

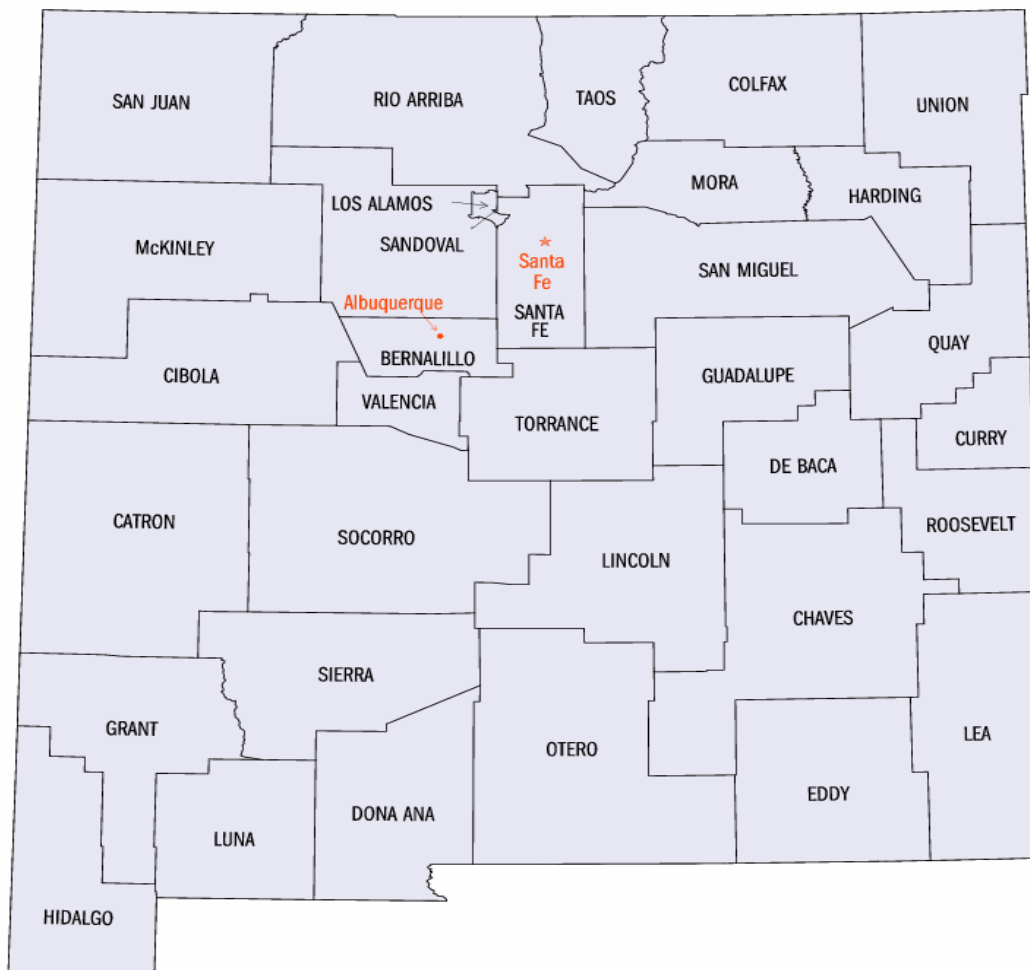
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New Mexico

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 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.

New Mexico

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

Demographics

- Population (2003 American Community Survey): 1,838,277¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2003 American Community Survey): 43.1% white, 1.7% black/African American, 8.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, 1.3% Asian, 0.2% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.4% other, 1.4% two or more races, 43.4% Hispanic/Latino origin²

Politics

- Governor: Bill Richardson³
- Lt. Governor: Diane Denish⁴
- Attorney General: Patricia A. Madrid⁵
- Secretary Of State: Rebecca Vigil-Giron⁶
- U.S. Senate: Jeff Bingaman (D), Pete Domenici (R)⁷
- U.S. Representatives: Heather Wilson (R), Stevan Pearce (R), Tom Udall (D)⁸
- Capital: Santa Fe⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1990, the Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Partnership is responsible for the following counties in New Mexico: Bernalillo, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan and Santa Fe.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2003, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety Narcotics Section made 645 arrests. This is up from 575 arrests in 2002.¹¹
- The Narcotics Section handled 256 cases during 2003 that involved crack cocaine.¹²

Number of Cases Handled by Narcotics Section, by Drug Type, New Mexico, 2002-2003

Drug Type	2002	2003
Cocaine	340	467
Crack cocaine	212	256
Marijuana	224	247
Methamphetamine	267	325
Heroin	74	119

- During 2002, 53 law enforcement agencies in New Mexico supplied arrest data to the Federal Bureau of Investigations. These agencies reported 4,370 arrests for drug abuse violations during the year.¹³

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, New Mexico, 2002

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	7	81
Forcible rape	24	130
Robbery	52	361
Aggravated assault	378	2,442
Burglary	235	926
Larceny-theft	1,340	4,304
Motor vehicle theft	133	392
Arson	12	41
Drug abuse violations	820	4,370
Driving under the influence	253	10,772
Liquor laws	1,104	3,149
Drunkenness	73	1,992

- During 2003, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 534 drug violation arrests in New Mexico.¹⁴

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, New Mexico, 1999-2003

Year	Arrests
1999	698
2000	607
2001	621
2002	598
2003	534

Drugs

- Cocaine
Local law enforcement authorities in New Mexico consistently rank cocaine as their number one drug problem. Crack cocaine is readily available throughout the state, but is most commonly found in urban areas. The majority of the crack found in New Mexico comes from powder cocaine supplied by Mexican drug trafficking organizations to local crack distributors who convert the powder cocaine into crack.¹⁵
- Heroin
Heroin availability has shown a steady increases in New Mexico over the last five years.¹⁶ While Mexican black tar heroin is the most readily available type in New Mexico, Mexican brown powdered heroin is also available. Heroin is typically less expensive in areas of New Mexico that are along the Southwest border.¹⁷
- Marijuana
Marijuana is the most readily available and commonly abused drug in New Mexico. The majority of the marijuana found in the state is produced in Mexico. However, cannabis is also cultivated in the state by local independent growers. Marijuana is typically less expensive in urban areas and areas along the border.¹⁸

- **Methamphetamine**
Methamphetamine is an increasing drug threat to New Mexico. Law enforcement officials report that while most of the methamphetamine available in the state originates in Mexico, there is an increase in availability of locally produced methamphetamine. The perception by some that meth is not as dangerous as cocaine or heroin has led some people to begin using meth instead of other substances.¹⁹
- **Club Drugs**
MDMA, Ketamine, LSD, and GHB are all available throughout New Mexico, primarily in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Rave parties are frequently held in the area, often in remote locations on U.S. Forest Service lands.²⁰ The availability of MDMA in New Mexico has increased near college campuses, in urban areas, and in some locations near the border. MDMA tablets sell for \$11 at the wholesale level and \$25 at the retail level. The use of LSD as a club drug has increased slightly in New Mexico. The LSD wholesale price is \$250 per 100 dosage units.²¹
- **Other Drugs**
Psilocybin mushrooms are available and abused in some areas of New Mexico. Mushrooms from California are available for approximately \$900 per pound.²² The diversion of prescription drugs is a significant issue faced by New Mexico law enforcement. Illegal or improper prescription practices are the primary means for illegally obtaining prescription substances. New Mexico recently became one of the few states to grant prescribing authority to psychologists who have no medical or pharmaceutical training.²³
- According to 2002 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 42% of New Mexico citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.²⁴

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use and Risk, by Age, New Mexico, 2002

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	11.31%	19.91%	4.40%	7.35%
Past month use of marijuana	7.55	17.39	3.46	5.86
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.02	7.72	2.96	3.85
Past year cocaine use	2.60	8.26	1.48	2.55
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	30.11	24.14	46.67	41.62

- Additional data from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate that 2.10% of New Mexico citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.²⁵

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, New Mexico, 2002

Past Year Dependence	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.94%	6.88%	1.09%	2.10%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	5.74	10.38	2.13	3.69
Alcohol dependence	2.77	10.23	3.51	4.35
Alcohol dependence or abuse	7.61	22.05	6.99	9.14
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	10.04	26.15	8.13	10.84

Juveniles

- It is estimated that more than 14,000 New Mexico youth ages 12 through 17 are dependent on alcohol or drugs.²⁶
- In the fall of 2001, high schools in 62 New Mexico school districts participated in the first New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS). Nearly 29% (28.9%) of the students surveyed reported first using marijuana at age 13 or younger.²⁷
- Sixteen percent of the high school students ages 18 and older reported using marijuana 20 or more days within the past month.²⁸

Number of Days Marijuana Was Used in Past Month, by Age, New Mexico, 2001

Days	<= 15 years	16 years	17 years	>= 18 years
0 days	73.0%	68.8%	68.2%	64.1%
1-5 days	15.4	13.3	16.4	12.1
6-19 days	6.0	7.0	6.7	5.9
20 + days	4.2	9.0	7.6	16.0

- Additional results of the YRRS include:²⁹
 - 6.2% reported past month cocaine use
 - 4.5% reported past month inhalant use
 - 8.2% reported past month hallucinogen use (includes LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mescaline, and mushrooms)
 - 9% reported past month use of marijuana on school property
- Approximately 21% of the New Mexico 17-year-old students surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana at least once during the past year.³⁰

Number of Days Marijuana Was Used in Past Year, by Age, New Mexico, 2001

Days	<= 15 years	16 years	17 years	>= 18 years
0 days	65.3%	56.6%	56.9%	55.7%
1-5 days	16.3	19.9	20.8	17.6
6-19 days	9.0	9.0	8.3	9.5
20 + days	8.0	12.9	11.6	17.2

- Additional results of the YRRS showing past year behaviors:³¹
 - 27.2% reported being offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property
 - 7.9% reported past year cocaine use
 - 4.9% reported past year inhalant use
 - 1% reported past year heroin use
 - 5.2% reported past year methamphetamine use
 - 11.8% reported past year hallucinogen use
- Approximately 84% of the students reported that adults in their community would think it is wrong or very wrong for juveniles to use marijuana. Ninety percent of the students reported that their parents would feel it is wrong or very wrong for them to use marijuana. Approximately 63% of the students felt that it would be wrong or very wrong for others their age to use marijuana.³²

- Sixty-seven percent of students reported that it would be “very” to “sort of” easy to obtain marijuana; 34% said it would be “very” to “sort of” easy to obtain cocaine, LSD, or methamphetamine; and 38% said it would be “very” to “sort of” easy to obtain hallucinogens.³³
- Approximately 39% of the students surveyed in 2001 reported that people risk harming themselves if they try marijuana once or twice. Seventy-two percent felt that people risk harming themselves if they smoke marijuana regularly.³⁴

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 5,660 full-time law enforcement employees in New Mexico (4,142 officers and 1,518 civilians).³⁵

Trafficking and Seizures

- New Mexico’s proximity to Mexico, as well as its topography, makes it vulnerable to drug smuggling.³⁶
- Most of the New Mexico/Mexico border area is open desert, barren and generally uninhabited offering drug smugglers easy access into the United States and to major interstate highways. Also, the areas between the ports of entry offer favorable conditions for smuggling alternatives.³⁷
- Drug traffickers are increasingly exploiting the NAFTA provisions, which brought about significant increases in commercial trade.³⁸ Since NAFTA went into effect in 1994, cross-border commercial truck traffic has increased 170% along the Southwest Border.³⁹
- Freight trains and commercial motor vehicle carriers travel through New Mexico and are frequently used by major Mexican drug trafficking organizations to transport drugs into the United States.⁴⁰
- Cocaine is being transported through New Mexico by Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) at an increasing rate.⁴¹
- Most of the heroin seized in New Mexico is brown or black tar Mexican heroin.⁴²
- Most of the methamphetamine seized in New Mexico originates in Mexico but arrives in the state via Los Angeles or Phoenix.⁴³
- The majority of New Mexico seizures involving club drugs originate in the Los Angeles or Phoenix areas and are headed for the East Coast.⁴⁴
- Prescription drug smuggling from Mexico, where the prescriptions can be legally purchased, contributes to the illegal distribution of prescription medications in the state.⁴⁵
- The number of methamphetamine labs seized in New Mexico by the DEA and state and local authorities increased from 47 in 1999 to 190 in 2003.⁴⁶

Number of Methamphetamine Labs Seized, New Mexico, 1999-2003

Year	Labs Seized
1999	47
2000	50
2001	103
2002	125
2003	190

- During 2003, Federal agencies seized 48,395.9 kilograms of marijuana in New Mexico.⁴⁷

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, New Mexico, 2003

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	480.7 kilograms
Heroin	8.6 kilograms
Methamphetamine	47.5 kilograms
Marijuana	48,395.9 kilograms
MDMA	147 tablets

- During 2003, a total of 1,507 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in New Mexico under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁴⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, New Mexico, 2003

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
7	1,068	5	439	1,507

- New Mexico Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces (MJTF) seized nearly 154,000 grams of cocaine during FY 2001.⁴⁹

Amount of Drugs Seized by MJTF, Select Drugs, New Mexico, FY 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	153,942.86 grams
Crack cocaine	1,861.04 grams
Heroin	3,162.47 grams
Loritab	207 dosage units
Marijuana	16,490.56 pounds
Amphetamine/methamphetamine	115,415.56 grams
Oxycodone	87.5 dosage units
Ecstasy	6,595 dosage units
Ritalin	50 dosage units

- Currency valued at \$2,149,948.67 was seized by MJTF in 172 cases during FY 2001.⁵⁰

Assets Seized and Forfeited by MJTF Activities, New Mexico, FY 2001

Item Seized/Forfeited	Assets Seized		Assets Forfeited	
	Cases	Value	Cases	Value
Vehicles	125	\$855,848.00	48	\$114,236.09
Currency	172	2,149,948.67	48	385,248.25
Miscellaneous	39	7,225.00	13	5,600.00
Paraphernalia	233	1,219.00	-	-
Real property	16	143,550.00	6	550.00
Weapons	202	47,850.00	45	12,200.00
Total	787	3,205,640.67	160	517,834.34

- The New Mexico State Police (NMSP) seized 111,643 grams of cocaine during FY 2001.⁵¹

Amount of Drugs Seized by NMSP, New Mexico, FY 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	111,643 grams
Crack	125 grams
Heroin	623 grams
Marijuana	7,547 pounds
Amphetamine/methamphetamine	69,034 grams
Prescription	130 dosage units

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵²
As of September 2004, there were 18 drug courts in New Mexico that had been operating for more than 2 years, 15 that had recently been implemented, and 6 that were being planned.
- During FY 2002, 37.4% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in New Mexico were charged with drug offenses. Nearly 56% of the drug cases involved marijuana.⁵³

Federally-Sentenced Drug Defendants, New Mexico, FY 2002

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Marijuana	375	55.7
Methamphetamine	114	16.9
Powder cocaine	97	14.4
Crack	60	8.9
Heroin	22	3.3
Other	5	0.7

Corrections

- On October 13, 2004, the New Mexico inmate population totaled 6,441 and the probation and parole population totaled 16,716.⁵⁴
- There were 5,758 male and 594 female inmates within the New Mexico Corrections Department on June 30, 2004.⁵⁵

- On June 30, 2004, 1,070 of the male inmates had committed drug offenses.⁵⁶ Among the females incarcerated in New Mexico on June 30, 2004, 228 had committed drug-related crimes.⁵⁷

Most Common Offenses Committed by Inmates, New Mexico, June 30, 2004

Offense Type	Males	Females
Crimes against person	1,821	126
Crimes against property	762	96
Drug crimes	1,070	228
Public order crimes	124	16
General coverage	95	52
Sex crimes	646	7
Traffic crimes	404	30
Homicide	811	40

- During 2002-2003, more than 400 inmates within the New Mexico Corrections Department participated in group addiction treatment programs monthly.⁵⁸
- The number of therapeutic community treatment beds increased from 597 to 679 during 2002-2003.⁵⁹
- In 2002-2003, nearly 11,000 (10,907) drug tests were conducted on community corrections participants statewide. Approximately 90% of the tests were negative.⁶⁰

Consequences of Use

- From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003, there were 24 New Mexico methamphetamine laboratory sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center in which a child was present.⁶¹

Characteristics of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, New Mexico, FY 2003

	Number
Sites with a child affected	65
Sites with a child exposed to toxic chemicals	25
Sites with a child injured	3
Sites with a child killed	0
Sites with a child present	24
Sites with a child residing at the site	23
Number of children placed in protective custody	11

- The New Mexico Office of Medical Investigator (OMI) reported 342 drug caused deaths during 2003.⁶² This is up from 291 drug caused deaths during 2002.⁶³ During 2001, there were 247 drug caused deaths reported by the OMI.⁶⁴ This is down from the 261 drug caused deaths reported in 2000.⁶⁵
- Narcotics were present in 270 of the drug caused deaths during 2003.⁶⁶

Drugs Present in Decedent, Select Drugs, New Mexico, 2000-2003

Drug Type	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alcohol	68	46	77	70
Anti-depressants	56	57	34	54
Barbiturates	9	14	6	5
Cannabinoids (marijuana, THC)	9	3	n/a	2
Tranquilizers	73	74	49	70
Narcotics – total	228	193	246	270
Heroin	2	11	9	11
Hydrocodone	6	11	20	3
Methadone	25	27	34	3
Morphine	132	81	133	41
Opiates	2	9	3	118
Oxycodone	13	20	20	3
Sedatives	8	4	7	4
Stimulants – total	94	87	107	137
Cocaine	81	68	89	86
Methamphetamine	7	10	10	22
Total drug caused deaths	261	247	291	342

Treatment

- During 2003, there were 3,508 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New Mexico.⁶⁷ This is up from 2,866 treatment admissions during 2002.⁶⁸ There were 6,730 admissions to treatment in New Mexico during 2001.⁶⁹

Admissions to Treatment, New Mexico, 2001-2003

Drug Type	2001		2002		2003	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,202	32.7%	807	28.2%	1,208	34.4%
Alc. w/ second. drug	746	11.1	405	14.1	794	22.6
Cocaine – smoked	235	3.5	86	3.0	183	5.2
Cocaine – other route	167	2.5	68	2.4	119	3.4
Marijuana	350	5.2	134	4.7	200	5.7
Heroin	475	7.1	207	7.2	340	9.7
Other opiates	66	1.0	37	1.3	52	1.5
PCP	n/a	--	n/a	--	n/a	--
Hallucinogens	2	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.1
Amphetamines	152	2.3	70	2.4	145	4.1
Other stimulants	n/a	--	n/a	--	1	0.0
Tranquilizers	5	0.1	7	0.2	2	0.1
Sedatives	5	0.1	1	0.1	3	0.1
Inhalants	4	0.1	n/a	--	1	0.0
Other/none specified	2,321	34.5	1,042	36.4	458	13.1
Total	6,730	100.0	2,866	100.0	3,508	100.0

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