

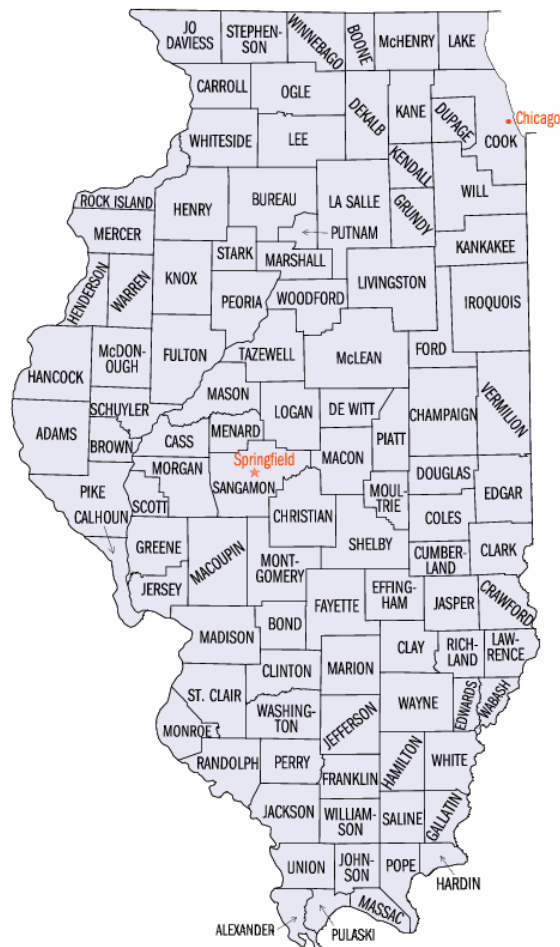
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Chicago, Illinois

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 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.

Chicago, Illinois

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

Demographics

- Population: 2,816,554 (2002 American Community Survey)¹; 2,896,016 (2000 Census)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 30.94% white; 35.44% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 3.91% Asian; 0.4% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.31% some other race; 1.38% two or more races; 27.87% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)³
- Chicago is located in Cook County.⁴

Politics

- Mayor: Richard M. Daley⁵
- Council Members (Wards 1-50, respectively): Manuel Flores; Madeline L. Haithcock; Dorothy J. Tillman; Toni Preckwinkle; Leslie Hairston; Freddrenna Lyle; William M. Beavers; Todd H. Stroger; Anthony Beale; John Pope; James A. Balcer; George A. Cardenas; Frank J. Olivo; Edward M. Burke; Theodore Thomas; Shirley A. Coleman; Latasha Thomas; Thomas W. Murphy; Virginia A. Rugai; Arenda Troutman; Howard Brookins Jr.; Ricardo Munzo; Michael R. Zalewski; Michael D. Chandler; Daniel S. Solis; Billy Ocasio; Walter Burnett, Jr.; Ed H. Smith; Isaac Carothers; Ariel E. Reboyras; Ray Suarez; Theodore Matlak; Richard F. Mell; Carrie M. Austin; Rey Colon; William J.P. Banks; Emma Mitts; Thomas R. Allen; Margaret Laurino; Patrick J. O'Connor; Brian G. Doherty; Burton F. Natarus; Vi Daley; Thomas M. Tunney; Patrick J. Levar; Helen Shiller; Gene Schuler; Mary Ann Smith; Joe Moore; Bernard L. Stone⁶
- Superintendent of Police: Terry G. Hillard⁷
- Cook County Sheriff: Michael F. Sheahan⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1995, the Chicago HIDTA is responsible for the following counties: Cook, Grundy, Kendall, and Will.
- Communities Empowered to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CEPADA) Program¹⁰
Centered around five areas of Chicago, this coalition attempts to forge alliances and develop innovative interventions to prevent substance abuse in the city. CEPADA works with a state-directed effort known as Chicago Together.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Chicago:¹¹
 - FY 2003: No grantees.
 - FY 2002: \$100,000 awarded to the Albany Park Community Center, Inc.
 - FY 2001: No grantees.

- FY 2000: \$99,960 awarded to Centers for New Horizons Wells Community Initiative/Wells Family Development Center.
- FY 1999: \$100,000 awarded to Northwest Austin Council.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹²
Chicago was officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site in 1998.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds awarded to agencies/organizations in Chicago:¹³
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$4,208,963
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$2,105,587
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$9,055,545
- There were no Chicago recipients of the FY 2003 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁴
- There were no Chicago recipients of the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.¹⁵
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Chicago:¹⁶
 - Communities: 3 grants valued at a total of \$534,986
 - Counter-Terrorism: 0
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 11 grants valued at \$3,693,785
 - formula: 1 grant valued at \$71,79,600
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 16 grants valued at \$15,725,767
 - formula: 5 grants valued at \$27,245,075
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: 4 grants valued at \$2,189,343
 - formula: 2 grants valued at \$21,538,754
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 1 grant valued at \$60,000
 - formula: 1 grant valued at \$15,976,000
- FY 2001 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federally Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants for Chicago:¹⁷
 - \$200,000 to La Vergne Court Limited Partnership
 - \$125,000 to Community Housing Partnership II, L.P.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January through February 2004, there were 60 homicides known to the Chicago Police Department.¹⁸ During full year 2003, there were 598 homicides known to the police in Chicago. This is down from 651 homicides known to Chicago police in 2002.¹⁹

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Chicago, 2002-February 2004

Offense	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-Feb. 2004
Homicide	651	598	60
Sexual assault	2,024	1,787	278
Robbery	18,530	17,304	2,295
Aggravated assault	7,701	7,316	973
Aggravated battery	15,204	12,461	1,413
Burglary	25,613	25,042	3,287
Theft	97,468	96,543	12,167
Motor vehicle theft	25,098	22,781	3,433
Arson	1,016	957	142

- During 2002, there were 54,205 drug-related arrests in Chicago, 26,582 of which were for possession of a controlled substance.²⁰

Number of Drug-Related Arrests, Chicago, 2002

Selected Offenses	Number of Arrests
Cannabis possession	18,863
Cannabis trafficking	2
Cannabis manufacturing/delivery	1,943
Cannabis production	10
Cannabis calculated conspiracy	8
Possession of controlled substance	26,582
Manufacturing/delivery of controlled substance	4,949
Drug paraphernalia possession	727
Unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia	81

- There were 520 arrests in Chicago during 2002 for murder/non-negligent manslaughter.²¹

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Chicago, 2001-2002

	2001	2002
Murder or non-negligent manslaughter	525	520
Manslaughter by negligence	56	19
Criminal sexual assault	682	630
Robbery	3,089	2,995
Aggravated assault/battery	6,077	5,740
Burglary	3,479	3,395
Larceny theft	23,651	18,487
Motor vehicle theft	10,496	9,542
Arson	212	181
Narcotics violations	57,958	54,205
Driving under the influence	6,637	5,920
Liquor law violations	974	1,050

- Data from 2002 indicate that 49.4% of Chicago adult male arrestees tested positive for marijuana at arrest.²²

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive, Chicago, 2002

Drug Type	% Positive
Cocaine	47.9%
Opiates	26.0
Marijuana	49.4
Methamphetamine	0.3
PCP	2.2
Any of above drugs	85.2
Multiple drugs	33.8

- More than half of the Chicago adult male arrestees reported using marijuana at least once during the past year.²³

Adult Male Arrestee Drug Use, Chicago, 2002

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Heroin	Meth.
Past year	28.9%	10.8%	54.6%	24.0%	0.6%
Past 30 days	27.8	7.7	49.9	22.6	0.2

- Approximately 71% of the Chicago adult male arrestees who committed violent offenses tested positive for drugs.²⁴

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Positive for Drugs, by Offense, Chicago, 2002

Drug Type	Violent	Property	Drug	Domest. violence	DUI	Other
Any drug	71.0%	76.3%	89.9%	75.0%	71.4%	80.7%
Cocaine	24.5	51.3	50.8	62.5	28.6	55.4
Marijuana	56.8	34.4	52.1	37.5	42.9	37.3
Opiate	11.6	28.6	27.7	50.0	28.6	18.1
Methamphet.	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.2
PCP	1.3	1.8	2.4	0.0	0.0	4.8
Multiple drugs	19.4	31.3	36.5	62.5	28.6	30.1

Drugs

- Cocaine

Crack cocaine is considered to be widely to somewhat available and is the drug that contributes to the most serious consequences in the area. Epidemiologic and ethnographic sources report a rock costing \$5-\$20 and a gram of crack cocaine costing \$50-\$150. Crack is primarily sold by adolescents. The mean age of crack users is 39 years old. Powder cocaine is considered widely to somewhat available. A gram of powder cocaine costs \$125 according to law enforcement sources and \$50-\$100 according to epidemiologic and ethnographic sources. Adolescents and young

adults are the primary powder cocaine sellers.²⁵ During the fourth quarter of 2002, powder cocaine sold for \$18,000-\$22,000 per kilogram; \$900 to \$1,100 per ounce; \$75-\$100 per gram in Chicago. Crack cocaine sold for \$700-\$900 per ounce; \$50-\$100 per gram; and \$10 per rock during the same time period in Chicago.²⁶

➤ Heroin

Heroin is considered “somewhat available” and is the most commonly abused drug in the Chicago area. Colombian and Southwest Asian heroin availability have increased and Southeast Asian heroin availability has decreased. Injecting and snorting are the most common forms of ingestion. Heroin is sold by organized sale structures, although some open drug markets still exist. Many layers of people are involved in sales to reduce the risk of being caught. Often a buyer requests the drug on one level of a public housing complex, then goes to another level to purchase the drug, and is then given yet another location to obtain the drug.²⁷ According to the DEA, South American heroin had a purity level of 22.1% in 2001. In the fourth quarter of 2002, heroin sold for \$100,000-\$125,000 per kilogram; \$2,500-\$3,000 per ounce; and \$100-\$125 per gram in Chicago.²⁸

➤ Marijuana

Law enforcement sources consider marijuana to be somewhat available in Chicago. Marijuana prices range from \$5-\$10 for a loose bag to \$80-\$200 for one gram. Adolescents are the primary sellers and users of marijuana. Open-air drug markets exist, although sometimes are held in more discrete areas such as public housing developments.²⁹ Marijuana sold for \$900-\$1,200 per pound and \$50-\$75 per ounce in the fourth quarter of 2002.³⁰

➤ Methamphetamine

Availability of methamphetamine has increased in Chicago, although it is still considered not very available. Locally produced methamphetamine is increasing. Street sales are noted for the first time, mostly on the Northside.³¹ During the fourth quarter of 2002, methamphetamine sold for \$1,000-\$1,300 per ounce and \$80-\$150 per gram in Chicago.³² Mexican criminal groups in Mexico and southwestern states produce the dominant form of methamphetamine available in Chicago.³³

➤ Club Drugs

During 2002, ecstasy was seen on the street for the first time. Ecstasy is sold, but not used in high schools.³⁴ During the fourth quarter of 2002 in Chicago, MDMA sold for \$4-\$10 per tablet wholesale and \$10-\$15 per tablet at the retail level. During that same time period, GHB sold for \$5-\$10, PCP sold for \$15, and LSD sold for \$5-\$7.³⁵

➤ Other Drugs

Methadone abuse (both as a substitute for and in addition to heroin) is increasing in Chicago.³⁶ OxyContin is reported as not available to somewhat available. Chicago is the only *Pulse Check* site where OxyContin is not described as an emerging problem.³⁷

Juveniles

- A 2001 survey of Chicago high school students indicated that 49.3% of them had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.³⁸

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Chicago, 2001

Drug Type	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	44.9%	53.7%	49.3%
Current marijuana use	22.9	34.7	28.7
Lifetime cocaine use	3.2	5.5	4.4
Current cocaine use	1.0	4.1	2.6
Lifetime inhalant use	6.2	6.3	6.5
Current inhalant use	1.1	3.6	2.5
Lifetime heroin use	0.7	4.0	2.5
Lifetime methamphetamine use	1.4	3.6	2.8
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.8	6.0	5.2
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.4	3.6	2.2
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	9.6	21.7	15.6

Enforcement

- Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS program)³⁹
Begun in April 1993, CAPS is a partnership of police, community, and other City agencies who work together in new ways to identify and solve problems of crime and neighborhood disorder, and to improve the quality of life in Chicago's neighborhoods.
- As of October 2002, there were 14,932 law enforcement employees in the city of Chicago (13,609 officers and 1,323 civilians).⁴⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- The Chicago area is considered a hub for distribution and transportation of illicit drugs. The city is the nation's largest trucking center and has the world's busiest rail yards, serving as the principle transshipment point for products shipped between Mexico and Canada, as well as between the East and West coasts. The city is also considered a major financial center, which offers opportunities for laundering money generated in the drug trade.⁴¹
- Colombian and Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and criminal groups are the main drug money launderers in Chicago. West African traffickers also launder drug money in Chicago.⁴²
- Organized street gangs, such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings, control distributions and retail sales of drugs in the Chicago area. Major drug trafficking groups such as the Colombian DTOs, Mexican polydrug organizations, and Nigerian groups handle wholesale distributions and major shipments of drugs.⁴³
- Cocaine trafficking is mainly run by the Mexican trafficking organizations who transport wholesale quantities of cocaine to Chicago from Houston, El Paso, Los Angeles, Central Arizona, and Miami. From Chicago, cocaine is then distributed to cities such as Des Moines, Fort Wayne, Grand Rapids (MI), Lexington, Columbus, Toledo, St. Paul, and Milwaukee. Chicago also serves as a transshipment point for the Detroit distribution center.⁴⁴ Most of the crack that is available in Chicago is converted locally from powder cocaine.⁴⁵
- Heroin traffickers use Chicago as a distribution center. Traffickers distribute heroin from Chicago throughout Illinois and to other states including Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.⁴⁶

- Many teenagers and young adults drive to Chicago from surrounding suburbs to buy heroin for their own use and to distribute it to their friends and associates.⁴⁷
- The marijuana available in Chicago is usually transported from southwestern states and Mexico in private and commercial vehicles. Mexican drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups are the primary transporters and wholesale distributors of the drug in Chicago. Local independent dealers cultivate small quantities of marijuana in the Chicago metropolitan area and serve as the primary retail distributors.⁴⁸
- The DEA has noted an increase in the amount of methamphetamine arriving in Chicago from Mexico.⁴⁹
- Club drugs and diverted pharmaceuticals are distributed by Caucasian independent dealers in Chicago. Club drugs are primarily available at all-night dance clubs and private parties and are abused by Caucasian teenagers and young adults. Diverted pharmaceuticals are obtained in the city with improper prescribing practices, prescription forgery, and “doctor shopping.”⁵⁰
- Clandestine labs were seized for the first time in Chicago during 2002.⁵¹
- Seizures of brown heroin (presumably Mexican) are up 50% in Chicago from 2001.⁵²
- In 2001, the Chicago HIDTA seized 2,660 kilograms of powder cocaine and 16 kilograms of crack cocaine. The Chicago HIDTA also seized 6,591 milliliters of liquid GHB and over 86 pounds of powdered GHB in 2001.⁵³
- The Chicago Police Department Narcotics Section seized 11 (eleven) ecstasy tablets in 1998. The number of ecstasy tablets seized in Chicago increased to 72,237 tablets in 1999.⁵⁴ In May 2001, 118,000 ecstasy tablets totaling 54 pounds and valued at \$3.5 million were seized at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport.⁵⁵
- During 2001, more than \$7.1 million was seized while in transit from Chicago to California and southwestern states. Also in 2001, the DEA Chicago Division seized \$21.3 million in assets from alleged drug traffickers.⁵⁶

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵⁷
As of November 2003, there were 4 drug courts in Chicago that had been operating for over 2 years. There were no other drug courts in Chicago in operation or being planned.

Corrections

- As of August 2002, there were 42,989 adults and 1,571 juveniles incarcerated by the Illinois Department of Corrections. 58% of the adults and 33% of the juveniles committed their offense in Cook County.⁵⁸

Consequences of Use

- During 2002, there were 16,227 emergency department (ED) mentions of cocaine in Chicago.⁵⁹

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

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	9,318	9,226	10,234	10,307	10,056
Cocaine	13,642	13,399	14,879	16,202	16,227
Heroin	9,316	9,629	12,454	11,902	12,982
Marijuana	5,002	4,555	5,398	5,186	4,588
Amphetamines	181	204	360	409	415
Methamphetamine	31	22	--	45	42
MDMA (Ecstasy)	25	103	215	121	87
Ketamine	--	--	17	14	10
LSD	120	138	115	69	21
PCP	352	631	1,003	874	459
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	29	32	45	22	24
GHB	69	135	139	104	79
Rohypnol	--	--	0	0	--
Inhalants	33	17	15	12	23
Total ED drug abuse episodes	26,204	26,139	30,319	32,643	32,454
Total ED drug mentions	48,331	47,839	55,435	57,809	56,759

- During 2002, there were 711 drug-related deaths reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) by Medical Examiners (ME) in Cook County.⁶⁰

Number of Drug Deaths and Drug Mentions, Cook County, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	321	329	338	315	293
Cocaine	409	460	386	451	443
Heroin/morphine	375	412	438	307	339
Marijuana	--	--	--	--	1
Amphetamines	--	--	1	1	--
Methamphetamine	--	--	1	1	--
Club drugs	--	--	3	4	5
Hallucinogens	3	1	4	4	2
Inhalants	--	--	--	5	2
Narcotic analgesics	125	124	107	61	115
Other analgesics	13	14	7	5	9
Benzodiazepines	7	8	10	11	19
Antidepressants	27	24	30	19	43
All other substances	17	45	26	24	39
Total drug deaths	672	751	703	679	711
Total drug mentions	1,297	1,417	1,351	1,208	1,310

- Three young people (ranging in age from 17-20) from Chicago suburbs died in 2000 after taking PMA, a drug that is often used as a substitute for ecstasy. The circumstances surrounding these deaths were as follows:⁶¹

- In one case, the victim had ingested one pill.
- Another victim had taken 5-7 PMA tablets thinking she was really ingesting MDMA tablets.
- The body temperature of one of the victims was 108 degrees one hour after death.

Treatment

- Approximately 46% of the Chicago adult male arrestees who reported being crack cocaine users in 2002 said that they have received inpatient treatment in their lives.⁶²

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Reporting Past Drug Treatment, Chicago, 2002

Drug Type	Inpatient		Outpatient	
	Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
Crack cocaine	45.6%	9.6%	30.4%	22.2%
Powder cocaine	34.8	10.8	19.5	10.8
Marijuana	19.6	9.6	16.9	23.9
Methamphetamine	57.1	0.0	14.3	0.0
Heroin	43.1	9.7	33.6	29.7

- The number of non-methadone treatment clients with crack as the primary substance of abuse has increased.⁶³
- The most common barriers to treatment in Chicago are the recent cuts in funding, an increase in the number of people on the waiting list, lack of trained staff to treat comorbid clients, and violent behavior among clients.⁶⁴
- The number of primary cocaine users has increased in Chicago. Primary powder cocaine users constitute 10% or more of treatment clients.⁶⁵
- During FY 2001, there were more than 24,000 persons admitted for substance abuse treatment in Chicago. The majority of persons admitted to treatment were male (68%) and African American (80%). 9% were Hispanic and 8% were Caucasian. 40% were between the ages of 18 and 34, while 52% were 35 and older.⁶⁶
- During FY 2001 in Chicago:⁶⁷
 - more than 9,100 persons were admitted to substance abuse treatment for cocaine abuse. 89% of these admissions were for smoking crack cocaine, while 7% reported snorting powder cocaine.
 - about 16,800 persons were admitted to substance abuse treatment for heroin. 79% of these admissions were for snorting as the primary method of ingestion and 13% were for injection.
 - more than 4,800 persons were admitted to substance abuse treatment for marijuana.
 - 31 individuals were admitted for substance abuse treatment for methamphetamine.
- Stimulants represented 2 percent of all Chicago treatment admissions (excluding alcohol) in FY 2000, up from 1 percent in FY 1999. Total stimulant admissions increased from 913 in FY 1999 to 1,270 in FY 2000. In the first half of 2001, there were 1,701 stimulant treatment admissions.⁶⁸
- Recent trends in hallucinogen treatment admissions have been uneven, but overall admissions have been relatively high compared with trends earlier in the decade.

Admissions increased steadily from 85 in FY 1992 to 550 in FY 1996. In FY 1997, treatment admissions dropped to 131, but rebounded to 455 in FY 1998 and to 401 in FY 1999. For FY 2000, hallucinogen treatment admissions were up again to 517.⁶⁹

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