

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Detroit, Michigan

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 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.

Detroit, Michigan

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

Demographics¹

- Population: 889,888 (2002 American Community Survey)
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 10.39% white; 81.15% black/African American; 0.23% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.27% Asian; 0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.23% other race; 1.47% two or more races; 5.24% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)
- Detroit is located in Wayne County.

Politics

- Mayor: Kwame Kilpatrick²
- City Council Members: Maryann Mahaffey (President), Kenneth Cockrel, Jr., JoAnn Watson, Sharon McPhail, Sheila M. Cockrel, Alberta Tinsley-Talabi, Kay Everett, Barbara Rose-Collins, Alonzo W. Bates³
- Chief of Police: Ella M. Bully-Cummings⁴
- Wayne County Sheriff: Warren Evans⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
Designated in 1997, the Southeastern Michigan HIDTA is responsible for the following counties: Allegan, Genesee, Kalamazoo, Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne.
- Life Points Outreach Program⁷
The Community Health Awareness Group established the Life Points Outreach Program on World AIDS Day in 1996. As the first licensed needle exchange program in Detroit, Life Points aims to reduce the spread of HIV among injection drug users by providing sterile needles and syringes as well as HIV risk education and counseling in five locations. Life Points also refers injection drug users to drug treatment and works to reduce the number of needles and syringes discarded in public places.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Detroit:⁸
 - There were no grantees during the 1999 and 2001 original award years.
 - Original award year 2003: \$100,000 to Community Partnership for Southwest Detroit
 - Original award year 2002: \$99,595 to Partnership for a Drug-Free Detroit Youth Development Institute
 - Original award year 2000: \$100,000 to the Empowerment Zone Coalition
- Community Capacity Development Office⁹
Three sections of Detroit have received Federal funding and official recognition as Weed and Seed sites.

- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Detroit:¹⁰
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$200,000
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$1,273,022
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$3,090,532
- There were no Detroit recipients of the FY 2003 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹¹
- There were no Detroit recipients of the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.¹²
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by Detroit recipients:¹³
 - Community Based (discretionary): 2 awards valued at \$452,000
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 4 awards valued at \$522,970
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 8 awards valued at \$10,209,661
 - formula: 1 award valued at \$3,965,567
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: 0 awards
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$192,378
 - formula: 0 awards
- Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Detroit in FY 2001: \$125,000 to the Detroit International Stake Adult Housing Corporation.¹⁴

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- According to preliminary 2003 data, there were 25,353 larceny-theft offenses reported to police in Detroit.¹⁵

Number of Index Offenses Reported to Police, Detroit, January-December 2003

Offense	January-December 2003
Murder	366
Forcible rape	814
Robbery	5,814
Aggravated assault	11,727
Burglary	14,100
Larceny-theft	25,353
Motor vehicle theft	25,356
Arson	1,744

- During 2002, there were 402 homicides known to the Detroit police.¹⁶

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Detroit, 1999-2002

Offense	1999	2000	2001	2002
Homicide	415	396	395	402
Rape	790	811	652	708
Robbery	7,823	7,868	7,096	6,288
Assault	12,948	13,037	12,804	12,542
Burglary	18,278	15,828	15,096	14,399
Larceny-theft	34,537	31,929	29,613	26,839
Motor vehicle theft	26,770	25,892	24,537	23,857

- During 2000, the Detroit Police Department reported 9,301 drug arrests.¹⁷ This number decreased to 7,540 drug arrests during 2001¹⁸ and 6,368 drug arrests during 2002.¹⁹

Number of Substance-Related Arrests, Detroit, 2000-2002

Offense	2000	2001	2002
Drug law violations	9,301	7,540	6,368
DUI of alcohol/narcotics	2,142	1,908	2,198
Liquor law violations	151	60	45

- During 2002, there were 10,134 drug arrests in Wayne County.²⁰

Number of Drug Arrests, Wayne County, 1997-2002

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1997	444	12,777	13,221
1998	450	14,268	14,718
1999	305	13,417	13,722
2000	275	12,987	13,262
2001	310	11,102	11,412
2002	245	9,889	10,134

- During 2001, approximately 64% of adult male arrestees in Detroit tested positive for drugs at arrest.²¹

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Positive for Drugs, Detroit, 2001

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	22.2%
Opiates	7.2
Marijuana	47.8
Methamphetamine	0.0
PCP	0.0
Any of the above drugs	64.1
Multiple drugs	11.2

- Approximately 15% of Detroit adult male arrestees reported using crack cocaine within the past month. Among the arrestees reporting past month crack cocaine use, they used the substance an average of 9.5 days within the month.²²

Past Drug Use Among Adult Male Arrestees, Detroit, 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	12.5%	1.9%	41.5%	0.0%	3.5%
Past 30 days	14.5%	3.5%	48.5%	0.2%	4.2%
Past year	16.0%	5.4%	55.6%	0.3%	5.0%
Avg. # of days used in month	9.5	4.8	10.9	3.9	11.8

Drugs

- In exchange for drugs, some people (“hitters”) inject other users who have hard to find veins.²³
- Cocaine
 Detroit officials report that crack cocaine is the most widely used illicit drug in the city. Crack and powder cocaine users tend to be over the age of 30, black or white, and of low socioeconomic status. Powder cocaine dealers are often involved in nonviolent crimes such as robbery, larceny, and breaking and entering. Crack cocaine dealers tend to be involved in prostitution, gang-related activity, and violent and non-violent crimes. One gram of powder cocaine usually sells for \$75-\$125. A rock of crack cocaine sells for \$10, although prices can range from \$50-\$200.²⁴
- Heroin
 Nearly all of the heroin available in Detroit/Wayne County is white in color and originates in Colombia.²⁵ However, the availability of Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin is increasing.²⁶ Heroin users in Detroit are typically male, over the age of 30, black, and of low socioeconomic status. Packets of heroin are most often sold in \$10 units and bundles of ten hits cost between \$100-\$200. One gram of Colombian heroin typically costs \$100-\$150. Most of the Detroit heroin users are over the age of 30 and reside in the central city, although use in the suburbs is increasing.²⁷ Quinine is a new heroin adulterant that is used to increase the heroin “rush.”²⁸
- Marijuana
 Mexican marijuana is the most common form found in Detroit/Wayne County, although the availability of marijuana from Canada is increasing.²⁹ Marijuana users in Detroit are typically adolescents or young adults and are predominately male. A bag of marijuana sells for \$10 in Detroit and a pound sells for \$750-\$3,000. Marijuana dealers tend to be either young adults (18-30 years old) or older adults (over 30 years).³⁰
- Methamphetamine
 Methamphetamine is reported as an emerging/intensifying problem in Detroit although use is not as prevalent as it is in western Michigan. Users tend to be young, white adults living in suburban and rural areas.³¹ A gram of meth costs \$100.³² An ounce of methamphetamine sells for \$500-\$2,000 with a purity range of 20-25%.³³
- Club Drugs

GHB demand has declined in Detroit. MDMA users are typically white, young adults from middle to upper socioeconomic classes. The price for an MDMA pill in Detroit ranges from \$20 to \$40.³⁴ Rohypnol is “somewhat available” in Detroit. Liquid GHB is frequently packaged in plastic bottles. The liquid form of ketamine is injected and is sometimes mixed with marijuana.³⁵

➤ Other Drugs

Codeine and its prescription compounds remain the most widely abused substances in the “other opiates” category. Increases in abuse have been noted for hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, or Lorcet), carisoprodal (Soma), and oxycodone (OxyContin).³⁶ Some patients with legitimate prescriptions for OxyContin fill the prescription and then sell some of the pills.³⁷ OxyContin typically sells for \$1 per milligram and \$40-\$60 per 40 milligrams in Detroit.³⁸

Juveniles

- Approximately 22% of Detroit high school students surveyed in 2003 reported being current users of marijuana.³⁹

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Gender, Detroit, 2003

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	41.8%	45.0%	43.3%
Current marijuana use	22.7	22.5	22.6
Lifetime cocaine use	1.7	3.0	2.3
Current cocaine use	1.5	1.8	1.6
Lifetime inhalant use	10.8	9.0	9.9
Current inhalant use	5.5	3.0	4.3
Lifetime heroin use	1.9	2.7	2.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	1.7	3.7	2.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.4	4.1	2.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.8	1.6	1.7
Lifetime ecstasy use	--	--	--
Tried marijuana before age 13	11.5	15.4	13.4

- During 2003, 6.3% of Detroit high school seniors reported using marijuana on school property within the past month, compared to 9.4% of 9th graders, 8.4% of 10th graders, and 7.2% of 11th graders.⁴⁰
- During 2003, 34.5% of high school seniors in Detroit reported being offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property within the past year compared to 32.9% of 9th graders, 37.1% of 10th graders, and 31% of 11th graders.⁴¹
- During 2003, over 49% of Detroit 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.⁴²

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Detroit, 2003

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	39.2%	43.7%	48.2%	49.6%
Current marijuana use	20.3	24.7	25.9	21.3
Lifetime cocaine use	3.0	1.4	1.1	3.0
Current cocaine use	2.4	0.7	0.9	1.6
Lifetime inhalant use	12.2	10.7	6.1	5.9
Current inhalant use	5.4	4.2	2.4	2.5
Lifetime heroin use	2.5	1.2	2.2	3.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.0	1.5	2.4	3.5
Lifetime steroid use	3.2	1.6	1.6	4.2
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	2.1	1.7	0.8	1.6
Used marijuana before age 13	18.1	9.7	11.1	8.6

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 4,656 full time law enforcement employees working in Detroit (4,006 officers and 650 civilians).⁴³

Trafficking and Seizures

- Detroit serves as the transshipment point for heroin to be distributed to other communities in Michigan.⁴⁴
- Detroit gangs control a number of distribution points and are major cocaine suppliers to many markets.⁴⁵
- Some Detroit cocaine traffickers are now dealing with smaller quantities due to the implementation of harsher sentences for trafficking larger amounts of the drug.⁴⁶
- In Detroit, ½ kilograms of methamphetamine was recently seized, indicating that the drug is being shipped from western states into the Detroit area and increasing methamphetamine availability.⁴⁷
- The majority of marijuana seized in Detroit originates in Mexico.⁴⁸
- The number of small, local methamphetamine labs seized in the Detroit increased during 2001.⁴⁹

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵⁰
As of May 2004, there was 1 drug court in Detroit that has been operating for over 2 years and 3 drug courts that had recently been implemented. There are no additional drug courts being planned in Detroit.

Consequences of Use

- During 2002, there were 20,979 drug-related episodes reported by emergency departments (ED) in Detroit. Cocaine was mentioned in more than 7,000 of the Detroit ED episodes during 2002.⁵¹

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Detroit, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-comb.	7,992	7,199	8,447	9,109	9,004
Cocaine	8,617	7,699	7,870	7,730	7,608
Heroin	2,879	2,653	3,328	3,870	3,881
Marijuana	4,335	4,100	4,344	5,017	6,104
Amphetamines	362	178	--	437	470
Methamphetamine				--	12
MDMA (Ecstasy)	6	40	60	111	108
Ketamine	--	--	1	12	0
LSD	27	63	--	15	--
PCP	20	24	21	38	30
Misc. hallucinogens	11	16	5	10	13
Rohypnol				0	1
GHB	11	45	22	31	15
Inhalants	28	51	17	11	23
Total drug episodes	17,477	16,125	17,042	19,265	20,979
Total drug mentions	32,582	30,204	32,739	37,159	40,668

- During 2002, there were 528 drug-related deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in Wayne County. Cocaine was mentioned in 218 of the deaths.⁵²

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Wayne County, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	111	122	154	135	129
Cocaine	186	169	194	195	218
Heroin/morphine	148	127	179	193	233
Marijuana	--	--	--	--	--
Amphetamines	--	--	1	--	2
Methamphetamine	--	--	--	3	2
Club drugs	1	1	2	1	3
Hallucinogens	1	--	--	--	--
Inhalants	--	--	--	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	150	169	152	188	233
Other analgesics	9	13	17	4	15
Benzodiazepines	81	73	88	94	123
Antidepressants	103	95	86	97	122
All other substances	294	363	299	267	452
Total drug deaths	412	412	402	446	528
Total drug mentions	1,084	1,133	1,172	1,177	1,532

- During 2002, there were 842 drug abuse deaths reported by ME in the Detroit metropolitan area (includes Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, and Wayne Counties).⁵³

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Detroit Metro. Area, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	193	214	276	238	234
Cocaine	269	275	303	301	320
Heroin/morphine	211	221	296	285	328
Marijuana	50	93	98	74	111
Amphetamines	2	3	8	5	12
Methamphetamine	--	--	2	5	2
Club drugs	1	2	5	5	4
Hallucinogens	2	1	--	1	2
Inhalants	1	1	--	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	245	284	298	354	410
Other analgesics	41	38	42	35	37
Benzodiazepines	147	177	189	193	228
Antidepressants	137	131	138	148	172
All other substances	338	402	348	318	494
Total drug deaths	635	695	704	729	842
Total drug mentions	1,637	1,842	2,003	1,962	2,354

- During 2003, the Detroit Poison Control Center identified 4 case involving “foxy,” a hallucinogenic tryptamine, all involving young white males.⁵⁴
- As of July 2001, 55% of Michigan’s total AIDS cases originated in Detroit/Wayne County. Injection drug use accounted for approximately 30% of the AIDS cases.⁵⁵

Treatment

- Cocaine, including crack, was the primary drug in 28% of all treatment admission in Detroit/ Wayne County during FY 2003.⁵⁶
- During FY 2003, heroin was the primary drug admission for 29% of all treatment admission in Detroit/Wayne County.⁵⁷
- During FY 2003, there were 405 primary other opiate treatment admissions in Detroit/Wayne County. All other opiate admission (primary, secondary, or tertiary) represented 6% of treatment admissions.⁵⁸
- During FY 2003, there were 1,401 primary treatment admissions for marijuana in Detroit/Wayne County. Marijuana admissions (primary, secondary, or tertiary) represented 29% of treatment admissions during FY 2003.⁵⁹
- In Detroit/Wayne County during FY 2003, there were 505 primary treatment admissions for methamphetamine.⁶⁰
- During FY 2003, there were 364 treatment admissions involving depressants in Detroit/Wayne County.⁶¹
- There were 45 primary treatment admissions in Detroit/Wayne County for hallucinogens, four of which involved PCP.⁶²
- During FY 2003, there were 69 treatment admissions involving ecstasy in Detroit/Wayne County, compared to 31 during FY 2002.⁶³
- Approximately 8% (8.2%) of adult male arrestees in Detroit in 2001 reported that they have received treatment in the year before being arrested.⁶⁴

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⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ National Institute of Justice, *Drug Use and Related Matters Among Adult Arrestees, 2001*, November 2002: <http://www.adam-nij.net/files/adam2001.PDF>

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:

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