

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Tucson, 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.

## Tucson, Arizona

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

### Demographics

- Population (2003 American Community Survey): 479,613<sup>1</sup>
- Race/Ethnicity (2003 American Community Survey): 51.2% white; 3.8% black/African American; 1.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.3% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 1.4% two or more races; 39.6% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)<sup>2</sup>
- Tucson is located in Pima County.<sup>3</sup>

### Politics

- Mayor: Robert Walkup<sup>4</sup>
- City Council (Wards 1-6, respectively): Jose Ibarra; Carol West; Kathleen Dunbar; Shirley Scott; Steve Leal; Fred Ronstadt<sup>5</sup>
- City Manager: James R. Keene, Jr.<sup>6</sup>
- Tucson Chief of Police: Richard Miranda<sup>7</sup>

### Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>8</sup>  
The Arizona Partnership, one of the five partnerships of the Southwest Border HIDTA, was designated in 1990 and is responsible for 8 Arizona counties, including Pima County.

### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to September 10, 2004, there were 28 homicides known to police in Tucson. During full year 2003, there were 44 homicides known to police.<sup>9</sup>

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Selected Offenses, Tucson, 2000-September 2004

Offense Type	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-Sept. 2004
Homicide	56	44	56	44	28
Sexual assault	338	319	322	322	211
Robbery	1,400	1,598	1,154	1,245	718
Aggravated assault	2,050	2,161	2,028	2,090	1,120
Burglary	6,737	6,544	6,720	6,450	3,422
Larceny	27,321	31,101	32,104	34,178	18,010
Motor vehicle theft	6,642	7,981	7,342	7,570	4,020
Arson	315	343	313	278	145

- From January to September 10, 2004, there were 365 drug sale offenses in Tucson.<sup>10</sup>

Number of Drug Offenses, Tucson, 2000-September 2004

Offense Type	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-Sept. 2004
Possession	3,331	3,358	3,367	3,738	2,346
Sale	521	610	607	722	365
Poss. of paraphernalia	1,805	1,760	1,864	1,801	998
Paint or glue sniffing	10	6	10	16	6

- Data for 2003 indicate that 73.3% of adult male arrestees and 68.6% of adult female arrestees in Tucson tested positive for at least one of the following drugs at arrest: cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, or PCP.<sup>11</sup>

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive, Tucson, 2003

Drug Type	Male	Female
Cocaine	42.5%	40.0%
Heroin	4.2	9.7
Marijuana	44.1	29.0
Methamphetamine	16.0	23.9
Any drug	73.3	68.6
Multiple drugs	31.3	32.7

- Approximately 55% of Tucson's adult male arrestees reported using marijuana in the past year. Among the male arrestees reporting past year marijuana use, the average number of days the drug was used in the past month was 11.6 days.<sup>12</sup>

Past Drug Use, Adult Male Arrestees, Tucson, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth-amphet.	Heroin
Past 7 days	15.7%	18.0%	40.6%	11.6%	3.8%
Past 30 days	18.9%	23.9%	46.2%	13.7%	5.2%
Past year	23.0%	30.7%	54.5%	19.5%	6.2%
Avg. # of days used in month	9.2	5.0	11.6	9.2	11.1

- Approximately 44.1% of Tucson's adult female arrestees reported using marijuana in the past year. Among the female arrestees reporting past year marijuana use, the average number of days the drug was used in the past month was 8.0 days.<sup>13</sup>

Past Drug Use, Adult Female Arrestees, Tucson, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth-amphet.	Heroin
Past 7 days	18.0%	12.4%	25.8%	17.0%	4.6%
Past 30 days	20.5%	17.0%	31.6%	19.6%	4.6%
Past year	24.5%	27.6%	44.1%	24.5%	6.1%
Avg. # of days used in month	12.3	4.4	8.0	11.4	16.5

**Drugs**

- Cocaine  
The accessibility of powder and crack cocaine remained stable in Tucson during 2003.<sup>14</sup> In the 4th quarter of FY 2002, powder cocaine sold for \$500-\$650/ounce and \$14,000-\$18,000/kilogram. Crack sold for \$20/rock and \$500-\$700/ounce in Tucson during this period.<sup>15</sup>
- Heroin  
Mexican brown powder heroin is readily available in Tucson. During the 4th quarter of FY 2002, Mexican black tar heroin sold for \$60-\$110/gram, \$1,075-\$1,300/ounce, and \$43,000/kilogram.<sup>16</sup>
- Marijuana  
In the 4th quarter of FY 2002, marijuana sold for \$65-\$105/ounce and \$400-\$600/pound in Tucson.<sup>17</sup>
- Club Drugs  
MDMA is widely available in Tucson.<sup>18</sup>

**Juveniles**

- As part of the 2002 Arizona Youth Survey, 1,326 students from Pima County were surveyed. Approximately 23.9% of Pima County seniors, 23.0% of tenth graders, and 22.8% of eighth graders reported being drunk or high at school within the past year.<sup>19</sup>
- More than 10% (10.5%) of Pima County seniors, 13.2% of tenth graders, and 6.4% of eighth graders reported that they have sold illegal drugs within the past year.<sup>20</sup>
- Approximately 29.1% of the Pima County high school seniors surveyed reported using a drug within the past month.<sup>21</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Substance Use, Pima County, 2002

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	41.6%	49.6%	58.8%
Cigarettes	8.4	17.0	27.1
Smokeless tobacco	3.8	4.2	7.2
Marijuana	18.9	24.1	23.8
Inhalants	5.9	2.8	1.8
Hallucinogens	0.8	3.8	3.7
Cocaine	3.0	3.6	5.1
Amphetamines	0.9	2.8	1.8
Steroids	1.7	1.0	1.4
Heroin	1.3	1.6	1.9
Sedatives	0.0	2.3	3.5
Ecstasy	5.2	2.8	2.7
Any drug	24.4	27.1	29.1

- More than half (50.6%) of the Pima County high school seniors reported using marijuana during their lifetimes.<sup>22</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Substance Use, Pima County, 2002

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	69.7%	72.8%	81.9%
Cigarettes	40.9	48.4	58.9
Smokeless tobacco	37.2	23.5	26.1
Marijuana	37.3	44.0	50.6
Inhalants	10.3	8.6	9.4
Hallucinogens	1.6	11.2	13.5
Cocaine	5.5	9.9	13.9
Amphetamines	3.6	7.0	8.2
Steroids	2.4	1.9	2.7
Heroin	2.0	4.4	4.7
Sedatives	1.2	6.3	8.4
Ecstasy	7.5	8.2	9.2
Any drug	43.5	45.5	53.1

**Enforcement**

- Street Narcotics Section<sup>23</sup>  
Formed in November 2001, the Tucson Police Department’s Street Narcotics Unit addresses narcotic problems within Tucson.
- Metropolitan Area Narcotics Trafficking Interdiction Squads (MANTIS)<sup>24</sup>  
Initiated in 1988, MANTIS is a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency narcotics task force in Pima County. The Tucson Police Department administers MANTIS.
- As of October 2002, there were 1,290 full-time law enforcement employees in Tucson (969 officers and 321 civilians).<sup>25</sup>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- Tucson is commonly used as a drug stash location until the substances are ready to be sent to their final destination.<sup>26</sup>
- One of Arizona’s 6 international airports is located in Tucson. These airports are often used by drug traffickers to smuggle drugs into and through the area.<sup>27</sup>
- Law enforcement officials have identified Tucson as a major methamphetamine distribution area.<sup>28</sup>
- During 2002, the Tucson Police Department’s Narcotics Detective Unit initiated or assisted in the recovery of 1,688 pounds of marijuana, 3,281 grams of methamphetamine, and 430 grams of cocaine.<sup>29</sup>
- Tucson’s Street Level Undercover Squad seized 741 pounds of marijuana, 792 grams of cocaine, 283 grams of crack cocaine, and 311 grams of methamphetamine during 2002.<sup>30</sup>
- During FY 2003, the MANTIS Task Force seized 27,019 pounds of cannabis. From FY 1988 to FY 2003, the MANTIS Task Force seized approximately 903,799 pounds of cannabis.<sup>31</sup>

### Seizures Made by the MANTIS Task Force, FY 1988-2003

	FY 2003	FY 1988-2003
Cocaine (ounces)	60	187,156
Cannabis (pounds)	27,019	903,799
Cannabis (plants)	71	9,018
Heroin (grams)	341	8,031
Amphetamines/methamphetamine (grams)	83	29,042
Other drugs (dosage units)	200	211,390
Value of seizures	\$4,338,044	\$37,871,944

### Courts

#### ➤ Drug Courts<sup>32</sup>

As of September 2004, there were 4 drug courts in Tucson that had been operating for over 2 years. No additional drug courts were in existence or being planned.

#### ➤ Pima County Drug Prosecution Project<sup>33</sup>

Administered by the Pima County Attorney's Office, this program provides prosecution and court litigation services for all law enforcement agencies in Pima County, including the MANTIS Task Force and the Pima County Sheriff's Office narcotics units. Since beginning in July 1991, this project has concluded 14,209 cases, which resulted in 10,981 felony and 366 misdemeanor convictions.

#### ➤ Tucson City Attorney's Drug Enforcement Project<sup>34</sup>

This program handles all non-felony drug cases referred by the Tucson Police Department's MANTIS Task Force and the Pima County Attorney's Office, along with asset forfeiture cases. Since July 1991, the activities of this project have resulted in the conclusion of 33,300 drug cases, which resulted in 226 felony and 21,748 misdemeanor convictions. During FY 2003, 715 offenders were diverted to treatment in lieu of prosecution under this program.

### Corrections

- Approximately 14.7% of the Arizona Department of Corrections inmates on June 30, 2004 were from Pima County.<sup>35</sup>

### Consequences of Use

- There were 150 drug-induced deaths in Tucson during 2003.<sup>36</sup>
- During 2002, there were 161 drug-induced deaths involving Pima County residents.<sup>37</sup>

### Number of Drug-Related Deaths, Pima County Residents, 2000-2002

Cause	2000	2001	2002
Abuse of substance	11	4	5
Accidental poisoning by drug	123	113	119
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs	18	13	28
Assault by drugs	0	2	0
Undetermined intent of poisoning by drugs	12	15	9
Drugs causing adverse effects in therapeutic use	0	1	0
Total	164	148	161

- During 2002, there were 3,765 hospital discharges related to drug dependence and drug abuse involving Pima County residents.<sup>38</sup>

Number of Drug-Related Hospital Discharges, Pima County Residents, 2002

Age	Female	Male	Total
< 15	11	9	20
15-19	110	91	201
20-44	992	1,350	2,342
45-64	352	538	890
65 +	183	129	312
Total	1,648	2,117	3,765

**Treatment**

- During 2003, 19.3% of adult male arrestees and 17.7% of adult female arrestees in Tucson reported receiving outpatient substance abuse treatment at some point within their lives.<sup>39</sup>

Adult Arrestees Reporting Substance Abuse Treatment, Tucson, 2003

Arrestees	Outpatient		Inpatient	
	Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
Male	19.3%	4.5%	26.8%	6.0%
Female	17.7	5.5	27.4	8.6

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