

NYC marijuana possession arrests
in 2011: **50,684**

Seating capacity at Yankee
Stadium: **50,287**

Mayor Bloomberg:
Arresting people for marijuana
is not a game.



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The Facts

- In 1977, New York State decriminalized possession of up to 25 grams of marijuana, making it a non-criminal violation punishable by a \$100 fine, like a traffic ticket. Possessing or burning marijuana *in public view*, however, is a criminal misdemeanor offense – and police are falsely charging people for public view or burning even when the marijuana is concealed.
- In 2011, the NYPD used this loophole to arrest 50,684 people for misdemeanor marijuana possession – making it the number one arrest in NYC.

These arrests:

- *violate constitutional rights.* Most arrests are based on false charges by police; many are the result of illegal frisks or searches.
- *are expensive.* They cost NYC taxpayers \$75 million in 2011 and more than \$600 million over the last decade.
- *are racially biased and target young people.* Over 84% of those arrested are Black and Latino, even though whites use marijuana at higher rates. Nearly 70% of those arrested are young people.

Get Informed, Get Involved, Take Action!

- *Attend a Know Your Rights Workshop* – Contact us and we will provide free training to your community, group or organization.
- *Support the legislative reform, S.5187 (Grisanti)/A.7620 (Jeffries)* – Call your legislators and ask them to support legislation to stop these biased, costly and illegal arrests: 518.455.3216
- *Help Pass Council Resolution 0986* – Call 311 to find your New York City Council Member and ask them to co-sponsor the resolution and investigate these arrests.
- *Visit our website for more info:* www.drugpolicy.org/nyc-arrests

Sponsored by New Yorkers for Health and Safety: Drug Policy Alliance, Institute for Juvenile Justice Reform and Alternatives, and VOCAL NY.

If you have been arrested for marijuana possession, or for more information, contact Cassandra Frederique at 212.613.8053, or kfrederique@drugpolicy.org

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