Office of National Drug Control Policy
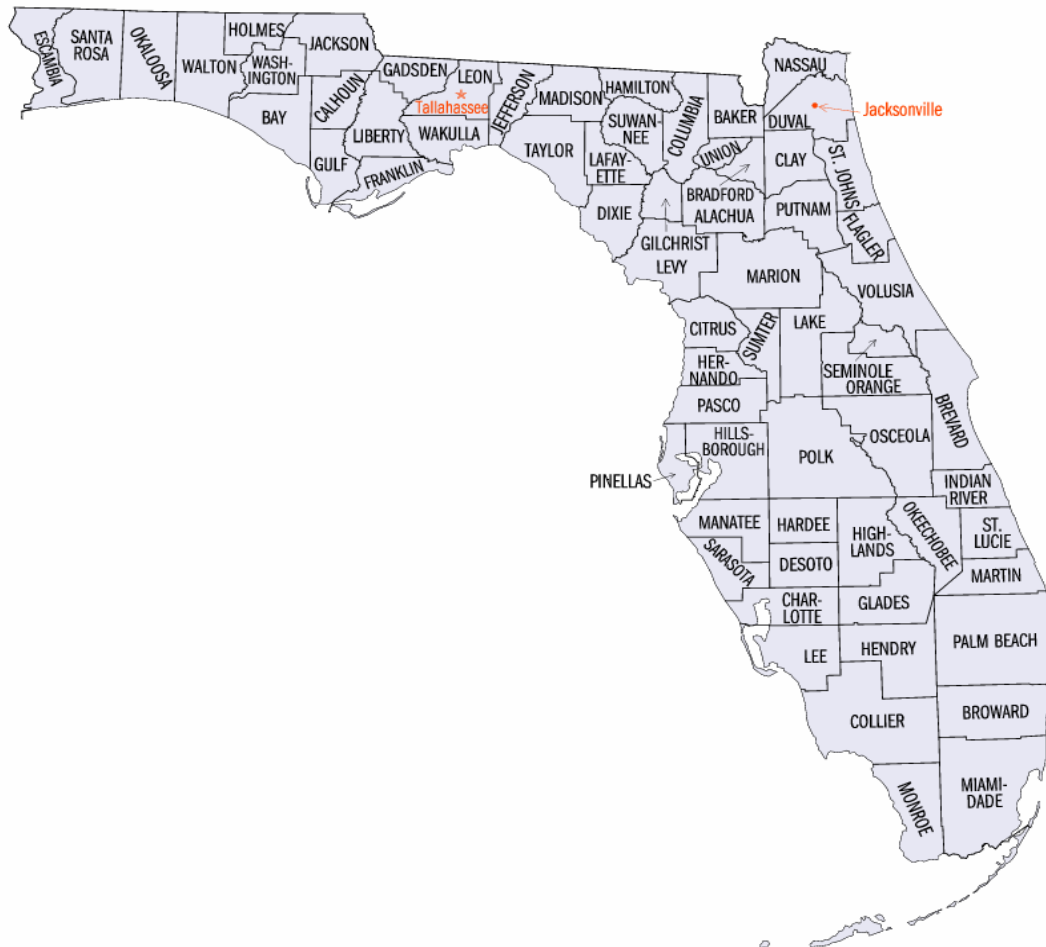
Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Miami, Florida

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2004

Miami, Florida

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

Demographics
- Population: 328,472 (2002 American Community Survey);[1] 362,470 (2000 Census)[2]
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 9.4% white; 21.1% black/African American; 0.0% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1 % some other race; 0.4% two or more races; 68.3% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)[3]
- Miami is located in Miami-Dade County.[4]

Politics
- Mayor: Manuel Diaz[5]
- City Manager: Joe Arriola[6]
- City Commissioners (Districts 1-5, respectively): Angel Gonzalez; Johnny Winton; Joe Sanchez; Tomas Regalado; Arthur Teele, Jr.[7]
- Miami Police Chief: John Timoney[8]

Programs/Initiatives
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)[9]
  Designated in 1990, the South Florida HIDTA is composed of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.
- Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community[10]
  Founded in 1988, the Miami Coalition is a broadly based community organization committed to reducing the problems of drug abuse, addiction, and related social issues in the Miami area.

Federal Funding
- Drug Free Communities Support Program grantees in Miami:[11]
  - FY 2003:
    - $100,000 to the Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community
    - $100,000 to the South Miami Drug-Free Community Coalition (Informed Families/The Florida Family Partnership)
  - FY 1999, FY 2000, FY 2001, and FY 2002: no Miami grantees
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed[12]
  Two sites in Miami have received Federal funding and have been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites: Liberty City and Little Haiti/Lemon City.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds awarded to agencies/organizations in Miami:[13]
  - Center for Mental Health Services: $599,763
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: $1,534,559
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: $2,098,349
- Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant:
  - FY 2003: no Miami grantees[14]

- FY 2002: no Miami grantees[15]
➢ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
  - FY 2003: no Miami grantees[16]
  - FY 2002: no Miami grantees[17]
➢ FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Miami:[18]
  - Communities: 2 awards valued at $350,000
  - Counter-Terrorism: 0 awards
  - Juvenile Justice:
    - discretionary: 6 awards valued at $2,421,259
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Law Enforcement:
    - discretionary: 9 awards valued at $4,112,319
    - formula: 2 awards valued at $2,210,585
  - Substance Abuse:
    - discretionary: 1 award valued at $194,000
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Victims: 0 awards
➢ Miami did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant program.[19]

Crime & Drug-Related Crime
➢ From January to June 2003, the Miami Police Department reported making 16 arrests for murder.[20] During 2002, the Miami Police Department made 47 murder arrests.[21] In 2001, the Miami Police Department reported 38 murder arrests.[22]

Number of Arrests, Index Offenses, Miami, 2001-June 2003

	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-June 2003
Murder	38	47	16
Forcible sex	120	55	39
Robbery	925	949	381
Aggravated assault	2,062	2,150	874
Burglary	1,306	1,352	602
Larceny	3,869	3,397	1,425
Motor vehicle theft	492	418	182

➢ The Miami Police Department made 3,327 arrests for drugs/narcotics offenses from January to June 2003.[23] During full year 2002, there were 6,595 such arrests.[24] This is down from 7,196 drugs/narcotics arrests in 2001.[25]

Number of Substance-Related Arrests, Miami, 2001-June 2003

Offense	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-June 2003
Drugs/narcotics	7,196	6,595	3,327
DUI	770	801	412
Liquor laws	14,707	8,031	2,329

➢ During 2000, approximately 63% of adult male arrestees in Miami tested positive for drugs at arrest.[26]

Percent Positive for Drugs, Adult Male Arrestees, Miami, 2000

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	43.5%
Opiates	4.0
Marijuana	38.5
Methamphetamine	0.0
PCP	0.0
Any drug	62.8
Multiple drugs	22.5

➢ 2000 data also indicate that 15.5% of the Miami adult male arrestees who were interviewed reported using powder cocaine in the 7 days prior to being arrested.[27]

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Reporting Drug Use, Miami, 2000

Drug Type	Past 7 Days	Past Month	Past Year
Alcohol	--	40.2%	50.2%
Crack cocaine	13.4%	13.6	14.8
Powder cocaine	15.5	17.9	22.6
Marijuana	30.3	35.3	41.6
Heroin	3.6	4.2	4.7
Methamphetamine	0.3	0.3	0.9

Drugs
➢ Cocaine
   The use of powder cocaine among new drug users in Miami is on the rise.[28] Powder cocaine purity has declined in Miami due to the use of adulterants such as caffeine and "any white powder." Some MDMA users in Miami begin their evening by doing a line of cocaine.[29] One rock of crack cocaine sells for $10-$20 in Miami.[30] Powder cocaine sells for $40-$60/gram and is usually 80% pure. The price for a kilogram of cocaine has remained stable at $18,000-$22,000.[31]
➢ Heroin
   A younger cohort of heroin users has been reported in Miami.[32] Some young heroin users are more likely to snort the drug because of AIDS concerns. Heroin is sometimes used to "parachute down" after using MDMA. High purity snortable South American (Colombian) white heroin is the most common type available in Miami. A gram of South American heroin costs approximately $120-$200 in the city.[33] Miami's heroin

street purity is estimated at 17-23%, with the lowest price per milligram pure in the region's history ($1.03). The most common unit of street heroin sells for $10 for a bag weighing about one-tenth of a gram with a purity of 20%.[34] One ounce of Colombian heroin sells for $2,100 in Miami.[35] Kilogram prices for heroin found in South Florida have remained stable at around $60,000-$65,000, with a purity range of 70-95%.[36]

➢ Marijuana
Local commercial, sinsemilla, and hydroponic marijuana are all widely available in Miami. Some young marijuana users report lacing marijuana with heroin. One ounce of hydroponic marijuana costs $150-$200.[37] Marijuana pound prices have increased from $4,000 to $5,000. Some dealers lace marijuana with cocaine to make customers believe they have been sold potent marijuana, resulting in an increase in repeat customers. Marijuana has been associated with high-risk sexual behavior in Miami.[38]

➢ Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine use continues to increase in Miami, with use spreading from the gay male and techno-dance scenes to females and heterosexual males. Ice (a high-purity, smokable form of meth) is also increasingly available.[39]

➢ Club Drugs
Club drug users are using powder cocaine to bolster the effects of the club drugs.[40] The practice of "rolling," the use of heroin to counteract the stimulant effect of MDMA, has been reported in Miami.[41] One MDMA pill costs $11-$18.[42] GHB is a commonly abused substance in South Florida.[43] One GHB pill costs $10 in Miami.[44]

➢ Other Drugs
Diverted OxyContin is more difficult for users to purchase in Miami because fewer doctors are prescribing it. Many OxyContin abusers have since switched to diverted methadone.[45] Hydrocodone is increasingly appearing in crime lab tests in Miami. Both legitimate and illegal uses of prescription drugs have increased since September 11, 2001.[46] OxyContin tablets sell in South Florida for $0.25-$1.00 per milligram.[47] Viagra is used with MDMA in a combination known as "sextasy." Miami high school students are increasingly abusing alprazolam.[48]

Juveniles
➢ From January to June 2003, there were 1,496 juvenile arrests made by the Miami Police Department.[49] During full year 2002, the Miami Police Department reported 3,604 juvenile arrests.[50]
➢ Approximately 5.2% of Miami-Dade County middle school students who were surveyed in 2002 reported being high or drunk at school.[51]

Percent of Students Reporting Delinquent Behavior, Miami-Dade County, 2000-2002

Type of Delinquent Behavior	2000		2002	
	Middle	High	Middle	High
Sold drugs	3.7	6.9%	1.8%	3.3%
Been drunk or high at school	6.9	14.2	5.2	10.1

➢ Approximately 19% of the middle school and 26% of the high school students in Miami-Dade County who were surveyed in 2002 reported lifetime use of an illicit drug.[52]

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Miami-Dade County, 2002

Drug Type	Middle School	High School
Marijuana/hashish	7.3%	19.3%
Inhalants	12.4	8.0
Ecstasy	1.6	6.7
Rohypnol	0.9	2.0
GHB	2.5	1.1
Ketamine	1.0	1.1
LSD/PCP	0.7	3.6
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	1.3	2.7
Cocaine	1.5	3.6
Crack cocaine	1.4	1.2
Methamphetamine	1.2	1.7
Depressants	1.5	4.1
Heroin	0.9	0.9
OxyContin	0.6	0.1
Steroids	0.8	0.8
Amphetamines	1.1	2.0
Any illicit drug	18.9	25.5

➢ Approximately 11% of Miami-Dade County high school students surveyed in 2002 reported using any illicit drug within the past month.[53]

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Drug Use, Miami-Dade County, 2002

Drug Type	Middle School	High School
Marijuana/hashish	3.3%	9.1%
Inhalants	5.3	1.5
Ecstasy	0.6	2.1
Rohypnol	0.3	0.7
GHB	2.1	0.4
Ketamine	0.3	0.3
LSD/PCP	0.2	0.4
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	0.4	0.1
Cocaine	0.3	1.0
Crack cocaine	0.2	0.3
Methamphetamine	1.0	0.1
Depressants	0.3	1.6
Heroin	0.3	0.3
OxyContin	0.2	0.1
Steroids	0.1	0.1
Amphetamines	0.3	0.4
Any illicit drug	9.0	10.6

➢ A 2001 survey of Miami high school students indicated that 31.9% of them had used marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.[54]

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Miami, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	28.3%	35.7%	31.9%
Current marijuana use	15.3	18.9	17.0
Lifetime cocaine use	7.3	8.9	8.1
Current cocaine use	2.0	6.0	4.0
Lifetime inhalant use	6.8	8.7	7.7
Current inhalant use	2.0	3.3	2.6
Lifetime heroin use	1.7	3.9	2.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.8	5.9	4.8
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.5	3.9	3.2
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.7	2.5	1.6
Tried marijuana before age 13	4.9	10.5	7.7

➢ Nearly 39% of Miami 12th graders surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.[55]

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Grade, Miami, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	27.7%	30.6%	32.8%	38.7%
Past month marijuana use	15.6	15.9	14.6	22.8
Lifetime cocaine use	8.4	6.1	8.9	9.3
Past month cocaine use	4.9	2.1	4.3	4.5
Lifetime inhalant use	8.6	6.1	7.1	9.3
Past month inhalant use	2.9	1.9	3.0	2.7
Lifetime heroin use	2.7	1.2	3.3	3.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.4	2.1	4.0	7.7
Lifetime steroid use	3.5	1.8	3.3	3.3
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	1.3	1.1	2.1	1.7

Enforcement
➢ Implemented on February 15, 2001, Operation Riverwalk is a law enforcement effort made up of officers from Federal, state, and local agencies. The purpose of Operation Riverwalk is to enforce drug laws and limit drug trafficking along the Miami River.[56]
➢ As of October 31, 2002, there were 1,408 full time law enforcement employees in Miami (1,075 officers and 333 civilians).[57]

Trafficking and Seizures
➢ South Florida is a major transit point for cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and MDMA entering the U.S. for other parts of the country.[58]

- South Florida's airports and seaports remain among the busiest in the Nation for both cargo and passenger traffic. Cruise ship smuggling is another trafficking trend evident in the area.[59]
- Miami's *Pulse Check* law enforcement source suggests that increased airport security since September 11, 2001 led to a reduction in drug trafficking activities that utilize airports. Some drug traffic has shifted from air to sea using cruise ships.[60]
- The Internet has recently become a tool for powder cocaine sales in Miami.[61]
- During FY 2002, the U.S. Customs Service seized 34,891 pounds of marijuana in South Florida.[62]

Amount of Drugs Seized (in Pounds) by Customs, South Florida, FY 1998-2002

Year	Marijuana	Cocaine	Heroin
FY 1998	57,284	63,283	846
FY 1999	38,398	42,943	466
FY 2000	50,266	25,236	739
FY 2001	69,044	27,460	1,061
FY 2002	34,891	32,150	1,272

- In October 2002, the DEA announced the arrest of eight defendants who had been involved in an international ketamine distribution ring operating in South Florida for the past year. 200 vials of ketamine were seized along with weapons and false identification cards.[63]
- Dade County authorities eradicated 4,934 marijuana plants and 45 marijuana sites during 2002. All of the seizures involved indoor operations.[64]
- On July 30, 2002, U.S. Customs Service inspectors seized 3,618 pounds of cocaine valued at $32 million on the Miami River.[65]
- On March 19, 2002, Customs officers seized 58,925 tablets of ecstasy at the Miami International Airport. The pills were valued at $1.8 million.[66]
- On March 13, 2002, Customs officers seized 298 pounds of cocaine worth more than $2 million wholesale. The cocaine originated in Colombia and was seized at the Port of Miami.[67]

Courts
- During FY 2001, approximately 52% of the Federally sentenced defendants in southern Florida had been charged with drug offenses. More than 600 of the drug offenses (accounting for 51.5%) involved powder cocaine.[68]

Federally-Sentenced Drug Defendants, Southern Florida, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	% of Drug Offenses
Powder cocaine	602	51.5%
Heroin	247	21.1
Crack cocaine	135	11.5
Marijuana	89	7.6
Methamphetamine	10	0.9
Other	87	7.4

- Of the defendants in South Florida sentenced for committing a Federal drug trafficking offense during FY 2001, 98.5% received a prison sentence. The one offender sentenced for committing a simple possession offense received a prison sentence.[69]
- Drug Courts[70]
  As of November 2003, there were 2 drug courts in Miami that have been operating for over 2 years and 1 juvenile drug court that was recently implemented. There were no additional drug courts being planned in Miami at that time.

Corrections
- Approximately 11.6% of the inmates in Florida prisons on June 30, 2003 were sentenced in Miami-Dade County.[71]

Consequences of Use
- According to the *Pulse Check* non-methadone treatment source for Miami, hepatitis C is not only high among injecting drug clients but also among clients who snort drugs through a straw in group settings.[72]
- During 2002, there were 9,213 drug episodes reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by emergency departments (ED) in Miami. Cocaine was mentioned 5,055 times in the ED episodes.[73]

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Miami, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combin.	2,132	2,645	3,168	3,679	3,863
Cocaine	3,553	4,018	4,383	4,641	5,055
Heroin	767	917	1,453	1,666	1,784
Marijuana	1,113	1,283	1,768	1,932	2,337
Amphetamines	64	53	83	64	73
Methamphetamine	16	9	15	27	15
MDMA	12	59	105	184	135
Ketamine	1	10	2	4	2
LSD	54	50	55	55	42
PCP	14	9	15	9	8
Misc. hallucinogens	6	6	8	5	3
Rohypnol	12	7	10	6	3
GHB	10	29	46	33	38
Inhalants	10	23	15	4	8
Total drug episodes	6,426	7,128	8,560	8,886	9,213
Total drug mentions	10,755	12,158	14,883	15,919	16,774

- From January through June 2003, there were 87 deaths reported by Miami medical examiners in which cocaine was found in the bodies of the deceased.[74] During full year 2002, there were 151 cocaine-related deaths reported by Miami medical examiners.[75] During full year 2001, cocaine was reported in 149 of the deaths in Miami.[76]

Number of Deaths with Drugs Present, Miami, 2000-June 2003

Drug Involved	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-June 2003
Cocaine	144	149	151	87
Heroin	61	32	46	13
Hydrocodone*	54	13	26	6
Oxycodone*	--	24	24	6
Methadone	6	2	10	1

* In 2000, hydrocodone and oxycodone mentions were combined and are reported in the hydrocodone row.

➢ There were 8 methylated amphetamine-related deaths in Miami-Dade County during 2002.[77] In 2001, there were 14 methylated amphetamine-related deaths in Miami-Dade County. The number of GHB-related deaths in the county decreased from 3 in 2000 to 1 in 2001.[78]

Treatment

➢ The *Pulse Check* non-methadone treatment respondent for Miami reports that his 300-slot facility operates at full capacity. In Fall 2002, approximately 43% of the treatment clients were being treated for primary abuse of crack cocaine, followed by marijuana at 35.4%.[79]

➢ Nearly half (45.3%) of a sample of individuals being treated in Miami during 2002 were being treated for primary abuse of cocaine and 9% were being treated for primary abuse of heroin.[80]

➢ Approximately 63.3% of adult male arrestees in Miami interviewed during 2000 were in need of treatment but had no health insurance. Twenty percent of arrestees had been admitted to treatment in the past year.[81]

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