

CHAPTER 12

12.1 Self Check page 424

1. What is a drug, and what are the common drugs of abuse?

A **drug** is any chemical that interacts with the body, altering normal body and mind functioning, usually through the central nervous cord and system. The drugs that are most commonly associated with abuse are classified as opiates, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, and marijuana.

2. During which period of the U.S. history was the link between illegal drug use and crime best explored?

The link between drug use and crime was best explored in the crime wave of the 1960s.

3. What are the risks commonly associated with drug abuse today?

Two of the biggest risks of drug abuse today are spreading HIV and AIDS through intravenous and overdosing on heroin.

12.2 Self Check page 429

1. What is the dominant policy concerning drug use in the United States?

The leading policy concerning the prevention and eradication of drug abuse is **prohibition**, which is the policy of keeping drugs away from people, especially young people. This philosophy has dominated since the passage of the **1914 Harrison Narcotics Act**, and has remained the key theme of both anti-drug legislation and governmental anti-drug efforts.

2. How big is the drug problem in the United States?

Nearly all forms of drug use appear to be escalating among adolescents, and the total number of current drug users has not declined since 1992. Unofficial estimates count at least 64 million Americans using marijuana. Among youth, this trend continues and is compounded because young people are restricted from otherwise legal drugs such as tobacco and alcohol.

12.3 Self Check page 445

1. What are the major heroin production regions or growing areas in the world?

The three areas are:

- The **Golden Crescent**, which comprises the three countries of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Prior to the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, most of the heroin entering the United States traveled from this region.
- The **Golden Triangle**, which consists of northeastern Burma, Thailand, and Laos. This has been a popular source since the Vietnam War.
- **Mexico**, which produces **black tar** and **chiva** heroin.

(Refer to Figure 12-3 on page 432 for a map of the major heroin production regions of the world. More recently, other countries in Latin America such as Columbia and Peru have started production.)

2. What are the three broad categories of inhalants?

The three main categories are:

- **Volatile Solvents:** Correction fluid, spray paint, glue, rubber cement, spray shoe polish, carburetor cleaners, paint thinner, nail polish remover, lighter fluid, gasoline, and hair spray.
- **Gases:** Chloroform, ether, helium, freon, whippets (nitrous oxide), the propellant used in vegetable cooking spray (e.g., Pam), and whipping cream spray.
- **Nitrites:** Amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, room odorizers such as Locker Room, Rush, Bolt, Climax, and Poppers. Unlike other inhalants, nitrites are used most often recreationally in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

12.4 Self Check page 448

What is the connection between drugs and violence?

There are four main factors to remember when discussing the relationship between drugs and crime:

- General forms of drug use and delinquency in adolescence and adulthood are not causally related. In other words, drug use does not cause crime.
- There has been a historically erroneous misconception concerning the relationship between drugs and violence.
- The drug street culture has dramatically changed; people are no longer as likely to be loyal to a single drug. This shift made it much more difficult to study the effect of any particular drug on a person's behavior. In turn, it became more difficult to find a connection between drugs and violence.
- Most incidents of drug-related violence occur in deteriorated communities characterized by the loss of informal and formal social control, internal struggle between large numbers of disenfranchised subcultures, and the absence of meaningful economic processes and political decision-making. Therefore, factors other than drug use are large factors in predicating violence.

12.5 Self Check page 454

1. What is D.A.R.E., and what problems have been encountered with this program?

D.A.R.E. is a school-based program in which police officers provide drug awareness education and discourage students from using drugs. It has been controversial because it is ineffective and wastes money.

2. What are risk factors?

Risk factors are a set of characteristics that are associated with a higher probability of drug use among youth. They can include:

- Chaotic home environments, particularly in which parents abuse substances or suffer from mental illness
- Ineffective parenting, especially with children with difficult temperaments and conduct disorders
- Lack of mutual attachments and nurturing
- Inappropriately shy or aggressive behavior in the classroom
- Failure in school performance
- Poor social coping skills and associations with deviant peers or drug-using peers
- Perceptions of approval of drug using behaviors in the school, peer, and community environment

12.6 Self Check page 459

1. What are the critiques of the “war on drugs” policy?

The critiques can be summarized as follows. The war on drugs has the following problems:

- Failure to curb demand
- High expenses with little return
- Negative effects of drug laws
- Scarce resources to fight drugs
- Failure to change the fact that the U.S. is a drug-taking culture

2. Can you discuss the alternatives to existing drug policy in the United States?

The four major alternatives are: legalize and privatize all drugs, legalize the less dangerous and serious drugs, decriminalize drugs, and harm reduction.