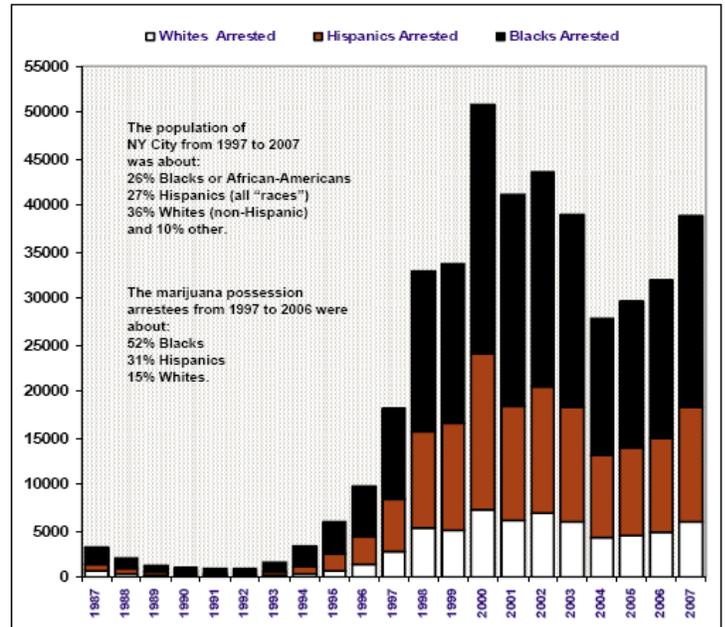


Arrests of Whites, Hispanics and Blacks  
for Marijuana Possession in New York City, 1987–2007



# Marijuana Arrest Crusade

## Racial Bias and Police Policy in New York City, 1997-2007

By Harry G. Levine and Deborah Peterson Small

Available from the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) 125 Broad Street, New York, NY

[www.nyclu.org/files/MARIJUANA-ARREST-CRUSADE\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nyclu.org/files/MARIJUANA-ARREST-CRUSADE_Final.pdf)

“*Marijuana Arrest Crusade* is a clearly written, well-documented account of the large number of marijuana arrests that New York police have made, primarily of black and Hispanic young men. Based on in-depth interviews and official arrest data, it reveals common policing patterns – including racially-skewed stops, frisks, and searches – still poorly understood by the general public.... As a New York City police officer quoted in the report says: ‘Welcome to the real world.’”  
– *George Napper, Former Chief Of Police Of Atlanta, Georgia*

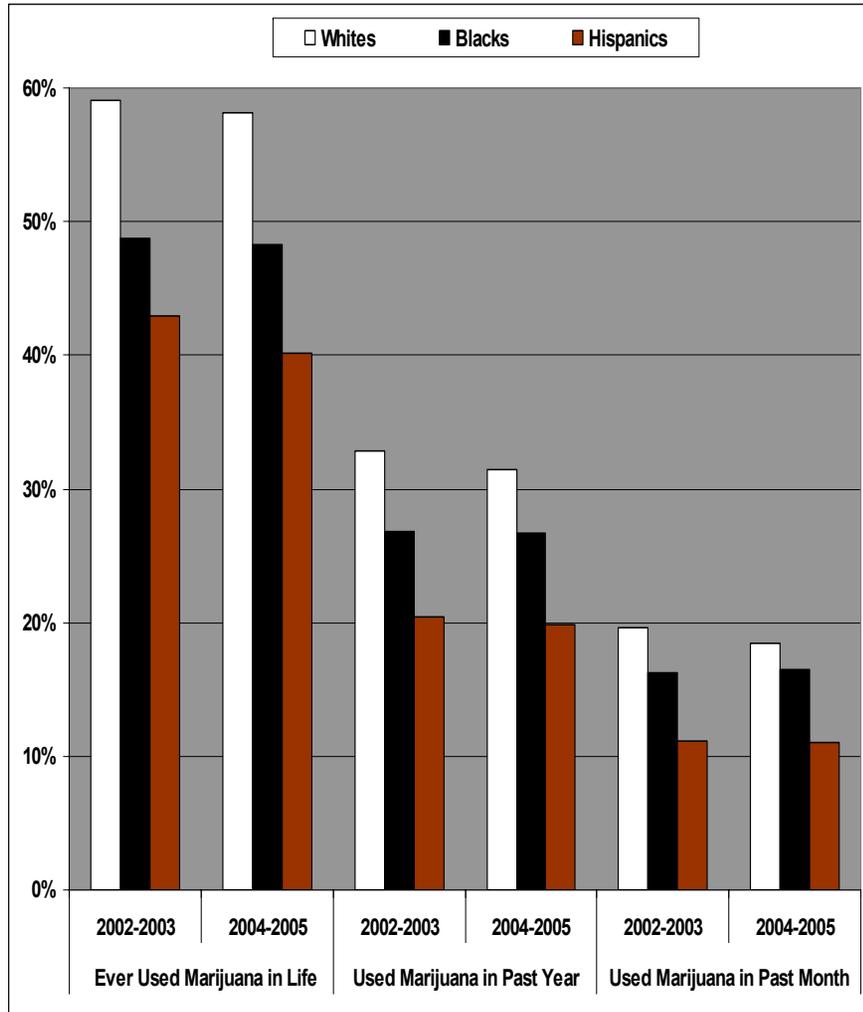
“A study released Tuesday reported that between 1998 and 2007, the police arrested 374,900 people whose most serious crime was the lowest-level misdemeanor marijuana offense.... Nearly everyone involved in this wave of marijuana arrests is male: 90 percent were men, although national studies show that men and women use pot in roughly equal rates. And 83 percent of those charged in these cases were black or Latino ... even though federal surveys show that whites are more likely than blacks or Latinos to use pot.”  
– *Jim Dwyer, “On Arrests, Demographics, and Marijuana,” New York Times, April 30, 2008*

“Every day in New York City, many young men, mostly blacks and Hispanics, are arrested for possessing small amounts of marijuana. Most of them are not smoking marijuana or displaying it in any way. They are stopped by police, often as part of a stop and frisk, and are usually tricked or intimidated into taking out and handing over their contraband. When they do so they are arrested and generally spend the night locked up. Legal Aid attorneys who work in the city’s criminal courts see this everyday. *Marijuana Arrest Crusade*, by Levine and Small, clearly describes this process and begins the important task of opening the NYPD’s policing practices to public scrutiny. I hope its findings and recommendations receive much attention.”  
– *Edward McCarthy, Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Aid, Criminal Defense Division*

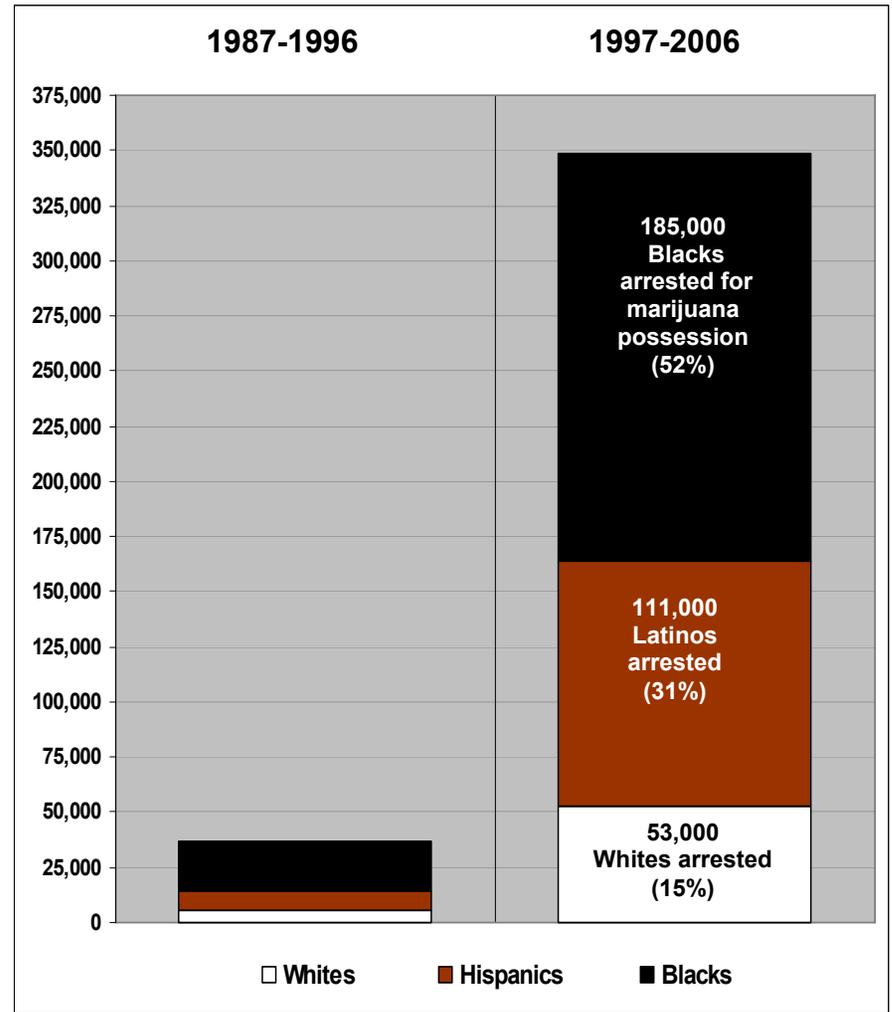
“New York City’s current marijuana arrests are exactly analogous to the roundup of gays in the 1950s and 1960s that Mayor Lindsay stopped. And the offenses represent exactly the same level of risk to the public. Making marijuana arrests a priority is a waste of police resources and does not reduce street violence. Illegal, trivial, meaningless arrests undermine confidence in the justice system and corrupt the enforcers. New York’s marijuana arrests are counter productive, a classic misapplication of police resources.”  
– *Anthony V. Bouza, Former Chief Of Police Of Minneapolis, Former NYPD Commander In The Bronx*

“New Yorkers should read this superlative report, weep for what their city has done, and demand an end to the outrage.”  
– *Norm Stamper, Former Chief Of Police Of Seattle, Washington*

### Marijuana Possession and Use By Whites, Blacks and Latinos, 18 to 25



### Numbers of Blacks, Latinos and Whites Arrested For Marijuana Possession in New York City, in Two Decades



From: *Marijuana Arrest Crusade: Racial Bias and Police Policy in New York City, 1997 to 2007*, NYCLU, April 2008.

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