

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Georgia

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 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.

Georgia

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

Demographics

- Population: 8,560,310 (July 2002 estimate);¹ 8,326,251 (2002 American Community Survey)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 62.17% white; 28.13% black/African American; 0.16% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.30% Asian; 0.03% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.29% other race; 0.89% two or more races; 6.03% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)³

Politics

- Governor: Sonny Perdue⁴
- Lt. Governor: Mark Taylor⁵
- Attorney General: Thurbert E. Baker⁶
- Secretary of State: Cathy Cox⁷
- U.S. Senate: Saxby Chambliss (R), Zell B. Miller (D)⁸
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-13, respectively): Jack Kingston; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; Jim Marshall; Denise Majette; John Lewis; Johnny Isakson; John Linder; Mac Collins; Charlie Norwood; Nathan Deal; Phil Gingrey; Max Burns; David Scott⁹
- Capital: Atlanta¹⁰

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹¹
Designated in 1995, the Atlanta HIDTA serves the city of Atlanta and Fulton and DeKalb Counties.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees in Georgia (total funds received since original award year):¹²
 - FY 2003: No grantees
 - FY 2002: \$200,000 to Memorial Health Trust, Savannah
 - FY 2001:
 - \$300,000 to the Augusta-Richmond County Community Partnership, Augusta
 - \$297,687 to the Bulloch County Board of Education, Statesboro
 - FY 2000: \$375,000 to the Genesis Prevention Coalition, Inc., Atlanta
 - FY 1999:
 - \$425,000 to the Cobb Community Collaborative, Inc., Marietta
 - \$424,995 to the DeKalb Prevention Alliance, Inc., Decatur
- Community Capacity Development Office¹³
There are currently nine sites in Georgia that have been officially recognized and received Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites: Albany, Athens (Hancock Corridor

and East Athens/Thoms Lay Park), Atlanta, Augusta, East Point, Savannah, Valdosta, and Waycross.

- FY 2003/2004 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary for Georgia:¹⁴
 - Formula Funding - \$63,800,860
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$50,960,438
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$12,840,422
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness - \$1,128,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$781,801
 - Discretionary Funding - \$7,861,730
 - Mental Health - \$2,636,265
 - Substance Prevention - \$2,296,295
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$2,929,170
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$15,476,687
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$56,185,903
 - Total Funds for Georgia: \$71,662,590
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Georgia: \$13,159,194¹⁵
- FY 1996-2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Georgia:
 - FY 1996: \$754,766¹⁶
 - FY 1997: \$819,727¹⁷
 - FY 1998: \$1,753,951¹⁸
 - FY 1999: \$1,715,429¹⁹
 - FY 2000: \$1,789,168²⁰
 - FY 2001: \$1,817,918²¹
 - FY 2002: \$2,067,661²²
 - FY 2003: \$1,927,091²³
- FY 2003 Drug Court Grant Program recipient in Georgia:²⁴
 - \$499,998 to Superior Court of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit for an adult drug court
- There were no Georgia recipients of the FY 2002 Drug Court Grant Program.²⁵
- Georgia did not receive funding for the FY 2003 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.²⁶
- FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant amount received in Georgia:²⁷
 - \$222,222 to the Gainesville Police Department
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant amounts received in Georgia:²⁸
 - \$200,000 to Bedford Pines Apartments, Atlanta
 - \$124,913 to Cumberland Oaks Apartments, St. Marys
- Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received during FY 2002 in Georgia (by funding category):
 - Community (discretionary): \$4.2 million
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$11.7 million
 - Juvenile Justice:

- discretionary: \$6.4 million
- formula: \$8.4 million
- Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: \$93.7 million
 - formula: \$16.9 million
- Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: \$1.1 million
 - formula: \$15.3 million
- Victims:
 - discretionary: \$0
 - formula: \$12.0 million
- Total OJP/COPS funds received in Georgia in FY 2002: \$169.8 million

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2003, there were 531 arrests for murders in Georgia. This is a increase from 519 arrests for murder during 1999.²⁹

Number of Index Offense Arrests, Georgia, 1999-2003

Offense	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Murder	519	497	396	683	531
Rape	655	569	549	565	535
Robbery	2,906	2,829	3,009	2,862	2,876
Aggravated assault	11,658	11,855	11,251	11,071	10,721
Total violent crime	15,738	15,750	15,205	15,181	14,663
Burglary	7,582	7,039	6,738	7,212	6,825
Larceny	32,993	30,880	30,104	30,854	30,961
Motor vehicle theft	3,152	3,493	2,754	2,874	2,947
Total property crime	43,727	41,412	39,596	40,940	40,733
Total index crime	59,465	57,162	54,801	56,121	55,396

- During FY 2002, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation participated in 14 drug-related multi-jurisdictional task forces throughout Georgia. As a result of task force efforts, 4,040 investigations were initiated and 2,618 drug offenders were arrested.³⁰
- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 804 drug violation arrests in Georgia during 2001.³¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Georgia, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	1,012
1998	1,267
1999	1,497
2000	1,092
2001	804

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

Cocaine, particularly crack, represents the principal drug threat to Georgia. Powder cocaine is often abused in Georgia raves, nightclubs, and bars. Some area crack users dissolve the drug and then inject it. These users are typically either current or former heroin abusers. Wholesale crack distributors sometimes sell “cookies,” crack formed into patties that measure approximately 3” in diameter. Each cookie sells for \$900-\$1,000. During 2001, powder cocaine sold for \$14,000-\$19,000/kilogram and \$70-\$100/gram. Crack sold for \$20-\$40/rock. Both forms of cocaine sold for \$800-\$1,000/ounce. During 2000, retail levels of powder cocaine ranged in purity from 18% to 90%, and crack purity ranged from 7% to 90%.³²

➤ Heroin

Georgia’s heroin threat is typically limited to Atlanta and other large cities.³³

➤ Marijuana

Marijuana is the most widely available illicit drug in Georgia. Most of the marijuana found in the state is produced in Mexico, although marijuana produced in Colombia, Jamaica, within the state, and from surrounding states is also available. In 2001, Mexican marijuana sold for \$600-\$1,500/pound. In 2002, marijuana in Georgia sold for \$100-\$350/ounce and \$10-\$20/gram.³⁴

➤ Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine poses an increasing threat to Georgia, especially in the northern and central areas. It has emerged as the primary drug threat in parts of northern Georgia.³⁵

➤ Club Drugs³⁶

MDMA, LSD, ketamine, and GHB pose an increasing threat to Georgia. Middle class suburban teenagers and young adults typically abuse club drugs. MDMA sold during 2002 at the retail level cost \$15-\$35 per tablet in Georgia. During 2001, ketamine sold for \$20 per 50 milligrams. During this same time period, liquid GHB sold for \$500-\$1,000 per gallon and for \$15-\$20 per dosage unit.

➤ Diverted Pharmaceuticals³⁷

During 2002, OxyContin was the most frequently abused diverted pharmaceutical in Georgia. Hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and benzodiazepines are also diverted in Georgia, but to a lesser extent. OxyContin sold in Georgia usually costs \$20 per 20-milligram tablet.

➤ According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 45% of Georgia citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³⁸

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Georgia, 2000-2001 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.28%	15.72%	4.12%	6.13%
Past month use of marijuana	5.41	13.02	3.00	4.61
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.56	6.30	1.80	2.70
Past year cocaine use	1.32	4.91	1.21	1.72
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	36.01	28.84	49.10	44.96

- According to 2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.17% of Georgia citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³⁹

Percent of Citizens Reporting Dependence, Georgia, 2001

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	1.72%	3.32%	0.71%	1.17%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	3.54	5.51	1.14	1.99
Alcohol dependence	1.35	4.41	2.11	2.34
Alcohol dependence or abuse	3.59	11.37	3.85	4.84
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.95	13.95	4.60	6.01

Juveniles

- There were 75 juvenile arrests for murder in Georgia during 2003. This is an increase from the 46 in 2001.⁴⁰

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, Georgia, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	79	83	46	111	75
Forcible rape	83	93	75	83	56
Robbery	488	467	569	476	541
Aggravated assault	1,168	1,226	1,223	1,192	1,227
Burglary	2,059	1,902	1,985	1,963	1,882
Larceny	7,800	7,720	7,311	7,230	7,205
Motor vehicle theft	890	930	827	784	955
Other assaults	5,081	4,630	5,302	5,305	5,802
DUI	671	467	308	414	397
Liquor laws	1,630	1,526	1,319	1,215	1,045
Drunkenness	171	190	180	193	285

- During 2003, there were 2,219 juvenile arrests for marijuana possession in Georgia.⁴¹

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Georgia, 1999-2003

Offense	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine & derivatives	304	226	165	208	197
Marijuana	388	355	345	342	458
Synthetic narcotics	20	27	36	49	33
Other dang. non-narc. drugs	121	137	101	150	178
Possession					
Opium/cocaine & derivatives	711	624	482	586	525
Marijuana	2,228	2,301	2,191	1,761	2,219
Synthetic narcotics	33	50	70	127	108
Other dang. non-narc. drugs	78	80	109	121	127

Enforcement

- The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Drug Enforcement Investigative Division consists of Regional Drug Enforcement Offices, multi-jurisdictional task forces, and the Governor’s Task Force on Drug Suppression.⁴²
- As of October 31, 2002, there were 26,651 full-time law enforcement employees in Georgia (18,753 officers and 7,898 civilians).⁴³

Trafficking and Seizures

- Georgia, particularly Atlanta, is a significant drug distribution center in the southeastern United States.⁴⁴
- Criminal groups typically transport drugs into and through Georgia using the state’s highway system. However, the state’s 2 international airports (in Atlanta and Savannah), 109 county and municipal airports, and 2 deepwater ports (in Savannah and Brunswick) are also used to smuggle drugs.⁴⁵
- Hispanic criminal groups, primarily Mexican, are the principal transporters of illicit drugs available in Georgia.⁴⁶
- During full year 2003, the DEA and state and local authorities in Georgia reported 210 methamphetamine lab incidents to the El Paso Intelligence Center.⁴⁷

Number of Methamphetamine Incidents/Seizures, Georgia, 2003

Type of Seizure	Number
Chemical/glass/equipment	37
Dumpsite	14
Laboratory	159
Total	210

- In 2002, more than 75,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in Georgia under the DEA’s Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁴⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Georgia, 2002

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
476	75,259	8	511	75,770

- During 2002, Federal agencies seized 401 kilograms of cocaine in Georgia.⁴⁹

Federal Drug Seizures, Georgia, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized (kgs.)
Cocaine	401.3
Heroin	1.1
Methamphetamine	105.3
Marijuana	992

- There were 110 methamphetamine labs seized by the DEA and state and local law enforcement in Georgia during 2002.⁵⁰

Number of Methamphetamine Labs Seized, Georgia, 1996-2002

Year	# of Labs Seized
1996	5
1997	9
1998	6
1999	27
2000	54
2001	51
2002	110

- During FY 2002, the Governor’s Task Force on Drug Suppression (GTF) conducted 145 marijuana eradication missions in 62 Georgia counties. As a result of the GTF missions, 56,693 marijuana plants were seized worth a street value of \$136 million.⁵¹
- In FY 2002, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces seized drugs valued at \$28,125,860.⁵²
- Georgia law enforcement seized currency valued at \$1.07 million as part of Operation Pipeline efforts and nearly \$1.06 million as part of Operation Jetway efforts in 2001.⁵³

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵⁴
As of May 2004, there were 29 drug courts in Georgia that had been operating or were being planned. Fourteen drug courts were operating for more than 2 years, 8 drug courts were recently implemented and 7 that were being planned.
- During FY 2001, 39.5% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Georgia were charged with drug offenses. Crack cocaine was involved in nearly 33% (185) of the drug offenses.⁵⁵

Federally-Sentenced Drug Defendants, Georgia, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Crack cocaine	185	32.8%
Powder cocaine	126	22.3
Methamphetamine	104	18.4
Marijuana	103	18.3
Heroin	23	4.1
Other	23	4.1

Corrections

- As of March 2004, there were 36,222 state prison inmates in Georgia.⁵⁶

Number of Active Inmates, Georgia, March 2004

Institution	# of Inmates	% of Total
State prison	36,222	76%
County camps	4,985	10
Private prisons	4,540	9
Transitional centers	1,257	3
Inmate boot camps	748	2

- Eight percent (3,742) of the active prisoners (excluding jails) had drug sales offenses as their most serious crime committed.⁵⁷

Most Serious Crime Committed by Prisoners, Georgia, March 2004

Crime Type	# of Prisoners	% of Total
Violent/person	21,629	45%
Non-violent/person	247	1
Property	9,998	21
Drug sales	3,742	8
Drug possession	3,475	7
Alcohol	0	0
Habitual/DUI	452	1
Sex offender	6,564	14
Other	1,810	4

- Approximately 19% of active Georgia prisoners in March 2004 were diagnosed as drug abusers. Eight percent reported drug abuse within their families.⁵⁸
- In March 2004, more than 35,498 of Georgia's active probationers had committed drug possession offenses, representing 27% of the probation population. Seven percent (9,381) of the active probationers committed drug sales offenses.⁵⁹
- Approximately 23% of the active offender population in FY 2003 had committed a cocaine possession offense.⁶⁰

Drug Offenders, by Most Serious Offense, Selected Offenses, Georgia, FY 2003

Most Serious Offense	Number	Percent of Total
Conspiracy to traffic controlled substance	3	0.0%
Illegal attempt to obtain drugs	21	0.0
Illegal distribution of controlled substance	0	0.0
Miscellaneous drug trafficking	159	2.0
Possession depressant, stimulant, cntrf. drug	299	3.0
Possession drug-related material	3	0.0
Possession cocaine	2,074	23.0
Possession LSD	12	0.0
Possession marijuana	374	4.0

Possession narcotics/opiates	265	3.0
Sale/distribution controlled substance – public	59	1.0
Sale/distribution controlled substance – school	23	0.0
Sale/distribution cocaine	1,029	11.0
Sale/distribution depress., stim., cntrf. drug	109	1.0
Sale/distribution LSD	2	0.0
Sale/distribution marijuana	231	3.0
Sale/distribution narcotics/opiates	98	1.0
Trafficking amphetamine 28-199 grams	5	0.0
Trafficking amphetamine 400 + grams	4	0.0
Trafficking cocaine less than 200 grams	109	1.0
Trafficking cocaine 201-400 grams	21	0.0
Trafficking cocaine 401 + grams	26	0.0
Trafficking marijuana 101-2,000 pounds	4	0.0
Trafficking narcotics 29 + grams	7	0.0
Violation of Georgia controlled substances act	8	0.0
Attempted violation of substances act	74	1.0

Consequences of Use

- From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003, there were 19 Georgia methamphetamine laboratory sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center in which a child was present.⁶¹

Characteristics of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Georgia, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	79
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	28
Sites with a child injured	0
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	19
Sites with a child residing at the site	11
Number of children placed in protective custody	39

Treatment

- During 2003, there were 35,903 substance abuse treatment admissions in Georgia.⁶²
- In 2002, there were 33,339 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Georgia. More than 5,000 of the clients (16.4% of all admissions) reported that smoked cocaine was their primary substance of abuse.⁶³
- There were 36,773 admissions to treatment in Georgia during 2001.⁶⁴

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Georgia, 2001-2003

Drug Type	2001		2002		2003	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	10,387	28.2%	8,802	26.4%	8,773	24.4%
Alc. w/ second. drug	4,331	11.8	4,143	12.4	4,829	13.5
Cocaine – smoked	6,147	16.7	5,477	16.4	6,065	16.9
Cocaine – other route	3,088	8.4	1,997	6.0	2,436	6.8
Marijuana	4,742	12.9	4,576	13.7	5,386	15.0
Heroin	717	1.9	622	1.9	636	1.8
Other opiates	677	1.8	715	2.1	963	2.7
PCP	--	0.0	4	0.0	10	0.0
Hallucinogens	56	0.2	40	0.1	20	0.1
Amphetamines	984	2.7	1,535	4.6	2,793	7.8
Other stimulants	21	0.1	19	0.1	20	0.1
Tranquilizers	262	0.7	298	0.9	365	1.0
Sedatives	40	0.1	35	0.1	47	0.1
Inhalants	45	0.1	32	0.1	38	0.1
Other/none specified	5,276	14.3	5,044	15.1	3,522	9.8
Total	36,773	100.0	33,339	100.0	35,903	100.0

Sources

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- ⁷ Georgia Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/default800.asp>
- ⁸ U.S. Senate Web site, Georgia Members: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=GA
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