

Abstract

The topic of my bachelor thesis deals with the transformation of American drug policy during Barack Obama's administration and the subsequent evaluation of its success. The aim of my work is to describe changes in drug policy over the past seven years and to objectively assess whether they are in line with Obama's original intention in 2010. I decided to evaluate Obama's strategy on the basis of two criteria. Whether the White House has succeeded in pushing for changes in drug policy, and whether this change has produced the expected results.

President Obama has placed great emphasis on changing the approach to tackling drugs from harsh repression to prevention and remediation. Drug addiction has begun to be understood as a mental illness, not as a crime. With Obamacare, drug addicts are able to find free professional help. In addition, support programs for local communities have been launched to prevent the spread of the drug problem among youth. But this change in drug policy has not led to such results which the Obama administration hoped. The number of drug users has increased. For the first time in the history of the United States, more people died of drugs than shooting. Over the past three years, the epidemic of opioids has also risen and Obama failed to deal with it. Success of his strategy is mixed.