

I think that some of the amphetamines and drugs like cocaine have demonstrated increased aggressiveness.

Is the drug associated with loss of psychomotor and judgment control?

Is the criminal element in society involved in obtaining the substance? The safety effect here is tied to guns, thefts, assaults, blackmail, and such other hazards.

Does it lead to increased risk-taking behavior?

Does it lead to flattening of effect, lack of emotional responses, including healthy anxiety, healthy concerns, justifiable fears?

How great are the safety risks to individuals, communities, and larger society, when used recreationally?

Many drugs do, including the amphetamines, make a person feel good—euphoria—and in this altered state may drive a car faster, and so on.

Risk-taking behavior leads to many problems.

We all need some degree of anxiety, and the taking of psychoactive drugs can lead to a situation that precludes benefits derived from emotional responses to life.

More difficult to look at is the question of drugs as they affect the social order and culture.

Two countries have been brought to their present states by a great deal of hard work, perseverance, and guts. A "chemical" society that becomes reliant on uppers or downers—stimulants or tranquilizers—may change in terms of the character of its people. So with that in mind, I ask more questions. Does chronic use of this drug lead to non-coping behavior or to low self reliance if the drug is withdrawn?

Would widespread use lead to loss of productivity and creativeness? Is use of a drug associated with recruitment of nonusers? Can its use lead to a lowering of ethical and moral values within society? Is it associated with amotivational states? Is it associated with economic losses to the community?

Does a given drug lead to "anarchic" inclinations when used non-medically? What I mean by that is an attitude of hostility to authority—"no one is going to tell me what I can and can't do."

Last but certainly not least, I have looked at the risks of psychoactive drugs in terms of potential for creation of states of dependence of addiction.

I know of course that the Food and Drug Administration, and the Drug Enforcement Agency here in the United States, are extremely interested in this aspect.

I have worked with several members of the U.S. Government within a committee of the World Health Organization, to try to develop methodologies, whereby we can predict and assess the likelihood of states of psychological or physical dependence developing as a result of use of any psychoactive drug. I believe that the amphetamines, and the antiobesity congeners should be looked at closely from this viewpoint.

Again I have asked a number of questions. Does dependence occur after regular low-dose use? Does dependence occur only after heavy use? Is psychological dependence problematic? Does use result in physical addiction?