



# SSDP

## students for sensible drug policy

**SSDP** is an international grassroots network of students who are concerned about the impact drug abuse has on our communities, but who also know that the War on Drugs is failing our generation and our society. **SSDP mobilizes and empowers** young people to participate in the political process, pushing for sensible policies to achieve a safer and more just future, while **fighting back** against counterproductive Drug War policies, particularly those that directly harm students and youth.

**Schools Not Prisons .com**

# QUICK FACTS

## THE WAR ON DRUGS...

- More than **\$50 billion** is spent every year waging the failed "War on Drugs."
- **55%** of inmates in federal prison are incarcerated for drug offenses.
- The United States has **5%** of the world's population, but houses **25%** of the world's prisoners.
- While African Americans comprise nearly **13%** of the population, and proportionately account for **13%** of drug users, they make up **37%** of those arrested, **53%** of those convicted, and **67%** of those sent to jail for drug offenses.
- More than **46%** of Americans have admitted to using an illicit drug at least once.

## ...IS A WAR ON STUDENTS

- Between 1999 and 2003, drug arrests on college campuses increased by more than **25%**, even though illicit drug use rates among college students remained relatively constant.
- Since 1998, **hundreds of thousands** of students have been denied college financial aid just because they have drug convictions. This aid elimination penalty, part of the Higher Education Act, does not apply to even the most violent criminals such as murderers and rapists.
- The federal government has wasted more than **\$1.5 billion** on dishonest and harmful "anti-drug" propaganda. Congress continues to support the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign even though federally-funded research shows that the ads actually cause more teen drug use.
- In 2006, Congress flushed nearly **\$10.4 million** down the toilet on random student drug testing, even though federally-funded research found testing to be ineffective at deterring teen drug use.
- It costs more than **four times** as much to imprison a person for a year than to pay for one year of tuition at a public university.

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