

CANNABIS AND HEMP association



Socio-Economic Discussion on Cannabis in America

SAMDHA National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2011

- 34-41% Americans have used cannabis
- 10-11% have used in the last year
- 5-7% use every month
- 4% are chronic users (weekly)

Of the 42% of Americans that have used cannabis age 12 or older...

- 92% use it less than weekly
- Less than 57% use it less than annually
- 26% have used it in the last year
- 9% have used in the past month
- 4% over the weekend
- 4% use daily

Over 95,000,000 Americans have used cannabis.

From 1977-1986 New York City had 33,000 arrests for cannabis possession.

From 1987-1996 New York City had 30,000 arrests for cannabis possession.

From 1997-2006 New York City had 353,000 arrests for cannabis possession.

According to the New York Times, June 2013 Black Americans are nearly 4 times more likely to get arrested for cannabis than whites despite similar use rates.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse by the time a student graduates high school they are 46% likely to have tried cannabis.

Director of NIDA Nora Volkow, M.D. believes:

“The use of marijuana can produce adverse physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral effects. It can impair short-term memory and judgment and distort perception. Because marijuana affects brain systems that are still maturing through young adulthood, its use by teens may have a negative effect on their development. And contrary to popular belief, it can be addictive.”

“We found that in virtually every county in the country, police have wasted taxpayer money enforcing marijuana laws in a racially biased manner,” said Ezekiel Edwards, the director of the A.C.L.U.’s Criminal Law Reform Project and the lead author of the report.

Figure 1. From NORML

