

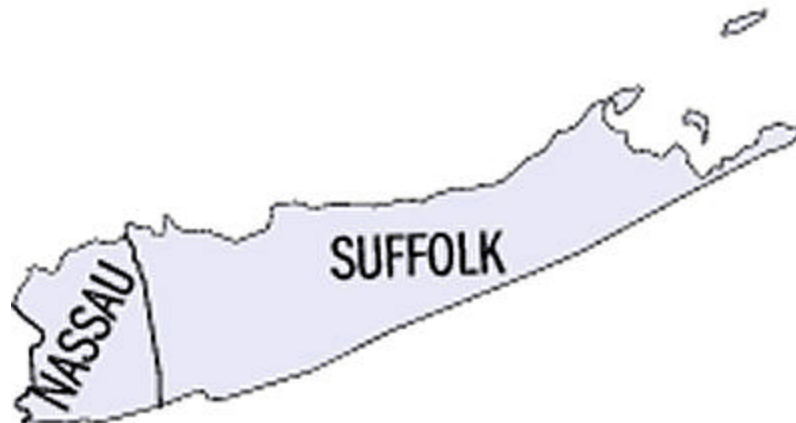
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Long Island, New York

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2003



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.

Long Island, New York

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

Demographics¹

- Long Island consists of Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
- Nassau County Population: 1,334,648 (2001 estimate); 1,334,544 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 74.0% white; 9.7% black; 4.7% Asian; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; 0.2% some other race; 1.3% two or more races; 10.0% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Suffolk County Population: 1,438,973 (2001 estimate); 1,419,369 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 78.8% white; 6.6% black; 2.4% Asian; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; 0.2% some other race; 1.3% two or more races; 10.5% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

Politics

- Nassau County Executive: Thomas R. Suozzi²
- Nassau County District Attorney: Denis Dillon³
- Nassau County Legislature: Kevan Abrahams (D); Roger Corbin (D); John Ciotti (R); Michael G. Zapson (D); Joseph Scannell (D); Francis X. Becker, Jr. (R); Jeffrey Toback (D); Vincent Muscarella (R); Richard Nicoletto (R); Lisanne Altmann (D); Craig Johnson (D); Peter J. Schmitt (R); Norma L. Gonsalves (R); Salvatore B. Pontillo (R); Dennis Dunne, Sr. (R); Judith Jacobs (D); Edward Mangano (R); Brian Muellers (D); David Denenberg (D)⁴
- Nassau County Police Commissioner: James H. Lawrence⁵
- Nassau County Sheriff: Edward Reilly⁶
- Suffolk County Executive: Robert J. Gaffney⁷
- Suffolk County District Attorney: Thomas J. Spota⁸
- Suffolk County Legislature: Michael J. Caracciolo (R); George O. Guldi (D); Fred W. Towle (D); Joe Caracappa (R); Vivian Fisher (D); Martin W. Haley (R); Brian X. Foley (D); William J. Lindsay (D); Ginny Fields (D); Cameron Alden (R); Angie Carpenter (R); Andrew A. Crecca (R); Lynne C. Nowick (R); David A. Bishop (D); Maxine Postal (D); Allan Binder (R); Paul J. Tonna (R); Jon Copper (D)⁹
- Suffolk County Police Commissioner: John Gallagher¹⁰
- Suffolk County Sheriff: Alfred C. Tisch¹¹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹²
Designated in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA is responsible for areas of New Jersey and New York, including Nassau and Suffolk counties in Long Island.
- Crime Stoppers is a community based program in Nassau County, in which the public, the media, and the Police Department work together to fight crime.¹³
- The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island is a resource for mentors and mentoring initiatives and an advocate for the expansion of mentoring region-wide. It works to help connect caring adult mentors with youths throughout Long Island.¹⁴

- The Long Island Regional Poison and Drug Information Center (LIRPDIC) serves as a resource center for the general public, physicians and hospital emergency rooms. It also manages poison emergencies.¹⁵

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees on Long Island:¹⁶
 - FY 2002:
 - \$100,000 to West Islip Health and Wellness Alliance–COMPASS (Community, Parent, School, Student), West Islip (Suffolk County)
 - FY 2001:
 - \$100,000 to the Southampton Union Free School District, Southampton (Suffolk County)
 - FY 2000:
 - \$100,000 to Suffolk Coalition to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Dependencies, Inc., Hauppauge (Suffolk County)
 - FY 1999: No grantees
 - FY 1998: No grantees
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁷

Six sites on Long Island have received official recognition and Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites. The sites are located in New Cassel (Nassau County), Roosevelt (Nassau County), Village of Hempstead (Nassau County), Huntington Station (Suffolk County), North Amityville (Suffolk County), and North Bellport (Suffolk County).
- Long Island did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹⁸
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Funds awarded to Long Island grantees:¹⁹
 - \$150,000 to the Biashelp of Long Island, Inc.
 - \$596,731 to the Northshore University Hospital
 - \$149,792 to the Long Island University
 - \$500,000 to the Long Island Association for AIDS Care.
- Long Island did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.²⁰
- FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Secure Our Schools grant awarded \$45,000 to Village Hempstead.²¹
- Long Island did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine grant.²²
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants received in Suffolk and Nassau Counties:²³
 - Discretionary: \$5,237,299
 - Formula: \$3,728,908

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, there were 1,758 adult arrests for felony drug violations and 3,906 adult arrests for misdemeanor drug violations on Long Island.²⁴

Number of Adult Arrests, Long Island, 1999-2001

	1999	2000	2001
Total Arrests	40,736	41,077	40,580
Total felony	12,275	12,272	12,590
Violent	3,189	3,204	3,288
Drug	2,166	1,876	1,758
Other	6,920	7,192	7,544
Total misdemeanor	28,461	28,805	27,990
Drug	4,159	4,154	3,906
DWI	6,670	6,432	6,169
Other	17,632	18,219	17,915

- During 2001, there were 22,398 property offenses reported to police in Nassau County. This is down from 23,570 in 2000.²⁵

Number of Index Offenses Reported to Police Agencies, Nassau County, 2000-2001

Type of crime	2000	2001
Violent	2,387	2,471
Property	23,570	22,398
Murder	25	37
Rape	116	147
Robbery	1,075	1,111
Assault	1,171	1,176
Index total	25,957	24,869

- During 2001, there were 35,055 property offenses reported to police in Suffolk County. This is up from 33,362 in 2000.²⁶

Number of Index Offenses Reported to Police Agencies, Suffolk County, 2000-2001

Type of crime	2000	2001
Violent	3,049	3,305
Property	33,362	35,055
Murder	28	34
Rape	118	161
Robbery	982	1,018
Assault	1,921	2,092
Index total	3,049	3,305

Enforcement

- The Burglary and Narcotics Bureau in Nassau County coordinates the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving the illegal sale and possession of controlled substances and gang activity. In addition, the Bureau coordinates the cooperation with law enforcement of defendants who are providing assistance in return for consideration with respect to pending cases.²⁷

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 4,002 full time law enforcement employees working in Nassau County and 339 in Suffolk County. In Nassau County, 2,811 of the employees were sworn officers, and the remainder were civilians. In Suffolk County, 217 of the employees were sworn officers, and the remainder were civilians.²⁸

Trafficking and Seizures

- Law enforcement officials from a multiagency task force seized an operational methamphetamine laboratory in Brentwood, Long Island, a residential community located approximately 40 miles east of New York City, on May 2, 2002.²⁹
- Heroin is distributed by Colombian drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups on Long Island.³⁰

Courts

- Drug Courts³¹
As of January 2003, there were 5 drug courts in operation on Long Island. There are 2 located in Suffolk County which have been operating for at least 2 years and 1 which was recently implemented, and 2 in Nassau County which have recently been implemented. No additional drug courts are being planned for Suffolk or Nassau counties.
- Treatment Court³²
The Nassau County Court System began a program known as the Nassau County Treatment Court in March of 2002. This pilot program intends to provide treatment as an alternative to incarceration for non-violent, repeat misdemeanor offenders whose criminal behavior was driven by substance or alcohol abuse or addiction.
- During 2001, there were 1,280 felony prosecutions for drugs on Long Island. This is down from 1,354 felony prosecutions for drugs in 2000. There were also a total of 4,068 felony convictions in 2001 for all offenses. This is down from 4,124 felony convictions in 2000.³³

Corrections

- During 2001, there were 9,517 people incarcerated on Long Island. This is down from 9,922 people incarcerated in 2000.³⁴

Total Number of Incarcerations, Long Island, 2000-2001

	2000	2001
Total Incarcerations	9,922	9,517
Incarceration Rate (% of Convictions)	32.8%	32.7%
Prison	1,268	1,196
Jail	7,095	6,804
Jail and Probation	1,559	1,517
Probation	4,323	3,752
Fine	13,612	12,831
Other	2,436	2,971

Consequences of Use

- In 2001, the Long Island Regional Poison and Drug Information Center received 5,615 calls, of which 2,552 were for drug information and drug identification.³⁵
- Cocaine is a frequent factor in drug-related deaths on Long Island. In 2000 there were 69 cocaine-related deaths in Long Island for which 4 of the decedents had only cocaine in their system.³⁶
- During 2000, there were 209 drug abuse deaths reported by medical examiners (ME) on Long Island. Antidepressants were mentioned in 96 of the drug deaths.³⁷

Number of ME Drug Mentions, Long Island, 1997-2000

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	44	34	43	48
Cocaine	56	77	94	69
Heroin/morphine	68	72	105	96
Marijuana	67	23	43	23
Amphetamines	-	2	-	-
Methamphetamine	-	2	42	38
Club drugs	1	2	1	3
Hallucinogens	-	2	9	10
Inhalants	2	3	5	1
Narcotic analgesics	40	42	69	73
Other analgesics	20	25	31	36
Benzodiazepines	29	33	36	31
Antidepressants	19	53	77	96
All other substances	70	108	102	108
Total drug deaths	170	173	215	209
Total drug mentions	417	480	653	634

Treatment³⁸

- Following are examples of treatment programs found on Long Island:
 - ACCESS is an alcohol and drug treatment/education center which provides services to women and juveniles.
 - EAC/SUFFOLK TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime) offers assistance to persons charged with a non-violent crime due to alcohol/drug abuse to adhere to a structured alcohol/drug treatment program in lieu to prison.
 - Reflection Counseling Center is a program that provides individuals, family and groups with drug treatment and prevention services.
 - Family and Children's Association/Drug Treatment Center provides individual, family and group counseling to remain drug free.
 - Port Counseling Center is a drug treatment center that provides relapse prevention and helps stop DWI's by group, individual, family, and marital counseling.

Sources

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- ⁵ Nassau County Police Department Web site: <http://www.co.nassau.ny.us/police/commiss.htm>
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This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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