

**Sterriods – 3606
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Should Steroids be banned from society?

Research Paper Should Steroids Be Banned From Society? Its amazing what athletes will do to achieve higher levels of performance and to get an edge on the rivaled competition. Often people do not realize the long-term effects that result from the decisions they make early in life. This resembles the obvious phenomenon with steroids. Steroids became a spreading exposure to athletes in the Olympics and other major sporting events during the 1950s. This use of steroids among athletes became apparent when Canadian sprint runner Ben Johnson tested positive for steroid use after winning the gold medal for the 100-meter dash during the 1988 Olympics. Today, a thin fifteen-year-old can just walk down to the local gym and find sellers to obtain the drug that will make him the idol of all his classmates. Being such an attractive drug, as shown in the analogy above, and seeming harmless to the unaware user, steroids can have a potentially jeopardous effect.

Consistently, users, new and experienced, have no knowledge as to the dangerous consequences that steroids can have on their minds and bodies. Although steroids have low death tolls in our society, banning it is purely justified because of the extremely perilous side effects it inflicts on the unsuspecting user. Though steroids are known as a somewhat dangerous substance, they are legal to possess and consume. There has not yet been a true clinical study that proves such possible side effects are linked to the use of steroids. Sure, there has been several cases in which someone has died and an autopsy has shown that the person was using steroids, but this does not mean they are a lethal drug as some medical professionals have stated. Some advocates believe that because steroids are legal, and since its the

decision of the user to take the drug, steroids are not causing a problem in society. Millions, causing deteriorating effects on their bodies, consume alcohol and cigarettes every day, but there has never been a protest to put a ban on these items because of their harmful nature. So how are steroids any different? Some people may state that the wide spread use of steroids among professional athletes is forcing young upcoming athletes to use steroids, even though its against their morals. This is because they know they can not compete adequately against their opponents who are using steroids to achieve higher levels of performance. One might say this is how competition works though. Race car drivers and gymnasts are out there every day, pushing themselves harder and harder, going just a little faster, or doing a new, more difficult trick. Many believe they are forced by their own desire to win, and the hazardous risks they take, be it taking a corner a little faster or pulling an extra flip in a routine, are no different than the risks a football player, wrestler, or weight lifter takes when they choose to use steroids to increase their skills. Many believe these reasons make steroid abuse morally justified, and say their use in sports and other activities are just an added element in boosting performance. It is true that there has not yet been any defined medical research to prove steroid abuse is linked to severe medical implications. But many chronic users dealing with massive medical difficulties believe they were a result of steroid abuse. Alcohol and cigarettes are major contributors to the deaths of thousands each year. Frequently we see a family member, or friend, suffering from diseases and health conditions caused by smoking and drinking. These conditions can often lead to an early, horrible death for the individual. Many find these experiences an obstantial reason to not drink and smoke. In a similar

situation, young athletes see their former athletic idols suffering from medical problems caused by steroids. These professionals will even admit to their former steroid abuse in hopes to persuade the thousands of young athletes participating in steroid abuse each day to make the right choice in not using steroids. I find it hard to believe how young athletes can simply ignore the warnings of these suffering abusers. This can partly be blamed on the lack of education about steroids that young athletes will receive.

Nevertheless, when they see the effects steroids have in the long run on such professional athletes as Lyle Alzado, they should realize the need to give up their abuse, even if they must sacrifice the chance to win that gold medal, or give up that buff body they always dreamed of. If a user was to listen to what a former addict has gone through, and possibly died from, he may be persuaded to give up his addiction, and in the end, he will find himself at an advantage because he will live a longer, healthier life. In addition, the severe physiological and psychological dependencies caused by steroids are consistent among the underground of ripping steroid users, causing personal problems with the user as well as family and friends of the user. Once a young user achieves the chiseled physique he always dreamed of, there is no turning back. It would only be his worst nightmare to give up steroids and relapse to the scrawny little body he had before his steroid use. An athlete that learns the performance advantages he gains from steroids will, in a short time, become use to the edge he has obtained, and will soon be craving more. For him to simply drop his addiction cold turkey, and go back to being second best, is not even an option anymore. These addictions, as with most addictions, will cause the user to lose interest in friends and family, concentrating only on enhancements to his physique and athletic

performance (Hemme, pg 58). Even worse, the drug can cause will known "roid rages" (Voy, pg. 223). This involves the spontaneous acts of violence and abuse towards anyone a user comes intact with. This is usually a worse scenario with non-athletic steroid abusers because athletes such as football players can release a good share of their rage on the playing field. Some severe addictions can include symptoms such as increased libido, sexual perversion, and psychotic episodes (Voy, pg. 223). Because of the severe results of steroid addiction, it is an effective measure of the abusers family and friends to take necessary action in order to help an abuser with his addiction. Adolescent steroid abusers can also experience complex physiological and psychological problems, some of which result in permanent effects. For some reason, a widespread use of these so-called "natural drugs" has become apparent among the teenage age group in the last four to five years. They seem to believe such drugs such as Marijuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms do not have damaging effects on their bodies because they are natural substances. Just because Marijuana comes from a plant found in nature, or the suddenly popular hallucinogenic mushrooms found in farm pastures that grow naturally, does not mean they are not going to have harmful effects on the body. These substances that teenagers use are toxins produced by the plants to keep animals and humans from eating them. Although steroids are a form of the natural male hormone, testosterone, they are far higher in concentration then what our bodies produce naturally. This high concentration is no doubt toxic to our bodies, and can result in harmful side effects. At an early age, anything, such as drugs, is going to have an increased effect. Most teenagers are unaware of these enhanced effects that steroids have on them, thus making the drug

increasingly dangerous. The massive doses, medical experts say, not only affect the muscles, but also sex organs and nervous system including the brain (Schrof, pg. 235). Neil Carolan warns us, " Even a brief period of abuse on a child whose body and brain chemistry are still developing is extremely harmful and possibly permanent." The deaths related to steroids of several high school athletes each year is more than adequate cause to ban steroids. Consequently, if professional athletes are taking steroids, then a young high school athlete may go under the misconception that steroids are harmless. Indeed it would serve well for high school physical education instructors to teach their students about the effects of steroids and the ethics involved. Often parents discover their childs steroid abuse and become shocked, but with the constant push a child receives to excel in sports and not having the teaching needed to know the effects and dangers of steroids, it is not the childs failure, but society is to blame. With competition becoming more and more aggressive among womens athletics, it is not uncommon to find many of the women athletes harming their bodies with the use of steroids. This is a scary situation because, as we know, steroids are a form of the male hormone testosterone and are not suited for a woman. Women do have a similar, but different, hormone called Estrogen released naturally in their bodies. The massive doses of steroids that women will take when they are " cycling" on steroids will have many dangerous side effects (Hemme, pg. 158). Some of these side effects are unknown, and the long-term effects of steroid abuse among women are also unsure. The short-term effects involve, deepened voice, loss of scalp hair, growth of facial hair as well as chest and back hair, and genital problems can also result. It is unreal that a woman will continue using steroids after noticing some of the immediate effects steroids

have on her. Possibly, some women may not believe that steroids are going to damage their body. Again, the dangerous effects these drugs can have on women and all individuals are indeed reasoning for their prohibition. The lack of official research is no reason to allow the legal existence of steroids in our society. Just because there is no indubitable evidence proving the dangerous side effects of steroids does not mean they do not exist. How many individuals must suffer from the addiction of steroids before we take the necessary action to abolish sanctioned use of steroids? Each year, more and more famous retired athletes are admitting to their steroid use during their career, and are certain the medical difficulties they are enduring are a direct result from their steroid abuse. People need to listen to what these retired athletes have to say, and use their experiences with steroid use to teach our young about the dangers involved. Furthermore, a complete professional research of long and short-term effects caused by steroids on men, women and adolescents, is far overdue. Certainly the banning of steroids will not only help the lives of current users, but also prevent the further spread of addiction to steroids in our communities. Research Paper Should Steroids Be Banned From Society? Its amazing what athletes will do to achieve higher levels of performance and to get an edge on the rivaled competition. Often people do not realize the long-term effects that result from the decisions they make early in life. This resembles the obvious phenomenon with steroids. Steroids became a spreading exposure to athletes in the Olympics and other major sporting events during the 1950s. This use of steroids among athletes became apparent when Canadian sprint runner Ben Johnson tested positive for steroid use after winning the gold medal for the 100-meter dash during the 1988 Olympics. Today, a thin fifteen-year-old can just

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athletes have to say, and use their experiences with steroid use to teach our young about the dangers involved. Furthermore, a complete professional research of long and short-term effects caused by steroids on men, women and adolescents, is far overdue. Certainly the banning of steroids will not only help the lives of current users, but also prevent the further spread of addiction to steroids in our communities.

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