacks	Crack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesis of crack provides a new form of cocaine easy to make, quicker-acting but shorter-lasting, and cheaper to buy, making it more available and affordable for poor inner city users. - Penalties against crack possession increase by 100 times the penalties of powder cocaine possession. - Law enforcement selectively target inner city crack users who are easier to catch and arrest. - A higher percentage of blacks arrested and sentenced for crack & cocaine offenses, although the percentage of white users are proportionally the same. - Increased law enforcement and profitability of crack give rise to drug-related murders and turf wars in inner city black communities across the country.
1990's to Present	Black & latino men	Marijuana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandatory minimum sentences for drug possession gains popularity in Washington as politicians embrace get tough on crime approach. - Marijuana arrests (about 700,000 per year) and incarceration rates (over 10% of prison population) reach an all-time high. - Non-violent drug offenses by blacks and Latinos comprise majority of prison population. - 2002 study reports that more black men are going to jail than college.
Late 1990's to Present	Rave & club culture	Ecstasy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media hysteria surfaces over raves and ecstasy use. - Raves and clubs across the country shut down in violation of civil right to assemble. - Legislative acts repeatedly proposed to regulate drug use by prosecuting dealers, suppliers, users, rave promoters, club managers, and property owners. - Aspects of dance culture, including music, fashion, and souvenirs, are criminalized as drug paraphernalia.

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