

United States Narcotic Legislation and Federal Agencies

Year	Legislation (Year)	Impetus	Provisions/Findings/Impression
1914	Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914 Harrison Act; P.L. 63-223	Growing drug abuse Images of Chinese opium smokers and opium dens utilized	Importers., manufacturers, distributors of cocaine and opium must register with US Department of Treasury, pay special tax, and keep records of transactions
1930	Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN) established	Prohibition	
1937	Marihuana Act of 1937 MTA; P.L. 75-238	Tied to Prohibition Growth of use of marijuana Henry Anslinger commissioner of FBN submitted testimony to congress on evils of marijuana. Images of tyi ng Mexicans to marijuana use.	Essentially banned use of marijuana by imposing strict regulation and high-cost transfer tax stamp (stamps rarely issued)
1937	Dr. William Woodward of the AMA defended cannabis		
1944	NYC Mayor's Committee in Marihuana released "The Marihuana Problem in the City of New York"	Mayor La Guardia concerned with spread of marijuana in city and personal skepticism as to risk	Marijuana does cause a feeling of adequacy but does not lead to serious addiction, increased use of heroin or cocaine use, major crimes, or juvenile delinquency. Publicity concerning marijuana and catastrophic effects in NYC is unfounded.
1951	Boggs Act P.L. 82-255	Concerned about heroin problem in the United States	Established mandatory prison sentences for some drug offences
1956	1956 Narcotic Control Act P.L 84-728		Increased penalties for drug offences and death penalty as punishment for selling heroin to youth
1963	1963 Presidential Commission on Narcotic and Drug Abuse	Support for severe punishment for drug offences wanes, American Bar Association (ABA) speaks out against severe punishment	Recommended more funds for narcotic research, less strict punishment for drug offences, and dismantling of FBN
1960's	Bureau of Drug Abuse Control established within Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	Congress begins to support medical approach to addressing drug abuse	
1966	Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act	Congress declares support for rehabilitation	Congress recognizes that individuals addicted to drugs and are likely to recover should in lieu of prosecution or sentencing be civilly committed
1970	Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act P.L. 91-513	Nixon begins "war on drugs" with greater emphasis on law enforcement. Increased international efforts	Places control of certain plants, drugs, and chemical substances under federal control

1973	Establishment of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Executive Order 11727 July 6, 1973	Desire for a single focal point for coordinating Federal drug enforcement efforts	
1984	Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 Title II of P.L. 98-473		Enhanced penalties for CSA violations and established criminal forfeiture of provisions for felony drug conviction. Allowed attorney general to transfer drug-related forfeited property to federal, state, and local agencies for official use or to transfer to other agencies
1985	2% of Americans identified drugs or drug abuse as the most important problem facing the country		
1986	Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 1986 Act; P.L. 99-570	Rise of synthetic drugs Risk of crack cocaine	Allowed controlled substance analogues (synthetic drugs) to be treated as Schedule I substances. Established criminal penalties for possession of controlled substances. Established mandatory minimum penalties for certain federal drug trafficking offences. Established law that required 100x more power cocaine than crack cocaine to trigger more severe minimum sentence
1988	Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 1988 Act; P.L. 100-690	Desire to coordinate federal agencies efforts to reduce supply and demand	Created new penalties for CSA violations on federal lands and established new minimum penalties for drug offences involving minors
1988	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)		Responsible for creating policies, priorities, and objectives for Drug Control Program
1988	Chemical Diversion and Trafficking Act CDTA; Title VI of the 1988 Act		Restricted access to chemicals used in illicit manufacturing of controlled substances
1989	27% of Americans identified drugs or drug abuse as the most important problem facing the country		
1996	Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996 P.L. 104-237	Methamphetamine problem	Established enhanced penalties for manufacturing and trafficking of the drug
2003	Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act of 2003 Section 608 of the PROTECT Act P.L. 108-21	Growth of MDMA (ecstasy) Raves	Allowed direct targeting producers of raves, shifted emphasis from punishing those who <i>establish</i> places where drugs are made, distributed, and consumed to those that <i>knowingly maintain</i> such places. Established penalties for maintaining drug-involved premises
2010	Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 P.L. 111-220	Recognition of more severe penalties for black Americans due to higher use of crack than power cocaine	Reduced cocaine disparity from 100:1 to 18:1

2012	Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 Section D of title VI P.L. 112-144	Growth of synthetic drug	Extended DEA temporary scheduling authority
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Schedule	Definition	Drugs
Schedule I	No currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse	Heroin Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) Marijuana 3,4-methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (ecstasy) Methaqualone Peyote
Schedule II	High potential for abuse with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence. Considered dangerous	Cocaine Methamphetamine Methadone Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) Meperidine (Demerol) Oxycodone (OxyContin) Fentanyl Dexedrine Adderal Ritalin Combination products with less than 15 mg hydrocodone (Vicodin)
Schedule III	Immediate abuse potential (ie less than schedule II but more than schedule IV)	Hydrocodone/acetaminophen Codeins with ASA or motrin Anabolic steroids ketamine
Schedule IV	Immediate abuse potential (ie less than schedule III but more than schedule IV)	Propoxyphene, butorphanol, pentazocine, alprazolam, clonazepam, diazepam, midazolam, phenobarbital, pemoline, sibutramine
Schedule V	Least potential for abuse	Robitussin AC, Phenergan with codeine