

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Washington

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 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.

Washington

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

Demographics

- Population: 6,131,445 (July 2003 Census estimate);¹ 5,930,307 (2002 American Community Survey)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 78.2% white, 3.2% black/African American, 0.9% American Indian/Alaska Native, 5.7% Asian, 0.3% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.2% other, 3.3% two or more races, 8.1% Hispanic/Latino origin³

Politics

- Governor: Gary Locke⁴
- Lt. Governor: Brad Owen⁵
- Attorney General: Christine O. Gregoire⁶
- Secretary of State: Sam Reed⁷
- U.S. Senate: Maria Cantwell (D); Patty Murray (D)⁸
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-9, respectively): Jay Inslee (D); Rick Larsen (D); Brian Baird (D); Doc Hastings (R); George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (R); Norman D. Dicks (D); Jim McDermott (D); Jennifer Dunn (R); Adam Smith (D)⁹
- Capital: Olympia¹⁰

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹¹
Designated in 1997, the Northwest HIDTA is responsible for the following Washington counties: Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima.
- Realtors throughout Washington are being trained to recognize and report methamphetamine laboratories on properties that they show. The realtors are learning what items are often found in meth labs so they can report the location to authorities. Others who are being similarly trained include garbage haulers, meter readers, and others who may be called to a home.¹²

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Washington:¹³
 - FY 2003:
 - \$99,160 to Wahkiakum Community Network, Cathlamet
 - \$99,892 to Snohomish County Health and Safety Network, Everett
 - \$100,000 to Granite Falls Community Coalition, Granite Falls
 - \$99,981 to Drug Elimination Coalition, Kent
 - \$89,648 to Maple Valley Communities That Care, Maple Valley
 - \$100,000 to Selah Community Action Network, Selah
 - \$99,600 to Sequim School District, Sequim

- \$91,048 to Chelan-Douglas Counties Together for Drug-Free Youth, Wenatchee
- \$54,973 to Seeds of Change Coalition: Partners for a Drug-Free Community, Langley (Coalition Mentoring Program grantee)
- \$74,993 to Lower Valley Substance Abuse Coalition, Yakima (Coalition Mentoring Program grantee)
- FY 2002:
 - \$ 97,500 to the Central Whidbey Youth Coalition, Coupeville
 - \$ 93,930 to the Healthy Youth Coalition, Port Townsend
- FY 2001:
 - \$100,000 to the Adams County Community Network Coalition, Othello
 - \$99,634 to the Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition, Kelso
 - \$89,449 to the Kittitas County Substance Abuse Coalition, Ellensburg
 - \$100,000 to the Oak Harbor Prevention Coalition, Oak Harbor
 - \$100,000 to the United Communities Coalition Project, Pierce County
- FY 2000:
 - \$92,227 to the Inland Counseling Network, Dayton
 - \$87,262 to the Orcas Island Prevention Task Force (OIPTF), Eastsound
 - \$98,216 to the South Whidbey Youth Advocates Coalition, Langley
 - \$79,342 to the Skagit Prevention Council, Mount Vernon
 - \$100,000 to the King County Community Organizing Advisory Board, Seattle
 - \$100,000 to the Lakewood's Promise Human Services Collaboration, Tacoma
 - \$99,820 to the Yakima County Substance Abuse Coalition, Yakima
- FY 1999:
 - \$100,000 to the Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services, Port Angeles
 - \$99,847 to the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council Prevention Center, Spokane
 - \$99,973 to the Longview Police Department, Longview
 - \$100,000 to the Safe Streets Campaign, Tacoma
 - \$100,000 to the Seattle Public Schools, Seattle
 - \$99,993 to the Thurston Communities for Drug-Free Youth, Lacey
- Office of Weed and Seed¹⁴
Seven sites in Washington have received official recognition and Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites: Lakewood, Seattle (2 sites), Rochester, Spokane (Edgecliff), Tacoma, and Toppenish.
- FY 2003/2004 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Grant Summary for Washington:¹⁵
 - Formula Funding - \$45,088,063
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$35,280,442
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$8,309,216
 - Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$969,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$529,405
 - Discretionary Funding - \$10,961,913

- Mental Health - \$5,220,263
 - Substance Prevention - \$597,800
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$5,143,850
- Total Mental Health Funds: \$15,027,884
- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$41,022,092
- Total Funds for Washington: \$56,049,976
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Washington: \$9,680,598¹⁶
- FY 2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Washington: \$812,940¹⁷
- Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant:
 - FY 2003:¹⁸
 - \$500,000 to Benton and Franklin County Superior Court, Kennewick
 - \$500,000 to Snohomish County Superior Court, Everett
 - \$275,100 to Thurston County Superior Court, Olympia
 - FY 2002:¹⁹
 - \$500,000 to the Lummi Indian Nation Funding Department, Bellingham
 - \$29,995 to the Nooksack Indian Tribe, Deming
 - \$500,000 to the Benton Franklin Juvenile Justice Center County Juvenile Court, Kennewick
 - \$300,000 to the King County Superior Court, Seattle
 - \$500,000 to the Pierce County Juvenile Court, Tacoma
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Washington grantees²⁰
 - FY 2002:²¹
 - \$222,222 to Benton County Sheriff's Department
 - \$222,222 to Sauk-Suiattle Police Department
 - \$222,222 to Spokane County Sheriff's Department
 - \$222,222 to the City of Vancouver
- Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received in Washington (by funding category):²²
 - Communities (discretionary): \$3.0 million
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$9.8 million
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: \$16.9 million
 - formula: \$6.4 million
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: \$28.7 million
 - formula: \$15.5 million
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: \$1.9 million
 - formula: \$10.8 million
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: \$0.8 million
 - formula: \$11.4 million
 - Total OJP/COPS funds received in Washington in FY 2002: \$105.2 million

- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amounts received in Washington:²³
 - \$124,287 to Mt. Vernon Terrace Apartment, Spokane
 - \$192, 272 to King County Housing Authority, Bellevue

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2003, the Washington State Patrol made 9,889 drug arrests. This is a 15.4% increase over the 8,564 drug arrests made by the State Patrol during 2002.²⁴
- There were 23,824 arrests for drug abuse violations in Washington during 2002.²⁵

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Washington, 2002

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	9	102
Forcible rape	167	837
Robbery	388	1,541
Aggravated assault	806	4,653
Burglary	1,943	5,088
Larceny-theft	9,038	27,988
Motor vehicle theft	900	2,195
Arson	205	361
Drug abuse violations	2,949	23,824
Driving under the influence	538	34,671
Liquor laws	4,184	13,668

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 601 arrests for drug violations in Washington.²⁶

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Washington, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	358
1998	377
1999	637
2000	790
2001	601

Drugs

- Cocaine
 - Powdered and crack cocaine are readily available in Washington, but crack is largely limited to inner city areas.²⁷ Retail quantities of powder cocaine sold for \$520-\$1,100/ounce and \$30-\$60/gram in FY 2002, while crack sold for \$650-\$1,000/ounce. Powder cocaine purity levels ranged from 50% to 85%, and crack purity ranged from 75% to 96% in FY 2002.²⁸
- Heroin
 - Heroin poses a significant threat to Washington, especially in larger cities. Mexican black tar is the predominant type found in the state, but Mexican brown powdered,

Southeast Asian, and Southwest Asian heroin are also available but in limited quantities. Purity levels of retail quantities of heroin ranged from 5-70%.²⁹

➤ Marijuana

Marijuana is readily available throughout the state in multi-pound quantities.³⁰ Locally produced marijuana is the predominant type found in Washington, but marijuana produced in Canada (BC Bud) and Mexico is also available. BC Bud is more common than Mexican marijuana. In FY 2002, wholesale quantities of marijuana produced in Canada sold for \$2,500-\$5,000/pound, domestic sinsemilla sold for \$1,500-\$5,000/pound, and Mexico-produced marijuana sold for \$250-\$2,000/pound. Retail quantities of domestic sinsemilla sold for \$300/ounce, BC Bud sold for \$125-\$300/ounce, and Mexico-produced marijuana sold for \$50/ounce.³¹

➤ Medical Marijuana (Initiative 692)

Initiative 692 allows patients with terminal illnesses and some chronic diseases to use and possess marijuana once they've received documentation from their physician. The law protects the physicians and primary caregivers of the patients against criminal prosecution and/or penalizing actions by the state of Washington.³²

➤ Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is one of the most widely abused controlled substances in Washington and is available in multi-kilogram amounts throughout the state.³³ In FY 2002, wholesale quantities of meth varied in price from \$3,000 to \$10,000/pound. Retail prices also varied from \$300 to \$800/ounce and \$20 to \$80/gram. Purity levels ranged from a low of 14% to a high of 46%. Retail quantities of crystal meth found in areas of Washington reached a purity level of 99%.³⁴

➤ Club Drugs

Club drugs are growing in popularity across the state, and have been targeted in several successful investigations by the DEA.³⁵ MDMA is readily available and abused in Washington, particularly in Olympia, Seattle, Spokane, and surrounding areas. LSD poses a low threat to Washington. However, when available, it is sold primarily at raves, bars, and clubs in large cities and college towns. Caucasian young adults are the principal abusers of GHB.³⁶

➤ Other Drugs

Diverted pharmaceuticals pose a low but increasing threat to Washington. The most commonly diverted pharmaceuticals are opiates, including oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and methadone.³⁷ The primary method of pharmaceutical drug diversion continues to be forgery and telephone prescriptions by non-registrants.³⁸

➤ According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.82% of Washington citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³⁹

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Washington, 2000-2001 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	3.02	4.26	1.24	1.82
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.67	6.33	1.79	2.78
Alcohol dependence	2.90	5.18	1.92	2.45
Alcohol dependence or abuse	7.35	14.67	5.03	6.52
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	10.26	17.85	6.51	8.37

- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 35.72% of Washington citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.⁴⁰

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

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	11.44	18.79	5.36	7.73
Past month use of marijuana	9.56	15.69	3.81	5.95
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.79	7.73	1.87	2.94
Past year cocaine use	1.91	4.60	1.03	1.59
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	32.68	23.82	38.14	35.72

Juveniles

- Nearly half (48%) of Washington 12th graders surveyed in 2002 reported using marijuana at some point in their lives.⁴¹

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Washington, 2002

Drug Type	6th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Marijuana	3.4%	15.7%	32.4%	48.0%
Inhalants	3.6	not available	not available	not available
Steroids	not available	3.1	2.9	4.2
Cocaine	not available	3.1	5.4	8.3
Used needle	not available	1.6	2.1	2.1
Methamphetamine	not available	2.5	4.5	7.2
Any illicit drug	6.9	17.8	33.2	49.1

- Approximately 25% of Washington 12th graders surveyed in 2002 reported past month use of marijuana.⁴²

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Drug Use, Washington, 2002

Drug Type	6th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Marijuana	1.3%	10.4%	18.3%	24.7%
Inhalants	not available	5.0	3.8	3.0
Methamphetamine	not available	2.1	2.9	3.4
Psychedelics	not available	3.0	4.0	5.1
MDMA	not available	2.4	3.2	3.6
Cocaine	not available	2.4	2.7	4.4
Any illicit drug	1.3	13.0	20.3	26.5

- Among Washington 6th graders surveyed in 2000, 1.51% reported using marijuana in the month before being surveyed. In 1998, approximately 3.5% of 6th graders reported past month marijuana use.⁴³

Percent of 6th Graders Reporting Past Month Drug Use, Washington, 1998-2000

Drug Type	1998	2000
Marijuana	3.45%	1.51%
Inhalants	3.16	1.38
Psychedelics	1.24	0.63
Party drugs	Not available	0.66
Other illegal drugs	Not available	1.05

- Approximately 12% of Washington 8th graders reported using marijuana in the 30 days prior to being surveyed.⁴⁴

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Drug Use, Washington, 2000

Drug Type	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	22.31%	37.58%	46.78%
Marijuana	12.04	21.88	24.44
Cocaine	1.50	2.65	2.80
Inhalants	4.87	3.63	2.43
Psychedelics	3.06	5.82	6.45
Party drugs	3.40	6.23	6.78
Heroin	0.80	0.99	0.82
Amphetamines	2.75	4.47	3.96
Methamphetamine	1.25	2.61	2.93

- The Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) provides preventive, rehabilitative, residential and transitional programs for juvenile offenders. The goals are to hold the juveniles accountable for their crimes, protect the public, and reduce recidivism. Approximately 80% of youth committed to JRA are substance abusers or are chemically dependent.⁴⁵

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 13,747 full-time law enforcement employees in Washington (9,868 officers and 3,879 civilians).⁴⁶

Trafficking and Seizures

- The Washington area of the U.S./Canada border is approximately 430 miles in length. The border has 13 official ports of entry, but the rest of the border is largely unpatrolled.⁴⁷
- Drug traffickers primarily use Interstates 5, 90, and 82, as well as U.S. Highways 2, 12, 97, 101, and 395 to transport drugs into and through Washington.⁴⁸
- Washington has 7 international airports, more than 130 public use airports, 100 heliports, and numerous private airports, seaplane bases, and landing strips, which are sometimes used by drug smugglers.⁴⁹
- Mexican criminal groups are the dominant transporters of illicit drugs into Washington. They deliver wholesale amounts of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana into the state from Mexico, California, and Oregon.⁵⁰

- Caucasian criminal groups and local independent dealers, as well as Asian criminal groups and outlaw motorcycle gangs smuggle significant amounts of Canada-produced marijuana into Washington.⁵¹
- The Washington State Patrol Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) responded to 162 calls for service in 2003 regarding methamphetamine labs. This is a 28.3% decrease from the 226 methamphetamine lab-related calls SWAT responded to in 2002.⁵²
- During 2003, the DEA and state and local authorities in Washington reported 739 methamphetamine lab incidents to the El Paso Intelligence Center.⁵³

Number of Methamphetamine Incidents/Seizures, Washington, 2003

Type of Seizure	Number
Chemical/glass/equipment	32
Dumpsite	260
Laboratory	447
Total	739

- During 2002, more than 240 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in Washington.⁵⁴

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Washington, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kgs.)
Cocaine	245.8
Heroin	84
Methamphetamine	58.2
Marijuana	103.6

- Approximately 45,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Washington under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2002.⁵⁵

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Washington, 2002

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
136	22,510	189	22,649	45,159

- There were also 298 weapons and \$1,016,854 in assets seized in Washington as a result of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2002.⁵⁶
- During 2002, there were 1,310 methamphetamine laboratories seized in Washington by DEA and state and local authorities, up from 69 labs seized in 1996.⁵⁷

Methamphetamine Labs Seized, Washington, 1996-2002

Year	Labs Seized
1996	69
1997	85
1998	176
1999	601
2000	937
2001	1,477
2002	1,310

Courts

➤ Drug Courts⁵⁸

As of November 2003, there were 20 drug courts in Washington that had been operating for over 2 years, 10 that were recently implemented, and 9 that were being planned.

➤ During FY 2001, 33.2% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Washington were charged with drug offenses. Marijuana was involved in 117 (34.8%) of the drug offenses.⁵⁹

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Washington, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Marijuana	117	34.8%
Methamphetamine	106	31.5
Powder cocaine	48	14.3
Heroin	40	11.9
Crack cocaine	20	6.0
Other	5	1.5

Corrections

➤ As of March 31, 2004, the Washington Department of Corrections inmate population was 16,751. Approximately 19% of the inmates were drug offenders.⁶⁰

➤ Approximately 30% of the Washington community corrections population on March 31, 2004 (33,038 offenders) committed drug offenses.⁶¹

Type of Offense Committed by DOC Offenders, Washington, March 31, 2004

Offense Type	Inmates	Community Corrections
Murder 1 & 2	11.3%	0.3%
Manslaughter	1.8	0.4
Sex crimes	18.4	7.1
Robbery	9.7	2.3
Assault	19.8	16.6
Property	16.9	25.3
Drug	18.7	29.5
Other/unknown	3.4	18.5

- At the end of 2002 (December 31), there were 173,198 adults on probation in Washington. There were 95 adults on parole in Washington at that time.⁶²

Consequences of Use

- From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003, there were 86 Washington methamphetamine laboratory sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center in which a child was present.⁶³

Characteristics of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Washington, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	126
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	12
Sites with a child injured	0
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	86
Sites with a child residing at the site	5
Number of children placed in protective custody	8

- During 2002, there were 688 drug-induced and 581 alcohol-induced deaths in Washington.⁶⁴

Treatment

- There were 49,023 drug/alcohol admissions to treatment in Washington during 2003.⁶⁵ In 2002, there were 50,963 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Washington.⁶⁶ There were 57,340 treatment admissions in 2001.⁶⁷

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Washington, 2001-2003

Drug Type	2001		2002		2003	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	10,852	18.9%	10,646	20.9%	10,457	21.3%
Alc. w/ second. drug	15,909	27.7	13,210	25.9	11,937	24.3
Cocaine – smoked	3,172	5.5	2,795	5.5	3,101	6.3
Cocaine – other route	1,402	2.4	1,179	2.3	1,124	2.3
Marijuana	9,892	17.3	8,640	17.0	8,069	16.5
Heroin	6,081	10.6	5,471	10.7	5,300	10.8
Other opiates	733	1.3	934	1.8	1,182	2.4
PCP	22	0.0	25	0.0	21	0.0
Hallucinogens	140	0.2	182	0.4	137	0.3
Amphetamines	8,250	14.4	7,387	14.5	7,277	14.8
Other stimulants	26	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Tranquilizers	189	0.3	222	0.4	147	0.3
Sedatives	82	0.1	56	0.1	53	0.1
Inhalants	35	0.1	34	0.1	33	0.1
Other/none specified	555	1.0	181	0.4	184	0.4
Total	57,340	100.0	50,963	100.0	49,023	100.0

Sources

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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

