

SOCI 2305 | Deviance | Spring 2026
Data Workshop Five: Assessing Drug Harm, Drug Facts, and Drug Deviance
In-Class Team/Pair Work & Discussion - April 22, 2026

Team _____

Drugs Analyzed _____

Each of you has individually researched the drug assigned and completed the worksheet assessing the drug. Share what you've found. As a team, what is your consensus response to the questions below. Fill out this sheet - the teams will report their thoughts to the class.

There is the world of drugs and the world produced by making drugs deviant. We commonly believe the latter reduces the problems of the former. Bear in mind the world produced by making drugs deviant:

- Over the past sixty years, millions of lives have been destroyed by drugs, drug prohibition, and drug rehabilitation
- the War on Drugs has cost over \$1 trillion
- has involved 45-50 million arrests
- has helped push and keep the prison population in the US to nearly 2 million people and 7 million people under criminal justice control
- and yet, drug use has measurably remained unchanged
- drugs are more widely available
- are more varied in the kinds of drugs
- prices have remained stable or have gone down.

1. What is the likelihood that the use of the drugs can or will lead to severe psychological or physical dependence (addiction)?

2. What is currently known about the drug's safe levels of use?

3. What are the most serious harmful effects believed to result from the use of these drugs?

4. How credible are the claims about the drug's harmfulness - how much research and evidence is there to support the claims about the drugs' harm?

5. What are the most harmful effects or consequences of the prohibition of the drugs and punishment of people who use/possess the drugs?

6. How does punishing the possession of drugs and punishing drug users reduce the harms produced by the drugs?

7. What is or should be the aim in defining drugs as deviance – saving lives or penalize the use of drugs?