

In 38 states and the District of Columbia, the racial disparities in marijuana possession arrests increased between 2001 and 2010. **See Table 7.** The jurisdictions with the greatest percentage increases in racial disparities in marijuana possession arrest rates over the past 10 years were Alaska (384%), Minnesota (231%), Wisconsin (153%), Michigan (149%), and Kentucky (146%).<sup>40</sup>

**TABLE 7**  
**States with Largest Percent Increases in Racial Disparities in Marijuana Possession Arrest Rates (2001-2010)**

State	Racial Disparity		
	Times More Likely Blacks Arrested (2001)	Times More Likely Blacks Arrested (2010)	% Change in Racial Disparity
Alaska	0.3	1.6	384.1%
Minnesota	2.4	7.8	231.0%
Wisconsin	2.4	6.0	153.0%
Michigan	1.3	3.3	149.3%
Kentucky	2.4	6.0	145.8%
Tennessee	1.8	4.0	121.7%
Ohio	1.9	4.1	118.1%
D.C.	4.6	8.0	76.8%
Massachusetts	2.2	3.9	75.4%
Georgia	2.2	3.7	71.0%
Mississippi	2.3	3.9	68.9%
Alabama	2.6	4.4	67.1%
South Carolina	1.8	2.8	57.4%
Connecticut	2.2	3.3	53.7%
Arkansas	2.0	3.1	53.5%

Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race and U.S. Census Data

<sup>40</sup> The states with the greatest decreases in racial disparities in marijuana arrest rates were Nebraska (-51%), Colorado (-38%), Montana (-34%), California (-11%), and South Dakota (-10%). **See Appendix A, Table A6.** Note that although Massachusetts reduced its overall marijuana possession arrests by 86% after decriminalizing adult marijuana possession of an ounce or less in 2008, the racial disparity in arrest rates still increased: it was 3.42 in 2008 (before decriminalization), went up 56.1% to 5.34 in 2009 (after decriminalization), and then fell to 3.87 in 2010 (though still a 13.1% increase from 2008). Overall, the disparity increased 75% between 2001 and 2010.