

Marijuana Arrest Research Project

For Immediate Release

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Marijuana Possession Arrests Continue Under Mayor de Blasio and NYPD Police Commissioner Bratton

**New York City's Marijuana Possession Arrests are
Higher in the First Quarter of 2014 Under de Blasio
than in the Third and Fourth Quarters of 2013 under Bloomberg**

**Dramatic Racial Disparities Persist with Blacks and Latinos Making up 86% of Arrests
Despite Whites Using at the Same or Higher Rates**

In March 2014, the NYPD under de Blasio and Bratton made more marijuana possession arrests than in any month in the last six months under Bloomberg and Kelly. New York City's marijuana possession arrests in the first quarter of 2014 are higher than in the third and fourth quarters of 2013. In fact, the NYPD made more marijuana possession arrests in March 2014 than in 10 of the 12 months in 2013.

As in previous years, the marijuana arrests in the first three months of 2014 were concentrated in neighborhoods where most of the residents are blacks and Latinos. Marijuana arrests are commonly made after police have searched people or ordered them to empty their pockets. Even as the number of reported stop-and-frisks has dropped, marijuana arrests in 2014 continued the pattern of unequal, unfair policing and arrest policies in the "two New Yorks" that Mayor de Blasio called attention to in his campaign.

For example in Brooklyn, in predominately white Park Slope (Pct. 78), police made 7 marijuana possession arrests, and in Carroll Gardens and Red Hook (Pct. 76) they made 12 marijuana arrests in the first three months of 2014. But police made 111 arrests in Bedford-Stuyvesant (Pct. 79), 130 arrests in Crown Heights (Pct. 77), and 438 marijuana arrests in East New York (Pct. 75), all neighborhoods where most residents are blacks and Latinos.

In Manhattan, police made only two marijuana possession arrests in Pct. 01, Tribeca and Wall Street, one arrest in Pct. 19, the Upper East Side, and only four arrests in Pct. 20, the Upper West Side, all predominately white and relatively affluent neighborhoods. But police made 176 marijuana arrests in East Harlem (Pct. 25) and 285 arrests in Washington Heights (Pct. 33).

Despite government studies showing that young whites use marijuana at higher rates, 86% of those arrested in the first quarter of 2014 were blacks and Latinos, mostly young men. Seventy percent of those charged with criminal possession of marijuana were young people age 16 to 29, and 30% were teens between the ages of 16-20.

In 2013, the NYPD made 28,644 of the lowest-level marijuana possession arrests. This was down from the peak Bloomberg years, but it is still very high in the history of New York City.

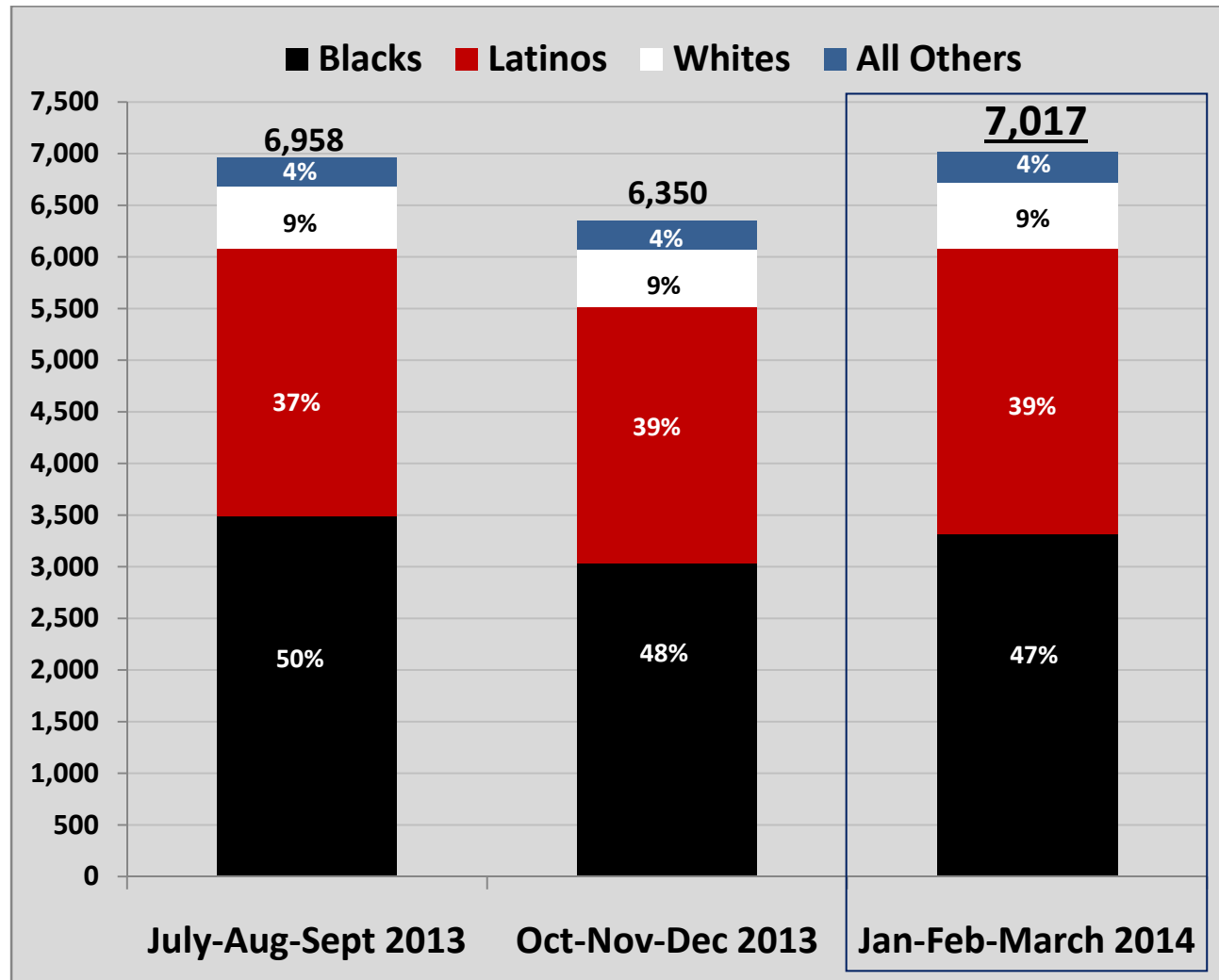
In 2014, the NYPD under Commissioner Bratton appears to be on track to make as many of the marijuana possession arrests as were made in 2013 under Commissioner Kelly.

As detailed in the accompanying charts using data from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, 28,000 arrests is 12 times more marijuana arrests a year than under Mayor Koch, 28 times more than under Mayor Dinkins, and it is even greater than the eight year average of arrests under Mayor Giuliani. (See graphs for details about the above.)

Harry Levine, a sociology professor at Queens College, City University of New York, and co-director of Marijuana Arrest Research Project said:

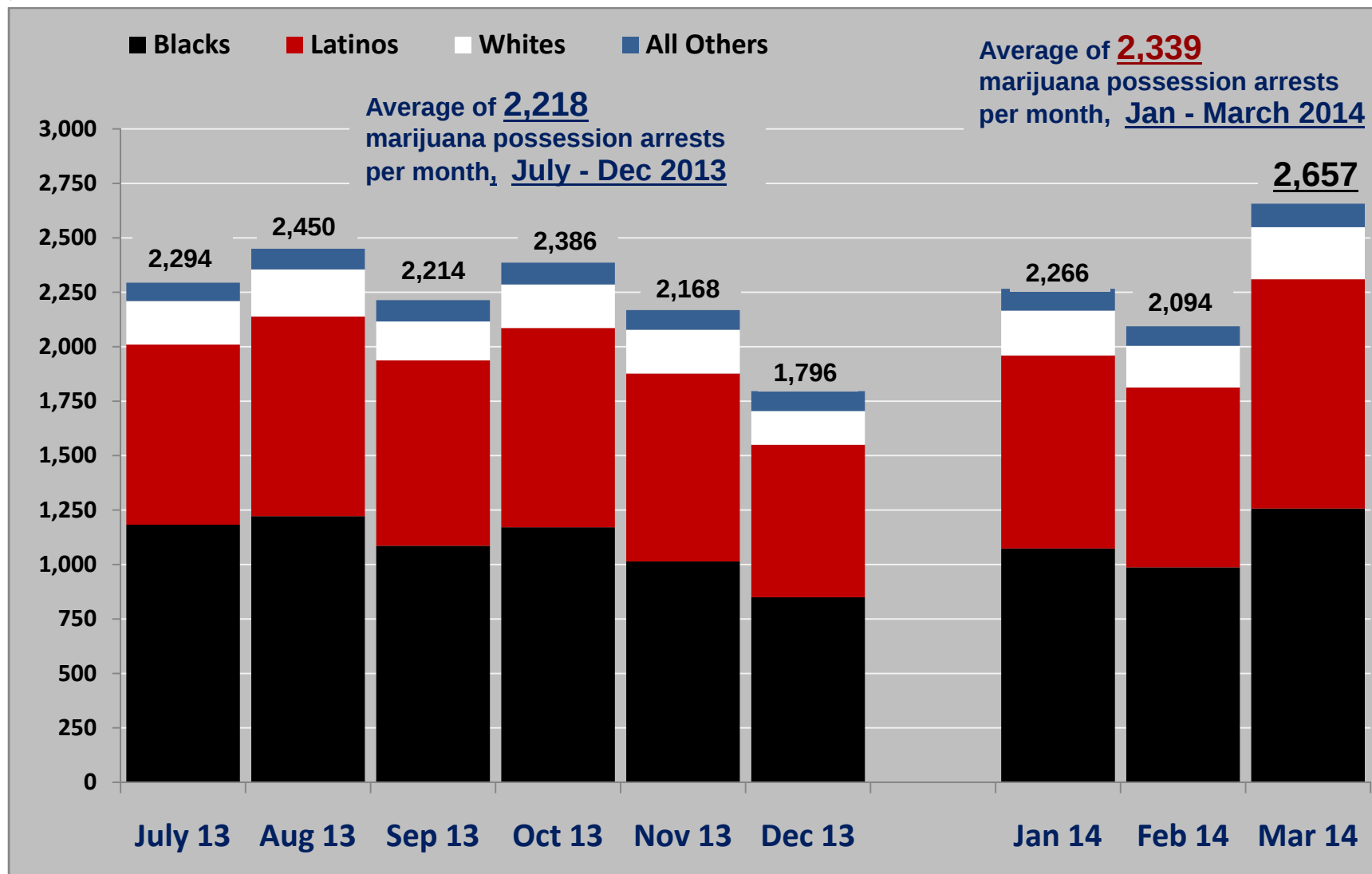
"At 28,000 arrests a year, New York still makes more marijuana possession arrests than any city in the world. Yet the simple possession of marijuana has not been a crime in New York State since 1978. Isn't it time for these unfair, biased, damaging, often illegal arrests to just stop, now?"

NYPD Marijuana Possession Arrests by Race and Ethnicity in The Last Two Quarters of 2013 under Bloomberg and Kelly, and the First Quarter of 2014, under de Blasio and Bratton



Harry Levine, Sociology Department, Queens College, City University of New York, and the Marijuana Arrest Research Project.
Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Ages 16 and older. All arrests where marijuana possession was the only or highest charge. <http://marijuana-arrests.com/> May 2014

NYPD Marijuana Possession Arrests 2013 (July-Dec) and 2014 (Jan-March)

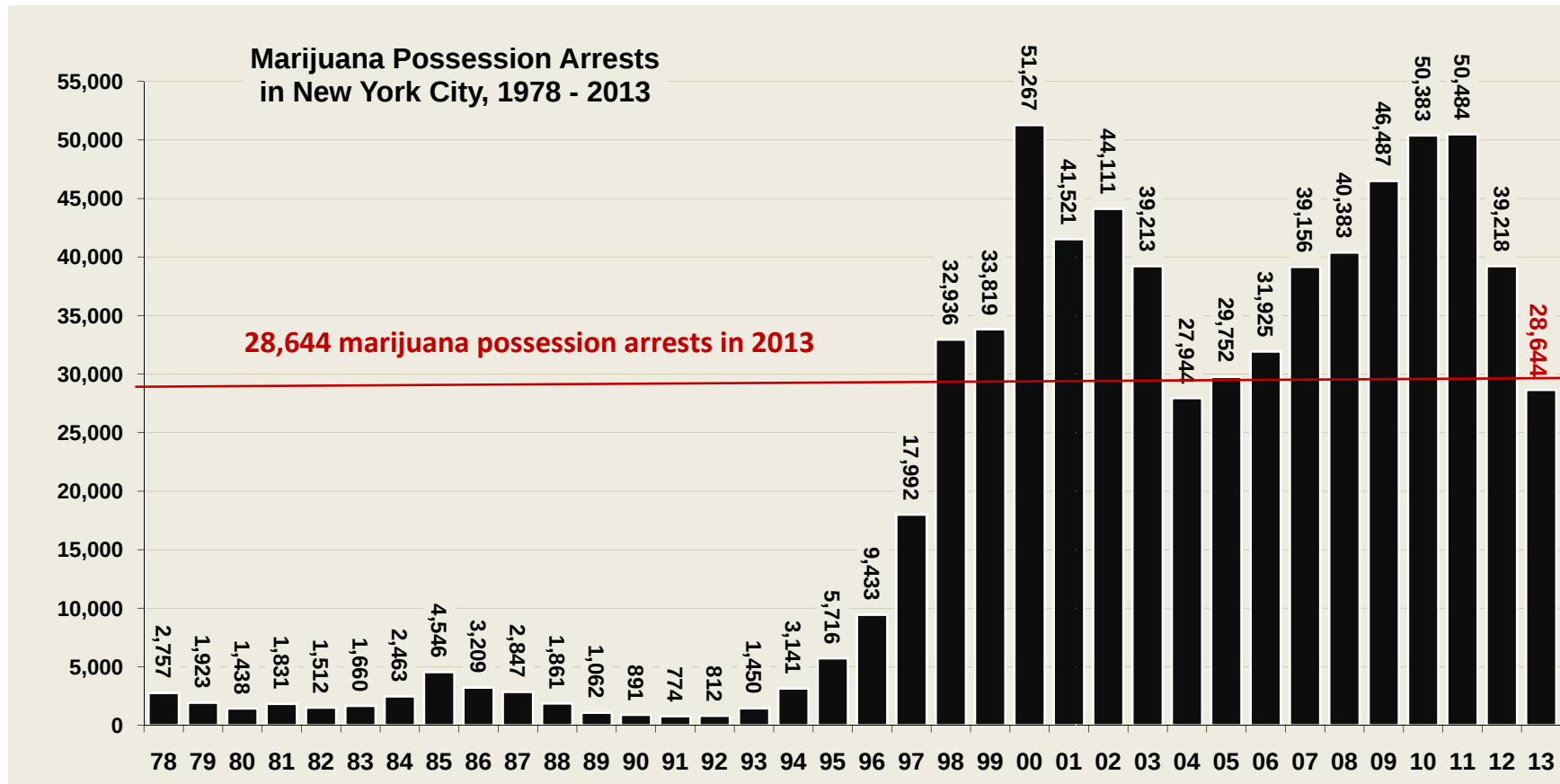


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Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Ages 16 and older. All arrests where marijuana was the only or highest charge.

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37 Years of Marijuana Possession Arrests in New York City

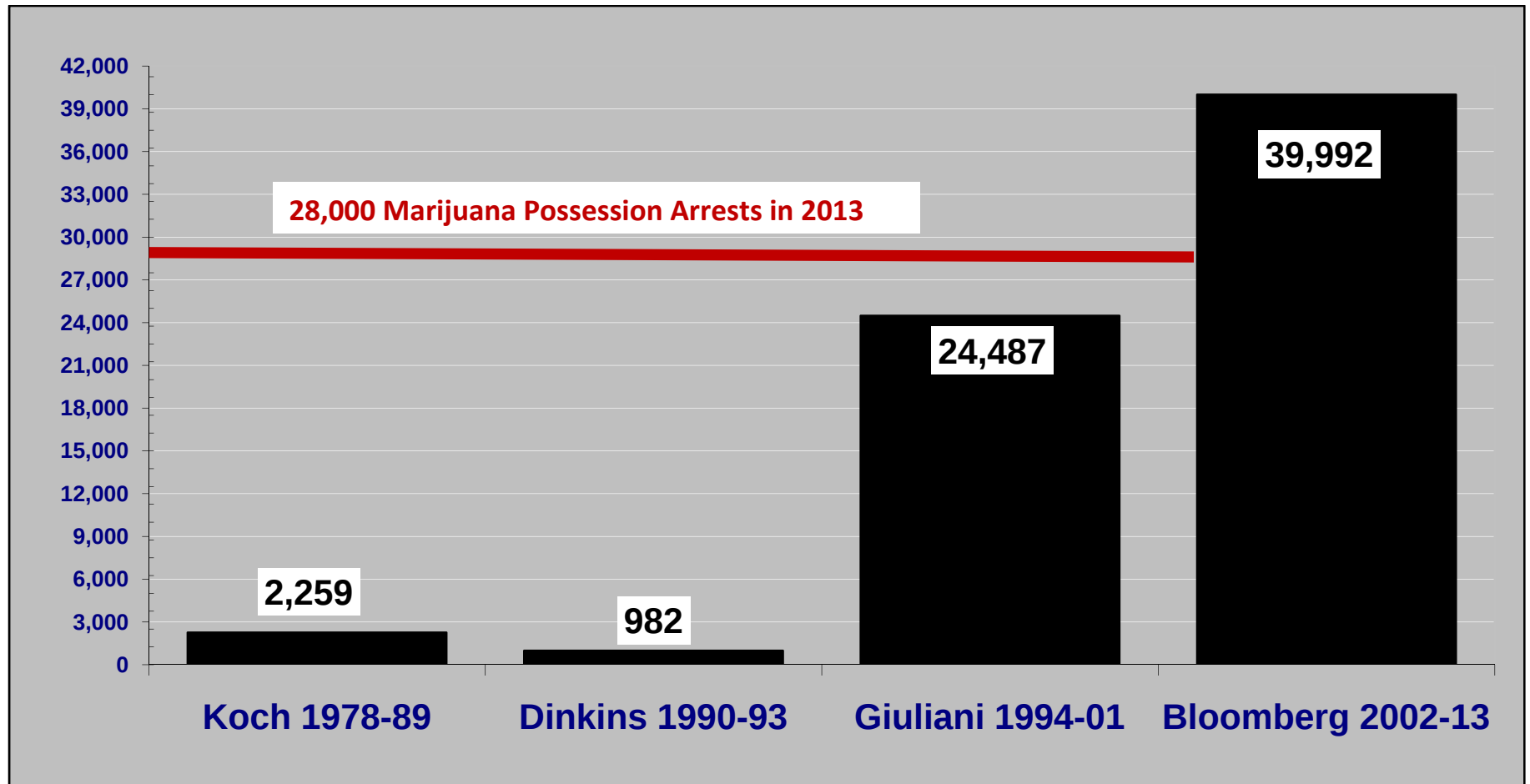


Harry Levine, Sociology Department, Queens College, City University of New York, and the Marijuana Arrest Research Project.

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Ages 16 and older. All arrests where marijuana possession was the only or highest charge.

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Yearly Average of New York City Marijuana Possession Arrests Under Mayors Koch, Dinkins, Giuliani and Bloomberg



Harry Levine, Sociology Department, Queens College, City University of New York, and the Marijuana Arrest Research Project.

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Ages 16 and older. All arrests where marijuana possession was the only or highest charge.

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Monthly Marijuana Possession Arrests in 2013 and The First Quarter of 2014, by Race and Ethnicity

	2013														2014			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Total	2,786	2,447	2,438	2,578	2,769	2,318	2,294	2,450	2,214	2,386	2,168	1,796	28,644		2,266	2,094	2,657	7,017
Blacks	1,379	1,190	1,202	1,287	1,384	1,224	1,183	1,222	1,086	1,171	1,014	850	14,192		1,074	987	1,257	3,318
Latinos	1,030	916	898	905	1,000	803	827	917	852	915	863	700	10,626		886	826	1,053	2,765
Whites	272	244	234	279	268	201	200	216	178	200	201	155	2,648		206	191	239	636
All Others	105	97	104	107	117	90	84	95	98	100	90	91	1,178		100	90	108	298

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. NYPD Lowest Level Marijuana Possession Arrests (NYSPL 221.10), Age 16 and older. For all arrests marijuana possession was the only charge or the highest charge.

Harry Levine, Sociology Department, Queens College, City University of New York. and the Marijuana Arrest Research Project.
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Young arrestees being led into the Brooklyn Court House in chains. Photo: Jarrett Murphy, City Limits