

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

San Francisco, California

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2004



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

San Francisco, California

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2002 Census): 744,881
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 Census): 50.62% white; 7.11% black/African American; 0.34% American Indian/Alaska Native; 32.62% Asian; 0.42% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 5.8% some other race; 3.09% two or more races; 14.14% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- The city of San Francisco is located in San Francisco County.

Politics

- Mayor: Gavin Christopher Newsom²
- Board of Supervisors (Districts 1-11, respectively): Jake McGoldrick; vacant; Aaron Peskin; Fiona Ma; Matt Gonzalez (President); Chris Daly; Tony Hall; Bevan Dufty; Tom Ammiano; Sophie Maxwell; Gerardo Sandoval.³
- Chief of Police: Alex E. Fagan⁴
- San Francisco Sheriff: Michael Hennessey⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)⁶
The Northern California HIDTA, formerly referred to as the San Francisco Bay Area HIDTA, was designated in 1997. The HIDTA includes ten northern counties that are situated on the San Francisco Bay, including San Francisco County.
- Drug Elimination Team⁷
San Francisco's police department, district attorney's office, public defender's office, sheriff's department, adult and juvenile probation departments, and health department created the Drug Elimination Team (DET). The DET partnership focuses on the reduction of drug-related crime by assessing crime trends throughout the City to develop and implement integrated strategies to suppress and prevent drug-related activity.
- San Francisco/San Francisco County Demand Treatment⁸
This pilot program will initiate screenings, brief interventions, and case management for vulnerable clients in two health centers that currently integrate primary care, mental health, and substance abuse services.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program⁹
Since FY 1999, funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program has only been awarded once in San Francisco. The Youth Power coalition received \$100,000 in FY 2002.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁰
San Francisco was officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site in 1998.

- FY 2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in San Francisco:¹¹
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$3,060,552
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$1,686,026
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$7,008,962
- FY 2002-2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Discretionary Grant recipients in San Francisco:
 - FY 2002:¹²
 - \$297,625 to the Judicial Council of California for drug court enhancement.
 - FY 2003:¹³
 - \$300,000 to the Superior Court of California, San Francisco County
- There were no San Francisco recipients of the FY 2002 funding available from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to fight methamphetamine.¹⁴
- San Francisco did not receive FY 2003 funding from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁵
- There were no funding awards in San Francisco for the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grants.¹⁶
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by San Francisco recipients:¹⁷
 - \$3,846,594 in formula funds
 - \$10,375,919 in discretionary funds

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, there were 46 homicides known to the police in San Francisco.¹⁸ The number of homicide offenses in San Francisco increased to 68 during 2002.¹⁹ According to preliminary 2003 data, there were 70 homicide offenses reported to San Francisco police from January to December 2003.²⁰

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, San Francisco, 2001-2003

Offense Type	2001	2002	2003
Homicide	46	68	70
Rape	253	225	160
Robbery	3,786	3,256	2,967
Aggravated assault	2,487	2,412	2,309
Burglary	6,706	6,051	5,507
Other larceny	14,181	13,339	13,091
Auto boosting	10,702	11,732	11,037
Motor vehicle theft	6,593	6,506	6,509
Citywide total	44,754	43,649	41,650

- The number of San Francisco County felony drug arrests decreased from 8,307 in 2000 to 8,035 in 2002.²¹

Felony and Misdemeanor Drug Arrests, San Francisco County, 2000-2002

Type of Felony Drug Arrest	2000	2001	2002
<i>Felony drug arrests</i>			
Narcotics	6,236	5,214	6,095
Marijuana	1,143	935	1,011
Dangerous drugs	828	851	865
Other drug	100	58	64
Total	8,307	7,058	8,035
<i>Misdemeanor drug arrests</i>			
Marijuana	672	428	453
Other drug	1,358	1,197	1,051
Total	2,030	1,625	1,504

Drugs

- Cocaine

The prevalence of cocaine has increased in San Francisco after previous significant declines during the 1990s. Many users are shifting away from smoking crack towards using the powder form. Cocaine users are predominately black in San Francisco.²²
- Heroin

Ethnographic observers report an increase in younger, white heroin users who do not inject the drug. Older users still prefer the injection route of administration.²³ From 2001-2002, heroin prices ranged from \$20 per ½ gram to \$18,000-\$80,000 per kilogram. Average purity levels ranged from 15% for Mexican heroin to 20-60% per kilogram.²⁴
- Marijuana

Marijuana sold for \$2,500 per pound from 2001-2002.²⁵ Marijuana use among youth is increasing in San Francisco.²⁶
- Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use is widespread in San Francisco. The speed scene remained active in San Francisco during 2002, but to a lesser extent than during its peak years of use around 1997.²⁷ From 2001-2002, methamphetamine prices ranged from \$500-\$1,000 per ounce to \$4,500-\$10,000 per pound.²⁸
- Other Dangerous Drugs

MDMA tested 90% pure in the San Francisco area.²⁹ There has been an increase in the appearance of oxycodone in the street scene of San Francisco.³⁰

Juveniles

- During 2002, there were 255 juvenile felony drug arrests in San Francisco County.³¹

Juvenile Felony and Misdemeanor Drug Arrests, San Francisco County, 2000-2002

Type of Drug Arrest	2000	2001	2002
<i>Felony drug arrests</i>			
Narcotics	258	171	193
Marijuana	94	37	50
Dangerous drugs	4	8	12
Total	356	216	255
<i>Misdemeanor drug arrests</i>			
Marijuana	50	63	61
Other drugs	15	9	11
Total	65	72	72

- During 2002, there were 274 juvenile arrests for robbery in San Francisco County.³²

Number of Juvenile Arrests, San Francisco County, 2000-2002

Offense	2000	2001	2002
Homicide	2	2	8
Forcible rape	3	5	4
Robbery	346	324	274
Assault	226	182	214
Burglary	92	131	111
Theft	82	99	85
Motor vehicle theft	167	109	130
Arson	6	11	4

- During 2001, a survey of San Francisco high school students indicated that 33.6% had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.³³

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, San Francisco, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	33.9%	33.2%	33.6%
Current marijuana use	17.7	18.9	18.3
Lifetime cocaine use	5.3	6.5	5.9
Current inhalant use	4.0	2.2	3.1
Lifetime heroin use	1.4	2.0	1.7
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.9	4.3	4.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.5	2.2	2.3
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	0.9	2.2	1.6
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	6.5	9.3	8.0

Enforcement

- As of October 2002, there were 2,661 law enforcement employees in San Francisco (2,274 officers and 387 civilians).³⁴

Trafficking and Seizures

- Asian gangs distribute powder and crack cocaine on San Francisco streets, but crack cocaine is predominately sold in public housing.³⁵
- Wholesale quantities of ice, powder form of methamphetamine, are sold out of residences in the San Francisco area.³⁶
- A significant portion of black tar heroin is destined for distribution in San Francisco.³⁷
- According to the San Francisco Police Department, Hispanic gang members are involved in marijuana distribution.³⁸
- Up to 20,000 marijuana plants have been found growing on land owned by the San Francisco Water Department and East Bay Regional Park.³⁹
- Drug trafficking organizations use the San Francisco area to smuggle MDMA into the United States from Europe.⁴⁰
- Southeast Asian methamphetamine tablets (Ya Ba) have been seized in the San Francisco area.⁴¹

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴²
As of November 2003, there were two drug courts in San Francisco that had been operating for over two years. No additional drug courts have been implemented or are being planned in San Francisco.
- San Francisco Adult Drug Court⁴³
The adult drug court is a pre-adjudication felony diversion program that began operating on March 15, 1995. Its target population includes eligible non-violent offenders charged with drug possession, certain possession for sale and sales charges, felony petty theft with a prior, auto burglary, and passing bad checks.
- Juvenile Drug Court⁴⁴
San Francisco's juvenile drug court, the "Youth Treatment and Education Court" (Y-TEC) serves juveniles ages 14 to 18 who have a history of criminal and substance abuse problems. Y-TEC offers both substance abuse treatment and education services.
- During FY 2001, 21.2% of federally sentenced offenders in Northern California had committed a drug offense, 40.3% of which involved methamphetamine.⁴⁵

Federally Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Northern California, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Marijuana	14	8.0%
Powder cocaine	50	28.4
Methamphetamine	71	40.3
Heroin	14	8.0
Other drug	3	1.7
Crack cocaine	24	13.6

Corrections

- San Francisco County Sheriff's Department jail substance abuse programs include the following:⁴⁶
 - Sisters in Sober Treatment Empowered in Recovery (SISTERS): This program is an in-custody therapeutic community that provides educational and substance abuse counseling for women. SISTERS is staffed by counselors from Walden House and Deputy Sheriffs.
 - Roads to Recovery: This in-custody therapeutic community provides educational and substance abuse counseling for men. It is staffed by Deputy Sheriffs and counselors from Milestones.

Consequences of Use

- During 2002, there were 8,571 drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes in San Francisco.⁴⁷

Number of ED Drug Episodes and Drug Mentions, San Francisco, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-comb.	1,586	1,705	1,804	2,155	1,926
Cocaine	1,843	1,935	2,054	2,482	2,353
Heroin	2,360	3,050	2,756	2,790	2,672
Marijuana	391	469	627	704	607
Amphetamines	172	254	371	786	700
Methamphetamine	616	554	591	611	727
MDMA (Ecstasy)	38	47	107	152	129
Ketamine	2	4	14	11	10
LSD	43	55	67	46	17
PCP	67	62	70	76	50
Misc. hallucinogens	23	15	33	42	37
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0	0
GHB	102	138	151	158	133
Inhalants	2	3	4	5	15
Combinations NTA*	11	17	25	17	24
Total drug episodes	9,068	8,928	7,857	8,575	8,571
Total drug mentions	12,519	12,70	12,171	13,743	13,085

* NTA = not tabulated above

- During 2001, San Francisco County medical examiners (MEs) reported 206 drug-related deaths in the county. Cocaine was mentioned 93 times by the MEs.⁴⁸

Number of Drug Deaths and ME Drug Mentions, San Francisco County, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol in combination	88	88	112	67	71
Cocaine	104	137	139	123	93
Heroin/morphine	123	145	166	117	97
Marijuana	--	--	--	--	1
Amphetamines	--	28	35	27	27
Methamphetamine	40	41	51	29	27
Club drugs	4	1	5	6	5
Hallucinogens	1	1	3	--	1
Inhalants	--	--	--	1	--
Narcotic analgesics	123	150	159	128	75
Other analgesics	12	7	4	14	11
Benzodiazepines	43	46	38	39	37
Antidepressants	24	33	75	58	68
All other substances	88	82	90	76	99
Total drug deaths	227	253	287	217	206
Total drug mentions	650	1,636	1,539	1,375	612

- In San Francisco, hepatitis C is emerging as a greater health concern of injecting drug users (IDUs) than hepatitis B. The infection rate for IDU's in the Bay Area is 50-60%.⁴⁹
- During 1999, 22% of firearm-related fatalities in San Francisco who were dead at the scene tested positive for the presence of alcohol and/or drugs.⁵⁰

Percent Positive for Alcohol/Drugs in Firearm-Related Fatalities, San Francisco, 1999

Percent Positive	
<i>Dead at the scene</i>	
Positive for alcohol	9%
Positive for drugs	16
Positive for alcohol and/or drugs	22
<i>Admitted to hospital</i>	
Positive for alcohol	6
Positive for drugs	6
Positive for alcohol and/or drugs	10

Treatment

- During 2001, there were 8,684 treatment admissions for heroin in San Francisco.⁵¹

Number of Treatment Admissions, San Francisco, 2001

Drug Type	2001
Alcohol (with other drugs)	4,027
Cocaine/crack	2,961
Heroin	8,684
Marijuana	800
Stimulants	982
Other drugs	263
Total	17,817

- Between September 2000 to 2001, there were more than 5,000 calls to substance abuse referral services in San Francisco/San Francisco County.⁵²

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² San Francisco Mayor's Web site: <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/mayor/>

³ San Francisco Board of Supervisors: <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/bdsupvrs>

⁴ San Francisco Police Department Web site: <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/police/mnsub10.htm>

⁵ San Francisco Sheriff Department, Sheriff: <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/sheriff/sheriff.htm>

⁶ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_northca.html

⁷ San Francisco Mayor's Criminal Justice Council Web site, Drug Elimination Team: http://www.sfgov.org/site/mocj_page.asp?id=4795

⁸ Join Together, San Francisco/San Francisco County Demand Treatment Strategy: http://www.jointogether.org/sa/action/dt/program/partners/city2001/strat_sanfrancisco.pdf

⁹ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, California section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/ca.html>

¹⁰ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, California section: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=CA>

¹¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, FY 2002 Discretionary Funds, California section: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/ca.htm>

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¹³ Bureau of Justice Assistance, Fiscal Year 2003 Drug Court Awards: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/03DrugCtAwd.pdf>

¹⁴ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf

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¹⁸ San Francisco Police Department, Monthly Crime Statistics, December 2002: http://www.sfgov.org/site/police_index.asp?id=20019

¹⁹ San Francisco Police Department, Monthly Crime Statistics, December 2003: http://www.sfgov.org/site/police_index.asp?id=20031

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ California Department of Justice, *California Criminal Justice Profiles, 2002*: http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof02/index.htm

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- ²² National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse - Advance Report*, December 2002: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/CEWG/AdvancedRep/1202adv/1202adv.html>
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse: Volume I: Highlights and Executive Summary*, June 2002: http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol1_602.pdf
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse - Advance Report*, December 2002: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/CEWG/AdvancedRep/1202adv/1202adv.html>
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- ³⁹ Ibid.
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- ⁴⁵ United States Sentencing Commission, FY2001 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Northern California: <http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2001/can01.pdf>
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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

