

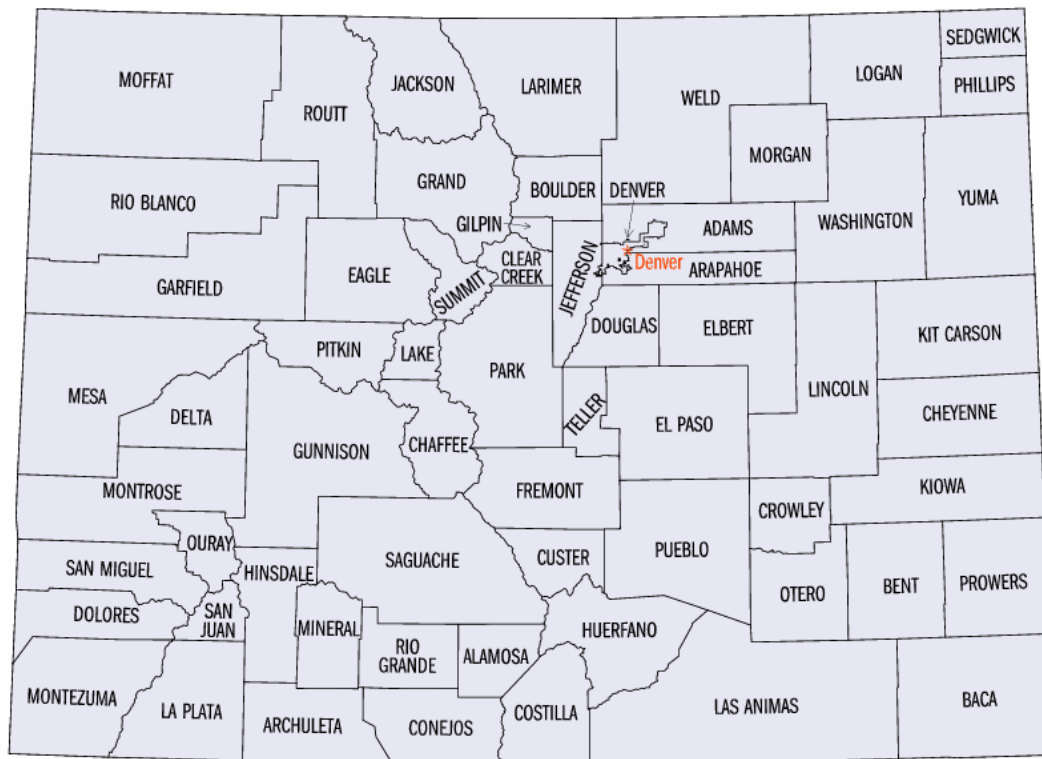
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 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 Springs, Colorado

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

Demographics

- Population (2002 American Community Survey): 383,948¹ ; 360,890 (2000 Census)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 73.74% white; 6.43% black/African American; 0.79% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.93% Asian; 0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.35% other race; 3.61% two or more races; 13.15% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)³
- The city of Colorado Springs is located in El Paso County.⁴

Politics

- Mayor: Lionel Rivera⁵
- Vice Mayor: Richard Skorman⁶
- City Council Members (Districts 1-4, respectively): Scott Hente; Darryl Glenn; Jerry Heimlicher; Margaret Radford; (Members At-Large: Larry Small; Tom Gallagher; Randy Purvis)⁷
- City Manager: Lorne Kramer⁸
- Chief of Police: Luis Velez⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
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/counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Jefferson, LaPlata, Larimer, Mesa, Moffat, Pueblo, Routt, and Weld.
- Metro Vice, Narcotics and Investigation (VNI)¹¹
The El Paso County Sheriff's Office & Colorado Springs Police Department Metro VNI works as a multi-agency, co-located drug task force that investigates, controls, and prevents the illegal sale, possession, or manufacturing of illicit drugs. Units of Metro VNI conduct in-depth investigations of major drug trafficking organizations and gangs involved in drug trafficking and money laundering operations throughout El Paso and Teller counties.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program¹²
Since 1999, there have been no grants awarded to Colorado Springs for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Colorado Springs:¹³
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$0
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$319,828
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$350,000

- Office of Weed and Seed¹⁴
Colorado Springs has not received Federal funding or official recognition as a Weed and Seed site.
- Colorado Springs did not receive any funding through the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹⁵
- Colorado Springs did not receive methamphetamine funding in 2003 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).¹⁶
- No funds were received in Colorado Springs during FY 2001 from the Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁷
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by Colorado Springs recipients:¹⁸
 - Community Based (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 3 awards valued at \$679,576
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 8 awards valued at \$4,880,233
 - formula: 4 awards valued at \$4,951,285
 - Substance Abuse (discretionary/formula): 0 awards
 - Victims (discretionary/formula): 0 awards

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2000, there were 12,640 larceny offenses reported to law enforcement in Colorado Springs.¹⁹ This number increased to 13,155 during 2001²⁰ and to 14,137 during 2002.²¹ According to preliminary 2003 data, there were 6,078 larceny offenses in Colorado Spring between January to June 2003.²²

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Colorado Springs, 2000-June 2003

Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan-June 2003
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	15	14	25	8
Forcible rape	251	257	275	100
Robbery	455	494	497	191
Aggravated assault	995	1,142	1,235	509
Burglary	3,095	3,070	4,063	1,527
Larceny	12,640	13,155	14,137	6,078
Motor vehicle theft	1,233	1,343	1,585	758
Arson	144	137	139	75
Crime index	18,684	19,475	21,817	--

- The Metro VNI efforts resulted in the arrest of more than 198 individuals associated with methamphetamine laboratories during 2002.²³

Drugs

➤ Cocaine²⁴

During the fourth quarter of FY 2002, powder cocaine sold for \$15,000-\$25,000 per kilogram and \$600-\$700 per ounce. Crack cocaine sold for \$500-\$1,100 per ounce and \$25-\$50 per rock. The average purity of powder cocaine was 50% at the retail level.

➤ Heroin²⁵

Mexican black tar and brown powdered heroin are not very available in Colorado Springs. Both types of heroin sold for \$1,800-\$3,500 per ounce and \$75-\$300 per gram during the fourth quarter of 2002.

➤ Marijuana²⁶

BC bud is becoming increasingly available and sells for \$3,000-\$5,000 per pound in Colorado Springs. During FY 2002, marijuana from Mexican sources sold for \$300-\$1,200 per pound and \$100-\$150 per ounce. Locally produced sinsemilla sold for \$1,500-\$3,200 per pound and \$100-\$150 per ounce.

➤ Methamphetamine²⁷

High purity methamphetamine is readily available in Colorado Springs. Wholesale and retail purity levels for methamphetamine averaged 20% in Colorado Springs. Prices for methamphetamine ranged from \$90-\$125 per gram, to \$700-\$1,200 per ounce, to \$9,000-\$15,000 per pound.

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 940 law enforcement employees in Colorado Springs (651 officers and 289 civilians).²⁸

Trafficking and Seizures

- Colorado Springs is a regional distribution center for methamphetamine, cocaine, and MDMA.²⁹
- The Westside Varrios gang distributes methamphetamine in Colorado Springs.³⁰
- The following street gangs distribute cocaine in Colorado Springs: 81st Eastside Hustlers; Four Comer Hustlers; Gangster Disciples; Neighborhood Bloods; Parkside Varrios; and Surenos 13.³¹
- Heroin is transported from Sinaloa, Mexico to Colorado Springs for distribution.³²
- Powder cocaine is converted to crack by Mexican criminal groups and Hispanic street gangs in Colorado Springs.³³
- During 2002, the Metro Vice, Narcotics and Intelligence (VNI) division seized 153 methamphetamine labs in El Paso and Teller counties.³⁴

Methamphetamine Lab Seizures by Metro VNI, El Paso and Teller County, 1998-2002

Year	Number of Labs Seized
1998	5
1999	51
2000	79
2001	87
2002	153

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁵

As of November 2003, there were two drug courts being planned in Colorado Springs. There were no additional drug courts operating.
- Approximately 77% of person admitted to the drug court program in El Paso County either successfully graduated or were actively participating in rehabilitation at the end of 2003.³⁶
- During 2003, of the 5,379 felony cases filed in El Paso, 1,529 were drug offense cases. This was a 24.2% increase from the 1,231 drug offense cases filed in El Paso County during 2002.³⁷

Corrections

- During 2002, the average daily population for the Detention Bureau of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office was 1,106.³⁸

Sources

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 - ³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 American Community Survey: Colorado Springs: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/Tabular/160/16000US08160001.htm>
 - ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
 - ⁵ Colorado Springs Mayor's Web site: <http://www.springsgov.com/Members.asp?MemberID=31>
 - ⁶ Colorado Springs Vice Mayor's Web site: <http://www.springsgov.com/Members.asp?MemberID=37>
 - ⁷ Colorado Springs City Council Members Web site: <http://www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=1356>
 - ⁸ Colorado Springs City Manager's Web site: <http://www.springsgov.com/Members.asp?MemberID=39>
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- ³² Ibid.
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