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Over 6,000 Incarcerated in CA in 2015 for Marijuana Related Offenses In LA County Blacks Bear Brunt of Racial Disparity in Jails

Washington – New Frontier Data, the cannabis Big Data and analytics authority, has released a new report commissioned by the Drug Policy Action, estimates the number of people jailed in California for marijuana-related offenses. New Frontier has found that despite recent declines 6,537 people have been incarcerated in California for various offenses related to marijuana.

“This report highlights why it is critical to have a data based approach to public policy decision making. It has been long claimed that no one goes to jail for marijuana any longer in California, which this report definitively proves to be incorrect. Understanding the impact of the current policy is critical in informing the electorate as it decides this November on whether to replace prohibition with a regulated market,” said Giadha DeCarcner, CEO & Founder of New Frontier Data.

“Trying to answer the question of how many people are behind bars in California for a marijuana offense turned out to be a tremendous task, really more of a scavenger hunt, given the inconsistent data collection and reporting methods used across county jails,” said Lynne Lyman, the CA state director for the Drug Policy Alliance. “We greatly appreciate the detailed analysis undertaken by New Frontier Data, that tells us that over 6,000 people were incarcerated for marijuana in county jails in 2015.”

Based on a model of statewide marijuana-related incarcerations created from data provided by California counties, an estimated 2,139 people were convicted, sentenced, and jailed for Marijuana Only offenses in 2015. This was a 21% decline from the 2,665 people jailed for Marijuana Only offenses in 2010. The number of people sentenced and jailed for Marijuana Plus offenses — charges that included, but were not limited to, marijuana offenses — fell from 7,526 in 2010, to 4,398 in 2015; a 42% decline.

The report explores the following issues:

- How many people in California are convicted and sentenced to jail each year specifically for marijuana-related offenses only?
- How many people in California are convicted and sentenced to jail each year for multiple offenses?
- What are the demographics of the population jailed for marijuana-related offenses, including age, gender and ethnicity?
- What are the sentence lengths for persons incarcerated for marijuana-related offenses vs. multiple offenses?

If you are a reporter interested in looking at this report, www.frontierfinancials.com/CAjails/ or please contact Gretchen Gailey at ggailey@newfrontierdata.com for a copy.

About New Frontier Data:

New Frontier Data provides objective, rigorous and comprehensive analysis and reporting for the nascent and underserved cannabis industry. New Frontier's data and reports have been cited in over 45 countries around the world to inform industry leaders. New Frontier, the premiere Big Data shop in the sector looks beyond the plant cultivation and distribution, to raise the industry bar and improve visibility into what will inevitably soon be a mature and more complex industry. Founded in 2014, New Frontier is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has additional offices in Denver. For more information or media inquiries, please visit www.frontierfinancials.com or contact Gretchen Gailey at 202-489-3821 or ggailey@newfrontierdata.com.

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