Long term usage of nicotine leads to A LOT of negative health effects. Alcohol can destroy your liver if you drink enough of it over a long period of time. Eating too much sugar can give you diabetes and fuck you over.

Just because something is not healthy does not mean it should be criminalized. It's up to the responsibility of the individual on how they treat their bodies. If someone wants to destroy their life of a drug (be it alcohol, tobacco, pot, cocaine, etc...), let them do it.

Plus, if you legalize it, you can regulate it, and it becomes A LOT safer to use, and you see a rapid decline in gang violence.

If history has taught us anything, and I don't think anybody can say it hasn't, it has taught us that human nature doesn't change. If you take something away from people, they will find a way to get it. In that process, some very corrupt people (perhaps even moreso than our politicians) rise up and make it possible to fill the void. The prohibition of alcohol is a prime example of how such policy lead to increased violence and no slowing down of the consumption of alcohol. Once prohibition was repealed, organized crime suffer big time.

Personally, I believe in John Mill's Harm Principle. Only when someone impedes on the rights of someone else should they suffer any sort of punishment. It makes no sense to punish someone that has lived their lives to their own accord.