

# Drug Policy Alliance

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://drugpolicy.org/resource/racial-and-ethnic-impact-statements>**

## Policy Issue Resources

### [DONATE](#)

A Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement (REIS) requires policymakers proposing new legislation or changes to existing legislation to assess the potential impact on racial disparities. Such statements are similar to fiscal or environmental impact statements, which are now widely considered responsible mechanisms of government. The drug war has produced profoundly unequal outcomes across racial and ethnic groups. Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements can help assess disparities at various stages of the criminal justice process to reveal discriminatory outcomes, whether purposeful or not. Such statements can help policymakers avoid enacting policies that create or contribute to racial disparities and perhaps even correct some of the mistakes of the past.

Sign up to receive action alerts and news about drug policy reform.

Get tips for covering the war on drugs and download DPA staff photos, logos, marijuana stock photos and b-roll video.

Our new strategic plan takes bold steps to dismantle this war on drugs and our communities. Join us in seeing this vision through.

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter to get an inside look at DPA and the world of drug policy reform.

The logo for the Drug Policy Alliance, featuring the text "We are the Drug Policy Alliance." in white and yellow on a red background.

**We are  
the Drug  
Policy  
Alliance.**