Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Columbus, Ohio

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.

Columbus, Ohio

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

Demographics

- Population (2003 American Community Survey): 698,057[1]
- Race/Ethnicity (2003 American Community Survey): 64.7% white; 25.6% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.4% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.4% other race; 1.6% two or more races; 2.9% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)[2]
- Columbus is located in Franklin County.[3]

Politics

- Mayor: Michael Coleman[4]
- City Council: Kevin Boyce, Patsy Thomas, Matthew D. Habash, Mary Jo Hudson, Michael Mentel, Mayrellen O'Shaughnessy, Charleta B. Tavares[5]
- Police Chief: James G. Jackson[6]
- Franklin County Sheriff: Jim Karnes[7]

Programs/Initiatives

- Columbus Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program[8]
  The Columbus Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services to Columbus citizens. Prevention training is provided for parents, professionals, college students and businesses.
- You're Extra Special (YES)[9]
  YES provides support and education services to help children ages 5-13 cope when someone they love abuses alcohol or other drugs. YES services are offered in 26 public schools and community agencies, as well as on-site at the Columbus Health Department.
- Substance Abuse General Education (SAGE)[10]
  Available weekdays and evenings at the Columbus Health Department, SAGE provides drug abuse education for adults, young adults, and their families to reduce the risk of alcohol or drug problems.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Columbus (the dollar amounts are the total amounts received by the coalitions since the original award year):[11]
  - Original award year 2003: no grantees
  - Original award year 2002: no grantees
  - Original award year 2001: no grantees
  - Original award year 2000: $275,344 to SouthSide Initiative
  - Original award year 1999: $396,314 to Community Building Coalition
- Community Capacity Development Office[12]
  There are no Weed and Seed sites in Columbus.

- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Grant funds received in Columbus:[13]
  - Center for Mental Health Services: $1,324,096
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: $4,331,139
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: $2,464,104
- There were no Columbus recipients of the FY 2004 Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant.[14]
- There were no Columbus 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 Columbus:[16]
  - Communities (discretionary): 0 awards
  - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 3 awards valued at $77,747,426
  - Juvenile Justice:
    - discretionary: 2 awards valued at $125,007
    - formula: 4 awards valued at $8,153,060
  - Law Enforcement:
    - discretionary: 17 awards valued at $12,139,948
    - formula: 10 awards valued at $24,770,954
  - Substance Abuse:
    - discretionary: 0 awards
    - formula: 1 award valued at $1,888,189
  - Victims:
    - discretionary: 0 awards
    - formula: 2 awards valued at $22,004,000
- Columbus did not receive any funding from the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.[17]

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2003, the Columbus Division of Police reported 110 murders.[18]

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Columbus, 2000-2003

Offense	2000	2001	2002	2003
Murder	67	81	81	110
Rape	574	589	673	605
Robbery	3,098	3,364	3,501	3,317
Aggravated assault	2,255	2,344	2,250	2,109
Burglary	13,600	15,740	16,044	14,557
Theft/larceny	36,316	38,835	35,464	31,962
Vehicle theft	7,183	7,619	7,615	7,876
Arson	606	457	226	495
Total	63,699	69,029	65,854	61,031

- The Columbus Division of Police reported 6,818 arrests for Part 1 offenses and 10,441 arrests for Part II offenses during 2003. This is an 8.7% increase over the number of arrests made during 2002.[19]
- During 2003, the Narcotics Bureau of the Columbus Division of Police charged 563 people with narcotics-related offenses. The Narcotics Bureau received 5,290 complaints in 2003 and executed 466 search warrants, a 22% increase over the previous year.[20]
- The Narcotics Bureau mailed 306 Landlord Notification letters during 2003 informing property owners/managers that complaints of illegal narcotic activities were registered against their properties.[21]
- The Narcotics Bureau Pharmaceutical Unit conducted more than 175 investigations during 2003, resulting in 128 arrests or direct indictments.[22]

Drugs

- Cocaine
  Crack cocaine continues to be readily available in Columbus and Franklin County. From June 2003 to January 2004, crack cocaine sold for $280-$320 in the area. The availability of powdered cocaine has remained steady in the Columbus area. Powdered cocaine sells for $40-$75/gram and $800/ounce.[23]
- Heroin
  From June 2003 to January 2004, heroin was considered to be very available in Columbus with abuse of the drug increasing. Heroin sells for $100-$200/gram and $4,500/ounce.[24]
- Marijuana
  Marijuana is considered to be extremely available in Columbus. An ounce of low- to mid-range quality marijuana sells for $300-$350, while an ounce of high-quality marijuana sells for $400-$600.[25]
- Methamphetamine
  Columbus has seen a gradual increase in methamphetamine abuse over the past few years. It typically sells for $40-$80 for a ½ gram and $1,000/ounce.[26]
- Club Drugs
  The use and availability of GHB are reported to be relatively rare in the Columbus area. From June 2003 to January 2004, the availability of LSD increased in the area. While ecstasy remained relatively easy to obtain in Columbus from June 2003 to January 2004, use of the drug decreased. MDMA sold for $10-$20/tablet during that time. Ketamine appears to be less available and more expensive than it was a year ago.[27]
- Other Drugs
  Pharmaceutical opioids remain popular and readily available throughout the Columbus area. The abuse of Ritalin and Adderall continues to be reported among Columbus's adolescent and college student population, particularly as a study aid. Abuse of pharmaceutical tranquilizers (particularly Xanax) continues to be reported as being very common in the Columbus area.[28]

Juveniles

- Among Franklin County 12th graders surveyed in 2003, 21% reported regular use of marijuana (monthly or more often).[29]

Percent of Students Reporting Regular Use of Marijuana, Franklin County, 1994-2003

Grade	1994	1997	2000	2003
6	2%	2%	1%	1%
7	5	5	3	3
8	11	10	7	6
9	19	18	14	12
10	22	23	19	16
11	22	25	22	18
12	24	26	24	21

- Approximately 9% of Franklin County 12th graders surveyed in 2003 reported regular use of steroids, performance enhancers, prescription drugs, and over-the-counter drugs.[30]

Percent of Students Reporting Regular Use of Other Drugs, Franklin County, 2003

Grade	Designer Drugs	Ster., Perf. Enh., Prescr., OTC	Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Speed
6	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
7	0.3	1.0	0.8
8	0.4	1.7	1.4
9	1.1	3.7	2.1
10	1.3	5.5	2.5
11	1.2	6.4	2.5
12	1.6	9.0	2.6

- Approximately 2.4% of Franklin County 12th graders surveyed in 2003 reported past 30-day use of cocaine.[31]

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Use of Cocaine, Franklin County, 1991-2003

Year	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
1991	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%
1994	0.5	0.9	1.1
1997	0.7	1.6	2.8
2000	0.4	1.1	1.3
2003	0.5	1.4	2.4

- Among Franklin County 12th graders surveyed during 2003, 1.6% reported past month use of MDMA.[32]

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Use of MDMA, Franklin County, 1997-2003

Year	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
1997	0.4%	1.3%	1.6%
2000	1.0	3.0	3.6
2003	0.6	1.3	1.6

Enforcement

- As of July 18, 2004, there were 2,124 full-time law enforcement employees in Columbus (1,790 sworn and 334 civilian personnel).[33]

Trafficking and Seizures

- Wholesale drug distributors use metropolitan areas like Columbus as distribution centers for smaller cities in and outside the state.[34]
- Caucasian, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican, Mexican, and local independent groups supply wholesale quantities of cocaine to Columbus.[35]
- During 2003, the Columbus Division of Police Investigative "A" Unit seized 24,788 pounds of marijuana valued at $37,182,750.[36]

Amount and Value of Drugs Seized, Investigative "A" Unit, Columbus, 2003

Drug Type	Amount	Value
Marijuana	24,788 pounds	$37,182,750
Powder cocaine	1,197 grams	$119,710
Crack cocaine	186 grams	$18,680
Heroin	112 grams	$11,200
Ketamine	2 grams	$160
MDMA	1,098 unit doses	$21,960
Pharmaceuticals	6,173 unit doses	$34,692

- The Columbus Division of Police Investigative "B" Unit seized 47.7 pounds of marijuana, 100.1 grams of crack cocaine, 25 grams of powder cocaine, and 45 pills during 2003.[37]
- Investigative "C" Unit of the Columbus Division of Police seized approximately $850,000 worth of drugs during 2003.[38]
- The Division of Police's Investigative "D" Unit made the following seizures during 2003: 5,914 pharmaceutical pills, 240 pounds of marijuana, 58 marijuana plants, 2,026.7 grams of powder cocaine, 197.1 grams of crack cocaine, and 114.6 grams of heroin.[39]
- The Columbus Canine Unit seized drugs valued at $358,714 during 2003.[40]
- During 2003, the Narcotics Bureau Pharmaceutical Unit recovered $23,256 worth of prescription drugs.[41]

Courts

- Drug Courts[42]
  As of May 2004, there was 1 drug court that had recently been implemented and 1 drug court being planned in Columbus.

Consequences of Use

- During 2001, the Franklin County Coroner's Office reported 4,042 death calls. This means the case was considered by the caller to be of a suspicious or unusual nature, was due to an accident, involved a death that occurred within 24 hours of admission to a health care facility, or occurred when no attending physician was available to sign the death certificate. Of the deaths:
  - 313 cases involved drug or alcohol intoxication that may have contributed to the ultimate cause of death; and
  - 154 cases involved drug or alcohol intoxication that would be considered life threatening and a probable cause of death.[43]
- OxyContin was found in 36 of the 2001 Franklin County coroner's 1,216 cases in which toxicology tests were performed. Sixteen people took fatal doses of the drug.[44]

Treatment

- The Columbus Health Department Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program provides the following treatment services: assessment, case management, individual and group counseling; gender-specific intensive outpatient treatment; gender-specific moderate outpatient treatment; relapse prevention; Unity Program (dedicated to serving African American men); and services for homeless men.[45]

Sources

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