

Persuasive Speech:

The government should not control
what we put in our bodies

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Introduction

- Government control
- Decriminalization and Deregulation
- Prescriptions vs. OTC
- Nearly 60% of Americans currently taking medications, 66% use it for a long-term condition, 13% for a short-term condition, and 18% for both

Advice about Self-Care: Access + Knowledge = Power

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determines whether medicines are prescription or nonprescription
- FDA also has the authority to decide when a prescription drug is safe enough to be sold directly to consumers over the counter – the Rx-to-OTC switch
 - As a result of this process, more than 700 products sold over the counter today use ingredients or dosage strengths available only by prescription 30 years ago
- Increased access to OTC medicines is especially important for our maturing population
 - 2 out of 3 older Americans rate their health as excellent to good, but 4 out of 5 report at least one chronic condition
- As we live longer, work longer, and take a more active role in our own health care, the need grows to become better informed about self-care
- The best way to become better informed—for young and old alike—is to read and understand the information on OTC labels

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration (2010). Over-the-Counter Medicines: What's Right for You? Retrieved April 12, 2010 from <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/UnderstandingOver-the-CounterMedicines/Choosingtherightover-the-countermedicineOTCs/ucm150299.htm#AdviceforAmericansaboutSelf-Care:AccessKnowledgePower>

Prescription drugs



Health Education

- Government has the responsibility to teach risks but does not have the right to dictate
- People armed with knowledge can make the best decisions about their own health and bodies
- Drug awareness - there's no perfect person, but educating yourself will lead to make the best decisions
- Less overdoses will happen if people are better educated
- Need less government involvement so you can get the best medications you need

Early 1900's – Legal Cocaine and Opiates

PROPRIETARY ARTICLES

BURNETT'S
PERFECTLY PURE FLAVORING
STANDARD HIGHLY CONCENTRATED
EXTRACTS
JOSEPH BURNETT & CO., BOSTON, MASS.

**THE
BEST HAIR DRESSING
COCOAINÉ**

It kills Dandruff, promotes the
Growth of the Hair, cures Scald Head
and all Irritation of the Scalp.

JOSEPH BURNETT & CO., BOSTON, MASS.



Source: Addiction Science Network. (2009). Before Prohibition: images from the pre-prohibition era when many psychotropic substances were legally available in America and Europe. Retrieved April 9, 2010 from <http://addictionscience.net/ASNpreprohibition.htm>

Early Medications

Some Early Medicines with Psychoactive Ingredients

coca wine

30 grains *Erythroxyllum coca* per ounce of wine

laudanum

45% alcohol with 45.6 grains opium (2.964 grams) per fluid ounce (equivalent to around 296 mg morphine per ounce)

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup

1 grain (65 mg) morphine per fluid ounce

paregoric

camphorated 46% alcohol with 1.8 grains opium (117 mg) per fluid ounce (equivalent to around 11.7 mg morphine)

What other countries are doing

Portugal

In 2001 Portugal, facing one of the most serious drug problems in Europe, decided to decriminalize drug possession, including marijuana, cocaine, and heroin.

People caught with small quantities of drugs were no longer sent to prison; they were sent to rehab. Since then, drug use in the country has declined, along with the HIV infection rate from addicts sharing dirty needles.

The number of people seeking drug treatment has soared.

Portugal's drug liberalization has helped re-assimilate problem drug users into society.

Conclusion

- Personal Responsibility
- Medications are meant to help
- Healthcare reform may not be the answer
- People need access to care but also need less government interference
- Knowledge + safety + being responsible + getting the medication you need= healthy

Thank You!