

Repeating History

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Aker's social learning theory stresses the importance of social reinforcement from others including family members, friends, spouses, peer groups, and co-workers and the individual reinforcement through the psychoactive effects of the drugs (Dr. Chrystina Hoffman, 2024, 10). I believe that this may be the best explanation as to why some may start using drugs again although they completed a drug treatment facility. The United States Sentencing Commission released that of a group of over 10,000 incarcerated individuals released in 2005, 76.9% of state drug offenders were back within the state prison system within 5 years and 41.9% of federal drug offenders were back in a federal prison (*Recidivism Among Federal Drug Trafficking Offenders*, 2022).

Personally, I do have experience in this field. I am currently working at an addiction receiving facility here in Pensacola and there are quite a few patients who come to the facility in lieu of going to prison or as part of their parole. Sometimes, they are dedicated to be here and to not end up in jail again or sometimes they make up a fake injury to go to the hospital so that they can escape from the facility as soon as we arrive at the emergency room. Each case is different. I believe that there are people who are one hundred percent into getting sober and living a life free of crime. Unfortunately I also believe that some people will continue on their sobriety for a few months and then be back at the facility for a range of reasons. Some people drink or do drugs after a few months because they had a hard day, whether that be from work or home life, and they felt like they needed to get that feeling that the addiction gave them. It may be hard reintegrating into life after jail.

Life after jail is not a picnic. If you have committed a felony and were convicted of said felony in the workforce there is like a black stain on your record and many places will not hire

you as you pose a liability risk. Getting a loan may be exponentially more hard for a felony because lenders can choose not to give you said loan. No longer can you vote in elections with a felony conviction. When you face a blockage at every corner when you are trying to turn your life around, some may take what seems like the easier answer and commit more drug related crimes to afford major things in life. Getting out from the stigma of being a felon and not repeating history so that you can make a difference in your life is important but there are a lot of individuals who feel beat down by the system and continue to reoffend for meals to eat, clean water to drink and shower, and for a clean warm bed to sleep in.

References

Hoffman, C. (2024). *Theoretical explanations of drug use and abuse* [Slide show; Powerpoint].

Recidivism among federal drug trafficking offenders. (2022, May 9). United States Sentencing Commission.

<https://www.ussc.gov/research/research-reports/recidivism-among-federal-drug-trafficking-offenders>