

Are We Addicted To Drug War Money?



Government Agencies

Virtually every part of the federal government gets a piece of the \$20 billion annual drug war budget.¹

Prison Industry

The US spends \$50 billion annually on prisons. One-quarter of prisoners are drug offenders.²

Treatment Industry

US Courts force more than 200,000 a year into drug treatment. 37% of all drug treatment admissions are mandated by the courts. 57.1% of marijuana treatment admissions are court mandated.³

Testing Industry

The \$5.9 billion dollar drug testing industry should be replaced with impairment testing. Discovering marijuana use a week ago is as irrelevant as finding beer drinking a week ago.⁴

Pharmaceuticals

Profits are protected from medical marijuana competition.

Alcoholic Beverages

Profits protected from social marijuana competition.

Banks

Banks process billions in drug money. When asked in court how a major bank reacted to his arriving at the airport with \$20 million in small bills, the courier responded: "They sent a limousine."

Military Suppliers and Contractors

Manufacturers of herbicides, helicopters and military contractors (mercenaries) profit from the \$2 billion spent annually on foreign interventions in the name of the War on Drugs.⁵

Drug trafficking represents eight percent of the world's trade, an untaxed and unregulated \$400 billion annually.⁶

Kevin B. Zeese, President, Common Sense for Drug Policy

3220 N Street NW, #141, Washington, DC 20007

www.csdp.org * www.DrugWarFacts.org * www.AddictInTheFamily.org * info@csdp.org
202-299-9780 * 202-518-4028 (fax)

¹ National Drug Control Strategy, Office of National Drug Control Policy, February 2002, pgs 29-31 reports a \$19,179.7 billion budget for FY 2003. Some costs are not included, e.g. the cost of military personnel fighting the drug war.

² Gifford, Sidra Lea, US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Justice Expenditure and Employment in the United States, 1999 (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, February 2002), Table 3, p. 4; Beck, et al., US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoners in 2000 (Washington DC: US Department of Justice, August 2001), p. 1-2.

³ "Admissions by primary substance of abuse, according to treatment characteristics: TEDS 1999," Office of Applied Studies, SAMSHA, Treatment Episodes Data Set (TEDS), October 2001, Tables 3,4 & 8.

⁴ "The American Way," Marianno Costantinou, San Francisco Chronicle, August 12, 2001 citing Standard and Poor's.

⁵ "National Drug Control Strategy, Office of National Drug Control Policy, February 2002, pgs. 29-31 reports \$1,894.00 spent by DoD and Department of State on the drug war. Some funds for intelligence, INTERPOL, ONDCP and the Drug Enforcement Administration are used internationally.

⁶ United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (New York, NY: UNODCCP, 1998), p. 3.