

# ***If hard drugs such as heroin or cocaine were legalized would you be likely to use them?***

## **99% SAY "NO."**

Zogby International asked that question of 1,028 likely voters. Ninety-nine out of 100 said "No." Only 0.6 percent said "Yes."<sup>1</sup>

Drug War advocates have always insisted that addiction would explode if drugs were legalized. But that argument comes apart under the weight of the evidence. While a poll can't predict actual drug use, it clearly shows that most of us avoid hard drugs because of common sense – not fear of arrest.

And that's always been the case. At the beginning of the last century when a virtual free market for drugs existed, use rates were lower than they are today.<sup>2</sup> Drug use and addiction – along with crime, violence and corruption – only began to climb after the advent of drug prohibition in 1914.<sup>3</sup>

Isn't it time to end the War on Drugs? Let's turn addiction problems over to the people who dealt with them effectively before 1914 – doctors, nurses and health care professionals.

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

1. Zogby America Poll of Likely Voters 10/24/07 thru 10/27/07, "If hard drugs such as heroin or cocaine were legalized, would you be likely to use them?" sponsored by StoptheDrugWar.org, full results and other info online at <http://stopthedrugwar.org/legalization>. 2. Speaking out against drug legalization, US Drug Enforcement Administration, from the web at <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/demand/speakout/06so.htm> and Courtwright, David T., "Dark Paradise: A History of Opiate Addiction in America" (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001), p. 9; 3. Courtwright, "Dark Paradise," 2001.