

It was clear that the law had been unsuccessful. It was **repealed** in 1933.

People set up **secret distilleries** on farms to produce illegal alcohol

It was difficult to enforce: by 1929 40,000 people were in jail for Prohibition offences, and 1,360 people had been killed by police trying to enforce the law.

Prohibition enforcement officers were supposed find and destroy alcohol, and arrest the traders. But there were **very few** such officers.

Alcohol was just too popular! People would find a way of getting hold of it...

The **Volstead Act** was passed in 1919, making it illegal to make or sell alcohol in America.

Secret bars or clubs called **speakeasies** were set up to sell alcohol illegally. They were controlled by gangsters.

Many officials, including **police and politicians, took bribes from gangsters** to ignore the trade in alcohol.

Gangsters quickly took over the supply of alcohol. They soon became extremely rich and powerful through **bribery and violence.**

Bootleggers (smugglers working for gangsters) smuggled alcohol across the border from Canada

A lot of beer was imported from Germany. In the aftermath of World War One, **anti-German feeling** was running high

WASPs sometimes associated alcohol consumption with immigrant communities, and anti-alcohol campaigners played on the **prejudice towards immigrants**

The **Anti-Saloon League** claimed that alcoholism led to 'idleness' and crime

Alcohol-related crimes actually increased during the Prohibition era

Those who called for Prohibition cited **violence by drunk husbands** towards their wives and children

In 1873 the **Women's Christian Temperance Union** was founded, and called for the prohibition (banning) of alcohol

It was believed that men wasted their money on alcohol, and so **financially neglected** their wives and children

America was a very Christian country. **Many Christians linked alcohol consumption to sin**, including gambling and prostitution