

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Arizona

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.

Arizona

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

Demographics

- Population (2003 American Community Survey): 5,470,843¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2003 American Community Survey): 61.3% white; 2.8% black/African American; 4.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 2.0% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 1.3% two or more races; 27.9% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Janet Napolitano³
- Attorney General: Terry Goddard⁴
- Secretary of State: Jan Brewer⁵
- U.S. Senators: Jon Kyl (R), John McCain (R)⁶
- U.S. Representatives (District): Rick Renzi (1), Trent Franks (2), John B. Shadegg (3), Ed Pastor (4), J.D. Hayworth (5), Jeff Flake (6), Raul Grijalva (7), Jim Kolbe (8)⁷
- Capital: Phoenix⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
The Arizona Partnership was designated in 1990 as part of the Southwest Border HIDTA. The Arizona Partnership is responsible for the following Arizona counties: Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma.
- Governor's Division for Substance Abuse Policy¹⁰
The mission of the Governor's Division for Substance Abuse Policy is to improve and expand substance abuse education, prevention, and treatment throughout Arizona.
- Drug and Gang Policy Council¹¹
Arizona's Drug and Gang Policy Council consists of the Governor, key state agency directors and representatives, and business and community representatives. The goal of the Council is to reduce substance abuse and/or gang participation in criminal street gangs.
- Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Program¹²
The Arizona DEC was established in 2000 (as the Meth and Kids Task Force) to address the problems associated with meth production in homes where children are present. In 2003, the program was renamed the Drug Endangered Children Program to include a broader range of drug cases involving child endangerment.
- Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention¹³
Created by the passage of Proposition 200 ("The Drug Medicalization, Prevention and Control Act"), the mission of Arizona's Parents Commission is to fund programs that will increase and enhance parental involvement and increase education about the serious risks and public health problems caused by abuse of alcohol and controlled substances.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From 2000 when the Meth and Kids Task Force (now the DEC Program) began until June 1, 2003, a total of 111 cases involving 218 children were reported to law enforcement and Child Protective Services (CPS) in Arizona. Some results of DEC cases include:¹⁴
 - CPS took 81% (177) of the children into temporary custody at the crime scene
 - 15.2% of the children initially tested positive for drug toxicity, 63% were negative, and 17% were not tested
 - 31.2% of the children received 30-day follow up testing
 - 90 Dependency Petitions were filed
 - 12 Termination of Parental Rights were issued
- During FY 2003, Arizona's drug apprehension projects, which consist of 16 multi-jurisdictional task forces, made 3,355 drug arrests, a 4.6% decrease from the 3,518 drug arrests made by the drug apprehension projects in FY 2002.¹⁵
- During 2003, there were 36,867 adult arrests for Part I offenses in Arizona.¹⁶

Number of Arrests, Part I Offenses, Arizona, 2003

Offense	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	16	193	209
Forcible rape	22	204	226
Robbery	292	1,285	1,577
Aggravated assault	1,152	5,712	6,864
Burglary	1,666	3,682	5,348
Larceny-theft	8,513	21,628	30,141
Motor vehicle theft	1,267	4,086	5,353
Arson	157	77	234
Total Part I	13,085	36,867	49,952

- There were 12,086 adult arrests for marijuana possession in Arizona during 2003.¹⁷

Number of Drug Arrests, Arizona, 2003

	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Sale/manufacturing			
Opium, cocaine, derivatives	73	1,332	1,405
Marijuana	249	978	1,227
Synthetic narcotics	35	660	695
Other dangerous non-narcotics	137	2,056	2,193
Possession			
Opium, cocaine, derivatives	149	2,789	2,938
Marijuana	3,781	12,086	15,867
Synthetic narcotics	231	3,384	3,615
Other dangerous non-narcotics	709	4,737	5,446

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

Cocaine is readily available throughout Arizona with the largest quantities available in metropolitan areas. Crack is readily available in Arizona's inner cities and in some smaller communities. Crack sells for an average price of \$20-\$50/rock. Powder cocaine prices average \$80/gram. Purity levels range from 50% to 90%.¹⁸

➤ Heroin

Mexican black tar heroin is readily available in Arizona's metropolitan areas. Elsewhere in the state, heroin is generally not available in significant quantities. Kilo prices range from \$32,000 to \$40,000 and gram prices range from \$70 to \$100.¹⁹ Mexican brown powder heroin is becoming increasingly available in Arizona.²⁰

➤ Marijuana

Marijuana remains readily available and is considered the most widely used illegal drug throughout the state.²¹ Marijuana produced in Mexico is the predominant type available in Arizona. However, locally-produced and Canada-produced marijuana are also available but to a lesser extent.²² In Arizona's metropolitan areas, commercial grade marijuana prices range from \$500 to \$750/pound.²³

➤ Methamphetamine

Since the beginning of FY 2003, crystal methamphetamine, also known as "ICE," has dominated street level sales throughout Arizona. The demand and availability of "ice" has continued to increase with no signs of leveling off.²⁴ With less complex methods of production, the proliferation of clandestine laboratories and the increase of production of methamphetamine have become problems in Arizona.²⁵ Meth sells for approximately \$50/gram and \$14,500/kilogram.²⁶

➤ Club Drugs

MDMA is readily available and abused in Arizona and poses a considerable drug threat to the state. GHB and its analogs pose a low but increasing threat to Arizona.²⁷ Results from an August 2001 survey administered to members of the Arizona Narcotics Officers Association, which is made up of state, tribal, and Federal police officers, indicate that:

- 80% perceived their jurisdictions have a problem with club drugs;
- 78% said club drug cases have been investigated in their jurisdiction;
- 83% believed the current laws dealing with club drugs are not effective;
- 18% have used a Federal law to prosecute club drug cases.

Some Arizona detectives believe MDMA is replacing cocaine among younger users. The majority of Arizona raves are held in or near metropolitan areas with between 5 and 30 raves held each week throughout the state. The raves are often promoted on the many Web sites that advertise Arizona raves.²⁸

➤ Diverted pharmaceuticals

Diverted pharmaceuticals pose an increasing threat to Arizona. The most commonly abused pharmaceuticals include hydrocodone, benzodiazepine, oxycodone, diazepam, steroids, and codeine.²⁹

➤ Other Drugs

Abuse of jimsonweed and LSD by Arizona teenagers continues to show an upward trend.³⁰

- According to 2002 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 40% of Arizona citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³¹

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

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	11.48%	18.74%	6.25%	8.52%
Past month use of marijuana	7.65	14.38	3.64	5.54
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	6.45	7.75	4.11	4.86
Past year cocaine use	3.12	7.98	2.32	3.17
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	34.74	25.06	43.60	40.11

- Additional data from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate that 1.89% of Arizona citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³²

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Arizona, 2002

Past Year Dependence	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	3.68%	4.88%	1.09%	1.89%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	6.39	7.50	2.32	3.47
Alcohol dependence	2.82	7.31	3.25	3.75
Alcohol dependence or abuse	6.53	17.37	7.90	9.04
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	9.62	21.09	8.56	10.38

- A private testing laboratory conducted employment-related drug screenings in Arizona during 1999, 2000, and 2001. Marijuana was detected in 37% of the positive results during 2001.³³

Employment-Related Positive Drug Screens, Arizona, 1999-2001

Drug	1999	2000	2001
Cocaine	19.0%	16.3%	15.8%
Methamphetamine	12.2	13.9	15.2
Heroin	7.9	9.8	12.0
Marijuana	38.7	38.4	37.0

Juveniles

- Results of a 2002 survey of Arizona students indicate that approximately 80% of 12th graders, 68.7% of 10th graders, and 44.3% of 8th graders believed it would be “sort of easy” or “very easy” to obtain marijuana.³⁴
- Only 15% of Arizona 12th graders surveyed in 2002 felt that there was a “great risk” associated with trying marijuana once or twice.³⁵

Percent of Students Reporting “Great Risk,” by Grade, Arizona, 2002

Percent reporting “great risk” in:	8	10	12	Total
Smoking at least one pack of cigarettes daily	59.8%	64.6%	64.1%	62.8%
Trying marijuana once or twice	29.7	17.8	15.0	21.1
Smoking marijuana regularly	58.5	45.2	52.0	48.9

- Approximately 20% (19.6%) of Arizona students surveyed reported being drunk or high at school.³⁶
- Among students reporting marijuana use, the average age of marijuana initiation was 13.52 years.³⁷
- Among Arizona students reporting current use of marijuana (use in past 30 days), approximately 36% reported receiving mostly D’s in school.³⁸

School Performance Among Student Drug Users, Arizona, 2002

Drug Used	A’s	B’s	C’s	D’s	F’s
Lifetime alcohol	2.3%	6.3%	28.8%	38.2%	24.3%
Current alcohol	2.5	6.8	29.7	37.9	23.0
Lifetime marijuana	3.5	8.7	33.3	37.3	17.3
Current marijuana	4.1	10.4	34.6	35.7	15.2
Lifetime cigarettes	2.9	7.4	32.0	38.4	19.2
Current cigarettes	4.8	9.0	36.5	35.5	14.1
Lifetime inhalants	3.9	9.6	32.3	35.6	18.6
Current inhalants	5.3	10.4	31.2	32.8	20.3
Lifetime hallucinogens	4.4	9.9	35.2	33.3	17.2
Current hallucinogens	5.9	10.9	36.8	31.9	14.5
Lifetime cocaine	4.7	10.4	38.7	31.9	14.3
Current cocaine	5.2	12.3	37.7	32.2	12.6
Lifetime stimulants	5.9	13.4	37.2	30.6	13.0
Current stimulants	6.7	14.6	36.3	29.2	13.1
Lifetime sedatives	4.0	8.0	31.4	36.2	20.5
Current sedatives	3.8	6.8	29.7	38.6	21.2
Lifetime steroids	4.9	13.4	29.6	33.1	19.0
Current steroids	6.4	13.5	25.5	34.0	20.6
Lifetime heroin	6.0	11.7	41.9	29.9	10.5
Current heroin	5.6	12.3	42.0	31.5	8.6
Lifetime ecstasy	4.1	11.2	36.7	32.7	15.3
Current ecstasy	4.5	14.9	36.5	32.0	12.1

- Additional results of the 2002 student survey indicate that more Arizona youth have used marijuana in the past month than cigarettes (20.5% compared to 16.5%).³⁹

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Substance Use, by Grade, Arizona, 2002

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	Total
Alcohol	34.4%	47.9%	58.9%	46.4%
Cigarettes	9.1	18.1	23.2	16.5
Smokeless tobacco	4.0	4.7	5.9	4.8
Marijuana	14.3	22.4	25.4	20.5
Inhalants	6.5	3.4	2.0	4.1
Hallucinogens	1.5	3.2	3.1	2.6
Cocaine	2.6	3.5	4.0	3.3
Methamphetamine	1.0	2.6	2.2	2.0
Steroids	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.2
Heroin	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3
Sedatives	1.0	2.6	3.4	2.3
Ecstasy	3.6	2.5	3.2	3.1

- More than half of Arizona 12th grade students (50.8%) reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.⁴⁰

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Substance Use, by Grade, Arizona, 2002

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	Total
Alcohol	56.9%	72.3%	80.8%	69.2%
Cigarettes	39.6	49.8	61.1	24.4
Smokeless tobacco	25.9	23.2	24.1	49.3
Marijuana	26.6	41.6	50.8	38.8
Inhalants	11.9	10.4	10.1	10.9
Hallucinogens	2.4	8.3	12.6	7.4
Cocaine	4.5	8.2	12.0	8.0
Methamphetamine	2.9	6.8	8.6	5.9
Steroids	2.2	2.7	2.7	2.5
Heroin	1.9	3.2	3.8	2.9
Sedatives	2.1	5.7	7.4	4.9
Ecstasy	5.5	8.2	12.0	8.3

Enforcement

- Arizona Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Bureau⁴¹
This Bureau provides drug enforcement services statewide through participation in 23 multi-agency task forces. The Narcotics Enforcement Bureau is organized into 3 districts: the Northern Narcotics District in Flagstaff; the Central Narcotics District in Phoenix; and the Southern Narcotics District in Tucson.
- Joint Drug Intelligence Group (JDIG)⁴²
JDIG is a multi-agency drug intelligence task force compiled of investigators and analysts whose purpose is to proactively collect, evaluate, collate, analyze, and disseminate detailed and relevant source information concerning drug trafficking organizations.

- Arizona Drug Apprehension Projects⁴³
During FY 2003, there were 16 drug apprehension projects located throughout Arizona's 15 counties. These projects consist of 16 multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency drug task forces.
- As of October 31, 2002, there were 18,731 full-time law enforcement employees in Arizona (10,964 officers and 7,767 civilians).⁴⁴

Trafficking and Seizures

- Arizona's 370-mile border with Mexico consists of sparsely populated areas, vast expanses of rugged mountainous terrain aligned in north-south corridors, and broad valleys and deserts providing unlimited opportunities for drug-related activity.⁴⁵
- Major drug smuggling organizations based in Mexico continue to dominate the movement of cocaine, marijuana and heroin and, more recently, methamphetamine, into and through Arizona.⁴⁶
- The Arizona HIDTA Partnership region has 6 U.S. Customs land ports of entry (3 major ports), 6 international airports, and a transportation infrastructure that is exploited by drug traffickers.⁴⁷
- The smuggling of multi-ton quantities of cocaine and marijuana are major problems in Arizona.⁴⁸
- During FY 2003, activities of the 16 drug apprehension projects throughout Arizona resulted in the seizure of 112,300 pounds of marijuana, 2,048.71 pounds of cocaine, and 202.05 pounds of methamphetamine.⁴⁹
- Arizona's 16 drug apprehension projects also seized drug traffickers' non-drug assets worth a gross estimated value of \$10,615,937 during FY 2003.⁵⁰
- During 2003, a total of 158 methamphetamine labs were discovered in Arizona. Authorities found 93 children on the scene of the 112 working meth labs.⁵¹

Number of Meth Lab Busts, Children Found, and Costs, Arizona, 2002-2003

	2002	2003
Number of labs found	297	158
Children at labs	72	93
Disposal costs for contamination	\$760,068	\$158,425

- In 2003, there were 19,574 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in Arizona as part of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁵²

Marijuana Eradicated and Seized, Arizona, 2003

Type of Marijuana	Amount
Outdoor – plots eradicated	5
Outdoor – cultivated plants eradicated	19,339
Indoor – grows seized	114
Indoor – plants eradicated	235
Total cultivated plants eradicated	19,574
Bulk processed marijuana	5 pounds

- During 2003, Federal agencies seized 2,373 kilograms of cocaine in Arizona.⁵³

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Arizona, 2003

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	2,373 kilograms
Heroin	3.2 kilograms
Methamphetamine	538 kilograms
Marijuana	322,374 kilograms
MDMA	107 tablets

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵⁴
As of September 2004, there were 15 drug courts in Arizona that had been operating for more than 2 years, 10 that had recently been implemented, and 5 that were being planned.
- From June 2001 to September 2003, there have been 84 DEC-related prosecutions involving 178 child victims in Arizona.⁵⁵
- Drug Prosecution Projects⁵⁶
During FY 2003, there were 15 drug prosecution projects located throughout Arizona. As a result of the drug prosecution projects' efforts, a total of 14,254 drug violators were convicted in Arizona during FY 2003. This is a 15.94% increase over FY 2002 (12,294 convictions). Approximately 70% of the FY 2003 cases were felony convictions.
- During FY 2002, 30.4% of the defendants in Arizona who were sentenced for a Federal offense had committed drug offenses. Marijuana was involved in 807 (76.5%) of the drug cases.⁵⁷

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Arizona, FY 2002

Drug Type Involved	Number	Percent
Marijuana	807	76.5%
Powder cocaine	116	11.0
Methamphetamine	74	7.0
Crack cocaine	21	2.0
Heroin	18	1.7
Other	19	1.8

Corrections

- On June 30, 2004, there were 31,937 inmates within the Arizona Department of Corrections. Of the inmates, 1,779 committed drug possession offenses.⁵⁸

Number of Drug Offenders in Prison, Arizona, June 30, 2004

Drug Offense Type	Males	Females	Total
Possession	1,497	282	1,779
Dealing	3,376	543	3,919

- The number of adults on probation in Arizona increased 5% in 2002, from 63,073 on January 1 to 66,217 on December 31. The adult parole population in Arizona increased in 2002 from 5,143 on January 1 to 7,941 on December 31.⁵⁹

Consequences of Use

- The number of drug-related deaths in Arizona has increased from 310 in 1993 to 508 in 1998 to 646 in 2003.⁶⁰
- During 2002, there were 22,044 drug-related hospital discharges in Arizona.⁶¹

Number of Drug-Related Hospital Discharges, by Category, Arizona, 2000-2002

Category	2000	2001	2002
Drug dependence and drug abuse	12,227	14,293	16,015
Noxious influences affecting the fetus	941	1,054	1,057
Poisonings by drugs	3,979	4,438	4,972
Total drug-related discharges	17,147	19,785	22,044

Treatment

- There were 9,690 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Arizona during 2003.⁶²

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Arizona, 2001-2003

Drug Type	2001		2002		2003	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,711	19.2%	1,779	9.8%	959	9.9%
Alc. w/ second. drug	2,363	16.7	2,125	11.7	1,020	10.5
Cocaine – smoked	457	3.2	258	1.4	151	1.6
Cocaine – other route	264	1.9	354	1.9	149	1.5
Marijuana	1,003	7.1	997	5.5	609	6.3
Heroin	813	5.8	487	2.7	200	2.1
Other opiates	139	1.0	155	0.9	35	0.4
PCP	9	0.1	8	0.0	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	6	0.0	6	0.0	6	0.1
Amphetamines	1,267	9.0	1,253	6.9	907	9.4
Other stimulants	129	0.9	58	0.3	20	0.2
Tranquilizers	14	0.1	15	0.1	7	0.1
Sedatives	11	0.1	12	0.1	6	0.1
Inhalants	6	0.0	3	0.0	5	0.1
Other/none specified	4,935	34.9	10,661	58.7	5,616	58.0
Total	14,127	100.0	18,171	100.0	9,690	100.0

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile, Arizona, 2003:

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² Ibid.

³ Arizona Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.az.us/>

⁴ Arizona Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ag.state.az.us/>

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- ⁵ Arizona Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.azsos.gov/>
- ⁶ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>
- ⁷ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
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- ¹⁰ Arizona Governor Web site, Division for Substance Abuse Policy section: http://www.governor.state.az.us/cyf/substance_abuse/index_substance_abuse.html
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