

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Cleveland, Ohio

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 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.

Cleveland, Ohio

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

Demographics

- Population (2002 American Community Survey): 464,814¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 38.9% white; 51.9% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.8% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% other race; 0.9% two or more races; 7.2% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Cleveland is located in Cuyahoga County.

Politics

- Mayor: Jane L. Campbell³
- City Council Members (Wards 1-21, respectively): Joseph Jones; Robert J. White, III; Zachary Reed; Kenneth Johnson; Frank Jackson; Patricia Britt; Fannie Lewis; Sabra Scott; Kevin Conwell; Roosevelt Coats; Michael Polensek; Edward Rybka; Joe Cimperman; Nelson Cintron, Jr.; Merle Gordon; Michael O'Malley; Matthew Zone; Jay Westbrook; Dona Brady; Martin Sweeney; Michael Dolan⁴
- Cleveland Department of Public Safety Director: Sanford Watson⁵
- Cleveland Division of Police Chief: Edward Lohn⁶
- Cuyahoga County Sheriff: Gerald T. McFaul⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1999, the Ohio HIDTA is responsible for the following counties:
Cuyahogo, Lucas, Mahoning, Stark, and Summit.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Cleveland (total funds received since original award year):⁹
 - FY 2003:
 - \$100,000 to the Hispanic Community Services Coalition
 - \$100,000 to the Substance Abuse Initiative of Greater Cleveland
 - FY 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999: no Cleveland grantees
- Community Capacity Development Office¹⁰
There are currently no Weed and Seed sites in Cleveland.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Funds awarded to Cleveland grantees:¹¹
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$1,340,000
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$770,965
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$ 2,236,145
- Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Cleveland grantees¹²

- FY 2002: no Cleveland grantees¹³
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Cleveland grantees¹⁴
 - FY 2002: no Cleveland grantees¹⁵
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Cleveland:¹⁶
 - Communities (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 3 awards valued at \$700,000
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 9 awards valued at \$6,556,623
 - formula: 3 awards valued at \$1,180,342
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: 0 awards
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$600,000
 - formula: 0 awards
- Cleveland did not receive any funding from the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁷

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- On January 24, 2003, law enforcement officials in Cleveland dismantled a sophisticated cocaine trafficking ring. The trafficking organization was lead by Canada citizens operating out of Mexico who were smuggling large amounts of cocaine to the Cleveland area. Individuals from the following agencies were involved in the investigation: Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Attorney's Office for Northern Ohio Eastern District, Cleveland Police Department, Bay Village Police Department, Lakewood Police Department, and the Western Enforcement Bureau.¹⁸
- There were 80 murder/non-negligent homicide offenses known to the police in Cleveland during 2002.¹⁹ Preliminary data for January to June 2003 indicate that there were 36 murders known to Cleveland police during that time period.²⁰

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Cleveland, 2002-June 2003

Offense	Full Year 2002	Jan.-June 2003
Homicide	80	36
Rape	619	340
Robbery	3,263	1,587
Aggravated assault	2,402	1,107
Burglary	8,096	3,623
Larceny-theft	13,250	6,026
Auto theft	5,499	2,589
Total index offenses	489	265

- Data for 2003 indicate that 74.5% of adult male arrestees and 67.8% of adult female arrestees in Cleveland tested positive for at least one of the following drugs at arrest: cocaine, opiates, marijuana, methamphetamine, or PCP.²¹

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive, Cleveland, 2003

Drug Type	Male	Female
Cocaine	39.0%	52.7%
Heroin	5.4	6.7
Methamphetamine	0.3	0.4
Marijuana	48.9	27.2
Any drug	74.5	67.8
Multiple drugs	25.0	23.8

- Additional Cleveland arrestee drug use data for 2003 indicate that 54.7% of adult male and 43.6% of adult female arrestees used marijuana within the past year. Among those reporting past year marijuana use, the average number of days the drug was used in the past month was 11.5 days for male arrestees and 7.2 days for female arrestees.²²

Adult Arrestee Past Drug Use, Cleveland, 2003

Drug Type	Past 7 Days		Past 30 Days		Past Year		Avg. # Days	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Crack coc.	23.2%	34.4%	24.5%	36.5%	26.7%	41.6%	9.7	11.7
Powder coc.	2.5%	2.8%	4.5%	5.6%	8.5%	11.2%	2.2	1.9
Marijuana	43.9%	29.8%	49.4%	36.5%	54.7%	43.6%	11.5	7.2
Methamph.	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	1.2%	2.0	6.8
Heroin	3.8%	6.0%	5.0%	7.2%	5.3%	8.8%	11.7	13.9

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

Crack remains a significant problem in the Cleveland area. It is available in all areas of Cuyahoga County and available on virtually any street corner in the inner city. A \$10-\$20 rock is the most common selling size and smoking continues to be the most common means of crack administration.²³ Some injection drug users indicate that there is an increase in the number of people who melt crack down and inject it with vinegar or water.²⁴ Powder cocaine is not as readily available in Cleveland as crack. Purity of powder cocaine ranges from 40% to 70% and prices range from \$20 for a “dime bag” to \$100 for a gram.²⁵

➤ Heroin

The availability of heroin is increasing in Cleveland, and there is an emerging population of new, young users in the city. In the first quarter of FY 2002, the average purity of heroin found in Cleveland was 72%.²⁶ Users have stated that there are differences in the types of heroin found on the east versus the west side of Cleveland. “China White” is more available on the east side, while “Mexican Brown” is more available on the west side. Heroin costs between \$10-\$20 per bag/dose and an eight ball (1/8th of a gram) is sold for \$80-\$90.²⁷ The most common method of heroin

administration in Cleveland is by injection. However, law enforcement officials have reported a noticeable increase in individuals who snort the drug.²⁸ According to Pulse Check sources, heroin users in Cleveland tend to be white males either between the ages of 18 to 30 or over the age of 30.²⁹

➤ **Marijuana**

The cost of marijuana in Cleveland has remained consistent at approximately \$100 for an ounce or \$5-\$10 for a blunt. Some individuals report that it has become more difficult to buy just one or two joints for \$1-\$2. The use of marijuana in Cleveland is often viewed as a non-issue and is looked at by many in the same manner as alcohol.³⁰ Some Cleveland treatment counselors have mentioned that clients are using marijuana to “mellow” after using other drugs or combinations of drugs.³¹

➤ **Methamphetamine**

In northern Ohio, the beginning stages of a methamphetamine problem have been reported.³² However, methamphetamine does not yet seem to be a very popular drug in the Cleveland area.³³ Methamphetamine users in Cleveland tend to be white males between the ages of 18 to 30.³⁴

➤ **Club Drugs**

Club drugs, specifically MDMA, have remained at steady levels in Cleveland over the past year. MDMA users are of all races and ethnicities. One MDMA tablet costs between \$10 and \$20.³⁵ Most MDMA users in Cleveland are adolescent or young adult females.³⁶

➤ **Other Drugs**

OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, and Dilaudid are growing in popularity in the Cleveland area. OxyContin typically sells for \$1 per milligram and the pills are usually chewed or crushed, dissolved, and then injected.³⁷ OxyContin users in Cleveland tend to be white men or women between the ages of 18 to 30.³⁸

Juveniles

- Approximately 60% of juvenile male detainees in Cleveland tested positive for drugs during 2002.³⁹

Percent of Juvenile Male Detainees Testing Positive for Drugs, Cleveland, 2002

Drug Type	% Positive
Marijuana	57.7%
Cocaine	10.6
Opiates	2.4
Methamphetamine	0.0
Any drug	59.7

Enforcement

- Cleveland FBI Drug Squad⁴⁰

The Cleveland FBI’s Drug Squad focuses its investigations on major drug trafficking organizations operating in the Cleveland metropolitan area.

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 2,370 full-time law enforcement employees in Cleveland (1,878 officers and 492 civilians).⁴¹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Ohio's well-developed network of highways connects Cleveland to other major cities, facilitating the transportation of drugs to markets within and outside the area.⁴²
- Wholesale distributors use major Ohio cities like Cleveland as distribution centers for smaller cities in Ohio and other states.⁴³
- The most significant drug trafficking operations in the northern Ohio area consist of Jamaican and Hispanic traffickers.⁴⁴
- The number of methamphetamine lab seizures in the Cleveland area more than doubled from 2000 to 2001.⁴⁵
- In December 2001, the Northeast Ohio Parcel Interdiction Team seized more than eleven quarts of PCP that were being shipped from Los Angeles to a criminal group operating in Cleveland. The PCP was going to be distributed within the state.⁴⁶

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁷
As of May 2004, there were 3 drug courts in Cleveland that have been operating for more than 2 years. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Cleveland at that time.

Consequences of Use

- During 2002, there were 180 drug abuse deaths reported by medical examiners (ME) in the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County area. Cocaine was mentioned in 64 of the drug deaths.⁴⁸

Number of ME Drug Mentions, Cleveland/Cuyahoga County, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combin.	38	31	56	53	41
Cocaine	46	53	66	70	64
Heroin/morphine	30	26	48	59	47
Marijuana	2	1	2	--	2
Amphetamines	--	--	--	--	--
Methamphetamine	1	1	1	1	--
Club drugs	--	2	--	1	--
Hallucinogens	--	2	--	--	1
Inhalants	--	--	--	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	37	34	63	58	57
Other analgesics	8	7	4	12	17
Benzodiazepines	20	17	22	21	25
Antidepressants	23	19	22	31	40
All other substances	26	25	32	42	44
Total drug deaths	108	117	143	176	180
Total drug mentions	231	218	316	348	338

Treatment

- During 2003, 22% of adult male arrestees and 32.4% of adult female arrestees reported receiving outpatient substance abuse treatment at some point within their lives.⁴⁹

Adult Arrestees Reporting Substance Abuse Treatment, Cleveland, 2003

Arrestees	Outpatient		Inpatient	
	Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
Male	22.0%	4.5%	29.3%	7.0%
Female	32.4	5.6	41.2	10.0

- Treatment providers in Cleveland indicate that they have been seeing more users mandated to treatment through the legal system for using club drugs.⁵⁰
- A lack of available slots in treatment (both residential and outpatient/aftercare) has been mentioned by Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network participants in Cleveland.⁵¹

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