

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Providence, Rhode Island

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2003



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.

Providence, Rhode Island

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 173,618
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 45.8% white; 12.7% black/African American; 0.8% American Indian/Alaska Native; 5.9% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.0% other race; 3.7% two or more races; 30.0% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Providence is located in Providence County.
- Providence County Population (2000 Census): 621,602

Politics

- Mayor: David Cicilline²
- City Council (Wards 1-15 respectively): David Segal; Rita M. Williams; Kevin Jackson; Carol A. Romano; Patrick K. Butler; Joseph DeLuca; John J. Iglizzi; Ronald W. Allen; Miguel Luna; Luis A. Aponte; Balbina Young; Terrence M. Hasset; John J. Lombardi (Council President); Peter S. Mancini; Josephine DiRuzzo³
- Chief of Police: Colonel Dean Esserman⁴

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁵
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for areas of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, and Providence County in Rhode Island.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Providence:⁶
 - FY 2003: \$100,000 to the Pawtucket Substance Abuse Task Force Coalition
 - FY 2002: no Providence grantees
 - FY 2001: \$87,287 to Nickerson Community Center/Weed and Seed Steering Committee and Coalition
 - FY 1999 and 2000: no Providence grantees
 - FY 1998: \$100,000 to the Mayor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁷
The Olneyville area of Providence has been officially recognized and received Federal funding as a Weed and Seed site.
- Providence did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.⁸
- Providence did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.⁹
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) FY 2002 Discretionary Funds received in Providence:¹⁰

- Center for Mental Health Services:
 - \$700,000 to The Providence Center; project period: 8/1/02-7/31/03
 - \$1,500,000 to the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families; project period: 9/30/98-8/31/04
 - \$29,534 to Mental Health Consumer Advocates of Rhode Island; project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04
 - \$200,000 to Nickerson Community Center; project period: 9/30/01-9/30/03
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
 - \$3,000,000 to the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation; project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:
 - \$442,307 to The Miriam Hospital/Lifespan; project period: 2/15/00-2/14/04
 - \$694,600 to Brown University; project period: 9/30/01-9/29/06
 - \$467,864 to The Miriam Hospital; project period: 9/30/02-9/29/07
 - \$400,000 to Rhode Island Family Court; project period: 9/30/02-9/29/05
 - \$497,753 to Providence City Hall; project period: 9/30/00-9/29/03
 - \$434,781 to MAP Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Service; project period: 9/30/00-9/29/03
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts for Providence:¹¹
 - \$2,424,101 in discretionary funds
 - \$10,226,874 in formula funds
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Providence:¹²
 - \$125,000 to the Southlawn Palms Apartments

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 23 murders known to Providence Police in 2002.¹³

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Providence, 2001-2002

Offense	2001	2002
Murder	23	23
Forcible rape	111	109
Robbery	595	550
Aggravated assault	714	620
Burglary	2,284	2,186
Larceny-theft	7,387	7,515
Motor vehicle theft	3,071	2,861
Arson	344	324

- There were 319 adult arrests for sale/manufacturing of opium or cocaine in Providence during 2001.¹⁴

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Providence, 2001

Offense	# of Arrests
Sale/manufacturing: opium or cocaine	319
Sale/manufacturing: marijuana	55
Sale/manufacturing: synthetic narcotics	10
Sale/manufacturing: other dangerous non-narcotic	1
Possession: opium or cocaine	346
Possession: marijuana	149
Possession: synthetic narcotics	13
Possession: other dangerous non-narcotic	2

- The Providence Police Department reports that local crack-distributing gangs are responsible for 30% of the shootings in the city.¹⁵

Drugs

- Cocaine
Providence law enforcement officials report that cocaine availability is high.¹⁶
- Heroin
According to the National Drug Threat Survey 2002, law enforcement in Providence report that the level of heroin availability is high in their jurisdiction.¹⁷
- Club Drugs
MDMA is found at various nightclubs in Providence. In 2003, GHB sold for \$30-\$50/bottle at the wholesale level in Providence.¹⁸

Juveniles

- During 2002, there were 45 juvenile detentions involving marijuana possession in Providence.¹⁹ This is up from 33 juvenile detentions involving marijuana possession in 2001.²⁰ During 2000, there were 51 juvenile detentions for marijuana possession.²¹

Number of Juvenile Drug-Related Detentions, Providence, 2000-2002

	2000	2001	2002
Possession: marijuana	51	33	45
Possession: unspecified narcotics	33	52	31
Possession: cocaine	13	18	12
Possession: heroin	6	3	2
Possession w/intent to deliver unspecified drug	4	2	7
Mfg./delivery: marijuana	6	1	6
Mfg./delivery: cocaine	11	4	5
Mfg./delivery: heroin	2	3	3
Mfg./delivery: unspecified drug	6	0	0
Total drug detentions	132	116	111

Enforcement

- In 2001, there were 544 full-time law enforcement employees in Providence (456 officers and 88 civilians).²²

Trafficking and Seizures

- Providence has emerged as a regional transshipment city where criminal groups ship heroin and cocaine to areas throughout the state and New England region.²³
- The Providence Police Department reports that Bloods, Crips, Eastside, Latin Kings, Southside, Taylor Street, and Westend are the primary street gangs that distribute drugs in Providence.²⁴
- Drugs are increasingly being transported aboard commercial fishing vessels that arrive in Providence.²⁵
- An increase has been noted in the number of packages containing cocaine that are being shipped via package delivery services to Providence.²⁶
- In 2001, Operation Jetway efforts resulted in the seizure of 58 kilograms of marijuana and 1 kilogram of heroin from commercial airline flights arriving in the Providence area.²⁷
- In December 2001, officials in Providence seized the following drug amounts as part of Operation Clean Sweep: 5 kilograms of crack, 2.7 kilograms of powder cocaine, nearly ½ kilogram of heroin, and more than 3,400 MDMA tablets.²⁸

Consequences of Use

- During 2001, there were 52 drug-related deaths reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by Medical Examiners (ME) in the Providence area.²⁹

Number of ME Drug Mentions, Providence, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	24	16	--	12	14
Cocaine	21	16	--	15	24
Heroin/morphine	17	9	--	--	--
Marijuana	3	4	--	1	--
Amphetamines	--	1	--	2	--
Methamphetamine	--	--	--	--	--
Club drugs	--	--	--	--	1
Hallucinogens	1	--	--	--	--
Inhalants	--	--	--	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	12	13	--	27	44
Other analgesics	7	10	--	2	--
Benzodiazepines	26	8	--	7	1
Antidepressants	16	5	--	2	5
All other substances	29	5	--	2	7
Total drug deaths	60	30	--	35	52
Total drug mentions	156	87	--	70	96

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁰
As of September 2003, there were 3 drug courts in Providence that had been implemented within the past two years. There were no additional drug courts in operation or being planned in Providence.

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² Providence Mayor Web site: <http://www.providenceri.com/government/Mayor-Cicilline-Biography.html>
- ³ Providence City Council Web site: <http://www.providenceri.com/government/citycouncil.html>
- ⁴ Provide Police Department Web site: <http://www.providencepolice.com/>
- ⁵ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_ne.html
- ⁶ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Rhode Island section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/ri.html>
- ⁷ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, Rhode Island section: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=RI>
- ⁸ Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs FY 2002 Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>
- ⁹ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf
- ¹⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2002 Discretionary Funds, Rhode Island section: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/ri.htm>
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- ¹² Department of Housing and Urban Development, *FY 2001 Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
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- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Drug Enforcement Administration, Rhode Island State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/rhodeisland.html>
- ¹⁹ Rhode Island Justice Commission, *Juvenile Detention Data, 2002*: <http://www.rijustice.state.ri.us/sac/2002JuvenileDetentionDataBooklet.pdf>
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- ²¹ Rhode Island Justice Commission, *Juvenile Detention Data, 2000*: <http://www.rijustice.state.ri.us/sac/2000JuvenileDetentionDataBooklet.pdf>
- ²² Rhode Island State Police, *Crime in Rhode Island 2001*: <http://www.risp.state.ri.us/UCR%20Web2000/2001.PDF>
- ²³ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Rhode Island Drug Threat Assessment*, July 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs3/3979/3979p.pdf>
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mortality Data From the Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2001*, January 2003: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/mortality2k1.pdf>
- ³⁰ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, September 15, 2003: <http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>

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