

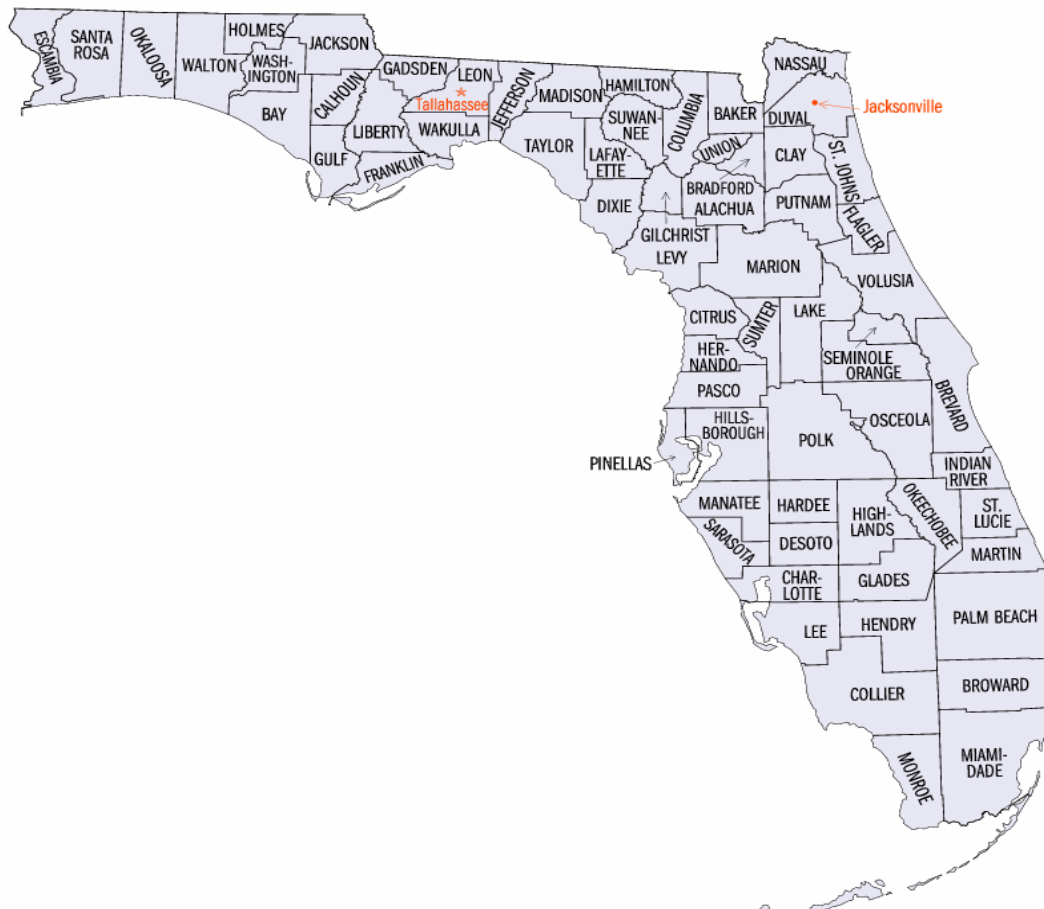
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Orlando, Florida

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

March 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.

## Orlando, Florida

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

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population (2000 Census): 185,951
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 61.1% white; 26.9% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.7% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 5.4% other race; 3.5% two or more races; 17.5% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Orlando is located in Orange County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Buddy Dyer<sup>2</sup>
- City Council (Districts 1-6, respectively): Phil Diamond; Betty T. Wyman; Vicki Vargo; Patty Sheehan; Daisy W. Lynum; Ernest Page<sup>3</sup>
- Chief of Police: Michael McCoy<sup>4</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>5</sup>  
Designated in 1998, the Central Florida HIDTA is responsible for Hillsborough, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties.
- Orange County Coalition for a Drug-Free Community<sup>6</sup>  
The mission of this program is to use all resources within Orange County to effectively provide for the prevention of substance abuse. This group also strives to provide effective intervention and/or treatment programs when necessary.

### **Federal Funding**

- There have been no Orlando recipients of the Drug Free Communities Support Program.<sup>7</sup>
- Office of Weed and Seed<sup>8</sup>  
One site in Orlando (Ivy Lane/Holden Heights) has received Federal funding and official recognition as a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Orlando:<sup>9</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services: \$30,000
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$795,272
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$1,950,000
- Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant:
  - FY 2003: no Orlando grantees<sup>10</sup>
  - FY 2002: no Orlando grantees<sup>11</sup>
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
  - FY 2003: no Orlando grantees<sup>12</sup>
  - FY 2002: no Orlando grantees<sup>13</sup>

- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Orlando:<sup>14</sup>
  - Communities: 0 awards
  - Counter-Terrorism:
    - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$310,000
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Juvenile Justice:
    - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$75,000
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Law Enforcement:
    - discretionary: 10 awards valued at \$3,607,340
    - formula: 3 awards valued at \$2,227,934
  - Substance Abuse:
    - discretionary: 0 awards
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Victims:
    - discretionary: 0 awards
    - formula: 0 awards
- There were no Orlando recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.<sup>15</sup>

### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to June 2003, there were 17 arrests in Orlando for murder.<sup>16</sup> During full year 2002, there were 21 murder arrests in Orlando.<sup>17</sup> This is down from 32 murder arrests in 2001.<sup>18</sup>

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

Offense	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-June 2003
Murder	32	21	17
Forcible sex offenses	70	65	24
Robbery	297	207	80
Aggravated assault	772	682	289
Burglary	483	483	210
Larceny/theft	2,421	1,910	960
Motor vehicle theft	281	300	162

- The Orlando Police Department made 1,331 arrests for drugs/narcotics offenses from January to June 2003.<sup>19</sup> During full year 2002, there were 2,343 such arrests.<sup>20</sup> This is down from 2,995 drugs/narcotics arrests in 2001.<sup>21</sup>

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

Offense	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Jan.-June 2003
Drugs/narcotics	2,995	2,343	1,331
DUI	337	300	194
Liquor laws	401	287	189

## Drugs

- Cocaine  
Crack cocaine is the most serious drug problem in the Orlando area and abuse remains high. Most of the cocaine HCl brought into the Orlando area is converted into crack. After being converted to crack, the cocaine is sold locally in the Orlando metropolitan area or transported northward to Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas and the Atlantic coast areas of the U.S.<sup>22</sup> Powder cocaine is increasingly available at nightclubs in Orlando.<sup>23</sup>
- Heroin  
Heroin is readily available in and around Orlando.<sup>24</sup> The majority of the heroin in Central Florida is South American in origin.<sup>25</sup>
- Methamphetamine  
Methamphetamine abuse continues to rise in the Orlando area.<sup>26</sup> Concentrated areas of methamphetamine use are found around Mexican migrant farm communities.<sup>27</sup>

## Juveniles

- Approximately 10% of Orange County 6th-12th grade students surveyed in 2002 reported using marijuana within the past 30 days.<sup>28</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Past 30 Day Drug Use, Orange County, 2002

Drug Type	Middle School	High School	Total
Alcohol	16.7%	34.9%	26.8%
Marijuana or hashish	4.5	14.9	10.2
Inhalants	4.3	1.6	2.8
Ecstasy	0.6	2.1	1.4
Rohypnol	0.3	0.3	0.3
GHB	0.8	1.0	0.9
Ketamine	0.0	0.2	0.1
LSD or PCP	0.1	0.9	0.5
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	0.4	0.8	0.6
Cocaine	0.4	1.2	0.8
Crack cocaine	0.1	0.1	0.1
Methamphetamine	0.6	0.8	0.7
Depressants	1.3	2.3	1.8
Heroin	0.0	0.1	0.1
OxyContin	0.1	0.8	0.5
Other prescription pain relievers	1.8	2.7	2.3
Steroids w/o doctor's order	0.5	0.5	0.5
Amphetamines	1.2	1.4	1.3
Any illicit drug	8.9	16.7	13.1

- Nearly 30% of Orange County high school students and 9.1% of middle school students surveyed in 2002 reported using marijuana at some point in their lifetime.<sup>29</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Orange County, 2002

Drug Type	Middle School	High School	Total
Alcohol	39.9%	63.4%	52.8%
Marijuana or hashish	9.1	29.5	20.3
Inhalants	11.7	7.9	9.5
Ecstasy	1.7	7.6	4.9
Rohypnol	0.5	2.2	1.4
GHB	1.1	1.5	1.3
Ketamine	0.1	1.8	1.0
LSD or PCP	0.8	3.4	2.2
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	1.9	4.5	3.3
Cocaine	1.7	3.5	2.7
Crack cocaine	1.4	1.2	1.3
Methamphetamine	1.6	2.8	2.3
Depressants	2.4	6.6	4.8
Heroin	0.4	0.7	0.5
OxyContin	0.7	2.4	1.6
Other prescription pain relievers	4.3	6.3	5.4
Steroids w/o doctor's order	0.9	1.0	1.0
Amphetamines	1.6	4.0	2.9
Any illicit drug	19.9	34.0	27.6

- Approximately 12.6% of Orange County high school students surveyed in 2002 reported being drunk or high at school within the past 12 months.<sup>30</sup>

Percent of Students Engaging in Past Year Delinquent Behavior, Orange County, 2002

Behavior	Middle School	High School	Total
Carrying a handgun	2.2%	4.0%	3.3%
Selling drugs	1.6	7.6	5.0
Attempting to steal vehicle	2.7	3.7	3.4
Being arrested	4.1	6.5	5.5
Taking handgun to school	0.5	1.4	1.1
Getting suspended	14.8	10.3	12.3
Attacking w/intent to harm	10.0	11.8	11.1
Being drunk/high at school	6.1	12.6	10.0

- According to the 2002 student survey, the average age when Orange County middle and high school students first used marijuana was 13.5.<sup>31</sup>

**Enforcement**

- Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)<sup>32</sup>  
 MBI is a multi-agency task force empowered to conduct narcotics, vice, and organized crime investigations throughout Orange and Osceola Counties. In 1999, MBI was designated as a HIDTA task force, allowing MBI to receive Federal overtime funding for narcotics agents.

- Units of the Orlando Police Department Drug Enforcement Division:<sup>33</sup>
  - Uniform Drug Enforcement Unit – consists of 1 sergeant and 10 officers; works problem drug areas in uniform and provides uniformed assistance to undercover drug detectives
  - Undercover Drug Unit – consists of 1 sergeant and 9 detectives; responsible for street-level, and mid to upper-level drug investigations; addresses all narcotics complaints and assists other local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies
  - Parcel Interdiction Unit – responsible for the investigation of illegal contraband through package delivery services; assists other agencies in the interception of narcotics packages in their respective jurisdictions
  - Prescription Fraud Unit – consists of 1 detective; responsible for the enforcement of laws relating to the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs; objective is to educate medical professionals about the various scams, prescription fraud, and wide-range abuse
- Rx Fraud Web site<sup>34</sup>  
The Prescription Fraud Unit has developed the “Rx Fraud” Web site to show photos of individuals who have recently been arrested on prescription fraud charges. This site is designed to be useful for pharmacies and other agencies to identify possible suspects.
- As of October 31, 2002, there were 968 full-time law enforcement employees in Orlando (680 officers and 288 civilians).<sup>35</sup>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- Mexican methamphetamine traffickers have become entrenched in Central Florida.<sup>36</sup>
- Orlando is one of Florida’s primary transportation hubs and transshipment points for South American heroin smuggled into the country.<sup>37</sup>
- The Central Florida region is a drug smuggling importation target due to its geographic location, its tourism industry, and its large and efficient air, land, and sea transportation system.<sup>38</sup>
- As a result of Florida’s Domestic Marijuana Eradication program, 560 marijuana plants were eradicated in Orange County during 2002.<sup>39</sup>

Number of Marijuana Sites and Plants Detected, Orange County, 2002

	Sites	Plants
Indoor	0	0
Outdoor	1	560
Total	1	560

- Efforts of the Central Florida HIDTA agencies resulted in the seizure of 1,570,598 MDMA dosage units in 2001. This is up from 968,344 dosage units in 2000 and 559,671 dosage units in 1999.<sup>40</sup>

## Courts

### ➤ Drug Courts<sup>41</sup>

As of November 7, 2003, there were 2 drug courts in Orlando that have been operating for over 2 years and 1 drug court that was recently implemented. There were no additional drug courts being planned in Orlando at that time.

### ➤ During FY 2001, 44.4% of the Federally sentenced defendants in middle Florida had been charged with a drug offense. More than 28% of the drug offenses involved powder cocaine.<sup>42</sup>

#### Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Middle Florida, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	% of All Drug Offenses
Powder cocaine	162	28.2%
Crack cocaine	158	27.5
Marijuana	119	20.7
Methamphetamine	74	12.9
Heroin	40	7.0
Other	21	3.7

## Corrections

### ➤ Canine Unit<sup>43</sup>

The Orange County Corrections Department Canine Unit maintains 2 drug-detecting dogs that are used in jail shakedowns and security and provide assistance to law enforcement operations when requested.

## Consequences of Use

### ➤ From January to June 2003, there were 56 deaths in Orlando in which cocaine was found in the body of the deceased.<sup>44</sup> During full year 2002, there were 116 cocaine-related deaths in Orlando.<sup>45</sup> There were 94 cocaine-related deaths in Orlando during 2001.<sup>46</sup>

#### Number of Deaths with Drugs Present, Orlando, 2001-June 2003

Drug Involved	2001	2002	Jan.-June 2003
Cocaine	94	116	56
Heroin	47	33	18
Hydrocodone	28	34	21
Oxycodone	35	34	21
Methadone	18	26	9

### ➤ Each month, 12-15 babies exposed to or addicted to drugs are born in Orange County.<sup>47</sup>

## Sources

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- <sup>3</sup> Orlando City Council Web site: <http://www.cityoforlando.net/elected/council/index.htm>
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- <sup>25</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, Florida State Fact Sheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/florida.html>
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
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- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
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