Office of National Drug Control Policy
Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alabama

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 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.

Alabama

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

Demographics
➢ Population: 4,500,752 (July 2003 Census estimate);[1] 4,370,221 (2002 American Community Survey)[2]
➢ Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 70.0% white, 25.5% black/African American, 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native, 0.7% Asian, 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.1% other, 1.4% two or more races, 2.0% Hispanic/Latino origin[3]

Politics
➢ Governor: Bob Riley[4]
➢ Lt. Governor: Lucy Baxley[5]
➢ Attorney General: Troy King[6]
➢ Secretary of State: Nancy Worley[7]
➢ U.S. Senate: Jeff Sessions (R); Richard Shelby (R)[8]
➢ U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): Jo Bonner; Terry Everett; Mike Rogers; Robert Aderholt; Robert Cramer, Jr.; Spencer Bachus; Artur Davis[9]
➢ Capital: Montgomery[10]

Programs/Initiatives
➢ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)[11]
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for Baldwin, Jefferson, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, and Morgan counties in Alabama. In addition to Alabama, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is also responsible for counties in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime
➢ During 2003, there were 13,819 adult arrests for drug possession in Alabama.[12] This is up from 2002, when there were 13,197 adult arrests for drug possession.[13]

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Alabama, 2002-2003

Drug Type	Sales		Possession	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Opium/cocaine	432	492	3,287	3,418
Marijuana	229	369	8,277	8,530
Synthetic drugs	162	211	1,028	1,144
Other	428	483	605	727
Total	1,251	1,555	13,197	13,819

➢ There were 1,101 juvenile arrests for drug possession in Alabama during 2003.[14] In 2002, there were 1,006 juvenile arrests for drug possession in Alabama.[15]

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Alabama, 2002-2003

Drug Type	Sales		Possession	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Opium/cocaine	7	17	105	102
Marijuana	11	15	828	939
Synthetic drugs	16	10	59	44
Other	5	7	14	16
Total	39	49	1,006	1,101

➢ There were 320 homicide arrests in Alabama during 2003. Twenty-four of the individuals arrested for homicide were under the age of 18.[16]

Number of Arrests for Part I Offenses, Alabama, 2003

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Homicide	24	320
Forcible rape	29	410
Robbery	235	1,680
Aggravated assault	369	4,292
Burglary	611	3,180
Larceny/theft	2,863	15,935
Motor vehicle theft	222	1,339
Arson	20	113
Total Part I arrests	4,373	27,269

Drugs
➢ Cocaine
Cocaine is a large drug threat in Alabama.[17]
➢ Heroin
The heroin found in Alabama is becoming available in a purer form that can be smoked or snorted. It is also becoming more affordable, which makes it more attractive to new users.[18]
➢ Marijuana
Marijuana continues to have a strong presence in Alabama.[19]
➢ Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine has surpassed cocaine as the biggest drug threat in Alabama.[20]
➢ Club Drugs
Club drug abuse and distribution among young people is on the rise in Alabama. Increases in arrests, overdoses, and seizures of designer drugs have been reported and indicate a trend toward increased availability and trafficking. MDMA, LSD, GHB, and Ketamine are readily available throughout the state, most commonly found on college campuses and at raves. GHB and MDMA are the club drugs of choice.[21]
➢ Other Drugs
Alabama continues to see an increase in diverted pharmaceuticals across the state. OxyContin is the top pharmaceutical drug of abuse. Alabama is also a major market for Dilaudid.[22]

➢ According to 2002 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 46% of Alabama citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.[23]

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use and Risk, by Age, Alabama, 2002

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	9.63%	16.51%	4.48%	6.63%
Past month use of marijuana	6.72	12.66	2.57	4.35
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.29	8.96	2.54	3.69
Past year cocaine use	1.84	5.75	1.69	2.26
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	35.70	31.01	50.08	46.04

➢ Additional data from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate that 1.88% of Alabama citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.[24]

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Alabama, 2002

Past Year Dependence	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.70%	5.29%	1.16%	1.88%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.08	7.39	1.39	2.57
Alcohol dependence	2.08	5.61	2.92	3.20
Alcohol dependence or abuse	5.30	13.93	5.07	6.29
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	7.85	18.05	5.77	7.64

Juveniles

➢ Results of a 2003 survey of Alabama high school students indicate that 36.1% reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.[25]

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Alabama, 2003

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	35.0%	37.1%	36.1%
Current marijuana use	16.9	18.4	17.7
Lifetime cocaine use	7.0	7.1	7.1
Current cocaine use	2.7	3.6	3.2
Lifetime inhalant use	9.5	11.5	10.5
Current inhalant use	3.6	4.1	3.8
Lifetime heroin use	0.8	4.3	2.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	8.2	8.9	8.6
Lifetime MDMA use	6.9	8.8	7.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.2	6.4	4.9
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.5	2.8	1.7
Tried marijuana before age 13	6.9	10.0	8.5

➢ Approximately 45% of Alabama 12th graders surveyed in 2003 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.[26]

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, Alabama, 2003

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	29.3%	33.5%	40.4%	44.9%
Current marijuana use	15.7	15.4	210.7	20.2
Lifetime cocaine use	4.2	7.8	8.6	9.0
Current cocaine use	1.9	4.0	3.8	3.6
Lifetime inhalant use	11.6	12.2	10.1	7.7
Current inhalant use	4.7	4.7	3.2	2.3
Lifetime heroin use	1.4	2.6	4.4	2.5
Lifetime methamphetamine use	6.1	9.0	9.4	11.0
Lifetime MDMA use	5.9	6.6	6.8	13.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	5.5	4.9	5.9	3.1
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.3
Tried marijuana before age 13	9.6	8.6	7.9	8.2

Enforcement

➢ As of October 2003, there were 15,720 full-time law enforcement employees in Alabama (10,414 officers and 5,306 civilians).[27]

➢ DEA Mobile Enforcement Teams (MET)[28]
Developed in 1995 in response to the overwhelming problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation, the MET program serves as a cooperative program between DEA and its state and local law enforcement counterparts. As of March 2003, there have been 8 MET deployments in Alabama. The MET deployments occurred in the following Alabama areas: Selma, Prichard, Alabaster, Enterprise, Gadsden, Anniston, Bessemer, and Green/Tuscaloosa counties.

Trafficking and Seizure

➢ A large amount of the cocaine available in Alabama is supplied by Mexican sources in California, Arizona, and Texas. However, Alabama's proximity to Atlanta and Miami also poses a significant threat.[29]

➢ Most of the heroin found in Alabama is transported from Jamaica.[30]

➢ Alabama's stateside sources of supply of club drugs include Miami, Tennessee, and Georgia.[31]

➢ The main source of marijuana coming into Alabama is Mexico with connections to South America as well as through port cities of Florida and the Port of Mobile.[32]

➢ The number of methamphetamine labs seized in Alabama by the DEA and state and local authorities has increased from 30 in 1999 to 289 in 2003.[33]

Number of Methamphetamine Labs Seized, Alabama, 1999-2003

Year	Labs Seized
1999	30
2000	126
2001	166
2002	257
2003	289

- Approximately 473 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in Alabama during 2003.[34]

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Alabama, 2003

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	473 kilograms
Heroin	4.9 kilograms
Methamphetamine	11 kilograms
Marijuana	601 kilograms
MDMA	63,374 tablets

- During 2003, more than 51,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Alabama under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.[35]

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Alabama, 2003

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
1,160	50,917	4	220	51,137

Courts
- Drug Courts[36]
  As of September 2004, there were 12 drug courts in Alabama that had been operating for over 2 years, 10 that were recently implemented, and 9 that were being planned.
- During FY 2002, approximately 42.1% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Alabama committed drug offenses. Approximately 42% of the Federal drug cases involved methamphetamine.[37]

Federally-Sentenced Drug Defendants, Alabama, FY 2002

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Methamphetamine	171	41.5
Crack cocaine	109	26.5%
Powder cocaine	57	13.8
Marijuana	41	10.0
Heroin	3	0.7
Other	31	7.5

Corrections
- As of August 2004, the Alabama Department of Corrections (DOC) population was 26,588. Approximately 15% of the population was in custody for committing drug crimes.[38]

DOC Population by Type of Offense, Alabama, August 2004

Offense	# of Offenders	% of Total
Personal	14,108	53.1%
Property	7,196	27.1
Drugs	4,008	15.1
Other	1,276	4.8
Total	26,588	100.0

Consequences of Use

➤ In FY 2003, there were 25 Alabama methamphetamine laboratory sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center in which a child was present.[39]

Characteristics of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Alabama, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	81
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	29
Sites with a child injured	0
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	25
Sites with a child residing at the site	50
Number of children placed in protective custody	17

Treatment

➤ Approximately 57% of the Alabama treatment clients in FY 2002-2003 had never received prior treatment.[40]

Prior Treatment Status Among Clients, Alabama, FY 2002-2003

Number of Prior Treatment Visits	Clients	% of Total
0 prior visits	11,914	56.7%
1 prior visits	5,114	24.3
2 prior visits	2,101	10.0
3 prior visits	947	4.5
4 prior visits	405	1.9
5 or more prior visits	523	2.5

➤ In FY 2002-2003, approximately 13% of the Alabama treatment clients reported first using drugs before age 13.[41]

Age at First Use among Treatment Clients, Alabama, FY 2002-2003

Age at First Use	Clients	% of Total
Younger than 13	2,651	12.62%
13-15	5,248	24.99
16-18	5,683	27.06
19-29	5,317	25.31
30 +	2,101	10.0

➢ In FY 2002-2003, there were 21,004 admissions to treatment facilities in Alabama.[42]

Admissions to Treatment, by Primary Drug of Abuse, Alabama, FY 2002-2003

Drug Type	Number of Admissions	Percent of Total
Alcohol	7,003	33.3%
Barbiturates	6	0.0
Benzodiazepines	180	0.9
Cocaine	4,414	21.0
Heroin	115	0.5
Inhalants	15	0.1
Marijuana	6,087	29.0
Methamphetamine	1,425	6.8
Non-prescription methadone	42	0.2
Other hallucinogens	29	0.1
Other opiates and synthetics	1,317	6.3
Other	16	0.1
Other amphetamines	267	1.3
Other sedatives	57	0.3
Other stimulants	11	0.1
Other tranquilizers	7	0.0
Over-the-counter	6	0.0
PCP	7	0.0
Total	21,004	100.0

➢ Approximately 61% of those being treated in Alabama during FY 2002-2003 were referred to treatment through the criminal justice system.[43]

Treatment Referral Source, with Most Common Sources Listed, Alabama, FY 2002-2003

Referral Source	# of Admissions	% of Total
Criminal justice related	12,740	60.7%
Community	812	3.9
Doctor/hospital	341	1.6
Mental health/psychiatric service	499	2.4
Other/school/employee assistance program	1,226	5.8
Relative/friend	623	3.0
Treatment	823	3.9
Self	3,940	18.8

➢ Approximately 36% of those being treated in Alabama in FY 2002-2003 reported daily use of their primary drug of abuse.[44]

Frequency of Use of Primary Drug, Alabama, FY 2002-2003

Frequency of Use	Clients	% of Total
Daily	7,606	36.21%
1-2 times per week	2,846	13.55
1-3 times in past month	2,796	13.31
3-6 times per week	2,178	10.3
No past month use	5,277	25.12
Other	301	1.43

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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: