

# Meet the Drug War Winners and Losers

## The Winners

**Prison Guards** - \$45,000 a year to start, no college required. In California the Prison Guards Union is the most powerful lobby in the state. Not surprisingly, they support legislators who are "tough on crime."<sup>1</sup>

**Prison Owners** - \$3 billion a year goes to the highly profitable private prison industry whose owners bank on harsh drug laws.<sup>2</sup>

**The Drug Testing Industry** - Former drug warriors make millions testing our kids for drugs – even though it makes no measurable difference in actual drug use.<sup>3</sup>

**Corrupt Police** - Confiscation of private property is now a significant source of police funding. It's up to the accused to prove it wasn't from drug money.<sup>4</sup>

**The Pharmaceutical Industry** - Several major drug companies are frantically researching the cannabis plant for pain-killing and anti-nausea compounds that can be patented – while simultaneously spending millions on P.R. to keep the plant itself illegal.<sup>5</sup>

**Terrorists** - \$320 billion a year in tax-free illegal drug sales worldwide – enough to fund the worst things you can think of.<sup>6</sup>

## The Losers

**Education** - As prison budgets grow, the money has to come from somewhere – like schools, teachers and students. The U.S is now losing ground to Europe and Asia in education, but we're still #1 in incarceration at three times the world average.<sup>7</sup>

**Public Safety** - Prohibition creates crime. Criminals need safe turf. So they take over the inner cities by terrorizing the powerless and defenseless residents. Try to imagine this happening in upscale neighborhoods.<sup>8</sup>

**Police Departments** - Drug corruption scandals are rocking police departments all over the country because of the staggering amount of loose cash in play.<sup>9</sup>

**Equality** - Only 13% of the country's drug users are African American but they're twice as likely to get arrested as whites and four times as likely to do prison time.<sup>10</sup>

**The Children** - With such a high percentage of minority parents in prison, who's supposed to be raising their kids? What will be the "blowback?"<sup>11</sup>

**70% of the war is about marijuana.  
Isn't it time we tried peace?**

**Common Sense for Drug Policy**

**[www.CommonSenseDrugPolicy.org](http://www.CommonSenseDrugPolicy.org) [www.DrugWarFacts.org](http://www.DrugWarFacts.org)**

**[www.ManagingChronicPain.org](http://www.ManagingChronicPain.org) [www.MedicalMJ.org](http://www.MedicalMJ.org)**

**[www.TreatingDrugAddiction.org](http://www.TreatingDrugAddiction.org)**

**[info@cspd.org](mailto:info@cspd.org)**

For footnotes see [http://www.cspd.org/publicservice/winner\\_notes.htm](http://www.cspd.org/publicservice/winner_notes.htm)