

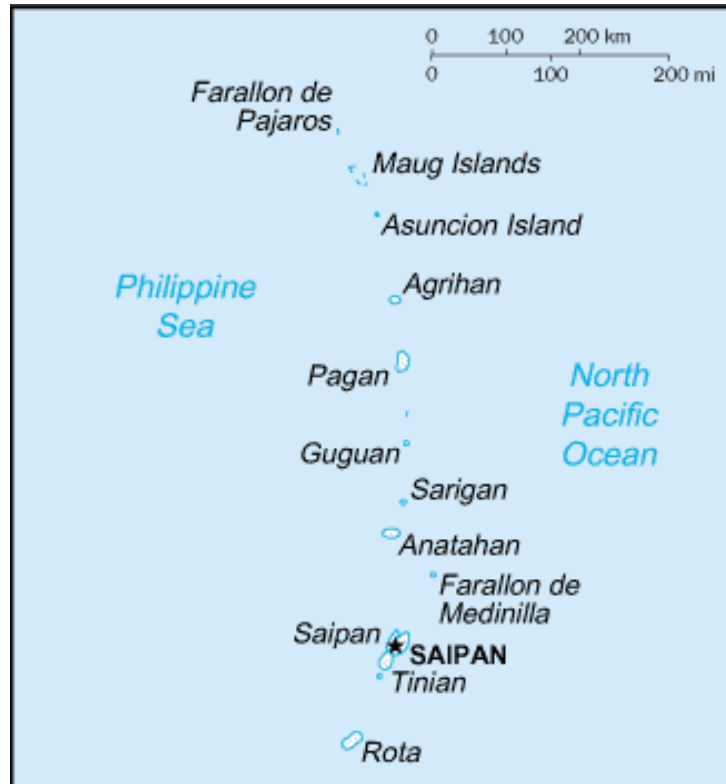
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Northern Mariana Islands

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.

Northern Mariana Islands

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

Demographics

- Population: 80,006 (July 2003 estimate);¹ 69,221 (2000 Census)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 1.8% white; 0.1% black/African American; 31.8% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 55.8% Asian; 0.7% some other race; 9.9% two or more races³
- The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is located in an area called Oceania, with islands in the North Pacific Ocean, about three-quarters of the way from Hawaii to the Philippines.⁴

Politics

- Governor: Juan N. Babauta⁵
- Lieutenant Governor: Diego T. Benavente⁶
- Northern Mariana Islands is a commonwealth in political union with the United States.⁷
- Capital: Saipan⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA)⁹
CJPA is the State Administering Agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance formula grant program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. In 1998, the program funded the following programs: Law Enforcement, Court Diversion Program, Court Case Management Program, Information Systems and Technology Improvements, Availability of Program Information, Family Court Mediation Program, Community Crime Prevention Program, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Parent Program, and Batterer's Program.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program¹⁰
No Drug-Free Communities grants have been awarded to the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Office of Weed and Seed¹¹
There are no Weed and Seed sites in the Northern Mariana Islands.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Northern Mariana Islands:¹²
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$50,000
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$0
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$0
- FY 2004 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Northern Mariana Islands: \$456,446¹³

- FY 2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Northern Mariana Islands: \$239,000¹⁴
- Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Northern Mariana grantees¹⁵
 - FY 2002: no Northern Mariana grantees¹⁶
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Northern Mariana grantees¹⁷
 - FY 2002: no Northern Mariana grantees¹⁸
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by Northern Mariana Islands recipients:¹⁹
 - \$2,075,438 in formula funds
 - \$1,582,400 in discretionary funds

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- As of FY 2002, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the CNMI Task Force had arrested 122 persons since 1996 for drug related offenses.²⁰
- During 2000, there were 66 drug arrests relating to crystal methamphetamine in the CNMI.²¹

Drug Arrests by Drug Type, CNMI, 1996-2000

Year	Marijuana	Crystal Meth	Heroin
1996	14	130	0
1997	8	39	4
1998	30	96	0
1999	2	8	0
2000	17	66	0

- During 1999, there were 6,934 total criminal complaints reported to the Criminal Investigation Bureau in CNMI.²²

Offenses Reported to Criminal Investigation Bureau, Select Offenses, CNMI, 1999

Offense Type	1999
Homicide	2
Assault	61
Aggravated assault	6
Rape	4
Robbery	58
Burglary	1,011
Theft	1,942
Arson	10
Vehicle theft	56
Drug violations	73
Total	6,934

Drugs

- Cocaine²³

Cocaine abuse is limited in CNMI. Powder cocaine is consumed in small quantities, but there has been no evidence of crack cocaine abuse. A gram of powder cocaine sells for \$150-\$250.
- Heroin²⁴

Heroin availability and abuse are limited in CNMI. Southeast Asian heroin is available in small amounts and is usually consumed by tourists. A gram of heroin sells for \$35-\$50.
- Marijuana²⁵

Marijuana is widely used and readily available throughout CNMI. Due to eradication efforts during 2000-2001, local cannabis cultivation in CNMI decreased causing prices for marijuana to increase. A marijuana joint (0.5 grams) increased from \$20 to \$50. Tourists are typically charged higher prices for marijuana than residents.
- Methamphetamine²⁶

Crystal methamphetamine, also known as ice and shabu, is preferred to the powder form in CNMI. Crystal methamphetamine is associated with violence and is a significant concern for local law enforcement. Prices for crystal methamphetamine range from \$100 per one-tenth gram to \$500-\$600 per gram during 2001. Purity levels ranged from 94-99% from 1996 to 2002.
- Club drugs²⁷

The first known use of MDMA on Saipan occurred during 1999. During this same year, law enforcement reported one investigation regarding LSD.

Juveniles

- According to the Community Guidance Center in 1999, 5% of students in grades 7 through 12 had used methamphetamine at least once in their lives.²⁸

Trafficking and Seizures

- Most cocaine available in CNMI is brought to the islands by nonresidents for their own consumption.²⁹
- Crystal methamphetamine is smuggled into the CNMI from Japan, Taiwan, and China through the Philippines and Guam. Small amounts of methamphetamine are also transported from California and Mexico.³⁰
- As of FY 2002, the DEA and CNMI Task Force seized 25.0 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, 9.8 kilograms of marijuana, 17.5 kilograms of heroin, 14.0 ounces of cocaine, and 1.4 ounces of LSD.³¹
- \$2,182,620 worth of crystal methamphetamine was seized during 2000 in CNMI.³²

Drug Seizures by Drug Type and Value of Drug Seized, CNMI, 1996-2000

Year	Marijuana	Crystal Meth	Heroin
1996	\$3,380.00	\$1,079,916.00	\$0.00
1997	\$138,605.00	\$267,488.50	\$1,400,000.00
1998	\$1,809,634.00	\$2,519,024.00	\$0.00
1999	\$50,480.00	\$71,788.00	\$0.00
2000	\$29,431.00	\$2,182,620.00	\$0.00

Courts

- During FY 2001, 31.3% of Federally sentenced defendants in Northern Mariana Islands were drug offenders. All of the drug offenses involved methamphetamine.³³

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Northern Mariana Islands, FY 2001

Drug Type	# of Offenses	% of Total
Heroin	0	0.0%
Powder cocaine	0	0.0
Marijuana	0	0.0
Crack cocaine	0	0.0
Methamphetamine	5	100.0
Other	0	0.0

Corrections

- The CNMI Division of Corrections has a total population capacity of 133 beds. Among current programs offered are residential substance abuse treatment programs that offer a drug treatment program in a Modified Therapeutic Community setting.³⁴

Consequences of Use

- During 1995, a 15-year-old boy lost consciousness and died in CNMI after sniffing butane gas for over three hours. This event led to legislation in CNMI banning the sale of products that can be used as inhalants to persons under 16 years old.³⁵

Sources

¹ Central Intelligence Agency, *World Fact Book 2003* Online:

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

² U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Central Intelligence Agency, *World Fact Book 2003* Online:

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

⁵ Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Web site, Executive Branch: <http://www.executive.gov.mp/>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, *World Fact Book 2003* Online:

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

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Criminal Justice Planning Agency, *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Enforcement Assistance Program, 2000 State Annual Report*

¹⁰ Drug-Free Communities Support Program, Northern Mariana Islands:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/mp.html>

¹¹ Office of Weed and Seed Data Center Web site: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/Default.aspx>

¹² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2003 Discretionary Funds, Northern Mariana Islands: http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states/State_files/sheet057.htm

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

-
- ¹⁵ Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/03DrugCtAwd.pdf>
- ¹⁶ Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>
- ¹⁷ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS Methamphetamine Initiative 2003: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=951>
- ¹⁸ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf
- ¹⁹ Office of Justice Programs, Northern Mariana Islands FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2002grants/map/mp.htm>
- ²⁰ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Northern Mariana Islands Drug Threat Assessment*, October 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs5/5047/index.htm>
- ²¹ Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Criminal Justice Planning Agency, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001
- ²² Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigations section: <http://www.dps.gov.mp/>
- ²³ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Northern Mariana Islands Drug Threat Assessment*, October 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs5/5047/index.htm>
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Criminal Justice Planning Agency, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001
- ³³ United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2001 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Northern Mariana Islands: <http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2001/Mp01.pdf>
- ³⁴ Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Safety, Division of Corrections section: <http://www.dps.gov.mp/>
- ³⁵ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Northern Mariana Islands Drug Threat Assessment*, October 2003: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs5/5047/index.htm>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

