

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Trenton, New Jersey

Profile of Drug Indicators

November 2003



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.

Trenton, New Jersey

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 85,403
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 32.6% white; 52.1% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.8% Asian; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 10.8% other race; 3.2% two or more races; 21.5% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Trenton is located in Mercer County.

Politics

- Mayor: Douglas Palmer²
- City Council: Paul Pintella, Annette Lartigue, Milford Bethea, John Ungrady, Gino Melone, Manuel Segura, Cordelia Staton³
- Trenton Police Director: Joseph Santiago⁴

Programs/Initiatives

- Office on Substance Abuse Prevention and Education (OSAPE)⁵
OSAPE coordinates all substance abuse prevention education activities and services for Trenton.
- Trenton Municipal Alliance Committee (TMAC)⁶
TMAC provides support to a coalition of individuals and organizations concerned with alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues. TMAC sponsors community meetings and awareness activities throughout the year.
- Trenton Redirecting Youth Prevention Education Program (TRYPEP)⁷
TRYPEP is an early intervention program specifically designed to reduce early first use of substances. As part of the program, adjudicated youth and high school students are trained to become peer mentors to elementary school students.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program⁸
There have been no Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Trenton.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁹
The Northwest and Southeast sections of Trenton have been designated Weed and Seed sites.
- FY 2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds awarded to agencies/organizations in Trenton:¹⁰
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$7,754,412
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$437,628
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$1,422,126
- Trenton did not receive any funding through the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹¹

- Trenton did not receive any funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.¹²
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Trenton:¹³
 - Discretionary - \$56,463,154
 - Formula - \$46,319,020
- Trenton did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁴

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2002, there were 6,310 index offenses known to police in Trenton.¹⁵

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Trenton, 2001-2002

Offense	2001	2002
Murder	13	19
Rape	72	68
Robbery	718	706
Aggravated assault	700	687
Burglary	1,535	1,196
Larceny	2,871	2,533
Motor vehicle theft	1,243	1,101
Total index offenses	7,152	6,310

- There were 2,064 drug possession/use arrests in Mercer County during 2002.¹⁶

Number of Drug Arrests, Mercer County, 2001-2002

Type of Drug Offense	2001	2002	% Change
Sale/manufacture	1,111	830	-25%
Possession/use	2,174	2,064	-5%
Total	3,285	2,894	-12%

Juveniles

- Approximately 6.2% of Mercer County middle school students reported past year marijuana use.¹⁷

Percent of Middle School Students Reporting Drug Use, Mercer County, 2001

Drug Type	Past Month	Past Year	Lifetime
Alcohol	13.2%	31.3%	47.2%
Cigarettes	6.5	12.9	21.6
Marijuana	3.8	6.2	6.8
Inhalants	2.3	5.3	8.3
Other illicit drugs	0.4	1.5	3.0
Any illicit drug	6.1	10.3	13.4

- Approximately 4.1% of Mercer County middle school students surveyed in 2001 reported being drunk or high at school.¹⁸

Enforcement

- There were 423 full-time police employees in Trenton in 2002 (452 officers and 62 civilians).¹⁹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Trenton is used as a drug distribution center for smaller cities in and outside the state.²⁰

Courts

- **Drug Courts**²¹
As of September 2003, there were 2 drug courts in existence in Trenton. One drug court has been operating for more than 2 years, while the other was recently implemented. There were no additional drug courts being planned in Trenton at that time.

Corrections

- Approximately 4% (1,197 offenders) of the offenders in New Jersey correctional institutions on January 8, 2001 had Mercer County as their county of commitment.²²

Consequences of Use

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 28 drug-related deaths and 24 alcohol-related deaths in Mercer County during 2001.²³

Treatment

- There were 1,437 admissions to treatment in Trenton during 2002.²⁴

Admissions to Treatment, Trenton, 2002

Drug Type	# of Admissions	% of Total
Alcohol	437	30.4%
Cocaine	279	19.4
Heroin	483	33.6
Marijuana	218	15.2
Other	20	1.4
Total	1,437	100.0

- Approximately 68% of those receiving treatment in Mercer County during 2002 had previously received treatment. Forty percent of those being treated had referred themselves to treatment and 21% were referred through the criminal justice system. Approximately 75% of those admitted to treatment reported that they did not have health insurance.²⁵
- In 2002, 34% of the substance abuse treatment admissions in Mercer County had heroin as the primary drug of abuse.²⁶

Admissions to Treatment, Mercer County, 2002

Drug Type	# of Admissions	% of Total
Alcohol	617	32%
Heroin	660	34
Intravenous heroin	413	21
Cocaine	333	17
Smoked cocaine	289	15
Marijuana	298	15
Other drugs	23	1

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² Trenton Mayor Web site: <http://www.ci.trenton.nj.us/cigovmayor.html>
- ³ Trenton City Council Web site: <http://www.ci.trenton.nj.us/cigovcouncil.html>
- ⁴ Trenton Police Department: <http://www.ci.trenton.nj.us/police1.html>
- ⁵ Trenton Substance Abuse Prevention Services: <http://www.ci.trenton.nj.us/hhsubabuse.html>
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, New Jersey: <http://ojjdp.njrs.org/dfcs/states/nj.html>
- ⁹ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center Web site, New Jersey section: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=NJ>
- ¹⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2002/2003 SAMHSA Grant Awards: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/State.htm>
- ¹¹ Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/03DrugCtAwd.pdf>
- ¹² Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf
- ¹³ Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants, New Jersey: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2002grants/map/nj.htm>
- ¹⁴ Department of 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>
- ¹⁵ New Jersey State Police, *Crime in New Jersey, 2002*: <http://www.njsp.org/info/ucr2002/index.html>
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, *The 2001 New Jersey Middle School Substance Use Survey Report*, September 2002: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/as/2001middleschsurvey.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ New Jersey State Police, *Crime in New Jersey, 2002*: <http://www.njsp.org/info/ucr2002/index.html>
- ²⁰ National Drug Intelligence Center, *New Jersey Drug Threat Assessment*, May 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs0/669/669p.pdf>
- ²¹ 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/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- ²² New Jersey Department of Corrections, *Offender Statistics*: <http://www.state.nj.us/corrections/offstats.html>
- ²³ New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, *New Jersey Health Statistics, 2001*: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/stats01/index.html>
- ²⁴ New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, *Substance Abuse Overview, 2002: Mercer County*, July 2003: http://www.state.nj.us/health/as/overview/mer_2002.pdf
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.

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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

