

Financial Incentive To Arrest

We remember George Floyd
We remember Elijah McClain



AVAILABLE FUNDING



Financial Incentive To Arrest

The number of annual drug arrests more than tripled between 1980 and 2005, as drug sweeps and suspicion-less stops and searches proceed in record numbers. However, drug use and abuse was on the decline, not rise when the War on Drugs began.

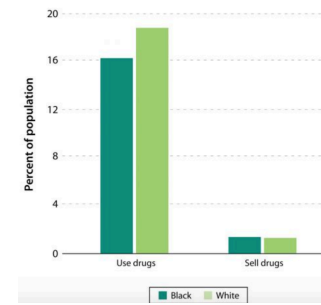
Huge cash grants were made to those law enforcement agencies willing to make drug-law enforcement a top priority. Congress revised the program that provided federal aid to law enforcement, renaming it the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program.

Financial Incentive To Arrest Statistics

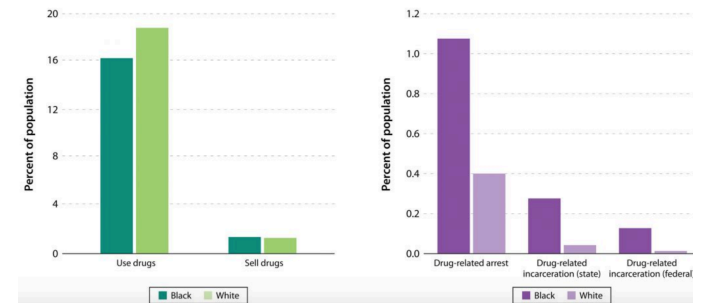
- In Florida, reporters reviewed nearly 1,000x videotapes of highway traffic stops, and found that police had use traffic violations as an excuse, taking the money without filing any criminal charges.
- In 2010, police arrested more people for marijuana possession than for all violent crimes combined.
- Despite the fact that Blacks and whites use marijuana at comparable rates, Blacks are almost four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession.

Rates of Drug Use and Sales, by Race

At the state level, blacks are about 6.5 times as likely as whites to be incarcerated for drug-related crimes.



Rates of Drug-Related Criminal Justice Measures, by Race

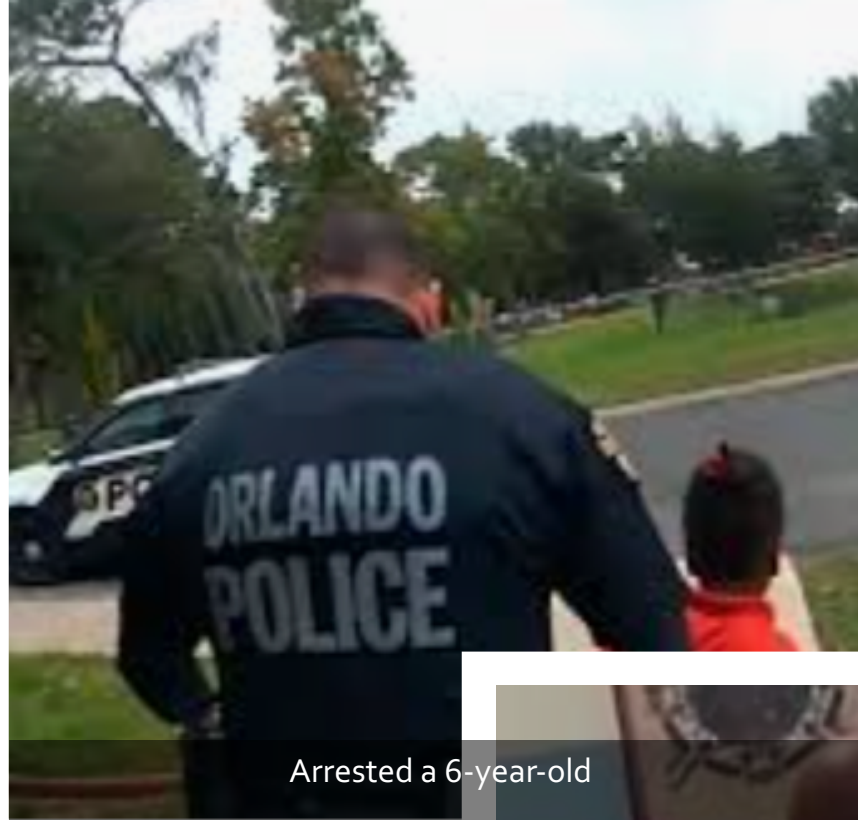


As if free military equipment, training, and cash grants were not enough the Reagan administration granted the authority to keep for their own use, the vast majority of cash and assets seized when waging the drug war.



Consider this: Out of the 10.3 million arrests made per year, only 5 percent are for the most serious offenses, including murder, rape, and aggravated assault. These are the ones that truly threaten public safety. The other 95 percent of arrests are for things like traffic violations, marijuana possession, unlawful assembly, and even removing a shopping cart from store premises.

That means that police spend the most resources going after minor incidents that do not threaten everyday life but *do* lead to mass criminalization and incarceration.



Arrested a 6-year-old



Arrested an 8-year-old

History

- American policing has never been a neutral institution. The first U.S. city police department was a [slave patrol](#), and modern police forces have directed oppression and violence at Black people to enforce Jim Crow, wage the War on Drugs, and crack down on protests.
- We must cut the astronomical amount of money that our governments spend on law enforcement and give that money to more helpful services like job training, counseling, and violence-prevention programs. Each year, state and local governments [spend upward of \\$100 billion dollars](#) on law enforcement—and that's excluding billions more in federal grants and resources



The Solution: Defund the Police

Budgets are not created in a vacuum. They can be changed through targeted advocacy and organizing.

We can demand that our local officials (including city council members and mayors) stop allocating funds for the police to acquire more militarized equipment and instead ask for that money to go toward community-run violence-prevention programs.

We can demand that our federal government redirect the money that funds police presence in schools to putting counselors in schools instead.

Police violence is a leading cause of death for Black men: A recent study found that 1 in 1,000 Black men can expect to be killed by police, and public health experts have described police violence as a serious public health issue.

We must cut the astronomical amount of money that our governments spend on law enforcement and give that money to more helpful services like job training, counseling, and violence-prevention programs. Each year, state and local governments spend upward of 100 billion dollars on law enforcement—and that's excluding billions more in federal grants and resources.



Tips: Do's & Don'ts

Do ask if you are under arrest. If you are, you have the right to be told why.

Do clearly inform the police that you will not speak to them about anything without an attorney being present.

Don't assume that the police have a search warrant just because they say that they do. If they say they have a search warrant, ask to see it.

Don't provide the police with any information other than your name and address if you are arrested unless your attorney is present and approves.

Don't sign anything, no matter what it is, without an attorney being present.

Don't say anything if your attorney instructs that you remain silent. Let your attorney do the talking for you, no matter how hard it may be to resist the urge to speak.

