

Who Funds Prohibition?

Drug Use, Drug Spending - What is the Correlation

"When I say our hard work, I mean parents and community coalitions, educators, ministers. When people get engaged with adolescents, drug use goes down" - [General Barry McCaffrey, December 21, 1997](#)

"Three times as many 14-year olds are doing drugs as they were when Bill Clinton was sworn in" - [former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, August 1, 1996](#)

"There is a carefully camouflaged, **exorbitantly funded**, well-heeled elitist group whose ultimate goal is to legalize drug use in the United States" - [Drug Czar General Barry McCaffrey, June 17, 1998, testifying before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary](#)

The preceding statements represent three very provocative, popular but ultimately deeply inaccurate misconceptions about drug policy in the United States: when money is spent on anti-drug efforts, drug use goes down; lack of money spent on anti-drug efforts in the 1990s has led to increases in drug use; drug reform groups are rich, secret organizations.

But let us examine the claims based on the evidence. First we will examine drug use rates among twelfth-graders from 1986 to the present.

[Marijuana: Trends in Annual Prevalence, Perceived Risk, and Disapproval](#)
(source: www.monitoringthefuture.org)

[Long-Term Trends in use of Marijuana/Hashish for Twelfth Graders](#)
(source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan)

[Age-specific Rates of First Time Use of Marijuana: 1965-1997](#)
(source: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration)

From a high rate of usage in 1979, the use rates fell steadily throughout the '80s until they bottomed out in approximately 1991. Then they began to rise yet again. Daily use of marijuana/hashish among twelfth graders tripled from 1991 to 2000, while annual use nearly doubled.

But according to General McCaffrey, drug use rates would decrease with added spending. With increased levels of drug use, lower levels of funding and community involvement would have to be at the root of the problem.

According to the data, that is not the case.

[Private Monies Donated to "Anti-Drug" Organizations](#)

NORML

Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

From 1986 to 1992, as community anti-drug spending grew, drug use rates plunged. But in 1992 drug use rates reversed direction, and for the first time in over a decade, went up. That same year, those private money donations exploded, nearly doubling in a single year. Anti-drug spending bursts, yet drug use grows: how can this be?

But what happened to federal spending on the drug war? That funding must have dropped during those years of increased use. Again, the facts indicate otherwise.

[National Drug Control Budget by Function, FY 1991-2001 \(Budget Authority in Millions\)](#)

(source: Office of National Drug Control Policy)

[Marijuana: Trends in Perceived Availability, Perceived Risk of Regular Use, and Prevalence in Past Thirty Days for Twelfth Graders](#)

(source: www.monitoringthefuture.org)

[Marijuana and Hashish Use](#)

(source: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration)

The National Drug Control Budget for national and international law enforcement has risen dramatically from 1991 to 2000, surging 68% in ten years, from under \$11 billion to nearly \$18.5 billion. The separate demand reduction allocation similarly swelled 61% from \$3.7 billion to nearly \$6 billion. Nevertheless, marijuana use among twelfth graders rose even more dramatically, more than doubling between 1992 and 1997. Clearly, there is no correlation between anti-drug spending, both federal and private, and drug use.

Furthermore, though General McCaffrey labels the drug reform movement as "carefully camouflaged", he does not mention that the leading sponsors of the anti-drug movement are scarcely revealed. Few know that the companies from which they purchase products, or whose stock they own, also fund these pro-drug war organizations.

And he certainly fails to include the budgets of pro-Drug War groups when lambasting the size of the supposedly formidable anti-drug organizations.

These figures are quite minute compared to the considerable assets of the prohibitionist side. The budget of NORML and its sister NORML Foundation, from 1980 to 1999, has never exceeded \$750,000. NORML has no endowments and the NORML Foundation received its first \$1 million matching grant just this year. For the past several years, the Soros backed [Lindesmith Center and Drug Policy Foundation](#) have worked within the \$5 -7 million neighborhood to fund harm reduction and drug policy reform, needle exchange grants and [OSI](#) grants to numerous organizations. Compare this to the nearly \$40 million private pro-Drug War groups had at their disposal and the sharp rhetoric falls flat.

Further, the lack of adequate funding appears to be the major reason behind the supposed "carefully camouflaged" claim of General McCaffrey. There would be little secrecy to this movement, if not for the lack of financial support. As public policy groups intent on influencing public opinion, secrecy would be the least desirable quality to maintain.

NORML

Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

Moreover, the major donors to the drug reform movement, [New York financier George Soros](#), insurance magnate Peter Lewis and [educator-entrepreneur John Sperling](#), are open about their support of the issue. The [media](#), the [Congress](#) as well as [Mr. McCaffrey](#) have highlighted Mr. Soros as a supporter of changes to drug policy on numerous occasions.

In clear comparison, it is obvious that the drug reform movement is badly overmatched in a struggle of truly David and Goliath proportions. But the girth and strength of the prohibitionists is nonetheless hardly enough to keep teen drug use rates down, let alone stable. It is clear that increases in funding have had no discernable effect on use rates. And the current Ad campaign of \$1 billion over five years will have the same lack of effect.

Group	86	87	88	89	90
MISC	482,148	1,852,466	1,983,785	3,310,586	4,194,662
AARR					151,000
CADA				255,080	255,833
California	456,980	2,656,478	379,113	853,952	6,341,593
Colorado	71,650	115,000	9,300	165,000	50,000
Cenikor	27,500	41,000	121,000	105,000	115,000
DARE	56,347	52,500	5,000	720,725	530,666
Washington, DC		130,000	100,000	97,500	149,983
Daytop	35,500	275,000	15,000	160,000	125,000
Drugs Don't Work					25,000
Gateway	165,000	90,500	305,000	310,500	40,000
Illinois	15,000			92,000	106,000
Massachusetts	59,333	268,323	394,333	355,750	190,550
Michigan	12,000	26,750	156,500	414,020	884,760
North Carolina	5,000	52,134	94,190	122,290	258,943
New Jersey	25,000	79,000	6,000	209,500	360,498
New York	659,500	441,411	355,680	521,046	1,037,541
Ohio	30,600	136,376	106,746	105,175	126,000
Pennsylvania	49,085	151,000	459,000	302,000	165,000
Partnership		45,000	47,000	1,230,000	2,650,000
Phoenix	210,000	618,000	285,000	530,050	95,000
Texas	210,000	560,066	435,000	649,650	921,952
Youth Power	125,000	60,000	250,000	10,000	
Total	2,695,643	7,651,004	5,507,647	10,519,824	18,774,981

NORML

Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

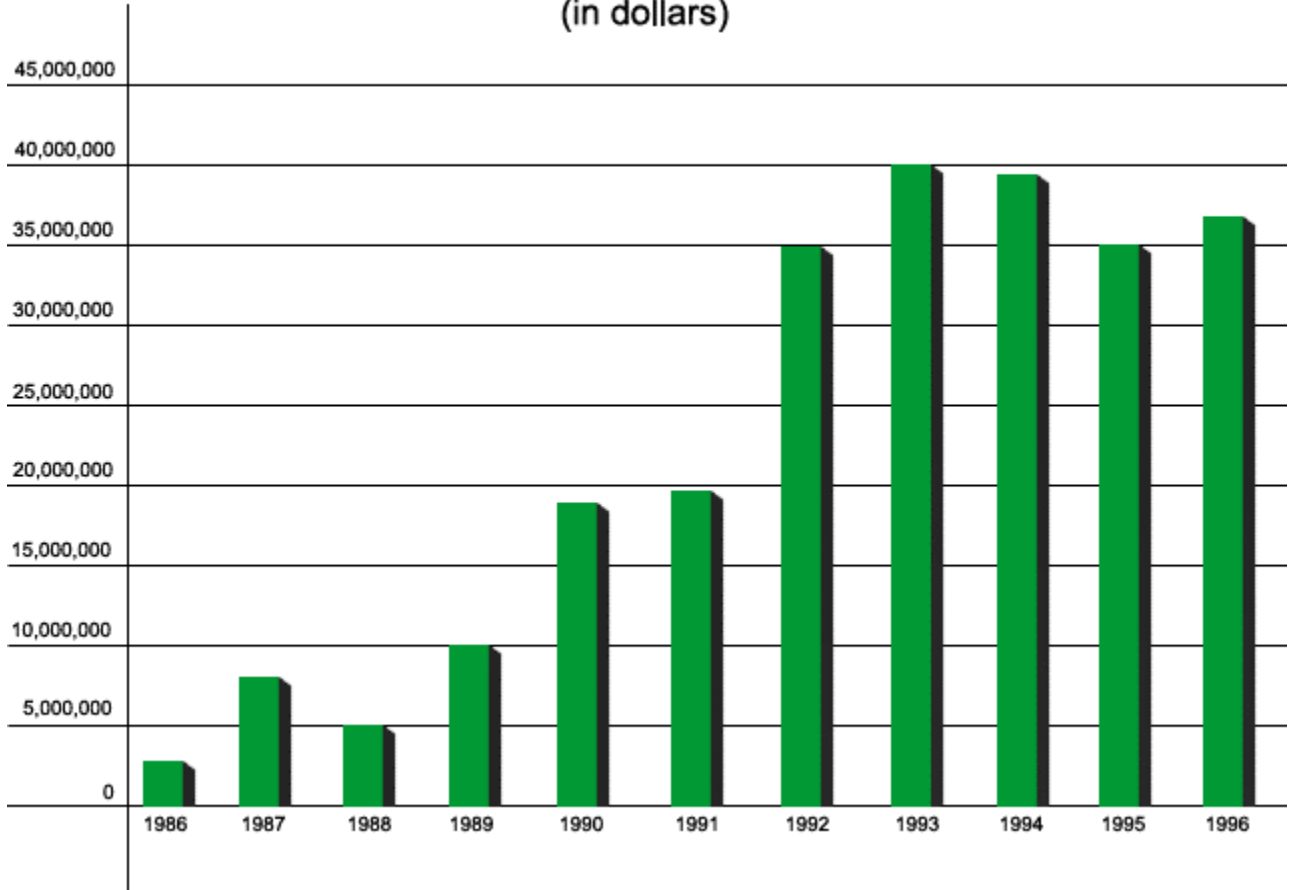
Group	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98*
MISC	5,152,271	11,910,081	5,585,341	7,834,781	6,900,919	5,811,889	4,168,872	7,302,320
AARR	320,000	40,000	455,000	395,242	205,242			
CADA	423,612	507,612	348,612	30,000	25,000			
CADCA		601,667	351,667	366,667	1,475,000	1,849,067	1,300,000	2,385,459
California	1,443,549	3,004,208	7,499,208	5,815,255	4,592,148	4,638,220	2,058,295	1,442,169
CASA	160,000	4,553,794	6,031,493	5,887,522	3,814,689	4,552,864	930,000	7,378,735
Colorado	42,500	457,236	372,635	590,942	785,517	1,071,009	128,614	564,349
Cenikor	86,300	70,200	255,000	121,600	127,600	585,000	235,000	
DARE	583,658	421,000	378,000	604,657	552,000	218,500	312,500	110,000
Washington, DC	130,000	619,916	1,193,600	1,312,763	959,905	494,522	268,612	343,242
Daytop	570,000	408,000	130,000	361,000	85,000	115,000	107,000	10,000
Drugs Don't Work	87,500	110,000	35,000	440,000	415,000	59,500	43,000	10,000
Gateway	40,000	79,500	100,000	40,000	99,000	89,000	85,000	40,000
Illinois	30,000	412,146	292,198	300,000	250,000	829,800	160,000	66,667
Massachusetts	1,511,424	4,126,077	3,333,683	3,570,748	4,813,907	4,582,800	3,684,671	1,186,082
Michigan	927,353	389,210	4,858,061	1,077,523	1,291,142	808,288	570,632	359,451
NCADD	103,000	145,000	155,350	120,000	122,500	210,000	140,000	234,000
North Carolina	559,002	292,684	837,825	1,581,837	41,000	1,245,133	632,193	840,903
New Jersey	259,998	1,239,971	1,169,847	896,743	1,048,599	1,296,513	571,108	571,108
New York	2,217,284	2,227,223	1,880,929	2,438,698	2,078,353	2,081,557	1,100,427	1,694,367
Ohio	122,000	280,858	100,528	258,290	101,564	160,000	203,800	317,500
Pennsylvania	220,000	100,000	499,635	166,500	429,137	402,636	161,551	95,000
Partnership	2,760,000	2,690,000	2,945,000	3,632,500	3,280,000	4,204,845	4,074,845	3,619,845
Phoenix	1,027,000	224,000	495,000	306,313	775,000	675,000	976,000	516,770
Texas	733,077	490,848	1,389,869	1,003,181	856,646	991,325	1,018,091	1,872,264
Youth Power			100,000	252,145	128,500	184,000		106,775
Total	19,509,528	35,401,231	40,793,481	39,404,877	35,333,368	37,156,468	22,930,211	31,067,006

The above are figures for private funding to anti-drug and pro-drug war groups for educational, preventive and informational campaigns between 1986 and 1996. Only includes contributions above \$5,000.

Includes funding to treatment organizations, like Daytop, Cenikor, Gateway, Phoenix House, because of their involvement in promoting anti-drug policies.

* 1998 incomplete year - not all statistics are available yet

Private Monies Donated to "Anti-Drug" Organizations
(in dollars)



NORML

Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

Long Term Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use of Marijuana/Hashish for Twelfth Graders

1975	6.0	1976	8.2	1977	9.1	1978	10.7	1979	10.3	1980	9.1	1981	7.0	1982	6.3	1983	5.5	1984	5.0	1985	4.9	1986	4.0	1987	3.3	1988	2.7	1989	2.9	1990	2.2	1991	2.0	1992	1.9	1993	2.4	1994	3.6	1995	4.6	1996	4.9	1997	5.8	1998	5.6	1999	6.0	'98-'99 change	+0.4
------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	------	------	------	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	------	-----	-------------------	------

Long Term Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Annual Use of Marijuana/Hashish for Twelfth Graders

1975	40.0	1976	44.5	1977	47.6	1978	50.2	1979	50.8	1980	48.8	1981	46.1	1982	44.3	1983	42.3	1984	40.0	1985	40.6	1986	38.8	1987	36.3	1988	33.1	1989	29.6	1990	27.0	1991	23.9	1992	21.9	1993	26.0	1994	30.7	1995	34.7	1996	35.8	1997	38.5	1998	37.5	1999	37.8	'98-'99 change	+0.3
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------------------	------

Long Term Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Lifetime Use of Marijuana/Hashish for Twelfth Graders

1975	47.3	1976	52.8	1977	56.4	1978	59.2	1979	60.4	1980	60.3	1981	59.5	1982	58.7	1983	57.0	1984	54.9	1985	54.2	1986	50.9	1987	50.2	1988	47.2	1989	43.7	1990	40.7	1991	36.7	1992	32.6	1993	35.3	1994	38.2	1995	41.7	1996	44.9	1997	49.6	1998	49.1	1999	49.7	'98-'99 change	+0.6
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------------------	------

(source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan)

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (www.norml.org)