

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Salt Lake City, Utah

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

June 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.

## **Salt Lake City, Utah**

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

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

- Population (2000 Census): 181,743
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 70.6% white; 1.7% black/African American; 1.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.6% Asian; 1.9% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% some other race; 2.1% two or more races; 18.8% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Salt Lake City is located in Salt Lake County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Ross “Rocky” Anderson<sup>2</sup>
- City Council Members (Districts 1-7, respectively): Carlton Christensen, Van Blair Turner, K. Eric Jergensen, Nancy Saxton, Jill Remington Love, David L. Buhler, Dale Lambert<sup>3</sup>
- Chief of Police: Charles F. “Rick” Dinse<sup>4</sup>
- Salt Lake County Sheriff: Aaron D. Kennard<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated in 1996, the Rocky Mountain HIDTA is responsible for areas of Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. Salt Lake County is one of the Utah counties involved in Rocky Mountain HIDTA efforts.
- Salt Lake City COPS Meth Initiative<sup>7</sup>  
The Salt Lake City Police Department’s Meth Initiative is a partnership of more than 30 agencies including law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, courts, medical providers, substance abuse treatment, environmental protection, and public schools.
- Drug Endangered Children (DEC)<sup>8</sup>  
The Salt Lake City DEC program combines the resources of law enforcement, prosecution, child protection, environmental health, medical personnel, and treatment to provide a joint response in drug cases involving children.
- Athletes Training and Learning to Avoid Steroids (ATLAS) Program<sup>9</sup>  
The ATLAS program is a team-based initiative, which uses coaches and student leaders to conduct weekly sessions to address the effects of anabolic steroids, alcohol, and illicit drugs on athletic achievement. The program also emphasizes sports nutrition and strength training alternatives to steroid use. The ATLAS program was initiated in all Salt Lake City School District high schools during Fall 2001 and is responsible for declining trends in substance abuse among student athletes during 2002.

## Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Salt Lake City:<sup>10</sup>
  - FY 2003:
    - \$100,000 to the Mayor's Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy Task Force/Prevention Coalition
    - \$99,960 to the Neighborhood Action Coalition
    - \$51,000 to the Utah Council for Crime Prevention Coalition (Mentoring Program grantee)
  - FY 2002, 2001, 2000: no Salt Lake City grantees
  - FY 1999:
    - \$99,509 to Utah Council for Crime Prevention
    - \$100,000 to Utah Federation for Youth, Inc.
- Office of Weed and Seed<sup>11</sup>

There is one Weed and Seed site in Salt Lake City.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Salt Lake City:<sup>12</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services: \$2,510,000
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$852,272
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$969,776
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by Salt Lake City recipients:<sup>13</sup>
  - Community Based (discretionary): 1 award valued at \$225,000
  - Counter-terrorism (discretionary): 2 awards valued at \$25,311,000
  - Juvenile Justice:
    - discretionary: 6 awards valued at \$480,692
    - formula: 4 awards valued at \$3,139,598
  - Law Enforcement:
    - discretionary: 11 awards valued at \$3,657,324
    - formula: 7 awards valued at \$7,148,998
  - Substance Abuse:
    - discretionary: 0 awards
    - formula: 1 award valued at \$431,357
  - Victims:
    - discretionary: 2 awards valued at \$967,784
    - formula: 2 awards valued at \$4,874,000
- Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant:
  - FY 2003: no Salt Lake City grantees<sup>14</sup>
  - FY 2002: no Salt Lake City grantees<sup>15</sup>
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
  - FY 2003: no Salt Lake City grantees<sup>16</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$295,103 to the City of Salt Lake<sup>17</sup>
- There were no Salt Lake City recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.<sup>18</sup>

### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 17 homicides known to police in Salt Lake City during 2003.<sup>19</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Salt Lake City, 2000-2003

Offense Type	2000	2001	2002	2003*
Homicide	14	21	13	17
Forcible rape	136	126	125	102
Robbery	570	492	468	477
Aggravated assault	745	741	677	706
Burglary	2,186	2,270	2,448	2,248
Larceny theft	12,207	13,480	13,677	12,617
Motor vehicle theft	1,468	1,626	1,597	1,693
Arson	97	59	94	69
Crime index total	17,423	18,815	19,099	17,929

\* 2003 data are preliminary

- Data from 2003 indicate that 15.4% of Salt Lake City adult male arrestees tested positive for cocaine at arrest.<sup>20</sup>

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Salt Lake City, 2003

	Males	Females
Cocaine	15.4%	19.4%
Opiates	31.7	29.1
Marijuana	25.6	45.6
Methamphetamine	7.7	8.7
Any drug	56.2	69.6
Multiple drugs	21.1	29.4

- Additional Salt Lake City arrestee drug use data for 2003 indicate that 43.4% of the adult male arrestees used marijuana within the past year. Among those reporting past year marijuana use, the average number of days the drug was used in the past month was 8.7 days.<sup>21</sup>

Past Drug Use, Adult Male Arrestees, Salt Lake City, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth.	Heroin
Past 7 days	7.5%	7.5%	27.9%	24.5%	4.1%
Past 30 days	8.9%	9.5%	33.5%	27.1%	4.8%
Past year	12.5%	16.5%	43.4%	32.0%	7.2%
Average # of days in month	5.3 days	4.3 days	8.7 days	8.6 days	9.3 days

- During 2003, 37% of adult female arrestees in Salt Lake City reported past year use of marijuana. Among the female arrestees who reported past year use of marijuana, the average number of days the substance was used in the past month was 9.2 days<sup>22</sup>

Past Drug Use, Adult Female Arrestees, Salt Lake City, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth.	Heroin
Past 7 days	7.5%	2.8%	17.1%	32.1%	4.8%
Past 30 days	10.6%	7.5%	25.7%	36.8%	5.7%
Past year	16.7%	15.9%	37.0%	53.7%	8.3%
Average # of days in month	7.6 days	3.1 days	9.2 days	8.5 days	7.6 days

- Methamphetamine users are fueling a surge in mail thefts in the Salt Lake City area. The users search the stolen mail for checks that can be altered and cashed, and use the proceeds to support their habits.<sup>23</sup>

**Drugs**

- Cocaine  
Local law enforcement report that powder cocaine is readily available in wholesale quantities in the Salt Lake City area. Prices for powder cocaine have fluctuated with some decreases from FY 1999 to FY 2001.<sup>24</sup>
- Heroin  
During the first quarter of FY 2002, the Salt Lake City DEA reported that retail purity levels of Mexican black tar heroin and brown powdered heroin were approximately 75%. The Salt Lake County Metro Narcotics Task Force reported significant increases in availability of Mexican black tar heroin and brown powdered heroin. During the first quarter of FY 2003, the DEA reported that Mexican black tar heroin and brown powdered heroin sold for \$1,800/ounce and \$50-\$80/gram in the Salt Lake City area. The prices were down from \$100-\$150/gram in the first quarter of FY 2002.<sup>25</sup>
- Marijuana  
According to the DEA, high potency and locally produced marijuana sold for \$2,000-\$5,000/pound, more than \$100/ounce, and \$1-\$5/joint in the first quarter of 2002. Small amounts of BC Bud (high potency marijuana produced in Canada) are available in the area.<sup>26</sup>
- Methamphetamine  
Methamphetamine abuse has become Salt Lake City's biggest drug problem.<sup>27</sup> During the first quarter of FY 2002, methamphetamine sold for \$16,000-\$17,000/pound and \$1,000-\$1,500/ounce. The average purity for methamphetamine during this time period was 26.9%.<sup>28</sup>
- Club Drugs  
MDMA is increasingly abused and available in Salt Lake City. Wholesale quantities of LSD are sold for \$250 per 100 dosage units and retail quantities sold for \$5/dosage unit during FY 2000. During FY 2001, GHB sold for \$30/dosage unit in the Salt Lake City area.<sup>29</sup>

**Juveniles**

- Approximately 9% of Salt Lake County middle school students surveyed during 2003 reported use of any drug within the past 30 days.<sup>30</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Past 30 Day Drug Use, Salt Lake County, 2003

Drug Type	Middle School	High School
Alcohol	7.17%	20.12%
Cigarettes	1.52	6.15
Chewing tobacco	0.78	1.67
Marijuana	2.78	10.20
Inhalants	4.49	1.70
Hallucinogens	0.30	1.80
Cocaine	0.39	1.37
Stimulants	0.18	1.09
Sedatives	2.62	6.12
Opiates	0.14	0.56
Ecstasy	0.29	1.11
Any Drug	8.97	14.74

- Approximately 20% of Salt Lake County middle school students surveyed in 2003 reported lifetime use of any drug.<sup>31</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Salt Lake County, 2003

Drug Type	Middle School	High School
Alcohol	23.18%	41.25%
Cigarettes	11.00	24.77
Chewing tobacco	3.01	6.35
Marijuana	6.29	23.55
Inhalants	12.23	11.99
Hallucinogens	0.61	5.70
Cocaine	0.82	4.78
Stimulants	0.67	3.98
Sedatives	5.91	15.93
Opiates	0.21	2.63
Ecstasy	0.94	6.03
Any Drug	19.69	33.19

- Nearly 15% (14.82%) of Salt Lake County high school students and 5.35% of middle school students surveyed in 2003 reported being drunk or high at school.<sup>32</sup>

**Enforcement**

- Salt Lake Area Gang Project<sup>33</sup>  
The Salt Lake Area Gang Project was established to identify, control, and prevent criminal gang activity and to provide intelligence data and investigative assistance to law enforcement agencies. The Project also provides youths with information on viable alternatives to gang membership and educates the public about the destructiveness of the gang lifestyle.

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 551 full-time law enforcement employees in Salt Lake City (397 officers and 154 civilians).<sup>34</sup>

### Trafficking and Seizures

- Meth distribution is associated with territorial violence in Salt Lake City.<sup>35</sup>
- White supremacist groups are becoming more involved in methamphetamine production and distribution.<sup>36</sup>
- Heroin is distributed at retail levels by many street gangs in the Salt Lake City area, including the Alley Boys, Armenian Mafia Gang, Surenos 13, and Surenos Chiques.<sup>37</sup>
- Retail distributors in Salt Lake City convert small quantities of powder cocaine into crack to avoid Federal drug sentences that are lengthier for possessing crack than powder cocaine.<sup>38</sup>
- Caucasian local independent dealers are the primary distributors of LSD.<sup>39</sup>
- During FY 2002, 93 drug laboratories were seized in Salt Lake County.<sup>40</sup>

### Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>41</sup>  
As of November 2003, there were 5 drug courts in Salt Lake City that had been operating for more than 2 years. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Salt Lake City at that time.

### Consequences of Use

- During 2002, there were 62 drug-related deaths reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by Medical Examiners (ME) in Salt Lake County. Heroin/morphine was mentioned in 21 of the drug deaths.<sup>42</sup>

Number of ME Drug Mentions, Salt Lake County, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	28	30	31	18	8
Cocaine	74	74	56	28	19
Heroin/morphine	79	87	75	37	21
Marijuana	1	1	--	1	1
Amphetamines	14	23	12	9	1
Methamphetamine	21	23	15	8	6
Club drugs	--	1	2	--	--
Hallucinogens	--	--	1	1	--
Inhalants	--	--	--	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	13	24	30	35	35
Other analgesics	2	--	3	6	2
Benzodiazepines	5	7	12	8	11
Antidepressants	2	7	8	7	6
All other substances	9	7	9	18	13
Total drug deaths	112	137	117	85	62
Total drug mentions	248	284	254	176	123

- During 2000, 40% of children believed to have been exposed to chemicals or drugs at a meth lab or drug home in Salt Lake City tested positive for drugs metabolized in their system. In 2002, 54% were positive.<sup>43</sup>
- From 1999 to 2000, the number of children found at Salt Lake City drug scenes increased by one-third. From 2000 to 2001, the number of children at drug scenes decreased by one-half.<sup>44</sup>
- According to the Utah Department of Human Services during 1999, 65% of children placed in foster care in Salt Lake City had been removed from the custody of methamphetamine addicted parents.<sup>45</sup>

### Treatment

- Approximately 30% of Salt Lake City adult male arrestees interviewed during 2003 reported receiving inpatient or residential treatment at some point in their lives.<sup>46</sup>

Percent of Adult Arrestees Reporting Past Drug Treatment, Salt Lake City, 2003

Type of Treatment	Male		Female	
	Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
Outpatient	26.9%	5.7%	33.3%	15.9%
Inpatient/Residential	29.5	6.8	36.1	10.2

- During FY 2003, the Salt Lake County Division of Substance Abuse reported 10,551 admissions to treatment.<sup>47</sup>

Number of Treatment Admissions, by Service Type, Salt Lake County, FY 2000-2003

Service Type	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Detoxification	5,153	4,875	4,162	3,437
Resid. short-term	0	727	791	849
Resid. long-term	1,329	672	573	669
Intensive outpatient	1,174	1,306	1,393	1,500
Outpatient	4,565	4,343	3,906	4,096
Total	12,221	11,923	10,825	10,551

- From FY 1997-FY 2001, almost 80% of all statewide admissions for treatment of heroin abuse were in Salt Lake County.<sup>48</sup>
- During 1999, there were 1,681 methamphetamine-related admissions to treatment in Salt Lake County.<sup>49</sup>

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Salt Lake County, 1996-1999

Drug	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alcohol	5,012	4,050	3,638	4,131
Cocaine	1,073	1,519	1,206	1,094
Marijuana	1,168	1,315	1,541	1,601
Heroin	843	1,240	1,105	1,187
Methamphetamine	568	843	1,393	1,681



## Sources

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- <sup>4</sup> Salt Lake City Police Department, Police Chief: <http://www.slcgov.com/police/chief.htm>
- <sup>5</sup> Salt Lake County Sheriff's Web site: <http://www.slsheiff.org/>
- <sup>6</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_rocky.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_rocky.html)
- <sup>7</sup> Salt Lake City Police Department, *Salt Lake City COPS Meth Initiative Fact Sheet*, March 2003: <http://www.slcgov.com/police/specialized/Salt%20Lake%20Meth%20Initiative%20Fact%20Sheet%202003.pdf>
- <sup>8</sup> Salt Lake City Police Department, *Salt Lake DEC Program Fact Sheet*, May 2003: <http://www.slcgov.com/police/specialized/Salt%20Lake%20DEC%20Fact%20Sheet%202003.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup> Salt Lake City Government Press Releases, "Salt Lake City Student-Athletes Turning Away From Drugs Thanks To New Prevention Program," March 6, 2002: <http://www.ci.slc.ut.us/mayor/pressreleases/atlas%20shared%20results.htm>
- <sup>10</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program, Utah grantees: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/ut.html>
- <sup>11</sup> Office of Weed and Seed Data Center, Utah: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=UT>
- <sup>12</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2003/2004 Grant State Summaries: <http://alt.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/State.htm>
- <sup>13</sup> Office of Justice Programs, Utah FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2003grants/map/utsubj.htm>
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- <sup>17</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth\\_grantees.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf)
- <sup>18</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*, FY 2001: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- <sup>19</sup> Salt Lake City Police Department, Crime and Service Data, 1978-2003: [http://www.slcgov.com/police/community/csd78\\_03.htm](http://www.slcgov.com/police/community/csd78_03.htm)
- <sup>20</sup> National Institute of Justice, *Drug and Alcohol Use and Related Matters Among Arrestees, 2003, 2004*: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/adam/ADAM2003.pdf>
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> "Postal Service Cracks Down on 'Meth'-Related Mail Thefts," *Drug Enforcement Report*, Volume 18, Number 20
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- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> "Salt Lake City Struggles with Methamphetamine Enforcement," *Drug Enforcement Report*, Volume 18, Number 18
- <sup>28</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *Utah Drug Threat Assessment*, March 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs3/3619/index.htm>
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Utah Department of Human Services, *Prevention Needs Assessment Results for 2003, Salt Lake County DSAMH District Profile Report*: [http://www.hsdsa.state.ut.us/pdfiles/SHARP\\_Salt\\_Lake\\_County\\_2003\\_District.pdf](http://www.hsdsa.state.ut.us/pdfiles/SHARP_Salt_Lake_County_2003_District.pdf)
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.

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- <sup>33</sup> Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, Salt Lake Area Gang Project:  
<http://www.slsheiff.org/html/org/metrogang/slagpage.html>
- <sup>34</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2002*, October 2003:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/02cius.htm>
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