

1995 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

TALKING POINTS

February 1995

THE PROBLEM

DRUG USE IN AMERICA TODAY

1 in 3 Americans has used an illicit drug

1 in 9 Americans has tried cocaine

One half of high school seniors have tried drugs;

1 in 5 uses drugs regularly

Chronic, hardcore drug use remains widespread

responsible for much of the crime, violence, and negative health consequences

accounts for more than two-thirds of illicit drug use, although only 20% of drug-using population.

Alarming New Trends:

- Casual drug use is increasing, especially among adolescents:
 - fewer kids have a clear understanding of the risks associated with drug use;
 - after years of decline, drug use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders is increasing.
- Growing Availability of cheap high purity Heroin:
 - potential to attract new users;
 - increased use among users, especially via inhalation and snorting.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG USE

- The social cost of drug use is \$67 billion: 70% is attributable to the costs of crimes; 30% is medical and death-related.

THE ECONOMY: The illicit drug trade is draining the U.S. economy. In 1993, the retail value of the illicit drug business totalled \$50 billion.

Drug use is weakening the fiscal health of the public sector. Federal, State, and local governments spend \$25 billion on drug control (50 cents for every dollar spent by drug consumers).

More than 60% of the Federal drug control budget is directed to law enforcement; most state and local government spending is directed to the criminal justice system (79%).

HEALTH CARE: Drug use is straining the health care system. In 1993, almost 500,000 drug-related emergencies occurred across the nation. (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Substance Abuse, October 1993) More than one-third of AIDS cases are drug-related.

CRIME: Drug use and related crime devastates our communities. In 1993, 1,123,300 were arrested for drug offenses -- including sale, manufacturing, and possession -- more than 2 arrests per minute. Drug tests confirm recent drug use in the majority of those arrested. (Drug Use Forecasting)

Homicide rates by youth aged 18 and younger have doubled since 1985. Kids involved with drugs are arming themselves and killing one another over drug money and turf.

AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Drugs are readily available to anyone who wants to buy them. Cocaine and heroin street prices are low and purity is high -- making use more feasible and affordable than ever.

Marijuana is increasingly available, potent, and cheap -- enticing a new generation.

Current coca cultivation is 3 times what is necessary to supply the needs of the U.S. market.

THE PROBLEM

Drug problem is national in scope, affecting every citizen.

Drugs are not a problem solely of the poor, or of minorities, or of inner-city residents.

The majority of people in the inner cities do not use illicit drugs; but they are victimized by those who do.

THE SOLUTION

The solution is both national and international in response.

The Goal: reduction of illicit drug use & its consequences.

- The best way to reduce the problem of illicit drug use is to reduce the number of chronic, hardcore users; because chronic, hardcore users account for nearly 2/3 of the drugs consumed in the U.S.

The best way to accomplish this is by providing effective drug treatment in communities & prisons.

- Drug Prevention is key to ensuring the future of the Nation's youth. To prevent drug use, a nationwide media campaign will be launched to deglamorize drug use in the mind of every child.

Our Strategy is **TOUGHER THAN EVER, BUT SMART**, building on the Crime Control Act signed into law by the President.

- Domestic Law Enforcement efforts create important links between treatment, prevention, and the criminal justice system.

A recent survey found that 4 in 10 Americans had taken safety precautions because of the threat of drug-related crime by making homes more secure, staying inside at night, avoiding unsafe areas.

Our Strategy responds to these fears by creating community-based programs for drug education, treatment, prevention, and law enforcement.

The Strategy has **ACTIONS PLANS** for:

- **REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR ILLICIT DRUGS**
- **REDUCING CRIME, VIOLENCE, AND DRUG AVAILABILITY**
- **ENHANCING PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY & EFFICIENCY**
- **STRENGTHENING INTERDICTION & INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS**

THE SOLUTION

ACTION PLAN FOR REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR ILLICIT DRUGS

REDUCING DEMAND BY REDUCING HARDCORE USE

Cost Effectiveness of Treatment: CA study found that for every dollar invested in drug treatment in 1992, taxpayers saved 7 dollars; savings attributed to decreased use of drugs, alcohol, and reduction in costs for crime and healthcare. (CALDATA; NIDA study confirms data)

Treatment Availability: Treatment is available for only 1.4 million of the 2.4 million drug users who need and could benefit from treatment. More than 1 million who could benefit from treatment are unable to access programs.

Closing the treatment gap is a national priority, and the Administration continues to press for more treatment facilities, especially within the criminal justice system.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND TREATMENT: Coerced Abstinence

Treatment in Prison: The Crime Control Act provides funds for treatment in federal and state prisons, and aftercare for the 55% of Federal inmates and 57% of States inmates reported using drugs regularly.

Drug Courts: The Crime Control Act provides funds for expand drug courts to ensure certainty and immediacy of punishment for drug-related crimes.

REDUCING DEMAND THROUGH PREVENTION

Only effective prevention measures can bring about long-term sustainable reduction in drug use.

National Prevention System: a comprehensive system to address prevention needs across the country to plan for optimal use of prevention resources, and to address **What Works?** by developing effective evaluation tools.

Programs that work, like **Safe and Drug-Free Schools**, and the **DrugFree Workplace** initiatives will be continued.

Crime Control Act creates new programs like **Family and Community Endeavor Schools (FACES)** in high-poverty and high-crime areas to keep schools open after hours, weekends, and summers to help young people stay off the streets.

African American Male Initiative has been established to respond to the special problems faced by young African American men regarding drugs and violence.

ACTION PLAN FOR REDUCING CRIME, VIOLENCE, AND DRUG AVAILABILITY

CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1994

The Nation took a major step forward in reducing drug-related crime and violence when it passed Crime Control Act.

Builds on the President's National Drug Control Strategy by authorizing new police, punishment, and prevention programs.

100,000 new police officers on city streets;

treatment for chronic, hardcore drug users in prisons;

expands the use of drug courts;

multijurisdictional drug enforcement task forces;

crime & drug prevention programs in communities.

DOMESTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN:

Increase efficiency and eliminate duplication of Federal, State, County and local law enforcement agencies;
Increase coordination of regional law enforcement, treatment and prevention resources

Marijuana: comprehensive initiative to decrease cultivation and use of marijuana

Technology Needs: Intelligence, technology and advanced officer training needs of State/local law enforcement

INVESTIGATE TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS:

Federal investigative resources will target domestic cells of Latin American criminal organizations; major national gangs; Asian and West African criminal and trafficking organizations.

EXPANSION OF BORDER CONTROL EFFORTS:

Review current enforcement efforts at the Southwest Border; determine how to reduce drugs smuggled across the border and reduce border violence.

Customs Service and INS will maintain the reduction of drug smuggling across the Southwest Border as a top priority.

MONEY LAUNDERING:

Facilitate collaboration between Treasury and Justice to develop an action plan to coordinate domestic drug law enforcement, regulatory and private industry efforts to target laundering of drug proceeds.

ACTION PLAN TO ENHANCE DOMESTIC PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY

EMPOWERMENT ZONES:

In December 1994, the President designated 9 Empowerment Zones, to enhance multifaceted and interconnected planning to respond to drug use and trafficking in those communities.

WEED AND SEED:

Weed and Seed programs play an import role linking law enforcement and drug prevention activities across the country. Communities can first identify the problems and develop effective solutions.

WORKPLACE INITIATIVES:

Alcohol and drug testing has been mandated for safety-sensitive employees in aviation, motor carrier, railroad, pipeline, maritime, and mass transit industries.

STREAMLINING FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL GRANTS:

The Federal drug grant application process will be streamlined to create a universal grant application.

EXPAND AND IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES:

To provide drug data to communities.

IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS:

Provide information on effective law enforcement, treatment and prevention programs to communities. Provide technical assistance to community based organizations.

CUT THE RED TAPE:

Eliminate many Federal mandates and restrictions, giving States the needed flexibility to target funds to high-priority communities.

ACTION PLAN TO STRENGTHEN INTERDICTION AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

U.S. drug control agencies have developed an aggressive, coordinated response to the cocaine, heroin, and marijuana threats facing this Nation.

INTERNATIONAL COCAINE STRATEGY

1993 interagency review:

Presidential Decision Directive: the international cocaine industry is a serious national security threat requiring an extraordinary and coordinated response by all agencies involved in national security.

Response: 4-pronged strategy to (1)emphasize assisting institutions of nations with the political will to combat narcotrafficking; (2)destroy narcotrafficking organizations; (3)interdict narcotics trafficking in both the source countries and transit zones; and (4)increase international cooperation.

Controlled Shift in the emphasis of cocaine interdiction priorities from the transit zone to source countries because it is more effective to attack drugs at the source of production where illicit production and transit activities are more visible and thus more vulnerable. Also, source countries are the best source of information on smuggling operations throughout the Hemisphere.

U.S. INTERDICTION COORDINATOR designated to oversee interdiction programs and to see that we have enough resources in the right places to do the job.

Measures of Effectiveness to be developed for international, host country, and interdiction programs.

CERTIFICATION

A more aggressive use of the congressionally mandated certification process that conditions economic and military assistance on counternarcotics performance.

The President denied certification to 4 countries, and granted national interest certifications to 6 countries.

INSTITUTION BUILDING: to strengthen democracy, law enforcement and judicial systems to enable Andean countries to preserve their democracies against criminal drug threat, and carry a greater share of the counternarcotics burden within their borders.

Colombia: assistance to control traffickers' use of air space, eradicate coca and poppy; pressure Cali cartel;

Peru: increase support in response to willingness to expand counterdrug efforts;

Mexico: intelligence and technical assistance to dismantle drug organizations; eradicate poppy and coca.

NEW INTERNATIONAL HEROIN STRATEGY

Problem: Increased heroin: low prices, high purity, increased use -- potential for an epidemic.

Worldwide use of opium and heroin is increasing.

Global production is at record levels.

Response: International opium and heroin control must remain a major foreign policy objective of the United States.

Presidential Decision Directive on heroin in conjunction with the National Security Council.

Administration will coordinate U.S. Government efforts to engage Burma on counternarcotics.

- **Heighten International Awareness**

Clarify the U.S. role in combatting drug production, trafficking, and use in key countries.

- **Emphasize a Multilateral Approach**

- **Attack Heroin-Trafficking Infrastructure**

- **Regional Strategies:**

Expand contacts in principal source, transit, and consuming countries to mobilize international cooperation.

Emphasize intelligence in major source and transit countries.