Let’s Keep America’s Drug Problem in Perspective

Estimated Causes of Preventable Deaths*

- 5 times as many people die from Alcohol each year than from illicit drugs and misuse of legal pharmaceuticals
- 15 times as many people die from poor diets and activity patterns
- 20 times as many people die from tobacco

Why arrest 1.6 million people each year for drugs? Does jailing drug users make more sense than jailing over weight people and smokers?

* Estimated deaths attributed to: Illicit Use of Legal and Illegal Drugs - 20,000; Alcohol - 100,000; Diet/Activity Patterns - 300,000; Tobacco - 400,000.


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