

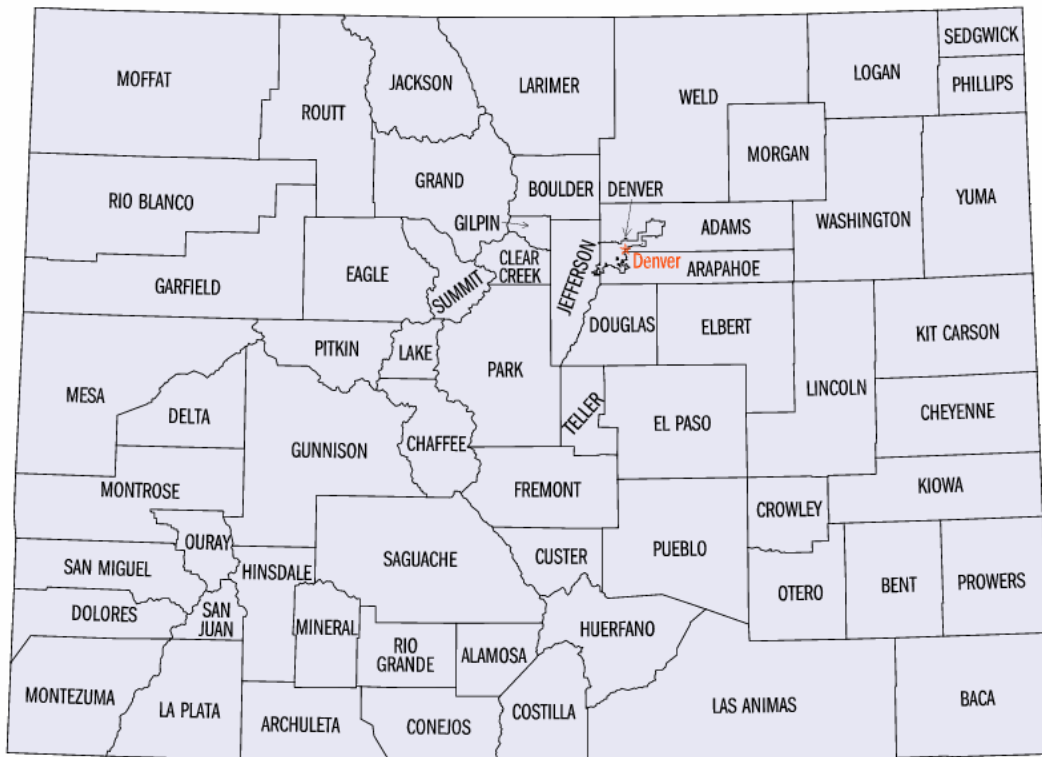
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of Colorado

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

May 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.

## Colorado

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

### **Demographics**

- Population: 4,550,688 (July 2003 Census estimate);<sup>1</sup> 4,403,659 (2002 American Community Survey)<sup>2</sup>
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 73.18% white; 3.55% black/African American; 0.57% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.38% Asian; 0.03% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.24% other race; 1.86% two or more races; 18.20% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)<sup>3</sup>

### **Political**

- Governor: Bill Owens<sup>4</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Jane Norton<sup>5</sup>
- Attorney General: Ken Salazar<sup>6</sup>
- Secretary of State: Donetta Davidson<sup>7</sup>
- U.S. Senators: Ben Campbell (R); Wayne A. Allard (R)<sup>8</sup>
- U.S. Representatives: Diana DeGette (D); Mark Udall (D); Scott McInnis (R); Marilyn N. Musgrave (R); Joel Hefley (R); Thomas Gerard Tancredo (R); Bob Beauprez (R)<sup>9</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>10</sup>  
The Rocky Mountain HIDTA was designated in 1996 and is responsible for areas in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. In Colorado, this HIDTA is responsible for the following areas: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Jefferson, LaPlata, Larimer, Pueblo, Mesa, Moffat, Routt, and Weld.
- Colorado Drug-Free Workplace<sup>11</sup>  
Colorado Drug-Free Workplace is a non-profit association of businesses concerned about the impact of drugs and alcohol in the workplace. These businesses have joined together to make local workplaces safe and drug-free, to improve productivity, and enhance the health of local employees.

### **Funding**

- Drug Free Communities Support Program Grantees in Colorado: <sup>12</sup>
  - FY 2003:
    - \$100,000 to Park County School District Re-2, Fairplay
    - \$100,000 to San Luis Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center, Alamosa
    - \$99,999 to Grand Futures Prevention Coalition, Craig
    - \$100,000 to Summit Prevention Alliance, Frisco
    - \$100,000 to Mesa Youth Services, Grand Junction
    - \$100,000 to Lake County, Laedville

- \$99,252 to Ouray County Schools and Community Resource Consortium DBA Voyager, Ridgway
  - \$87,264 to Chaffee County, Salida
- FY 2002: no grantees
- FY 2001: \$100,000 awarded to Westminster Area Community Awareness Action Team, Westminster
- FY 2000:
  - \$99,975 awarded to Boulder County Board of Commissioners, Cortez
  - \$96,423 awarded to Pinon Project for the School/Community Youth Coalition, Cortez
  - \$99,900 awarded to Connecting Colorado Prevention Coalition for the Peer Assistance Services, Inc., Denver
- FY 1999:
  - \$99,160 awarded to the Adolescent Counseling Exchange, Denver
  - \$87,168 awarded to the TEAM Fort Collins, Fort Collins
- Office for Weed and Seed<sup>13</sup>  
There are two Weed and Seed sites in Colorado -- Denver and Aurora.
- FY 2003/04 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary for Colorado:<sup>14</sup>
  - Formula Funding - \$30,900,441
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$24,024,384
    - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$5,743,057
    - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$723,000
    - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$410,000
  - Discretionary Funding - \$13,331,534
    - Mental Health - \$6,886,362
    - Substance Prevention - \$1,786,143
    - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$4,659,029
  - Total Mental Health Funds - \$13,762,419
  - Total Substance Abuse Funds - \$30,469,556
  - Total Funds for Colorado - \$44,231,975
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Colorado: \$7,498,960<sup>15</sup>
- FY 1996-2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Colorado:
  - FY 1996 \$306,044<sup>16</sup>
  - FY 1997 \$350,070<sup>17</sup>
  - FY 1998 \$773,466<sup>18</sup>
  - FY 1999 \$773,896<sup>19</sup>
  - FY 2000 \$794,066<sup>20</sup>
  - FY 2001: \$825,344<sup>21</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$940,346<sup>22</sup>
  - FY 2003: \$903,673<sup>23</sup>
- FY 2002-03 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant recipients for Colorado:
  - FY 2002: \$222,222 to the Logan County Sheriff's Department<sup>24</sup>

- FY 2003:<sup>25</sup>
  - \$250,000 to Colorado RCPI for drug endangered children programs
  - \$100,000 to Colorado RCPI for training
  - \$100,000 to National Drug Endangered Children's conference for training
- FY 2003 Drug Courts Grant Program recipient in Colorado:<sup>26</sup>
  - \$499,627 to Denver Juvenile Court for a family drug court
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant awarded in Colorado: \$125,000 to G.H.B. Housing, Ltd, Colorado Springs<sup>27</sup>
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received in Colorado (by funding category):<sup>28</sup>
  - Communities (discretionary): \$1.2 million
  - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$7.5 million
  - Juvenile Justice:
    - discretionary: \$4.6 million
    - formula: \$5.0 million
  - Law Enforcement:
    - discretionary: \$20.5 million
    - formula: \$16.1 million
  - Substance Abuse:
    - discretionary: \$1.0 million
    - formula: \$8.5 million
  - Victims:
    - discretionary: \$1.0 million
    - formula: \$7.9 million
  - Total OJP/COPS funds received in Colorado in FY 2002: \$73.1 million

### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2000, there were 16,080 arrests for drug abuse violations in Colorado.<sup>29</sup> This number increased during 2001 to 16,598.<sup>30</sup> During 2002, there were 15,921 arrests for drug abuse violations in Colorado.<sup>31</sup>

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Colorado, 2000-2002

Offense Type	2000	2001	2002
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	110	133	120
Forcible rape	415	410	436
Robbery	671	841	800
Aggravated assault	3,975	4,220	4,486
Burglary	2,469	2,775	2,841
Larceny-theft	21,410	21,371	21,889
Motor vehicle theft	2,278	2,390	2,895
Arson	316	296	321
Drug abuse violations	16,080	16,598	15,921
DUI	23,725	23,579	23,039
Liquor laws	18,179	18,559	17,436
Drunkenness	428	454	367

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 453 drug violation arrests in Colorado during 2001.<sup>32</sup>

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Colorado, 1997-2001

Number of Arrests	
1997	856
1998	1,062
1999	719
2000	714
2001	453

## Drugs

- Cocaine
 

Cocaine is considered a significant drug threat to Colorado. Powder cocaine is readily available throughout the State and crack cocaine is available in urban population areas. Cocaine is the drug most often associated with violent crime in the State. Retail quantities of powder cocaine sell for \$70-\$125 per gram.<sup>33</sup> Cocaine is generally sold in ounce and pound quantities in Colorado. Crack use is declining but remains available in the larger metropolitan areas of Colorado.<sup>34</sup>
- Heroin<sup>35</sup>

The most common types of heroin available in Colorado are Mexican black tar heroin and brown powdered heroin. New heroin users in Colorado are often young adults who smoke or snort the drug rather than inject it. This is due to a misconception that this practice is safer and less likely to lead to addiction.
- Marijuana<sup>36</sup>

Marijuana is readily available in multi-pound quantities throughout Colorado. A highly potent form of marijuana, called “BC Bud,” is also easily obtainable. Effective June 1, 2001, Amendment 20 allows for the use and possession of small amounts of marijuana for sick and dying patients. It provides protection against prosecution under state law, which is where the vast majority of marijuana small-use and possession cases occur.
- Methamphetamine
 

Methamphetamine is a primary drug threat to Colorado and is commonly abused in homes, public venues such as nightclubs and raves, and other private locations. Crystal methamphetamine, also known as glass in Colorado, is becoming increasingly available throughout the State and has tested as high as 90% pure.<sup>37</sup> Purity levels for methamphetamine vary in Colorado, although the overall purity levels have been dropping significantly in recent years. Locally produced methamphetamine is of a higher potency than that imported from Mexico.<sup>38</sup>
- Club drugs
 

Club drugs, which are mostly synthetic substances, are increasing in availability and use in Colorado. LSD in liquid form is readily available in the metropolitan areas of Colorado.<sup>39</sup> During 2001, 34% of those surveyed in Colorado reported lifetime usage of MDMA. 4.5% of those surveyed reported usage of MDMA within the past 30 days. The average user age was 17.3, and the average age of first time use was 15.9 years.<sup>40</sup>

- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals<sup>41</sup>**  
The diversion and abuse of OxyContin (oxycodone) is a significant problem in Colorado. Hydrocodone (Vicodin) and Darvocet are the most commonly abused controlled substances.
- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 34.23% of Colorado citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>42</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Colorado, 2000-2001 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	13.50%	25.42%	5.79%	9.24%
Past month use of marijuana	10.96	21.32	4.49	7.43
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.49	9.63	2.03	3.42
Past year cocaine use	2.22	9.01	1.78	2.79
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	28.42	20.56	37.47	34.23

- According to 2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.67% of Colorado citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.<sup>43</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Colorado, 2001

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.97%	5.14%	0.88%	1.67%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.73	7.19	1.38	2.62
Alcohol dependence	2.01	5.87	2.03	2.54
Alcohol dependence or abuse	6.49	17.70	4.86	6.75
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	9.32	20.60	5.56	7.98

- Findings from a telephone survey conducted between May 2000 and July 2001 showed that of families receiving public assistance in Colorado, 52% reported using both drugs and alcohol at some point in their lifetime. Of those surveyed reporting usage within the past 30 days, 28% reported using alcohol, 1% reported using drugs only, and 3% reported using alcohol and drugs.<sup>44</sup>

### Juveniles

- During 2000, there were 3,014 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in Colorado.<sup>45</sup> This number increased to 3,218 during 2001.<sup>46</sup> During 2002, there were 3,070 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in Colorado.<sup>47</sup>

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, Colorado, 2000-2002

Offense Type	2000	2001	2002
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	6	15	8
Forcible rape	74	73	55
Robbery	205	223	183
Aggravated assault	606	668	727
Burglary	991	1,067	994
Larceny-theft	7,570	6,999	6,765
Motor vehicle theft	1,074	1,105	1,373
Arson	203	186	195
Drug abuse violations	3,014	3,218	3,070
DUI	486	537	553
Liquor laws	3,959	4,445	4,324
Drunkenness	16	9	7

- During 2001 in Colorado, 30.2% of high school students reported current marijuana use and 48.9% of high school students reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.<sup>48</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Colorado, 2001

	Male	Female	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	45.5%	52.1%	48.9%
Current marijuana use	27.0	33.3	30.2
Lifetime cocaine use	11.4	11.1	11.2
Current cocaine use	5.3	4.8	5.0
Lifetime inhalant use	16.2	11.4	13.6
Current inhalant use	5.1	2.7	3.8
Lifetime heroin use	2.8	3.8	3.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	10.8	10.9	10.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.8	5.6	4.7
Lifetime injecting of illegal drug use	2.3	2.3	2.3
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	14.5	16.8	15.6

**Enforcement**

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 15,489 full-time law enforcement employees working in Colorado (10,704 officers and 4,785 civilians).<sup>49</sup>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- During full year 2003, the DEA and state and local authorities in Colorado reported 282 methamphetamine lab incidents to the El Paso Intelligence Center.<sup>50</sup>

Number of Methamphetamine Incidents/Seizures, Colorado, 2003

Type of Seizure	Number
Chemical/glass/equipment	64
Dumpsite	38
Laboratory	180
Total	282

- Federal agencies seized 45 kilograms of cocaine in Colorado during 2002.<sup>51</sup>

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Colorado, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized in Kilograms
Cocaine	45
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	18.9
Marijuana	43.5

- During 2001, there were 216 methamphetamine laboratories seized in Colorado.<sup>52</sup>

Number of Meth Labs Seized, Colorado, 1996-2001

Year	Meth Labs Seized
1996	16
1997	24
1998	52
1999	104
2000	137
2001	216

- During 2002, more than 15,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Colorado under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.<sup>53</sup>

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Colorado, 2002

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total
Eradicated	Cultivated	Grows	Plants	Cultivated
Plots	Plants Eradicated	Seized	Erادicated	Plants Eradicated
128	11,597	39	3,530	15,127

- The majority of methamphetamine available in Colorado is produced by Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and criminal groups in Mexico, California, and Arizona. Mexican DTOs dominate transportation and distribution of wholesale quantities of methamphetamine in Colorado. Caucasian criminal groups and local independent dealers also produce large quantities of methamphetamine.<sup>54</sup>
- Mexican DTOs and criminal groups transport wholesale quantities of powder cocaine into Colorado and distribute the drug at the wholesale level. Hispanic and African American street gangs distribute powder and crack cocaine at the wholesale and retail



levels. Retail distributors in Colorado typically convert powder cocaine into crack on an as-needed basis.<sup>55</sup>

- Mexican DTOs transport heroin into the State and are the primary wholesale and retail distributors of the drug.<sup>56</sup>
- Marijuana is distributed primarily by Mexican DTOs and criminal groups at the wholesale level. Hispanic and African American street gangs distribute at the retail level and Caucasian criminal groups and local independent groups produce and distribute marijuana and sinsemilla.<sup>57</sup>

### **Courts**

- **Drug Courts**<sup>58</sup>  
As of November 2003, there were 9 drug courts operating or being planned in Colorado. Three drug courts had been operating for over 2 years, 1 drug court was recently implemented, and 5 drug courts were being planned.
- In FY 2001, approximately 31.8% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Colorado were charged with a drug offense. Approximately 34% of the offenses involved powder cocaine.<sup>59</sup>

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Colorado, FY 2001

<b>Drug Type Involved</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Powder cocaine	53	34.0%
Crack cocaine	26	16.7
Heroin	6	3.8
Marijuana	20	12.8
Methamphetamine	48	30.8
Other	3	1.9

### **Corrections**

- According to the Colorado Department of Corrections, there were 19,554 adult prisoners under supervision on March 31, 2004.<sup>60</sup>
- During FY 2002, 24.4% of those incarcerated in Colorado had committed a drug offense, compared to 22.8% during FY 2001.<sup>61</sup>
- As of December 31, 2002, there were 58,986 adults on probation and 6,215 on parole in Colorado.<sup>62</sup>

### **Consequences of Use**

- From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003, there were 28 Colorado methamphetamine laboratory sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center in which a child was present.<sup>63</sup>

### Characteristics of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Colorado, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	106
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	22
Sites with a child injured	0
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	28
Sites with a child residing at the site	25
Number of children placed in protective custody	48

- Of the 7,380 AIDS cases reported in Colorado through March 2002, 9% (661 cases) were classified as injecting drug users (IDUs).<sup>64</sup>
- In 2001, the Colorado State Patrol wrote 8,516 citations for drinking and driving. In 2001, there were 2,568 driving under the influence (DUI) caused crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol.<sup>65</sup>
- Cocaine related deaths in Colorado ranged from 146 in 1999; to 116 in 2000; to 134 in 2001.<sup>66</sup>
- Opiate related deaths in Colorado averaged 85 per year from 1990-1996. There was a 75% increase in opiate related deaths from 1996-2001, averaging 150 per year.<sup>67</sup>
- Between 1994 and 1997 there were 15 amphetamine related deaths in Colorado. This number increased 127% to 34 amphetamine related deaths between 1998 and 2001.<sup>68</sup>

### Treatment

- During 2002, there were 67,946 total substance abuse treatment admissions in Colorado.<sup>69</sup> This number decreased to 59,184 during 2003.<sup>70</sup>

### Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Colorado, 2002-2003

Drug Type	2002		2003	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alcohol only	49,104	72.3%	42,742	72.2%
Alcohol with secondary drug	5,531	8.1	4,461	7.5
Cocaine (smoked)	1,755	2.6	1,657	2.8
Cocaine (other route)	1,179	1.7	997	1.7
Marijuana	4,794	7.1	3,736	6.3
Heroin	1,655	2.4	1,606	2.7
Other opiates	523	0.8	514	0.9
PCP	5	0.0	12	0.0
Hallucinogens	51	0.1	24	0.0
Amphetamines	2,566	3.8	2,781	4.7
Other stimulants	170	0.3	160	0.3
Tranquilizers	307	0.5	210	0.4
Sedatives	89	0.1	86	0.1
Inhalants	43	0.1	50	0.1
Other/unknown	174	0.3	148	0.3
Total	67,946	100.0	59,184	100.0

## Sources

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- <sup>5</sup> Colorado Lt. Governor's Web site: <http://www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor/index.html>
- <sup>6</sup> Colorado Attorney General's Web site: <http://www.ago.state.co.us/>
- <sup>7</sup> Colorado Secretary of State's Web site: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/>
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- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
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- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
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<sup>69</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, Colorado FY 2002: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/CO02.htm>

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