

Drug policy – Theoretical conceptions

Alcohol

teetotallers

recreational consumers

consumers

problematic



**alcohol is of
no importance**

**alcohol is the
first priority**

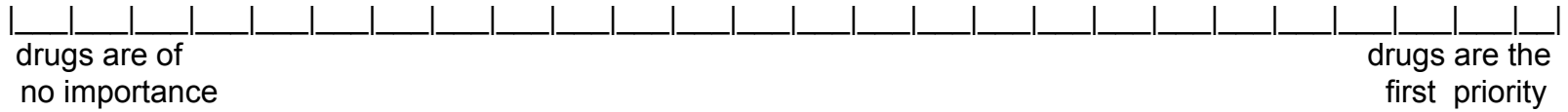
Narcotics

Abstainers

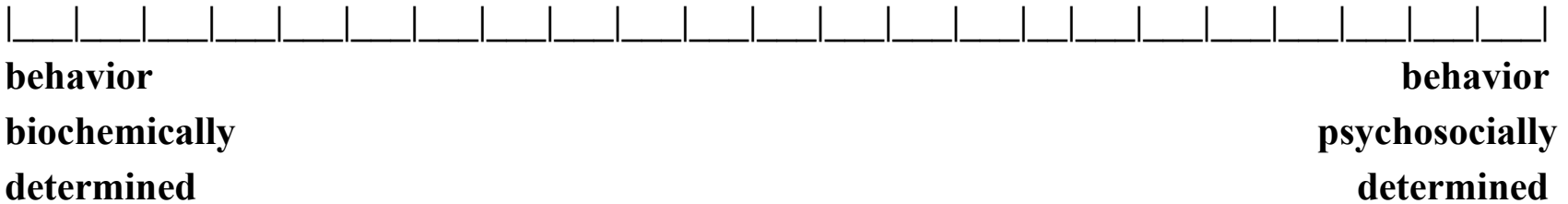
Recreational consumers

consumers

Problematic



Biochemical and/or psychosocial?



Biosychosocial perspective

Swedish policy (Prohibition)**Alternative policy**

| Swedish policy (Prohibition) | Alternative policy |
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Problematic consumers of narcotics are primarily recruited among individuals with many of the following experiences in their background:

poverty

at least one parent with excessive alcohol consumption

physical abuse

serious conflicts in the family

not raised by both biological parents

if the father was physically present, he showed little or no interest in the family

received little encouragement

spoiled or severely frustrated

subjected to diffuse demands

subjected to inconsistent use of punishment

chronic physical and/or mental disorders in the family

sexual abuse

overcrowded living conditions

multiproblem families

dissatisfaction with the home environment

ran away on multiple occasions

subjected to discrimination

Furthermore, the prospective problematic consumer usually has several of the following psychosomatic symptoms:

depression

headaches

stomach troubles

insomnia

low stress tolerance

anxiety

nervousness

aggressiveness

projection

brittle ego-defense

His childhood and adolescence are characterized by:

inability to form positive social relations

insecurity

emotional distress

distrust of others

hostility

difficulties in taking initiatives

giving up in the face of difficulty

poor adjustment in school

feeling unjustly treated in school

low grades

left back or placed in a remedial class

truancy

poor grades in conduct

heavy smoking habits

sniffing organic solvents

extensive experience with alcohol, hangovers, and pick-me-ups

criminal behavior, such as shoplifting, violence, theft, vandalism, etc.

many contacts with the police and/or child welfare authorities

feelings of inferiority

a negative self-image

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Recruitment to recreational and problematic consumption

| Year | Recreational consumers according to school studies - % | Problematic consumers N | Newly recruited problematic consumers since previous study N* | Newly recruited problematic consumers since previous study Number/year* |
|------|--|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1967 | | 10 000 | | |
| 1971 | 15.0 | | | |
| 1979 | 6.5 | 15 000 | 8 500 | 700 |
| 1989 | 3.0 | | | |
| 1992 | 4.0 | 19 000 | 10 000 | 750 |
| 1998 | 7.5 | 26 000 | 10 000 | 1700 |
| 2001 | 9.5** | | | |
| 2007 | 5.5*** | 29 500 | 10 800 | 1200 |
| 2018 | 7.0 | | | |

* Numbers based on the assumption that 3%/year leave the population

** This is the highest number since 1973

*** This is the lowest number since 1994

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| 11. Supply is decisive for the number of problematic consumers. | Supply is not the most important determinant of problematic consumption. |
| 12. Customs/police are or can be effective. | Customs/police cannot decisively influence supply. |

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Problematic consumption develops from more fundamental societal problems.

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| <p>14. Drug policy greatly influences the number of problematic consumers.</p> | |
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| 13. Narcotics are a separate problem, divorced from other societal problems. | Problematic consumption develops from more fundamental societal problems. |
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| 15. Repressive laws reduce the number of problematic consumers. | Repressive laws push problematic consumers even further away from society. |
| 16. Narcotics pose a great threat to society and it is therefore worth sacrificing legal and human rights to combat drugs. | Problematic consumption is a relatively small problem, and it cannot be solved by sacrificing legal and human rights. |



Ted Goldberg Hur blir man
NARKOMAN?
– och hur hindrar vi det?



Ted Goldberg

Legalisera narkotika?

Ett diskussionsunderlag

ACADEMIC PUBLISHING