

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

St. Louis, Missouri

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.

St. Louis, Missouri

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2002 American Community Survey): 327,820
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 41.68% white; 51.22% black/African American; 0.08% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.26% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.08% other race; 2.4% two or more races; 2.29% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

Politics

- Mayor: Francis G. Slay²
- Board of Alderman (Wards 1-28, respectively): James F. Shrewsbury (President); Irene J. Smith; Dionne Flowers; Freeman M. Bosley, Sr.; Peggy Ryan; April Ford-Griffin; Lewis E. Reed; Phyllis Young; Stephen Conway; Kenneth Ortmann; Joseph Vollmer; Matt Villa; Fred Heitert; Alfred Wessels, Jr.; Stephen Gregali; Jennifer Florida; Donna Baringer; Joseph D. Roddy; Terry Kennedy; Michael McMillan; Craig Schmid; Bennice Jones King; Jeffrey Boyd; Kathleen Hanrahan; Tom Bauer; Dorothy Kirner; Frank Williamson; Gregory Carter; Lyda Krewson³
- St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Chief: Colonel Joseph Mokwa⁴
- St. Louis City Sheriff: James W. Murphy⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
The Midwest HIDTA was designated in 1996 and is responsible for counties in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The following counties in Missouri are included in the Midwest HIDTA: Cape Girardeau, Christian, Clay, Jackson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Ray, Scott, St. Charles, Greene, Benton, Buchanan, Jasper, Texas, Platte, Marion, and St. Louis counties.
- Substance Abuse Mental Health Information (SAMHI)⁷
SAMHI is an online, publicly funded site designed to help consumers, families, and professionals locate services and information relating to mental health, addiction, and mental retardation services in the St. Louis area.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program⁸
Since FY 1999, funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program was only received by one coalition in St. Louis. Since the original award received in FY 2001, the City of St. Louis Regional Response to Prevent Youth Violence, Drug Addiction, and Teen Pregnancy Coalition has received \$300,000 from the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- Community Capacity Development Office⁹
St. Louis has been designated a Weed and Seed site.

- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Grant Funds received in St. Louis:¹⁰
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$920,828
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$50,000
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$1,586,771
- FY 2002-2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Discretionary Grant recipients in St. Louis:
 - FY 2003: \$215,491 to the City of St. Louis for a single jurisdiction drug court program¹¹
 - FY 2002: no St. Louis grantees¹²
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant recipients in St. Louis:
 - FY 2003: there were no St. Louis (or Missouri) recipients of the 2003 COPS Methamphetamine Grant¹³
 - FY 2002: there were no St. Louis recipients of the 2002 COPS Methamphetamine Grant¹⁴
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in St. Louis:¹⁵
 - Community Based (discretionary): 1 award valued at \$225,000
 - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards in St. Louis
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$99,350
 - formula: 0 awards in St. Louis
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$464,016
 - formula: 4 awards valued at \$17,319
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$215,491
 - formula: 0 awards in St. Louis
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$299,882
 - formula: 0 awards in St. Louis
- In FY 2001, the following amount was awarded in St. Louis as part of the Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant:¹⁶
 - \$125,000 to JVL 16 Associates, LTD

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, there were 28,000 larceny-theft offenses in St. Louis.¹⁷ This number decreased during 2002 to 26,036.¹⁸ According to preliminary 2003 data, there were 23,753 larceny-theft offenses in St. Louis.¹⁹

Number of Index Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, St. Louis, 2001-2003

Offense Type	2001	2002	2003
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	148	111	73
Forcible rape	120	136	75
Robbery	3,140	2,818	2,303
Aggravated assault	4,256	4,434	3,874
Burglary	8,128	7,059	5,889
Larceny-theft	28,000	26,036	23,753
Motor vehicle theft	8,843	9,835	10,674
Arson	711	585	470
Crime index total	52,635	50,429	--

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

Cocaine is available and used in the urban areas of St. Louis.²⁰ During January-June 2003, powder cocaine as reported to be 77% pure and sold for \$100-\$125 per gram. A rock of crack cocaine sold for \$20 during this same time period and a gram sold for \$100-\$250.²¹

➤ Heroin

Most heroin available in St. Louis is dark brown or black tar. Heroin from Mexico is usually the only type of heroin available. Heroin sold in St. Louis is usually supplied in bundles, which are one-tenth-gram packages of heroin in plastic wrap and aluminum foil known as “bindles,” for \$40.²² One gram of heroin sells for \$100.²³

➤ Marijuana

Marijuana indicators in St. Louis have been showing an upward trend in usage for some time.²⁴ Marijuana prices range from \$20 for a bag to \$100 for an ounce.²⁵ Marijuana users in St. Louis tend to be males of a low to middle socioeconomic status.²⁶

➤ Methamphetamine

The purity levels of methamphetamine produced locally fluctuate between 70-80%, while methamphetamine produced in Mexico is only 20-30% pure. An ounce of methamphetamine sells for \$700-\$1,300 in St. Louis.²⁷ During January-June 2003, methamphetamine sold for \$100-\$150 per gram.²⁸ Methamphetamine users in St. Louis tend to be over the age of 18. Most meth users are males residing in rural areas and are of low socioeconomic status.²⁹

➤ Club Drugs

LSD has appeared in local high schools and rural areas in St. Louis. A blotter of LSD sells for \$2-\$4 per micogram dose. PCP is available in St. Louis but in limited quantities and is most often used as a dip on marijuana joints. Most PCP users in the inner city are African American. GHB use has increased in St. Louis. The drug is often sold at night clubs for \$5 per capful or \$40 per ounce. A St. Louis survey of 1,250 students from one suburban high school showed that 30% reported being approached by someone and offered ecstasy.³⁰ MDMA users in St. Louis tend to be white, between the ages of 18-30, and of middle socioeconomic status.³¹

- **Other Drugs**
OxyContin abuse remains a growing concern in the St. Louis area. OxyContin is the most frequently stolen drug in pharmacy robberies and costs \$40 for an 80-milligram tablet on the street level.³² OxyContin and heroin are often used as substitutes for one another.³³

Enforcement

- As of October 2002, there were 2,055 law enforcement personnel in St. Louis (1,460 officers and 595 civilians).³⁴
- Drug Enforcement Administration’s Mobile Enforcement Teams (MET): This cooperative program with state and local law enforcement began in 1995 in response to the overwhelming problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation. There have been ten St. Louis Division MET deployments in the State of Missouri since the inception of the program: Sikeston, Fountain Park, St. Charles County, Audrain County, Crystal City, Berkeley, Hannibal, Franklin County, Joplin, and Springfield.³⁵

Trafficking and Seizures

- There have been a few recent seizures of “mom and pop” methamphetamine laboratories in the St. Louis area.³⁶
- All cocaine available in St. Louis is initially brought to the area in powder form, which is then converted to crack for local distribution.³⁷
- Much of the LSD available in St. Louis is imported from the Pacific coast.³⁸
- In St. Louis, heroin is sold by small distribution networks and many small entrepreneurs.³⁹
- Efforts against precursor chemicals have made it more difficult for people to cook methamphetamine. However, the prevalence of mobile meth labs and the use of motels to produce meth have increased.⁴⁰
- Hispanic traffickers, rather than motorcycle gangs, are the new predominant methamphetamine distributors. Shipments from super labs in the Southwest are trucked to the St. Louis area via the interstate highway system.⁴¹

Courts

- **Drug Courts**⁴²
As of May 2004, there were 4 drug courts operating for over two years in St. Louis. No additional drug courts were recently implemented or being planned.

Consequences of Use

- During 2001, 12 male AIDS cases and 6 female AIDS cases in St. Louis were transmitted by IV drug use.⁴³

AIDS and HIV Cases, by IV Drug Use Transmission, St. Louis, 2001

Transmission by IV Drug Use	Male	Female
AIDS Cases	12	6
HIV Cases	3	5

➤ During 2002, there were 73 drug-related deaths in the city of St. Louis.⁴⁴

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, City of St. Louis, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	15	17	19	28	31
Cocaine	51	47	42	34	35
Heroin/morphine	27	27	20	10	25
Marijuana	24	32	24	6	7
Amphetamine	--	--	--	--	1
Methamphetamine	2	1	1	--	1
Club drugs	--	2	2	--	--
Hallucinogens	1	--	2	6	--
Inhalants	--	--	1	--	1
Narcotic analgesics	15	10	23	20	49
Other analgesics	9	3	2	4	4
Benzodiazepines	11	9	15	20	15
Antidepressants	4	6	7	11	12
All other substances	14	22	21	25	26
Total drug deaths	84	87	74	67	73
Total drug mentions	173	176	179	164	207

➤ During 2002, there were 2,866 emergency department (ED) mentions of marijuana in St. Louis.⁴⁵

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, St. Louis, 1999-2002

Selected Drugs	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol in combination	2,033	2,489	3,157	2,823
Cocaine	2,329	2,403	3,080	3,536
Heroin	851	1,084	1,309	1,167
Marijuana	1,639	1,763	2,311	2,866
Amphetamine	184	126	167	406
Methamphetamine	104	162	115	150
MDMA (Ecstasy)	15	52	55	35
Ketamine	0	0	--	2
LSD	70	74	52	24
PCP	26	74	110	143
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	12	5	--	17
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)	0	0	0	0
GHB	8	7	--	4
Inhalants	20	--	17	12
Combinations NTA*	--	3	--	2
Drug abuse episodes	6,331	6,906	8,216	9,641
Drug abuse mentions	11,681	13,309	15,963	18,095

*NTA= not tabulated above

Treatment

- During 2002, cocaine accounted for 41.9% of all treatment admissions in St. Louis. Crack cocaine accounted for 90.8% of all cocaine admissions.⁴⁶

Percent of Treatment Admissions, by Drug Type, St. Louis, 2002

Drug Type	2002
Methamphetamine	5.3%
Marijuana	36.3
Cocaine	41.9
Heroin	13.7

- Treatment slots in St. Louis have become less available and waiting lists have become longer. In particular, public methadone programs have an average of 2 months for their waiting list. Funding cuts have resulted in the closing of a number of private clinics, which decreased the number of treatment slots available.⁴⁷
- In St. Louis, a lack of trained staff to treat clients with dual diagnoses remains a significant barrier to effective treatment.⁴⁸
- During 2001, there were 11,603 admissions to drug treatment in St. Louis.⁴⁹

Number of Treatment Admissions, St. Louis, 2001

Drug Type	Number of Admissions
Cocaine/crack	4,243
Heroin	1,436
Marijuana	3,210
Stimulants	445
Other drugs	247
Total	11,603

Sources

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

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³ St. Louis Board of Alderman Web site: <http://stlcin.missouri.org/alderman/>

⁴ St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

⁵ St. Louis Government, City of St. Louis Sheriff: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/government/sheriff.html>

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

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http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/nov02/pulse_nov02.pdf
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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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