



Your Tax Dollars at Work in 2007

From the Archives of the Media Awareness Project

\$42,000,000,000 for cannabis prohibition. “Why \$42 billion? Because that’s what our current marijuana laws cost American taxpayers each year, according to a new study by researcher Jon Gettman, Ph.D. -- \$10.7 billion in direct law enforcement costs, and \$31.1 billion in lost tax revenues ... Basing his calculations mainly on U.S. government statistics, Gettman concludes that marijuana in the U.S. is a \$113 billion dollar business. That’s a huge chunk of economic activity that is unregulated and untaxed because it’s almost entirely off the books.”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n1157/a08.html>

\$1,400,000,000 for Mexican drug enforcement. “President Bush asked Congress on Monday to approve a \$1.4 billion aid package over the next three years to help the Mexican government fight narcotics traffickers ... An additional \$50 million would go to Central American countries for the same purposes.”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n1228/a09.html>

\$590,000,000 for Colombian drug enforcement and crop spraying. “About three-quarters of the military aid is dedicated to supporting the aerial crop spraying program, which uses an enhanced form of Roundup weed killer, containing the chemical defoliant glyphosate. What’s next -- the 2008 budget. The Bush administration has asked Congress for \$590-million for Colombia in the Foreign Aid Bill. As in previous years the majority of this money -- \$450-million -- would be dedicated to military support.”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n780/a09.html>

\$158,000,000 for marijuana enforcement in Michigan. “Marijuana is Michigan's third most valuable cash crop with an annual value of \$350 million. Tax free. At the same time, we're spending \$158 million to enforce marijuana prohibition and make criminals out of people....”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n1388/a02.html>

\$100,000,000 for expanded prisons in Connecticut. A study by the Drug Policy Alliance, “recommended the state turn down the so-called three-strikes law mandating automatic life sentences for defendants convicted of a third violent felony ... [such] proposals could cost the state at least \$100 million in annual prison expenses.”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08/n398/a06.html>

\$10,450,000 for a wrongful death in New York. “The mother of an unarmed man killed by an undercover police officer seven years ago called on the Bronx district attorney’s office yesterday to reopen a criminal investigation after a jury awarded her \$10.45 million for the wrongful death of her son ... including \$7 million in punitive damages and \$3 million for pain and suffering.”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n698/a06.html>

\$84,000 for drug dogs in Wisconsin. “It costs about \$12,000 to buy each dog and to train it and its handler ... These are only seven dogs, spread across 72 counties.” <http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08/n406/a04.html>

\$50,000 for tracking devices and dogs in Indiana. “About \$50,000 has been brought in this year under prosecutor Pat Harrington, who took office in January. ‘We’ve now got a bomb dog and four other canines,’ Lendermon said of the sheriff’s department. ... About \$6,300 was used in March and April to buy GPS tracking devices for the state police and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for use in their vehicles.”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n1431/a05.html>

\$5,900 or the return of marijuana seized from a California medical patient. “At least one victory for medical marijuana was won over the past year when Grover Beach police returned 20 grams of marijuana to Ken Parson in January ... Parson’s prescription was allowed under state law. Grover Beach police were required to return the marijuana to Parsons or pay a \$5,900 fee.”

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n1494/a02.html>

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