

do anything to combat these corruption acts. The second level of corruption that occurs in departments is known as the pervasive, unorganized corruption. With this form of corruption, many officers within a department might be engaging in corrupt actions, but they are not working together. The final level of corruption occurs, when the entire police department is working together and protecting each other. This type of corruption is known as the pervasive, organized corruption. What are the means of combating corruption within police departments? First of all, through the legislation. Legislators could reevaluate laws that create the potential for corruption. Such a reassessment would be based on the recognition that a major portion of police corruption is an outgrowth of laws that criminalize drug use, prostitution, and gambling. Secondly, any serious attempt to fight police corruption must wrestle with the decriminalization issue. Decriminalization involves removing the criminal label from victimless crimes by legalizing and regulating them. Decriminalization would contribute significantly to improving the police corruption problem. It is doubtful, however, that Congress or any state legislature will seriously consider legalizing drugs or any other prohibited goods and services in the nearest future.

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### **Police Corruption Carries High Costs(USA)**

Police corruption is the misuse of police authority for personal gain. Most researchers identify nine main types of corruption by law enforcement officers: corruption of authority, kickbacks, opportunistic theft, shakedowns, protection of illegal activities, case fixing, direct criminal activity, internal payoffs and padding. Corruption of authority is when an officer receives some form of material gain by virtue of his or her position as a police officer without violating the law. An example of this form of corruption occurs when an officer accepts a gratuity, even such as a free meal. Kickbacks occur when, in exchange for referring an offender to a business, the officer receives a fee. When a police officer steals from a crime scene or an arrestee is known as opportunistic theft. What should the police comprehend? First, a corrupt act is a crime. Second, police corruption detracts from the integrity of the police and tarnishes the public image of law enforcement. Third, corruption protects other criminal activity such as drug dealing and prostitution. Protected criminal activities are often lucrative sources of income for organized crime.

What are the causes of police corruption? According to the “rotten apple theory”, corruption is the work of a few, dishonest, immoral police officers. Experts dismiss this theory because it fails to explain why so many corrupt officers become concentrated in some police organizations but not in others. Another explanation pinpoints US society's use of the criminal law to enforce morality. Unenforceable laws governing moral standards promote corruption because they provide criminal organizations with a financial interest in undermining law enforcement. Narcotic corruption, for example, is an inevitable consequence of drug enforcement. Providers of these illegal goods and service use part of their profits to bribe the police in order to ensure the continuation of criminal enterprises. When police controls break down and a scandal occurs, special investigating commissions can mobilize public opinion and rally public support for anticorruption and antiviolence reforms. Commissions pinpoint where the internal controls of the police have failed, and recommend changes in policy. Since corruption involves criminal behavior, prosecution of corrupt police officers is possible. Since prosecutors depend on the police to gather evidence and develop cases, however, they often don't want to “bite the hand that feeds them”. Legislators could reevaluate laws that create the potential for corruption.

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## **Counteraction to Corruption: How Corrupt are Police in the United States?**

Corruption is one of the most serious problems of the modern world. Objective factors of its development indicate that corruption poses a significant danger to the life of society, and the scale of its spread constitutes a threat to national security.

Corruption is a social phenomenon, and the struggle with it cannot be limited to the establishment and application of legal liability. An important point in the corruption prevention system is public position. There are three main components to a successful counteraction to corruption: proper anti-corruption legislation, its effective use by the relevant state authorities, the political will of the state to counteract corruption in all spheres and at all levels of government.

In the United States, anti-corruption legislation is characterized by extreme rigor. In case of allegations of corruption against a police officer, not