



The War On Drugs: Shaping our Perspectives of Patients who Use Drugs (PWUDs)

Department of Health State Psychiatric Hospital

Training Session #3

Friday, May 21st, 2021

Erin Zerbo, MD

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Director, Northern NJ MAT Center of Excellence



Disclosures

- This training has no commercial support. Moreover, this presenter and planners declare that they have nothing to disclose that would present a conflict of interest.

-



Objectives

- Explore the history of substance use disorders (SUD) in the U.S.
- Understand how the "war on drugs" perspective shaped the management and treatment landscape of SUD today
- Identify solutions to approaching the opioid epidemic today using harm reduction and related methods, including ensuring equitable access to health care



Ancient Egypt

Spain, 4,000 BC





Late 1800s – Early 1900s



Morphine: 65 mg / ounce





Pre-1914 Substance Users

- “No moral significance” to using opiates or cocaine
- “Props for the unstable nervous system”
- Government study of self-described “addicts”:
 - 75% had a steady job
 - 22% wealthy
 - 6% poor



The typical “drug addict” in the early 1900s



Introduced
by Bayer
in 1898



BAYER

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

We are now sending to Physicians throughout the United States literature and samples of

ASPIRIN

The substitute for the Salicylates, agreeable of taste, free from unpleasant after-effects.

HEROIN

The Sedative for Coughs,

HEROIN HYDROCHLORIDE

Its water-soluble salt.

You will have call for them. Order
a supply from your jobber.

Write for literature to

FARBENFABRIKEN OF ELBERFELD CO.

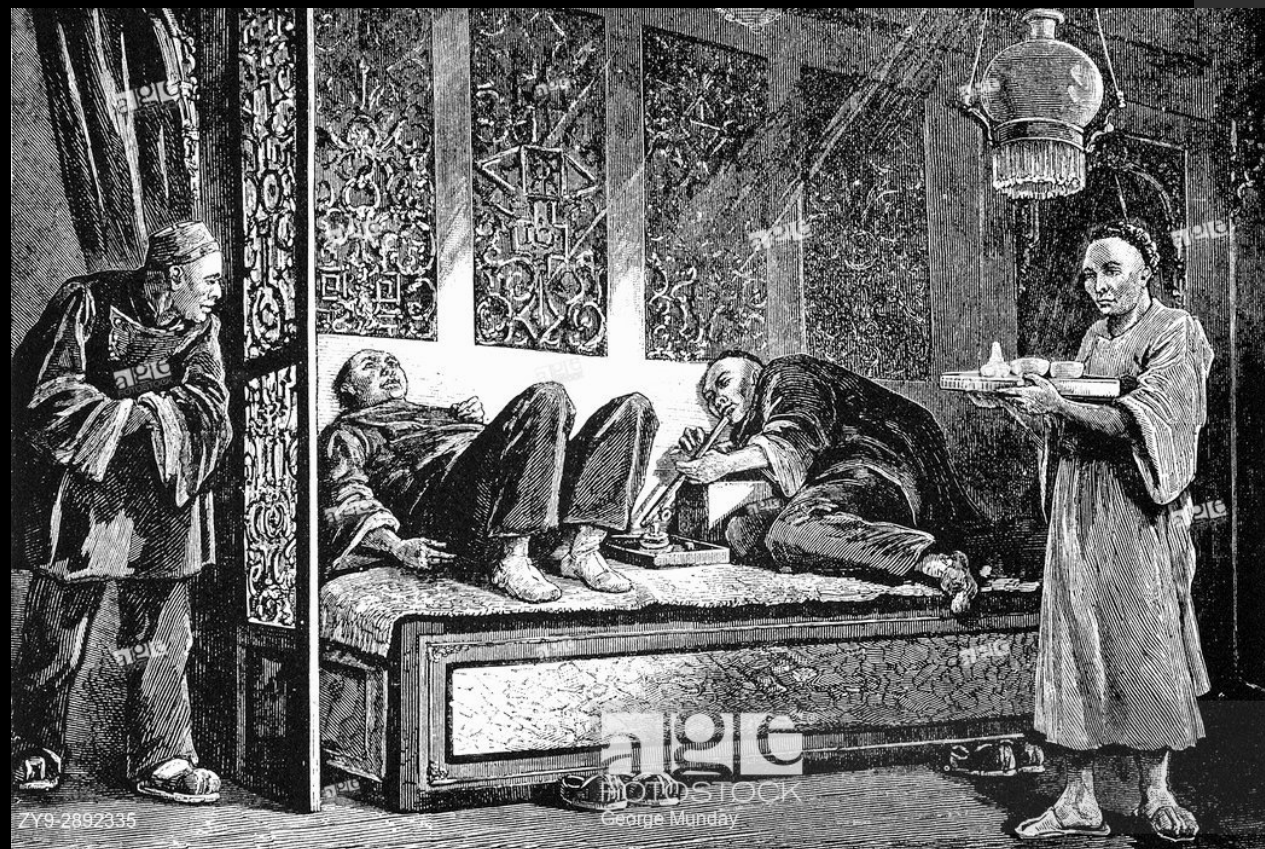
40 Stone Street, New York,

SOLE AGENTS



The War on Drugs Begins with Chinese Opium...

- 1875, San Francisco
 - First ever anti-drug law outlawed opium smoking
- 1909: Smoking Opium Exclusion Act
 - Exception for drinking / injecting tinctures of opioids



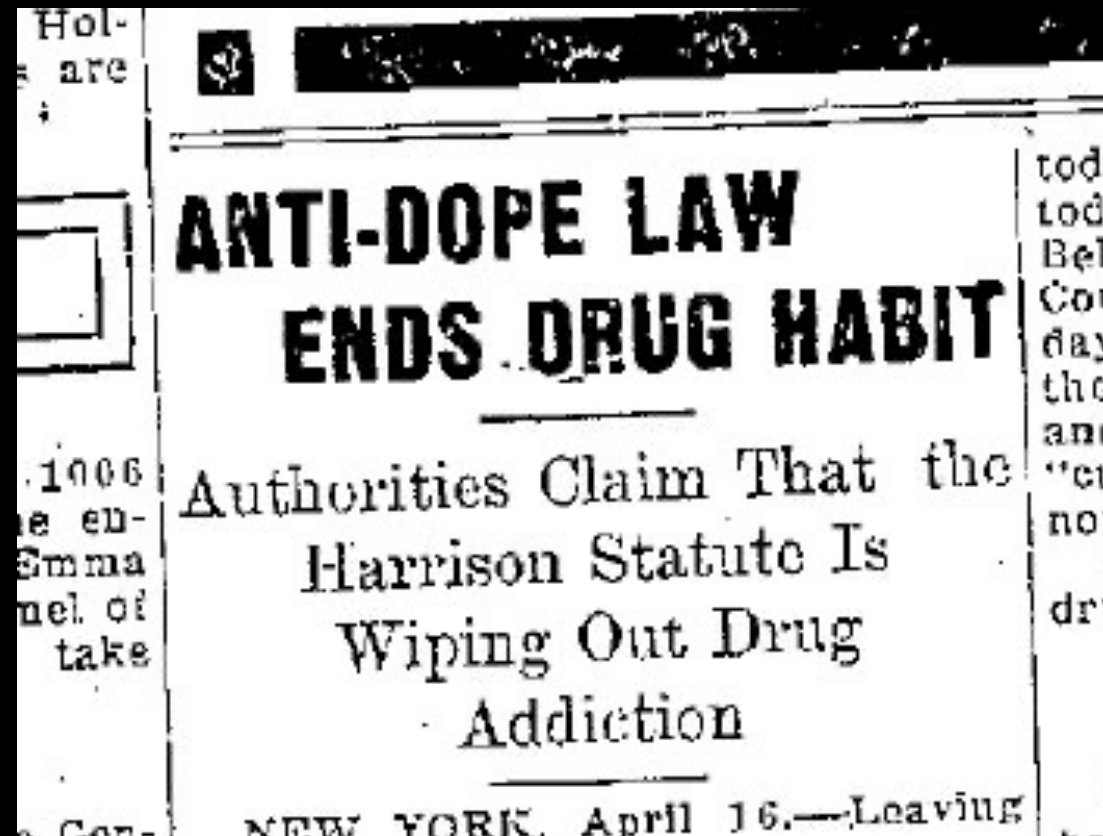
NEGRO COCAINE "FIENDS" ARE A NEW SOUTHERN MENACE

It occurs it is nothing but of "class legislation," this giving to the rich and depriving the poor. The word of it, to hold, are the distinguished applies to whisky? Nothing of course—provided, always, that those distinguished should remain so and that some distinguished worse than the original creation, make. Not unfortunately for the negro and for his posterity, such a sentence was chosen almost immediately—a substitute that is fearfully worse even than the "Inimitable Whisky," drug and insurance, for the dead.



1914 Harrison Narcotics Tax Act

- Regulated/taxed production and sale of opiates and coca products → effectively prohibition
- Exempt: physicians operating **“in the course of professional practice”**





Post-1914 Substance Users

“Here were tens of thousands of people, in every walk of life, frantically craving drugs that they could in no legal way secure...”

[The lawmakers] must have known that their Edict, if enforced, was the clear equivalent of an order to create an illicit drug industry.”

- Henry Smith Williams, *Drug Addicts are Human Beings*, 1938





The Fallout



1920s

35,000 physicians indicted for prescribing narcotics to their patients

By 1928

>19% of all federal prisoners were sentenced for narcotics offenses



Birth of the Black Market

- 1) Make certain substances illegal
- 2) An “army of gangsters” will respond to the demand
- 3) Soaring prices lead “average addicts” to commit crimes to pay for the substances
 - 1,000% increase: 2-3 cents per grain of morphine → 1 dollar



Arnold Rothstein



Alcohol Prohibition: 1920 - 1933



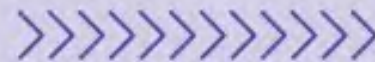
- Wildly unpopular
- Up to 10,000 people died from tainted alcohol
 - Bootlegged or adulterated industrial alcohol
- Mafia grew substantially in power



IRON LAW OF PROHIBITION

THE HARDER THE ENFORCEMENT, THE HARDER THE DRUGS

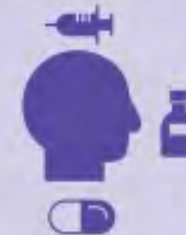
INCREASING LAW
ENFORCEMENT



INCREASING COST OF
ILLEGALITY



INCREASING POTENCY OF
THE SUBSTANCE



Need to Avoid Detection
(Less Weight and Volume, Easier to Hide,
Store and Transport)

Beer and Wine



Spirits



Moonshine

Cannabis



High THC Cannabis



Synthetic Cannabinoids

Coca Leaf/Tea



Powder Cocaine



Crack/Paco/Basuco

Opium



Heroin



Fentanyl/Carfentanyl

Ephedra



Amphetamine



Ice/Methamphetamine



Applying this logic to the opioid crisis...

BUSINESS
INSIDER

It's legal to manufacture cocaine and heroin

for medical use, and Britain is the world's

"With the UK's legal heroin and cocaine there is no deforestation and toxic aerial spraying; no funding for paramilitary or terrorist groups; no enrichment of violent cartels; no exploitation of impoverished drug couriers; no street dealing and gang violence; and no adulterated drugs or sharing of dirty needles in back streets," Mr Rolles said.





“We’ve been doing this for over 40 years since Nixon... The drugs are more available, purer quality, and cheaper than they’ve ever been before... and we’ve destroyed more lives than drugs have by incarcerating people, hanging felony convictions on them, denying them education, denying them jobs... **And we don’t even have one drug-free prison in America.**”

- Retired police captain Peter Christ





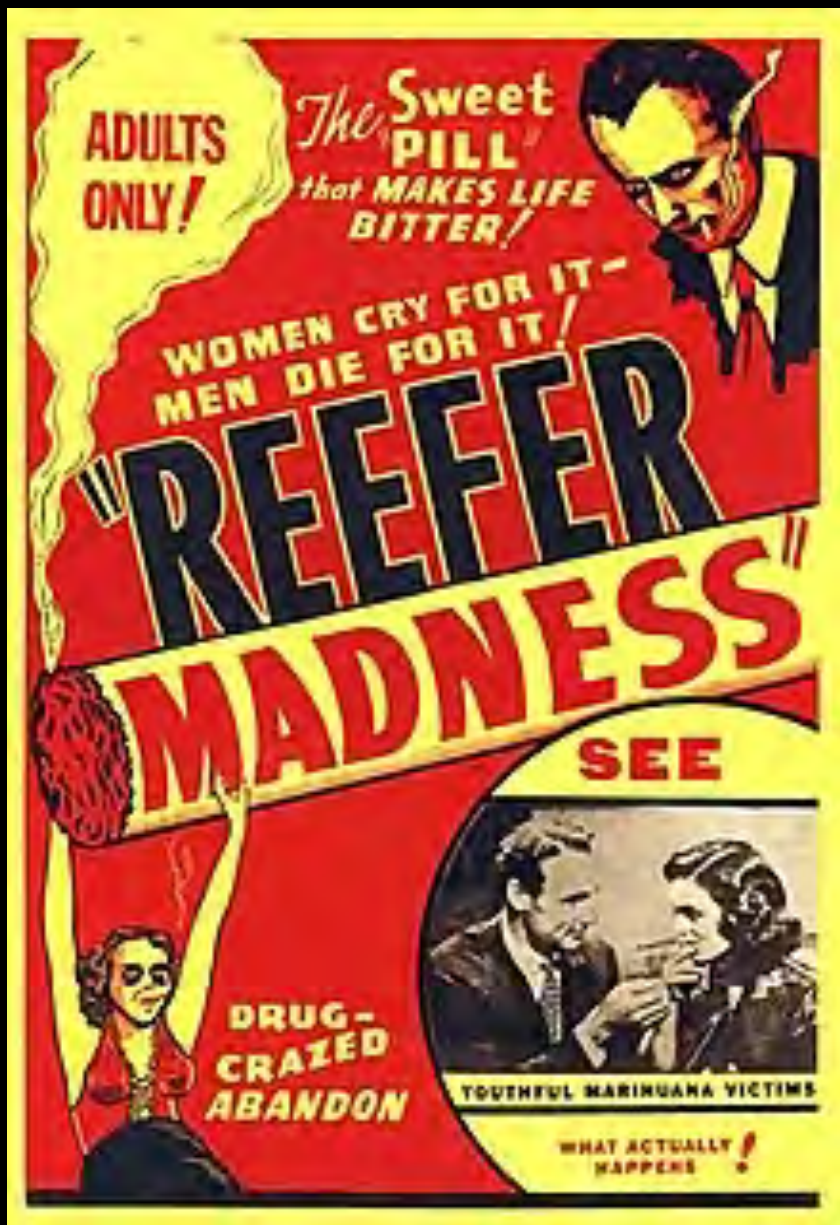
And then came Harry Anslinger...



There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others.

— *Harry J. Anslinger* —

AZ QUOTES





The Controlled Substances Act of 1970

	Schedule I	Schedule II	Schedule III	Schedule IV	Schedule V
Potential for abuse	The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse	The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse	The drug or other substance has a potential for abuse less than the drugs or other substances in schedules I and II	The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule III	The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule IV
Medical use	The drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States	The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions	The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States	The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States	
Consequences of abuse	There is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision	Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence	Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence	Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical or psychological dependence relative to other substances in schedule IV	





A Perfect Storm

- Nixon ramps up the War on Drugs in 1970
- Blue-collar jobs disappear from inner cities as globalization begins → rising unemployment among black males, growing impoverishment
- **1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act:**
 - Federal Byrne Grant program gives money to local and state law enforcement
 - For every \$100, arrests for drug trafficking increased by:
 - 22 per 100,000 white residents
 - **101 per 100,000 black residents**
- Crime fluctuates independently of incarceration rates throughout these decades



Signing of the 1988 Anti-Drug
Abuse Act



Change in Number of Arrests of Black Americans in the United States between 2011 and 1980, by Category of Crime



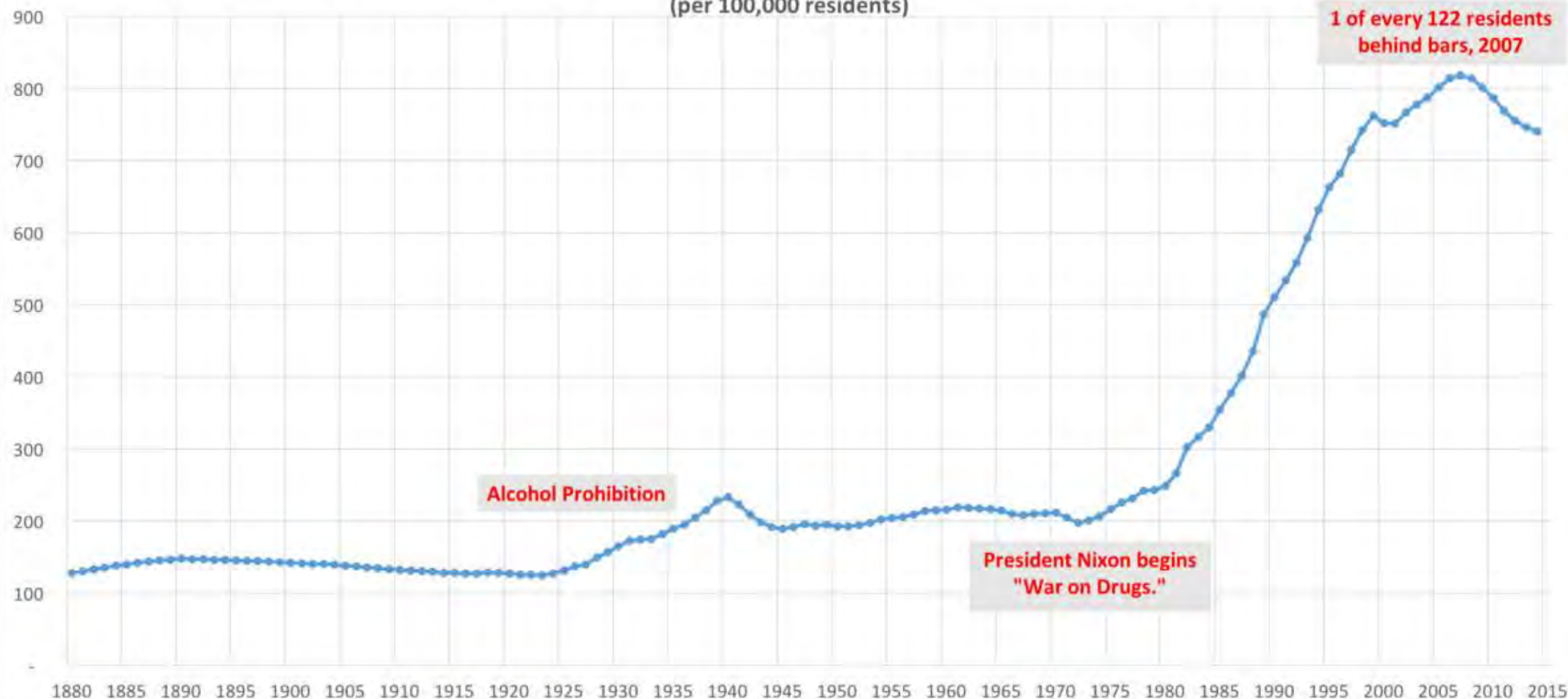
Source: Author's analysis of FBI Uniform Crime Reportings data

BROOKINGS



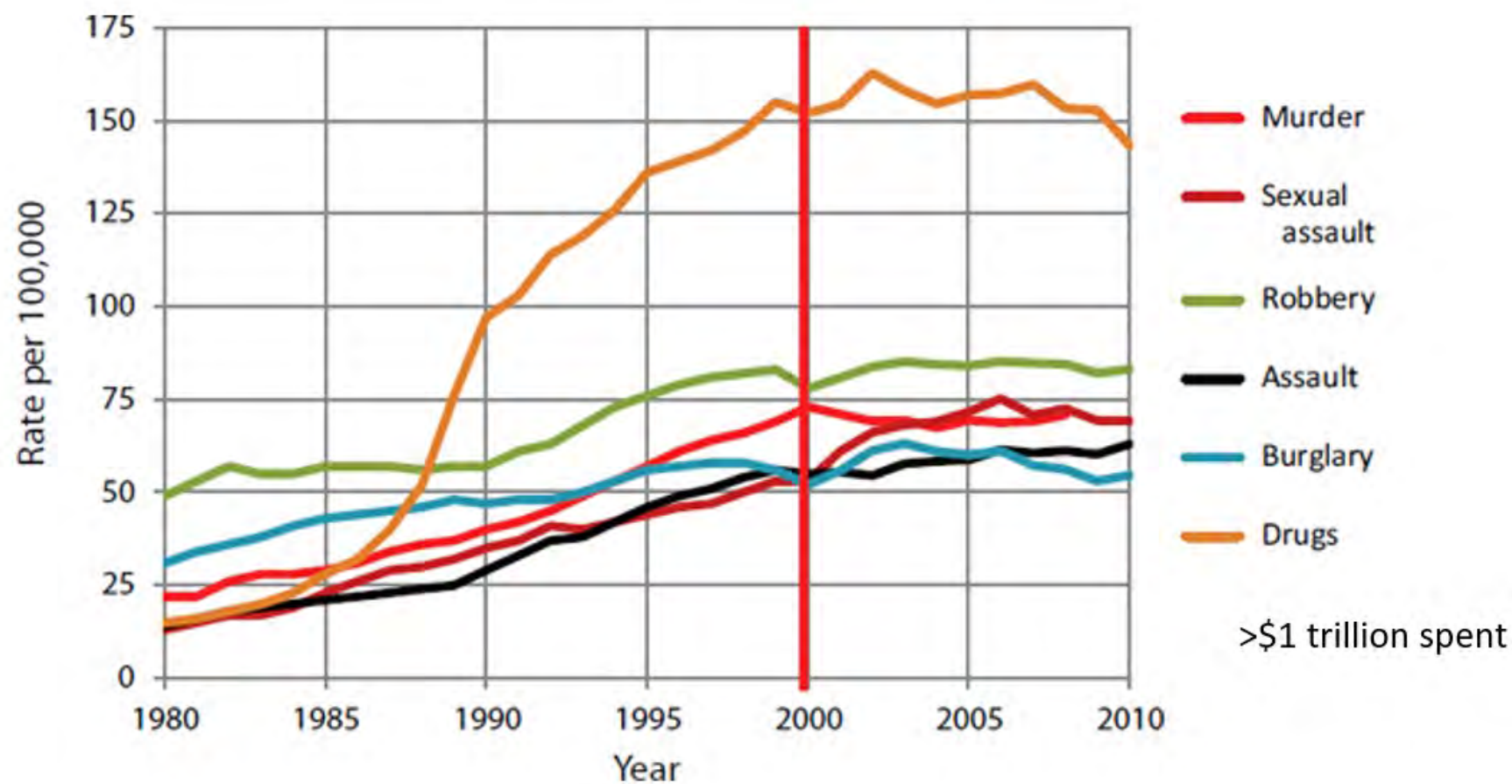
U.S. imprisonment rate, 1880-2014

(per 100,000 residents)





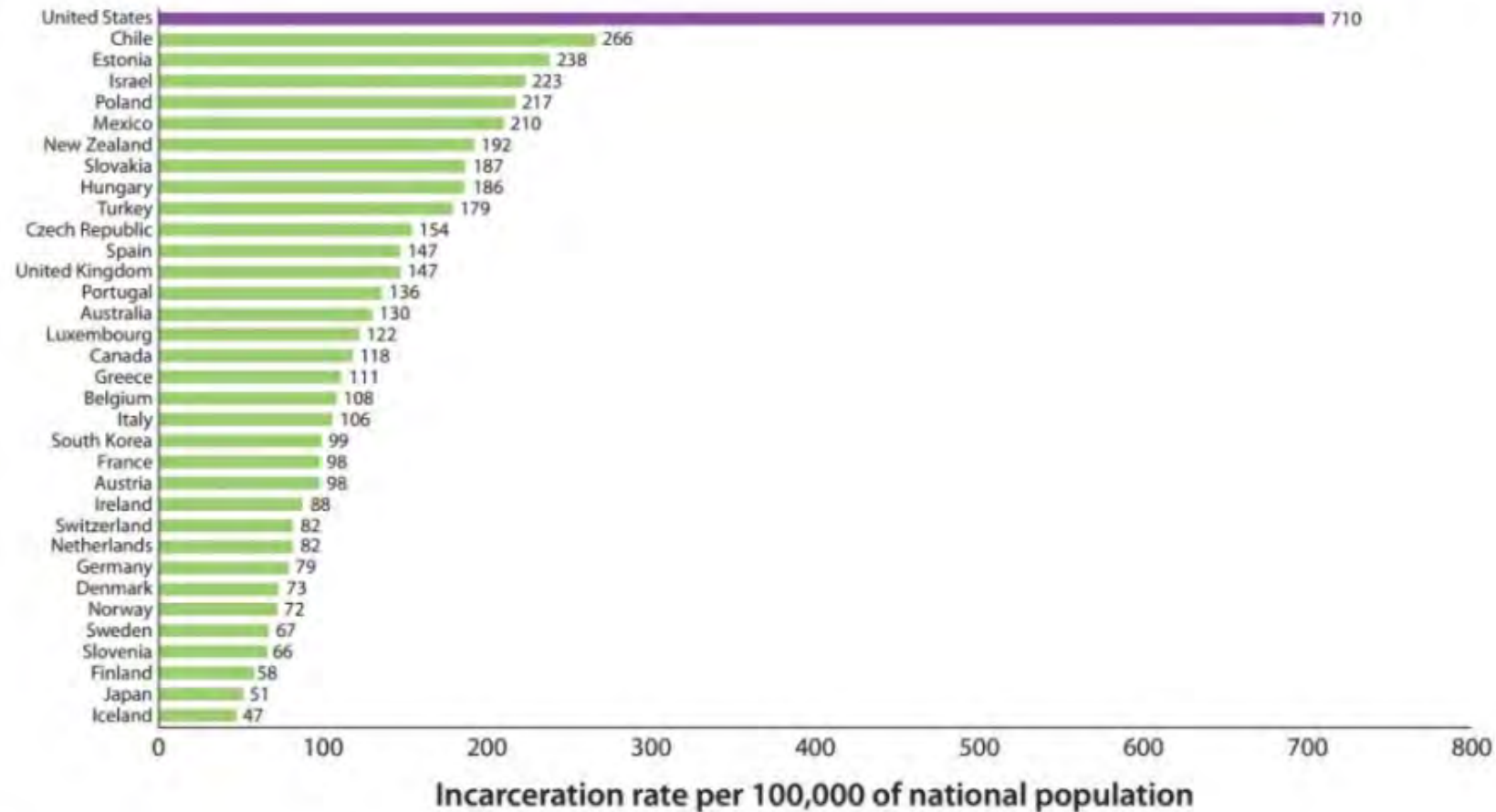
U.S. Imprisonment Rate





Incarceration Rates in OECD Countries

With an incarceration rate of 710 inmates per 100,000 residents, the United States stands in stark contrast to the typical incarceration rate of 115 among OECD nations.



Sources: Glaze and Herberman 2013; Walmsley 2013; authors' calculations.

Note: All incarceration rates are from 2013, with the exception of the rates for Canada, Greece, Israel, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States; of these countries, all rates are from 2012, with the exception of Canada, whose rate is from 2011–12. The incarceration rate for the United Kingdom is a weighted average of England and Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. For more details, see the technical appendix.



FIGURE 6A.

Rates of Drug Use and Sales, by Race

At the state level, blacks are about 6.5 times as likely as whites to be incarcerated for drug-related crimes.

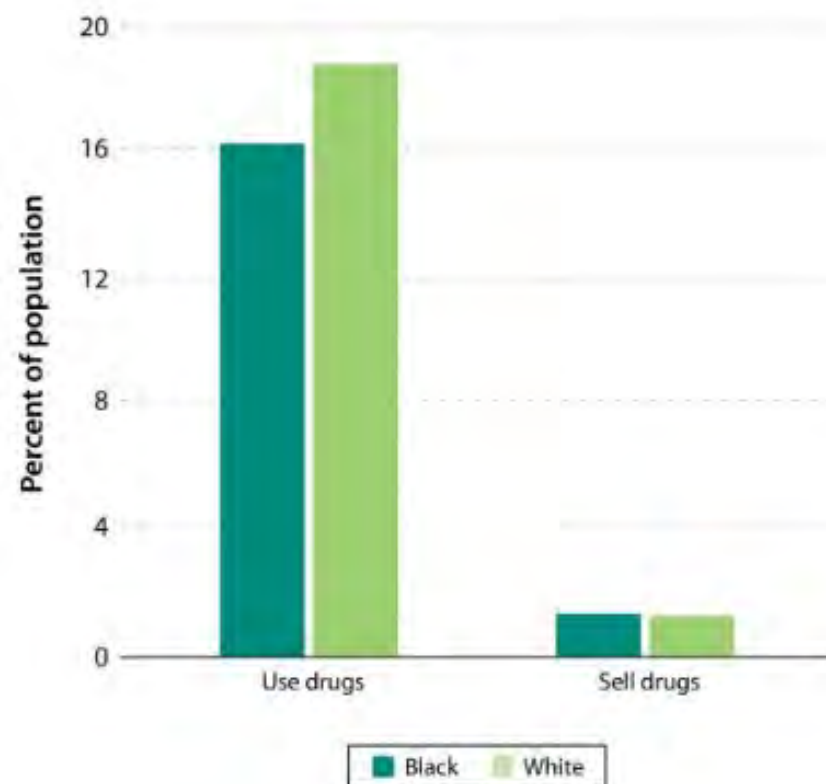
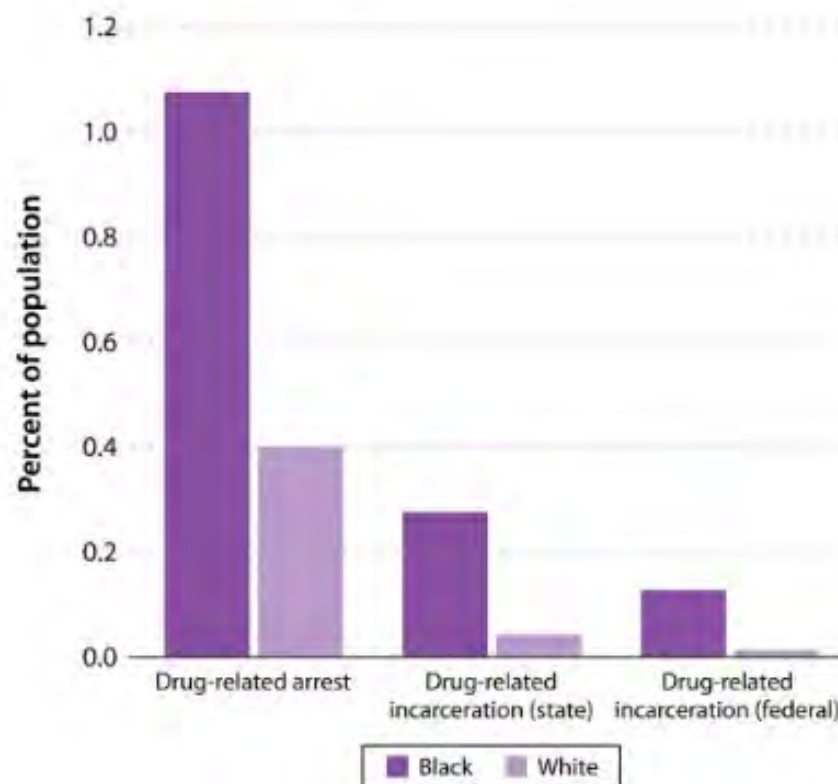


FIGURE 6B.

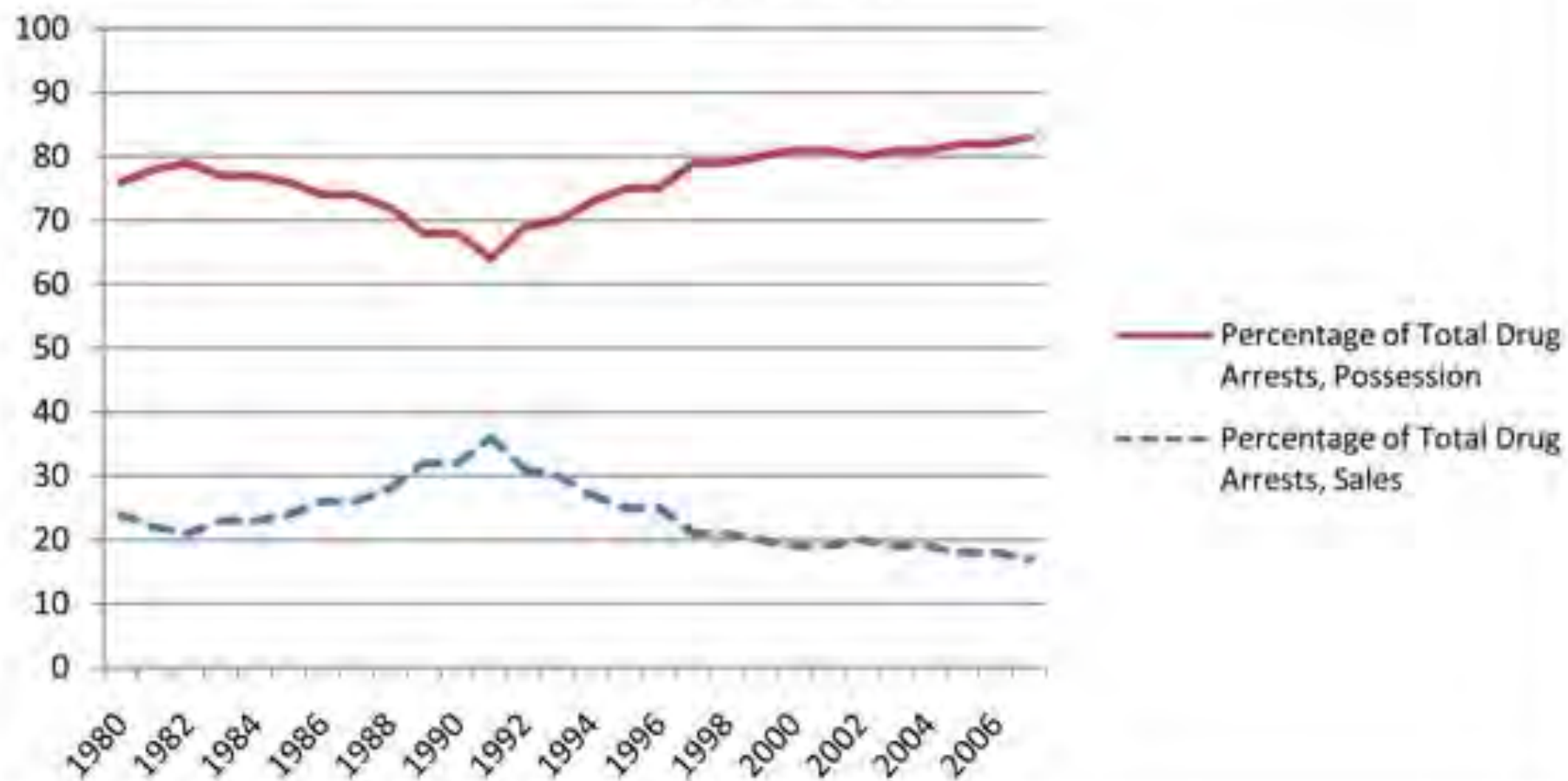
Rates of Drug-Related Criminal Justice Measures, by Race



Source: BLS n.d.c; Carson 2015; Census Bureau n.d.; FBI 2015; authors' calculations.



Figure 3: National Arrests for Drug Possession and Sales,
1980-2007





Clinical Commentary

Biological
Psychiatry
Celebrating
50 Years

Witnessing Modern America: Violence and Racial Trauma

Vicarious Social Defeat Stress

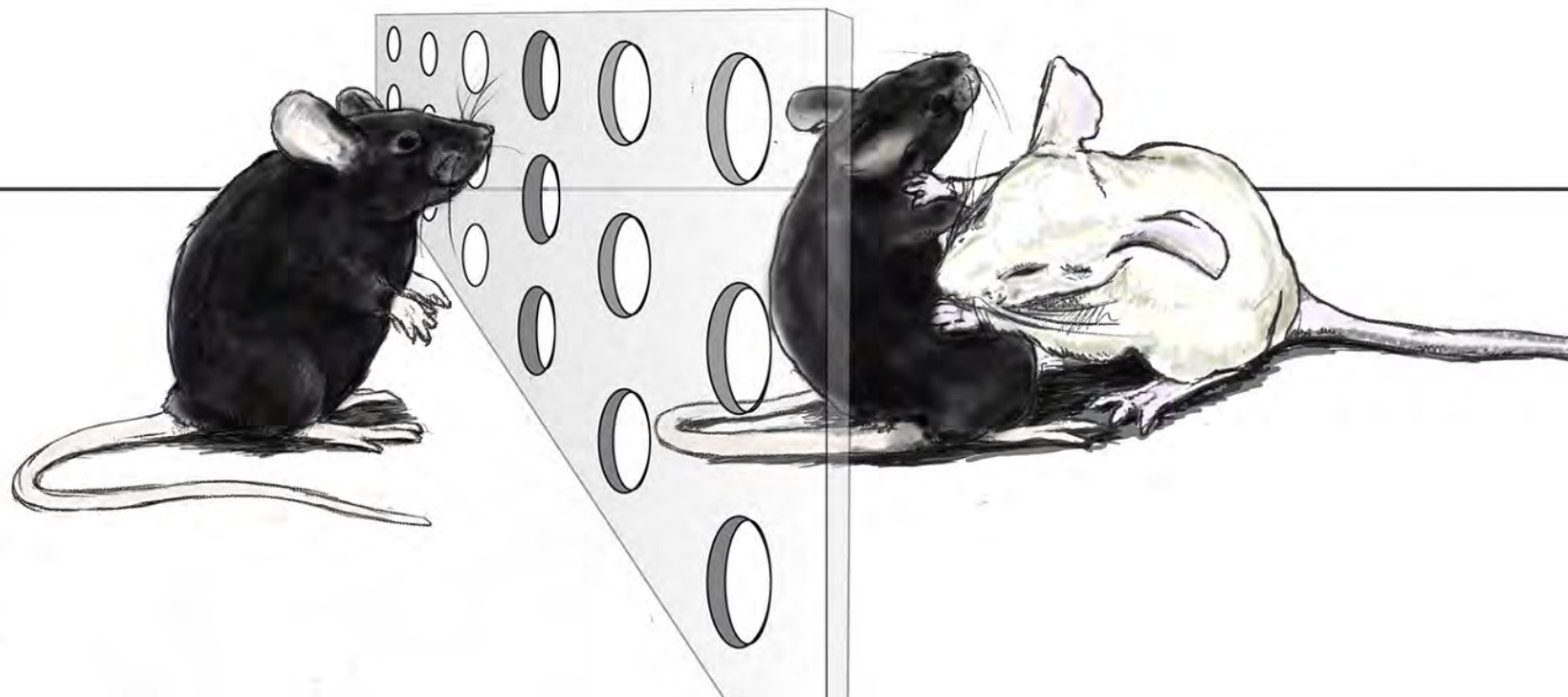
J. Corey Williams, Terrell D. Holloway, and David

Southern trees...bear a strange fruit...

—Billie Holiday

On February 26th, 2012, a 17-year-old African American teenager walked down a quiet street in Sanford, Florida, after leaving a convenience store. A neighborhood resident perceived the teenager to be "suspicious" and approached the boy with a firearm in hand. A scuffle ensued in which the teenager was shot and killed by the resident. In the aftermath, it quickly became clear that the shooting would have broader ramifications.

Such an event can't be understood in a vacuum. It struck a visceral chord in black communities because of America's dark history: from 2 centuries of chattel slavery, to public lynchings, through segregationist violence in the early 20th century, to present-day mass incarceration and police brutality. It resonated with many other experiences of racism in modern America—from workplace discrimination, to financial systems and structures, to disparate healthcare outcomes (1). This is why the killing of Trayvon Martin—and subsequently of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, and countless others—sparked marches and protests in over 100 American cities and awakened a new generation of activism named "Black Lives Matter."





MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

COMPASSIONOMICS

THE REVOLUTIONARY
SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE
THAT CARING
MAKES A DIFFERENCE



STEPHEN TRZECIAK
ANTHONY MAZZARELLI



Hotel Belleclaire Being Used as Temporary Shelter to Protect Homeless People from Covid-19 Spread

Posted on May 5, 2020 at 11:45 am by Carol Tannenhauser



Monday night. Photograph by Mark Fosmoen.

By Carol Tannenhauser

Dozens of new guests have checked into the Hotel Belleclaire, on 77th and Broadway, in the last couple of days. According to city records and a man who was checking in, the