

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Birmingham, Alabama

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 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.

Birmingham, Alabama

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 222,154¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 22.0% white; 75.6% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.2% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.6% other; 0.6% two or more races; 2.9% Hispanic/Latino origin (any race)²
- Birmingham is located in Jefferson County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Bernard Kincaid⁴
- City Council (Districts 1-9, respectively): Joel Montgomery; Carol Duncan; Valerie Abbott; Maxine Herring Parker; William A. Bell, Sr.; Carole Smitherman (President); Miriam D. Witherspoon; Steven W. Hoyt; Roderick Royal⁵
- Chief of Police: Annetta Watts Nunn⁶
- Jefferson County Sheriff: Mike Hale⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
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 areas of Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Jefferson Family Court: Adolescent Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)⁹
ASAP is a collaborative effort between the University of Alabama-Birmingham Department of Psychiatry, Substance Abuse Programs and the Jefferson County Family Court. The purpose of ASAP is to provide substance abuse screening and triage for all juveniles placed under the supervision of the Court. All participants are placed on random urinalysis and then assigned the program component most appropriate for their level of involvement, which includes: prevention/education, outpatient treatment or inpatient treatment.
- Mayor's Office-Division of Youth Services (DYS)¹⁰
DYS was created to address the problems of teen pregnancy, education and illiteracy, youth gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and unemployment issues affecting Birmingham's youth.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 55 homicides known to police in Birmingham from January through June 2006.¹¹ There were 104 homicides known to the Birmingham Police Department during full year 2005.¹²

Index Offenses Known to Police, Birmingham, 2005-June 2006

Offense	Full Year 2005	Jan.-June 2006
Homicide	104	55
Rape	241	122
Robbery	1,429	704
Aggravated assault	1,675	705
Burglary	4,933	2,242
Theft	11,962	5,710
Motor vehicle theft	2,028	968
Arson	136	98

- During 2005, there were 2,632 total adult arrests for drug possession in Jefferson County.¹³

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Jefferson County, 2005

Drug Type	Sale	Possession
Opium/cocaine	49	1,071
Marijuana	12	1,293
Synthetic drugs	12	185
Other	29	83
Total	102	2,632

- There were 195 total juvenile arrests for drug possession in Jefferson County during 2005.¹⁴

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Jefferson County, 2005

Drug Type	Sale	Possession
Opium/cocaine	0	25
Marijuana	3	164
Synthetic drugs	0	6
Other	0	0
Total	3	195

Drugs

- Heroin¹⁵
Heroin is available in certain areas of Birmingham.
- Club Drugs¹⁶
GHB overdoses have been reported in the Birmingham area.

Enforcement

- As of October 2005, there were 1,095 full-time law enforcement employees in Birmingham (813 officers and 282 civilians).¹⁷

Courts

- Drug Courts¹⁸

As of November 22, 2006, there were 2 drug courts in Birmingham that had been operating for over 2 years. No additional drug courts were in existence or being planned at that time in Birmingham.

Corrections

- Based on the total Alabama Department of Corrections population in March 2007 (28,338), Jefferson County contributed 15.5% of the population with 4,381 offenders.¹⁹
- Birmingham Work Release Center²⁰
Opened in 1973, the Birmingham Work Release Center can hold 300 male or female community custody inmates. The Center has a full-time drug treatment counselor to facilitate relapse classes and monitor active aftercare programs of recovering inmates.

Treatment

- During FY 2004-2005, there were more than 5,000 criminal justice-related referrals to drug/alcohol treatment programs in Jefferson County.²¹

Treatment Clients, by Referral Source, Jefferson County, FY 2004-2005

Referral Type	Number	Percentage
Criminal justice-related	5,489	62.50%
Community	539	6.14%
Doctor/hospital	160	1.82
Mental health/psychiatric service	37	0.42
Other/school/employee asst. prog.	317	3.61
Relative/friend	458	5.22
Substance abuse treatment	327	3.72
Self	1,453	16.55
Unknown	2	0.02
Total	8,782	100.00

- There were more than 2,500 clients admitted to drug/alcohol treatment in Jefferson County who reported crack cocaine/cocaine as their primary substance problem during FY 2004-2005.²²

Treatment Clients, by Primary Substance Problem, Jefferson County, FY 2004-2005

Primary Substance	Number	Percent
Alcohol	2,144	24.41%
Marijuana/hashish	2,690	30.63
Crack/cocaine	2,675	30.46
Amphetamine/methamphetamine	154	1.75
Opioid/heroin	1,004	11.43
Tranquilizers	102	1.16
Other non-prescription	5	0.06
Hallucinogen/PCP	3	0.03
None	5	0.06
Total	8,782	100.00

- During FY 2004-2005, more than 5,500 drug/alcohol treatment clients in Jefferson County were black.²³

Treatment Clients, by Race, Jefferson County, FY 2004-2005

Primary Substance	Number
Alaskan	1
Asian	13
Bi-racial	18
Black	5,548
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	6
Native American	17
White	3,179
Total	8,782

- There were 5,887 families served by the Division of Substance Abuse Services in Jefferson County during FY 2004.²⁴

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, 2005 American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
² Ibid.
³ Birmingham Web site: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/>
⁴ Birmingham Mayor Web site: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/mayor/mayor.htm>
⁵ Birmingham City Council Web site: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/citycouncil/citycouncil.htm>
⁶ Birmingham Police Department Web site: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/police/default.htm>
⁷ County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.jeffcosheriff.net/>
⁸ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/gulfcoast.html>
⁹ Birmingham Bar Association Web site, Jefferson County Family Court, Adolescent Substance Abuse Program: http://www.birminghambar.org/jefferson_family_programs.cfm#anchor98694
¹⁰ Mayor's Office-Division of Youth Services Web site: <http://www.bhamyouthfirst.org/>
¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January-June 2006*, December 2006: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/prelim06/index.html>
¹² Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>
¹³ Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Drug Arrests by County, 2005*: http://acjic.state.al.us/SAC/2005_drugstats.pdf
¹⁴ Ibid.
¹⁵ Drug Enforcement Administration, *Alabama Factsheet*: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/alabama.html>
¹⁶ Ibid.
¹⁷ Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Crime in Alabama 2005*: http://acjic.state.al.us/sac/2005_cia.pdf
¹⁸ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, November 22, 2006: http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf
¹⁹ Alabama Department of Corrections, *March 2007 Monthly Statistical Report*: <http://www.doc.state.al.us/docs/MonthlyRpts/2007-3.pdf>
²⁰ Alabama Department of Corrections Web site, Birmingham Work Release Center: <http://www.doc.state.al.us/facility.asp?id=22>

²¹ Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, *Client Admission Profile of the Alabama Department of MH-MR Substance Abuse Services Division, FY 2004-2005*:

<http://www.mh.state.al.us/admin/downloads/SubstanceAbuse/Profile.pdf>

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Alabama Division of Substance Abuse Services, *2003-2004 Annual Report*:

http://www.mh.alabama.gov/downloads/AnnualReports/ADMH_AnnualReport_03_04Part3.pdf

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