

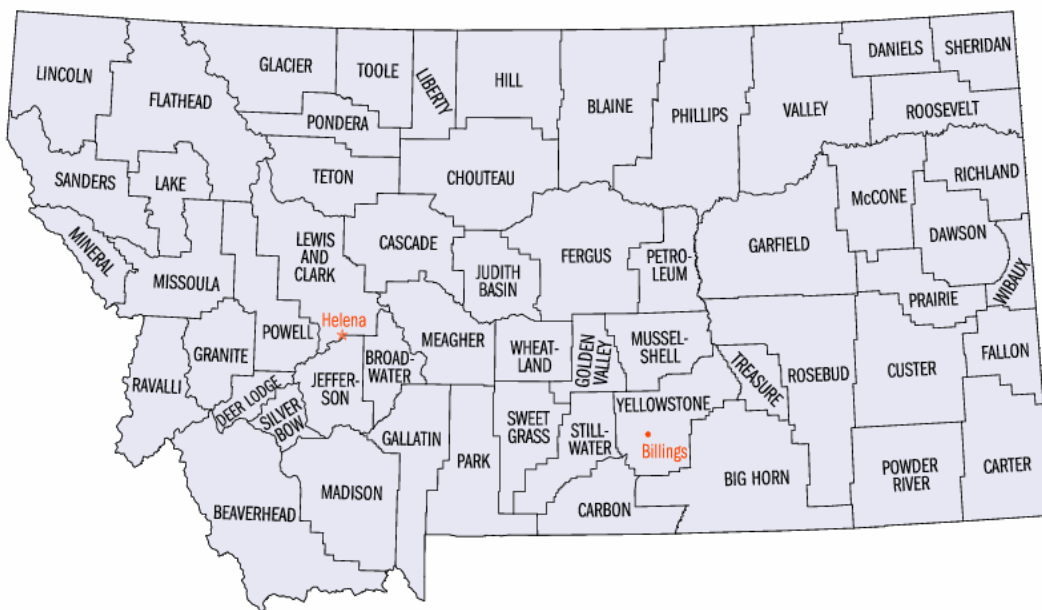
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Billings, Montana

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 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.

Billings, Montana

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

Demographics

- Population: 89,847 (2000 Census);¹ 95,220 (July 2003 Census estimate)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 89.9% white; 0.5% black; 3.2% American Indian and Alaskan Native; 0.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; 0.0% some other race; 1.6% two or more races; 4.2% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)³
- The city of Billings is located in Yellowstone County.⁴

Politics

- Mayor: Charles Tooley⁵
- City Administrator: Kristoff T. Bauer⁶
- City Council: Peggie Denney Gaghen (Ward 1); Shirley Girard McDermott (1); Larry Brewster (2); Dave Brown (2); Vince Ruegamer (3); Jan Iverson (3); Nancy Boyer (4); Doris Swords Poppler (4); Richard Clark (5); Donald W. Jones (5)⁷
- Billings Police Chief: Ron Tussing⁸
- Yellowstone County Sheriff: Chuck Maxwell⁹

Programs

- Project HELP¹⁰
The mission of Project HELP is to promote wellness and healthy lifestyle choices among Billings youths. A team of school-based peer health educators provide informational programs and drug free activities throughout Billings.

Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program¹¹
Since 1999, only one community coalition in Billings has received funding from the Drug-Free Communities Support Program. Since 2002, the Billings/Yellowstone County Drug Prevention Planning Committee has received \$200,000 from the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- Community Capacity Development Office¹²
Billings has not been designated as a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Grant funds received in Billings:¹³
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$457,400
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$0
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$0
- Billings did not receive funding for the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Discretionary Grant.¹⁴
- Billings did not receive funding for the FY 2003 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁵
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Billings:¹⁶

- Community Based (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 2 awards valued at \$845,125
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 3 awards valued at \$597,144
 - formula: 4 awards valued at \$79,948
 - Substance Abuse: 0 awards
 - Victims: 0 awards
- Billings did not receive funding for the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁷

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2003, there were 919 drug offenses reported to the Billings police department.¹⁸

Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Billings/Yellowstone County, 2003

Offense Type	Billings Police Department	Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office
Homicide	3	0
Rape	23	5
Robbery	59	6
Aggravated assault	142	67
Burglary	587	125
Larceny	4,057	583
Arson	27	5
Motor vehicle theft	359	80
Drug offenses	919	192
DUI	602	9
Liquor law violations	35	3

Drugs

- Cocaine
 Billings is one of the primary locations for cocaine use in Montana.¹⁹ Crack cocaine availability has increased, although it is considered “somewhat” to “not very” available in the Billings area. Powder cocaine is considered “somewhat” available. It sells for \$100 per gram with a purity level ranging from 50-70%.²⁰ A gram of crack cocaine sells for \$125-\$150 with a purity level ranging from 50-70%. Users tend to be white or American Indian and under 18 years old or between the ages of 18-30. Crack cocaine use has increased, especially among adolescents. Burglary and theft are often associated with powder cocaine.²¹
- Heroin
 Heroin is considered “not very” available in Billings. A bundle (1 gram) of heroin sells for \$260 and has a purity level ranging from 50-70%.²² Users often commit

burglaries, petty larceny and thefts. Users tend to be between the ages of 13 and 30 and white or American Indian. Whites who reside in the central city and American Indians who tend to live in rural areas are equally likely to use heroin. Most users inject or snort heroin.²³

➤ **Marijuana**

Marijuana is considered “widely” available in the Billings area. Locally produced commercial grade marijuana is the most common variety found. Mexican commercial grade is the second most common and sinsemilla is the third most common variety found in the area. An ounce of sinsemilla sells for \$100. Many age groups are named as the primary user group. Marijuana users are becoming younger and some initiate use as early as 8 years old. Raves have increased in the area, but they are still generally drug-free, although users tend to smoke marijuana in the car on the way to and from the raves.²⁴

➤ **Methamphetamine**

Methamphetamine is considered “widely” to “somewhat” available. The number of small, local methamphetamine labs seized in the area has increased. A newly reported adulterant is the white powder preservative used for canning fruit, causing some users to become sick. A gram of methamphetamine sells for \$100 with a purity level of 33%. Local methamphetamine sellers are also the manufacturers. Novice (those using for less than 1 year before entering treatment) users have increased.²⁵

➤ **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**

Diverted OxyContin has increased in availability and abuse in the Billings area and is considered to be “widely” to “not very” available. Diverted OxyContin sells for \$40 per 20 milligrams. Theft, burglary, and prostitution are associated with this drug. There has been an increase in the number of novice users. Users tend to be former users of pain pills such as benzodiazepines or other prescription drugs.²⁶

➤ **Club Drugs**

Club drugs are considered emerging in the Billings area, but are “not very” available. An ecstasy pill sells for \$25. Ecstasy is more commonly sold and used by high school and college students.²⁷

Juveniles

➤ During 2002, there were 196 juvenile drug offenses in Yellowstone County.²⁸

Juvenile Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Yellowstone County, 1999-2002

Offense Type	1999	2000	2001	2002
Persons	238	206	203	140
Property	834	860	704	543
Drug offenses	279	254	308	196
Public administration	86	80	84	58
Public order	87	100	69	42
Other offenses	20	23	12	10
Status offenses	8	4	14	80
Total	1,552	1,527	1,394	1,069

Enforcement

- As of October 2002, there were 156 total law enforcement personnel employed in Billings, (125 officers and 31 civilians).²⁹
- K9 Program Billings Police Department³⁰
The Billings Police Department has five K9 units. The highly trained officer and dog teams provide search and control tools that are used for prowler, burglary, and drug investigations.
- C.O.P. Shop Stations- Billings Police Department³¹
C.O.P. Shop Stations are a neighborhood police contact center staffed by volunteers. Citizens are encouraged to use C.O.P. Shop stations to report crimes, suspicious activities, or obtain information and assistance. There are currently three C.O.P. Shop stations in the Billings area. It is estimated that each call followed up on by a C.O.P. Shop volunteer saves approximately 30 minutes of a police officer's time, thus freeing them up to focus on other duties for which they are responsible.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Crack trafficking in Montana occurs in the Billings area, where street gangs control the market.³²

Courts

- Drug Courts³³
As of May 2004, there was one drug court in existence for over 2 years and one that was being planned in Billings.

Treatment

- Although treatment clients are most likely to be older than 30, heroin users in their twenties are increasing.³⁴
- Methadone maintenance is still not available in the Billings area.³⁵

Sources

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

² U.S. Census Bureau Web site, Montana Population Estimates:
<http://www.census.gov/popest/cities/tables/SUB-EST2003-04-30.pdf>

³ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Billings Mayor's Web site: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/Government/mayor.php>

⁶ Billings City Administrator's Web site: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/Government/cityadminprofile.php>

⁷ Billings City Council Web site: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/Government/Clerk/councilmembers.php>

⁸ Billings Police Department Web site: <http://www.billingspolice.com/>

⁹ Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.us/sheriff/>

¹⁰ Project HELP Web site: <http://cu.imt.net/~randolfi/help/>

¹¹ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/grantee/index.asp>

¹² Community Capacity Development Office, Montana Weed and Seed sites:

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

¹³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Summary Grant Awards:

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- ²¹ Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002:
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- ²³ Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Montana Board of Crime Control, *Juvenile Crime Analysis 2002*:
<http://bccdoj.doj.state.mt.us/mbccpubs/stats/JuvOffCo%2702.pdf>
- ²⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2002*, October 2003:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/02cius.htm>
- ³⁰ Billings Police Department, K9 Program: <http://www.billingspolice.com/k9program.html>
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<http://spa.ward.american.edu/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
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