

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Greenville, South Carolina

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2003



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.

## **Greenville, South Carolina**

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

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population (2000 Census): 56,002
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 60.6% white; 33.7% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/ Alaska Native; 1.2% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% some other race; 0.8% two or more races; 3.4% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- The city of Greenville is located in Greenville County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Knox H. White<sup>2</sup>
- Council Members: Debra M. Sofield (District 1); Lillian Brock Flemming (District 2); Chandra E. Dillard (District 3); Garry William Coulter (District 4); Michele R. Shain (At-Large); C. Diane Smock (At-Large)<sup>3</sup>
- City Manager: Ron McKinney<sup>4</sup>
- Chief of Police: Willie Johnson<sup>5</sup>
- Greenville County Sheriff: Steve Loftis<sup>6</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- The Greenville County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse<sup>7</sup>  
The commission is a non-profit public agency created in 1973 by state legislation for county alcohol and drug abuse services. Commission services include Fatal Vision, which is a DUI simulation program that demonstrates the visual and perceptual impairments of intoxication, Teens under Fire, which is a program that reenacts alcohol related automobile crashes; and HIV/AIDS education programs.

### **Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program<sup>8</sup>  
Since 1998, only one community coalition in Greenville has received funding from the Drug-Free Communities Support Program. During FY 2003, \$100,000 was awarded to the Greenville Family Partnership.
- There were no FY 2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Greenville.<sup>9</sup>
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>10</sup>  
Greenville has not received Federal funds or been officially designated as a Weed and Seed site.
- Greenville did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.<sup>11</sup>
- Greenville did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).<sup>12</sup>
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant received in Greenville.<sup>13</sup>

- \$125,000 to the Crestwood Forest Apartments
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by Greenville recipients:<sup>14</sup>
  - \$572,601 in formula funds
  - \$1,000,000 in discretionary funds

**Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- There were 2,601 total drug abuse violations in Greenville County during 2000.<sup>15</sup>

**Drug Arrests in the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson Metropolitan Area, 2000**

	<b>Drug Abuse Violations</b>	<b>Drug Paraphernalia Violations</b>
Anderson County	607	2
Cherokee County	516	7
Greenville County	2,601	463
Pickens County	545	1
Spartanburg County	1,517	112
Total	5,786	585

- During 2000 in Greenville County, there were 504 drug abuse violation arrests for crack.<sup>16</sup>

**Type of Drug Violation Arrest, Greenville County, 2000**

Crack	504
Cocaine	116
Hashish	1
Heroin	35
Marijuana	1,677
Morphine	3
Other Narcotics	34
LSD	6
Other Hallucinogens	63
Amphetamines	47
Other Stimulants	6
Other Depressants	6
Other Drugs	98
Unknown Types	5
Total	2,601

- During 1999, there were 173 robbery offenses known to law enforcement in Greenville.<sup>17</sup> During 2000 this number increased to 230.<sup>18</sup>

## Index Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Greenville, 1999-2000

Offense	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	3	7
Forcible rape	32	53
Robbery	173	230
Aggravated assault	547	555
Burglary	720	808
Larceny-theft	3,459	3,563
Motor vehicle theft	332	303
Arson	12	10
Crime index total	5,266	5,519

- The Greenville area is one of three main cities in South Carolina with the largest number of gangs in the state. Most of these gangs are involved in drug distribution. Gangs from Florida as well as the cities of Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York have moved into Greenville County. According to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, local turf wars between African American gangs culminate in drive by shootings and contribute to the violence in the area.<sup>19</sup>

### Drugs

- Cocaine<sup>20</sup>  
Powder cocaine prices range from \$90 for a gram, to \$1,000 for an ounce, to \$26,000 for kilogram. Prices for crack cocaine range from \$25 for a rock to \$1,200 for an ounce.
- Heroin<sup>21</sup>  
Heroin distribution and abuse are limited to metropolitan areas such as Greenville. During 1999 and 2000, a higher purity heroin (90% pure) was distributed in Greenville, causing many overdoses among users usually accustomed to lower purity levels.
- Marijuana<sup>22</sup>  
According to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, cannabis is grown in rural areas in the western part of the state.
- Methamphetamine<sup>23</sup>  
Methamphetamine production, distribution, and abuse are a significant threat to the western part of South Carolina, particularly the Greenville area. Methamphetamine production and abuse are expanding in the western part of South Carolina known as the Upstate. This area is predominately rural and is at the base of the Blue Ridge mountains where the Greenville-Spartanburg metropolitan area is located.
- Club Drugs<sup>24</sup>  
Greenville is located in the Upstate, which is approximately halfway between Atlanta and Charlotte. This area has been the location of several raves, which attract local youth as well as youth from nearby cities.

### Juveniles

- There were 2,315 juvenile drug abuse violation arrests during 2000 in Greenville County.<sup>25</sup>

## Juvenile Drug-Related Arrests, Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson Metropolitan Area, 2000

	Drug Abuse Violations	Drug Paraphernalia Violations
Anderson County	566	2
Cherokee County	470	6
Greenville County	2,315	432
Pickens County	486	1
Spartanburg County	1,360	109
Total	5,197	550

### Enforcement

- As of October 2001, there were 222 law enforcement personnel working in Greenville (182 officers and 40 civilians).<sup>26</sup>

### Trafficking and Seizures

- In August 2000, the South Carolina Highway Patrol Aggressive Criminal Enforcement Team seized more than 400 pounds of marijuana during two traffic stops in Greenville County.<sup>27</sup>
- According to the Greenville Sheriff's Office, one Caucasian criminal group operated several methamphetamine labs from 1999 to 2000 in Greenville, Spartanburg, Laurens, and Anderson counties.<sup>28</sup>
- Nigerian criminal groups operating in Greenville have transported Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin into South Carolina and often use a cover company to disguise their criminal activity.<sup>29</sup>
- African American street gangs and local independent dealers travel to distribution centers in neighboring states and transport heroin back to Greenville where they then distribute the drug.<sup>30</sup>
- The United States Customs Service reported increasing seizures of cannabis plants in Greenville, despite a decrease in outdoor grows. Outdoor cannabis is seized more frequently because the plant stands out from the surrounding dry, withered foliage.<sup>31</sup>

### Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>32</sup>  
As of September 2003, there was one drug court operating for over 2 years in Greenville. There were no drug courts recently implemented or being planned.
- Juvenile Diversion Services<sup>33</sup>  
This program is for first time offenders who are 16 years or younger at the time of arrest. Participants must complete community service work, attend school, submit to random drug screens, receive counseling and guidance and pay restitution. If all program requirements are satisfied, the charge(s) against the participant is dismissed.
- Juvenile Drug Court<sup>34</sup>  
The juvenile drug court is an intensive treatment-based program that holds offenders accountable for their actions through adjudication. Participants are required to attend substance abuse counseling, community support meetings, family counseling, school, vocational training and/or employment. If all program requirements are satisfied, the guilty plea will be withdrawn and the charge(s) against the participant will be

dismissed. If the participant is terminated from the program, the suspended sentence given on the day of the guilty plea will be imposed.

### Consequences of Use

- Local Greenville hospitals in western South Carolina reported weekly occurrences of GHB overdoses during 2000 and the Greenville county coroner confirmed two deaths due to GHB overdose. During this time period, a 21-year-old Greenville man drank a soda bottle cap full of “home brew” after which he collapsed into a seizure and nearly died. It was later discovered that the substance was really “Blue Nitro,” which is a common name for GBL, a precursor of GHB.<sup>35</sup>

### Treatment

- As of July 2002, there were 922 drug treatment admissions in Greenville County.<sup>36</sup>

#### Drug Treatment Admissions, Greenville County, July 2002

Drug Type	Number of Admissions
Marijuana	344
Cocaine-crack	316
Other drugs	262
All drugs	922

### Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> Greenville City Council Web site: [http://www.greenergreenville.com/city\\_government/meet\\_council.asp](http://www.greenergreenville.com/city_government/meet_council.asp)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Greenville City Departments Web site, City Manager:

[http://www.greenergreenville.com/city\\_government/city\\_depts\\_div.asp#city\\_manager](http://www.greenergreenville.com/city_government/city_depts_div.asp#city_manager)

<sup>5</sup> Greenville City Departments Web site, Police Department:

[http://www.greenergreenville.com/city\\_government/city\\_depts\\_div.asp#police](http://www.greenergreenville.com/city_government/city_depts_div.asp#police)

<sup>6</sup> Greenville County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.gcso.org/>

<sup>7</sup> Greenville County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Web site:

<http://www.greenvillecounty.org/ADAC/index.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, South Carolina grantees:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/sc.html>

<sup>9</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2002 Discretionary Funds, South Carolina: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/sc.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, South Carolina:

<http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=SC>

<sup>11</sup> Office of Justice Programs, FY 2002 Drug Court Grants:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/drugcourts.html>

<sup>12</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>13</sup> Department Housing and Urban Development, *FY 2001 Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants Detailed Congressional Report*:

<http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Office of Justice Programs, South Carolina FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2002grants/map/sc.htm>

<sup>15</sup> South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Drug Related Arrest Data, 1998-2000

<sup>16</sup> South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Type of Drug Violation Arrest, 2000

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- <sup>17</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1999*, October 2000:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/99cius.htm>
- <sup>18</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- <sup>19</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>25</sup> South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Drug Related Arrest Data, 1998-2000
- <sup>26</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm>
- <sup>27</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, September 15, 2003:  
<http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- <sup>33</sup> Greenville County Solicitor's Office, Greenville County Family Court:  
<http://www.co.greenville.sc.us/solicitor/page5.asp>
- <sup>34</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>35</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- <sup>36</sup> South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Drug Treatment Admissions, FY 2002

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