



ENFORCEMENT GETS LION'S SHARE OF FEDERAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY FUNDING

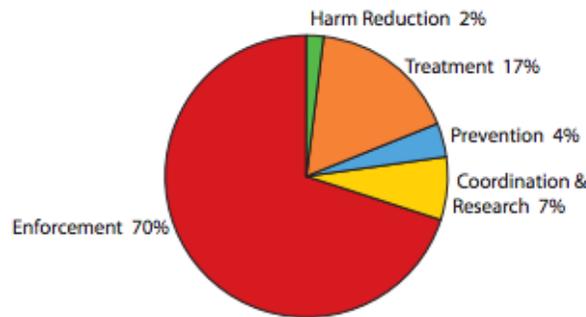
BACKGROUND & METHOD

- When Prime Minister Steven Harper introduced his government's new 'National Anti-Drug Strategy' in October 2007, he emphasized that two-thirds of the new funds would go towards preventing and treating illicit drug abuse and addiction.
- This appeared to be a significant investment in the areas of drug use prevention and treatment.
- However, when researchers analyzed government financial records, they found little change from previous years.

QUICK FACT

OVERALL, THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR PREVENTION, TREATMENT, HARM REDUCTION, AND RESEARCH COMBINED IS STILL LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE STRATEGY'S TOTAL BUDGET.

National Anti-Drug Strategy Funding by Category



FINDINGS

- Specifically, while the budget for prevention and treatment programs did go up from 2004-05 levels, the increases were insignificant—from 3% to 4% for prevention and from 14% to 17% for treatment.
- Overall, the amount of money allocated for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and research combined is still less than one-third of the strategy's total budget.
- A full 70% of the budget is still directed towards anti-drug law enforcement.

IMPLICATIONS

- As many previous studies have repeatedly shown, drug law enforcement has not been very effective in addressing the problems associated with the use of illicit drugs.
- This current research shows that drug use prevention and addiction treatment initiatives remain inadequately funded under the National Anti-Drug Strategy.
- For the strategy to work, resources must be directed away from ineffective measures and towards prevention, treatment, and harm reduction programs that have been proven to be effective.

DeBeck K, Wood E, Montaner J, Kerr T. **Canada's new federal National Anti-Drug Strategy: An informal audit of reported funding allocation.** *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2009; 20(2): 188-191.

