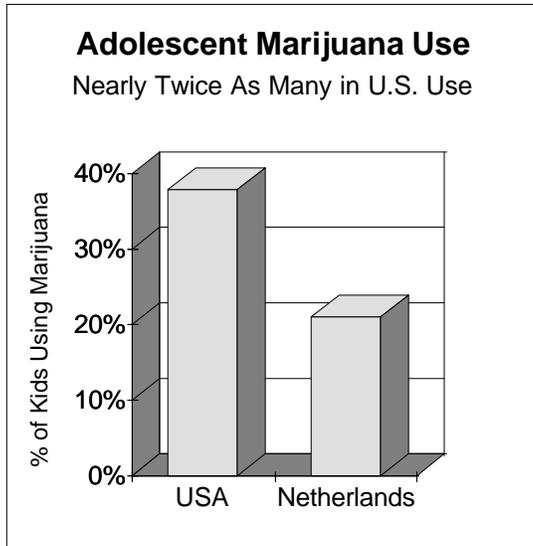


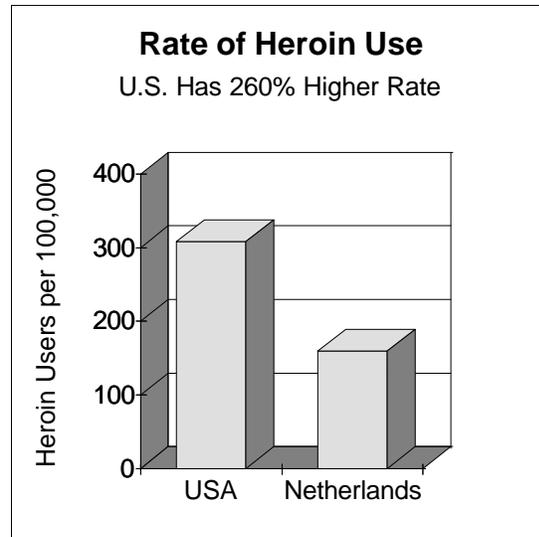
# Fact Sheet: Drug Use in the United States and the Netherlands

August 1998

## Which Country Is Doing A Better Job Of Controlling Drugs?

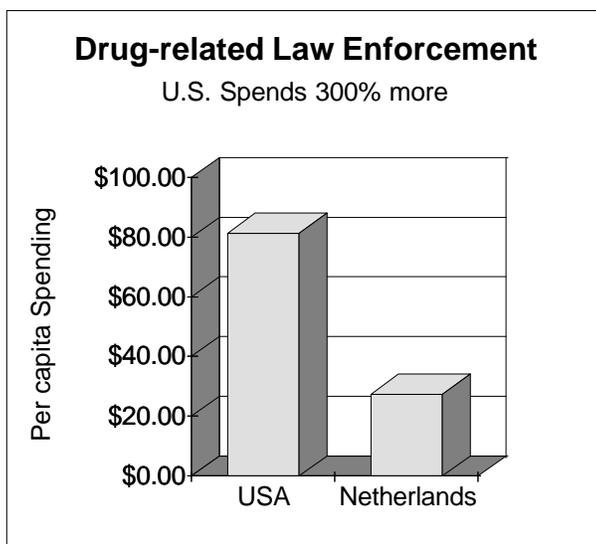


**Figure 1** USA: 38%. National Institute on Drug Abuse, (1997).<sup>1</sup>Netherlands: 21%. National Institute of Health and Addiction.<sup>2</sup>

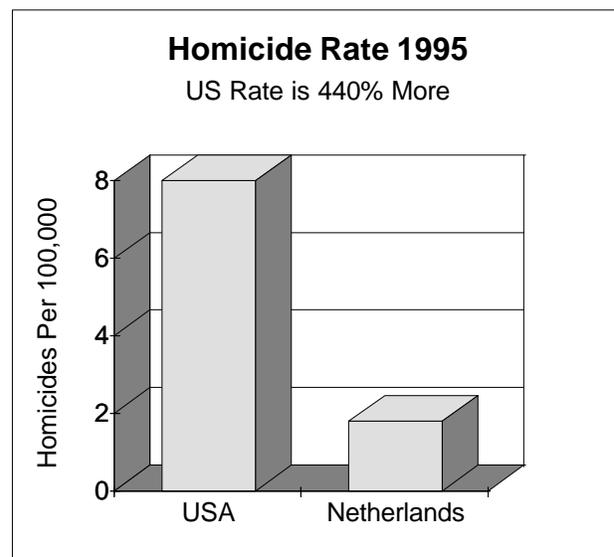


**Figure 2** USA: 308/100,000. US Census Data and Abt. & Associates for ONDCP.<sup>3</sup> Netherlands: 160/100,000. Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.<sup>4</sup>

## Which Country Is Doing A Better Job Of Controlling Crime?



**Figure 3** USA: \$81/person. ONDCP; MacCound & Reuter; US Census Bureau.<sup>7</sup> Netherlands: \$27/person. Dutch Justice Department; Dutch Department of Health, Welfare and Sport.<sup>8</sup>



**Figure 4** USA: 8/100,000. FBI Uniform Crime Report.<sup>5</sup> Netherlands: 1.8/100,000. Dutch Bureau of Statistics.<sup>6</sup>

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## Sources:

<sup>1</sup> 1997 data shows lifetime prevalence of marijuana use of 38.13% for adolescents as shown by mean score of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade respondents. (Monitoring the Future Survey, National Institute on Drug Abuse, December, 1997). Age groups are estimated from grade levels given in survey in order to allow comparability.

<sup>2</sup> Recent research among pupils 12-18 year olds shows lifetime prevalence of marijuana in this group is 20.9% (“Key Data - Smoking, Drinking, Drug Use & Gambling Among Pupils Aged 10 Years or Older” by W.M. de Zwart, H. Stam & S.B.M. Kuipers, published by the Netherlands Institute of Health and Addiction, 1997, page 26, table 13).

<sup>3</sup> Data based on 1995 estimates of heroin users in U. S. of 810,000 hard core users, or .31% of the population (308/100,000). Does not include additional 320,000 occasional users, .11% of population, for a total of 1,130,000 heroin users or .43% of the population (430/100,000). (What America’s Users Spend on Illegal Drugs, 1988-1995), Abt. Associates Inc., Commissioned by the White House ONDCP, September 29, 1997). Total population in 1995 of 263,000,000 used in calculations (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1996 (116<sup>th</sup> edition). Washington, DC, 1996).

<sup>4</sup> There are 25,000 opiate dependent persons in the Netherlands, or .16% of the total population (“Drug Policy in the Netherlands - Continuity and Change,” Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport [VWS], 1995, based on total population of 15.1 million).

<sup>5</sup> The FBI reported that the homicide rate in 1995 was 8 per 100,000 people, for a total of 21, 597 homicides. (Uniform Crime Reports: Dept. of Justice Press Release, 10/13/96)

<sup>6</sup> The Dutch Bureau of Statistics issued a press release on Tuesday July 14, 1998 in response to erroneous reports in the international media. In both 1995 and 1996, the Netherlands recorded 273 homicides, which is a homicide rate of 1.8 persons per 100,000 inhabitants. (Registered Murders in the Netherlands, Press Release, Statistics Netherlands, 7/14/98).

<sup>7</sup> Total federal expenditures on drug related law enforcement in the U.S. in 1997 were \$8.1 billion (National Drug Control Strategy, 1997: Budget Summary). Total state and local governments are estimated to spend a total of \$18 billion annually on drug control, with approximately \$13.5 billion to \$14.4 billion (75-80%) of this being devoted to “policing, prosecutions and corrections” (Interpreting Dutch Cannabis Policy: Reasoning by Analogy in the Legalization Debate, by Robert MacCound and Peter Reuter, Science, October 1997, Vol. 278). Thus, total law enforcement expenditures for the U.S. are conservatively estimated at \$21.6 billion, \$80.70 per person (based on total U.S. population in 1997 of 267,636,000 as per U.S. Census Bureau).

<sup>8</sup> Drug related law enforcement spending in the Netherlands in 1995 is estimated at 640 million Dutch Guilders (Dutch Justice Department). The conversion rate as of June 1, 1995 was 1 U.S. Dollar = 1.55 Dutch Guilders (Rabo Bank). Thus the total drug related law enforcement spending for the Netherlands in 1995 in US Dollars is \$412,903,225.80 (640,000,000 Guilders / 1.55 = \$412,903,225.80). Based on a total population in 1995 of 15.1 million persons (VWS), per capita drug related law enforcement spending in the Netherlands in 1995 were \$27.34 (\$412,903,225.80/15,100,000 people = \$27.34 per person).