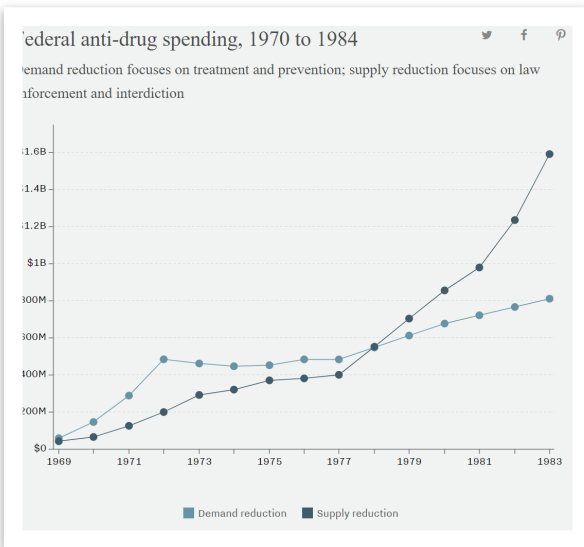


ORAL PRESENTATION: NIXON, TOUGH ON CRIME POLICIES

I - THE ORIGINS OF CRIME POLICIES

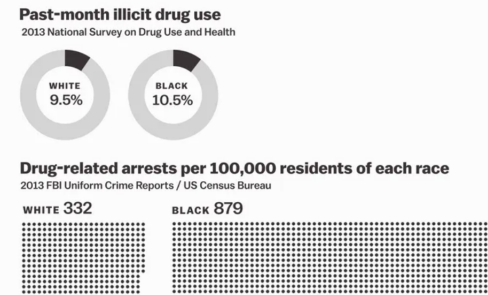


Richard Nixon:

- 37th President of the United States (1969-1974)
- Member of the Republican party
- 1971: Beginning of “War on drugs” initiated by Nixon and reinforced

II - A LEGISLATION CRITICIZED FOR ITS RACISM

Regardless of Nixon's motives, the war on drugs has hurt black people the most



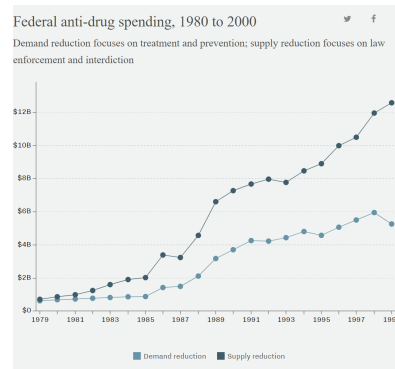
Vox

- 1994: Mr Ehrlichmann, Nixon’s home affairs adviser: “The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and Black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or Black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and Blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”
- A person with 5 grammes of crack was sentenced the same way than someone intercepted with 500 grammes of cocaine.

III - A CRITIC TO TEMPER

- More importantly, Nixon's drug policies did not focus on the kind of criminalization that Ehrlichman described.
- Huge drugs problem among Vietnam War soldiers

IV - A LEGISLATION STILL APPLIED?



- Prison population started to grow in 1970’s at a federal and state level.
- Texas: In 1978, the state incarcerated 182 people for every 100,000 residents. By 2003, that figure was 710.
- 1994: Crime Bill gives states money to perpetuate policies that bred bloated prisons
- 2010’s: Declining of mass incarceration initiated by Nixon tough crime policies