

Drug Policy and Evidence

Criminal Justice

Four broad approaches to drugs, and how well each is actually supported.

Politically contested ground; findings differ by drug and setting.

Approach	Aim	Evidence
Supply enforcement	Reduce availability	Limited durable effect
Possession penalties	Deter use	Weak deterrent effect
Treatment access	Reduce use and harm	Better supported
Harm reduction	Reduce death and disease	Strong on health outcomes
Decriminalisation	Cut criminal justice contact	Mixed, context-dependent

Educational reference. This summarises research findings, not any policy position; outcomes depend on how they are defined.