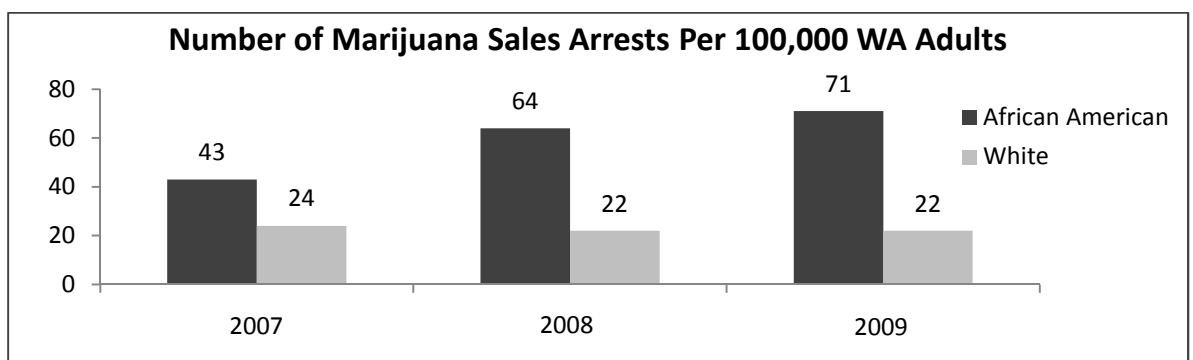
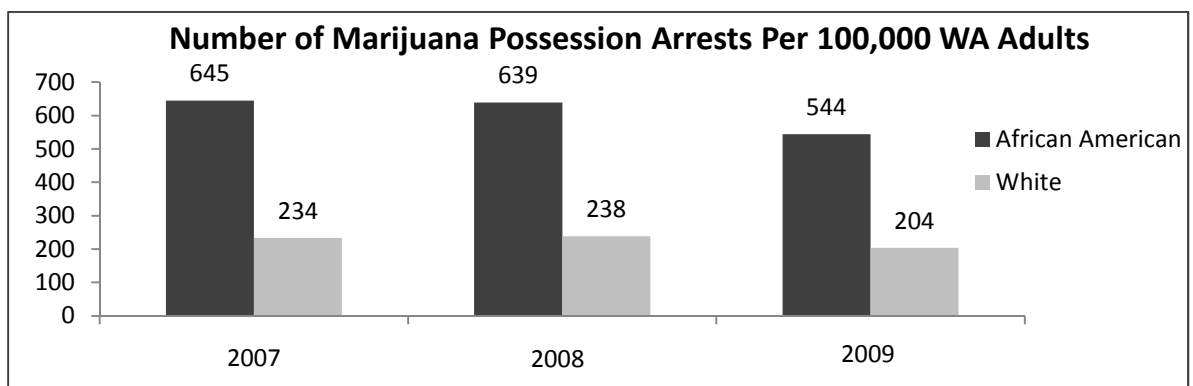




## Washington's marijuana laws disproportionately impact African Americans.

African Americans are more likely to be arrested in Washington for marijuana possession and sales than white people, despite using at equal rates.

- An African American adult is roughly 3 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession or sales in Washington than a white adult.<sup>1</sup>



- Drug usage rates do not explain why African Americans receive disparate law enforcement treatment.

In Washington, 41.8% of African American adults have used marijuana, and 42.8% of white adults have done so.<sup>2</sup>

# ENDNOTES

1

Marijuana Possession Arrests and Race		% of Population	% of Persons Arrested	# of Persons Arrested
African American	2007	3.7%	10.3%	1,195
	2008		10.1%	1,184
	2009		10.1%	1,026
White	2007	84.3%	85.6%	9,885
	2008		85.7%	10,050
	2009		85.7%	8,730

Marijuana Sales Arrests and Race		% of Population	% of Persons Arrested	# of Persons Arrested
African American	2007	3.7%	6.9%	80
	2008		11.0%	118
	2009		12.0%	133
White	2007	84.3%	86.7%	999
	2008		84.5%	911
	2009		83.4%	929

2007, 2008, and 2009 arrest data provided by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs; rate calculation was conducted using the following formula: # of arrests/ (population/100,000). Population data estimated from census statistics (2007 and 2008 arrest rates based on the following populations, 185,375 African American and 4,223,562 white adults in Washington state; 2009 based on 188,630 African Americans and 4,297,706 white adults in Washington state).

<sup>2</sup> Washington State Department of Social & Health Services, *Tobacco, Alcohol, & Other Drug Abuse Trends in Washington State 2008 Report*, p. 64 (2008), available at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/dasa/2008-Trends%20Report.pdf>.