



U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

Reducing U.S. Drug Consumption

September 2008

Overall illicit drug use among teens ages 12-17 is at a five-year low, according to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the largest and most comprehensive study of drug use in the United States.

■ According to the same study, approximately 35.3 million Americans aged 12 and older had tried cocaine at least once in their lifetimes -- 14.3% of the population aged 12 and older.

■ The number of admissions to treatment for methamphetamine abuse increased from 47,695 in 1995 to 152,368 in 2005.

■ Nearly 90% of the cocaine available in the U.S. crosses the Southwest Border.

The United States recognizes the importance of preventing drug use and treating addiction, in addition to fighting associated criminal activities. More Information can be found at: www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/

Our National Drug Control Strategy has three elements:

- Stopping use before it starts
- Intervening and healing America's drug users
- Disrupting the market

The U.S. 2008 budget for drug control is about \$13 billion, mostly devoted to:

- 36% to reduce demand (treatment & prevention)
- 28% for domestic law enforcement
- 25% for interdiction (at borders and at home)

These programs show results:

- Teen drug use is down 23% since 2001 (840,000 fewer users)
- Workplace drug use is at its lowest level in 18 years
- Positive drug tests have fallen from 13.6% in 1988 to 3.8% in 2006

Law enforcement programs have also produced significant results:

- 29,400 federal arrests on drug-related charges
- Nearly 70,000 kg of cocaine and over 320,000 kg of marijuana



President Bush has requested an additional \$98.2 million to expand the **Access to Recovery** program to assist American citizens with addictions. Access to Recovery is a nation-wide program that provides vouchers for treatment as well as recovery support services. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 20 million Americans need treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use.

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