

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Nevada

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 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.

Nevada

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

Demographics

- Population: 2,241,154 (July 2003 estimate);¹ 2,139,794 (2002 American Community Survey)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 64.0% white; 6.3% black/African American; 1.0% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.4% Asian; 0.5% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 2.3% two or more races; 21.4% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)³

Politics

- Governor: Kenny Guinn⁴
- Lt. Governor: Lorraine T. Hunt⁵
- Attorney General: Brian Sandoval⁶
- Secretary of State: Dean Heller⁷
- U.S. Senate Members: Harry Reid (D), John Ensign (R)⁸
- U.S. House of Representatives Members: Shelley Berkley (D), James Gibbons (R), John Porter (R)⁹
- Capital: Carson City¹⁰

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹¹
Designated in 2001, the Nevada HIDTA is responsible for Clark County.
- Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Nevada (BEST Coalition)¹²
Founded in 1989, the mission of the BEST Coalition is to implement and facilitate school, family, and community partnerships to promote a safe and drug-free lifestyle for the well being of all Nevada residents.
- Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative¹³
The mission of Nevada's Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative is to prevent substance abuse by pregnant women.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees in Nevada:¹⁴
 - FY 2003:
 - \$100,000 to Partners Allied for Community Excellence, Elko
 - \$85,638 to Nye Communities Coalition, Pahrump
 - \$74,960 to Join Together Northern Nevada, Reno (Coalition Mentoring Program grantee)
 - FY 2002: no Nevada grantees
 - FY 2001:
 - \$100,000 awarded to Churchill Community Coalition, Fallon
 - \$100,000 to Frontier Community Coalition, Winnemucca
 - FY 2000:

- \$100,000 to Partnership for Community Resources Coalition of Douglas County, Minden
- FY 1999:
 - \$100,000 to Central Lyon County Youth Coalition, Dayton
 - \$100,000 to Join Together Northern Nevada, Reno
 - \$90,400 to Community Council for Youth, Carson City
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁵

Two sites have received Federal funding and been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites in Nevada: Las Vegas and Reno.
- FY 2002/2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotment summary for Nevada:¹⁶
 - Formula Funding: \$16,858,247
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$12,860,149
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$3,279,098
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$319,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$400,000
 - Discretionary Funding: \$9,799,354
 - Mental Health - \$2,229,054
 - Substance Prevention - \$5,825,969
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$1,744,331
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$6,227,152
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$20,430,449
 - Total Funds for Nevada: \$26,657,601
- FY 2003 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Nevada: \$4,366,952¹⁷
- FY 2003 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program amount awarded to Nevada:¹⁸
 - \$149,474 to the Nevada Department of Public Safety
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amounts allocated to Nevada:¹⁹
 - FY 1996: \$243,215
 - FY 1997: \$275,181
 - FY 1998: \$597,189
 - FY 1999: \$599,918
 - FY 2000: \$586,523
 - FY 2001: \$592,856
 - FY 2002: \$667,669
 - FY 2003: \$616,138
- There were no Nevada recipients of the 2003 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.²⁰
- There were no Nevada recipients of the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.²¹
- There were no Nevada recipients of the FY 2003 Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program.²²
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received in Nevada (by funding category):²³
 - Communities (discretionary): \$1.2 million

- Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$5.0 million
- Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: \$9.1 million
 - formula: \$3.8 million
- Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: \$13.4 million
 - formula: \$7.8 million
- Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: \$3.6 million
 - formula: \$4.8 million
- Victims:
 - discretionary: \$0.1 million
 - formula: \$4.1 million
- Total OJP/COPS funds received in Nevada in FY 2002: \$52.7 million
- Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant awarded to Nevada during FY 2001:²⁴
 - \$125,000 to the Buena Vista Springs Apartments, North Las Vegas

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 32 murders known to police in Nevada from January through March 2003.²⁵ During full year 2002, there were 184 murders known to police in Nevada.²⁶

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Nevada, 2001-March 2003

Offense	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-March 2003
Murder	186	184	32
Rape	883	930	230
Robbery	4,932	5,119	1,294
Assault	6,337	7,634	1,860
Burglary	17,710	18,953	5,324
Larceny	45,072	47,461	12,806
Motor vehicle theft	14,703	17,485	4,687
Arson	536	630	123
Total index offenses	90,359	98,396	26,356

- In March 2003, the Nevada Highway Patrol made 44 drug arrests.²⁷ In February 2003, the Highway Patrol made 32 drug arrests.²⁸ The Highway Patrol made 49 drug arrests during January 2003.²⁹ During full year 2002, 747 drug arrests were made by the Nevada Highway Patrol.³⁰
- In March 2003, the Nevada Division of Investigations made 41 arrests for drug violations.³¹ There were 38 drug arrests made by the Division of Investigations during February 2003.³² The Division of Investigations made 36 drug arrests during January 2003.³³ During full year 2002, the Division of Investigations made 324 drug arrests.³⁴

Number of Drug Arrests Made by Division of Investigations, Nevada, 2002-March 2003

Offense/Drug Type	Full Year 2002	January 2003	February 2003	March 2003
Sales/manufacturing	154	23	28	20
Opium/cocaine and derivatives	9	6	1	3
Marijuana	19	1	0	7
Synthetic narcotics	119	16	20	10
Other dang. non-narc. drugs	7	0	7	0
Possession	170	13	10	21
Opium/cocaine and derivatives	0	0	0	0
Marijuana	44	2	2	5
Synthetic narcotics	99	5	8	14
Other dang. non-narc. drugs	27	6	0	2
Total	324	36	38	41

- During 2002, county and municipal agencies in Nevada made 2,116 adult arrests for drug sales/manufacturing.³⁵

Number of County and Municipal Drug/Liquor Arrests, Nevada, 2002

Offense	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Sales/manufacturing	199	2,116	2,315
Possession	1,256	6,009	7,265
Total drug arrests	1,455	8,125	9,580
DUI	81	9,100	9,181
Liquor laws	1,375	6,524	7,899
Total liquor arrests	1,456	15,624	17,080
Total drug and liquor arrests	2,911	23,749	26,660

Drugs

- Cocaine
Cocaine, particularly crack cocaine, is a significant problem in the urban areas of Nevada. Cocaine HCL is moderately available in northern Nevada and readily available throughout the southern areas of the state.³⁶
- Heroin
Mexican black tar heroin remains the most prevalent form of heroin available in Nevada.³⁷
- Marijuana
Domestically cultivated and Mexican grown marijuana remain readily available in Nevada. In June 2001, Assembly Bill 453 was signed into law allowing patients to use marijuana for medicinal purposes.³⁸
- Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine, both imported into the state and locally produced, remains the principal drug of concern in Nevada. The purity level for methamphetamine imported into the state ranges from 9% to 26%. Locally-produced methamphetamine is often of a higher purity level, averaging 90%.³⁹

- **Club Drugs**
The availability of club drugs in Nevada ranges from sporadic in the northern urban areas of the state to readily available in cities in the southern section of the state, particularly Las Vegas. Club drugs are typically abused in local nightclubs, adult entertainment clubs, and at raves.⁴⁰
- **Other Drugs**
The pharmaceutical drugs of choice in Nevada include Lortab, Hydrocodone, Xanax, Codeine, Diazepam, and Oxycodone. Prescription forgery and doctor shopping remain the primary methods by which pharmaceutical drugs are diverted in Nevada.⁴¹
- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), approximately 40% of Nevada citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.⁴²

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Nevada, 2000-2001 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	12.00%	17.60%	5.04%	7.27%
Past month use of marijuana	9.32	14.16	3.23	5.17
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.64	7.62	2.25	3.24
Past year cocaine use	2.33	5.93	1.55	2.16
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	32.82	26.79	43.49	40.39

- According to 2000-2001 data from the NHSDA, approximately 1.7% of Nevada citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.⁴³

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Abuse/Dependence, Nevada, 2000-2001 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	3.08%	4.65%	1.06%	1.70%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.81	7.70	1.83	2.94
Alcohol dependence	1.86	5.87	1.85	2.33
Alcohol dependence or abuse	6.14	15.14	4.71	6.12
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	9.88	18.62	5.82	7.78

Juveniles

- Results of a 2001 survey of Nevada high school students indicate that 7.7% of the students used marijuana on school property at least once during the past month. Approximately 18% of students reported first trying marijuana before the age of 13.⁴⁴

Percent of Students Reporting Marijuana Use, Nevada, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
Marijuana on school property in past month	6.8%	5.0%	11.2%	7.7%	7.7%
Tried marijuana before age 13	18.6	12.6	18.2	19.6	17.8

- Approximately 50.8% of Nevada students have tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.⁴⁵

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Sex, Nevada, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	48.8%	52.6%	50.8%
Current marijuana use	23.5	29.5	26.6
Lifetime cocaine use	12.4	11.5	11.9
Current cocaine use	4.6	6.3	5.5
Lifetime inhalant use	16.0	16.8	16.4
Current inhalant use	4.1	5.9	5.0
Lifetime methamphetamine use	16.5	14.8	15.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	4.7	7.9	6.4
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	2.2	5.1	3.7

- More than 67% of Nevada high school seniors reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.⁴⁶

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Grade, Nevada, 2001

Drug Type and Use	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Lifetime marijuana use	40.0%	45.1%	55.4%	67.1%
Current marijuana use	21.6	21.8	30.8	33.5
Lifetime cocaine use	7.4	7.4	16.7	16.8
Current cocaine use	3.1	4.3	7.7	7.2
Lifetime inhalant use	19.1	16.2	14.5	13.4
Current inhalant use	6.6	5.0	5.6	0.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	11.0	12.5	19.3	20.1
Lifetime illegal steroid use	6.2	6.2	7.4	4.5
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	3.5	3.2	4.3	2.6

Enforcement

- Drug Enforcement Administration Mobile Enforcement Teams⁴⁷
Conceived in 1995 in response to the overwhelming problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation, the DEA's Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) program is a cooperative effort involving Federal, state and local law enforcement counterparts. There have been two MET deployments in Nevada since the inception of the program, taking place in Reno and Carson City.
- As of October 31, 2002, there were 8,312 full-time law enforcement employees in Nevada (4,907 officers and 3,405 civilians).⁴⁸

Trafficking and Seizures

- Due to its close proximity to California and its porous border, Nevada often serves as a transshipment point for various drugs to the central and eastern sections of the United States.⁴⁹
- During full year 2003, the DEA and state and local authorities in Nevada reported 121 methamphetamine lab incidents to the El Paso Intelligence Center.⁵⁰

Number of Methamphetamine Incidents/Seizures, Nevada, 2003

Type of Seizure	Number
Chemical/glass/equipment	43
Dumpsite	10
Laboratory	68
Total	121

- During 2002, there were 102 methamphetamine laboratory seizures reported in Nevada.⁵¹

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Seizures, Nevada, 1996-2002

Year	Methamphetamine Lab Seizures
1996	36
1997	16
1998	16
1999	294
2000	288
2001	255
2002	102

- During 2002, Federal agencies seized more than 20 kilograms of cocaine in Nevada.⁵²

Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Nevada, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	20.1 kilograms
Heroin	5.3 kilograms
Methamphetamine	19.8 kilograms
Marijuana	0.9 kilograms

- In 2002, there were 1,513 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in Nevada as part of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁵³

Marijuana Eradicated and Seized, Nevada, 2002

Type of Marijuana	Amount
Outdoor – plots eradicated	1
Outdoor – cultivated plants eradicated	16
Indoor – grows seized	26
Indoor – plants eradicated	1,497
Total cultivated plants eradicated	1,513
Bulk processed marijuana	543

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵⁴
As of November 2003, there were 12 drug courts in Nevada that have been in existence for more than 2 years, 7 that were recently implemented, and 8 that were being planned.
- During FY 2001, 21.9% of Federally-sentenced defendants in Nevada were charged with drug offenses. Methamphetamine was involved in 55 (48.2%) of the drug offenses.⁵⁵

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Nevada, FY 2001

Drug Type	Percent	Number
Methamphetamine	48.2%	55
Powder cocaine	16.7	19
Crack cocaine	14.9	17
Marijuana	12.3	14
Heroin	3.5	4
Other	4.4	5

Corrections

- At the end of 2002 (December 31), there were 10,478 prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or Federal correctional authorities in Nevada, a 2.4% increase in the prison population since December 31, 2001.⁵⁶
- The number of adults on probation in Nevada decreased 1% in 2002, from 12,416 on January 1 to 12,290 on December 31.⁵⁷
- The adult parole population in Nevada decreased 1.3% in 2002, from 4,025 on January 1 to 3,971 on December 31.⁵⁸

Consequences of Use

- From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003, there were 22 methamphetamine laboratory sites in Nevada in which a child was present.⁵⁹

Number of Children at Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Nevada, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	12
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	3
Sites with a child injured	0
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	22
Sites with a child residing at the site	27
Number of children placed in protective custody	3

Treatment

- During 2002, there were 10,449 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Nevada.⁶⁰ There were 10,609 admissions during 2001.⁶¹

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Nevada, 2001-2002

Drug Type	2001		2002	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	3,073	29.0%	2,808	26.9%
Alcohol with secondary drug	1,324	12.5	1,338	12.8
Cocaine (smoked)	1,099	10.4	832	8.0
Cocaine (other route)	276	2.6	263	2.5
Marijuana	1,348	12.7	1,499	14.3
Heroin	781	7.4	697	6.7
Other opiates	95	0.9	107	1.0
PCP	31	0.3	31	0.3
Hallucinogens	17	0.2	14	0.1
Amphetamines	2,504	23.6	2,808	26.9
Other stimulants	11	0.1	6	0.1
Tranquilizers	16	0.2	16	0.2
Sedatives	9	0.1	9	0.1
Inhalants	7	0.1	4	0.0
Other/unknown	18	0.2	17	0.2
Total	10,609	100.0	10,449	100.0

Sources

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² U.S. Census Bureau Web site, American Community Survey: 2002 Data Profiles:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/index.htm>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Nevada Governor Web site: <http://gov.state.nv.us/>

⁵ Nevada Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.state.nv.us/ltgovernor/>

⁶ Nevada Attorney General Web site: <http://ag.state.nv.us/>

⁷ Nevada Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.nv.us/>

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⁹ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>

¹⁰ State of Nevada Web site: <http://silver.state.nv.us/>

¹¹ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:

http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_nev.html

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