

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Rhode Island

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.

Rhode Island

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

Demographics

- Population: 1,076,164 (July 2003 Census estimate);¹ 1,030,762 (2002 American Community Survey)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 81.6% white, 4.0% black/African American, 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native, 2.5% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.6% other, 1.5% two or more races, 9.4% Hispanic/Latino origin³

Politics

- Governor: Donald Carcieri⁴
- Lieutenant Governor: Charles J. Fogarty⁵
- Attorney General: Patrick Lynch⁶
- Secretary of State: Matthew Brown⁷
- U.S. Senate: Lincoln Chafee (R), Jack Reed (D)⁸
- U.S. House of Representatives: Patrick J. Kennedy (D), James Langevin (D)⁹
- Capital: Providence¹⁰

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹¹
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for areas in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, and Providence County in Rhode Island.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Rhode Island:¹²
 - FY 2003: \$100,000 to Pawtucket Substance Abuse Task Force Coalition, Providence
 - FY 2002: no grantees
 - FY 2001: \$87,287 awarded to the Nickerson Community Center, Providence
 - FY 2000: no grantees
 - FY 1999: no grantees
- Office of Weed and Seed¹³
Two sites in Rhode Island have received funding and official recognition as Federal Weed and Seed sites: Pleasant View (Pawtucket) and Olneyville (Providence).
- FY 2003/2004 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Grant Summary for Rhode Island:¹⁴
 - Formula Funding - \$8,808,475
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$6,671,798
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$1,426,677
 - Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000

- Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$410,000
- Discretionary Funding - \$8,498,506
 - Mental Health - \$2,740,322
 - Substance Prevention - \$3,000,000
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$2,758,184
- Total Mental Health Funds: \$4,876,999
- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$12,429,982
- Total Funds for Rhode Island: \$17,306,981
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Rhode Island: \$2,700,168¹⁵
- FY 2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Rhode Island: \$307,368¹⁶
- Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant:
 - FY 2003:¹⁷
 - \$300,000 to Rhode Island Family Court, Providence
 - FY 2002: no Rhode Island grantees¹⁸
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Rhode Island grantees¹⁹
 - FY 2002: no Rhode Island grantees²⁰
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received in Rhode Island (by funding category):²¹
 - Communities (discretionary): \$0.7 million
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$4.0 million
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: \$0.8 million
 - formula: \$2.7 million
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: \$8.2 million
 - formula: \$3.6 million
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: \$1.1 million
 - formula: \$3.1 million
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: \$0
 - formula: \$3.3 million
 - Total OJP/COPS funds received in Rhode Island in FY 2002: \$27.5 million
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Drug Elimination grants received in Rhode Island:²²
 - \$125,000 to Southlawn Palms Apartments, Providence

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2002, there were 38,380 crime index offenses known to police in Rhode Island.²³

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Rhode Island, 2000-2002

Offense	2000	2001	2002
Murder	45	39	41
Rape	412	416	394
Robbery	922	986	916
Aggravated assault	1,742	1,844	1,699
Burglary	6,620	6,824	6,414
Larceny-theft	22,038	23,875	24,043
Motor vehicle theft	4,665	5,043	4,873
Total index offenses	36,445	39,027	38,380

- There were 609 adult arrests for the sale/manufacturing of opium or cocaine in Rhode Island during 2002.²⁴

Number of Arrests for Drug Sale/Manufacturing, Rhode Island, 2002

Type of Drug Involved	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Opium or cocaine	38	609	647
Marijuana	59	294	353
Synthetic narcotics	2	16	18
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	7	33	40
Total sale/manufacturing arrests	106	952	1,058

- There were 1,592 adult arrests for marijuana possession in Rhode Island during 2002.²⁵

Number of Arrests for Drug Possession, Rhode Island, 2002

Type of Drug Involved	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Opium or cocaine	45	899	944
Marijuana	511	1,592	2,103
Synthetic narcotics	2	13	15
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	11	103	114
Total possession arrests	569	2,607	3,176

Drugs

- Cocaine

Cocaine is the primary drug of choice in Rhode Island. High quality cocaine with a purity of 60-90% is available in the state.²⁶ During the first quarter of 2003, powder cocaine sold for \$23,000-\$28,000/kilogram; \$900-\$1,000/ounce; and \$90-\$100/gram. Crack cocaine during the same time period sold for \$1,000-\$1,500/ounce and \$20-\$50/rock. Cocaine is more frequently associated with violent crime than any other illicit drug in the state.²⁷

- Heroin

Heroin is widely available in Rhode Island and purity levels are high. During 2001, purity levels of heroin submitted to the DEA Northeast Laboratory reached 94%.²⁸ During the first quarter of 2003, heroin sold for \$70,000-\$90,000/kilogram; \$2,000-

\$3,000/ounce; \$70-\$300/gram and \$6-\$10/bag. South American heroin is readily available and Southeast Asian heroin is also available, although to a lesser extent.²⁹

➤ Marijuana

Marijuana is readily available in all areas of Rhode Island. Most of the marijuana found in the state is Mexican. However, limited amounts of marijuana from other countries as well as domestic marijuana are used to supplement the Mexican marijuana. Hydroponically produced and BC Bud marijuana are also available.³⁰ During the first quarter of 2003, commercial grade marijuana sold for \$850-\$1,000/kilogram; \$90-\$100/ounce; \$25-\$50/gram; and \$5/joint. During the same period, sinsemilla sold for \$3,000-\$5,000/pound; \$300-\$500/ounce; and \$15-\$20/joint.³¹

➤ Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is not commonly abused in Rhode Island and is not considered a significant threat to the state.³²

➤ Club Drugs

An increase in the use of club drugs has been noticed in Rhode Island. Nearly all local police departments in the state have reported an increase in MDMA, GHB, and ketamine use and availability.³³ During 2003, LSD sold for \$130/100 doses and \$5/dosage unit. Ketamine sold for \$75-\$100/vial and \$20/0.2 grams in 2003.³⁴

➤ Diverted Pharmaceuticals

OxyContin is the most popular pharmaceutical substance abused in the state. Fraudulent prescriptions, doctor shopping, pharmacy break-ins, and hospital thefts are all methods used to obtain the drug.³⁵ Other pharmaceuticals commonly diverted include hydrocodone (Vicodin), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), and methylphenidate (Ritalin). OxyContin street prices vary depending on geographic location, although the drug is usually sold for \$0.50-\$1 per milligram.³⁶

➤ According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.30% of Rhode Island citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³⁷

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

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.48%	4.58%	0.67%	1.30%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.82	6.60	1.00	2.04
Alcohol dependence	1.82	5.61	2.00	2.40
Alcohol dependence or abuse	5.79	17.98	5.43	6.91
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	8.22	21.09	6.00	7.96

➤ According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 38.33% of Rhode Island citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³⁸

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

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	12.98%	23.96%	5.24%	8.19%
Past month use of marijuana	10.29	21.53	4.16	6.78
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.44	8.53	1.87	3.00
Past year cocaine use	1.44	6.12	1.10	1.71
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	30.23	18.30	42.33	38.33

Juveniles

- More than half (53.7%) of Rhode Island male high school students surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.³⁹

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Gender, Rhode Island, 2001

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	42.7%	53.7%	48.3%
Current marijuana use	29.4	36.4	33.2
Lifetime cocaine use	7.8	11.8	9.9
Current cocaine use	3.6	7.2	5.5
Lifetime inhalant use	8.9	14.6	11.8
Current inhalant use	2.3	6.9	4.7
Lifetime heroin use	1.9	5.9	4.0
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.6	11.4	8.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.1	8.3	5.4
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.0	5.6	3.5
Tried marijuana before age 13	8.2	17.2	12.8

- Approximately 60% of Rhode Island high school seniors surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.⁴⁰

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Rhode Island, 2001

Drug Type and Use	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Lifetime marijuana use	40.1%	44.7%	51.4%	60.3%
Current marijuana use	29.2	27.6	33.8	44.3
Lifetime cocaine use	9.5	8.3	10.2	11.1
Current cocaine use	6.7	5.6	4.4	3.7
Lifetime inhalant use	15.4	8.6	12.0	9.8
Current inhalant use	7.5	3.9	3.1	2.7
Lifetime heroin use	4.6	5.0	3.3	1.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	6.8	7.5	8.2	11.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	6.7	6.2	3.9	3.0
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	4.0	3.3	3.2	1.8

- During 2002, there were 7,808 juvenile arrests in Rhode Island.⁴¹

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, Rhode Island, 2002

Offense Type	2002
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	7
Forcible rape	23
Robbery	72
Aggravated assault	186
Burglary-breaking or entering	319
Larceny-theft	1,075
Motor vehicle theft	163
Arson	85
Total juvenile arrests	7,808

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 3,122 full-time law enforcement employees in Rhode Island (2,485 officers and 637 civilians).⁴²
- Narcotics and Organized Crime Unit⁴³
The Narcotics and Organized Crime Unit of the Rhode Island Department of the Attorney General is responsible for the investigative management of narcotics, organized crime, and asset forfeiture cases.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Rhode Island is often used as a transshipment point for drugs distributed throughout New England.⁴⁴
- The majority of the cocaine found in Rhode Island is transported by local suppliers who travel to New York and return to distribute the product. Cocaine also arrives in Rhode Island by tractor-trailers originating on the Mexican border.⁴⁵
- Dominican criminal groups are the primary wholesale and retail distributors of heroin in Rhode Island. Colombian criminal groups distribute wholesale quantities of heroin. African American and Hispanic criminal groups and gangs distribute heroin at the retail level.⁴⁶
- Dominican criminal groups in Rhode Island primarily distribute powder cocaine, although Colombian criminal groups also distribute the drug at the wholesale level.⁴⁷
- There is not a specific group that controls the distribution of marijuana in Rhode Island. Caucasian criminal groups, Dominican, Jamaican, Mexican and other Hispanic criminal groups distribute marijuana at the wholesale level in the state. African American, Caucasian, and Hispanic criminal groups, local independent dealers, outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs), and street gangs distribute marijuana at the retail level in Rhode Island.⁴⁸
- During 2003, the DEA and state and local authorities in Rhode Island reported 1 methamphetamine lab seizure to the El Paso Intelligence Center.⁴⁹
- During 2002, Federal agencies seized nearly 2.9 kilograms of cocaine in Rhode Island.⁵⁰

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Rhode Island, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kilograms)
Cocaine	2.9
Heroin	0.5
Methamphetamine	0
Marijuana	0.6

- During 2002, there were 551 total cultivated marijuana plants eradicated and seized in Rhode Island under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁵¹

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Rhode Island, 2002

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
17	551	N/A	N/A	551

- In July 2001, the Providence Resident Office of the DEA seized the first operational MDMA lab in the state. The lab had been operating for approximately two months and was capable of producing thousands of tablets.⁵²

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵³
As of November 2003, there was 1 drug court in Rhode Island that had been in existence for more than 2 years and 6 drug courts that had recently been implemented. There were no drug courts being planned in Rhode Island at that time.
- During FY 2001, 39.2% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Rhode Island had committed drug offenses. Forty percent of the drug offenses involved crack cocaine.⁵⁴

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Rhode Island, FY 2001

Drug Type	Offenses	% of Total
Crack cocaine	16	40.0%
Powder cocaine	10	25.0
Heroin	7	17.5
Marijuana	6	15.0
Methamphetamine	0	0.0
Other drug	1	2.5

Corrections

- Of the 2,715 sentenced prisoners in Rhode Island on October 2, 2003, 545 had committed a drug offense.⁵⁵

Sentenced Population, by Offense, Rhode Island, October 2, 2003

Offense Type	Male	Female	Total
Violent	1,011	20	1,031
Sex	318	0	318
Breaking and entering	227	9	236
Drug	503	42	545
Nonviolent	509	76	585
Total	2,568	147	2,715

- On October 2, 2003, there were 237 drug offenders awaiting trial in Rhode Island.⁵⁶

Number of Offenders Awaiting Trial, by Offense, Rhode Island, October 2, 2003

Offense Type	Male	Female	Total
Violent	303	13	316
Sex	64	0	64
Breaking and entering	76	6	82
Drug	210	27	237
Nonviolent	149	30	179
Total	802	76	878

- There were 6,152 drug offenders on probation in Rhode Island on October 2, 2003.⁵⁷

Number of Offenders on Probation, by Offense, Rhode Island, October 2, 2003

Offense Type	Male	Female	Total
Violent	7,414	870	8,284
Sex	724	15	739
Breaking and entering	964	80	1,044
Drug	5,052	1,100	6,152
Nonviolent	4,477	1,854	6,331
Missing	126	24	150
Total	18,757	3,943	22,700

- There were 140 drug offenders on parole in Rhode Island on October 2, 2003.⁵⁸

Number of Offenders on Parole, by Offense, Rhode Island, October 2, 2003

Offense Type	Male	Female	Total
Violent	312	22	334
Sex	12	1	13
Breaking and entering	58	1	59
Drug	127	13	140
Nonviolent	21	4	25
Missing	2	2	4
Total	532	43	575

- During calendar year 2003, a total of 21,269 urine specimens were collected from 5,594 Rhode Island inmates for drug testing.⁵⁹

Reasons for Collecting Inmate Urine Specimens, Rhode Island, 2003

Reason	# of Specimens	% of Total
Cause	14,050	66.1%
Random	1,945	9.1
Treatment	5,274	24.8
Total	21,269	100.0

- The positive rate for the inmate drug tests conducted in 2003 was 0.63%.⁶⁰

Number of Urinalysis Collections and Positive Rates, Rhode Island, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Collections	16,870	19,672	23,361	22,518	21,269
Positives	163	157	220	144	135
Percent positive	0.97%	0.80%	0.94%	0.64%	0.63%

- Approximately 4% (\$5,061,814) of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections expenditures in FY 2002 were for Institutional Rehabilitative and Educational Services, which includes substance abuse services.⁶¹

Treatment

- During 2002, there were 13,242 admissions to treatment programs in Rhode Island.⁶² There were 13,509 treatment admissions in Rhode Island during 2001.⁶³

Admissions to Treatment, Rhode Island, 2001-2002

Drug Type	2001		2002	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alcohol only	2,403	17.8%	2,637	19.9%
Alcohol with secondary drug	2,300	17.0	2,248	17.0
Cocaine – smoked	1,135	8.4	1,167	8.8
Cocaine – other route of administration	368	2.7	372	2.8
Marijuana	1,639	12.1	1,769	13.4
Heroin	5,046	37.4	4,310	32.5
Other opiates	499	3.7	593	4.5
PCP	2	0.0	2	0.0
Hallucinogens	14	0.1	20	0.2
Amphetamines	16	0.1	21	0.2
Other stimulants	3	0.0	--	0.0
Tranquilizers	38	0.3	52	0.4
Sedatives	8	0.1	14	0.1
Inhalants	7	0.1	8	0.1
Other	31	0.2	29	0.2
Total admissions	13,509	100.0	13,242	100.0

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