

# new solutions

---

---

# a just society

**The Drug Policy Alliance envisions a just society in which the use and regulation of drugs are grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights, in which people are no longer punished for what they put into their own bodies, but only for crimes committed against others, and in which the fears, prejudices and punitive prohibitions of today are no more.**

**Our mission is to advance those policies and attitudes that best reduce the harms of both drug misuse and drug prohibition and to promote the sovereignty of individuals over their minds and bodies.**

---

## **Table of Contents**

- 2 From Punishment to Public Health:  
Reducing the Role of Criminalization in Drug Policy
- 6 Making the Most of Momentum:  
Toward Responsible Regulation
- 10 Charting a New Course:  
Reducing Harm, Promoting Health
- 14 Investing in Our Future:  
A New Paradigm for Drug Education
- 16 Dismantling the Drug War, Building a Movement
- 18 Conclusion
- 19 Grants, Donors, Board and Financials

The work described herein includes that of the Drug Policy Alliance, a 501(c)(3)(h) organization, and DPA Network, a 501(c)(4) organization, that have worked with various 501(c)(4) affiliates, including the Center for Policy Reform, the Campaign for New Drug Policies, and Americans for Medical Rights.

---

## Letter from the President and Executive Director

---

# the ground has never been more fertile for a change in our nation's failed drug policies

Our struggle to end the dominant role of the criminal justice system in drug control is a multi-generational effort, but that doesn't mean that we can't take sudden and unprecedented leaps forward.

The ground has never been more fertile for a change in our nation's failed drug policies, as the wasteful folly of the drug war becomes apparent to more lawmakers and citizens every day. The recent percolations on Capitol Hill and elsewhere feel like the beginnings of a *glasnost* in U.S. drug policy. The perennial debate over taxing, controlling, and regulating marijuana, and possibly other drugs as well, is about to get real – in a way we've never seen before.

Four factors have led to this momentous shift: political change in Washington, the economic crisis, exhaustion with the persistent failure of status quo drug policies, and the maturation of the Drug Policy Alliance's and our allies' ongoing efforts to connect the dots among the many elements of drug policy reform.

The media also play a crucial role. We are quoted in over a thousand stories each year, and we have done more television interviews so far this year than in the last three years combined – on CNN, Fox News, Al Jazeera, *The Colbert Report*, and other local, national and foreign outlets.

What distinguishes 2009 from 1993 is not just the differences between Presidents Clinton and Obama but the differences in the leadership on Capitol Hill. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and committee chairmen Henry Waxman, George Miller, John Conyers, and Barney Frank all understand that U.S. drug policy is a travesty, as do key subcommittee chairmen like Bobby Scott and Dennis Kucinich. They don't need to be convinced about drug policy reform, but they do need to be pushed and helped to do something about it. As Franklin Roosevelt once said to longtime allies pressing him for more comprehensive reform, "I agree with you, I want to do it, now make me do it."

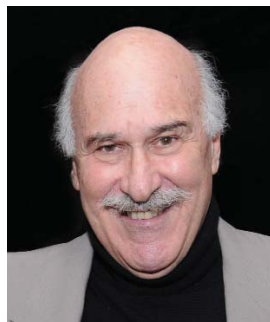
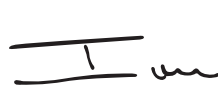
The symbolic shifts in Washington do not necessarily mean we should expect significant change from policymakers. Instead, it is an opportunity for us – you, DPA, and our allies – to be agents of change. We lead, elected officials follow grudgingly – that is the nature of movements for individual freedom and social justice. How well we do it, not what our leaders initiate, will determine how much changes.

For over two decades, DPA and its forerunners have stood by these principles: that drugs have always been part and parcel of human society and will continue to be so; that we have no choice but to learn how to live with drugs so that they cause the least possible harm and the greatest possible good; and that a pragmatic and effective drug policy must reduce the harms associated with both drug misuse *and* drug prohibition.

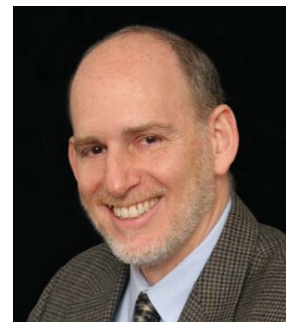
Now, the shift in public opinion toward these same conclusions is accelerating. Yet, the assault on American citizens continues, as almost a million people are arrested for marijuana offenses each year and a half million people are behind bars tonight for a drug law violation.

DPA is committed to a more just and humane future, and we will not stop until our society and policymakers embrace a fundamentally different way of dealing with drugs and the people who buy, sell, make, and use them.

Your support has meant a lot. Now we need you more than ever.



Ira Glasser  
President  
Drug Policy Alliance



Ethan Nadelmann  
Executive Director  
Drug Policy Alliance

---

# breaking through

---

## From Punishment to Public Health: Reducing the Role of Criminalization in Drug Policy

As the prison and sentencing reform movement gains momentum, DPA is confronting excessive incarceration directly on several key fronts: in New York, by toppling the key injustices of the infamous Rockefeller Drug Laws; in California, by persistently dismantling wasteful and punitive drug war incarceration policies; and nationally, by leading the charge to eliminate the crack/powder sentencing disparity, halting the knee-jerk criminalization of Salvia, and working with Senator Jim Webb to establish a criminal justice commission that prioritizes drug policy reform.



---

## New York Breaks Through

New York finally overhauled the draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws in April 2009, the culmination of an extensive, DPA-led campaign for reform. The new legislation completely overhauls the drug laws, and the changes will make a real difference in tens of thousands of lives. The changes include eliminating mandatory minimums by restoring judicial discretion in low-level drug cases, expanding alternatives to incarceration, allocating \$70 million to expand treatment and re-entry services, and allowing nearly 1,500 people currently incarcerated for low-level drug offenses to apply for re-sentencing.

Enacted in 1973, the Rockefeller Drug Laws required long, mandatory minimum prison terms for even low-level drug offenses. DPA Board President Ira Glasser – who was then the director of the New York Civil Liberties Union – testified at that time in the New York State Legislature, opposing the proposal and suggesting it would lead to an explosion in the prison population with little benefit to public health. The laws passed, and soon thereafter both New York’s prison population and spending on incarceration exploded, while treatment and other social services were cut back. The laws were not only counterproductive to public safety, but also failed to even achieve their stated aims of reducing drug availability and addiction.

---

“The general theme is states are making greater efforts to divert people into treatment programs, and they’re starting to use prison not as a first resort but a secondary or last resort.”

**gabriel sayegh**  
Director, State Organizing  
and Policy Project

*New York Times*  
March 4, 2009



Anthony Papa of the Drug Policy Alliance thanks Gov. Paterson at the Rockefeller Drug Law Reform bill signing on April 24, 2009 at a ceremony in Corona, Queens. Papa served 12 years in prison under the draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws.



Unfortunately, other states followed New York’s example in the 1970s and ‘80s, and the Rockefeller Drug Laws became the guiding model nationwide for mass incarceration for low-level drug offenses, institutional racism, and wasted resources. With the 2009 reforms, New York took its first major step away from this outdated regime, toward a health-oriented approach to drug policy. This shift has generated national and international interest and buttressed favorable federal developments.

DPA is now working on the implementation of Rockefeller reform, bringing together allies to begin crafting more sensible drug policies in New York so the state can once again be a model for the nation, this time for a more just and rational approach.

We wish to recognize and thank the many coalition partners who worked hard for reforms, including Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry and State Senator Eric Schneiderman, among others, who championed this issue within the State Legislature, and Governor David Paterson, who signed the reforms into law. Thanks to our collective work, New York is ready for a new direction based on health and safety, fairness and justice.

---

# From Punishment to Public Health: Reducing the Role of Criminalization in Drug Policy

*continued from page 3*

## California Delays Its Destiny

In 2008, DPA sponsored a ballot measure in California to dismantle wasteful and punitive drug war incarceration policies in the state – just as the state’s prison overcrowding and fiscal crises were coming to a head. Proposition 5, the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act, would have drastically reduced the number of people incarcerated for drug law violations by implementing the most significant reform of sentencing laws since alcohol Prohibition was repealed. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office found that Prop. 5 would have safely reduced the number of people in prison and on parole for low-level offenses by 40,000 and cut prison spending by \$1 billion a year.

Prop. 5 sought to dramatically expand California’s successful experiment with the diversion of people arrested for drug possession away from jail or prison. Also sponsored by DPA, Proposition 36 passed with 61 percent of the vote in 2000. Since passing, it has diverted more than 250,000 Californians from incarceration and reduced associated costs by over \$2 billion.

Prop. 5 incited overwhelming opposition from the prison industrial complex, led by the California prison guards union – the nation’s richest and most powerful prison guards union, and widely regarded as the most powerful union in the state. After these opponents spent a hefty \$3.5 million on fear-mongering ads featuring Senator Dianne Feinstein and Attorney General Jerry Brown, Prop. 5 failed at the ballot box.

Yet, months after the November vote, Prop. 5 continued to influence the debate. When the state’s fiscal crisis reached a peak and a federal three-judge panel ruled that the state must reduce its prison population by 40,000 over two years, some Prop. 5 reform proposals were put back on the table. The Legislature passed them with the Governor’s backing as part of California’s first-ever reduction in corrections spending. By September 2009, the State Senate was pushing the Assembly to go even further.

## Charting a Course for Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform

Our movement finally has a champion on Capitol Hill – Virginia Senator Jim Webb. Determined to make prison and drug policy reform his signature issues, in 2009 he introduced a bill to create a blue ribbon criminal justice commission. Webb has consistently said that there are too many drug law offenders in jail, that marijuana should at least be decriminalized, and that all other options – including legalization – should be “on the table.”

DPA has met with Webb several times, and he asked for our help in both passing his bill and ensuring that the commission prioritizes drug policy reform. We have spent the last year lobbying Senators to cosponsor the bill – it now has more than 30 cosponsors – and shaping media discourse to focus on drug policy reform. The bill is likely to pass the Senate, but is expected to face tougher challenges in the House.

## Cracking the Disparity

For years, DPA has advocated for federal sentencing reform, and in 2008 our work paid off, as one of our issues broke into the mainstream. Democratic presidential candidates and senior Senate Republicans alike began proposing reform of the crack/powder cocaine sentencing disparity that punishes crack cocaine offenses one hundred times more severely than powder cocaine offenses, a significant source of racial disparities in the federal criminal justice system. In October 2008, then-Vice Presidential candidate Joe Biden told Ethan Nadelmann, “we’re going to get that crack/powder disparity bill passed when we’re in the White House.”

Within 24 hours of inauguration, Obama and Biden changed the White House website to call for the elimination of the crack/powder disparity. A bill has already passed the House Judiciary Committee, and we’re hopeful that legislation reforming or eliminating the disparity will pass Congress sometime this year. For the first time ever, DPA staff are meeting with White House and Justice Department officials, planning ways to implement reform of the crack/powder disparity and discussing broader sentencing reforms.

## Beating Back New Prohibitions

*Salvia divinorum* is a naturally occurring herb that is native to the Mexican state of Oaxaca, where the Mazatec people have used it for a variety of therapeutic and spiritual purposes for generations. Emerging scientific evidence demonstrates that Salvia has significant potential for medical applications, an extremely low risk for addiction or abuse, and no risk of toxic effects or overdose.

Twenty states have recently considered Salvia legislation and most are proposing bans that would relegate it to the unregulated black market. DPA has been active on this issue in California, Maryland, New Mexico, and Ohio, and has created materials for legislators and other advocacy groups opposed to further prohibiting the substance. DPA's work around Salvia is critical in halting the pattern of knee-jerk criminalization of psychoactive substances whenever a new one gains media attention or becomes popular.

In Maryland, the legislature considered a bill to reclassify it as a Schedule I controlled substance with penalties for its sale of up to 20 years in prison. DPA testified before both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees in January, explaining prohibitionist drug policies' long history of failure and recommending a regulatory approach akin to tobacco controls. The proposal to criminalize Salvia was soundly defeated, with many legislators using DPA's talking points to debate the state's attorney about the devastating effects of the war on drugs. We were also successful in working with legislators to amend a second Salvia bill by focusing on alternatives to prohibition like age restrictions and placement controls.

---

“We can no longer prioritize precious federal resources solely on the incarceration of individuals who are low-level, nonviolent drug users and sellers nor permit any racial group to continue to be unjustly targeted.”

Anthony Papa  
Communications Specialist  
and  
Jasmine Tyler  
Deputy Director,  
National Affairs

*Huffington Post*  
April 29, 2009



---

# leading the way

---

## Making the Most of Momentum: Toward Responsible Regulation

Nationwide, the debate over legalizing marijuana is heating up like never before. For the first time in a generation, Congress is considering legislation to decriminalize marijuana, while Connecticut and several other states weigh similar proposals. California is pushing the envelope further with a bill to tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol. Meanwhile, DPA is solidifying the legitimacy of medical marijuana by working to pass legislation in New Jersey and by leading the implementation of an innovative program in New Mexico. DPA and its members have been at the heart of these developments and we are poised to lead the way to a comprehensive policy transformation.



---

## Federal Marijuana Decriminalization Bill Provokes Debate

In April, 2008, the Drug Policy Alliance made history when we stood with Representative Barney Frank (now chair of the powerful House Financial Services Committee), our allies at the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), and several members of the Congressional Black Caucus to announce the introduction of legislation to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level. The event garnered national media attention and catalyzed a shift in public discourse that has since gathered steam. Although Congress remains one of the last places we expect a breakthrough in marijuana reform, when Rep. Frank reintroduced the bill this year it gained several additional cosponsors thanks in large part to the shifting policies on the issue we helped create.

One sign of promise is the rising poll numbers, with 65 to 75 percent of Americans opposing criminal penalties for possessing small amounts of marijuana for personal use, and 40 percent or more supporting outright legalization of marijuana along the lines of alcohol.

Another hopeful indication is the national debate on marijuana policy that we helped to sustain for more than a year. In fact, DPA did more media interviews about marijuana policy in fiscal year 2008-09 than in the last several years combined.

We have raised this issue again and again in office after office, whether Democrat or Republican, long-serving or newly elected. DPA has lobbied hundreds of offices, mobilized thousands of voters to contact their members of Congress in support of marijuana law reform, and raised marijuana-related issues in numerous congressional hearings.

This legislation marks the beginning of a multi-year effort. We expect it to lead to further movement in public opinion and to eventually produce real change in our nation's marijuana policies.

## California Pushes the Envelope Further with Tax-and-Regulate Bill

In the final months of 2008, the freefalling economy and increasingly horrific cross-border violence focused unprecedented mainstream attention on the economic impacts of marijuana prohibition. That exceptional momentum for reform took concrete shape early in 2009 when California Assemblymember Tom Ammiano introduced a bill to tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol that attracted significant national attention. With actual legislation on the table in the nation's most populous state, the media floodgates opened, and DPA was at the center of the debate.

Suddenly, elected officials, including the newly-inaugurated President, were asked their position on marijuana prohibition in this context. In May, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he favored debating legalization. New York Gov. David Paterson soon echoed Schwarzenegger's position.

---

“It's time to end the charade of marijuana prohibition. Tax and regulate this massive underground market, and redirect criminal justice resources to matters of real public safety.”

Stephen Gutwillig  
State Director,  
California

*Los Angeles Times*  
April 26, 2009



---

## Making the Most of Momentum: Toward Responsible Regulation

*continued from page 7*

DPA staff gave dozens of interviews, wrote extensively in traditional and new media outlets, and made presentations to increasingly receptive mainstream audiences. Behind the scenes, we worked closely with Assemblymember Ammiano to refine his bill and build support in Sacramento. We also created a coalition with the California offices of MPP and NORML to coordinate statewide advocacy for this milestone legislation.

In April, a statewide Field Poll found that a majority of California voters – 56 percent – expressed support for legalizing and taxing marijuana. Results like that, and concern that Sacramento will drag its feet on the Ammiano bill, prompted local California marijuana reform activists to take matters into their own hands. DPA is advising on several draft initiatives that are seeking to qualify for the November 2010 ballot. It is increasingly possible that California, first in the nation to approve medical marijuana in 1996, will lead the way toward responsible regulation.

### **New Jersey Set to Become Next Medical Marijuana State**

2009 has been a breakthrough year for medical marijuana in the New Jersey legislature, and DPA's New Jersey office has been at the center of it. DPA laid the groundwork for the legislation, recruited sponsors, generated hearings, and garnered support from unlikely allies.

In February 2008, the New Jersey Senate passed the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act with impressive bi-partisan support. The bill then moved to the Assembly, where it passed the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee. The bill, which could relieve the suffering and improve the quality of life for thousands of seriously ill patients, now moves to the full Assembly, where a vote is expected this fall. Governor Jon Corzine has said he will sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

DPA has empowered and organized patient advocates to share their stories with legislators and the media, resulting in significant legislative and editorial support. Our goal is not just to pass a bill, but to ensure that it has the broad support necessary for successful implementation.



---

“For the sake of our most vulnerable, our sick and dying patients struggling for relief, now is the time for New Jersey to join the growing list of states allowing compassionate use of medical marijuana.”

Roseanne Scotti  
State Director, New Jersey

Associated Press  
February 24, 2009



### **Connecticut and Marijuana Reform in the Northeast**

Together with local DPA Advocacy Grants awardee and state partner, A Better Way Foundation, we have assembled a remarkable coalition in support of marijuana law reform in Connecticut. In 2007, this coalition won strong support for a medical marijuana bill that passed both the House and Senate, only to be vetoed by Governor M. Jodi Rell.

In 2009, when Gov. Rell indicated that she would even veto watered-down medical marijuana legislation, the Senate leadership responded by putting forward a decriminalization bill that received broad support. The decriminalization bill passed several committees before losing steam in the face of Gov. Rell's opposition. DPA and A Better Way Foundation plan to push for marijuana reform again next year.

DPA has also provided critical assistance to enable activists in Maine to put a medical marijuana initiative on the November 2009 ballot that would provide for distribution by dispensaries.

### **Innovative Medical Marijuana Program Moves Forward in New Mexico**

Since the passage of the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act in 2007, the New Mexico Department of Health's (DOH's) Medical Cannabis Program has moved forward with a medical marijuana program that is a model for the nation. New Mexico is the first state to develop a state-licensed production and distribution system, and the state is currently accepting and approving applications for nonprofit organizations to produce marijuana for qualified patients. The DOH has already approved one licensed producer, which began distribution in the summer of 2009. This new system is significant because engaging the state helps to legitimize a collaborative approach to dealing with marijuana.

Over 500 patients are currently enrolled in the program. In early 2009, the Medical Advisory Board approved eight additional medical conditions, including chronic pain, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and hepatitis C, bringing the number of qualifying conditions under the program to fifteen.

---

# reducing harm

---

## Charting a New Course: Reducing Harm, Promoting Health

DPA made significant progress on our harm reduction agenda this year. We led the way in proposing life-saving solutions to the overdose crisis by issuing a groundbreaking report that coincided with the introduction of the federal Drug Overdose Reduction Act. We also laid the foundation for a full repeal of the national syringe funding ban, allowing states to use their share of federal HIV/AIDS prevention money to increase sterile syringe availability.



---

## Proposing a New National Strategy to Prevent Fatal Overdose

Accidental drug overdose is now the second leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. DPA is leading the way in proposing solutions to the crisis. Our new major report, *Preventing Overdose, Saving Lives*, articulates a harm reduction approach to addressing the epidemic, including advocating for supervised injection facilities and expanded access to the overdose reversal drug, naloxone. The report was released to coincide with the introduction of the federal Drug Overdose Reduction Act, a bill drafted by DPA and introduced by Representative Donna F. Edwards that would establish an innovative grants program for organizations across the country working to prevent fatal drug overdose. The release of the groundbreaking report and legislation earned DPA positive television coverage across the country.

DPA further elevated national awareness of the overdose crisis and its solutions when we created the Purple Ribbons for Overdose Prevention campaign. We linked the symbol of a purple awareness ribbon to the overdose prevention issue, permanently designating an instantly recognizable icon as a symbol of our efforts to reduce overdose deaths in the U.S. This symbol of our campaign is now on posters, websites and stickers across the country. DPA also expanded its social networking presence, attracting more than 8,500 overdose prevention supporters to the Purple Ribbons for Overdose Prevention page on Facebook.



## Saving Lives by Increasing Sterile Syringe Availability

In 2007 DPA played a major role in repealing the congressional provision that bans the District of Columbia from using its own funds on syringe exchange. We have built on that victory by laying the foundation for a full repeal of the national syringe funding ban, which prohibits states from using their share of federal HIV/AIDS prevention funds to increase sterile syringe availability. DPA lobbied hundreds of congressional offices in late 2008 and early 2009, while our grants program provided money to state and national groups working on the issue. Eventually, in 2009 the U.S. House of Representatives repealed the full ban by a narrow vote that DPA worked hard to win.

Unfortunately, at the same time the House implemented a restriction prohibiting funding for syringe exchanges operating within 1,000 feet of a school, park, daycare center, youth center, video arcade, or public swimming pool.

We know from our work on drug-free school zone sentencing enhancements that such a restriction would essentially exclude all syringe exchanges in urban communities. Key allies in Congress recognize the limits of this restriction, and we're hopeful that this provision will be eliminated from the bill that passes Congress.

---

“Without the federal funding, we’re missing people that we could reach. It’s ridiculous that at this point in the [AIDS] epidemic, we’re not looking to science in determining what we’re funding.”

Laura Thomas  
Deputy State Director,  
San Francisco

*San Francisco Chronicle*  
May 11, 2009

---

## Charting a New Course: Reducing Harm, Promoting Health

*continued from page 11*

### **Paving the Way for Supervised Injection Facilities in the U.S.**

A supervised injection facility (SIF) is a safe location where individuals can inject drugs using sterile equipment with medical supervision. Scientific evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that SIFs reduce overdose, disease transmission, and unsafe injection practices. SIFs have a proven track record around the world, with over 65 facilities in eight countries, including Canada. Although there are none in the U.S., DPA is working in San Francisco and New York City to address the political and legal barriers to opening a SIF. In May, 2009 DPA participated in a day-long symposium at John Jay College of Criminal Justice that explored strategies for the implementation of a SIF in New York City. In San Francisco, DPA is building support for a SIF as a core member of the Alliance for Saving Lives, a local consortium of community-based organizations.

### **DPA Implements Syringe Access Programs in New Jersey**

DPA has continued an impressive string of victories to secure sterile syringe access in New Jersey, which until recently was the last state to provide no access whatsoever. After a four year battle, in late 2006 DPA successfully won passage of the Blood-Borne Disease Harm Reduction Act, which allows for up to six cities to establish syringe access programs to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C. In 2007 and 2008, Atlantic City, Camden, Newark and Paterson implemented programs, and in 2009 a fifth program was established in Jersey City. DPA has provided technical support and training for each program and is working to establish a sixth program by the end of the year.

At the same time, DPA has continued to advocate for legislation allowing for the sale of syringes in pharmacies without a prescription. A bill was introduced in the New Jersey Senate in 2008 and DPA worked successfully to get a companion bill introduced in the Assembly in 2009. DPA is advocating for votes on the bills this fall.



15

Fifteen DPA staff members published more than one hundred op-eds and letters to the editor in national and regional outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, CNN.com, CBS.com, *Huffington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Newsday*, *NY Daily News*, *Albuquerque Journal*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

1,000

DPA staff members were interviewed and quoted in over 1,000 stories in local and national print media.

76,615

76,615 individuals subscribe to DPA's online communications.

1,395,086

1,395,086 unique visitors explored DPA's website.

2,094,921

Our online subscribers received 2,094,921 messages from DPA.

---

# engaging youth

---

## Investing in Our Future: A New Paradigm for Drug Education

Increasingly, the country is taking notice of DPA's youth policy work, which moves beyond fear-based messages and zero-tolerance policies by promoting open dialogue and reality-based education. In New Mexico, DPA is implementing federally-funded, interactive research-based workshops on effective drug education for hundreds of school personnel and community prevention specialists. Nationally, DPA is working to ensure that the new administration halts the wasteful and counterproductive practice of random student drug testing.



---

## A Model for Drug Education in New Mexico

Ten years ago, DPA published *Safety First: A Reality-Based Approach to Teens, Drugs and Drug Education*, and more than 225,000 copies have been distributed worldwide in English, Spanish, and Chinese. In fall 2008, DPA New Mexico released *Just4Teens: Let's Talk about Meth and Other Drugs*, an innovative drug education video featuring the voices of young people, prevention specialists, and adults in recovery. Rejecting the fear-based "Just Say No!" messages still used in schools and prevention programs, *Just4Teens* focuses on honest, open and respectful discussion with teens about their experiences and the realities of drugs and drug use today.

The accompanying facilitator's guide provides thought-provoking questions and exercises to enhance group discussion and provides resources for more information. The guide includes a section for parents, teachers and prevention specialists featuring adult experts sharing their experience and knowledge about effective drug education and prevention for young people today.

*Just4Teens* has received recognition as an important resource from policymakers, government agencies, and health educators. It was funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant championed by U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, making it the first DPA project to receive government funding. *Just4Teens* also garnered acclaim as a finalist in the 2008 International Health & Medical Media Awards.

Soon after the release of *Just4Teens*, DPA began to facilitate interactive research-based workshops on effective drug education for school personnel and community prevention specialists statewide. To date, DPA has trained over 650 teachers, counselors, and prevention specialists across New Mexico and the Navajo Nation. By utilizing a capacity-building train-the-trainer model, DPA has reached large numbers of youth with honest, reality-based drug education.

## Challenging Random Student Drug Testing

Promoting and expanding random student drug testing was a top priority of the drug czar's office during the Bush administration, and DPA is working diligently to ensure that the new administration halts this invasive, unproven, expensive, and counterproductive practice. In Bush's waning months, his drug czar hosted regional summits in Albany, New York and Omaha, Nebraska. At both summits, DPA staff organized supporters to share with educators and the media our concerns that these programs discourage student participation in extracurricular activities and erode relationships of trust at school. We placed op-eds in local papers, distributed literature and posed tough questions challenging the federal government's propaganda. To support student engagement with our youth policy issues, DPA also launched a Facebook campaign, "Drug Testing Invades My Privacy."

In December, 2008 we circulated a sign-on letter calling on Congress to eliminate federal funding for random student drug testing initiatives, and recruited nearly 60 public health groups from around the country to sign the letter.



Screen stills from *Just4Teens: Let's Talk about Meth and Other Drugs*



"Unless you lock your kid in their room, they're going to try and go out and just experience it."



"This is Vicodin. I take it for pain."

---

# strategic alliances

---

## Dismantling the Drug War, Building a Movement

**DPA continues to be the standard-bearer of the core principles of the drug policy reform movement in the U.S. and abroad. As international prohibition-related violence intensifies, our work increasingly encompasses a global perspective. We are expanding our capacity to reach new audiences by broadening our social networking reach and fine tuning our email messaging program. Despite challenging economic conditions, we have been buoyed by our members, who gave more in the last fiscal year than in any previous year.**

---

“Just what does the drug war get us or the people of Mexico? U.S. prisons are exploding with nonviolent drug offenders, thousands die from prohibition violence along the border and drugs remain as plentiful and easy as ever to get.”

Tony Newman  
Director, Media Relations

*USA Today*  
December 29, 2008

---

## Catalyzing International Change

DPA's international work serves three increasingly significant aims: exerting influence on U.S. involvement in global drug policy, providing leadership and coordination among U.S. groups, and contributing to the evolution of global drug policy through the media and strategic alliances. In fiscal year 2008-09, DPA Executive Director Ethan Nadelmann gave provocative lectures in Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, England, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

Since 1995, when we co-founded the Open Society Institute's (OSI's) International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD), DPA has promoted syringe exchange, methadone maintenance, and other international harm reduction initiatives. DPA co-directed this program through 2000 and continues to play an advisory role. DPA also advises OSI's new Global Drug Policy Program, an advocacy and grant-giving program that aims to broaden the network of like-minded organizations that are actively challenging the current state of international drug policy.

One of the year's most promising developments was the release of a groundbreaking report by a distinguished Latin American commission chaired by former presidents Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and Cesar Gaviria of Colombia. The commission broke ground in many ways – calling for a “paradigm shift” in drug policies and “breaking the taboo” on open debate, recognizing the important role of harm reduction, recommending the decriminalization of marijuana, and harshly critiquing the prohibitionist model. DPA has been involved with the commission from the start, and presented at their principal meeting in Bogotá in September. We also organized a prominent tele-press conference that transformed this regional event into international news. Dozens of members of the media participated, resulting in hundreds of stories around the world, including in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg, and CNN.

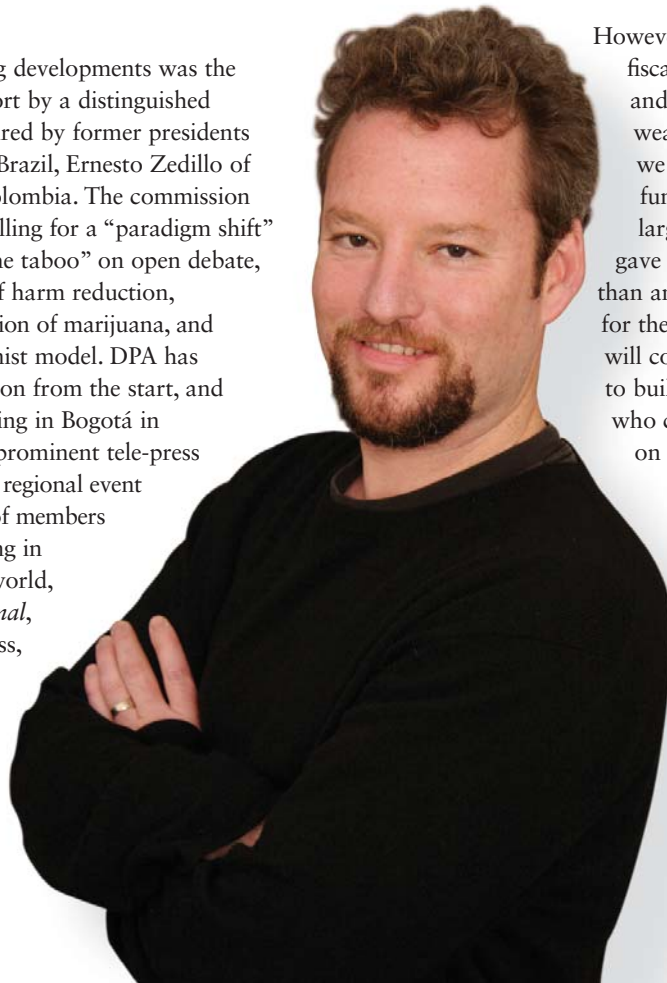
## 2009 International Drug Policy Reform Conference

Drug policy reformers are set to gather to discuss the shifting political climate at the 2009 International Drug Policy Reform Conference this November in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference will bring together our strongest, most diverse coalition of people, issues, co-hosts, and partner organizations yet. The conference program focuses on forward-thinking issues, such as systems for marijuana regulation, supervised injection sites in the U.S., and shifting drug use from a criminal justice to a health issue. There is no better crash course in drug policy than this transformative three-day event.

## DPA's Membership Seizing Moment

The economic crisis has not spared nonprofits. Many, including DPA, have been challenged by unexpected decreases in revenue. One longtime funder, the JEHT Foundation, was forced to shut its doors overnight because of the Madoff investment scandal.

However, thanks to DPA's sound fiscal policies and our loyal and astute members, we are weathering this storm. While we experienced a reduction in funding from foundations and large donors, our membership gave more in the last fiscal year than any previous year. The outlook for the next year is tough, but we will continue working diligently to build a movement of people who care about ending the war on drugs.



---

## Dismantling the Drug War, Building a Movement

*continued from page 17*

### **New Technologies, New Audiences**

DPA has significantly increased its capacity to exert influence online by broadening its social networking reach and fine tuning its email messaging program. Our Facebook group called Purple Ribbons for Overdose Prevention pulled in thousands of members, many of whom had no previous contact with DPA. Meanwhile, our email messaging strategy was revised to focus on thematic campaigns, a change that has boosted action rates and increased the size of our email subscriber list.

### **Foundation Support**

This year, 22 local and national foundations supported our efforts across the country. Few of these foundations support drug policy reform *per se*, but they all recognize that our work is vital to advancing their own missions and goals, whether racial justice and prison reform, human rights and civil liberties, HIV/AIDS prevention and community health, youth education, or economic and civil libertarian principles.

DPA thanks the following generous foundations for their support:

- Angelica Foundation
- Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- The California Endowment
- Consumer Health Foundation
- Daniels Fund
- Herb Block Foundation
- Hugh M. Hefner Foundation
- Irene Diamond Fund
- Zanyvl and Isabelle Krieger Fund
- Langeloth Foundation
- Libra Foundation
- Livingry Fund
- MAC AIDS Fund
- McGraw Foundation
- Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
- New York City AIDS Fund
- Open Society Institute
- Public Welfare Foundation
- Santa Fe Community Foundation
- Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust
- Syringe Access Fund
- Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation

---

## Conclusion

The current opportunities for our movement are unprecedented. As the drug policy debate shifts in our favor, DPA is setting the tone of the discussion and is making your voice heard.

As a result of our work, hundreds of thousands of people have been diverted from incarceration to drug treatment programs, tens of thousands of sick and dying patients can safely access their medicine without being considered criminals under the law, and states like California have saved more than \$1.5 billion by eliminating wasteful and ineffective law enforcement, prosecution, and prison expenditures.

We are seeing a broader questioning of the criminalization of drug use that fills our prisons and jails and empties our coffers, that severely punishes the use of certain drugs but tolerates, regulates, taxes, and subsidizes others. The ever more insistent cries to “put all options on the table” bode well for an intellectual, political, and moral breakthrough in how we deal with drugs in America.

We’ve never been more hopeful — and we hope you’ll join us at this critical moment in the historic struggle for drug policies based on science, compassion, health, and human rights!

---

## 2008-2009 Advocacy Grants

The Drug Policy Alliance Advocacy Grants Program seeks to promote policy change and advance drug policy reform at local, state, and national levels by strategically funding smaller, geographically limited or single-issue organizations and projects. Endowed annually at a level of \$1.4 million, the Advocacy Grants program works to raise awareness and promote policy change through two vehicles: the Promoting Policy Change Program and the Rapid Response Program.

### Promoting Policy Change

#### **\$150,000**

Harm Reduction Coalition

#### **\$50,000**

A Better Way Foundation (CT)

DrugSense

North American Syringe Exchange Network

National Advocates for Pregnant Women

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

#### **\$20,000 to \$49,999**

A New Path (CA)

Alabamians for Compassionate Care

California Society of Addiction Medicine

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Defender Association (WA)

Families for Freedom, Urban Justice Center (NY)

Institute for Metropolitan Affairs, Roosevelt University (IL)

Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative Foundation

Justice Strategies

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (CA)

New England Policy Advocates (MA)

New York Academy of Medicine

Project Lazarus (NC)

Safe Streets / Strong Communities (LA)

UpFront Programs (CA)

Voices of Community Advocates and Leaders (NY)

Voluntary Committee of Lawyers, Inc.

#### **Less than \$20,000**

American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi

D.C. Recovery Community Alliance, Inc.

Direct Action for Rights and Equality (RI)

DRCNet Foundation, Inc.

Drug Policy Education Group, Inc. (AR)

Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i, Inc.

Drug Policy Forum of Kansas, Inc.

Exponents, Inc. (NY)

Institute for Policy Studies, Drug Policy Project

Justice Works Community (NY)

Los Angeles Overdose Prevention Task Force

New Mexico Women's Justice Project

Partnership for Safety and Justice (OR)

Progressive Maryland Education Fund

Protestants for the Common Good (IL)

Stepping Stone of San Diego, Inc.

The Ordinary People Society (AL)

### Rapid Response

#### **\$20,000 to \$25,000**

Maine Citizens for Patients' Rights

#### **\$10,000 to \$19,999**

AIDS Action

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Temple University (PA)

The Empowerment Program, Inc. (CO)

#### **Less than \$10,000**

Voices of Community Advocates and Leaders (NY)

William Moses Kunstler Fund for Racial Justice, Inc. (NY)

*Organizations are national unless otherwise indicated.*

---

## DPA Honorary Board

Former Mayor Rocky Anderson

Harry Belafonte

Former Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Walter Cronkite [1916-2009]

Ram Dass

Dr. Vincent Dole [1913-2006]

Former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders

Judge Nancy Gertner

Former Police Chief Penny Harrington

Calvin Hill

Arianna Huffington

Former Governor Gary Johnson

Judge John Kane

Former Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach

Former Police Chief Joseph McNamara

Former Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy

Dr. Beny J. Primm

Dennis Rivera

Former Mayor Kurt Schmoke

Dr. Charles Schuster

Alexander Shulgin

Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz

Russell Simmons

Judge Robert Sweet

Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Paul Volcker

---

## DPA Board of Directors

Christine Downton

Former Vice Chairman and Founding Partner of Pareto Partners

Jodie Evans

Co-founder, CODEPINK

James E. Ferguson, II

Senior Partner, Ferguson, Stein, Chambers Law Offices

Jason Flom

Chairman/CEO, Capitol Music Group

Ira Glasser, DPA Board President

Former Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union

Carl Hart, PhD

New York State Psychiatric Institute

Kenneth Hertz

Senior Partner, Goldring Hertz and Lichtenstein LLP

Mathilde Krim, PhD

Founding Chair, American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)

David C. Lewis, MD

Founding Director, Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies,  
Brown University

Pamela Lichty

President, Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i

Ethan Nadelmann, JD, PhD

Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance

Robert Newman, MD

Director, Baron Edmond de Rothschild Chemical Dependency  
Institute at Beth Israel Medical Center

Rev. Edwin Sanders, DPA Board Secretary

Senior Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church  
Coordinator, Religious Leaders for a More Just and  
Compassionate Drug Policy

George Soros

Chairman, Soros Fund Management

John Vasconcellos

Former California State Senator

Co-Founder, The Politics of Trust

Richard B. Wolf, DPA Board Treasurer

Chairman of Board, Consolidated Dye

---

## DPA Network Board

Chuck Blitz, DPAN Board Secretary

Hamilton Fish, DPAN Board Treasurer  
President, The Nation Institute

Ira Glasser, DPAN Board President  
Former Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union

Ethan Nadelmann  
Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance Network

---

## International Honorary Board

(In formation)

Ruth Dreifuss  
Former President of the Swiss Confederation

Václav Havel  
Former President of the Czech Republic

Sting

---

“There’s a broader trend picking up steam around the country to roll back the drug war.”

Ethan Nadelmann  
Executive Director

*Washington Post*  
March 28, 2009

---

“The worst prohibition, after all, is a prohibition on thinking.”

Ethan Nadelmann  
Executive Director

*Wall Street Journal*  
December 5, 2008



---

## DPA Staff

### Management Team

Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director  
Derek Hodel, Deputy Executive Director  
Ryan Chavez, Managing Director, Finance and Administration  
DeDe Dunevant, Managing Director, Communications  
Jill Harris, Managing Director, Public Policy  
Clovis Thorn, Managing Director, Development

### Communications

Maureen Brookes, Internet Communications Associate  
Jag Davies, Publications Manager  
DeDe Dunevant, Managing Director, Communications  
Megan Farrington, Deputy Director, Internet Communications  
Jeanette Irwin, Director, Internet Communications  
Stefanie Jones, Event Manager  
Tommy McDonald, Deputy Director, Media Relations  
Tony Newman, Director, Media Relations  
Anthony Papa, Communications Specialist

### Development

Rafael De Arce, Manager, Membership and Development Operations  
David Glowka, Manager, Foundation Relations  
Judh Grandchamps, Gift Entry Associate  
Clovis Thorn, Managing Director, Development

### Finance and Administration

David Abbott, Office Manager  
Teresa Bonomo, Administrative Associate  
Ryan Chavez, Managing Director, Finance and Administration  
Lina Mingoia, Human Resources Manager  
Yair Tygiel, Executive Associate to Ethan Nadelmann  
Candida Ventimiglia, Controller

### Office of Legal Affairs

Daniel N. Abrahamson, Director, Legal Affairs  
Theshia Naidoo, Staff Attorney  
Daniel Robelo, Research Associate  
Tamar Todd, Staff Attorney

### Office of National Affairs

Bill Piper, Director, National Affairs  
Grant Smith, Legislative Associate  
Jasmine Tyler, Deputy Director, National Affairs

### Programs

#### California

Steven Alvarez, Administrative Associate, Southern California  
Gus Collins, Administrative Associate, San Francisco  
Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, Deputy State Director, Southern California  
Stephen Gutwillig, State Director, California  
Meghan Ralston, Harm Reduction Coordinator, Southern California  
Marsha Rosenbaum, Director Emerita, DPA San Francisco and Safety First Program  
Laura Thomas, Deputy State Director, San Francisco

#### Grants

asha bandele, Director, Advocacy Grants Program

#### New Mexico

Jeanne Block, Youth Project Coordinator  
Anissa Medina, Office Management Associate  
Julie Roberts, Policy Coordinator  
Reena Szczepanski, State Director, New Mexico

#### New Jersey

Meagan Johnson, Policy Coordinator  
Roseanne Scotti, State Director, New Jersey

#### State Organizing and Policy Project

Evan Goldstein, Policy Associate  
gabriel sayegh, Director, State Organizing and Policy Project

#### Washington, D.C./Maryland

Devon Hutchins, Policy Associate  
Naomi Long, Director, District of Columbia Metropolitan Area

# Financial Statements

## Drug Policy Alliance, a 501(c)(3)(h) Nonprofit

### DPA Statement of Financial Position FY2009

#### ASSETS

|   |           |                  |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents                           | \$        | 5,637,312        |
| Investments   | \$        | 492,000          |
| Grants receivable                                   | \$        | 3,965            |
| Accounts receivable                                 | \$        | 223,174          |
| Prepaid expenses                                    | \$        | 85,903           |
| Property, equipment and leasehold improvements, net | \$        | 120,524          |
| Deposits  | \$        | 84,580           |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                 | <b>\$</b> | <b>6,647,458</b> |

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

##### Liabilities

|                                     |           |                |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Accounts payable & accrued expenses | \$        | 233,018        |
| Vacation accrual                    | \$        | 105,657        |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>            | <b>\$</b> | <b>338,675</b> |

##### Net Assets

|                         |           |                  |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Unrestricted            | \$        | 3,034,818        |
| Temporarily restricted  | \$        | 3,273,965        |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>6,308,783</b> |

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** \$ 6,647,458

### DPA Statement of Activities FY2009

#### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

|                                      |           |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Contributions unrestricted           | \$        | 5,598,942         |
| Contributions temporarily restricted | \$        | 3,107,381         |
| Investment income                    | \$        | 62,304            |
| Conference and other income          | \$        | 1,658,669         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                  | <b>\$</b> | <b>10,427,296</b> |

#### EXPENSES

##### Program Expenses

|                                 |    |           |
|---------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Conferences                     | \$ | 176,401   |
| Communications                  | \$ | 1,341,020 |
| Health and harm reduction       | \$ | 164,533   |
| Public policy and legal affairs | \$ | 2,095,148 |
| Treatment and prevention        | \$ | 145,603   |
| Special projects                | \$ | 820,939   |
| Grants                          | \$ | 1,606,471 |

##### Support Services

|             |    |           |
|-------------|----|-----------|
| Management  | \$ | 1,490,734 |
| Fundraising | \$ | 1,255,769 |

**Total Expenses** \$ 9,096,618

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** \$ 1,330,678

|                               |    |           |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Net Assets, beginning of year | \$ | 4,978,105 |
| Net Assets, end of year       | \$ | 6,308,783 |

## DPA Network, a 501(c)(4) Lobbying Organization

### DPA Network Statement of Financial Position FY2009

#### ASSETS

|                             |           |                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$        | 28,691           |
| Investments                 | \$        | 2,124,000        |
| Accrued interest receivable | \$        | 17,061           |
| Promissory note receivable  | \$        | 400,000          |
| <b>Total Assets</b>         | <b>\$</b> | <b>2,569,752</b> |

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

##### Liabilities

|                                     |    |        |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------|
| Accounts payable & accrued expenses | \$ | 94,487 |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------|

##### Net Assets

|              |    |           |
|--------------|----|-----------|
| Unrestricted | \$ | 2,475,265 |
|--------------|----|-----------|

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** \$ 2,569,752

### DPA Network Statement of Activities FY2009

#### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

|                          |           |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Grants and contributions | \$        | 3,025,500        |
| Membership               | \$        | 28,388           |
| Special projects         | \$        | 535,966          |
| Investment income        | \$        | 58,442           |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | <b>\$</b> | <b>3,648,296</b> |

#### EXPENSES

##### Program Expenses

|                           |    |           |
|---------------------------|----|-----------|
| Consulting                | \$ | 189,443   |
| Lobbying expenses         | \$ | 312,929   |
| Campaign donations        | \$ | 2,500     |
| Contribution expense      | \$ | 16,000    |
| Ballot initiatives        | \$ | 2,199,000 |
| Advertising and marketing | \$ | 30,179    |
| Travel and other          | \$ | 24,692    |
| Insurance                 | \$ | 2,791     |
| Seminars and conferences  | \$ | 5,433     |
| Rent expense              | \$ | 87,850    |
| Miscellaneous             | \$ | 36,069    |

##### Support Services

|                         |    |         |
|-------------------------|----|---------|
| Administrative expenses | \$ | 116,303 |
| Professional fees       | \$ | 184,392 |

**Total Expenses** \$ 3,207,581

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** \$ 440,715

|                               |    |           |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Net Assets, beginning of year | \$ | 2,034,550 |
| Net Assets, end of year       | \$ | 2,475,265 |

**DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE**

Reason. Compassion. Justice.

---

**California**

DPA Office of Legal Affairs  
Berkeley, CA  
legalaffairs@drugpolicy.org

DPA Los Angeles Office  
Los Angeles, CA  
la@drugpolicy.org

DPA San Francisco Office  
San Francisco, CA  
sf@drugpolicy.org

**District of Columbia**

DPA Office of National Affairs  
Washington, D.C.  
dc@drugpolicy.org

**New Jersey**

DPA New Jersey  
Trenton, NJ  
nj@drugpolicy.org

**New Mexico**

DPA New Mexico  
Santa Fe, NM  
nm@drugpolicy.org

**New York**

Drug Policy Alliance Headquarters  
70 West 36th Street  
16th floor  
New York, NY 10018

212.613.8020 voice  
212.613.8021 fax  
nyc@drugpolicy.org

[www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org)