

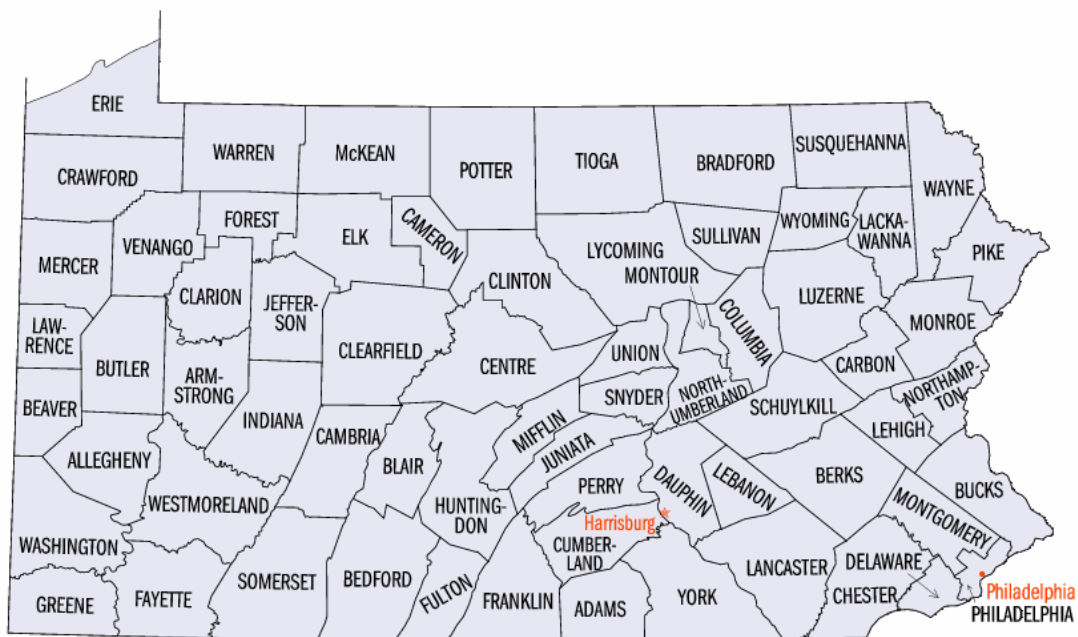
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Profile of Drug Indicators

June 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.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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

Demographics

- Population: 279,936 (2002 American Community Survey)¹; 334,563 (2000 Census)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 69.9% white; 24.0% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 1.7% two or more races; 1.3% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)³
- Pittsburgh is located in Allegheny County.

Politics

- Mayor: Tom Murphy⁴
- City Council (Districts 1-9): Luke Ravenstahl; Alan Hertzberg; Gene Ricciardi; James Motznik; Doug Shields; Sala Udin; Len Bodack; William Peduto; Twanda Carlisle⁵
- Chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police: Robert W. McNeilly, Jr.⁶
- Allegheny County Sheriff: Peter DeFazio⁷
- Allegheny County Police Superintendent: Charles Moffatt⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- United Citizens Against Narcotics (U-Can)⁹
The U-Can Program is a group of concerned Pittsburgh residents who fight drug trafficking to rid Pittsburgh neighborhoods of illegal drug dealing and return the streets to law-abiding citizens.
- Pittsburgh/Allegheny County Demand Treatment¹⁰
Through the Coalition for Leadership, Education, and Advocacy for Recovery (CLEAR), individuals in the Pittsburgh area engage medical, religious, and criminal justice communities to educate consumers about quality treatment. This coalition has successfully encouraged 2 emergency medical facilities to make screenings and brief interviews for alcohol and other drugs standard procedure. The coalition is working towards linking offenders in county jails with treatment after release.
- Allegheny County Needle Exchange Program
Needle exchanges are illegal without a prescription under Pennsylvania's paraphernalia law except when used as disease control measures.¹¹ Since April 7, 2002, Prevention Point Pittsburgh has handed out free needles, bottle caps for cooking drugs, alcohol prep pads, and condoms. In addition, the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and the Partnership for Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention have utilized a certified HIV tester to provide free counseling and HIV/AIDS testing. Previously, Prevention Point Pittsburgh illegally distributed 6,000 needles a week directly to shooting galleries and to individuals in the Hill District, McKeesport, and other areas of Pittsburgh for six years.¹²

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Pittsburgh:¹³
 - FY 2000, FY 2001, FY 2002, and FY 2003: no grantees
 - FY 1999:
 - \$90,822 to Addison Learning Terrace of Pittsburgh, Inc.
 - \$99,998 to Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation
- Office of Weed and Seed¹⁴

The following Pittsburgh areas have received Federal funding and official recognition as Weed and Seed sites: East Liberty, Hazelwood, and Homewood.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds awarded to Pittsburgh:¹⁵
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$2,195,452
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$471,913
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$1,137,385
- Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Pittsburgh grantees¹⁶
 - FY 2002: no Pittsburgh grantees¹⁷
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Pittsburgh grantees¹⁸
 - FY 2002: no Pittsburgh grantees¹⁹
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Pittsburgh:²⁰
 - Communities (discretionary): 2 awards valued at a total of \$985,000
 - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 5 awards valued at \$3,292,848
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 6 awards valued at \$1,538,903
 - formula: 14 awards valued at \$647,657
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: 0 awards
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 0 awards
 - formula: 0 awards
- There were no Pittsburgh recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.²¹

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January through April 2004, there were 82 adult arrests for marijuana sale/manufacturing in Pittsburgh. During full year 2003, there were 166 such arrests.²²

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh, 2000-April 2004

Type of Drug Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-Apr. 2004
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine	489	1,030	935	837	302
Marijuana	154	179	174	166	82
Synthetic	28	39	40	37	9
Other	1	4	4	3	1
Possession					
Opium/cocaine	374	1,128	1,172	1,170	379
Marijuana	358	1,016	692	601	267
Synthetic	17	71	67	100	36
Other	0	8	3	9	0

- From January through April 2004, there were 11 adult arrests in Pittsburgh for murder/non-negligent manslaughter. During full year 2003, there were 57 adult murder/non-negligent manslaughter arrests in Pittsburgh.²³

Number of Adult Arrests, Select Offenses, Pittsburgh, 2000-April 2004

Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan-April 2004
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	24	39	39	57	11
Forcible rape	40	50	57	50	9
Robbery	375	485	386	382	189
Aggravated assault	566	589	685	605	222
Burglary	282	382	437	413	174
Larceny-theft	598	980	732	780	300
Motor vehicle theft	216	220	118	124	39

- From January through April 2004, there were 166 adult arrests for marijuana sale/manufacturing in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area (MSA).²⁴

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh MSA, 2000-April 2004

Type of Drug Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-Apr. 2004
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine	1,159	1,692	1,701	1,770	505
Marijuana	614	459	480	494	166
Synthetic	60	76	148	84	19
Other	58	47	66	95	26
Possession					
Opium/cocaine	986	1,712	1,884	1,941	597
Marijuana	2,039	2,311	2,016	1,890	622
Synthetic	133	165	169	202	61
Other	304	382	580	674	186

Drugs

- Cocaine
Abuse and distribution of cocaine is widespread in Pittsburgh.²⁵ During 2002, powder cocaine sold for \$5-\$15/bag, \$75-\$100/gram, and \$280-\$350/0.25 ounce in Pittsburgh. Costs for crack cocaine were \$5-\$20/rock and \$80-\$100/gram.²⁶
- Heroin
All of the *Pulse Check* sources in Pittsburgh report that heroin use and activity increased during 2002. Heroin purity has increased in Pittsburgh as Colombian white powder heroin availability has grown. During 2002, one bag of South American heroin sold for \$20, while a bundle (10 small bags) sold for \$180-\$200 and 1 gram sold for \$300-\$600.²⁷ A more potent variety of heroin is used by young people in Allegheny County because it can be snorted instead of injected. Older addicts continue to inject less potent heroin. The heroin available in the county is up to 75% pure, compared to 5% over the past 20 years.²⁸
- Marijuana
According to *Pulse Check* sources, most of the marijuana available in Pittsburgh is commercial grade and is imported from the western United States. One ounce of commercial grade marijuana sells for \$90-\$150 in Pittsburgh.²⁹
- Methamphetamine
The use of methamphetamine appears low and stable, but lab activity and sales have increased in Pittsburgh. Locally-produced powder methamphetamine costs \$100-\$200/gram.³⁰
- Club Drugs
MDMA use is prevalent in Pittsburgh and the pills sell for \$20-\$30/single dose, \$1,200-\$1,500/jar of 100 pills, and \$7,500-\$10,000/jug of 1,000 pills. Ketamine is available in Pittsburgh and usually costs \$80-\$90/vial (1-1½ grams), which yields 18-20 single doses. Single doses usually sell for \$20 each.³¹
- Other Drugs
The abuse of OxyContin has increased significantly in Pittsburgh. Diverted methadone is considered easy to purchase in the city and its use has increased. Many OxyContin abusers are switching to methadone because diverted OxyContin is more difficult to obtain.³²

Juveniles

- From January through April 2004, there were 12 juvenile arrests in Pittsburgh for the sale/manufacturing of marijuana. During full year 2003, there were 18 such arrests in Pittsburgh.³³

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh, 2000-April 2004

Type of Drug Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-Apr. 2004
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine	20	75	65	81	25
Marijuana	15	18	14	18	12
Synthetic	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	1	0
Possession					
Opium/cocaine	4	30	31	23	8
Marijuana	23	92	79	74	21
Synthetic	1	1	0	3	1
Other	0	2	0	0	1

- From January through April 2004, there was 1 juvenile arrest in Pittsburgh for murder/non-negligent manslaughter. During full year 2003, there were 4 juvenile murder/non-negligent manslaughter arrests in Pittsburgh.³⁴

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Select Offenses, Pittsburgh, 2000-April 2004

Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-April 2004
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	1	3	8	4	1
Forcible rape	10	9	15	5	0
Robbery	117	113	120	164	49
Aggravated assault	99	95	120	133	56
Burglary	84	108	152	116	41
Larceny-theft	89	99	91	91	24
Motor vehicle theft	116	138	77	108	24

- From January through April 2004, there were 33 juvenile arrests for marijuana sale/manufacturing in the Pittsburgh MSA.³⁵

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh MSA, 2000-April 2004

Type of Drug Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-Apr. 2004
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine	64	111	115	140	30
Marijuana	69	63	64	46	33
Synthetic	10	10	2	8	1
Other	22	17	11	8	11
Possession					
Opium/cocaine	39	78	61	71	15
Marijuana	472	481	404	387	118
Synthetic	22	27	14	20	4
Other	47	53	69	57	19

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 1,156 full-time law enforcement employees in Pittsburgh (1,071 officers and 85 civilians).³⁶
- Narcotics/Vice Division³⁷

The Narcotics/Vice Division of the Pittsburgh Police Bureau focuses its investigations on illegal activities such as gangs, prostitution, drug sales, and nuisance bars. Community members are able to work with Narcotics/Vice detectives to solve community issues by providing information and requesting their assistance.
- Airport Drug Interdiction Team³⁸

A specialized unit of the Allegheny County Police, the Airport Drug Interdiction Team conducts daily surveillance of airline flights using drug dogs.
- Allegheny County Police Narcotic K9s³⁹

Narcotic K9s are capable of conducting drug searches of areas, homes and vehicles. The Allegheny County Narcotic K9s also assist other law enforcement agencies in conducting searches.
- In 2001, a task force was created to combat club drugs and raves in the Pittsburgh area. The goals of the task force are to identify and prosecute those who distribute illegal drugs at raves and other social events and those who sponsor raves and knowingly participate in the distribution of illegal drugs at the events. The task force involves the following agencies: Bureau of Drug Law Enforcement (Pennsylvania State Police), Troop B Tactical Narcotic Team (Pennsylvania State Police), Allegheny County District Attorney Narcotics Unit, Allegheny County Sheriff Department, and Pittsburgh Police Department.⁴⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- Pittsburgh serves as a regional drug distribution center. Most drugs brought to the city are sold to local users, but a portion reaches midlevel and retail distributors in Southwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northwestern West Virginia.⁴¹
- New York-based Israeli drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) supply cocaine to Israeli criminal groups in Pittsburgh. Local independent African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, and other ethnic criminal groups, as well as local unaffiliated street gangs distribute cocaine in gram, ounce, and multi-ounce quantities.⁴²
- Most heroin in Pittsburgh is transported from Philadelphia via the Pennsylvania Turnpike, with Dominican DTOs as the primary wholesale and midlevel suppliers.⁴³
- Jamaican and Mexican criminal groups are the most active marijuana distributors in the Pittsburgh area.⁴⁴
- The Port of Pittsburgh is the busiest inland port in the United States. The large volume of commercial traffic at the Port presents a potential for drug smuggling, but a lack of drug seizures at the Port suggests that drug activity is minimal.⁴⁵
- Drug seizures at Pittsburgh International Airport increased in 2001 according to DEA Pittsburgh. In March 2001, cocaine paste worth \$60,000 was smuggled in a laptop computer bag from Jamaica to Pittsburgh via the Airport. Another case involved individuals attempting to smuggle 5 kilograms of cocaine from Aruba to New Castle, Pennsylvania using the Pittsburgh Airport. In January 2001, the U.S. Custom Service

seized 210,000 MDMA pills, worth an estimated \$5.25 million, in the luggage of two German travelers at the Airport.⁴⁶

- In March 2001, 23 individuals were indicted for transporting 2,200 pounds of marijuana to Pittsburgh between 1995-2000. Mexican drug distributors smuggled the marijuana from Mexico across the Southwest border in pickup trucks and rented cars.⁴⁷
- In 2001, drug agents seized a 55-gallon drum of a liquid chemical used to make Somagen, a designer drug having the same effect on the body as GHB. Dealers who distributed designer drugs in Pittsburgh have been charged in the case.⁴⁸

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁹
As of November 2003, there was 1 drug court that had been in existence for over 2 years and 1 drug court being planned in Pittsburgh.
- During FY 2001, approximately 37% of Federally-sentenced defendants in Western Pennsylvania were charged with drug offenses. Nearly half (44.4%) of the drug cases involved crack cocaine.⁵⁰

Federally-Sentenced Drug Defendants, by Drug Type, Western Pennsylvania, FY 2001

Drug Type	# of Defendants	% of Total Drug Defend.
Crack cocaine	48	44.4%
Powder cocaine	36	33.3
Marijuana	17	15.7
Heroin	4	3.7
Methamphetamine	0	0.0
Other	3	2.8

- Allegheny County District Attorney Narcotics Unit⁵¹
The Narcotics Unit is dedicated to prosecuting serious drug offenders arrested throughout Pittsburgh. This unit works with police to prosecute major dealers, seize narcotics and dealer's assets, and remove dealers from the streets.

Corrections

- State Correctional Institution (SCI) Pittsburgh, formerly known as Western Penitentiary, is Pennsylvania's oldest operating correctional institution. Opened in 1882, the facility is located on 21 acres of land with approximately 12 acres located inside the walled perimeter. The facility is located on the banks of the Ohio River, approximately five miles from downtown Pittsburgh.⁵²
- As of April 30, 2004, the SCI Pittsburgh inmate population was 951.⁵³
- Special Intensive Supervision Drug Project⁵⁴
Pittsburgh's Special Intensive Supervision Drug Project enables non-violent incarcerated individuals with a history of substance abuse to return to the community and begin the process of readjustment. It also enables parole agents to have smaller caseloads, allowing them to provide more structured and stringent supervision through the use of frequent and unannounced field visits, weekly urinalysis testing, and the use of electronic monitoring equipment.

Consequences of Use

- Allegheny County Coroner data indicate that heroin alone was involved in 56 (26.6%) of the 210 accidental drug overdose deaths during 2002. Heroin in combination with another drug was a factor in 118 (56.1%) of the deaths.⁵⁵
- There were 143 drug-induced deaths in Allegheny County during 2002.⁵⁶

Number of Drug-Induced Deaths, Allegheny County, 1991-2002

Year	# of Deaths	Year	# of Deaths
1991	68	1997	87
1992	56	1998	111
1993	70	1999	135
1994	79	2000	137
1995	106	2001	116
1996	73	2002	143

- Out of the 1,424 AIDS cases in Allegheny County during 2003 that involved males, intravenous drug use (IDU) was a risk factor in 20% of the cases. IDU was also a risk factor in 29% of the 88 AIDS cases involving white females and 40% of the 206 AIDS cases involving black females in the county during 2003.⁵⁷

Treatment

- There were 83 licensed drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Allegheny County from July 2001 to June 2002.⁵⁸

Type of Service Provided by Treatment Facilities, Allegheny County, 2001-2002

Service Provided	# of facilities offering service*
Inpatient non-hospital	22
Inpatient hospital	6
Correctional institution	0
Partial hospitalization	26
Outpatient	67
Total facilities	83

*Each facility may provide more than one type of service.

- From July 2001 to June 2002, there were 5,731 admissions to state-supported drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Allegheny County. These admissions involved 4,002 different clients.⁵⁹
- Of the treatment clients, 2,574 were being treated for a drug abuse problem, 1,387 were being treated for alcohol abuse, and 41 were being treated for another reason (includes family members receiving counseling).⁶⁰

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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

