

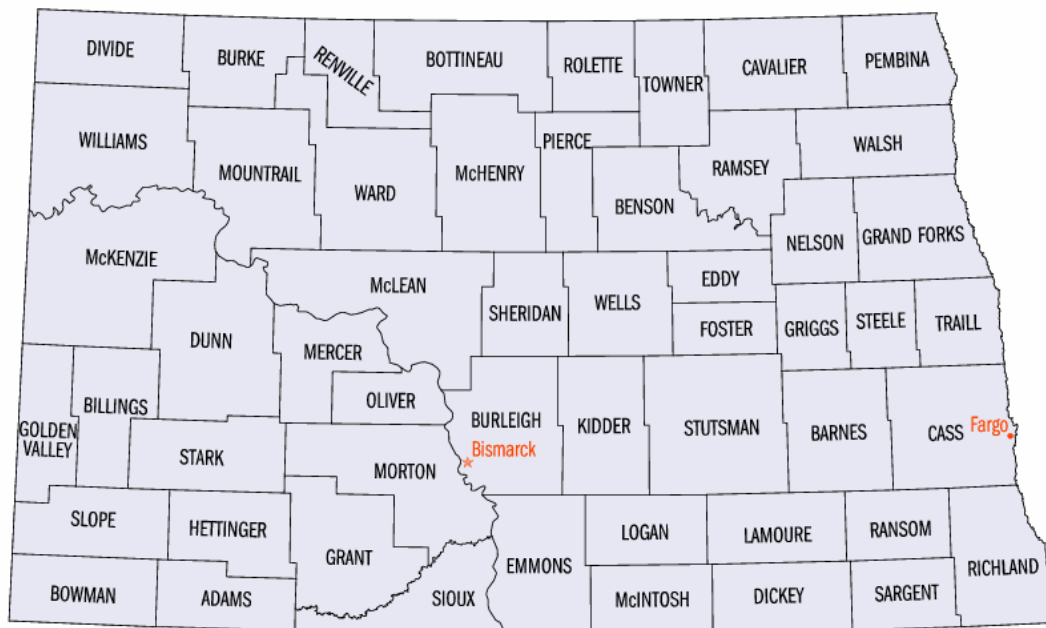
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of North Dakota

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.

North Dakota

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

Demographics

- Population: 633,837 (July 2003 Census estimate)¹; 610,245 (2002 American Community Survey)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 91.34% white; 0.84% black/African American; 4.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.63% Asian; 0.03% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.18% other race; 1.17% two or more races; 1.21% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)³

Politics

- Governor: John Hoeven⁴
- Lt. Governor: Jack Dalrymple⁵
- Attorney General: Wayne Stenehjem⁶
- Senate Members: Kent Conrad (D); Byron L. Dorgan (D)⁷
- House Members: Earl Pomeroy⁸
- Capital: Bismarck⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1996, the Midwest HIDTA is responsible for sections of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The areas of North Dakota involved in Midwest HIDTA activities are Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, Morton, Ramsey, Richland, Walsh, and Ward Counties. The North Dakota counties did not join the Midwest HIDTA until February 1999.
- Retailers Meth Watch Program¹¹
The North Dakota Meth Watch Program is a partnership between the Attorney General's office and concerned North Dakota retailers. The goals of the program are to raise awareness of the problems associated with methamphetamine labs, to educate and train retail employees to recognize signs of individuals obtaining meth production precursors, and to limit the availability of precursor chemicals.
- North Dakota Drug Enforcement Initiative¹²
The Drug Enforcement Initiative was created in response to the serious problems caused by drug usage and trafficking in North Dakota. A few of the goals of the initiative include stopping the importation of illegal drugs and manufacture of methamphetamine, creating public awareness of the state's illegal drug problem, identifying vulnerable groups for increased education and awareness, and ensuring that all North Dakota citizens have resources to assist with drug-related problems.
- Share the Fame¹³
The Share the Fame program was created in an effort to deter drug and alcohol abuse by juveniles in Native American communities. Share the Fame is a community-outreach prevention program on North Dakota reservations that encourages youths'

artistic expressions. It is intended to tap into Native American art and culture as a way to get the drug prevention message across.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in North Dakota:¹⁴
 - FY 2003: no grantees
 - FY 2002: no grantees
 - FY 2001: \$98,261 awarded to the Southwest Coalition of Safe Communities, Dickinson
 - FY 2000: \$99,536 awarded to Grand Forks Youth Team Coalition, Grand Forks
- FY 2003/2004 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary for North Dakota:¹⁵
 - Formula Funding - \$6,761,980
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$5,199,042
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$852,938
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$410,000
 - Discretionary Funding - \$99,607
 - Mental Health - \$99,607
 - Substance Prevention - \$0
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$0
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$1,662,545
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$5,199,042
 - Total Funds for North Dakota: \$6,861,587
- Office of Weed and Seed¹⁶

There are no sites in North Dakota that have been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites.
- North Dakota did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2003 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).¹⁷
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to North Dakota: \$2,109,922¹⁸
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court grant program recipient in North Dakota:¹⁹
 - \$115,181 to the State of North Dakota Supreme Court for a juvenile drug court
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to North Dakota:
 - FY 1996: \$111,080²⁰
 - FY 1997: \$124,017²¹
 - FY 1998: \$268,343²²
 - FY 1999: \$265,832²³
 - FY 2000: \$265,638²⁴
 - FY 2001: \$268,788²⁵
 - FY 2002: \$299,987²⁶
 - FY 2003: \$278,921²⁷

- There were no North Dakota recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.²⁸
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in North Dakota:²⁹
 - Community Based (discretionary): 1 award valued at \$120,000
 - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 2 awards valued at \$3,571,000
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 3 awards valued at \$413,637
 - formula: 5 awards valued at \$2,483,173
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 58 awards valued at \$8,265,082
 - formula: 22 awards valued at \$1,628,605
 - Substance Abuse
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$339,500
 - formula: 2 awards valued at \$2,481,459
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 6 awards valued at \$369,568
 - formula: 2 awards valued at \$1,393,000

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 1,658 arrests for drug abuse violation in North Dakota during 2001.³⁰ During 2002, arrests for drug abuse violations in North Dakota increased to 1,752.³¹

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, North Dakota, 2000-2002

Offense Type	2000	2001	2002
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	1	3	6
Forcible rape	39	32	42
Robbery	15	19	25
Aggravated assault	144	161	127
Burglary	305	343	316
Larceny-theft	2,279	2,238	2,264
Motor vehicle theft	247	238	261
Arson	24	60	25
Drug abuse violation	1,501	1,658	1,752
Driving under the influence	4,304	4,301	4,467
Liquor law violations	6,574	7,415	6,099

- Marijuana was involved in 1,189 arrests in North Dakota during 2002.³²

Number of Drug Arrests, by Drug Involved, North Dakota, 2000-2002

Drug Type	2000	2001	2002
Opiates/cocaine/derivatives	45	33	61
Marijuana	1,189	1,221	1,189
Other drugs/narcotics	267	404	502

- During 2002, there were 110 adult drug arrests for sale/manufacturing and 1,328 adult arrests for possession.³³

Drug Arrests by Offense Type, North Dakota, 2000-2002

Offense Type	2000		2001		2002	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Sale/manufacturing	32	156	7	111	20	110
Possession	260	1,050	304	1,233	269	1,328

- According to the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, the unemployment rate on Indian reservations in the State averages 55%. The high rate of unemployment may result in a large number of individuals who are willing to engage in criminal activities, such as drug distribution, to support themselves.³⁴
- The North Dakota Crime Laboratory has reported an increase in the number of methamphetamine samples submitted for analysis from 1992 through 2000. In 1992, there were 14 samples submitted, and by 2000, the number of methamphetamine samples submitted for analysis totaled 1,218.³⁵
- Veterinary clinic burglaries for ketamine have increased in North Dakota. Typically, one or two clinics are burglarized each year. However, during the first ten months of 2001, more than twelve clinics were burglarized.³⁶

Drugs

- Cocaine³⁷
Powder cocaine availability and abuse are stable at low levels in North Dakota. The availability and abuse of crack cocaine is very limited. Cocaine prices range in the State from \$100-\$120 per gram and \$1,000-\$1,500 per ounce.
- Heroin
The use of heroin is not a significant problem in North Dakota. Virtually all heroin found in the State is black tar heroin from Mexico.³⁸ Mexican brown powdered heroin is also available but in very limited quantities. Black tar heroin prices range from \$350-\$600 per gram and \$4,000-\$10,000 per ounce.³⁹
- Marijuana
Marijuana is one of the primary drugs of abuse in North Dakota. Most of the marijuana available in the State originates in Mexico. However, marijuana is increasingly available from local cultivators. Ditchweed is abundant in the southeastern part of North Dakota.⁴⁰ Local marijuana cultivators are often armed and use booby traps and warning devices to protect grow sites from law enforcement. Marijuana prices remain stable in the State and range from \$8-\$10 per gram, \$100-\$120 per ounce, and \$800-\$1,000 per pound.⁴¹
- Methamphetamine
The most significant drug threat to North Dakota is methamphetamine. The most common type of meth found in the State is produced in Mexico.⁴² Methamphetamine is also increasingly being produced in small laboratories throughout North Dakota. Because of the State's dependence on the agriculture industry, there is a high level of use and availability of anhydrous ammonia, a substance commonly used in the "Nazi" method of manufacturing methamphetamine.⁴³ Methamphetamine prices are

decreasing in the State. During FY 1999, meth prices ranged from \$125-\$200 per gram and \$2,000-\$2,500 per ounce. In FY 2000, prices ranged from \$100-\$120 per gram and \$1,000-\$1,300 per ounce.⁴⁴

➤ **Club Drugs**

There have been some indications that club drugs are appearing in the Fargo area of North Dakota in small quantities.⁴⁵ The abuse of MDMA is increasing slowly throughout the State and occurs primarily among high school and college age students. The abuse of GHB is also increasing, primarily in North Dakota's urban areas. Ketamine is an emerging threat to North Dakota. Authorities have noted an increase in the popularity of hallucinogens in the State, possibly attributed to the growing presence of raves and dance clubs. The availability of psilocybin is increasing in certain areas of North Dakota.⁴⁶

➤ **Diverted Pharmaceuticals⁴⁷**

The abuse of diverted pharmaceuticals, particularly Ritalin, OxyContin, Percocet, and Darvocet, are increasing throughout the State. Ritalin abusers often grind the pill into a powder and snort it like cocaine or dilute and inject it like heroin. The most common methods used to obtain OxyContin include prescription fraud and pharmacy burglary.

- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, less than half (45.41%) of North Dakota citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.⁴⁸

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, North Dakota, 2000-2001

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.60%	12.12%	1.88%	4.11%
Past month use of marijuana	6.36	10.34	1.48	3.31
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.28	5.02	1.28	2.16
Past year cocaine use	1.75	5.02	0.91	1.59
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	37.99	25.05	50.48	45.41

- During 2001, 0.92% of North Dakota citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.⁴⁹

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Hawaii, 2001

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	1.93%	2.73%	0.41%	0.92%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.11	4.25	0.67	1.57
Alcohol dependence	2.71	6.75	1.74	2.57
Alcohol dependence or abuse	9.15	24.15	5.39	8.51
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	10.65	27.09	5.69	9.33

Juveniles

- There were 311 juvenile arrests for drug offenses in North Dakota during 2001.⁵⁰ During 2002, there were 289 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in North Dakota.⁵¹

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, North Dakota, 2000-2002

Offense Type	2000	2001	2002
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Forcible rape	12	9	18
Robbery	0	3	9
Aggravated assault	15	28	19
Burglary	134	175	166
Larceny-theft	1,285	1,134	1,147
Motor vehicle theft	153	130	146
Arson	17	52	15
Drug abuse violations	292	311	289
Driving under the influence	81	90	74
Liquor law violations	2,039	1,890	1,645

- Nearly 270 of the North Dakota juvenile drug arrests in 2001 involved marijuana.⁵² During 2002, there were 251 juvenile drug arrests in North Dakota involving marijuana.⁵³

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, by Drug Involved, North Dakota, 2000-2002

Drug Type	2000	2001	2002
Opiates/cocaine/derivatives	4	0	4
Marijuana	263	269	251
Other drugs/narcotics	25	42	34

- Nearly 10% of North Dakota high school students surveyed in 2001 reported using methamphetamine at least once during their lifetimes.⁵⁴

Percent of Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, by Gender, North Dakota, 2001

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	N/A	N/A	N/A
Current marijuana use	18.4	25.1	22.0
Lifetime cocaine use	7.1	11.0	9.3
Current cocaine use	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lifetime inhalant use	14.9	15.0	15.1
Current inhalant use	1.7	5.6	3.8
Lifetime heroin use	1.6	5.0	3.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	8.3	10.7	9.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.7	6.4	4.3
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.9	3.5	2.4
Tried marijuana before age 13	4.0	9.5	6.9

- Nearly 13% of 12th graders reported using methamphetamine at least once during their lifetimes.⁵⁵

Percent of Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, by Grade, North Dakota, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Current marijuana use	20.7	20.7	21.9	23.8
Lifetime cocaine use	10.9	7.1	6.9	10.9
Current cocaine use	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lifetime inhalant use	17.7	14.8	14.4	12.5
Current inhalant use	6.6	3.8	2.6	1.4
Lifetime heroin use	4.6	3.2	2.0	3.2
Lifetime methamphetamine use	10.3	6.8	7.7	12.8
Lifetime steroid use	4.9	5.4	2.5	3.1
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	3.9	1.0	1.2	2.3
Tired marijuana before age 13	11.6	7.1	4.5	3.3

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 1,542 full-time law enforcement employees in North Dakota (1,104 officers and 438 civilians).⁵⁶

Trafficking and Seizures

- North Dakota shares its northern border with Canada and there are eighteen authorized land ports of entry (POE) in the State. With only a few of the POEs are staffed 24 hours a day, criminals are provided with the opportunity to smuggle drugs without detection.⁵⁷
- Large quantities of methamphetamine produced in California and Washington by Mexican organizations are transported into and distributed throughout North Dakota.⁵⁸
- Mexico-based drug trafficking organizations manage the transportation of marijuana from Mexico to North Dakota, mostly using tractor-trailers.⁵⁹
- Mexican criminal groups often use Native Americans and Indian reservations to facilitate drug distribution in the State.⁶⁰
- MDMA is sometimes transported to North Dakota via Canada. Minneapolis and Denver are also sources of supply for the MDMA distributed in the State.⁶¹
- Most of the methamphetamine seized in North Dakota is produced in Mexico or California. The majority of the marijuana seized in the State is also produced in Mexico.⁶²
- During full year 2003, the DEA and state and local authorities in North Dakota reported 220 methamphetamine lab incidents to the El Paso Intelligence Center.⁶³

Number of Methamphetamine Incidents/Seizures, North Dakota, 2003

Type of Seizure	Number
Chemical/glass/equipment	59
Dumpsite	99
Laboratory	62
Total	220

- Two kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in North Dakota during 2002.⁶⁴

Federal Drug Seizures, North Dakota, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized in kilograms
Cocaine	2.0
Heroin	0.0
Methamphetamine	1.6
Marijuana	0.4

- In 2002, there were 1,543 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in North Dakota under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁶⁵

Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, North Dakota, 2002

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
22	1,414	9	129	1,543

- The number of LSD/hallucinogen seizures by the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) decreased from 2,182 dosage units in 1998 to 281 dosage units in 2000.⁶⁶

Number of LSD/Hallucinogen Seizures, North Dakota BCI, 1994-2000

Year	Dosage Units Seized
1994	452
1995	5,280
1996	393
1997	83
1998	2,182
1999	988
2000	281

- The North Dakota BCI reported three seizures of MDMA tablets during September 2001. The MDMA amounts seized were 20, 30, and 150 tablets, respectively.⁶⁷

Courts

- Drug Courts⁶⁸
As of November 2003, there were 8 drug courts operating or being planned in North Dakota. One drug court had been in existence for over 2 years, 5 drug courts were recently implemented, and 2 drug courts were being planned.

- During FY 2001, 16.8% of the 150 Federally sentenced defendants in North Dakota had committed drug offenses. Fifty-six percent of the drug offenses involved methamphetamine.⁶⁹

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, North Dakota, FY 2001

Drug Type	Offenses	% of Total
Crack cocaine	1	4%
Powder Cocaine	3	12
Heroin	0	0
Marijuana	7	28
Methamphetamine	14	56
Other drug	0	0

Corrections

- As of June 27, 2003, there were 1,197 inmates incarcerated in North Dakota.⁷⁰
- On March 14, 2002, all inmates in the North Dakota correctional system were drug tested. Of the 980 drug tests given, only 5 tests were positive.⁷¹
- During FY 2000-2003, 21.7% of the new male commitments to the Division of Juvenile Services/Community Services committed drug/public order offenses.⁷²

New Juvenile Commitments, by Offense, North Dakota, FY 2001-2003

Offense	Number of New Commitments		Percent of New Commitments	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Person	85	21	23.7%	16.7%
Property	163	53	45.4	42.1
Drug/public order	78	36	21.7	28.6
Status only	33	16	9.2	12.7

Consequences of Use

- From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003, there were 4 North Dakota methamphetamine laboratory sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center in which a child was present.⁷³

Characteristics of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, North Dakota, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	17
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	3
Sites with a child injured	1
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	4
Sites with a child residing at the site	5
Number of children placed in protective custody	8

- Alcohol, drugs, and medications were contributing factors in 37 of the 125 total North Dakota traffic fatalities during 2002.⁷⁴

- Drug-related mortality rates (per 100,000) have increased from 0.16 in 1993 to 1.70 in 2000.⁷⁵

Drug-Related Mortality Rates, North Dakota, 1993-2000

Year	Rate per 100,000
1993	0.16
1994	0.10
1995	0.31
1996	0.62
1997	0.94
1998	0.94
1999	1.60
2000	1.70

Treatment

- During 2000, there were 1,935 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment facilities in North Dakota.⁷⁶ This number increased to 2,171 during 2001.⁷⁷

Primary Substance Abused at Admission, North Dakota, 2000-2001

Primary Substance	2000		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alcohol only	833	43.0%	843	38.8%
Alcohol with secondary drug	610	31.5	668	30.8
Cocaine (smoked)	5	0.3	4	0.2
Cocaine (other route)	7	0.4	9	0.4
Marijuana	340	17.6	400	18.4
Heroin	6	0.3	9	0.4
Other opiates	21	1.1	--	0.0
PCP	--	0.0	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	1	0.1	--	0.0
Amphetamines	90	4.7	151	7.0
Other stimulants	--	0.0	--	0.0
Tranquilizers	8	0.4	10	0.5
Sedatives	2	0.1	1	0.0
Inhalants	9	0.5	6	0.3
Other/unknown	3	0.2	20	0.9
Total	1,935	100.0	2,171	100.0

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

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 North Dakota Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.nd.us/hoeven/>

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- ⁵ North Dakota Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.nd.us/dalrymple/>
- ⁶ North Dakota Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ag.state.nd.us/>
- ⁷ U.S. Senate Web site, North Dakota Members:
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=ND
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- ⁹ City of Bismarck Web site: <http://www.bismarck.org/>
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<http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
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