

Reducing Alcoholism

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Cultural Paradigm

- Selling addictive products is immensely profitable
- Buying addiction is destructive, costly
- People, families, and communities suffer
- Big business controls politicians who appeal to misinformed voters
- Consequently, government supports addictive products while pretending to fight them
- Addiction sales, prison industries, and fear-mongering politicians benefit

Popular Modern Addictions

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Sugar, caffeine
- Consumerism
- Legal and prescription drugs
- Illegal drugs
- Gambling
- Proud, angry political and religious views

Dangers Of Alcohol

- Drunk people are dangerous drivers
- Lost productivity is expensive
- Physical dependence / Changed brain chemistry
- Gradually destroys liver via cirrhosis
- Slowly kills people
- Deforms baby via fetal alcohol syndrome
- Overdose and rapid withdrawal can both be fatal

Emotional Problems

- Psychological dependence
- Dangerously-reduced inhibitions
- Encourages violence and crime
- Robberies increase
- Dulls the joys and experiences of life

Alcohol Promotes Crime

- Reduced inhibitions and need for a fix both encourage crime
- Robbery and violent crime often involve alcohol
- "15% of robberies, 63% of intimate partner violence incidents, 37% of sexual assaults, 45-46% of physical assaults and 40-45% of homicides in the United States involved use of alcohol."
- See "Alcohol-related crime" on Wikipedia

Alcohol Is The Worst Drug

- The most destructive drug
- Addictive, prevalent, and government-sanctioned
- "Overall, alcohol was the most harmful drug (overall harm score 72), with heroin (55) and crack cocaine (54) in second and third places."
- See "Drug harms in the UK: a multicriteria decision analysis"
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61462-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61462-6/fulltext)

Local Impacts

- Homelessness / Panhandling
- Disease / Disorderly conduct
- Loitering groups / Passed-out drunks
- Vandalism / Robbery
- Domestic assault / Public bodily waste
- Medical bills / Police calls
- Fights
- High-functioning long-term addicts do exist

Current Reduction Attempts

- Frequent discussion at city council meetings
- Taxes
- Incarceration
- Limiting expensive alcohol licenses to limit number of places that sell alcohol
- Some government support of homeless shelters
- Underage consumption is illegal
- Advertising campaigns

Effective Remediation

- Political will would be required
- Remediation would hurt alcohol industry
- Legalize cannabis – far safer than alcohol
- Culture-wide migration from alcohol to cannabis
- Post large warnings on alcoholic beverages
- Post warning signs on places that serve or sell alcohol
- More government support for addiction recovery
- Place treatment services in jails and elsewhere

Enjoy Nature (Wyoming)

