Body Count: Moral Poverty-- And How To Win America's War Against Crime And Drugs

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America has had three national drug policies. Before 1914, a freedom model reigned. The drug supplier-law enforcement complex was enormously expanded by the war on drugs in the 1980's at an annual cost of tens of billions of dollars. Meanwhile, in my judicial district, the Federal probation service has had to radically cut its drug-testing and medical treatment program; many parents have no place to send their children for help; educational and other nonpenal controls are ineffective, and, too frequently, ghetto youths seek to emulate sellers and thugs who brazenly walk city streets. If we reduce our criminal-penal efforts, how much of the savings could be better utilized for education and medical efforts to decrease demand? What is the optimal balance?