Who says we are winning the $19 billion-a-year drug war?

- New drugs and more dangerous forms of the old drugs are widely available, e.g. crack and methamphetamine.¹

- Adolescent drug use has been increasing since 1990.²

- The age at which people first try heroin, cocaine, and marijuana is constantly dropping because there are so many new users.³

- The price of heroin and cocaine is at its lowest point in 20 years and the purity of both drugs is at near record levels.⁴

- Overdose deaths and mentions of drugs in hospital emergency rooms are at record levels.⁵

- Bans on the sale and availability of clean syringes have added significantly to the spread of HIV/AIDS.⁶

Who says we’re winning . . . other than frightened politicians, ideologues, and people who make their living from prohibition?

Prohibition. It still doesn’t work.

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² Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future (December 2001).


⁴ ONDCP, The Price of Illicit Drugs: 1981 Through the Second Quarter of 2000, prepared by Abt Associates (Washington, DC: ONDCP, October 2001), Table 1, pp. 28-30, and Table 2, pp. 31-33.
