

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Mississippi

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.

Mississippi

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

Demographics

- Population: 2,881,281 (July 2003 Census estimate)¹; 2,775,227 (2002 American Community Survey)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 60.3% white, 36.9% black/African American, 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native, 0.5% Asian, 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% other, 0.7% two or more races, 1.2% Hispanic/Latino origin³

Politics

- Governor: Haley Barbour⁴
- Lt. Governor: Amy Tuck⁵
- Attorney General: Jim Hood⁶
- Secretary of State: Eric Clark⁷
- Senate Members: Thad Cochran (R), Trent Lott (R)⁸
- House Members: Roger Wicker (R), Bennie Thompson (D), Charles Pickering (R), Gene Taylor (D)⁹
- Capital: Jackson¹⁰

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹¹
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA consists of areas in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. The following Mississippi counties fall within the Gulf Coast HIDTA area of responsibility: Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Madison, and Rankin.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Mississippi:¹²
 - FY 2003:
 - \$100,000 to South Panola Community Coalition, Batesville
 - \$100,000 to Southwest Mississippi Rural Health Coalition, McComb
 - FY 2002: no Mississippi grantees
 - FY 2001:
 - \$99,793 to Gateway MAP (Multi-disciplinary Assessment Planning) Team, Yazoo City
 - \$99,669 to Jackson County Children's Services Coalition, Gautier
 - \$100,000 to Partnership for a Healthy Scott County, Forest
 - \$100,000 to West Jackson Community Development Corporation, Jackson
 - FY 1999-FY 2000: no Mississippi grantees
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹³
Three sites in Mississippi have been officially recognized as Federal Weed and Seed sites: Greenville, Jackson, and Tupelo.

- FY 2003/2004 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for Mississippi:¹⁴
 - Formula Funding: \$19,219,743
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$14,381,386
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$4,128,357
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$410,000
 - Discretionary Funding: \$5,785,989
 - Mental Health - \$1,572,910
 - Substance Prevention - \$3,895,208
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$317,871
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$6,411,267
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$18,594,465
 - Total Funds for Mississippi: \$25,005,732
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Mississippi: \$5,216,362¹⁵
- Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant:
 - FY 2003: \$500,000 to Washington County¹⁶
 - FY 2002: no Mississippi recipients¹⁷
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: \$250,000 to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics¹⁸
 - FY 2002: \$222,222 to Pearl River County Sheriff's Department¹⁹
- FY 2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Mississippi: \$1,037,751²⁰
- Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received in Mississippi (by funding category):²¹
 - Communities (discretionary): \$1.5 million
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$6.2 million
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: \$0.8 million
 - formula: \$4.1 million
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: \$33.6 million
 - formula: \$4.0 million
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: \$10.6 million
 - formula: \$6.5 million
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: \$0.1 million
 - formula: \$4.5 million
 - Total OJP/COPS funds received in Mississippi in FY 2002: \$72.0 million
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipient in Mississippi: \$145,000 to Westwick Apartments, Jackson²²

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 11,969 drug arrests in Mississippi during 2002.²³

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Mississippi, 2002

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	10	135
Forcible rape	25	238
Robbery	100	653
Aggravated assault	88	1,388
Burglary	632	2,290
Larceny-theft	2,405	9,451
Motor vehicle theft	168	641
Arson	30	237
Drug abuse violations	1,028	11,969
Driving under the influence	166	11,897

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 241 arrests for drug violations in Mississippi.²⁴

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Mississippi, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	243
1998	355
1999	375
2000	446
2001	241

Drugs

- Cocaine
Cocaine is the most problematic drug for communities and law enforcement in Mississippi.²⁵
- Heroin
Heroin is rare in Mississippi.²⁶
- Methamphetamine
The manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine is one of the fastest growing drug problems in Mississippi. The crystalline form of methamphetamine, known as "ice", "glass", or "crystal," is gaining in popularity.²⁷
- Marijuana
Marijuana is sold and used by members of all ethnic and socioeconomic groups in Mississippi.²⁸
- Club Drugs
MDMA has become the most prevalent and popular club drug in Mississippi. GHB, Rohypnol and ketamine are not currently known to be widely used or popular.²⁹
- Other Drugs
Individuals from all racial and socioeconomic groups are abusing illicitly diverted prescription drugs. Popular pharmaceuticals that are abused include OxyContin, Xanax, Valium, Vicodin, Dilaudid, and Lortab.³⁰

- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 54.07% of Mississippi citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³¹

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

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.89%	15.39%	3.28%	5.65%
Past month use of marijuana	5.55	12.18	1.96	3.83
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.76	6.57	1.63	2.69
Past year cocaine use	0.91	3.92	0.87	1.31
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	48.03	41.28	57.45	54.07

- According to 2000-2001 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1.49% of Mississippi citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³²

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Mississippi, 2000-2001 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.29%	4.00%	0.89%	1.49%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.18	6.34	1.23	2.30
Alcohol dependence	1.93	4.84	2.55	2.81
Alcohol dependence or abuse	4.93	11.60	4.72	5.73
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	7.48	15.21	5.68	7.25

Juveniles

- Among Mississippi high school students surveyed during 2003, 38.7% reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.³³

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Mississippi, 2003

	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
Lifetime alcohol use	69.4%	76.3%	77.7%	81.5%	75.6%
Lifetime cigarette use	61.9	63.4	69.6	69.2	65.6
Lifetime marijuana use	29.1	38.3	43.4	48.0	38.7
Past month marijuana use	17.7	21.0	22.4	22.8	20.6
Lifetime cocaine use	4.8	5.3	5.8	7.3	5.7
Past month cocaine use	1.0	2.0	3.5	3.3	2.3
Lifetime inhalant/glue sniffing	12.1	12.1	9.0	8.8	10.8
Past month inhalant/glue sniffing	2.7	3.2	1.8	2.8	2.7
Lifetime heroin use	0.9	1.7	2.3	2.6	1.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.7	6.8	7.9	7.0	6.9
Lifetime MDMA use	3.6	6.3	6.8	7.3	5.8
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.8	4.9	4.1	4.4	4.3
Lifetime use of needle	1.5	3.2	1.1	3.1	2.2

- Approximately 4.4% of Mississippi high school students surveyed in 2003 reported using marijuana on school property within the past month.³⁴
- More than 22% (22.3%) of Mississippi high school students surveyed in 2003 reported that they have been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property within the past year.³⁵
- Approximately 16.4% of Mississippi middle school students surveyed in 2003 reported using marijuana at some point in their lifetimes.³⁶

Percent of Middle School Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Mississippi, 2003

	6th	7th	8th	Total
Alcohol	36.7%	48.4%	65.5%	49.8%
Cigarettes	37.8	45.4	58.6	47.1
Marijuana	10.6	14.8	24.6	16.4
Cocaine	6.3	2.7	6.3	5.2
Inhalants/glue sniffing	14.6	16.0	16.9	15.8
Steroids	2.7	4.4	5.6	4.2
Used needle to inject illegal drug	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.0

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 8,381 full-time law enforcement employees in Mississippi (5,277 officers and 3,104 civilians).³⁷
- DEA Mobile Enforcement Teams (MET)³⁸
Developed in 1995 in response to the overwhelming problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation, the MET program serves as a cooperative program between DEA and its state and local law enforcement counterparts. MET deployments in the following Mississippi areas have lead to 136 arrests: Jackson (2 deployments), Hancock County, Greenville, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and Grenada.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mississippi is ideally suited with its interstate system, deepwater and river ports, and air and rail systems as the "Crossroads of the South" to facilitate drug movement from the South Texas/Mexico area and Gulf ports to the entire mid west and eastern seaboard of the United States.³⁹
- Drug trafficking patterns indicate the interstate highway system to be the preferred method of transporting illegal drugs into and through Mississippi.⁴⁰
- Mexican traffickers are loosely organized in Mississippi but are believed to be associated with large Mexican gangs operating in Memphis, Tennessee.⁴¹
- During full year 2003, the DEA and state and local authorities in Mississippi reported 319 methamphetamine lab incidents to the El Paso Intelligence Center.⁴²

Number of Methamphetamine Incidents/Seizures, Mississippi, 2003

Type of Seizure	Number
Chemical/glass/equipment	106
Dumpsite	7
Laboratory	206
Total	319

- There were 229 methamphetamine laboratories seized by the DEA and State and local authorities in Mississippi during 2002.⁴³

Number of Labs Seized, Mississippi, 1996-2002

Year	Labs Seized
1996	5
1997	6
1998	1
1999	30
2000	82
2001	136
2002	229

- More than 7,000 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in Mississippi during 2002.⁴⁴

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Mississippi, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kgs.)
Cocaine	7,169.6
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	4.4
Marijuana	294.4

- During 2002, nearly 4,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in Mississippi.⁴⁵

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Mississippi, 2002

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Erased	Grows Seized	Plants Erased	
154	3,709	13	264	3,973

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁶
As of November 2003, there were 14 drug courts either in already in existence or being planned in Mississippi. One drug court has been in existence for over 2 years, 6 were recently implemented, and 7 were being planned.
- During FY 2001, 42% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Mississippi were charged with drug offenses. Crack cocaine was involved in 107 (44.6%) of the drug offenses.⁴⁷

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Mississippi, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Crack cocaine	107	44.6%
Marijuana	53	22.1
Methamphetamine	42	17.5
Powder cocaine	32	13.3
Heroin	0	0.0
Other	6	2.5

Corrections

- On April 1, 2004, more than 7,000 inmates within the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) had committed drug offenses.⁴⁸

Number of MDOC Inmates, by Offense, April 1, 2004

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	7,080	30.74%
Property	8,590	37.30
Violent	7,362	31.96
Total	23,032	100.0

- There were 6,313 drug offenders on probation in Mississippi on April 1, 2004.⁴⁹

Number of MDOC Probationers, by Offense, April 1, 2004

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	6,313	33.71%
Property	10,033	53.58
Violent	2,380	12.71
Total	18,726	100.0

- There were 721 drug offenders on parole in Mississippi on April 1, 2004.⁵⁰

Number of MDOC Parolees, by Offense, April 1, 2004

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	721	37.36%
Property	674	34.92
Violent	535	27.72
Total	1,930	100.0

Consequences of Use

- From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003, there were 24 Mississippi methamphetamine laboratory sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center in which a child was present.⁵¹

Characteristics of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Mississippi, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	71
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	30
Sites with a child injured	1
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	24
Sites with a child residing at the site	34
Number of children placed in protective custody	13

Treatment

- In 2001, there were 10,065 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Mississippi.⁵² There were 9,574 treatment admissions in 2000.⁵³ During 1999, there were 8,790 admissions to treatment in Mississippi.⁵⁴

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Mississippi, 1999-2001

Drug Type	1999		2000		2001	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,354	26.8%	2,556	26.7%	2,321	23.1%
Alc. w/ second. drug	1,926	21.9	1,850	19.3	1,867	18.5
Cocaine – smoked	1,954	22.2	1,905	19.9	1,760	17.5
Cocaine – other route	382	4.3	357	3.7	425	4.2
Marijuana	1,318	15.0	1,634	17.1	2,003	19.9
Heroin	54	0.6	80	0.8	65	0.6
Other opiates	202	2.3	313	3.3	471	4.7
PCP	6	0.1	3	0.0	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	19	0.2	19	0.2	22	0.2
Amphetamines	182	2.1	310	3.2	522	5.2
Other stimulants	9	0.1	6	0.1	6	0.1
Tranquilizers	97	1.1	99	1.0	114	1.1
Sedatives	25	0.3	25	0.3	32	0.3
Inhalants	12	0.1	11	0.1	6	0.1
Other/none specified	250	2.8	406	4.2	451	4.5
Total	8,790	100.0	9,574	100.0	10,065	100.0

Sources

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⁴ Mississippi Governor Web site: <http://www.governorbarbour.com/>

⁵ Mississippi Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ls.state.ms.us/lsgov/index.htm>

⁶ Mississippi Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/>

⁷ Mississippi Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.ms.us/>

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- ⁸ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>
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- ³⁰ Ibid.
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- ³² Ibid.
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