

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Portland, Maine

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.

Portland, Maine

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

Demographics

- Population: 63,635 (July 1, 2003 Census estimate)¹; 64,249 (2000 Census)²
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 93.0% white; 2.6% black/African American; 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.1% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.7% other race; 1.9% two or more races; 1.5% Hispanic/Latino (any race)³
- County: Cumberland

Politics

- Mayor: Nathan Smith⁴
- City Manager: Joseph Gray⁵
- City Council (District): William Gorham (1); Karen Geraghty (2); Cheryl Leeman (4); James Cohen (5); Peter O'Donnell (at large); Jill Duson (at large); James Cloutier (at large); Nicholas Mavodones, Jr. (at large)⁶
- Chief of Police: Michael Chitwood⁷
- Cumberland County Sheriff: Mark N. Dion⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA (NEHIDTA) is responsible for 13 counties in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine, including Cumberland County.
- Violent Crime/Drug Reduction Initiative¹⁰
Using Federal Byrne funds, the Portland Police Department developed the Violent Crime/Drug Reduction Initiative to reduce drug use and availability as well as crimes attendant with drug use in Portland.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Portland:¹¹
 - Original award year 2003: no grantees
 - Original award year 2002: no grantees
 - Original award year 2001: no grantees
 - Original award year 2000: no grantees
 - Original award year 1999: no grantees
- Community Capacity Development Office¹²
There are no Weed and Seed sites in Portland.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Grant funds received in Portland:¹³
 - Center for Mental Health Services: \$286,625
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$0
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$0

- Office of Justice Program Drug Court Discretionary Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Portland grantees¹⁴
 - FY 2002: no Portland grantees¹⁵
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant:
 - FY 2003: no Portland grantees¹⁶
 - FY 2002: no Portland grantees¹⁷
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Portland:¹⁸
 - Communities (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Counter-Terrorism (discretionary): 0 awards
 - Juvenile Justice: 0 awards
 - Law Enforcement:
 - discretionary: 4 awards valued at \$3,684,945
 - formula: 3 awards valued at \$143,006
 - Substance Abuse: 0 awards
 - Victims:
 - discretionary: 2 awards valued at \$578,964
 - formula: 0 awards
- There were no Portland recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁹

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During the 1st quarter of 2004, there were 0 murders reported by the Portland Police Department.²⁰ In the 2nd quarter of 2004, there was 1 murder reported.²¹

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Portland, January-June 2004

Offense	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
Murder	0	1
Rape	4	12
Robbery	25	22
Aggravated assault	26	35
Burglary	126	147
Larceny-theft	480	612
Motor vehicle theft	36	42
Arson	1	3

- Many of the offenders arrested for robbery in Portland during 2003 admitted to detectives that they committed the crime to obtain money for drug purchases.²²
- The number of robbery offenses known to police in Portland increased 59% from 2002 to 2003.²³

Percent Change in Index Offenses Known to Police, Portland, 2002-2003

Offense	% Change 2002-2003
Murder	- 33%
Rape	+ 21%
Robbery	+ 59%
Aggravated assault	no change
Burglary	+ 6%
Larceny-theft	- 14%
Motor vehicle theft	+ 6%
Arson	+ 3%

- During 2002, there were 64 adult and 6 juvenile arrests for drug violations in Portland.²⁴

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Portland, 2002

Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Murder	0	3
Rape	0	4
Robbery	1	19
Aggravated assault	2	34
Burglary	7	66
Larceny-theft	31	216
Motor vehicle theft	4	526
Arson	0	3
Drug abuse violations	6	64
DUI	0	261
Liquor laws	0	174

- There were 3 murders reported by the Portland Police Department during 2002.²⁵

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Portland, 2002

Offense	# of Offenses
Murder	3
Rape	42
Robbery	60
Aggravated assault	86
Burglary	636
Larceny-theft	2,543
Motor vehicle theft	150
Arson	18
Total index	3,538

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

The Portland Field Office of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA) reports a significant increase in the availability and use of cocaine in the area. Powder cocaine prices range from \$80/gram to \$1,300/ounce. The average price for crack cocaine is \$50/rock (1/2 gram).²⁶

➤ Heroin

MDEA's Portland Field Office reported an increase in heroin availability in 2003. There are an estimated 1,500-1,800 heroin addicts in the Portland area. Many of the heroin users in Portland are in their late teens and early twenties. Authorities indicate that young users sometimes begin to abuse heroin after becoming addicted to prescription opiates.²⁷ According to the Portland Resident Office of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), heroin purity levels ranged from 50% to 90% in the first quarter of FY 2003. Heroin sold for \$6,000-\$8,000/ounce, \$250-\$300/gram, and \$35-\$60/bag during that period.²⁸

➤ Marijuana

Marijuana is readily available throughout Cumberland County. A pound of processed marijuana sells for \$1,200-\$1,400. In addition to locally-grown marijuana, commercial grade marijuana from Mexico is also available in the area.²⁹

➤ Methamphetamine

The availability and abuse of methamphetamine are not very high in the Portland area. However, authorities anticipate an increased availability of the drug in the future due to the increased presence of the Hells Angels and Outlaws gangs. Both gangs are involved in the distribution of methamphetamine.³⁰

➤ Club Drugs

Due to an anti-rave strategy, raves are no longer held in Cumberland County. However, MDMA and ketamine remain very popular with young adults in the area.³¹ According to the DEA Portland Resident Office, MDMA sold for \$20-\$30/tablet in the 1st quarter of FY 2003.³²

➤ Diverted Pharmaceuticals

The diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical substances increased steadily during 2003. OxyContin, oxycodone, Vicodin, and Darvocet are the prescription drugs of choice in the Portland area.³³

Juveniles

- Survey results from the 2002 Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey indicate that 17.7% of Cumberland County students in grades 6 through 12 reported using marijuana 10 or more times during their lives. Seventy percent of 6th through 12th graders reported never using marijuana.³⁴

Percent of 6-12 Graders Reporting Lifetime Use of Drugs, Cumberland County, 2002

Drug	No Use	1-2 times	3-5 times	6-9 times	10 or more
Alcohol	46.6%	14.5%	9.8%	6.3%	22.8%
Marijuana	70.0	5.8	3.8	2.8	17.7
Cocaine	95.5	2.4	0.8	0.3	1.0
Heroin	97.3	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.7
Ecstasy	92.7	3.7	1.3	0.8	1.5
Hallucinogens	93.4	2.9	1.3	0.6	1.9
Inhalants	89.4	6.4	1.9	0.7	1.6
Stimulants	94.7	2.4	1.0	0.5	1.5
OxyContin	93.3	3.3	1.2	0.5	1.7
Other prescription	82.9	7.4	3.0	1.5	5.2
Other illegal drug	86.8	4.1	1.9	1.1	6.1

- Over 6% of students reported using marijuana more than 10 times in the previous 30 days.³⁵

Percent of 6-12 Graders Reporting Previous 30-Day Use, Cumberland County, 2002

Drug	No Use	1-2 times	3-5 times	6-9 times	10 or more
Alcohol	70.0%	17.0%	6.6%	2.8%	3.6%
Marijuana	83.0	6.1	3.0	1.5	6.4
Cocaine	98.0	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.5
Heroin	98.8	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4
Ecstasy	97.2	1.9	0.3	0.1	0.4
Hallucinogens	97.3	1.7	0.4	0.2	0.5
Inhalants	96.5	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.5
Stimulants	97.6	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.5
OxyContin	97.4	1.6	0.5	0.1	0.5
Other prescription	92.3	4.4	1.5	0.7	1.2
Other illegal drug	92.9	2.7	1.4	0.6	2.5

Enforcement

- Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA)³⁶
MDEA serves as Maine's statewide drug task force and has 6 regional task force offices located in Augusta, Bangor, Houlton, Lewiston, Lyman and Portland.
- In 2003, there were 160 sworn and 64 civilian employees of the Portland Police Department.³⁷

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁸
As of May 2004, there was 1 drug court in Portland that had been in existence for more than 2 years and 1 drug court that was recently implemented. There were no drug courts being planned.

Consequences of Use

- During 2003, there were 28 drug overdose deaths in Portland. More than half of the overdose deaths were directly related to methadone “take home doses” prescribed to clients. The patients either sold, traded or furnished their take home doses to the victims, ultimately contributing to their deaths.³⁹

Treatment

- There are 2 methadone clinics in Portland.⁴⁰

Sources

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

³ Ibid.

⁴ Portland City Council Web site: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/citycou.htm>

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⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Portland Police Department Web site: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/police/ppd.htm>

⁸ Cumberland County Sheriff Office Web site: <http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/SOmain.html>

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

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¹⁷ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement, November 14, 2002: http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf

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²⁰ Portland Police Department, First Quarter Review 2004: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/ca/firstq2004.pdf>

²¹ Portland Police Department, Second Quarter Review 2004:

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²⁴ Maine Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Maine, 2002*:

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²⁶ Portland Police Department, 2003 Annual Report: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/police/2003Annual.pdf>

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Maine Drug Threat Assessment Update*, August 2003:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs5/5764/index.htm>

²⁹ Portland Police Department, 2003 Annual Report: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/police/2003Annual.pdf>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

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- ³³ Portland Police Department, *2003 Annual Report*: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/police/2003Annual.pdf>
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