

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### U.S. Virgin Islands

#### 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.

## **U.S. Virgin Islands**

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

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 124,778 (July 2003 estimate)
- Ethnicity: 10% white; 78% black; 12% other

### **Politics**

- Governor: Charles Wesley Turnbull<sup>2</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Vargrave Richards<sup>3</sup>
- U.S. House of Representatives: Donna Christensen<sup>4</sup>
- Virgin Islands Police Commissioner: Elton Lewis<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs and Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated in 1994, the Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA is responsible for the islands of Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program<sup>7</sup>  
Since FY 1998 when funding was first available through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, only one coalition in the U.S. Virgin Islands has received funding. In FY 1999, \$99,940 was awarded to the Village Virgin Islands Partners in Recovery/Unity Coalition, Christianstad, St. Croix.
- Office of Weed and Seed<sup>8</sup>  
There are currently no Weed and Seed sites in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Grant summary for USVI:<sup>9</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services - \$50,000
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention - \$1,607,210
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment - \$499,940
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to USVI: \$1,358,175<sup>10</sup>
- FY 2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to USVI: \$251,639<sup>11</sup>
- Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant:
  - FY 2003: no USVI grantees<sup>12</sup>
  - FY 2002: no USVI grantees<sup>13</sup>
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
  - FY 2003: no USVI grantees<sup>14</sup>
  - FY 2002: no USVI grantees<sup>15</sup>
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in USVI:<sup>16</sup>
  - discretionary: 7,313,827

- formula: 10,933,183
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipient in the USVI:<sup>17</sup>
  - \$94,200 to Harborview Apartments, Christianstad (St. Croix)

## **Drugs**

- Cocaine
 

Crack is the drug of choice in the USVI and typically sells for \$20/rock. Powder cocaine sells for \$9,000-\$14,000/kilogram.<sup>18</sup> Powder cocaine purity ranges from 85-95% in USVI, while crack purity ranges from 80-90%.<sup>19</sup>
- Heroin
 

Heroin poses a minor threat to the USVI.<sup>20</sup>
- Marijuana
 

Following crack cocaine, marijuana is the second most popular drug of choice in USVI. It sells for \$250-\$1,250/pound and is readily available.<sup>21</sup>
- Methamphetamine
 

There are no reports of methamphetamine production, availability, or abuse in the USVI.<sup>22</sup>
- Club Drugs
 

MDMA distribution and abuse are limited but increasing in the USVI. MDMA sells for \$25-\$35/tablet at the retail level in the USVI.<sup>23</sup>
- Other Drugs
 

There is limited diversion and abuse of Demerol, Percocet, and Tylenol with codeine in the USVI.<sup>24</sup>

## **Juveniles**

- Boot Camp After School Violence Diversionary Program<sup>25</sup>

The purpose of this program is to reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency and illegal drug use. Services provided in the program are counseling, social skills enhancement, job skills training, school tutoring, drug treatment, and home visitation.

## **Enforcement**

- Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA initiatives include the following:<sup>26</sup>
  - Firearms Trafficking/Violent Crime
  - St. Croix Major Organization Investigation
  - St. Thomas Major Organization Investigation
  - Blue Lightning Marine Task Force
  - Money Laundering Initiative
- Safe Street Task Force<sup>27</sup>

The purpose of the Safe Street Task Force is to identify and dismantle criminal organizations responsible for committing serious violent crimes in the USVI.
- Canine Drug Enforcement Project<sup>28</sup>

The Canine Enforcement Project responds to the problem of illegal drug importation and distribution on St. Croix and St. Thomas. The Project also works toward identifying those who engage in related activities such as illegal weapons possession and violent crimes.

- Narcotics Strike Force<sup>29</sup>  
The Law Enforcement Planning Commission (LEPC) Narcotics Strike Force has the primary responsibility for the detection, capture, and preparation of evidence to prosecute drug violators throughout USVI.

### Trafficking and Seizures

- Traffickers use USVI as a transshipment point and a temporary storage location for drug shipments destined for Puerto Rico and the continental United States.<sup>30</sup>
- Drugs are smuggled from USVI to Puerto Rico and the United States via maritime vessels and commercial airlines.<sup>31</sup>
- Most of the marijuana available in USVI is smuggled from locations such as St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Granadines. The origin of the marijuana is unknown.<sup>32</sup>
- From FY 2000 through FY 2002, the DEA Caribbean Division reported seizing 3,114.2 kilograms of cocaine in the USVI.<sup>33</sup>

Amount of Drugs Seized by DEA Caribbean Division, USVI, FY 2000-2002

Drug	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Cocaine	2,125.7 kg	643.2 kg	345.3 kg
Heroin	0 kg	1.1 kg	1.5 kg
Marijuana	0.3 kg	28.6 kg	465.5 kg

### Courts

- During FY 2001, 16% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in the USVI had committed drug offenses. More than half (53.3%) of the drug offenses involved powder cocaine.<sup>34</sup>

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, USVI, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	8	53.3%
Crack cocaine	5	33.3
Heroin	1	6.7
Marijuana	1	6.7
Methamphetamine	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0

### Corrections

- Women Aftercare Program<sup>35</sup>  
This program is designed to treat and educate women who have children and are transitioning from prison to society. The program seeks to minimize repeat drug abuse, loss of employment, and loss of custody.

### Sources

<sup>1</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook*, 2003, Virgin Islands section:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/vq.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Virgin Islands Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ltg.gov.vi/>

- 
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>
- <sup>5</sup> Virgin Islands Police Department Web site: <http://www.vipd.gov.vi/home.htm>
- <sup>6</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_pr.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_pr.html)
- <sup>7</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Virgin Islands section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/vi.html>
- <sup>8</sup> Office of Weed and Seed Data Center Web site: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/Default.aspx>
- <sup>9</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2003 Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary, Virgin Islands: [http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/State\\_files/sheet060.htm](http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/State_files/sheet060.htm)
- <sup>10</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/FY04ByrneAlloc.pdf>
- <sup>11</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program: FY 2003 State Allocations: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/03RSATAllocations.PDF>
- <sup>12</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/03DrugCtAwd.pdf>
- <sup>13</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>
- <sup>14</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS Methamphetamine Initiative 2003: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=951>
- <sup>15</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth\\_grantees.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf)
- <sup>16</sup> Office of Justice Programs Web site, Virgin Islands FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs & Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2002grants/map/vi.htm>
- <sup>17</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*, FY 2001: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- <sup>18</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, *The Drug Trade in the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment*, September 2003: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/intel/03014/03014.pdf>
- <sup>19</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Drug Threat Assessment*, July 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs3/3950/3950p.pdf>
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, *The Drug Trade in the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment*, September 2003: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/intel/03014/03014.pdf>
- <sup>22</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Drug Threat Assessment*, July 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs3/3950/3950p.pdf>
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>25</sup> Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001
- <sup>26</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_pr.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_pr.html)
- <sup>27</sup> Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Virgin Islands Budget, Virgin Islands Police Department section: [http://www.usvi.org/oit/newbudget/virgin\\_islands\\_police\\_department.htm](http://www.usvi.org/oit/newbudget/virgin_islands_police_department.htm)
- <sup>30</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, *The Drug Trade in the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment*, September 2003: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/intel/03014/03014.pdf>
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Drug Threat Assessment*, July 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs3/3950/3950p.pdf>
- <sup>33</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>34</sup> United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2001 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Virgin Islands section: <http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2001/vi01.pdf>
- <sup>35</sup> Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001

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:

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

