

Fall 1998 Sociology 102B

Statement of the problem

If alcohol was illegal I do believe there would be a reduction in crime. Alcohol can make a situation that is already hectic go to the next level and become very volatile. Alcohol can offset a person's cognition and ability to reason. Also, alcohol I will try to point out brings out the violent inhibitions within people and makes them act out of control. I will also try to point out that the more often a person drinks the more prone there is to be violence in the household of that individual. I am not saying that alcohol is the only factor involved that influences violence within a household. However, I do believe that alcohol coupled with other factors can become or play an instrumental role in family violence. In my research I will set out to show that this isn't completely wrong.

Literature review

This article gives facts supporting the notion that alcohol is a contributing factor that leads to wife abuse. At the same time it looks at the perspective that says alcohol gives a person more than anything an excuse to exhibit his/her violent inhibitions. This article is filled with research data, interviews, and speeches that would be helpful in analyzing the question at hand.

This article was mainly talking about treatment to aid victims of abuse. However, it did mention something that I thought was a helpful fact in my research. That is, those who commit violence against a loved one alcohol and drug abuse were involved. It goes on to say that half of such offenders will stop the violent behavior after diversion to substance abuse treatment.

In reading this article, a man got drunk at a bar and beat his wife on the way home from the bar. A Minnesota law by the name of "the Dram Shop Statute," enabled the woman to sue the bar. The law stated that the plaintiff who is injured by an intoxicated person ... has a right of action ... against a person who caused the intoxication. This law also shows that liquor is a major determinant factor in abuse or violence period.

This article tries to distinguish between those occasions when alcohol contributes to violence from those where it is present but irrelevant to violence. They say it is clear that the overwhelming proportion of drinking occasions do not involve violence. The author looked at two National Family Violence surveys, and both along with the article show a relationship between the two alcohol and family violence.

In analyzing the question, "if alcohol became an illicit substance there would be a reduction in domestic violence," this article put alcohol in context with several different violent issues. When it comes to family violence it shows a link between alcohol abuse and physical abuse. The author also points out that alcohol abuse of children as they grow up creates negative psychological outcomes that could make them more prone to abuse

alcohol, and become abusive and violent. The author also points out that alcohol abuse and family violence is a topic that should require more research.

(end of excerpt)