

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Providence, Rhode Island

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.

Providence, Rhode Island

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 160,264¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 49.6% white; 13.7 % black/African American; 0.7% American Indian/Alaska Native; 6.8% Asian; 0.3% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 26.7% other race; 2.3% two or more races; 37.4% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Providence is located in Providence County.³

Politics

- Mayor: David Cicilline⁴
- City Council (Wards 1-15 respectively): Seth Yurdin; Cliff Wood; Kevin Jackson; Nicholas J. Narducci, Jr.; Michael A. Solomon; Joseph DeLuca; John J. Iglizzi; Leon F. Tejada; Miguel Luna; Luis A. Aponte; Balbina Young; Terrence M. Hasset; John J. Lombardi (Council President); Peter S. Mancini; Josephine DiRuzzo⁵
- Chief of Police: Colonel Dean Esserman⁶

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁷
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for areas of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire and Providence County in Rhode Island.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 11 homicides known to Providence the Police Department during 2006.⁸

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Providence, 2005-2006

Offense	2005	2006
Murder	22	11
Forcible rape	99	45
Robbery	433	393
Aggravated assault	591	489
Burglary	1,878	1,790
Motor vehicle theft	2,359	1,788
Larceny-theft	5,808	5,313

- There were 369 total adult arrests for the sale and/or manufacturing of opium or cocaine in Providence during 2005.⁹

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, by Race, Providence, 2005

Offense	White	Black	Other*	Total
Sale/manufacturing: opium or cocaine	104	97	2	203
Sale/manufacturing: marijuana	21	12	0	33
Sale/manufacturing: synthetic narcotics	1	1	0	2
Possession: opium or cocaine	219	143	7	369
Possession: marijuana	145	112	3	260
Possession: synthetic narcotics	5	2	0	7
Possession: other dangerous non-narcotic	1	0	0	1

*Includes individuals of American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander descent

- There were 20 total juvenile arrests for the sale and/or manufacturing of opium or cocaine in Providence during 2005.¹⁰

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, by Race, Providence, 2005

Offense	White	Black	Other*	Total
Sale/manufacturing: opium or cocaine	2	5	0	7
Sale/manufacturing: marijuana	1	1	0	2
Sale/manufacturing: other dang. narcotic	0	1	0	1
Possession: opium or cocaine	9	10	1	20
Possession: marijuana	15	12	0	27

*Includes individuals of American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander descent

Drugs

- Club Drugs
MDMA is found at various nightclubs in Providence.¹¹

Juveniles

- During 2006, there were 58 juvenile detentions involving marijuana possession in Providence.¹² This is down from 81 juvenile detentions involving marijuana possession during 2005.¹³

Number of Juvenile Drug-Related Detentions, Providence, 2005-2006

Drug	2005	2006
Possession: unspecified narcotics	65	68
Possession: marijuana	81	58
Possession: cocaine	39	34
Possession: heroin	3	1
Possession w/intent to deliver unspecified drug	2	8
Mfg./delivery: unspecified narcotics	1	1
Mfg./delivery: marijuana	3	1
Mfg./delivery: cocaine	4	3
Total drug detentions	198	174

- There were 3 juveniles from Providence referred to the Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Board during 2005.¹⁴

Enforcement

- In 2005, there were 568 full-time law enforcement employees in Providence (480 officers and 88 civilians).¹⁵

Trafficking and Seizures

- Heroin is typically transported by courier to Providence via airplane, train and automobile for distribution. Heroin is sold at the retail level in bags, bundles, browns and bricks.¹⁶

Courts

- Drug Courts¹⁷
As of November 22, 2006, there were 3 drug courts in Providence that had been operating for at least two years. There were no additional drug courts in operation or being planned in Providence at that time.

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, 2005 American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

⁴ Providence Mayor Web site: <http://www.providenceri.com/government/Mayor-Cicilline-Biography.html>

⁵ Providence City Council Web site: <http://www.providenceri.com/CityCouncil/>

⁶ Provide Police Department Web site: <http://www.providencepolice.com/>

⁷ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/newengland.html>

⁸ Provide Police Department, *Change in Part I Crime 2005-2006*:
http://www.providencepolice.com/stats/cirywide05_06.pdf

⁹ Rhode Island State Police, *Crime in Rhode Island 2005*: <http://www.risp.ri.gov/docs/bk2005rev3a.pdf>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, Rhode Island State Factsheet:
<http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/rhodeisland.html>

¹² Rhode Island Justice Commission, *Juvenile Detention Data, 2006*:
<http://www.rijustice.ri.gov/sac/Juvenile%20Detention%20Data/2006%20Juv%20Data/2006%20Juvenile%20Detention%20Data%20Booklet.pdf>

¹³ Rhode Island Justice Commission, *Juvenile Detention Data, 2005*:
<http://www.rijustice.ri.gov/sac/Juvenile%20Detention%20Data/2005%20Juv%20Data/2005JuvenileDetentionDataBooklet.pdf>

¹⁴ Family Court Office of Juvenile Hearing Board Coordinator, *2005 Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Board Case Referrals*: <http://www.rijustice.ri.gov/sac/JHB/2005%20cases.pdf>

¹⁵ Rhode Island State Police, *Crime in Rhode Island 2005*: <http://www.risp.ri.gov/docs/bk2005rev3a.pdf>

¹⁶ Drug Enforcement Administration, Rhode Island Factsheet:
<http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/rhodeisland.html>

¹⁷ 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

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