

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

New York, 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.

New York, 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): 7,901,867
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Communities Survey): 34.1% white; 24.6% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 11.2% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.4% other race; 1.0% two or more races; 28.3% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- New York City is located in Bronx, Queens, King, New York, and Richmond Counties.

Politics

- Mayor: Michael Bloomberg²
- City Council: The Council is made up of 51 Council Members elected from 51 Council Districts throughout the 5 boroughs of New York City. The city Council is lead by Speaker Gifford Miller.³
- Police Commissioner: Raymond Kelly⁴
- New York Police Department Chief: Joseph J. Esposito⁵
- Commanding Officer, NYPD Narcotics Division: Anthony Izzo⁶

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁷
Designated as one of the five original HIDTAs in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA employs a multi-agency task force approach to disrupting and dismantling drug-related money laundering and drug gang organizations. The NY/NJ HIDTA is responsible for the following areas: New York City and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union counties in New Jersey.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program⁸
Since FY 1999, funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program was only awarded to two grantees in New York City. Funding received since original award year 2001 in New York City:
 - \$299,877 to the Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation
 - \$300,000 to Inwood Community Services, Inc./UNIDOS Inwood Coalition
- Community Capacity Development Office⁹
There are six areas in New York City that have received official recognition and Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites: Mott Haven (Bronx), Brucker (Bronx), East New York (Brooklyn), Castle Hill (Bronx), Far Rockaway (Queens), and Far Rockaway Expansion (Queens).
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) FY 2003 Discretionary Funds received in New York City:¹⁰

- Center for Mental Health Services: \$6,242,782
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$2,103,472
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$7,358,280
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program funds awarded to New York City counties/agencies:¹¹
 - \$490,229 to New York State Unified Court System for Queens County
 - \$257,723 to New York State Unified Court System for the Brooklyn Treatment Center
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs/Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants amounts received in New York City:¹²
 - Community Based (discretionary): 4 awards valued at \$1,025,738
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 8 awards valued at \$4,612,002
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 38 awards valued at \$55,155,731
 - formula: 2 awards valued at \$30,130,310
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: 13 awards valued at \$4,750,251
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 9 awards valued at \$5,766,929
 - formula: 0 awards
- There were no New York City recipients of the FY 2003 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.¹³ There were also no New York City recipients of the FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁴
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program funds awarded to New York City counties:¹⁵
 - \$267,552 to New York State Unified Court System for Queens County (evaluation)
 - \$390,408 to New York State Unified Court System for Richmond County (implementation)
- New York City did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁶

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January 1 through July 18, 2004, there were 299 murders reported to the New York City Police Department. During full year 2003, there were 598 murders known to police.¹⁷

Offenses Reported to Police, Select Offenses, New York City, 2003-July 18, 2004

Offense Type	Full Year 2003	Jan. –July 18, 2004
Murder	598	299
Rape	1,876	1,057
Robbery	25,913	12,131
Felony assault	18,752	9,540
Burglary	29,189	13,781
Grand larceny	46,784	24,007
Motor vehicle theft	23,134	10,926

- Data from 2003 indicate that 35.7% of Manhattan Borough adult male arrestees tested positive for cocaine at arrest.¹⁸

Adult Male Arrestee Positive Drug Results, Manhattan, 2003

Drug Type	Male	Female
Cocaine	35.7%	50.0%
Opiates	15.0	23.3
Marijuana	43.1	36.7
Methamphetamine	0.0	0.0
Any of above drugs	69.7	73.3
Multiple drugs	22.2	36.7

- Approximately 47% of the Manhattan adult male arrestees interviewed during 2003 reported using marijuana at least once during the past year.¹⁹

Adult Male Arrestee Drug Use, Manhattan, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Heroin	Meth.
Past year	15.7%	12.1%	47.4%	13.0%	0.5%
Past 30 days	13.6	10.2	40.6	10.8	0.2
Past 7 days	13.2	8.3	37.0	9.7	0.0

- More than half (58.1%) of the Manhattan adult female arrestees interviewed during 2003 reported using marijuana within the past year.²⁰

Adult Female Arrestee Drug Use, Manhattan, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Heroin	Meth.
Past year	29.0%	29.0%	58.1%	25.8%	6.5%
Past 30 days	23.3	23.3	53.3	23.3	3.3
Past 7 days	23.3	13.3	43.3	23.3	0.0

- There were 29,165 adult felony drug arrests in New York City during 2002.²¹

Number of Adult Arrests, New York City, 1998-2002

Type of Arrest	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Arrests	345,295	314,266	337,855	298,590	289,315
Total Felony	130,137	116,928	113,197	104,105	99,625
Violent	42,755	37,411	35,970	33,778	31,591
Drug	45,977	40,089	37,409	30,284	29,165
Other	41,405	39,428	39,818	40,043	38,869
Total Misdemeanor	215,158	197,338	224,658	194,485	189,690
Drug	82,528	78,352	102,707	79,901	80,337
DWI	4,226	3,472	3,436	3,457	3,764
Other	128,404	115,514	118,515	111,127	105,589

- The New York City Police Department made 23,498 cocaine arrests in during 2001. Approximately 83% of the cocaine arrests involved crack.²²

Number of Drug Arrests, New York City, 1994-2001

Year	Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana
1994	38,200	33,206	8,815
1995	40,846	38,131	12,357
1996	38,813	37,901	18,991
1997	35,431	35,325	27,531
1998	35,577	37,483	42,030
1999	31,781	32,949	43,122
2000	31,919	33,665	60,455
2001	23,498	27,863	47,651

Drugs

- Cocaine
According to NYC *Pulse Check* sources, powder cocaine sells for \$20-\$50/bag, \$25-\$35/gram, \$120-\$150/eightball, \$600-\$2,000/ounce, and \$22,000-\$24,000/kilogram. Crack cocaine sells for \$10-\$20/vial, \$25-\$45/gram, \$175/eightball, and \$1,000-\$1,500/ounce.²³
- Heroin
While South American heroin remains the most available form in New York City, it has become easier to purchase Southeast Asian and Southwest Asian heroin.²⁴ The NYC Street Studies Unit (SSU) reports that heroin continues to be easily obtainable in all five New York City boroughs. There are indications that heroin is being cut with medications such as Darvon and Benadryl.²⁵ South American heroin in NYC can be up to 96% pure and sells for \$10-\$14/bag, \$75-\$100/bundle (10 bags), \$60-\$80/grams, \$2,000/ounce, and \$60,000-\$75,000/kilogram.²⁶
- Marijuana
Marijuana sells for \$10/bag, \$100-\$200/ounce, and \$1,000-\$2,000/pound.²⁷ It comes in different colors and flavors in New York City (for example, blueberry, orange, and chocolate). However, marijuana users indicate that the tint and flavor may weaken the

strength of the marijuana.²⁸ The purity of marijuana found in NYC increased from Fall 2001 to Spring 2002.²⁹

- **Methamphetamine**
New York City *Pulse Check* sources consider methamphetamine an emerging or intensifying problem.³⁰ There is increasing evidence that methamphetamine use is spreading to New York City, particularly among the gay male population. Meth is available in the city in powder, pill, and liquid forms, with pills being the most popular.³¹ During 2002, methamphetamine cost \$100-\$300/gram and \$1,600-\$6,000/ounce.³²
- **Club Drugs**
MDMA has become an established drug of choice in NYC.³³ MDMA pills sell for \$5-\$30, with the higher priced pills being sold in clubs. Ketamine sells for \$20/dose in New York City. PCP is readily available in certain areas of the city, particularly in Harlem, where it sells for \$10/bag.³⁴
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**
The sale of diverted prescription drugs on the street is growing.³⁵ According to SSU, the most popular diverted substances in New York City are amitriptyline (Elavil), alprazolam (Xanax), clonidine (Catapres), and hydrocodone (Vicodin).³⁶ According to SSU, most of the locations where pills are sold are within two blocks of treatment facilities.³⁷

Juveniles

- A 2003 survey of New York City high school students indicated that 29.8% had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes. This is down from 34.4% in 2001, 31.6% in 1999, and 31.2% in 1997.³⁸
- The percent of students reporting past month (current) marijuana use in New York City also declined from 15.7% in 1997 to 17.3% in 1999, 17.8% in 2001, and 15.3% in 2003.³⁹

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, New York City, 1997-2003

	1997	1999	2001	2003
Lifetime marijuana	31.2%	31.6%	34.4%	29.8%
Current marijuana	15.7	17.3	17.8	15.3
Marijuana before age 13	7.2	6.5	7.5	7.2
Lifetime cocaine	3.3	3.3	2.6	3.5
Current cocaine	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.7
Lifetime inhalant	12.2	9.3	7.5	7.2
Current inhalant	n/a	3.1	2.2	2.5
Lifetime heroin	n/a	1.0	0.9	1.6
Lifetime meth.	n/a	2.9	2.8	2.4
Lifetime MDMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.0
Lifetime illegal steroid	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.5

- During 2000, there were 12,810 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in New York City.⁴⁰

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, New York City, 1997-2000

Offense Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Sale/Manufacturing	4,780	4,777	4,412	3,704
Opium/cocaine and derivatives	3,602	3,536	2,987	2,290
Marijuana	953	1,014	1,239	1,228
Synthetic narcotics	3	11	9	10
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	222	216	177	176
Possession	6,351	8,000	7,237	9,106
Opium/cocaine and derivatives	617	580	534	469
Marijuana	5,675	7,353	6,635	8,572
Synthetic narcotics	1	3	8	6
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	58	64	60	59
Total drug abuse violation arrests	11,131	12,777	11,649	12,810

Enforcement

- The New York Police Department (NYPD) is one of the largest municipal police departments in the United States covering the city's five boroughs: Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. This area is approximately 320 square miles.⁴¹
- As of October 31, 2002, New York City had 53,774 full-time law enforcement employees (37,240 officers and 16,534 civilians).⁴²
- The Narcotics Division of NYPD's Organized Crime Control Bureau includes various units with the mission of identifying, arresting, and eliminating drug gangs and individuals who control drug operations. The specialty squads of the Narcotics Division are as follows:⁴³
 - Drug Enforcement Task Force: This joint task force consists of Federal, State and NYPD investigators working together to target middle and upper level drug traffickers and importers.
 - Kennedy Airport Narcotics Smuggling Unit (KANSU): KANSU is a joint effort between the Queens Narcotics Borough and the Customs Service. KANSU was designed to interdict illegal narcotics smuggled into the U.S. via Kennedy Airport.
 - Narcotics Investigation and Tracking of Recidivist Offenders (NITRO): The NITRO unit coordinates, develops, maintains and disseminates narcotics intelligence through debriefings and computer databases. The NITRO unit is designed to focus prioritized enforcement efforts on career felony drug offenders and New York City firearms violators identified by the NYPD.
- New York/New Jersey HIDTA initiatives include the following:⁴⁴
 - Intelligence
 - Regional Intelligence Center
 - HIDENTANET
 - Enforcement
 - El Dorado Task Force
 - Regional Fugitive Task Force
 - FBI Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force
 - DEA HIDTA Group
 - New Jersey Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force

- Support
 - Regional Training Center
 - Support Services
- Narcotics Control Unit (NCU)⁴⁵

Under the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, NCU is responsible for countering drug trafficking in city-owned buildings. NCU works regularly with approximately 25 police precincts and the Narcotics Division of the NYPD. As a result of NCU efforts, more than 15,500 apartments have been regained from drug dealers and approximately 2,800 former drug buildings have been stabilized.

Trafficking and Seizures

- There have been several cases of pseudoephedrine diversion involving terrorist groups who traffic drugs to support their activities.⁴⁶
- The New York/New Jersey HIDTA region is the Northeast U.S. center for narcotics trafficking, serving as both a gateway and marketplace.⁴⁷
- The region presents an ideal location for the importation of drugs through its two major international airports, several domestic airports, two major railroad complexes, hundreds of miles of subway tracks, extensive waterfront with various points-of-entry, and complex network of highways, bridges, and tunnels.⁴⁸
- New York City has been home to numerous drug trafficking organizations for many years and the cities' diverse and multi-class population creates a large demand for illicit drugs.⁴⁹
- Marijuana smuggled into New York City enters through air freight or auto/truck transport from Florida or the Southwestern United States.⁵⁰
- The majority of heroin distributed in upstate New York is first cut and packaged in New York City and later recut and repackaged locally.⁵¹
- Cocaine distribution organizations in New York City also serve as the source of supply to organizations operating throughout the eastern United States.⁵²

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵³

As of May 2004, there were 6 drug courts that had been operating for over 2 years, 6 that had recently been implemented, and 5 that were being planned in the New York City counties.
- There were 11,518 drug-related felony indictments in New York City in 2002.⁵⁴

Felony Prosecutions in New York City, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
% Prosecuted in the Upper Courts	26.9%	25.2%	24.9%	25.7%	27.4%
Total Indictments/SCIs	36,519	29,905	27,829	25,801	26,372
Violent	10,129	8,608	8,284	8,181	8,383
Drug	20,185	16,140	13,875	12,059	11,518
Other	6,205	5,157	5,670	5,561	6,471

- Drug Treatment Alternative-to-Prison (DTAP)⁵⁵
Initiated in 1990 by the King County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, DTAP is the first prosecution-run program in the country to divert prison-bound felony offenders to residential drug treatment. This program is based on the premise that defendants will return to society in a better position to resist drugs and crime after treatment than if they had spent comparable time in prison. DTAP targets drug-addicted defendants arrested for non-violent felony offenses who have previously been convicted of one or more nonviolent felonies. Defendants entered into DTAP have their sentences deferred while undergoing 15-24 months of intensive drug treatment.
- As of July 2004, approximately 2,007 defendants had been accepted into the DTAP program, 366 were still in treatment, and 764 had completed the program and had their charges dismissed.⁵⁶

Corrections

- The average daily population within the New York City Department of Correction in FY 2003 was 14,533.⁵⁷
- Reducing Adolescent Problems (RAP)⁵⁸
The RAP program of the NYC Department of Correction is an intervention strategy targeting peer pressures that lead to involvement with drugs, gangs, and violence. In the RAP program, youths encounter the realistic consequences of their antisocial behavior through a facility tour on Rikers Island.
- Through its Central Placement Unit, the NYC Department of Probation secures drug treatment for probationers with alcohol or drug abuse problems. Treatment can be ordered by the judge or by a probation officer.⁵⁹

Consequences of Use

- From 1989 to 2001, the number of women who used cocaine during pregnancy decreased 86%, from 3,168 in 1989 to 438 in 2001.⁶⁰

Number of Births to Women Using Cocaine, NYC, 1994-2001

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
1,288	1,059	1,005	864	742	626	490	438

- During 2002, there were 894 drug abuse deaths reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) by Medical Examiners in New York City. Cocaine was mentioned in 421 of the drug deaths during 2002.⁶¹

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, NYC, 1998-2002*

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	316	308	350	303
Cocaine	438	394	492	421
Heroin/morphine	230	174	194	224
Marijuana	30	19	37	55
Amphetamines	--	--	1	6
Methamphetamine	--	2	3	6
Club drugs	2	4	5	19
Hallucinogens	--	3	6	6
Inhalants	--	--	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	252	271	590	641
Other analgesics	31	23	30	82
Benzodiazepines	6	12	25	115
Antidepressants	38	33	54	281
All other substances	30	74	128	436
Total drug mentions	1,373	1,317	1,915	2,595
Total drug deaths	761	729	924	894

* Data for 2001 were incomplete and not published

- During 2002, there were 33,645 emergency department (ED) episodes in New York City. Cocaine was mentioned in nearly 14,000 of the ED episodes.⁶²

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, New York City, 1997-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	14,194	12,333	12,449	11,821	10,969
Cocaine	19,549	14,799	14,250	13,898	13,961
Heroin	9,218	9,302	11,009	10,644	10,397
Marijuana	3,682	3,491	3,544	3,501	3,923
Amphetamines	52	48	39	46	77
Methamphetamine	36	17	31	--	63
MDMA (Ecstasy)	31	136	200	172	143
Ketamine	28	31	21	24	36
LSD	75	54	73	62	49
PCP	256	278	237	203	341
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	8	--	--	6	20
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)	1	0	0	0	0
GHB	5	--	--	15	--
Inhalants	--	0	0	0	17
Total ED drug abuse episodes	36,141	30,662	31,880	32,307	33,645
Total ED drug mentions	58,360	50,600	52,629	52,055	52,963

- Of New York City's 132,537 adult AIDS cases in 2002, 42% involved heterosexual injection drug users.⁶³

Treatment

- Thirty percent of the Manhattan Borough adult male arrestees interviewed during 2003 reported receiving inpatient or residential treatment at some point in their lives.⁶⁴

Percent of Adult Arrestees Reporting Past Drug Treatment, Manhattan, 2003

Type of Treatment	Male		Female	
	Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
Outpatient	23.3	7.7	28.1	6.3
Inpatient/Residential	30.0	8.3	40.6	12.9

- During 2002, there were a total of 68,869 drug and alcohol treatment admissions in New York City (excludes alcohol-only admissions).⁶⁵
- The number of New York City treatment admissions with cocaine as the primary drug of abuse increased from 14,375 in 2001 to 15,608 in 2002.⁶⁶

Number of Treatment Admissions, by Primary Drug of Abuse, NYC, 1994-2002

Year	Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana
1994	15,407	18,187	3,824
1995	16,207	18,287	4,330
1996	17,378	18,778	6,030
1997	17,449	20,707	7,451
1998	17,572	20,996	9,027
1999	15,913	20,879	10,219
2000	14,059	21,616	11,151
2001	14,375	22,779	13,270
2002	15,608	22,514	14,310

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, American Community Survey: 2002 Data Profiles:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/index.htm>

² New York City Web site: <http://www.nyc.gov>

³ New York City Council Web site: <http://www.nyccouncil.info/index.cfm>

⁴ New York City Police Department Web site: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/>

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⁶ New York City Police Department, Organized Crime Control Bureau: Narcotics Division Web site:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/occb/narco2.html>

⁷ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_ny-nj.html

⁸ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/grantee/index.asp>

⁹ Community Capacity Development Office, New York Weed and Seed sites:

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- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Web site:
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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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