

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Vermont

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.

Vermont

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

Demographics

- Population: 619,107 (July 2003 Census estimate);¹ 595,826 (2002 American Community Survey)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 96.0% white, 0.6% black/African American, 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native, 0.9% Asian, 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.2% other, 1.2% two or more races, 0.8% Hispanic/Latino origin³

Politics

- Governor: Jim Douglas⁴
- Lieutenant Governor: Brian E. Dubie⁵
- Attorney General: William H. Sorrell⁶
- Secretary of State: Deborah Markowitz⁷
- U.S. Senate: James Jeffords (I), Patrick Leahy (D)⁸
- U.S. House of Representatives: Bernard Sanders⁹
- Capital: Montpelier¹⁰

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹¹
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for areas of Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Chittenden County, Vermont.
- The Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP)¹²
Established in 1996 within the Vermont Department of Health, this program helps Vermont citizens prevent, reduce and/or eliminate alcohol- and other drug-related problems. In partnership with other public and private organizations, ADAP plans, funds, manages, and evaluates a comprehensive, consistent, and effective system of substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Vermont:¹³
 - FY 2003:
 - \$99,800 to Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition, Brattleboro
 - \$100,000 to Central Vermont New Directions, Montpelier
 - \$100,000 to The Barre Danforth Committee, Montpelier
 - FY 2002:
 - \$100,000 to Windsor Area Community Partnership, Inc., Windsor
 - \$98,500 to the South Burlington New Directions Coalition, Burlington
 - \$72,374 to New Directions for Barre, Barre
 - FY 2001:
 - \$63,593 to the Cabot Coalition, Cabot

- \$99,083 to Chittenden Central Supervisory Union, Essex Junction
 - \$100,000 to the Flood Brook Community Collaborative, Londonderry
 - \$100,000 to Health Unlimited, Inc., Windsor
- FY 2000:
 - \$62,841 to Chittenden East Community Partnership, Richmond
 - \$68,416 to Milton New Directions Coalition, Milton
 - \$84,840 to Greater Northfield Collaboration Council, Northfield
 - \$99,830 to Franklin Grand Isle Community Partnership, Inc., St. Albans
 - \$85,660 to Deerfield Valley Community Prevention Partnership, Wilmington
- FY 1999:
 - \$72,926 to Catamount Partnership for Community Health, Bennington
 - \$99,839 to Orleans County Prevention Partnership, Newport
- Office of Weed and Seed¹⁴
There are no Weed and Seed sites in Vermont.
- FY 2003/2004 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Grant Summary for Vermont:¹⁵
 - Formula Funding - \$6,659,823
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$5,140,414
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$809,409
 - Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$410,000
 - Discretionary Funding - \$844,501
 - Mental Health - \$694,826
 - Substance Prevention - \$49,675
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$100,000
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$2,214,235
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$5,290,089
 - Total Funds for Vermont: \$7,504,324
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Vermont: \$2,067,462¹⁶
- FY 2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Vermont: \$283,547¹⁷
- Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant:
 - FY 2003:¹⁸
 - \$499,966 to Rutland County
 - FY 2002: no Vermont recipients¹⁹
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Vermont recipients²⁰
 - FY 2002: no Vermont recipients²¹
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received in Vermont (by funding category):²²
 - Communities (discretionary): \$0.1 million
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$3.5 million
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: \$2.0 million
 - formula: \$2.5 million
 - Law Enforcement:

- discretionary: \$11.9 million
- formula: \$1.7 million
- Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: \$0
 - formula: \$2.7 million
- Victims:
 - discretionary: \$0.3 million
 - formula: \$1.4 million
- Total OJP/COPS funds received in Vermont in FY 2002: \$26.0 million
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipient in Vermont:²³
 - \$125,000 to the Armory Square Apartments, Windsor

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The number of heroin arrests made by the Vermont State Police Drug Task Force (VDTF) increased from 2 in FY 1998 to 98 in FY 2002.²⁴

Number of Drug Arrests, VDTF, Vermont, FY 1998-2002

Drug Type	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Marijuana	72	94	45	38	41
Cocaine	34	42	65	67	43
Heroin	2	16	25	46	98
Other	33	16	11	36	21

- There were 3,236 drug offenses known to law enforcement in Vermont during 2002.²⁵

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, Vermont, 2002

Offense	2002
Homicide	7
Forcible rape	153
Robbery	104
Aggravated assault	490
Burglary	4,118
Larceny	12,294
Motor vehicle theft	808
Arson	159
Drugs	3,236
Liquor violations	2,592
Driving under influence	4,435

- The number of heroin-related arrests in Vermont increased from 141 in 2000 to 177 in 2001. Cocaine arrests increased from 134 in 2000 to 208 in 2001.²⁶
- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 15 drug violation arrests in Vermont during 2001.²⁷

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Vermont, 1997-2001

Year	Drug Arrests
1997	48
1998	78
1999	101
2000	64
2001	15

Drugs

- Cocaine

While powder cocaine is readily available throughout Vermont, crack is primarily available in major metropolitan areas. In 2002, a rock of crack sold for \$50.²⁸ In 2001, powder cocaine sold for \$100/gram and crack sold for \$200/gram.²⁹
- Heroin

Heroin is the primary drug threat to Vermont because it is increasingly available and the level of abuse is high and increasing rapidly. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of young heroin abusers in the state.³⁰ The Vermont State Police report that heroin prices have reached \$30/bag with purity levels at 75-80%.³¹
- Marijuana

Most of the marijuana available in Vermont is produced in Mexico. However, high-quality BC Bud from Canada and locally produced marijuana are also available.³² Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly abused drug in Vermont. Marijuana prices reported in 2001 ranged from \$180 to \$250 per ounce.³³
- Methamphetamine

The production, distribution, and abuse of methamphetamine in Vermont are extremely limited.³⁴
- Club Drugs

MDMA poses a low but increasing threat to Vermont. In the fourth quarter of 2002, MDMA sold for \$18-\$30/tablet.³⁵
- Other Drugs

Pharmaceutical diversion and abuse pose a growing threat to Vermont. OxyContin is more commonly diverted and abused than any other pharmaceutical. Incidents of OxyContin diversion have increased so dramatically that the state welfare program stopped funding OxyContin prescriptions.³⁶ Other commonly diverted pharmaceutical substances in Vermont include Vicodin, Fentanyl, Hydrocodone, methadone, Ritalin, Xanax and Diazepam.³⁷
- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.93% of Vermont citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³⁸

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Vermont, 2000-2001 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.84%	6.34%	1.10%	1.93%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.07	8.37	1.44	2.67
Alcohol dependence	2.10	6.54	1.97	2.55
Alcohol dependence or abuse	6.15	16.16	4.84	6.37
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	8.79	20.28	6.03	8.07

- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 28.16% of Vermont citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³⁹

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

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	15.99%	31.75%	6.37%	10.50%
Past month use of marijuana	13.20	28.56	5.39	9.06
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.61	10.51	2.22	3.59
Past year cocaine use	1.58	7.52	1.35	2.13
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	23.78	14.48	30.93	28.16

Juveniles

- Twelve percent of Vermont 8th graders, 28% of 9th graders, 31% of 10th graders, 29% of 11th graders, and 29% of 12th graders surveyed in 2003 reported being offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey.⁴⁰
- Sixty-two percent of Vermont 12th graders surveyed during 2003 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.⁴¹

Percent of Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Vermont, 2003

Drug Use Behavior	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	20%	30%	45%	53%	62%
Current marijuana use	10	20	27	31	37
Used marijuana before age 13	12	11	12	11	12
Used marijuana on school property	3	6	8	9	9
Lifetime inhalant use	14	14	13	11	12
Lifetime cocaine use	4	6	7	10	13
Current cocaine use	2	4	4	5	7
Used cocaine before age 13	2	2	2	2	2
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	3	5	5	5	5
Lifetime heroin use	2	3	3	3	3
Used heroin before age 13	1	1	1	1	1
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3	6	6	8	8
Lifetime hallucinogens use	5	9	11	16	19
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	2	2	2	2	2

- Less than half (46%) of Vermont 12th graders surveyed during 2003 reported feeling that it was wrong or very wrong for kids their age to use marijuana. Thirty-four percent of 12th graders thought there was a great risk in harming themselves from using marijuana regularly.⁴²

Disapproval/Perceived Harmfulness of Drugs Felt by Students, Vermont, 2003

	8	9	10	11	12
Wrong/very wrong to use marijuana	81%	68%	59%	54%	46%
Wrong/very wrong to smoke cigarettes	83	77	73	68	57
Wrong/very wrong to drink alcohol	73	57	48	40	34
Great risk from using marijuana regularly	62	50	40	37	34
Great risk from smoking 1+ packs of cigar./day	63	63	68	69	69
Great risk from drinking 1-2 drinks every day	26	24	23	21	20

- Nearly 80% of Vermont 12th graders surveyed during 2003 reported that it is easy or very easy to get marijuana.⁴³

Perceived Availability of Substances by Students, Vermont, 2003

	8	9	10	11	12
Easy/very easy to get cigarettes	45%	62%	71%	79%	89%
Easy/very easy to get alcohol	55	66	74	76	82
Easy/very east to get marijuana	32	55	67	74	79

Enforcement

- Drug Investigation Unit⁴⁴
The Vermont State Police Drug Investigation Unit/Drug Task Force is charged with investigating drug trafficking throughout the state. Most officers assigned to this unit work with either the Northern or Southern Task Force and concentrate their efforts on mid- to upper-level drug dealers.
- As of October 2002, there were 1,343 full-time law enforcement employees in Vermont (956 officers and 387 civilians).⁴⁵

Trafficking and Seizures

- Vermont borders three states (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York) and Canada and has an extensive transportation infrastructure making transportation of illegal drugs into and through the state relatively easy.⁴⁶
- Cocaine and heroin traffickers in Vermont obtain the drug from Massachusetts and New York. Another source area for cocaine traffickers is Connecticut.⁴⁷
- Marijuana is often brought into Vermont from the Southwestern U.S. using automobiles and tractor-trailers. Canada is another major source area for the marijuana found in the state.⁴⁸
- Approximately 16.6 kilograms of marijuana were seized by Federal agencies in Vermont during 2002.⁴⁹

Federal Drug Seizures, Vermont, 2002

Drug Type	Amount (in Kilograms)
Cocaine	3.3
Heroin	0.1
Methamphetamine	0
Marijuana	16.6

- More than 2,300 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Vermont under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2002.⁵⁰

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Vermont, 2002

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		<u>Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>
<u>Plots Eradicated</u>	<u>Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>	<u>Grows Seized</u>	<u>Plants Eradicated</u>	
103	2,009	11	293	2,302

- According to the DEA, no clandestine labs have been seized in Vermont since 1990, when 1 methamphetamine lab was seized.⁵¹

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵²
As of November 2003, there were 3 drug courts in Vermont that had been recently implemented (within the past 2 years) and 3 drug courts that were being planned.
- During FY 2001, 41.3% of Federally-sentenced defendants in Vermont were drug offenders. Approximately 24% of the drug offenses involved heroin.⁵³

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Vermont, FY 2001

<u>Drug Type</u>	<u># of Offenses</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Heroin	11	24.4%
Powder cocaine	9	20
Marijuana	9	20
Crack cocaine	3	6.7
Methamphetamine	3	6.7
Other	10	22.2

Corrections

- As of December 31, 2002, there were 1,863 inmates in Vermont.⁵⁴
- As of December 31, 2002, there were 9,767 adults on probation and 900 adults on parole in Vermont.⁵⁵
- Drug Testing Program⁵⁶
The Vermont Department of Corrections tests offenders in correctional facilities and under correctional supervision. Offenders are tested at admission, at random, and upon indication of use. Nearly 3,000 drug tests involving 575 offenders were conducted in August 2002. Approximately 8.4% of the tests were positive. This is less than the 14% of positive results in 2001. More than half (55%) of the positive tests in 2002 were positive for cannabis and 9% were positive for opiates.

Consequences of Use

- The Vermont Office of Chief Medical Examiner reported 12 deaths in the state during 2001 that involved heroin. There were also 7 cocaine-related deaths and 6 oxycodone-related deaths during the year.⁵⁷

Treatment

- During 2001, there were 7,055 substance abuse treatment admissions in Vermont.⁵⁸
The number of admissions to treatment increased to 7,541 during 2002.⁵⁹

Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment, Vermont, 2001-2002

Drug Type	2001		2002	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,979	42.2%	2,769	36.7%
Alcohol w/ second. drug	1,914	27.1	1,936	25.7
Cocaine – smoked	114	1.6	175	2.3
Cocaine – other route	136	1.9	193	2.6
Marijuana	1,080	15.3	1,241	16.5
Heroin	550	7.8	841	11.2
Other opiates	194	2.7	272	3.6
Hallucinogens	10	0.1	10	0.1
Amphetamines	10	0.1	22	0.3
Other stimulants	16	0.2	6	0.1
Tranquilizers	13	0.2	19	0.3
Sedatives	9	0.1	8	0.1
Inhalants	3	0.0	6	0.1
Other/none specified	27	0.4	43	0.6
Total	7,055	100.0	7,541	100.0

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, Annual Population Estimates by State:

<http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/states/tables/NST-EST2003-01.php>

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

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/Tabular/040/04000US501.htm>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Vermont Governor Web site: <http://www.vermont.gov/governor/>

⁵ Vermont Lieutenant Governor Web site: <http://www.ltgov.state.vt.us/>

⁶ Vermont Attorney General Web site: <http://www.atg.state.vt.us/>

⁷ Vermont Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/>

⁸ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>

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

¹⁰ Vermont Web site: <http://www.vermont.gov/>

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

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

¹² Vermont Department of Health, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs Web site:

<http://www.state.vt.us/adap/>

¹³ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Vermont section:

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¹⁵ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2003/2004 Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/State.htm>

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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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