

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Cincinnati, Ohio

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.

Cincinnati, Ohio

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

Demographics

- Population (2002 Census): 295,465¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 Census): 48.7% white; 45.2% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.9% Asian; 0.3% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% some other race; 1.8% two or more races; 0.8% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Cincinnati is located in Hamilton County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Charlie Luken⁴
- Vice Mayor: Alicia Reece⁵
- City Council: Y. Laketa Cole, James R. Tarbell, John Cranley, Pat DeWine, David Crowley, David Pepper, Christopher Smitherman, Sam Malone⁶
- City Manager: Valerie Lemmie⁷
- Chief of Police: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr.⁸
- Hamilton County Sheriff: Simon L. Leis, Jr.⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati¹⁰
Formed in 1995 to mobilize the community to take an active role in preventing substance abuse, this Coalition has broadened to a ten county region encompassing Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Brown, and Clermont counties in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties in Northern Kentucky; and Franklin and Dearborn counties in Indiana. The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati focuses on regional initiatives, while member coalitions work to bring initiatives into each neighborhood throughout the region.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Cincinnati:¹¹
 - FY 2003: \$75,000 to the Coalition for a Drug-Free Cincinnati (Coalition Mentoring Program)
 - FY 2002: no grantees
 - FY 2001: no grantees
 - FY 2000: \$100,000 awarded to Northeast Community Challenge Coalition
 - FY 1999: \$99,555 awarded to Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹²
There are 3 sites in Cincinnati that have been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites.
- There were no Cincinnati or Hamilton County recipients of the Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant in FY 2003.¹³

- There were no Cincinnati or Hamilton County recipients of the FY 2003 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁴
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Cincinnati:¹⁵
 - discretionary: \$7,187,500
 - formula: \$955,972
- FY 2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Funds awarded to Cincinnati grantees:¹⁶
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$788,553
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$1,200,000
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$899,700
- Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amounts received in Cincinnati in FY 2001:¹⁷
 - \$200,000 to Maple Court Apartments
 - \$200,000 to Crescent Court Apartments
 - \$117,000 to Alms Hill Apartments

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January through November 2003, the Cincinnati Police Department made 10,577 adult and juvenile drug arrests.¹⁸ During full year 2002, there were 8,681 drug arrests in Cincinnati.¹⁹

Number of Drug Arrests, Cincinnati, 2000-November 2003

Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-Nov. 2003
12,049	6,818	8,681	10,577

- From January through November 2003, there were 26,458 Part I offenses known to the Cincinnati Police Department.²⁰ During full year 2002, the Cincinnati Police Department reported 29,226 Part I offenses.²¹

Number of Part I Offenses Known to Police, Cincinnati, 2001-November 2003

Offense	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-Nov. 2003
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	49	58	58
Forcible rape	330	390	310
Robbery	1,895	2,413	1,994
Aggravated assault	1,294	1,328	1,135
Burglary	5,799	6,491	5,505
Larceny-theft	13,180	13,970	13,287
Motor vehicle theft	3,596	4,576	4,169
Part I total	26,143	29,226	26,458

- From January through November 2003, there were 1,128 traffic citations and arrests in Cincinnati for driving under the influence.²² This is up from 902 in 2002 and 919 in 2001.²³

- Since 1990, the Cincinnati Police Department's Pharmaceutical Diversion Squad has investigated more than 2,600 cases, resulting in more than 1,300 felony drug arrests for pharmaceutical diversion offenses.²⁴
- In 1990, the Cincinnati Police Department reported only 19 arrests for heroin possession or trafficking, compared to 464 arrests in 1999.²⁵
- In the greater Cincinnati area during 2000, 2.1% of households reported having a member within the household who had been arrested at least once in the past 12 months due to drinking or using drugs.²⁶

Drugs

- **Cocaine**
Crack users in Cincinnati tend to be African-American and of a lower socioeconomic background. However, middle and upper socioeconomic status populations are also reported to use crack. Crack rocks sell for \$5-\$50 and a gram sells for \$100. Powder cocaine is available, but not as widely as crack. Middle and upper socioeconomic status, white populations tend to use powder cocaine. These users often purchase the drug on weekends and have a traditional job during the week. A gram of powder cocaine sells for \$100.²⁷ The Cincinnati Police Department reports that powdered cocaine and crack cocaine are the biggest problems in the city. Reports indicate that street-level cocaine distributors in Cincinnati convert powder cocaine into crack in their homes or "stash houses."²⁸
- **Heroin**
The availability of heroin is increasing in the Cincinnati metropolitan area where lower cost, higher purity South American heroin has contributed to increased abuse. A two-block section of 15th Street has been notorious for open-air heroin sales. Heroin in this area is high in purity and can be smoked or snorted. A bundle of the powder form sells for \$20.²⁹ Many transient teens and young adults in their 20's use heroin and are involved in the sex trade. Mexican heroin is relatively high in quality and is now prevalent through the streets of Cincinnati.³⁰
- **Marijuana**
Marijuana is readily available in the Cincinnati area and from multiple sources, including homegrown, hydroponically grown, wild crops, Mexican, Jamaican, and Colombian. The THC content is typically 3-10% for street marijuana. An ounce of marijuana sells for \$100-\$200.³¹
- **Methamphetamine**
The DEA Resident Office in Cincinnati notes the availability of methamphetamine in retail quantities.³²
- **Club Drugs**
LSD is readily available at doses of 25-75 micrograms in Cincinnati. Psilocybin is available in the Cincinnati area. Mescaline and Peyote are rare and expensive in this area. MDMA is readily available and is often used at rave parties by people in their 20's. MDMA use is moving toward younger populations and into African-American populations.³³
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**
Heavy abuse of OxyContin has been reported in Cincinnati.³⁴ Cincinnati is distinguished as "Pill Town." The majority of opioid drugs used in Cincinnati are

diverted pharmaceutical opioids. Xanax is the drug of choice among benzodiazepine abusers. Soma is also sought out as a drug of abuse. Depressants are often taken with alcohol to intensify effects. This trend has led to increases in overdose and addictive behavior.³⁵

➤ **Inhalants**

Inhalant users tend to be between the ages of 9 and 15, although older users have been occasionally reported.³⁶

- Of the individuals surveyed in Cincinnati in 2002, approximately 1.2% reported that a doctor had at some point told them they have a drug addiction.³⁷

Juveniles

- The Cincinnati Drug and Poison Information Center (DPIC) has cited a drug abuse trend for teenagers and young adults, usually between the ages of 13 and 19 years old. Youth are deliberately ingesting large amounts of Coricidin (Cough and Cold). Some users take 15 or more tablets at one time seeking an LSD-like "high" from the dextromethorphan, a non-prescription cough suppressant. Many of the users learned of the practice on the Internet or from schoolmates.³⁸

Enforcement

- As of October 2002, there were 1,272 full-time law enforcement employees working in Cincinnati (990 officers and 282 civilians).³⁹

➤ **Regional Narcotics Unit (RENU)**⁴⁰

This multi-agency organization investigates primary sources of illicit drugs in the Cincinnati area. The Narcotics Unit of the Cincinnati Police Department is one of the agencies involved with RENU.

➤ **Street Corner Unit**⁴¹

This unit of the Cincinnati Police Department is responsible for the Department's undercover operations involving street drug sales.

➤ **Pharmaceutical Diversion Squad**⁴²

Created in 1990, the Pharmaceutical Diversion Squad of the Cincinnati Police Department is responsible for the investigation of the illegal diversion of pharmaceutical drugs and health care fraud.

➤ **Special Operations Unit**⁴³

Within the Organized Crime Division of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, this unit investigates retail drug trafficking activity in Hamilton County.

Trafficking/Seizures

- Wholesale distributors use major cities such as Cincinnati as distribution centers for smaller cities in and outside of the state.⁴⁴

- The use of commercial airlines, as well as airfreight and airmail, to transport drugs into Ohio is increasing. As one of the major airports in Ohio, the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport offers approximately 600 non-stop daily departures to over 100 cities worldwide.⁴⁵

- The principal street-level distributors of crack in Cincinnati are street gangs and Mexican and Puerto Rican criminal groups.⁴⁶

- The DEA Resident Office in Cincinnati reports that Mexican nationals are responsible for most of the methamphetamine in the area. Locally operated methamphetamine labs are also increasing the availability of meth in the Cincinnati area.⁴⁷
- The Cincinnati Police Department reports that marijuana is transported into the area from the Southwest Border.⁴⁸
- Heroin has increased in availability due to the influx of Hispanic immigrants bringing Mexican heroin with them as a source of income.⁴⁹
- White motorcycle gangs transport and distribute methamphetamine throughout Cincinnati.⁵⁰
- From January through November 2003, the Cincinnati Police Department seized approximately 7,421 grams of crack cocaine.⁵¹ In full year 2002, they seized 7,486 grams of crack cocaine.⁵²

Amount (in Grams) of Cocaine Seized by Cincinnati Police Department, 2000-Nov. 2003

Drug	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-Nov. 2003
Powder cocaine	2,880	1,592	2,771	2,298
Crack cocaine	5,981	4,482	7,486	7,421

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵³
As of November 2003, there was 1 drug court in Cincinnati that has been operating for over 2 years. There were no additional drug courts being planned or recently implemented in the city.

Corrections

- The Corrections Division of the Hamilton Sheriff's Office is responsible for the operation of all adult detention facilities in Hamilton County under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office. The average daily inmate population within the Corrections Division facilities is 2,000, with an estimated 55,000 admissions annually. The total system capacity is 2,270.⁵⁴

Consequences of Use

- Between January 1 and February 14, 2000, the DPIC reported approximately 28 calls related to the abuse of dextromethorphan, 22 of the calls were specifically about Coricidin. Nineteen of the 28 calls were for ingestion, and 12 of the 19 were treated in hospitals.⁵⁵
- During 2000, 0.8% of the households in the greater Cincinnati area had a member who had been injured because of the use of alcohol or other drugs.⁵⁶

Treatment

- Of those residents surveyed in Cincinnati during 2002, 4.1% reported that they or a member of their household has experienced a drug or alcohol abuse problem during the last 12 months.⁵⁷

- One percent of the households surveyed in Cincinnati in 2002 reported that they or a member of their household sought treatment for a drug/alcohol problem.⁵⁸
- Approximately 14% (13.8%) of those surveyed in Cincinnati in 2002 reported that their health insurance provides complete coverage for substance abuse treatment services, while 12.8% said they were not covered at all.⁵⁹

Sources

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⁹ Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.hcso.org/index.shtm>

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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

