

THE  
*EFFECTIVE*



NATIONAL DRUG  
CONTROL STRATEGY  
1999

NETWORK OF REFORM GROUPS

---

---

*The Effective National Drug Control Strategy* was prepared by the  
NETWORK OF REFORM GROUPS\* in consultation with the  
NATIONAL COALITION FOR EFFECTIVE DRUG POLICIES\*

---

---

**Network of Reform Groups**

Common Sense for Drug Policy  
Falls Church, VA

The Council on Illicit Drugs  
Washington, D.C.

Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI

Drug Policy Forum of Texas  
Houston, TX

Drug Policy Foundation of New  
Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Drug Policy Reform Group  
of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Drug Reform Coordination  
Network, Washington, D.C.

DrugSense  
Porterville, CA

Efficacy  
Hartford, CT

Family Council on Drug Awareness  
El Cerrito, CA

Family Watch  
Washington, D.C.

Floridians for Medical Rights  
Miami, FL

Forfeiture Endangers American  
Rights, Washington, D.C.

Human Rights and the Drug War  
El Cerrito, CA

Marijuana Policy Project  
Washington, D.C.

Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse  
Mosier, OR

Multi-Disciplinary Association for  
Psychedelic Studies, Charlotte, NC

National Alliance of Methadone  
Advocates, New York, NY

National Organization for the  
Reform of Marijuana Laws  
Washington, DC

The November Coalition  
Colville, WA

The Rights Organization  
Humboldt County, CA

ReconSIDer Forum on Drug Policy  
Syracuse, NY

Virginians Against Drug Violence  
Crewe, VA

**Written by:**

Kevin B. Zeese and Paul M. Lewin,  
Common Sense for Drug Policy

**With substantial assistance from:**

Allan Clear, Harm Reduction Coalition  
Chris Conrad, Family Council on Drug Awareness  
Scott Ehlers, Drug Policy Foundation  
Dave Fratello, Americans for Medical Rights  
Tom Gordon, Forfeiture Endangers American Rights  
Brenda Grantland, Forfeiture Endangers American Rights  
Lisa Haugaard, Latin America Working Group  
Rachel King, American Civil Liberties Union  
Marc Mauer, The Sentencing Project  
Mikki Norris, Human Rights and the Drug War  
Eric Sterling, Criminal Justice Policy Foundation  
Julie Stewart, Families Against Mandatory Minimums  
Kathleen Stoll, Center for Women Policy Studies  
Chuck Thomas, Marijuana Policy Project  
Sanho Tree, Institute for Policy Studies  
Joycelyn Woods, National Alliance of Methadone  
Advocates  
Kendra Wright, Family Watch  
Jason Ziedenberg, Justice Policy Institute of the Center on  
Juvenile and Criminal Justice

---

---

For more information on the *Effective National Drug Control Strategy* contact Common  
Sense for Drug Policy at 703-354-5694, 703-354-5695(fax) or [info@csdp.org](mailto:info@csdp.org)

\*Members with narrow missions only sign onto those portions relevant to their mission.

---

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Page numbers do not apply to PDF downloads*

<b>AUTHORS OF THE EFFECTIVE DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY</b> .....	i
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	1
<b>THE NEED FOR A NEW MODEL OF DRUG CONTROL</b>	
THE NEED FOR A NEW MODEL OF DRUG CONTROL .....	2
How many people must be incarcerated for current drug policy to work? .....	2
Does the U.S. drug strategy protect children from drugs? .....	3
Does the current drug control strategy reduce the supply of drugs and raise their price? .....	4
Does the current strategy protect public health? .....	4
It is time to develop a drug strategy that works .....	5
<b>GOAL NUMBER ONE: REDUCE THE HARM ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG ABUSE</b>	
FIND A SOLUTION TO DRUG ABUSE THAT REALLY WORKS .....	7
Commission a non-partisan panel of experts to evaluate America’s longest war .....	7
Allow cities and states to experiment with their own approach to drug control .....	8
Make efforts at all levels of government to separate the markets for marijuana from other illegal drugs. ....	8
REDUCE DRUG ABUSE AND USE AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS .....	10
Triple the current National Drug Control Strategy budget share for reducing youth and young adult drug use. ....	11
Focus funding and efforts on strategies that have documented success in reducing youth drug use. ....	11
Use facts, not scare-tactics to educate youth .....	12
Redirect DARE funding into more productive and effective programs .....	13
Be responsible with the provision of anti-drug messages. ....	13
REDUCE DRUG USE AND ABUSE AMONG WOMEN .....	14
Fund prevention programs that target women .....	15
Increase services for women .....	16
Fund research on women’s experiences .....	17
REDUCE DRUG ABUSE AND USE AMONG ALL AMERICANS .....	17
Provide drug treatment upon request and a variety of treatment options. ....	18
Enact legislation that provides full continuum insurance coverage for substance abuse .....	18
Reduce children’s exposure to cigarette and alcohol advertising .....	19
REDUCE THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE .....	19
Repeal State and Federal laws designed to prevent access to and possession of sterile syringes .....	19
Make prevention and treatment of Hepatitis-C a high public health priority .....	20
<b>GOAL NUMBER ONE: CHAPTER SUMMARY</b> .....	20
<b>GOAL NUMBER TWO: REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY THE “WAR ON DRUGS”</b>	
REDUCE CRIME AND VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DRUG WAR .....	24
Commission a study on the relationship between drugs, alcohol and violence .....	26
MAKE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FIT THE CRIME .....	26
End mandatory minimum sentencing (statutory and guideline) .....	27
Alter sentencing guidelines, so judges have more room to maneuver within Guideline boxes and make Guidelines advisory, rather than mandatory .....	28
Allow judges to determine whether a drug prosecution is handled more appropriately by state, local or federal courts .....	29
Cease the costly and ineffective targeting of marijuana possession cases .....	29

END THE RACIAL BIAS IN DRUG LAWS.....	30
End the disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentencing .....	30
Stop targeting black and Latino communities for needle possession arrests.....	31
DO NOT UNDERMINE EDUCATION IN THE NAME OF THE “WAR ON DRUGS” .....	32
State governments should not spend more on prisons than on education .....	32
Eliminate the ban on student loan guarantees to persons with a drug conviction.....	32
ALLOW DOCTORS GREATER FREEDOM TO ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES .....	33
Transfer scheduling authority to the Department of Health and Human Services.....	33
Begin clinical trials of drug maintenance therapy .....	33
Allow doctors greater freedom in prescribing medications for pain control.....	34
Allow a broader distribution of opiate agonist chemotherapy (e.g. methadone, LAAM) and move oversight of such programs to the Center for Substance Abuse and Treatment .....	34
Recognize the rights of states, doctors and patients to make their own decisions regarding the usefulness of medical marijuana .....	36
End the <i>de facto</i> moratorium on medical marijuana research .....	37
Develop a distribution system for medical marijuana .....	37
PROMOTE HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL WOMEN, NOT PROSECUTION OF PREGNANT WOMEN .....	38
Address the problem of drug abuse by women as a women’s health issue not a criminal matter .....	39
ENCOURAGE “FAMILY VALUE FRIENDLY” POLICIES AND FAMILY UNITY THROUGH TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES, NOT PUNITIVE RESPONSES .....	39
Repeal section 115 of the TANF and Food Stamp benefits programs, and reform welfare to help, rather than penalize women struggling with drug abuse problems .....	40
Fund alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs that work with women and their children .....	41
PROTECT CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION.....	41
Stop the misuse of forfeiture laws .....	41
Restore voting rights to non-violent drug offenders and allow unhindered public referenda and initiatives .....	43
Restore civil liberties undermined during the drug war.....	43
REDUCE GOVERNMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CORRUPTION .....	45
Establish checks and balances to oversee drug enforcement activities and establish strict hiring standards for drug enforcement officials .....	46
REDUCE WASTEFUL SPENDING AND DAMAGE CAUSED BY INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS .....	47
Place less emphasis on drug interdiction and source country eradication strategies and greater emphasis on domestic drug prevention and treatment programs as well as alternative economic development .....	48
End the drug certification process .....	48
Stop encouraging a role for the military in counternarcotics activities properly performed by civilian law enforcement agencies, both at home and abroad .....	49
Stop the use of herbicides and biological agents in efforts to eradicate illegal drugs outside of the United States as well as within the US.....	50
GOAL NUMBER TWO: CHAPTER SUMMARY .....	55
<b>CONCLUDING REMARKS.....</b>	<b>56</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Incarceration for Drug Arrests and Drug Overdoses Deaths Rise after Mandatory Minimums....	2
Figure 2: Availability of Marijuana for Kids .....	3
Figure 3: Lifetime Use of Any Illicit Drug (8 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade) .....	3
Figure 4: Heroin: Price Per Gram over Time .....	4
Figure 5: Heroin: Purity Increases During Drug War.....	4
Figure 6: Emergency Room Drug Episodes.....	4
Figure 7: ONDCP National Drug Control Budget vs. <i>The Effective Drug Control Budget</i> .....	5
Figure 8: A Brief Chronology of Independent Drug Policy Reports.....	9
Figure 9: Adolescent Use of Crack and Heroin.....	10
Figure 10: Youth Prevention Spending in National Drug Control Budget .....	11
Figure 11: SAMHSA funding for women.....	16
Figure 12: Partial List of Organizations Which Support Needle Exchange Programs .....	22
Figure 13: Homicide Rates in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century .....	24
Figure 14: Societal Costs of Drug Use in 1992.....	25
Figure 15: Average Length of Imprisonment Federal Penitentiaries.....	26
Figure 16: Partial List of Organizations Opposed to Mandatory Minimum Sentences .....	27
Figure 17: Marijuana Arrests Over Time.....	29
Figure 18: Drug Use vs. Incarceration Rate by Gender and Race.....	30
Figure 19: Trends in State Spending: 1987 - 1995.....	32
Figure 20: Partial list of Organizations Supporting Physicians' Right to Recommend or Discuss Marijuana with Patients .....	33
Figure 21: Partial list of Organizations Supporting Access to Medical Marijuana .....	36
Figure 22: Partial list of Organizations Supporting Legal Access to Marijuana Under Physician's Recommendation.....	36
Figure 23: Partial list of Organizations Supporting Medical Marijuana Research.....	37
Figure 24: Voter Approved Medical Marijuana Initiatives.....	37
Figure 25: Public Letter to Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General .....	52-54