



## The Media Awareness Project

A worldwide network dedicated to drug policy reform. We inform public opinion and promote balanced media coverage.



## Frequently Asked Questions

*"Marijuana in its natural form is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man. By any measure of rational analysis marijuana can be safely used within the supervised routine of medical care." - DEA Administrative Law Judge Francis L. Young*

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### DrugSense Weekly Newsletter

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

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**DrugSense**  
Makes Sense

### Who is DrugSense?

DrugSense is a network of researchers, experts, and activists dedicated to encouraging an accurate, science-based debate on drug policy.

### What does DrugSense do?

DrugSense encourages balanced and factual media coverage on international drug policy and helps citizens promote rational alternatives to the "War on Drugs."

### What are DrugSense's goals?

1. To inform public about drug policy issues so that decisions can be based on facts and debate, rather than propaganda, fear, and misinformation;
2. To ensure that the media presents all sides of this complex issue without bias or sensationalism;
3. To build active citizen networks that will promote progressive changes to current policies.

### Why the War on Drugs?

The "War on Drugs" represents one of the greatest modern day, international policy failures. It has proven to be expensive, ineffective, and destructive. While failing to reduce usage, prohibition has increased the harm of illicit drugs and the profits of the black market. Racial profiling, fiscal deficits, bloated prisons, an increasingly corrupt police force, and a host of other societal problems can be directly traced to the drug war. The Drug War Clock (<http://www.drugsense.org/wodclock.htm>) clearly demonstrates the need for reform by counting the billions of wasted dollars, unnecessary deaths, and ever increasing incarceration rates brought on by this policy failure.

### What are DrugSense's largest projects?

**Media Awareness Project** (<http://www.mapinc.org>): Collects newspaper, magazine, and Web articles from all over the world pertaining to drugs and drug policy and places them into the largest online archive on the topic.

**Drug Policy Central** (<http://www.drugpolicycentral.com>): Provides Web hosting, e-mail discussion lists, newsfeeds, and technical support to organizations devoted to drug policy debate and reform.

### Why collect articles on drug policy?

Until the advent of the Internet, one point of view – strict prohibition – dominated drug policy. Those who saw the flaws in this policy were largely devoid of an inexpensive way to connect with one another and respond to faulty news coverage. They also competed with an entrenched multi-billion dollar propaganda machine. DrugSense established the MAP archive as knowledge base to track drug policy and enable activists to respond to inaccurate, biased, or sensationalized coverage. Simply writing Letters to the Editors (LTEs) can have a profound effect on how news is reported, as well as on drug policy itself. The MAP archive of published LTEs is at <http://www.mapinc.org/lte/>.

Letters	Bulletin Board	Chat Rooms	Drug Links	Feedback	Drug News
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# Drug Policy Central

Web Design, Hosting  
and Internet Services

## Frequently Asked Questions

### DS/MAP Services:

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- [DrugSense Weekly](#)
- [Focus Alerts](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Chat](#)
- [Drug War Clock](#)
- [OnAir](#)
- [Drug Links Database](#)

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### Will Drug Policy Central help my organization?

Drug Policy Central serves more than 130 drug policy reform organizations, providing them with Web hosting, e-mail discussion lists, newsfeeds, or technical support. Please see: <http://www.drugpolicycentral.com/hosting/support.htm>

### Who makes DrugSense happen?

Volunteers drive the MAP archive by collecting articles and processing them into the database. Drug Policy Central employs top-notch programmers and Web designers. A small number of other staff members assist with membership, public relations, and fundraising.

### What can I do for DrugSense?

DrugSense offers several ways to become involved in drug policy reform. As Newshawks, volunteers can find and submit articles to the MAP archive. Those who wish to become more involved can volunteer as Editors who format and post the articles to the archive. Others with penchant for the written word can compose Focus Alerts or write Letters to the Editor and OpEds. Please see: <http://www.mapinc.org/how2.htm>

### How popular is DrugSense?

Web sites hosted by DrugSense are among the most popular in the world, both inside and outside of drug policy. Alexa (<http://www.alexa.com/>), an organization that tracks Website popularity based on the number of visitors and page views, consistently ranks MAP (<http://www.mapinc.org>) in the top 30,000 out of the hundreds of millions of Web sites globally. The MAP Website is far more popular than the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign site (<http://www.freevibe.com/>) and the site for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>), both of which benefited from more than \$175,000,000 of governmentally funded advertising in 2003.

### Can I donate money to DrugSense?

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, DrugSense relies on donations of both time and money to reform drug policy. Checks or money orders should be made out to DrugSense and mailed to 14252 Culver Drive #328, Irvine, CA, 92604-0326. Our secure Web server at <http://www.drugsense.org/donate.htm> accepts credit card contributions.

- [Media Contacts](#)
- [Store](#)
- [The Issues](#)
- [Get Active](#)
- [Raw Feeds](#)

### Can donations be made to MAP only?

Yes, donations designated for the Media Awareness Project will be only be used for it. Similarly, funds can be directed toward Drug Policy Central or earmarked to cover the Web expenses of any of the more than 100 organizations we host. Please see: [http://www.drugsense.org/donate.htm#support\\_dpc](http://www.drugsense.org/donate.htm#support_dpc)

### Member Services:

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### Support DPC Clients

DrugSense provides hosting, tech support and internet services to over 130 drug policy reform organizations worldwide using a sliding scale based on each organization's ability to pay.

You can now make a donation to help offset the costs of internet services for your favorite DPC client.

[Donate Here](#)

[info@drugpolicycentral.com](mailto:info@drugpolicycentral.com)



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