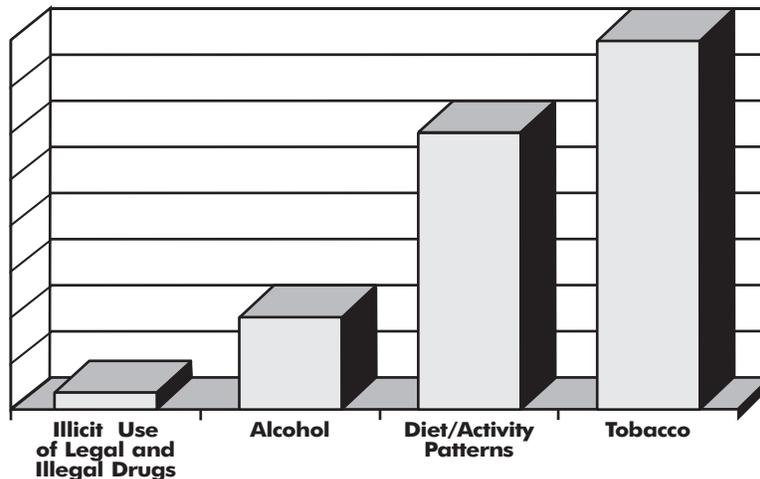


# Let's Keep America's Drug Problem in Perspective

Estimated Causes of Preventable Deaths\*



- ▶ 5 times as many people die from Alcohol each year than from illicit drugs and misuse of legal pharmaceuticals
- ▶ 15 times as many people die from poor diets and activity patterns
- ▶ 20 times as many people die from tobacco

**Why arrest 1.6 million people each year for drugs?**

**Does jailing drug users make more sense than jailing over weight people and smokers?**

\* Estimated deaths attributed to: Illicit Use of Legal and Illegal Drugs - 20,000; Alcohol - 100,000; Diet/Activity Patterns - 300,000; Tobacco - 400,000.

Source: *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Statistics Source Book 1998* citing 1990 figures. (Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services). Pg. 218

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