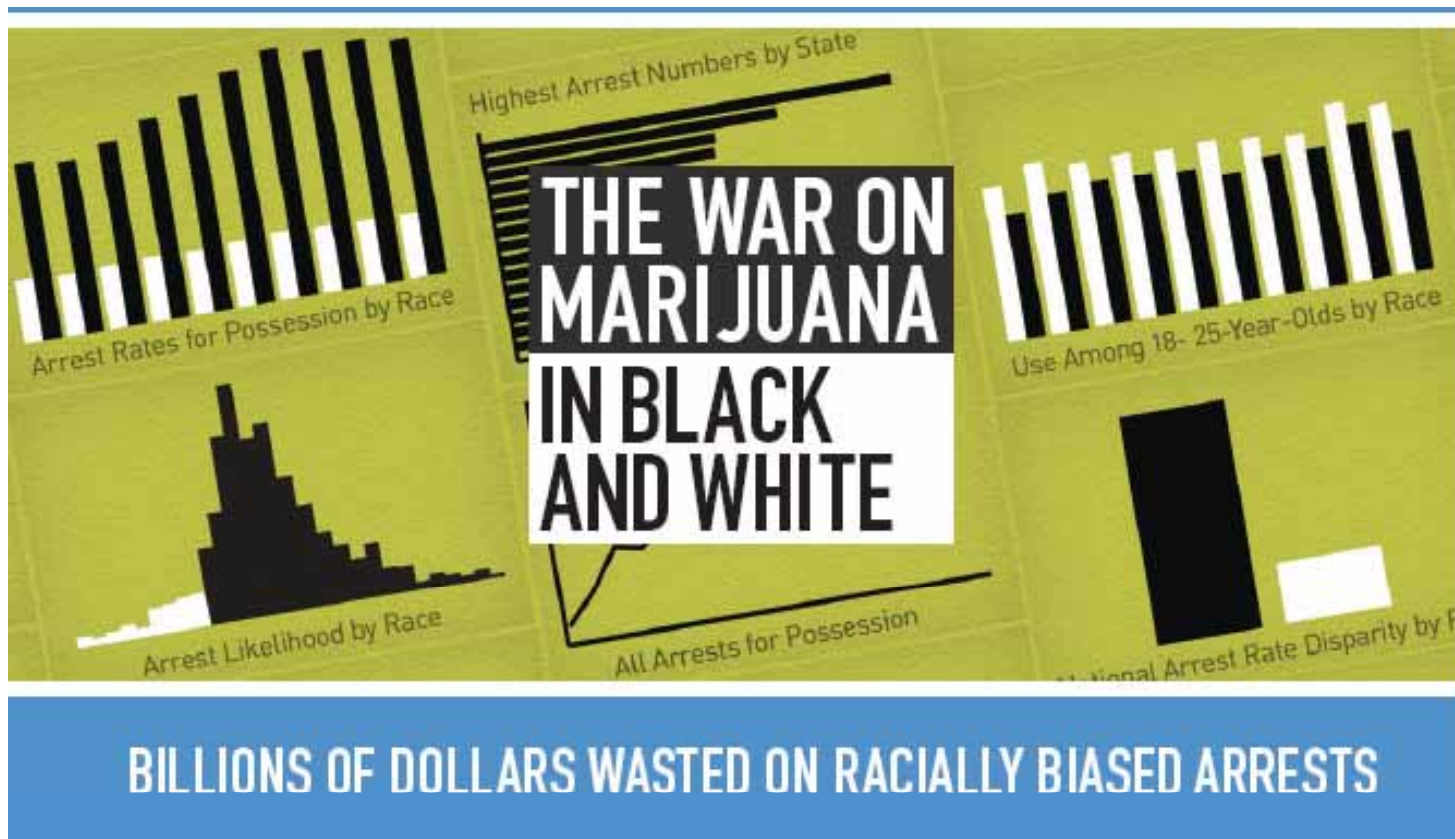


Graphs and Quotes from the new ACLU Report The War on Marijuana in Black and White

<https://www.aclu.org/criminal-law-reform/war-marijuana-black-and-white-report>

<https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/assets/090613-mj-report-rfs-rel1.pdf>



From: <http://marijuana-arrests.com>

The War on Marijuana has, quite simply, served as a vehicle for police to target communities of color.

States spent over \$3.6 billion combined enforcing marijuana possession laws in 2010.

In states with the worst disparities, Blacks were on average over six times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites.

FINDING

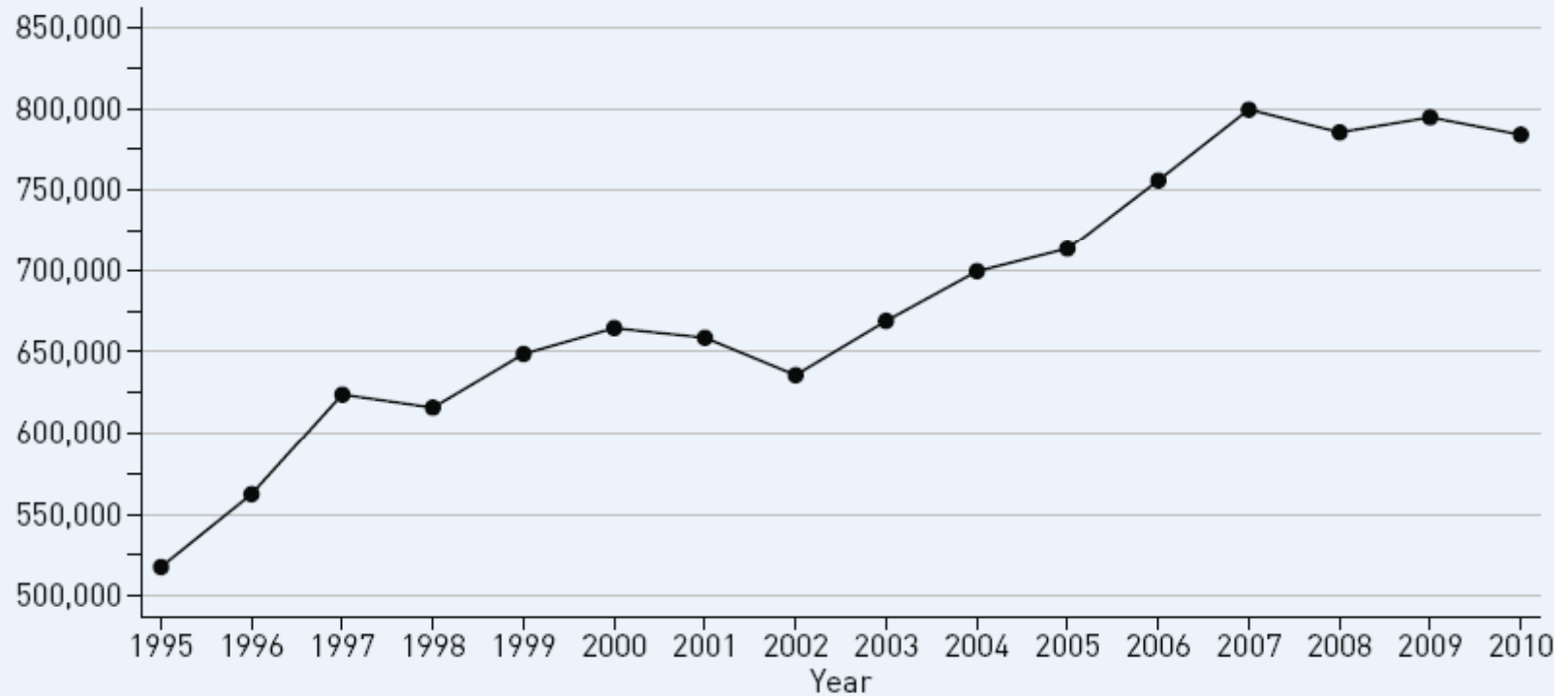
#1

Marijuana Arrests — 88% of Which Are for Possession Offenses — Have Risen Since 2001 and Accounted for Over Half (52%) of All Drug Arrests in America in 2010

- Between 2001 and 2010, there were over 7 million arrests (7,295,880) for marijuana possession. In 2010 alone, of the 1,717,064 drug arrests in America, over three-quarters of a million — 784,021 — were for marijuana possession.

FIGURE 2

Number of Arrests for Marijuana Possession in U.S. (1995-2010)



Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: County-Level Detailed Arrest and Offense Data, 1995-2010

FINDING

#2

Extreme Racial Disparities in Marijuana Possession Arrests Exist Across the Country: Blacks Are 3.73 Times More Likely Than Whites to Be Arrested for Marijuana Possession

- In 2010, nationwide the white arrest rate was 192 per 100,000 whites, and the black arrest rate was 716 per 100,000 blacks.

FINDING

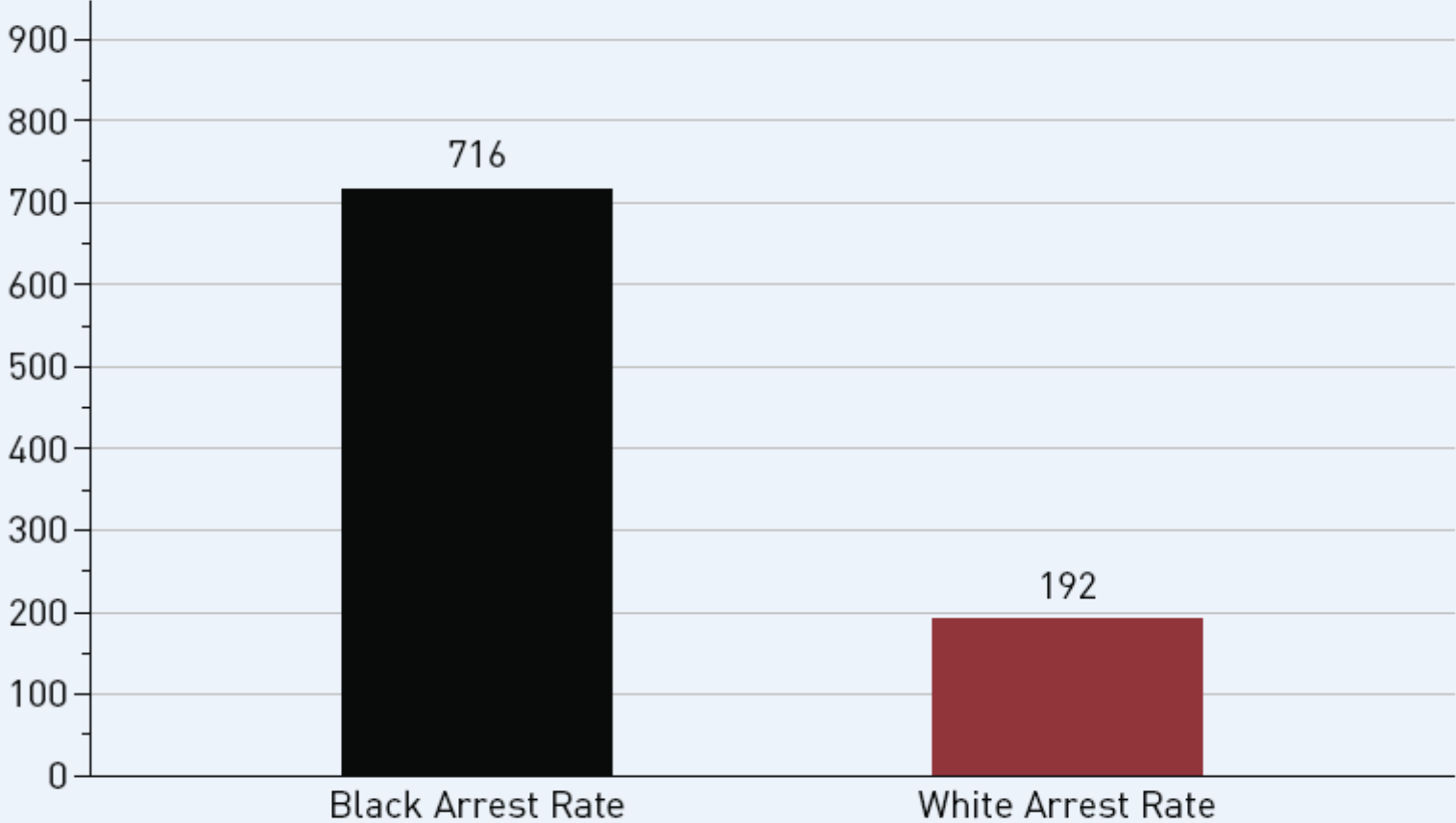
#3

While There Were Pronounced Racial Disparities in Marijuana Arrests Ten Years Ago, the Disparities Have Increased

- As the overall number of marijuana arrests has increased over the past decade, the white arrest rate has remained constant at around 192 per 100,000, whereas the Black arrest rate has risen from 537 per 100,000 in 2001 (and 521 per 100,000 in 2002) to 716 per 100,000 in 2010. Hence, it appears that the increase in marijuana arrest rates overall is largely a result of the increase in the arrest rates of Blacks.

FIGURE 9

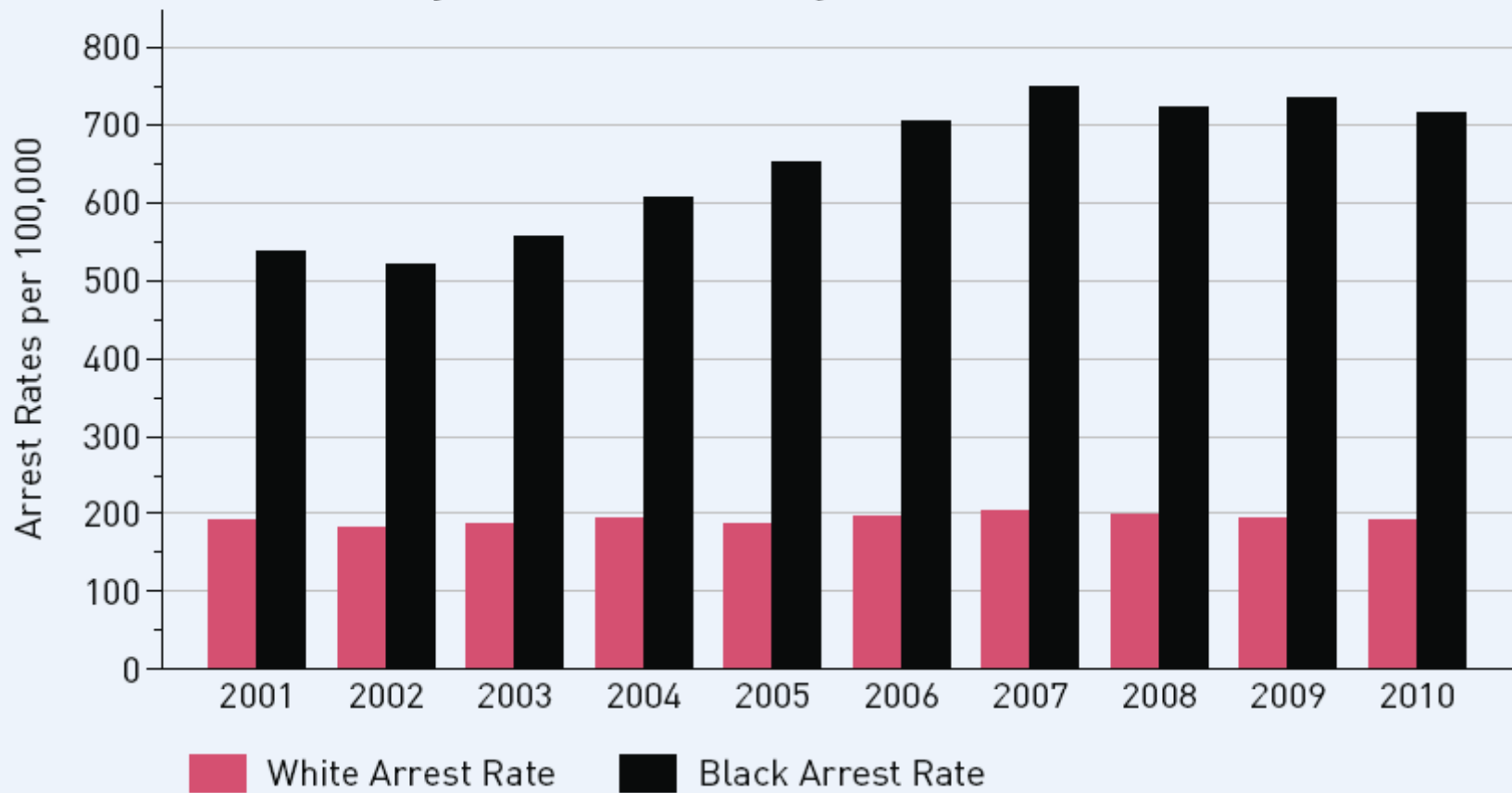
National Racial Disparity in Arrest Rates for Marijuana Possession (2010)



Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data

FIGURE 10

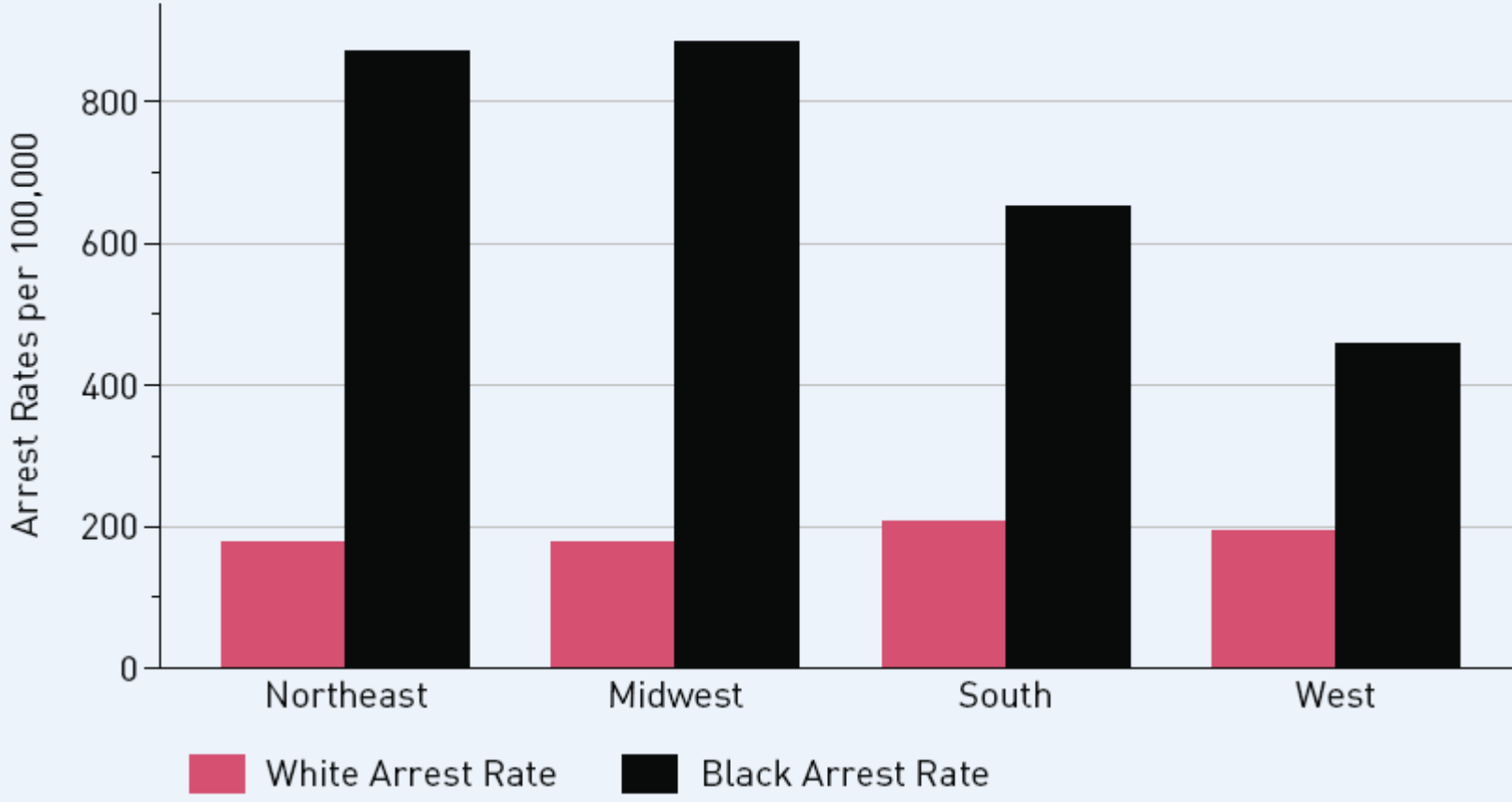
Arrest Rates for Marijuana Possession by Race (2001-2010)



Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data

FIGURE 11

Arrest Rates for Marijuana Possession by Race and Region (2010)



Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data

FIGURE 16

Racial Disparities in Marijuana Possession Arrests in the 25 Most Populous Counties in U.S. (2010)

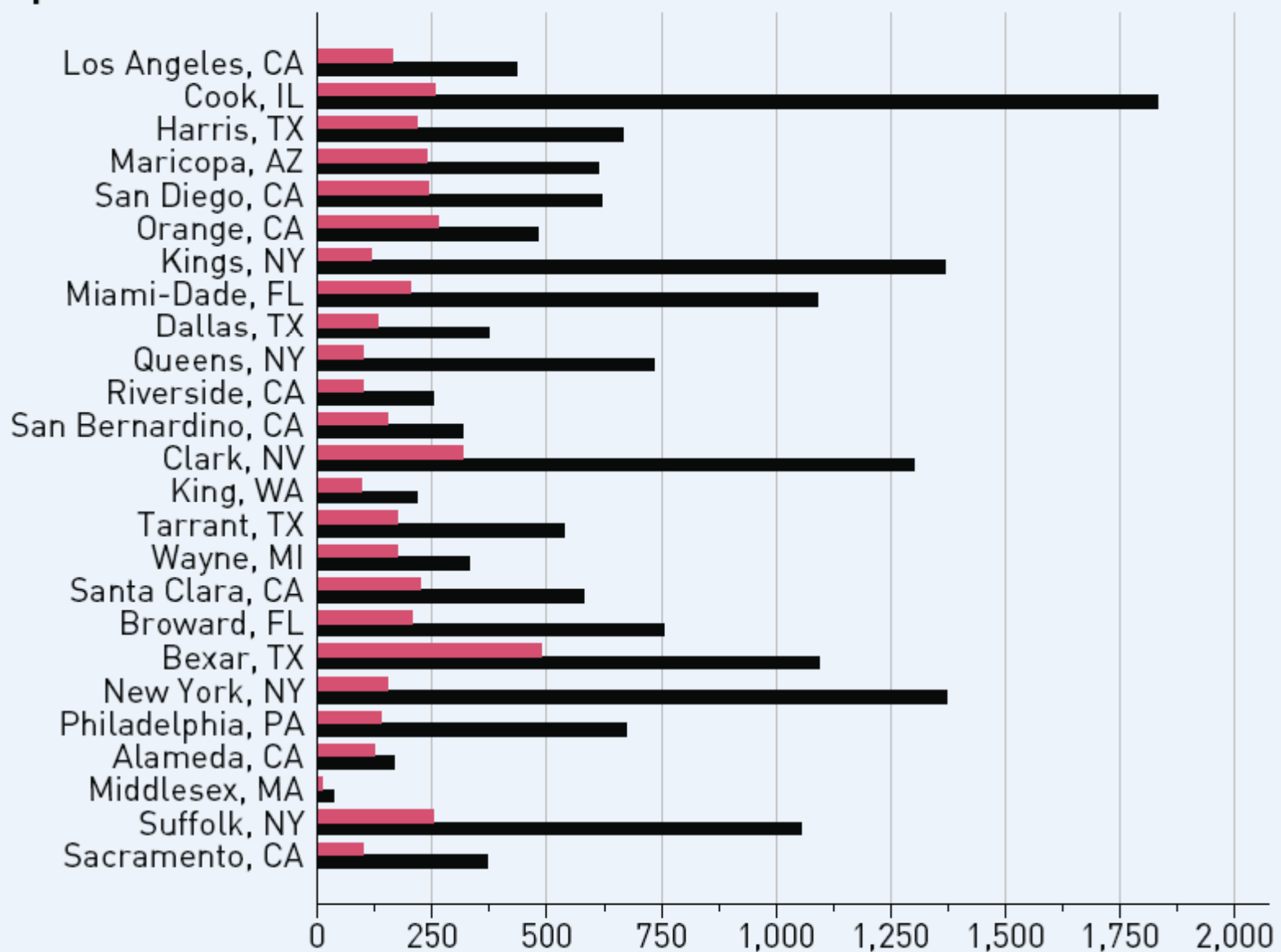
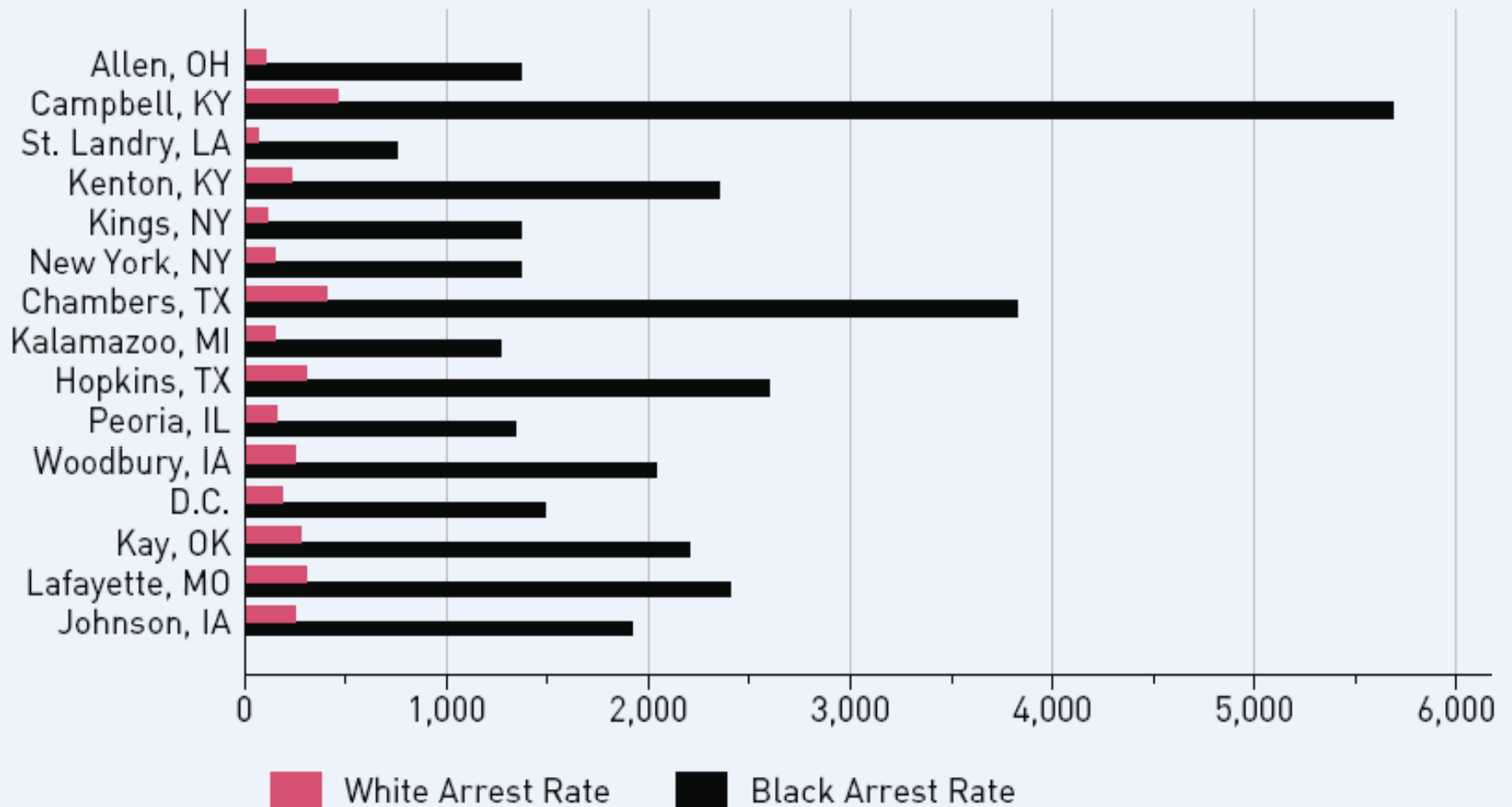


FIGURE 17

Largest Racial Disparities in Counties with Above-Average Marijuana Possession Arrest Rates (2010)



Racial disparities in marijuana possession arrests exist regardless of county household income levels, though they are worse in middle income and more affluent communities.

FIGURE 18

Counties with Highest Median Household Incomes (\$115,574-\$88,825)

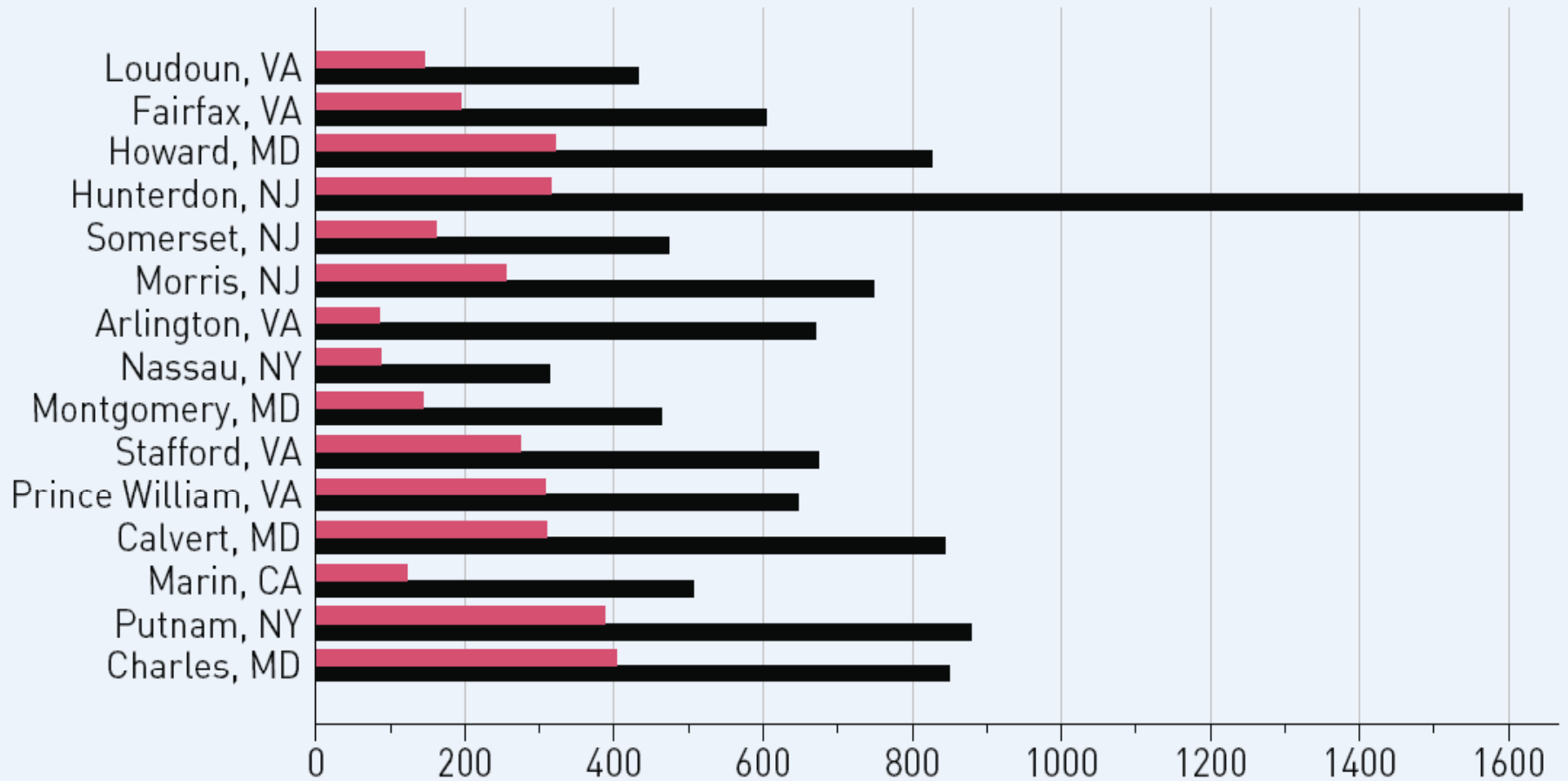
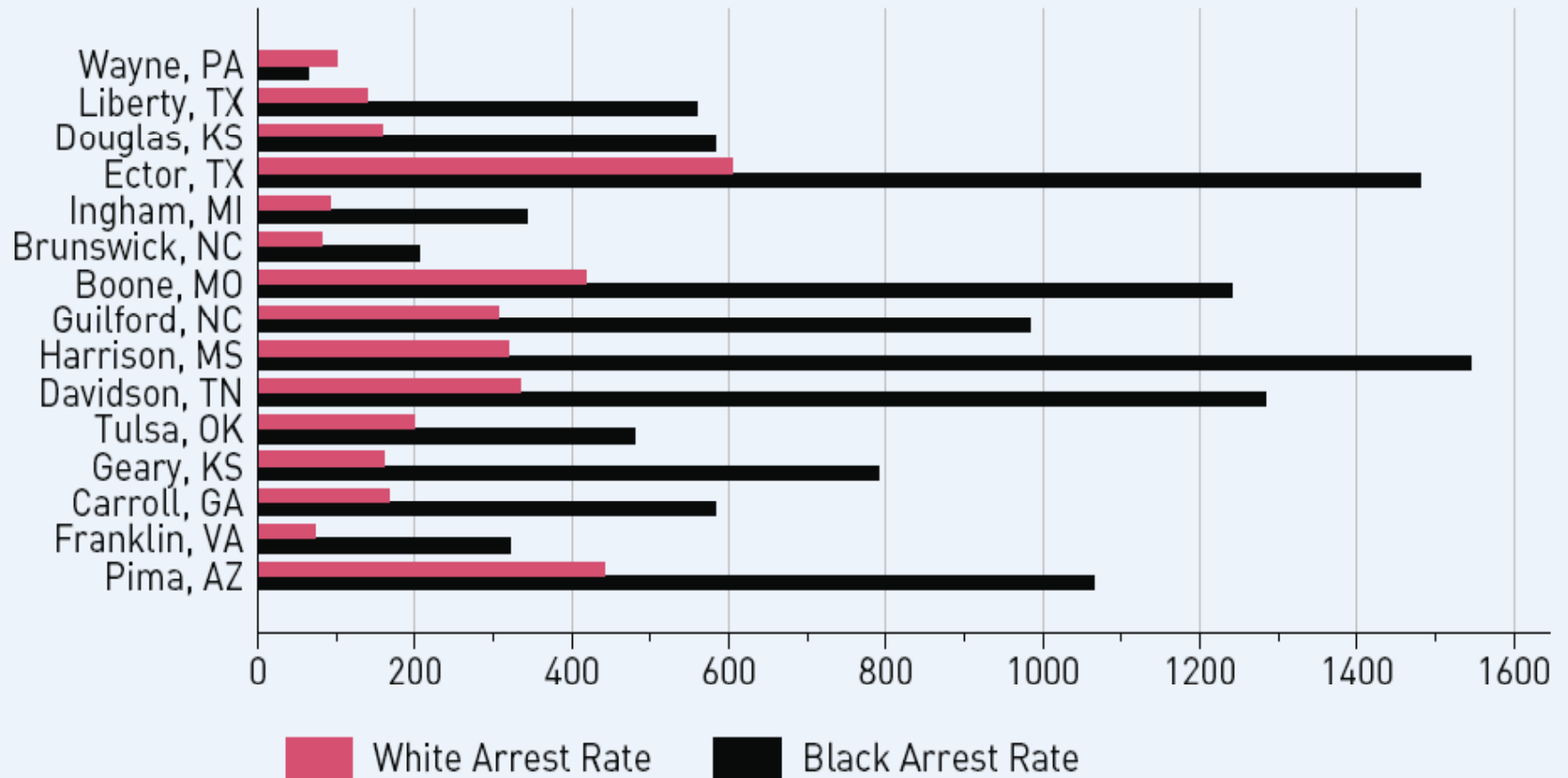


FIGURE 19

Counties with Middle Median Household Incomes (\$45,930-\$45,521)

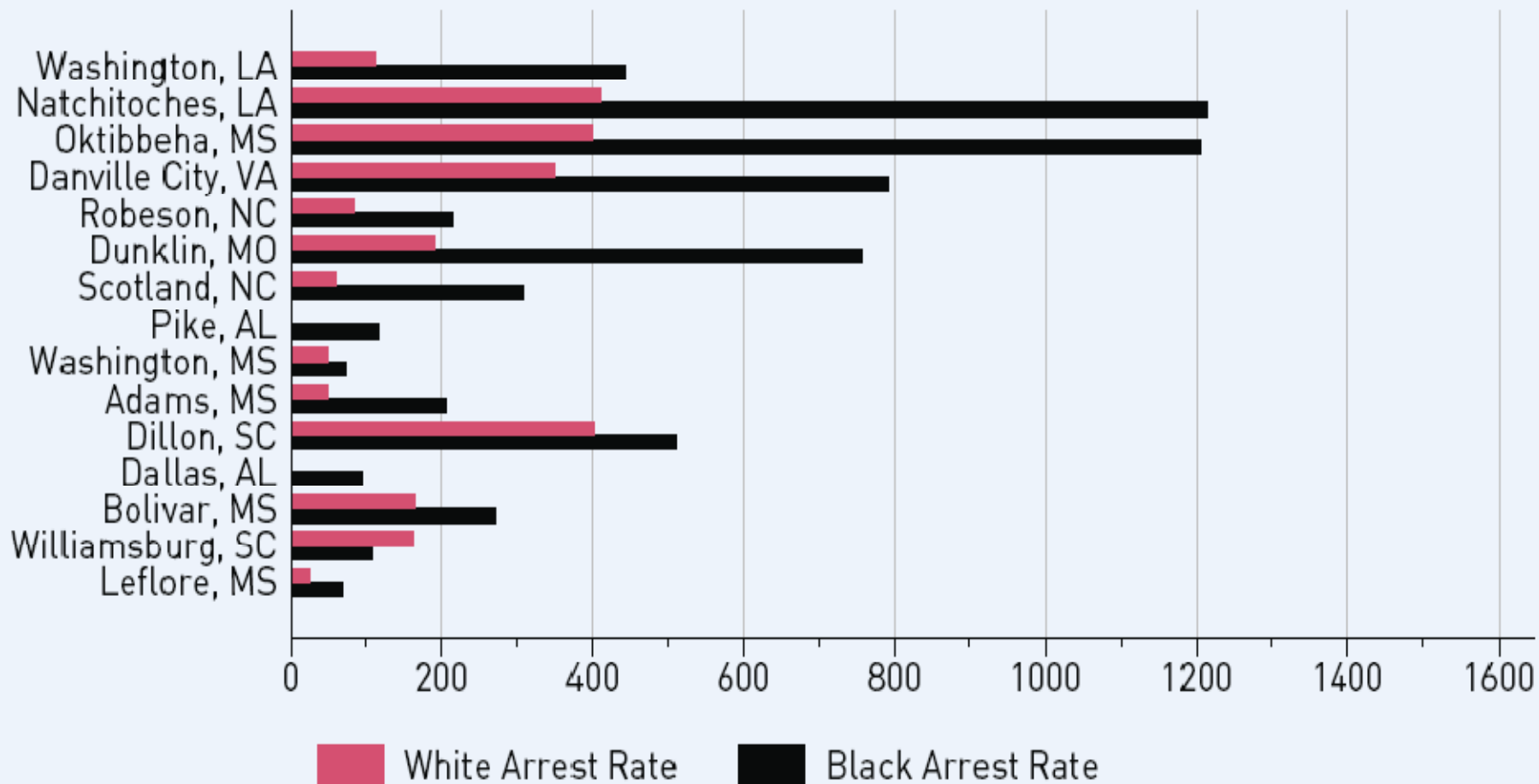


NOTE: Population Size > 30,000 and Black Population Percentage > 2%
Counties listed in descending order by Median Household Income.

Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data

FIGURE 20

Counties with Lowest Median Household Incomes (\$30,363-\$22,020)



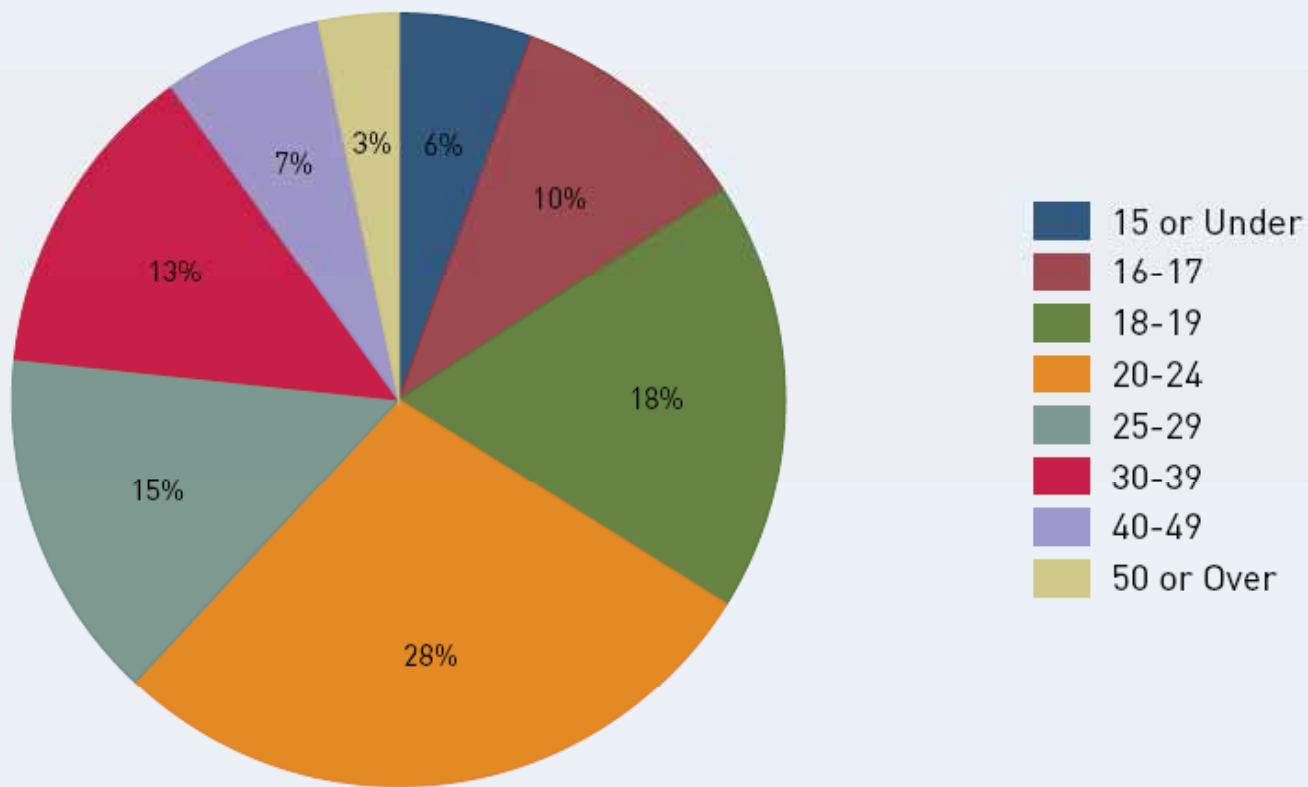
NOTE: Population Size > 30,000 and Black Population Percentage > 2%
Counties listed in descending order by Median Household Income.

Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data

Teenagers and young adults bear the brunt of the marijuana possession arrest policies in this country; 77% of marijuana arrests in 2010 were of people 29 or younger, 62% were of people younger than 25, and more than one-third were of teenagers and pre-teens. **See Figure 5.**

FIGURE 5

Breakdown of Marijuana Possession Arrests by Age (2010)



FINDING

#4

Blacks and Whites Use Marijuana at Similar Rates

- Marijuana use is roughly equal among Blacks and whites. In 2010, 14% of Blacks and 12% of whites reported using marijuana in the past year; in 2001, the figure was 10% of whites and 9% of Blacks. In every year from 2001 to 2010, more whites than Blacks between the ages of 18 and 25 reported using marijuana in the previous year. In 2010, 34% of whites and 27% of Blacks reported having last used marijuana more than one year ago — a constant trend over the past decade. In the same year, 59% of Blacks and 54% of whites reported having never used marijuana. Each year over the past decade more Blacks than whites reported that they had never used marijuana.

FIGURE 22

Marijuana Use Among 18- to 25-Year-Olds by Race: Used Marijuana in Past 12 Months (2001-2010)

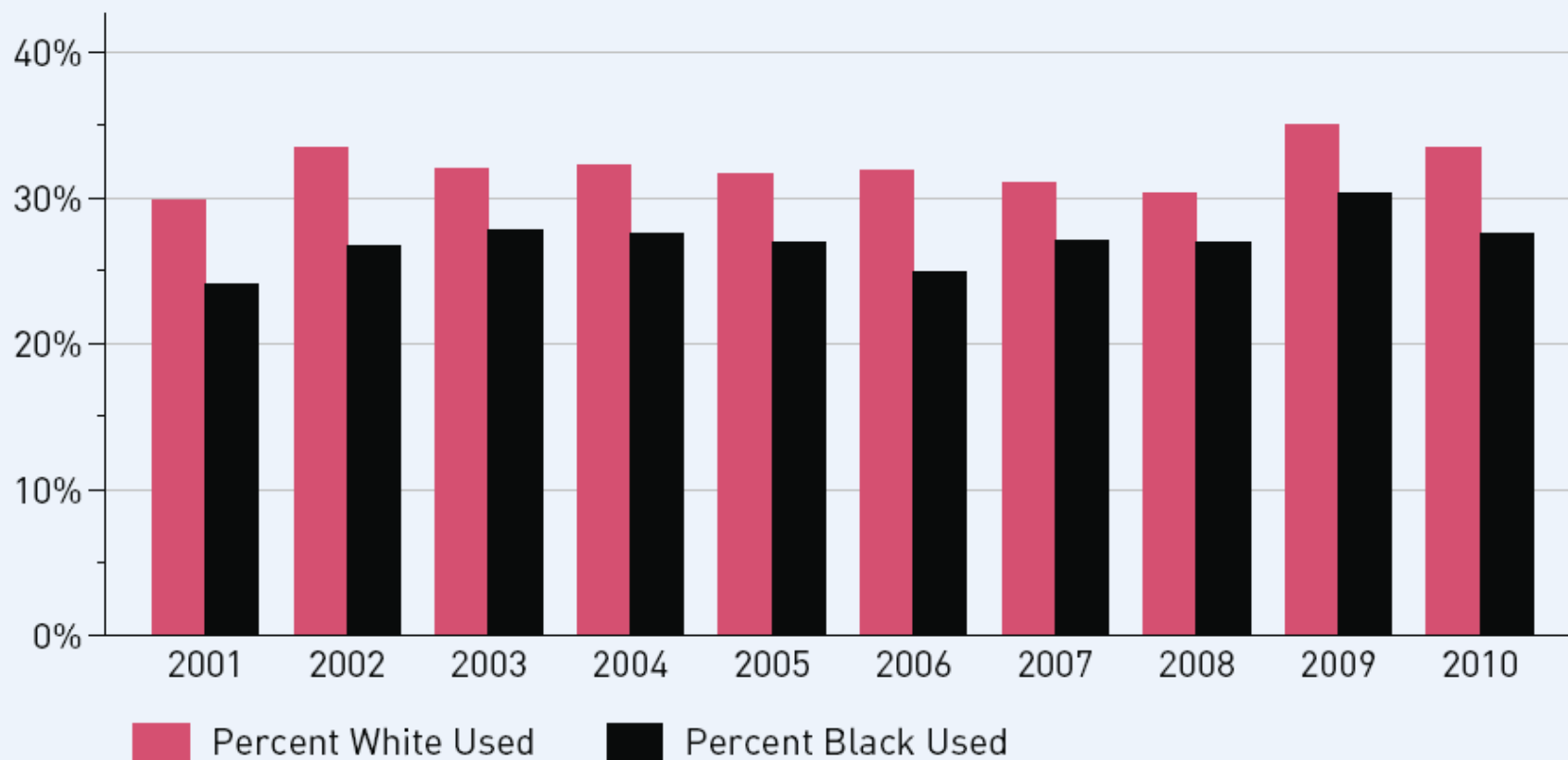


FIGURE 23

Marijuana Use by Race: Never Used Marijuana (2001-2010)

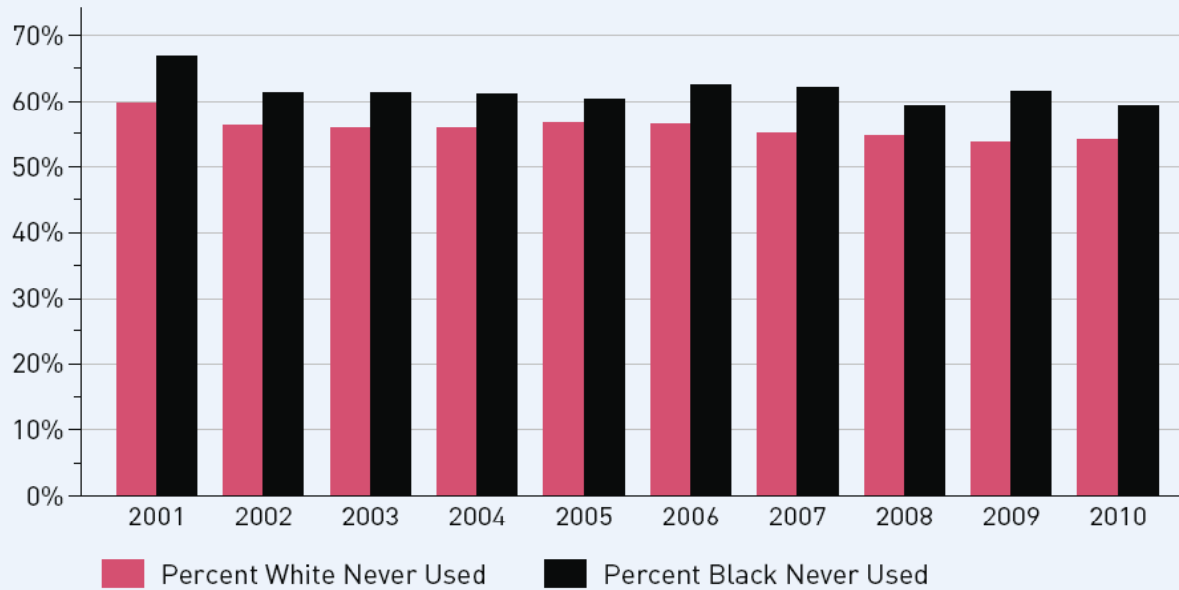
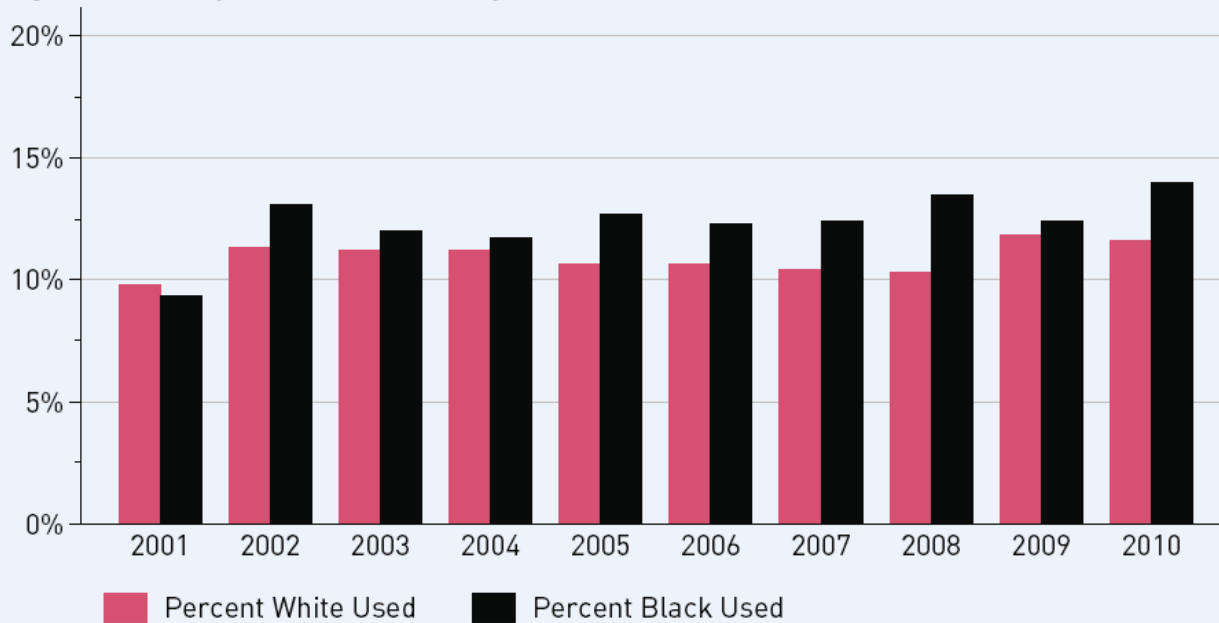


FIGURE 21

Marijuana Use by Race: Used Marijuana in Past 12 Months (2001-2010)



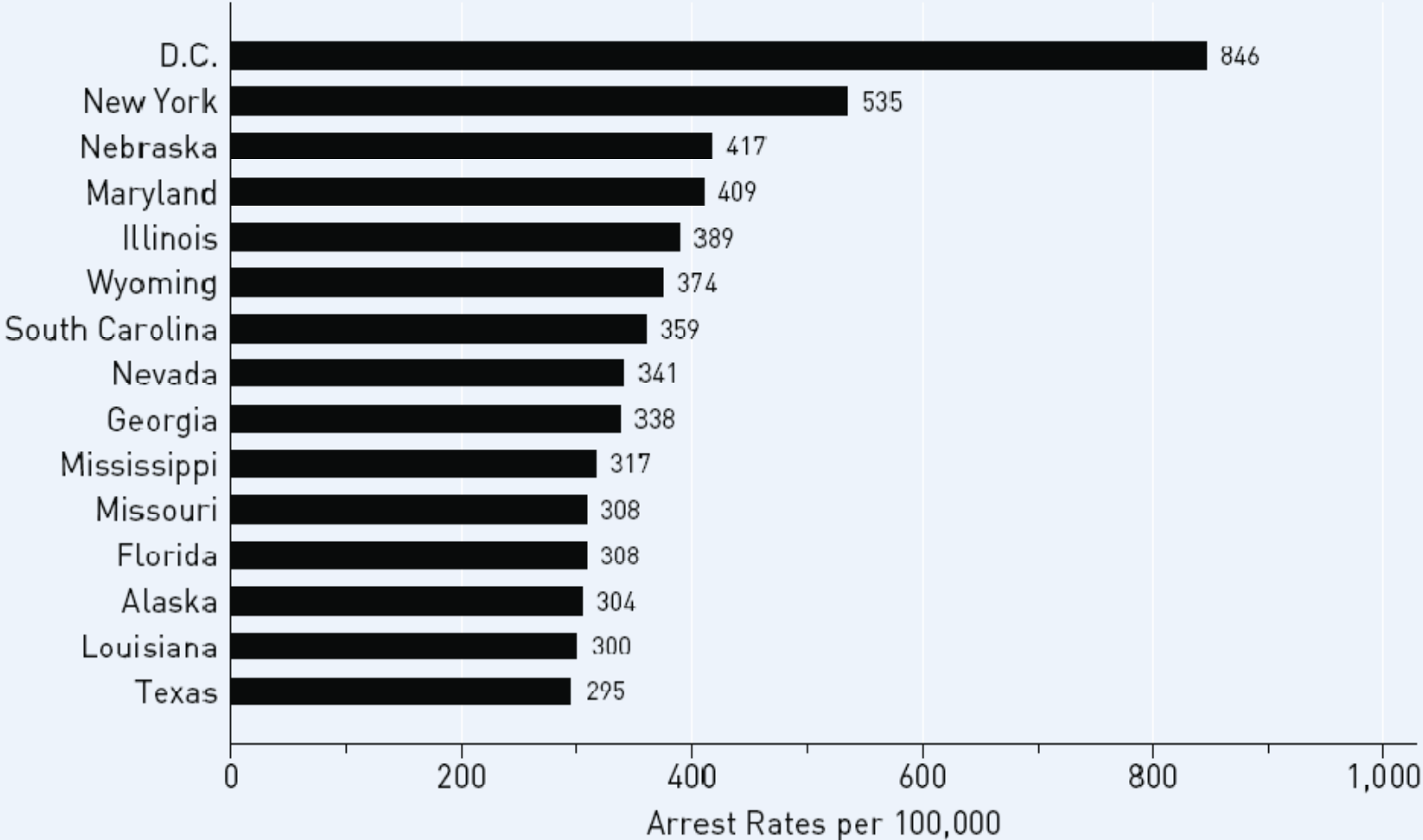
FINDING
#5

Money Wasted on Marijuana Arrests: States Spent Over \$3.6 Billion on Marijuana Possession Enforcement in 2010

- The ACLU estimates the total national expenditure of enforcing marijuana possession laws at approximately \$3.613 billion. In 2010, states spent an estimated \$1,747,157,206 policing marijuana possession arrests, \$1,371,200,815 adjudicating marijuana possession cases, and \$495,611,826 incarcerating individuals for marijuana possession.

FIGURE 7

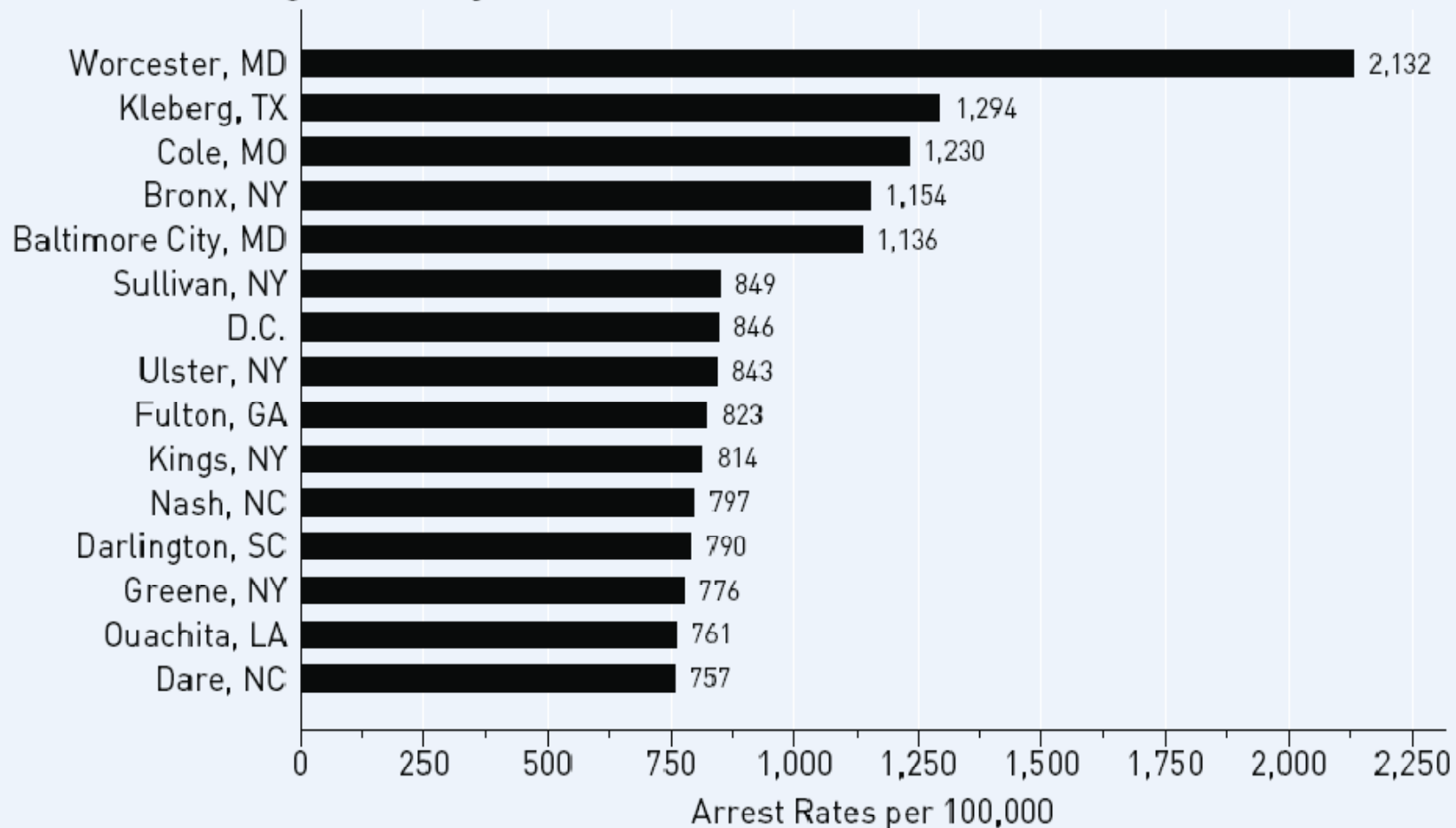
States with Highest Marijuana Possession Arrest Rates (2010)



Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data

FIGURE 8

Counties with Highest Marijuana Possession Arrest Rates (2010)



NOTE: Population Size > 30,000 and Black Population Percentage Share > 2%

Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data

To repair this country's wrecked War on Marijuana, the ACLU recommends that marijuana be legalized for persons 21 or older through a system of taxation, licensing, and regulation.

Legalization is the smartest and surest way to end targeted enforcement of marijuana laws in communities of color, and, moreover, would eliminate the costs of such enforcement while generating revenue for cash-strapped states. States could then reinvest the money saved and generated into public schools and public health programs, including substance abuse treatment.

If legalization is not possible, the ACLU recommends depenalizing marijuana use and possession for persons 21 or older by removing all attendant civil and criminal penalties, or, if depenalization is unobtainable, decriminalizing marijuana use and possession for adults and youth by classifying such activities as civil, not criminal, offenses.

The ACLU also recommends that until legalization or depenalization is achieved, law enforcement agencies and district attorney offices should deprioritize enforcement of marijuana possession laws.

In addition, police should end racial profiling and unconstitutional stop, frisk, and search practices, and no longer measure success and productivity by the number of arrests they make.

Further, states and the federal government should eliminate the financial incentives and rewards that enable and encourage law enforcement to make large numbers of arrests, including for low-level offenses such as marijuana possession.

In sum, it is time to end marijuana possession arrests.

**For more information about the
nationwide marijuana possession arrests
and their strong support by police, prosecutors
and prominent liberal Democrats, see:**

The Scandal of Racist Marijuana Arrests

<http://marijuana-arrests.com/The-Scandal-Of-Racist-Marijuana-Arrests.html>