

After Decades of Failed Drug Policies: Recommendations on moving away from the principles of the failed drug war

Queen Adesuyi, Policy Coordinator

Drug Policy Alliance

**We are
the Drug
Policy
Alliance.**

We should be free from punishment for what we put in our bodies, absent harm to others.

Vision: We envision a just society in which policies regarding the use and regulation of drugs are grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights; in which people are no longer stigmatized or punished for what they put into their own bodies; and in which the racism, harms, and stigma and punitive prohibitions of today are no more.

Mission: Our mission is to advance those policies and attitudes that best reduce and repair the harms of both drug use and drug prohibition, and to promote the inherent dignity and autonomy of all people over their minds and bodies.

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Know the Facts. The majority of people who use illegal drugs [80-90%] do not have a drug problem.

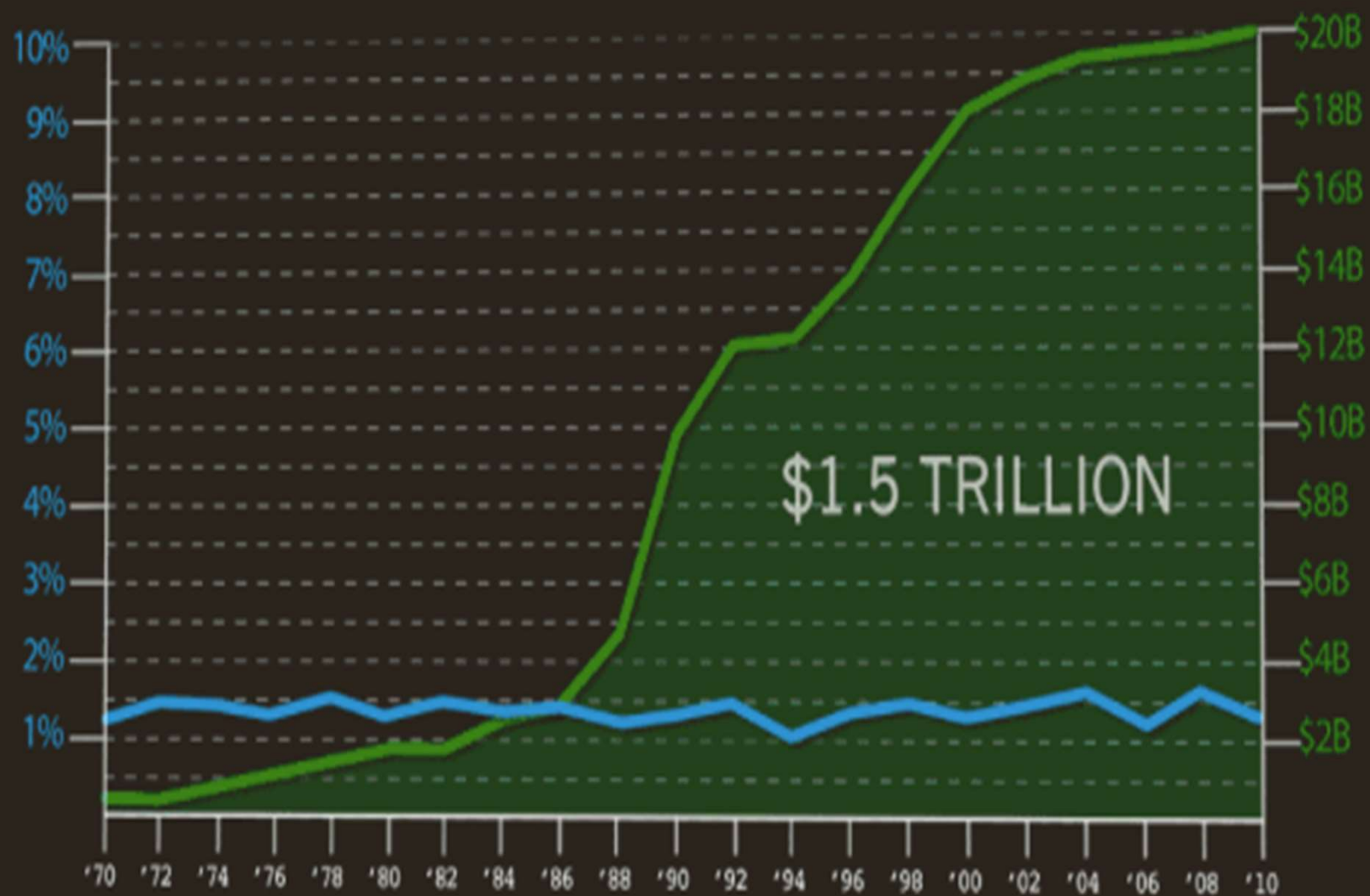
- Dr. Carl Hart, neuroscientist, chair of the department of Psychology at Columbia University

**Stigma and punitive drug policies
inadvertently incentivizes
unhealthy behaviors,
exacerbates the harms of drug use
and sale, and complicates recovery.**

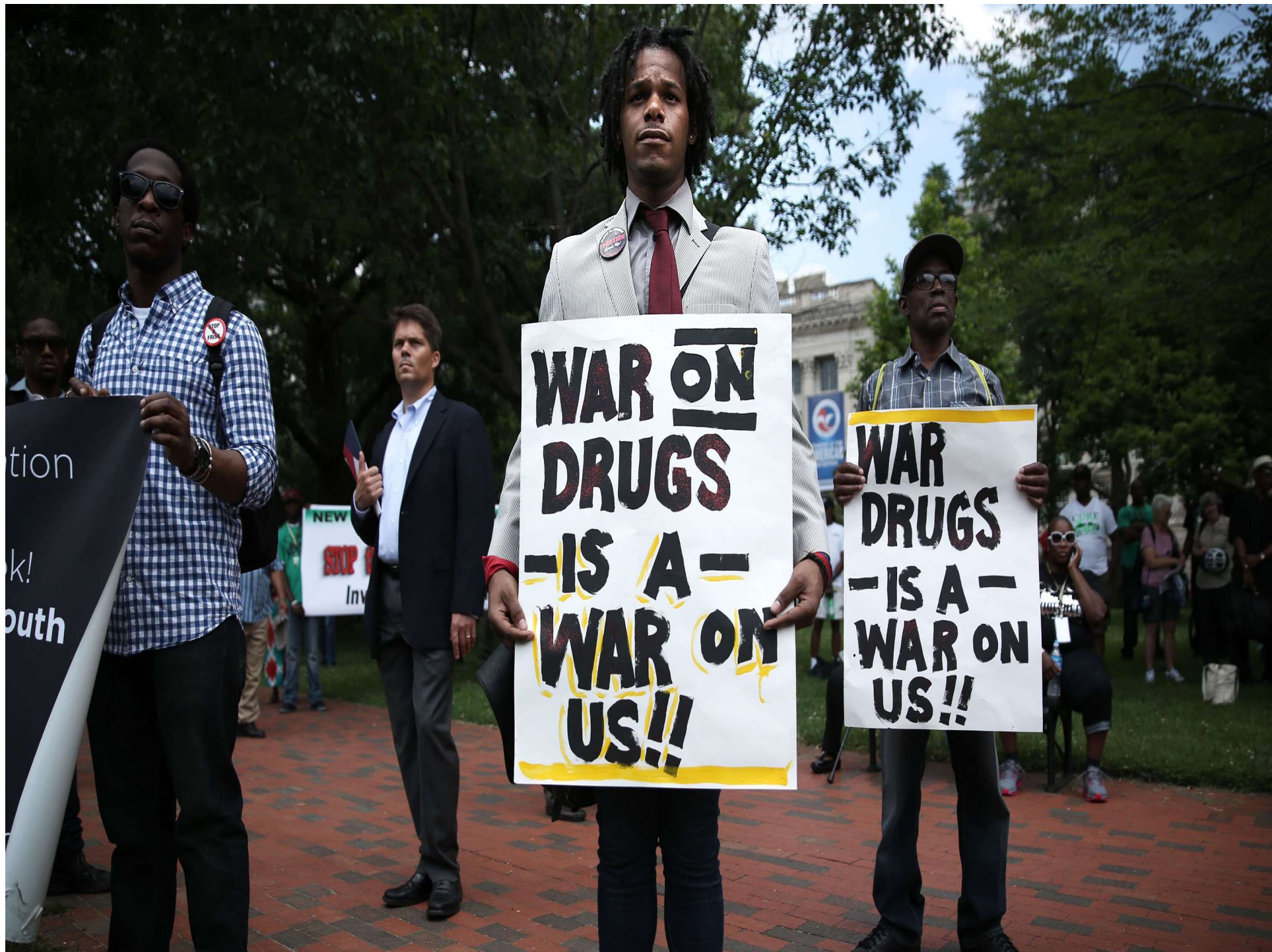


“When you’re a low-income person of color using drugs, **you’re criminalized** – that means demonized, marginalized, stigmatized.... When we’re locked up, **we’re not only locked in but also locked out**. Locked out of housing.... Locked out of employment and other services. Locked into a class that’s underclass – you’re a fixed class; you’re not a person anymore, because you had a drug.”

- ***Cameron Barnes, New York City, arrested repeatedly for drug possession by NYPD from the 1980s until 2012***



U.S. Drug Addiction Rate, 1970 - 2010
U.S. Drug Control Spending, 1970 - 2010



[Recommendations]

[Legalize & Regulate Marijuana]

While **legalization** does not end racism, it **limits** enforcement of racially biased drug laws against **Black and Latinx people.**

Recommendation #1:
[Legalize & Regulate Marijuana]

Revenue from new, booming industry can be used to account for harms of marijuana prohibition on individuals and communities.

**Recommendation #1:
[Legalize & Regulate Marijuana]**

[Decriminalize ALL Drugs]

“The **decriminalization of drug use [and sale] needs to be considered as a core element in any **public health strategy**.”**

- Organization of American States, 2013

**Recommendation #2:
[**Decriminalize ALL Drugs**]**

[Invest in Harm Reduction]



The goal of **Harm Reduction** is
not to end drug use.

It is to save lives and
makes lives less chaotic.

Recommendation #3:
[**Invest in Harm Reduction**]

**“The only way to get people to
turn their lives around is to
keep them alive long enough so
they can do that.”**

- Larry Krasner, Philadelphia, District Attorney

**Recommendation #3:
[Invest in Harm Reduction]**

Thank you!

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Contact Information

Queen Adesuyi
Policy Coordinator
Drug Policy Alliance
qadesuyi@drugpolicy.org