

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alabama

Profile of Drug Indicators

December 2007



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.

Alabama

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 4,599,030¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 70.4% white, 26.3% black/African American, 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native, 1.0% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.8% other, 1.0% two or more races, 2.4% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Bob Riley³
- Lt. Governor: Jim Folsom⁴
- Attorney General: Troy King⁵
- Secretary of State: Beth Chapman⁶
- U.S. Senate: Jeff Sessions (R); Richard Shelby (R)⁷
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): Jo Bonner (R); Terry Everett (R); Mike Rogers (R); Robert Aderholt (R); Robert Cramer, Jr. (D); Spencer Bachus (R); Artur Davis (D)⁸
- Capital: Montgomery⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for Baldwin, Jefferson, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery and Morgan counties in Alabama. In addition to Alabama, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is also responsible for counties in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Division of Substance Abuse Services¹¹
The Division of Substance Abuse Services has the responsibility for the development, coordination and management of a comprehensive system of treatment and prevention services for alcoholism/drug addiction and abuse within Alabama.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 137 arrests for drug violations in Alabama.¹²

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Alabama, 2002-2006

Year	Arrests
2002	255
2003	228
2004	202
2005	207
2006	137

- During 2006, there were 14,816 adult arrests for drug possession in Alabama.¹³ This is down slightly from 2005, when there were 14,990 adult arrests for drug possession.¹⁴

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Alabama, 2005-2006

Drug Type	<u>Sales</u>		<u>Possession</u>	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Opium/cocaine	712	567	4,199	4,683
Marijuana	211	145	8,673	8,430
Synthetic drugs	168	162	1,070	827
Other	585	328	1,048	876
Total	1,676	1,202	14,990	14,816

- There were 1,118 juvenile arrests for drug possession in Alabama during 2006.¹⁵ In 2005, there were 1,160 juvenile arrests for drug possession in Alabama.¹⁶

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Alabama, 2005-2006

Drug Type	<u>Sales</u>		<u>Possession</u>	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Opium/cocaine	8	11	142	151
Marijuana	17	14	961	909
Synthetic drugs	12	20	35	41
Other	4	4	22	17
Total	41	49	1,160	1,118

- There were 374 homicide arrests in Alabama during 2006. Twenty of these arrests involved individuals under the age of 18.¹⁷

Number of Arrests for Part I Offenses, Alabama, 2006

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Homicide	20	374
Forcible rape	38	347
Robbery	349	1,835
Assault	355	3,965
Burglary	719	3,573
Larceny/theft	1,744	13,630
Motor vehicle theft	131	1,152
Arson	32	110
Total Part I arrests	3,388	24,986

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁸
Law Enforcement agencies throughout Alabama report that cocaine is a significant drug threat and is widely available throughout the state.

- Heroin¹⁹
Law enforcement intelligence indicates that over the past year the presence of heroin in Alabama has increased. This intelligence has been substantiated by the increase in the number of patients admitted to clinics for treatment.
- Marijuana²⁰
Marijuana is the most widely abused and available drug in Alabama.
- Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine has been identified by law enforcement as the primary drug threat in Alabama. The methamphetamine previously produced in “mom and pop” labs in Alabama has been replaced by a more pure form of the drug known as “ice.”
- Club Drugs²¹
Club drug abuse and distribution among young people is on the rise in Alabama. Increases in arrests, overdoses and seizures of designer drugs have been reported and indicate a trend toward increased availability and trafficking. MDMA, LSD, GHB and Ketamine are readily available throughout the state and are most commonly found on college campuses. GHB and MDMA have emerged as club drugs of choice within the state.
- Other Drugs²²
Hydrocodone was the most abused pharmaceutical drug in 2005. Other drugs commonly diverted and abused were OxyContin and Vicodin.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 275,000 (7%) of Alabama citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²³

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, Alabama, 2004-2005 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	275	7.33%
Past year marijuana use	328	8.76
Past month marijuana use	184	4.90
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	149	3.96
Past year cocaine use	80	2.13
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	189	5.05

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 1.9 million (49.93%) Alabama citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁴
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 113,000 (3%) Alabama citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 74,000 (1.98%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁵

Juveniles

- Approximately one-third (33.3%) of Alabama high school students surveyed in 2005 reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²⁶

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Alabama, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	25.7%	41.1%	33.3%
Current marijuana use	13.9	23.4	18.5
Lifetime cocaine use	5.0	10.1	7.5
Current cocaine use	1.9	5.3	3.5
Lifetime inhalant use	13.3	17.9	15.5
Lifetime heroin use	2.0	8.5	5.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.4	10.3	7.3
Lifetime ecstasy use	5.1	11.9	8.4
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.5	10.5	6.5
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.8	6.6	4.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	4.5	14.0	9.2

- Approximately 10% of Alabama 12th graders surveyed in 2005 reported using cocaine at least once during their lifetime.²⁷

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, Alabama, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	27.2%	28.4%	38.5%	48.0%
Current marijuana use	15.3	14.6	23.6	25.7
Lifetime cocaine use	5.8	7.2	9.2	10.0
Current cocaine use	3.3	3.9	3.4	4.3
Lifetime inhalant use	18.8	12.9	18.6	11.7
Lifetime heroin use	4.4	6.1	4.0	7.5
Lifetime methamphetamine use	7.0	7.6	6.5	9.5
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.5	8.8	10.3	12.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	6.4	5.2	7.6	7.2
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	4.4	2.6	3.5	6.0
Tried marijuana before age 13	10.1	9.1	7.9	9.3

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 11% of Alabama 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁸

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, Alabama, 2004-2005 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	42	10.93%
Past year marijuana use	48	12.65
Past month marijuana use	26	6.72
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	22	5.84
Past year cocaine use	6	1.59
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	33	8.67

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 2006, there were 16,256 full-time law enforcement employees in Alabama (10,719 officers and 5,537 civilians).²⁹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mexican, Caribbean and regional drug trafficking organizations have extensive distribution networks within Alabama.³⁰
- Cocaine is transported into Alabama primarily from the Houston, Texas or Atlanta, Georgia areas. Wholesale distributors transport cocaine into the state in its powder form, a majority of which is then converted locally into crack.³¹
- Virtually all of the methamphetamine coming into the state is brought in by Mexican drug trafficking organizations from Mexico and Texas and distribution points in Atlanta, Georgia.³²
- Mexican drug trafficking organizations are responsible for the majority of bulk marijuana transported into the state. Local independent dealers and African American drug trafficking organizations distribute marijuana in the local retail market.³³
- The number of reported methamphetamine laboratory incidents by the DEA and state and local authorities in Alabama has decreased from 276 in 2005 to 193 in 2006.³⁴

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Alabama, 2002-2006

Year	Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents
2002	261
2003	344
2004	404
2005	276
2006	193

- Approximately 1,911.4 kilograms of marijuana were seized by Federal agencies in Alabama during 2006.³⁵

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Alabama, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	125.7 kilograms
Heroin	0.0 kilograms
Methamphetamine	7.5 kilograms/31 dosage units
Marijuana	1,911.4 kilograms
MDMA	1,000 dosage units

- During 2006, 48,177 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Alabama under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁶

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Alabama, 2006

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
929	47,920	3	257	48,177

Courts

➤ Drug Courts³⁷

As of April 16, 2007, there were 29 drug courts in Alabama that had been operating for at least two years, 2 that had recently been implemented and 5 that were being planned.

➤ During FY 2006, approximately 35% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Alabama committed drug offenses. Nearly one-third (32.3%) of these Federal drug cases involved methamphetamine.³⁸

Federally-Sentenced Drug Defendants, Alabama, FY 2006

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Powder cocaine	107	26.6%
Crack cocaine	120	29.8
Marijuana	33	8.2
Methamphetamine	130	32.3
Other	13	3.2

Corrections

➤ As of September 2007, the Alabama Department of Corrections (DOC) population was 29,235. Approximately 18% of the total population was in custody for committing drug crimes.³⁹

DOC Population by Type of Offense, Alabama, September 2007

Offense	# of Offenders	% of Total
Personal	14,262	48.8%
Property	8,236	28.2
Drugs	5,357	18.3
Other	1,380	4.7
Total	29,235	100.0

➤ As of December 31, 2005, there were 38,995 adults on probation and 7,252 adults on parole in Alabama.⁴⁰

Consequences of Use

➤ According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 36 children in Alabama affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2005.⁴¹

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 20,840 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Alabama.⁴² There were 20,081 treatment admissions in 2005.⁴³ During 2004, there were 19,838 admissions to treatment in Alabama.⁴⁴

Admissions to Treatment, Alabama, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004		2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	3,260	16.4%	3,230	16.1%	3,446	16.5%
Alcohol with secondary drug	2,759	13.9	2,751	13.7	2,934	14.1
Cocaine (smoked)	3,357	16.9	3,098	15.4	2,557	12.3
Cocaine (other route)	980	4.9	1,270	6.3	2,145	10.3
Marijuana	5,533	27.9	5,563	27.7	5,927	28.4
Heroin	200	1.0	184	0.9	68	0.3
Other opiates	1,358	6.8	1,581	7.9	1,586	7.6
Hallucinogens	14	0.1	20	0.1	12	0.1
PCP	1	0.0	3	0.0	n/a	n/a
Amphetamines	1,987	10.0	1,956	9.7	1,768	8.5
Other stimulants	10	0.1	9	0.0	11	0.1
Tranquilizers	209	1.1	208	1.0	213	1.0
Sedatives	29	0.1	55	0.3	45	0.2
Inhalants	11	0.1	15	0.1	15	0.1
Other unknown	130	0.7	138	0.7	113	0.5
Total	19,838	100.0	20,081	100.0	20,840	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 92,000 (2.47%) Alabama citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁵

Sources

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³ Alabama Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.al.us/>

⁴ Alabama Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ltgov.state.al.us/>

⁵ Alabama Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ago.state.al.us/>

⁶ Alabama Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/>

⁷ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>

⁸ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

⁹ Alabama Web site: <http://www.alabama.gov/>

¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/gulfcoast.html>

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