

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

American Samoa

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 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.

American Samoa

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

Demographics

- Population: 57,291 (2000 Census)¹; 70,260 (July 2003 estimate)²
- Ethnicity (2000 Census): 1.1% white, 0.0% black/African American; 2.8% Asian; 91.6% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% other race; 4.2% two or more races³
- Geography: American Samoa is located in Oceania, which is group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand.⁴

Politics

- Governor: Togiola Tulafono⁵
- Lt. Governor: Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia⁶
- Attorney General: Fiti Sunia⁷
- U.S. House of Representatives: Eni F.H. Faleomavaega⁸
- Capital: Pago Pago⁹
- American Samoa is an unincorporated and unorganized territory of the United States.¹⁰

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in American Samoa:¹¹
Since FY 1998 when funding was first available, American Samoa has not received funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for American Samoa:¹²
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$50,000
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$238,224
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$0
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to American Samoa: \$926,722¹³
- There were no grant recipients of the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant in American Samoa.¹⁴
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to American Samoa:
 - FY 1996: \$100,186¹⁵
 - FY 1997: \$111,862¹⁶
 - FY 1998: \$240,417¹⁷
 - FY 1999: \$235,100¹⁸
 - FY 2000: \$235,210¹⁹
 - FY 2001: \$235,722²⁰
 - FY 2002: \$261,427²¹
 - FY 2003: \$240,930²²

- There were no recipients in American Samoa of the FY 2003 Office of Community Oriented Policing and Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.²³
- There were no recipients in American Samoa of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.²⁴
- Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services total grant amounts received in American Samoa (by funding category):²⁵
 - Communities (discretionary): \$0
 - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): \$1 million
 - Juvenile Justice:
 - discretionary: \$0.8 million
 - formula: \$0.2 million
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: \$1.1 million
 - formula: \$1.1 million
 - Substance Abuse:
 - discretionary: \$0
 - formula: \$1.1 million
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: \$0
 - formula: 0.3 million
 - Total OJP/COPS funds received in American Samoa in FY 2002: \$5.6 million

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Narcotic offenses in American Samoa have increased from 15 during 1996 to 34 during 2000.²⁶

Number of Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, American Samoa, 1996-2000

Selected Offenses	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Arson	13	9	4	3	4
Assault (1 st and 2 nd)	389	418	449	381	316
Burglary	255	249	262	251	247
Criminal homicide	4	6	2	4	2
Forcible rape	15	6	12	16	13
Larceny	128	167	157	122	89
Motor vehicle theft	5	12	12	6	4
Robbery	7	6	12	3	2
DUI	188	124	121	158	207
Narcotics	15	15	22	29	34
Total offenses	2,666	3,389	3,428	3,151	2,784

- Local law enforcement officials attribute a rise in violent crime to the rising methamphetamine problem.²⁷
- American Samoan authorities report that cannabis cultivation is a significant local problem.²⁸

Drugs

- Marijuana and methamphetamine are the two major drugs of concern in American Samoa.²⁹
- While marijuana is the most widely used illegal drug, methamphetamine causes the most problems in American Samoa.³⁰
- Most methamphetamine users prefer to smoke the extremely pure (90-100% pure) crystal methamphetamine form known as “ice”.³¹
- The street price of “ice” in American Samoa is five times the price in Honolulu. In American Samoa, the price can range from \$50-75 per one-fifth of a gram, versus \$50 for a gram in Honolulu.³²
- A single cigarette (“joint”) of Western Samoan marijuana sold in American Samoa costs from \$25-35. Much of the marijuana found in American Samoa comes from Western Samoa.³³

Juveniles

- During 2001, 31.8% of American Samoa high school students reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.³⁴

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, American Samoa, 2001

	Male	Female	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	37.0%	27.1%	31.8%
Current marijuana use	24.2	19.7	21.7
Lifetime cocaine use	5.1	5.1	5.1
Current cocaine use	2.9	3.6	3.2
Lifetime inhalant use	12.0	8.9	10.4
Current inhalant use	6.1	5.5	5.7
Lifetime heroin use	4.1	3.1	3.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	7.5	6.7	7.1
Lifetime illegal steroid use	9.5	6.6	7.9
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	3.8	3.1	3.4
Tired marijuana before age 13	9.1	5.5	7.2

- Juvenile narcotic offenses have increased from 1 during 1996 to 7 during 2000.³⁵

Number of Juvenile Offenses Know to Law Enforcement, American Samoa, 1996-2000

Selected Offenses	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Assault	23	8	23	30	20
Auto theft	1	2	-	-	-
Burglary	27	32	48	45	33
Larceny	14	20	19	26	17
Murder	-	1	-	-	-
Rape	1	-	-	1	1
Robbery	1	-	1	3	-

Drugs	1	-	4	7	7
Total	147	192	265	247	221

Enforcement

- American Samoa Office of Territorial and International Criminal Intelligence and Drug Enforcement (OTICIDE)³⁶
OTICIDE is responsible for the gathering of intelligence information and enforcement of laws governing drug trafficking, white-collar crimes and related criminal activities. OTICIDE also investigates and coordinates the flow of criminal information with Federal, State, territorial, regional, and international law enforcement agencies.
- South Pacific Islands Criminal Intelligence Network (SPICIN)³⁷
SPICIN works to support the member police forces of the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference (SPCPC) in the information gathering, development and dissemination of crime-related information through the timely analysis and sharing of intelligence vital to law enforcement within the Pacific region. Members of the SPICIN include: American Samoa, Australia, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia (Tahiti), Guam, Kiribati, the Kingdom of Tonga, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua - New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa

Trafficking and Seizures³⁸

- Drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups often use the mail system (the US Postal Service), commercial airlines, and cargo vessels to smuggle drugs to American Samoa.
- According to law enforcement sources, methamphetamine labs may be present on American Samoa's islands.
- Most of the methamphetamine available in American Samoa comes from Hawaii.
- During FY 2000 (July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000), territorial customs officials confiscated over 200 pounds of methamphetamine in American Samoa.
- Aside from local cultivators, much of the marijuana in American Samoa comes from Western Samoa, a neighboring independent nation.
- During FY 2000, territorial customs officials seized more than 10,000 pounds of marijuana in 22 seizures at the airport and ferry terminals.
- In October 2000, local customs officials seized more than 35 pounds of marijuana from a Western Samoa government-owned cargo vessel.

Courts

- In 1999, American Samoa legislature passed laws making the possession of even small amounts of illegal drugs punishable by long jail terms with no possibility of parole.³⁹
- First time offenders who commit a possession offense receive a mandatory five-year sentence with no possibility of parole.⁴⁰
- During 2000, a total of 9,469 cases were filed in the District Court of American Samoa. About 87 percent were disposed of before the ending of the year.⁴¹

- There were 9,469 district court cases filed and 8,193 cases disposed in American Samoa during 2000.⁴²
- Of the 668 cases filed in the High Court of American Samoa, 420 cases were disposed before the end of the year. About 2,762 cases were pending from the previous year.⁴³

Corrections

- During 1999, the average inmate population in the Tafuna Correctional facility was 150.⁴⁴

Sources

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<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/island/ASprofile.pdf>

² Central Intelligence Agency, *World Fact Book 2002*, American Samoa:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/aq.html#People>

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<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/island/ASprofile.pdf>

⁴ Central Intelligence Agency, *World Fact Book 2002*, American Samoa:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/aq.html>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Politics1 Web site, American Samoa: <http://www.politics1.com/as.htm>

⁷ American Samoa Department of Law Web site: <http://www.asg.gov.com/departments/dla.asg.htm>

⁸ Central Intelligence Agency, *World Fact Book 2002*, American Samoa:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/aq.html>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, American Samoa grantees:

<http://ojdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/am.html>

¹² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>

¹³ Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/FY04ByrneAlloc.pdf>

¹⁴ Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/03DrugCtAwd.pdf>

¹⁵ Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Corrections Program Grants, American Samoa:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/mapfiles/as.htm>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Bureau of Justice Assistance, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program: FY 2003 State Allocations: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/03RSATAllocations.PDF>

²³ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *FY 2003 COPS Methamphetamine*:

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=951>

²⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant: Detailed Congressional Report*, FY 2001:

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>

²⁵ Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice FY 2002 Awards to American Samoa:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2002grants/map/asstate.htm>

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- ²⁶ American Samoa Department of Commerce Web site, *American Samoa 2001 Statistical Yearbook*: http://www.amsamoa.com/2001YB/2001ybfinal/statistical_yearbook_2001.htm
- ²⁷ National Drug Intelligence Center, *American Samoa Drug Threat Assessment*, June 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/674/674p.pdf>
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ National Drug Intelligence Center, *American Samoa Drug Threat Assessment*, June 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/674/674p.pdf>
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance --- United States, 2001*, June 2002: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5104a1.htm>
- ³⁵ American Samoa Department of Commerce Web site, *American Samoa 2001 Statistical Yearbook*: http://www.amsamoa.com/2001YB/2001ybfinal/statistical_yearbook_2001.htm
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- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ Ibid.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid.

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