

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Mobile, Alabama

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 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.

Mobile, Alabama

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

Demographics

- Population: 193,464 (July 2003 Census estimate)¹; 198,915 (2000 Census)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 49.8% white; 46.1% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.5% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 0.9% two or more races; 1.4% Hispanic/Latino (any race)
- Mobile is located in Mobile County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Michael Dow⁴
- City Council (Districts 1-7, respectively): Fredrick Richardson, Jr.; Thomas Sullivan (Vice President); Clinton Johnson; Ben Brooks, III; Reggie Copeland, Sr. (President); Connie Hudson⁵
- Chief of Police: Samuel Cochran⁶
- Mobile County Sheriff: Jack Tillman⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, including Mobile County. The purpose of the Gulf Coast HIDTA is to measurably reduce violent drug trafficking in the region and to reduce the impact of Gulf Coast drug trafficking on other parts of the United States.
- Integrated Drug Enforcement Assistance (IDEA) Program⁹
The Mobile/Prichard area of Alabama is part of the second phase of the Drug Enforcement Administration's IDEA program. The purpose of the program is to provide the Mobile/Prichard area with long-term support in developing and implementing prevention and treatment programs. The basis for IDEA is to link the efforts of law enforcement and community coalitions.
- Partnership for a Drug-Free Mobile¹⁰
The Partnership for a Drug-Free Mobile is a public-private alliance of business, advertising, and media leaders working together to reduce substance use in Mobile with the use of a media campaign.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Mobile:¹¹
 - Original award year 2003: no grantees
 - Original award year 2002: no grantees
 - Original award year 2001: no grantees
 - Original award year 2000: no grantees
 - Original award year 1999: no grantees

- Community Capacity Development Office¹²
The Trinity Gardens area of Mobile has been designated a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Grant funds received in Mobile:¹³
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$0
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$0
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$0
- There were no Mobile recipients of the FY 2004 Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant.¹⁴
- There were no Mobile recipients of the FY 2003 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁵
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Mobile:¹⁶
 - Communities (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$496,750
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 3 awards valued at \$393,639
 - formula: 2 awards valued at \$292,514
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$499,998
 - formula: 0 awards
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 1 award valued at \$215,440
 - formula: 0 awards
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Mobile: \$200,000 to the Dauphin Gate Apartments¹⁷

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January through April 2004, there were 14 homicides reported by the Mobile Police Department. During full year 2003, there were 24 homicides reported.¹⁸

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Mobile, 2000-April 2004

Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-April 2004
Homicide	20	42	41	24	14
Rape	54	97	96	113	45
Robbery	895	831	771	739	300
Aggravated assault	521	528	508	424	155
Burglary	3,607	4,634	3,916	3,976	1,606
Larceny	10,996	12,256	11,424	10,855	4,479
Motor vehicle theft	1,516	1,476	1,565	1,320	566
Total index offenses	17,609	19,864	18,321	17,451	7,165

- During 2003, the Mobile Police Department made 251 juvenile drug arrests. This is down from 277 juvenile drug arrests in 2002 and 336 juvenile drug arrests in 2001.¹⁹
- The Mobile Police Department's Narcotics and Vice Unit made 2,079 arrests during 2003: 121 vice-related arrests, 1,081 drug-related felony arrests, and 877 misdemeanor arrests.²⁰
- During 2003, there were 1,552 adult arrests in Mobile County for drug possession.²¹

Number of Drug Possession Arrests, Mobile County, 2003

Drug Type	Adult	Juvenile
Opium/cocaine	563	21
Marijuana	887	152
Synthetic drugs	51	8
Other	51	2
Total	1,552	183

- There were 141 adult arrests for drug sales in Mobile County during 2003.²²

Number of Drug Sales Arrests, Mobile County, 2003

Drug Type	Adult	Juvenile
Opium/cocaine	72	0
Marijuana	6	0
Synthetic drugs	4	1
Other	59	0
Total	141	1

Drugs

- Marijuana
The drug of choice in the Gulf Coast HIDTA region is marijuana.²³
- Club Drugs
The popularity of club drugs, such as MDMA, LSD, and GHB, is on the rise throughout the Gulf Coast HIDTA.²⁴
- Other Drugs
The abuse of OxyContin has emerged as a significant problem across the Gulf Coast HIDTA region.²⁵

Juveniles

- Results of a 2002 survey of Mobile County students indicate that 42% of 11th graders reported lifetime use of marijuana.²⁶

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, by Grade, Mobile County, 2002

Drug Type	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Cigarettes	22%	37%	43%	46%	46%	54%	39%
Alcohol	26	47	63	70	67	79	65
Marijuana	8	17	29	31	36	42	32
Inhalants	16	18	20	13	11	13	9
Hallucinogens	1	3	4	5	3	8	9
Cocaine	1	4	4	5	2	7	4
Other drugs	8	10	13	16	13	13	15

Enforcement

- Street Level Interdiction Drug Enforcement (SLIDE)²⁷
SLIDE is an initiative of the Mobile Police Department’s Narcotics and Vice Unit. The purpose of SLIDE is to target Mobile’s “hot spots” where illegal drug activity occurs.
- Mobile County Street Enforcement Narcotics Team (MCSENT)²⁸
MCSENT is a multi-jurisdictional drug interdiction team that targets the illegal distribution of drugs, with a focus on large-scale drug organizations.
- As of 2003, there were 788 full-time law enforcement employees in Mobile (525 officers and 263 civilians).²⁹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Marijuana often enters the state through the Port of Mobile.³⁰
- From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002, MCSENT seized 18 vehicles, 32 grams of cocaine, and 37,100 grams of marijuana.³¹
- The Mobile Drug Task Force seized 133 grams of crack cocaine from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.³²

Amount of Drugs Seized, Mobile Drug Task Force, July 2001-June 2002

Drug Seized	Amount Seized
Cocaine	30
Crack cocaine	133
Cannabis	37,056
Crystal methamphetamine	17
Other drugs	2,350
Total	39,586

- From July 2001 to June 2002, the Mobile Drug Task Force eradicated 29 marijuana plants valued at \$58,000.³³
- The Mobile Drug Task Force also seized 42 weapons from July 2001 to June 2002.³⁴

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁵
As of May 27, 2004, there was 1 drug court in Mobile that has been operating for more than 2 years and 1 drug court that was being planned.

Consequences of Use

- GHB overdoses have been reported in areas of Alabama, including Mobile.³⁶

Treatment

- Demand Treatment!³⁷
In 2001, Mobile was selected as one of 16 city partners nationwide for the Demand Treatment! initiative. The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of people who receive alcohol and drug brief interventions and quality treatment.
- There are 3 treatment programs in Mobile that receive funds from the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation: Dauphin Way Lodge, Mobile Mental Health Center, and Second Choice.³⁸
- Dauphin Way Lodge offers the following services: intensive outpatient, crisis residential, and residential rehabilitation.³⁹

Type of Service Provided, Mobile Treatment Facilities, FY 2002-2003

Program/Facility	Intensive output.	Crisis resident.	Resident. rehab.	Methadone	Detox.
Dauphin Way Lodge	X	X	X		
Mobile Mental Hlth. Ctr.	X			X	
Second Choice			X		

- There were 699 clients admitted to Dauphin Way Lodge during FY 2002-2003.⁴⁰

Number of Clients, Mobile Facilities, FY 2002-2003

Program/Facility	# of Clients
Dauphin Way Lodge	699
Mobile Mental Health Center	638
Second Choice	3

- During FY 2002-2003, 335 of those admitted to Dauphin Way Lodge (DWL), 0 of those admitted to Mobile Mental Health Center (MMHC), and 3 of those admitted to Second Choice (SC) were referred to treatment through the criminal justice system.⁴¹

Number of Clients by Referral Source, Mobile, FY 2002-2003

Referral Type	DWL	MMHC	SC
Criminal justice-related	335	0	3
Community	76	0	0
Doctor/hospital	1	0	0
Mental health/psychiatric service	17	0	0
Other/school/employee assistance program	31	0	0
Relative/friend	9	0	0
Substance abuse treatment	6	0	0
Self	224	638	0

- Approximately 32% of those being treatment at Dauphin Way Lodge in FY 2002-2003 reported cocaine as their primary substance problem.⁴²

Clients by Primary Substance Problem, Mobile, FY 2002-2003

Primary Substance	DWL		MMHC		SC	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol	269	38.48%	230	36.05%	1	33.33%
Cocaine	226	32.33	137	21.47	1	33.33
Marijuana/hashish	144	20.60	99	15.52	0	0
Heroin	0	0	14	2.19	0	0
Non-Rx methadone	1	0.14	8	1.25	0	0
Other opiates/synthetics	30	4.29	108	16.93	0	0
PCP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other hallucinogens	0	0	0	0	0	0
Methamphetamine	25	3.58	20	3.13	0	0
Other amphetamines	1	0.14	1	0.16	1	33.33
Other stimulants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benzodiazepines	0	0	13	2.04	0	0
Other tranquilizers	0	0	2	0.31	0	0
Barbiturates	0	0	1	0.16	0	0
Other sedatives	3	0.43	0	0	0	0
Inhalants/glue/ether	0	0	2	0.31	0	0
Other	0	0	3	0.47	0	0

- Of the 699 individuals being treated at Dauphin Way Lodge during FY 2002-2003, 319 had not received prior treatment.⁴³

Number of Prior Treatment Episodes Among Clients, Mobile, FY 2002-2003

Program/Facility	0	1	2	3	4	5+
Dauphin Way Lodge	319	197	93	41	27	22
Mobile Mental Health Center	354	191	45	6	5	37
Second Choice	0	2	1	0	0	0

- Approximately 47% (326) of those being treated at Dauphin Way Lodge in FY 2002-2003 reported daily use of their primary drug of abuse.⁴⁴

Frequency of Use of Primary Drug, Mobile, FY 2002-2003

Frequency of Use	DWL		MMHC		SC	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Daily	326	46.64%	276	43.26%	0	0%
1-2 times/week	123	17.60	82	12.85	0	0
3-6 times/week	118	16.88	50	7.84	0	0
1-3 times/month	57	8.15	57	8.93	0	0
No past month use	75	10.73	167	26.18	3	100.0
Other	0	0	6	0.94	0	0

- Approximately 16% (110) of those being treated at Dauphin Way Lodge in FY 2002-2003 reported first using a substance before age 13.⁴⁵

Clients by Reported Age of First Use, Mobile, FY 2002-2003

Age of First Use	DWL		MMHC		SC	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Younger than 13	110	15.74%	62	9.72%	1	33.33%
13-15	136	19.46	125	19.59	1	33.33
16-18	169	24.18	158	24.76	1	33.33
19-29	191	27.32	188	29.47	0	0
30 and older	93	13.30	105	16.46	0	0

- Of the clients being treated at Dauphin Way Lodge during FY 2002-2003, 328 (46.92%) had used their primary drug of abuse for more than 15 years before being admitted to treatment.⁴⁶

Clients by Years of Use Before Admission, Mobile, FY 2002-2003

Years of Use	DWL		MMHC		SC	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 year	6	0.86%	7	1.10%	0	0%
1	11	1.57	24	3.78	0	0
2	19	2.72	37	5.83	0	0
3	18	2.58	28	4.41	0	0
4	19	2.72	31	4.88	0	0
5	26	3.72	26	4.09	0	0
6-9	100	14.31	106	16.69	0	0
10-15	172	24.61	110	17.32	1	33.33
More than 15 years	328	46.92	266	41.89	2	66.67

Sources

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³ Mobile Web site: <http://www.cityofmobile.org/>

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⁵ Mobile City Council Web site: <http://www.cityofmobile.org/html/cityofficials/elected.php>

⁶ Mobile Police Department Web site: <http://www.cityofmobile.org/html/departments/police/index1.shtml>

⁷ Mobile County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.mobileso.com/>

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