

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Buffalo, New York

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 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.

Buffalo, New York

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2002 American Communities Survey): 258,493
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Communities Survey): 48.0% white; 40.9% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.0% other race; 2.2% two or more races; 6.7% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Buffalo is located in Erie County.

Politics

- Mayor: Anthony M. Masiello²
- Common Council (District): Marc A. Coppola (Delaware); Brian Davis (Ellicott); David Franczyk (Fillmore); Richard A. Fontana (Lovejoy); Antoine M. Thompson (Masten); Dominic Bonifacio (Niagara); Joseph Golombek, Jr. (North); James Griffin (South); Bonnie Russell (University)³
- Commissioner of Police: Rocco J. Diina⁴
- Erie County Sheriff: Patrick M. Gallivan⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- S.H.I.E.L.D. 2002⁶

The Erie County Sheriff's Office S.H.I.E.L.D. 2002 highlights programs, policies, and initiatives that will be implemented by the agency. Components include:

 - Stamping Out Drug And Alcohol Abuse: the Sheriff's Office will implement drug-related educational and enforcement initiatives.
 - Highway Safety: the Sheriff's Office will focus emphasis on drugged, drunken and reckless drivers as well as other highway safety prevention issues.
 - Integrated Community Policing: the Sheriff's Office will hold community forums to provide citizens with the opportunity to communicate with law enforcement.
 - Eliminating Family Violence: the role of patrol officers will include working with social service and support groups to counsel families on prevention and assist victims of crime.
 - Law and Order: Fighting Violent and Juvenile Crime: the Sheriff's Office will work to address adult and juvenile violent crime issues in the area.
 - Department Reform: the Sheriff's Office will evaluate its current structure and procedures to determine the most effective method of operation.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees serving Buffalo:⁷
 - Original award year 2003: no grantees

- Original award year 2002: \$200,000 to Erie County State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) Coalition/Western New York United Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Inc. (serves the West Side of Buffalo)
- FY 2001, FY 2000, and FY 1999: no grantees
- Community Capacity Development Office⁸
Two sites in Buffalo have received Federal funding and official recognition as Weed and Seed sites: Eastside and Westside.
- Erie County received \$492,373 as part of the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program. The funds will be used for a juvenile drug court program.⁹
- Buffalo did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2003 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.¹⁰
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) FY 2003 Discretionary Funds received in Buffalo:¹¹
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$399,026
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$0
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$824,349
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Buffalo:¹²
 - Communities (discretionary): 3 awards valued at \$550,000
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards in Buffalo
 - Juvenile Justice: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 5 awards valued at \$7,201,755
 - formula: 3 awards valued at \$644,707
 - Substance Abuse: 0 awards
 - Victims: 1 award valued at \$295,134
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Buffalo:¹³
 - \$60,000 to the Waterfront Limited Partnership

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2002, there were 44 murders known to police in Buffalo.¹⁴ There were 59 murders reported to police in Buffalo during 2003.¹⁵

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Buffalo, 1998-2003

Offense	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Murder	42	32	39	67	44	59
Rape	197	175	175	229	185	203
Robbery	1,736	1,473	1,555	1,599	1,627	1,625
Aggr. assault	1,513	1,561	1,887	1,816	1,902	1,810
Burglary	5,155	4,428	4,194	3,965	3,857	4,154
Larceny-theft	10,713	10,018	9,831	9,669	9,115	9,180
Auto theft	2,968	2,990	2,566	2,551	2,288	2,528

- There were 2,305 arrests in Buffalo for drug use/possession during 2002.¹⁶

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, by Age, Buffalo, 2002

Offense	Under 18	18 and Over	Total
Homicide	1	19	20
Rape	8	35	43
Robbery	119	325	444
Aggravated assault	114	839	953
Burglary	50	378	428
Larceny	93	813	906
Auto theft	182	375	557
Drug sale/manufacture	10	36	46
Drug use/possession	215	2,090	2,305
DWI	2	308	310

- During 2002, there were 2,420 adult arrests in Erie County for misdemeanor drug offenses.¹⁷

Number of Adult Arrests, Erie County, 1998-2002

Offense	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total felony	8,729	8,373	8,289	8,158	8,338
Violent	2,802	2,598	2,551	2,547	2,590
Drug	1,711	1,558	1,296	1,400	1,521
Other	4,216	4,217	4,442	4,211	4,227
Total misdemeanor	19,830	19,280	18,645	17,695	17,586
Drug	2,845	2,931	2,476	2,396	2,420
DWI	2,570	2,586	2,734	2,630	2,570
Other	14,415	13,763	13,435	12,669	12,596
Total adult arrests	28,559	27,653	26,934	25,853	25,924

Drugs

- Crack availability is increasing in Buffalo.¹⁸
- Club drug use is spreading from New York City to Buffalo.¹⁹
- Methamphetamine is hardly ever abused in Buffalo.²⁰

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 1,143 full-time law enforcement employees working in Buffalo (933 officers and 210 civilians).²¹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Seizures of wholesale amounts of cocaine in Buffalo are frequently made at the airport and train station and weigh from 1/2 to 4 kilograms each.²²
- Buffalo acts as a port of entry for Southeast Asian heroin from Toronto en route to New York City and Detroit.²³

- Overland drug smuggling between the U.S. and Canada typically occurs along the Washington State-British Columbia border in the West, at the Detroit-Windsor and Buffalo POEs in the Great Lakes area, and along the Quebec and Ontario borders with New York, Vermont and Maine in the East.²⁴

Courts

- Drug Courts²⁵
As of May 2004, there were 3 drug courts in Buffalo that had been operating for more than 2 years and 1 drug court that was being planned.
- There were 360 drug-related felony indictments in Erie County during 2002.²⁶

Felony Prosecutions, Erie County, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
% Prosecuted in the Upper Courts	29.7%	28.0%	27.5%	27.7%	27.4%
Total Indictments/SCIs*	2,378	2,047	1,906	2,147	1,482
Violent	761	596	579	612	498
Drug	591	466	329	499	360
Other	1,026	985	998	1,036	624

*SCIs: Superior Court Informations - An accusatory instrument used in felony cases in lieu of a grand jury indictment

- In 2002, there were 789 felony drug arrests prosecuted in lower courts (town, village, or city courts) in Erie County. There were 553 felony arrests prosecuted in upper courts (county or superior courts) in Erie County during 2002.²⁷

Dispositions of Felony Drug Arrests, Erie County, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Prosecuted in Lower Courts	1,003	905	814	660	789
Convicted	605	566	542	438	465
Plea	602	559	539	437	462
Verdict	1	5	2	1	3
Unknown	2	2	1	0	0
Dismissed	388	331	264	213	309
Acquitted	2	4	4	4	3
Other disposition	8	4	4	5	12
Prosecuted in Upper Courts	659	520	397	449	553
Convicted	312	475	362	420	518
Plea	606	467	348	408	507
Verdict	4	7	14	12	11
Unknown	2	1	0	0	0
Dismissed	40	37	27	19	24
Acquitted	5	2	5	8	6
Other disposition	2	6	3	2	5
Other disposition – court unknown	7	15	9	35	60
Total dispositions	1,669	1,440	1,220	1,144	1,402

Corrections

- As of August 2, 2004, there were 1,560 inmates remanded to the Erie Sheriff's Department custody. The inmate count reflects the total of three facilities: Erie County Holding Center, Erie County Correctional Facility, and the Holding Center Annex.²⁸
- Of those convicted of felony drug offenses in Erie County lower courts in 2002 (465 convicted), 117 received a jail sentence.²⁹

Sentences for Felony Drug Arrest Convictions, Lower Courts, Erie County, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Convicted in Lower Court	605	566	542	438	465
Prison	0	0	0	0	0
Jail	97	66	71	84	117
Time served	192	137	164	98	100
Jail + probation	10	2	4	4	10
Probation	65	82	73	54	63
Fine	28	46	42	40	35
Conditional discharge	203	215	184	151	129
Other	8	11	4	1	4
Unknown	2	7	0	6	7

- Of those convicted of felony drug offenses in Erie County upper courts in 2002 (518 convicted), 143 received a prison sentence.³⁰

Sentences for Felony Drug Arrest Convictions, Upper Courts, Erie County, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Convicted in Upper Court	612	475	362	420	518
Prison	182	153	108	133	143
Jail	75	76	42	40	60
Time served	7	6	14	7	6
Jail + probation	82	64	50	54	63
Probation	234	160	138	156	180
Fine	1	1	2	6	6
Conditional discharge	28	11	7	11	5
Other	1	0	0	9	33
Unknown	2	4	1	4	22

Consequences of Use

- During 2002, there were 3,844 drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes reported in Buffalo. Cocaine was mentioned 1,441 times in the ED episodes.³¹

Number of ED Drug Episodes and Mentions, Buffalo, 1999-2002

Drug	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	1,222	1,393	1,548	2,120
Cocaine	1,119	1,018	1,220	1,441
Heroin	522	681	607	785
Marijuana	493	553	561	474
Amphetamines	28	25	17	29
Methamphetamine	7	5	4	2
MDMA (Ecstasy)	16	18	8	26
Ketamine	0	0	0	1
LSD	26	3	10	5
PCP	1	10	3	3
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	2	1	0	4
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0
GHB	3	6	1	3
Inhalants	1	4	0	4
Combin. not tabulated above	0	0	0	0
Total drug episodes	2,711	2,899	3,356	3,844
Total drug mentions	4,927	5,374	5,935	7,223

- During 2002, there were 151 drug-related deaths reported by medical examiners (ME) in Erie County. Cocaine was mentioned in 52 of the drug-related deaths.³²

Number of Drug Deaths and Mentions, Erie County, 1998-2002

Drug	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-comb.	34	33	40	34	38
Cocaine	27	36	27	39	52
Heroin/morphine	23	37	28	36	50
Marijuana	17	12	19	24	23
Amphetamines	--	1	--	--	1
Methamphetamine	1	1	--	--	2
Club drugs*	1	1	2	1	1
Hallucinogens**	--	--	--	--	--
Inhalants	--	--	--	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	31	26	39	52	164
Other analgesics	3	8	--	7	3
Benzodiazepines	13	18	15	39	41
Antidepressants	29	36	29	55	53
All other substances	42	37	30	52	74
Total drug deaths	81	100	83	114	151
Total drug mentions	221	246	229	339	502

* includes ecstasy (MDMA), Ketamine, GHB-GBL and Rohypnol

** includes PCP, LSD and miscellaneous hallucinogens

Treatment

- Individuals seeking methadone treatment at clinics in Buffalo during 2002 were much younger than abusers who sought treatment during the previous year.³³
- Buffalo Substance Abuse Services:³⁴
 - operates 5 treatment facilities and one substance abuse prevention program;
 - provides clinically established outpatient, ambulatory and accepted drug-free counseling and advocacy services to substance abusing individuals and their families;
 - provides complete medical exams to all clients screened deemed appropriate for services;
 - provides vocational/educational services for clientele and residents of Municipal Housing; and
 - provides residents, especially youths residing in Municipal Housing, with meaningful cultural, educational and recreational activities.

Sources

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³ Buffalo Common Council Web site: http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/document_6.html

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⁵ Erie County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/>

⁶ Erie County Sheriff's Office, S.H.I.E.L.D. 2002: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/shield.asp>

⁷ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/grantee/index.asp>

⁸ Community Capacity Development Office Web site, New York:

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¹⁷ New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, Crime Statistics by County/Region: <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/areastat/areast.htm>

¹⁸ National Drug Intelligence Center, *New York Drug Threat Assessment*, November 2002: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs2/2580/2580p.pdf>

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

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- ²³ Ibid.
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- ²⁵ Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Clearinghouse, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, May 27, 2004: <http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- ²⁶ New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, Crime Statistics by County/Region:
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- ²⁷ New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, Dispositions of Felony Drug Arrests, Erie County: http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/dispos/erie_drug.htm
- ²⁸ Erie County Sheriff's Office Web site, Inmate section: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/inmates.asp>
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