Rethinking the War on Drugs

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INTRODUCTION

The United States has struggled with the drug crisis for centuries.

Nixon declared “War on Drugs” in 1971.

Since 1971 we have seen many consequences and very few benefits.

How can the United States implement better drug policies to truly begin to end the War on Drugs?
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Drug and incarceration rates are much higher in the US than other countries
- The War on Drugs has been highly unsuccessful
- What methods do other countries use that could be successful in the United States?
METHODOLOGY

The Netherlands:
• Smart Shops and Coffee Shops

Portugal:
• Decriminalized the possession all drugs

Japan:
• Heavy social stigmas and rules against drug use
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

01 Reducing social stigmas
02 Increasing access to rehabilitation, therapy, and treatment
03 Decriminalizing drugs to reallocate funding
04 Providing safe areas to use safe drugs
RESULTS

• Safe Injection sites
• Harm reduction tactics
• More recovering addicts being rehabilitated
• Less overdoses, addiction rates, and drug related crimes/incidents