



UNSHACKLED RESOURCES MINISTRIES

IS THE PROBLEM REALLY THAT BAD?

“CHANGING THE WORLD ONE LIFEAT A TIME”

You decide

What is it costing? A study prepared by The Lewin Group for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism estimated the total economic cost of alcohol and drug abuse to be \$245.7 billion. Of this cost, \$97.7 billion\* was due to drug abuse. This estimate includes substance abuse treatment and prevention costs as well as other healthcare costs, costs associated with reduced job productivity or lost earnings, and other costs to society such as crime and social welfare. The study also determined that these costs are borne primarily by governments (46 percent), followed by those who

abuse drugs and members of their households (44 percent).

More than half of the estimated costs of drug abuse were associated with drug-related crime. These costs included lost productivity of victims and incarcerated perpetrators

of drug-related crimes including Federal drug traffic control, property damage, and police, legal, and corrections services. Most of the remaining costs resulted from premature deaths, illness and healthcare expenditures

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

(ONDCP)\*\* conducted a study to determine how much money is spent on

illegal drugs that otherwise would support legitimate spending or savings by the user in the overall economy. ONDCP found that, between

1988 and 1995, Americans spent \$57.3 billion on drugs, broken down as follows: \$38 billion on cocaine, \$9.6 billion on heroin, \$7 billion on marijuana, and \$2.7 billion on other illegal drugs and on the misuse of legal drugs.

Do you think we got a BIG Problem?



THE FACTS

An estimated 30 million persons aged 12 or older (13 percent) used an illicit drug during the past year. Of these.....

- An estimated 600,000 (0.2 percent) had used heroin
- 4 million (2 percent) had used cocaine.
- 8 million (4 percent) had used prescription-type pain reliever non-medically.
- 21 million (9 percent) had used marijuana.

Almost 19 million Americans aged 12 or older (7 percent) abused or were dependent on either alcohol or an illicit drug during the past year and the figures are rising.

The highest rate of abuse or dependence on alcohol or illicit drugs was among 21 year olds.

Among full-time workers aged 18 to 49 years, 8.1 percent reported past month heavy alcohol use, and 7.8 percent reported illicit drug use In the past year, 7.4 percent of these workers were dependent or abusing alcohol, and 1.9 percent were dependent or abusing illicit drugs.

STOP the Madness!

\*Any Illicit Drug refers to marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin, or prescription-type drugs used non-medically