

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Charleston, South Carolina

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

September 2004



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile 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.

## **Charleston, South Carolina**

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

### **Demographics**

- Population: 98,795 (2002 Census estimate)<sup>1</sup>
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 63.7% white, 34.3% black/African American, 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native, 1.3% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.5% other race, 1.0% two or more races, 1.5% Hispanic<sup>2</sup>
- Charleston is located in Berkeley County and Charleston County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Joseph P. Riley, Jr.<sup>3</sup>
- Council Members (Districts 1-12, respectively): Henry B. Fishburne; Deborah Morinelli; James Lewis, Jr.; Kwadjo Campbell; Jimmy S. Gallant, III; Wendell G. Gilliard; Louis Waring; Yvonne D. Evans; Paul Tinkler; Larry D. Shirley; Anne Frances Bleecker; G. Robert George<sup>4</sup>
- Charleston Chief of Police: Reuben M. Greenberg<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- Public Housing Crime Prevention Unit-Charleston Police Department<sup>6</sup>  
In January 1984, a full time uniformed police sergeant was assigned to the Charleston Housing Authority. The sergeant coordinated police services and maintained liaisons between residents, managers, and various public services. In the first 4 years of the program, violent and non-violent crimes were reduced by 40%. By 1998, there were a total of 4 officers working in the public housing crime prevention unit.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Charleston:<sup>7</sup>
  - Original award year 2003: no grantees
  - Original award year 2002: no grantees
  - Original award year 2001: no grantees
  - Original award year 2000: no grantees
  - Original award year 1999: no grantees
- Community Capacity Development Office<sup>8</sup>  
There is 1 Weed and Seed site in Charleston.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Grant funds received in Charleston:<sup>9</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services: \$599,856
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$0
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$400,000
- Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant:
  - FY 2003: no Charleston grantees<sup>10</sup>
  - FY 2002: no Charleston grantees<sup>11</sup>
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:

- FY 2003: no Charleston grantees<sup>12</sup>
- FY 2002: no Charleston grantees<sup>13</sup>
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Charleston:<sup>14</sup>
  - Communities (discretionary): 1 award valued at \$500,000
  - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 1 award valued at \$864,807
  - Juvenile Justice:
    - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$198,700
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Law Enforcement:
    - discretionary: 6 awards valued at \$2,440,112
    - formula: 3 awards valued at \$167,338
  - Substance Abuse: 0 awards
  - Victims: 0 awards
- There were no Charleston recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.<sup>15</sup>

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 2002, there were 14 murders reported to the Charleston Police Department.<sup>16</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Charleston, 2001-2002

<b>Offense</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Murder	14	14
Rape	44	37
Robbery	258	267
Aggravated assault	415	553
Breaking and entering	1,040	1,024
Larceny	4,253	4,293
Motor vehicle theft	596	877
Total index offenses	6,620	7,065

- During 2002, there were 2,998 arrests for drug law violations in Charleston County.<sup>17</sup>

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Charleston County, 2002

<b>Offense</b>	<b># of Arrests</b>
Murder	37
Rape	91
Robbery	196
Aggravated assault	903
Breaking and entering	421
Larceny	2,142
Motor vehicle theft	178
Drug law violations	2,998
DUI	891

## Drugs

- Heroin  
Heroin abuse and distribution are concentrated in the Charleston Low Country area. During 1999 and 2000, a high purity form of heroin (up to 90% pure) was available in Charleston, and caused many overdoses. During a 1-week period, 15 heroin overdose deaths occurred in Charleston. Heroin prices are \$300/gram, \$3,500-\$8,000/ounce, and \$125,000/kilogram.<sup>18</sup>
- Methamphetamine  
Methamphetamine prices range from \$85/gram to \$900-\$1,500/ounce to \$15,000/pound to \$17,000-\$19,000/kilogram.<sup>19</sup>

## Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 491 law enforcement employees in Charleston (359 officers and 132 civilians).<sup>20</sup>

## Trafficking and Seizures

- Colombian drug trafficking organizations occasionally smuggle large quantities of cocaine into the state using the Port of Charleston.<sup>21</sup>
- In 1999, local DEA agents seized 3 MDMA labs in Charleston County.<sup>22</sup>

## Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>23</sup>  
As of May 2004, there were 2 drug courts that had been operating for over 2 years and 1 drug court that had recently been implemented in Charleston. There were no drug courts being planned at that time.

## Corrections

- At the end of FY 2003 (June 30), 8% of the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) inmates had been committed in Charleston County.<sup>24</sup>

### SCDC Inmates Committed in Charleston County, FY 2000-2003

Year	# of Inmates	% of Total
FY 2000	1,771	8.0%
FY 2001	1,719	7.8
FY 2002	1,709	7.5
FY 2003	1,917	8.0

## Treatment

- In July 2002, there were 1,427 drug treatment admissions in Charleston.<sup>25</sup>

### Drug Treatment Admissions, Charleston, July 2002

County	All Drugs	Marijuana	Cocaine	Other Drugs
Berkeley	343	218	97	28
Charleston	1,084	408	479	197
Total	1,427	626	576	225

## Sources

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- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, South Carolina Population Estimates:  
<http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/cities/tables/SUB-EST2002-07-45.pdf>
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>3</sup> Charleston Mayor's Office Web site: <http://www.ci.charleston.sc.us/dept/content.aspx?nid=104>
- <sup>4</sup> Charleston City Council Web site: <http://www.ci.charleston.sc.us/dept/content.aspx?nid=661>
- <sup>5</sup> Charleston Police Department Web site: <http://www.charleston-pd.org/>
- <sup>6</sup> Charleston Police Department Web site, Public Housing Crime Prevention Unit:  
<http://www.charleston-pd.org/cpdphcpu.html>
- <sup>7</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/grantee/index.asp>
- <sup>8</sup> Community Capacity Development Office Web site, South Carolina section:  
<http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=SC>
- <sup>9</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Summary Grant Awards:  
<http://alt.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/State.htm>
- <sup>10</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/03DrugCtAwd.pdf>
- <sup>11</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>
- <sup>12</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, FY 2003 COPS Methamphetamine Grant:  
<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=951>
- <sup>13</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement, November 14, 2002: [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth\\_grantees.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf)
- <sup>14</sup> Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services FY 2003 Awards to South Carolina, Listed by Locality Broken Down by Function:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2003grants/map/scsubj.htm>
- <sup>15</sup> Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report, FY 2001*: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- <sup>16</sup> South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, *Crime in South Carolina, 2002*:  
<http://www.sled.state.sc.us/default.htm>
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2002*, October 2003:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/02cius.htm>
- <sup>21</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment Update*, June 2002:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs1/1222/1222p.pdf>
- <sup>22</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs07/717/index.htm>
- <sup>23</sup> Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, May 27, 2004:  
<http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- <sup>24</sup> South Carolina Department of Corrections, Distribution of Committing County for SCDC Total Population, FY 1998-2003:  
[http://www.state.sc.us/scdc/PublicInformation/StatisticalReports/InmatePopulationStatsTrend/Population\\_Trend\\_Committing\\_County\\_Distribution\\_FY98\\_03.pdf](http://www.state.sc.us/scdc/PublicInformation/StatisticalReports/InmatePopulationStatsTrend/Population_Trend_Committing_County_Distribution_FY98_03.pdf)
- <sup>25</sup> South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Drug Treatment Admissions, FY 2002

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