

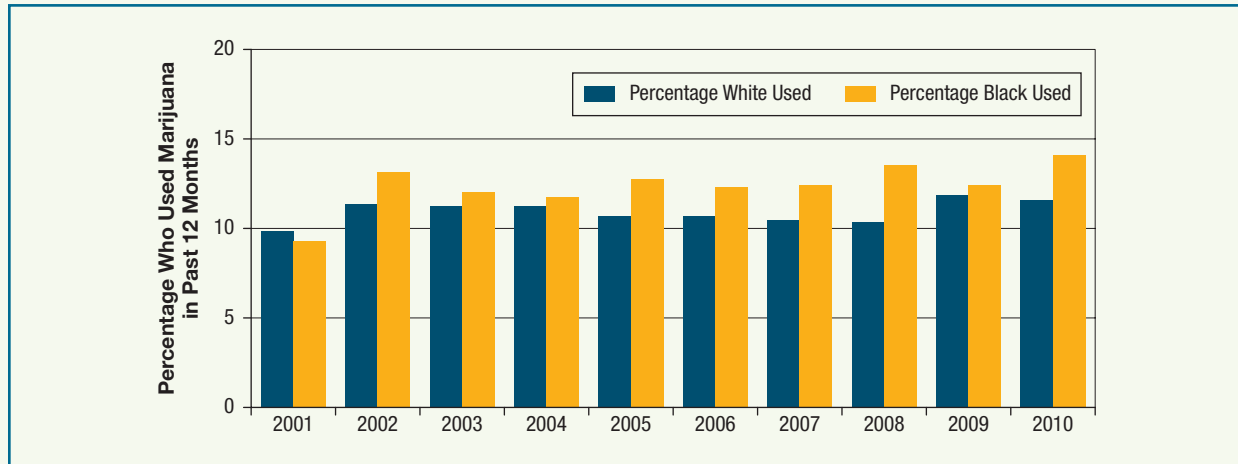
ENGAGING SOCIOLOGY

Marijuana Use Versus Marijuana Arrests

Today, we can see evidence of discrimination in the criminal justice system by comparing the treatment of

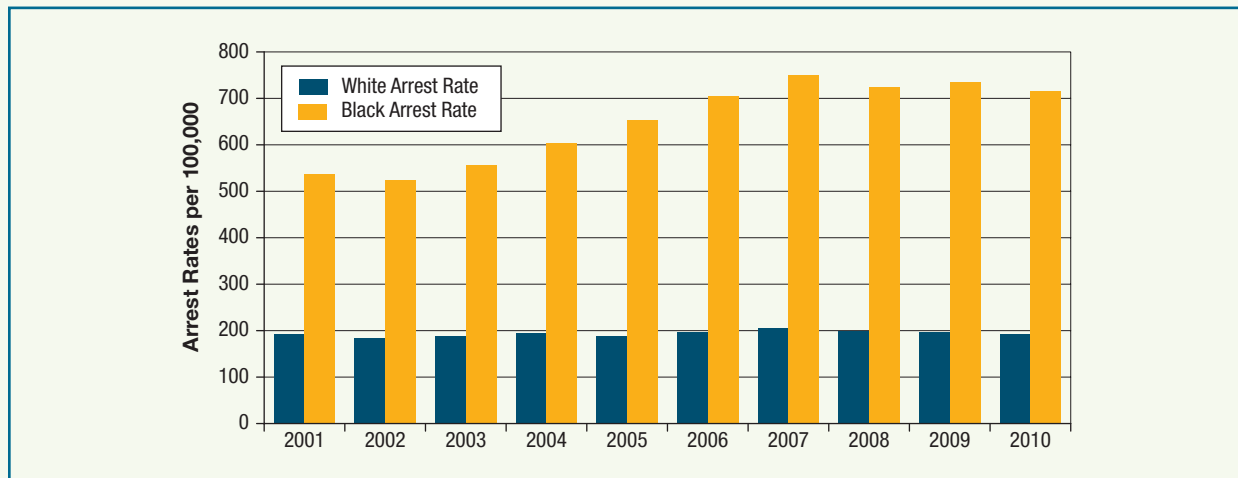
Black and White Americans who use marijuana in states where it is illegal. See Figures 6.3a and 6.3b.

FIGURE 6.3a Marijuana Use by Race, 2001–2010



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

FIGURE 6.3b Arrest Rates for Marijuana Possession by Race, 2001–2010



Source: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data and U.S. Census Data.

Engaging With Sociology

1. What are the respective percentages of White and Black Americans who use marijuana?
2. What are the respective percentages of White and Black Americans arrested for marijuana use?
3. Of the theories described in this chapter, which offers the most convincing explanation for the discrepancy in the answers to Questions 1 and 2? Why?