

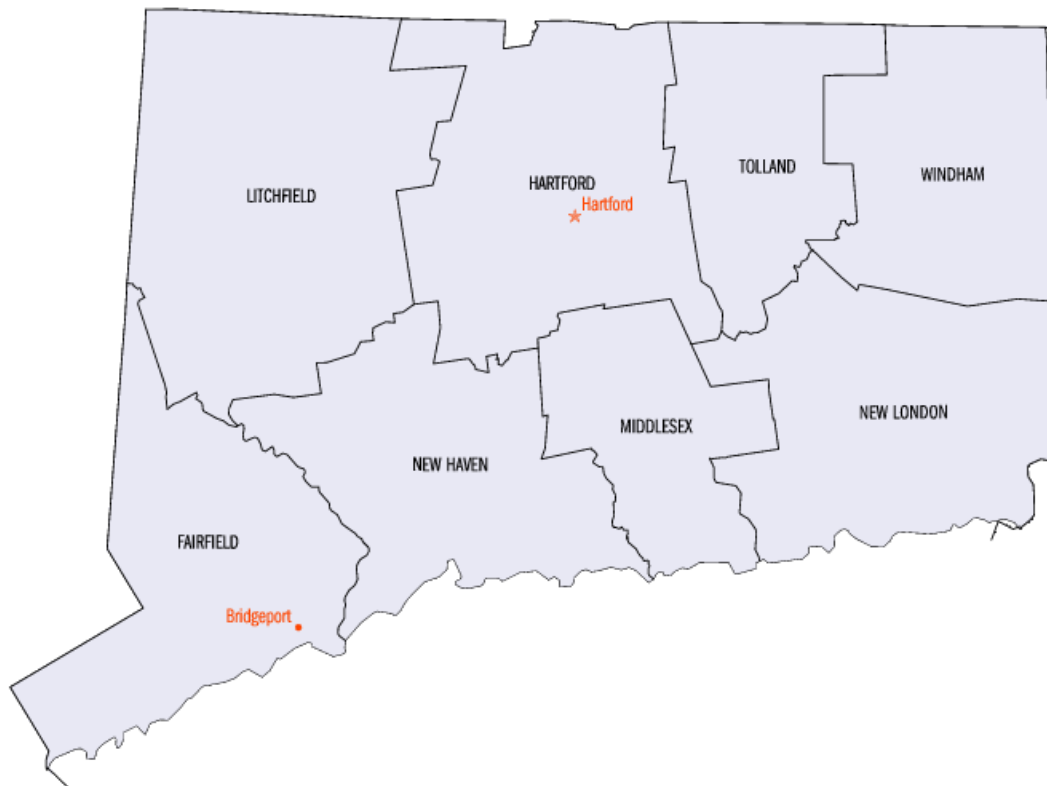
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Connecticut

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2008



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.

Connecticut

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 3,504,809¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 79.9% white; 9.5% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 3.3% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 5.2% other race; 1.8% two or more races; 11.2% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: M. Jodi Rell³
- Lt. Governor: Kevin Sullivan⁴
- Attorney General: Richard Blumenthal⁵
- Secretary of State: Susan Bysiewicz⁶
- U.S. Senators: Christopher J. Dodd (D); Joseph I. Lieberman (I)⁷
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-5, respectively): John B. Larson (D); Joe Courtney (D); Rosa L. DeLauro (D); Christopher Shays (R); Christopher S. Murphy (D)⁸
- Capital: Hartford⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. The Connecticut counties involved in New England HIDTA activities are Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven.
- Alcohol and Drug Policy Council¹¹
The Alcohol and Drug Policy Council was created in 1997 and is charged with examining and improving the statewide substance abuse system and developing plan and action strategies to reduce the harmful effects of the problem. The Council is organized into three major working committees (prevention, treatment and criminal justice) to support coordinated planning.
- Governor's Prevention Partnership¹²
Created in 1989, The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a not-for-profit partnership between state government and business leaders with a mission to keep Connecticut's youth safe, successful and drug-free.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 319 drug arrests in Connecticut.¹³

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Connecticut, 2002-2006

Year	Arrests
2002	286
2003	163
2004	312
2005	404
2006	319

- Connecticut law enforcement agencies reported 14,904 arrests for drug abuse violations during 2006.¹⁴

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Connecticut, 2006

Offense	Under Age 18	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	10	93
Forcible rape	31	234
Robbery	271	978
Aggravated assault	656	3,196
Burglary	490	1,945
Larceny-theft	1,932	9,207
Motor vehicle theft	197	694
Arson	91	332
Drug abuse violations	1,304	12,249
Driving under the influence	80	5,105

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁵
Cocaine is widely abused in Connecticut, with crack being preferred over powder. Cocaine is available in many sizes from gram to kilogram quantities.
- Heroin¹⁶
Along with cocaine, heroin is the greatest drug threat in Connecticut and its abuse remains widespread, affecting both suburban and urban areas. Demand for heroin is high and the drug is easily accessible. The popularity of heroin is due, in part, to increased availability of low cost, high purity heroin that can be effectively snorted or smoked rather than injected. Heroin is sold on the street in small glassine bags with some type of marking or brand name on the package.
- Marijuana¹⁷
The majority of the commercial grade marijuana available in Connecticut comes from either Mexico or the southwestern United States.
- Club Drugs¹⁸
MDMA (ecstasy) is readily available and abused in Connecticut and is a popular drug of choice among college age individuals.
- Pharmaceutical Diversion¹⁹
Current investigations indicate that diversion of Vicodin and oxycodone products such as OxyContin continues to be a problem in Connecticut.

- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 262,000 (9%) Connecticut citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁰

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	262	9.02%
Past year marijuana use	397	13.66
Past month marijuana use	220	7.59
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	110	3.79
Past year cocaine use	74	2.54
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	149	5.14

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 983,000 (33.78%) Connecticut citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²¹
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 98,000 (3.37%) Connecticut citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 68,000 (2.34%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²²

Juveniles

- Approximately 40% of Connecticut high school students surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²³

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Connecticut, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	37.2%	42.2%	39.8%
Past month marijuana use	20.0	25.9	23.1
Lifetime cocaine use	4.9	10.2	7.8
Past month cocaine use	1.8	6.0	4.1
Lifetime inhalant use	11.0	10.9	11.1
Lifetime heroin use	1.3	6.9	4.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.3	8.1	5.9
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	1.6	7.7	4.9
Lifetime ecstasy (MDMA) use	3.5	8.6	6.4
Tried marijuana before age 13	5.1	11.7	8.5

- Half of Connecticut high school seniors surveyed in 2005 reported lifetime marijuana use.²⁴

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Connecticut, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	27.3%	33.7%	50.4%	50.0%
Past month marijuana use	15.0	20.8	27.6	30.1
Lifetime cocaine use	4.1	7.5	9.5	9.7

Past month cocaine use	1.9	3.5	5.8	4.8
Lifetime inhalant use	11.3	9.4	12.4	9.7
Lifetime heroin use	3.3	2.3	4.2	6.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.9	4.1	6.6	7.2
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	3.3	4.0	4.3	7.5
Lifetime ecstasy (MDMA) use	5.6	4.3	6.0	8.8
Tired marijuana before age 13	8.6	6.3	9.0	9.2

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 34,000 (11%) Connecticut 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁵

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	34	11.21%
Past year marijuana use	55	18.55
Past month marijuana use	27	8.88
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	15	5.09
Past year cocaine use	6	1.94
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	22	7.22

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 9,703 full-time law enforcement employees in Connecticut (7,875 officers and 1,828 civilians).²⁶

Trafficking and Seizures

- Located in close proximity to New York City, Connecticut is an important transit and destination area for drugs.²⁷
- Interstate 95 extends through Connecticut and connects New York City with Boston and continues on to the U.S./Canada border. Interstate 91 extends from New Haven north to Massachusetts, Vermont and the U.S./Canada border. These interstates form what is known by law enforcement as the New England Pipeline.²⁸
- Connecticut based Puerto Rican and other Hispanic criminal groups are the dominate transporters and wholesale and midlevel distributors of heroin in the state.²⁹
- Caucasian criminal groups smuggle high quality, Canadian produced marijuana across the U.S./Canada border and into Connecticut, primarily via private vehicle.³⁰
- There were 38,162 dosage units of MDMA seized by Federal agencies in Connecticut during 2006.³¹

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Connecticut, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	46.8 kilograms
Heroin	38.1 kilograms
Methamphetamine	0.0 kilograms
Marijuana	208.2 kilograms
MDMA	38,162 dosage units

- During 2006, there were 3 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Connecticut reported by the DEA and state and local authorities.³²

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Connecticut, 2002-2006

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2002	1
2003	1
2004	0
2005	3
2006	3

- During 2006, there were 1,543 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated and seized in Connecticut as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³³

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Connecticut, 2006

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
8	1,124	6	419	1,543

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁴
As of April 16, 2007, there were 4 drug courts in Connecticut that had been operating for more at least two years. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Connecticut at that time.
- During FY 2006, 51.1% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Connecticut had committed a drug offense. Approximately 54% of these drug cases involved crack cocaine.³⁵

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Connecticut, FY 2006

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	35	19.0%
Crack cocaine	100	54.3
Heroin	29	15.8
Marijuana	6	3.3
Methamphetamine	2	1.1
Other	12	6.5

Corrections

- On January 1, 2008, the Connecticut incarcerated population totaled 19,438. Nearly 1,800 of the inmates committed an offense involving the sale of a hallucinogenic/narcotic substance.³⁶

Incarcerated Sentenced Population, Top Ten Offenses, Connecticut, January 1, 2008

Top Ten Offenses Committed	Number of Offenders
Violation of probation or conditional discharge	2,299
Sale of hallucinogen/narcotic	1,799
Robbery, first degree	1,035
Possession of narcotic substance	1,025
Murder	679
Burglary, third degree	667
Assault, first degree	649
Sexual assault, first degree	578
Conspiracy	503
Criminal attempt	502

- The number of Connecticut offenders being supervised in the community on January 1, 2008 totaled 3,938.³⁷
- The Department of Corrections' Objective Classification System indicates that more than 88% of the inmates coming into the system have a substance abuse history that suggests a significant need for some level of substance abuse treatment.³⁸

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were no children injured at or affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Connecticut during 2007.³⁹
- The total costs of alcohol and other drug abuse to the residents of Connecticut are estimated to be over \$3.7 billion annually.⁴⁰

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 46,491 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Connecticut.⁴¹ There were 47,155 such treatment admissions during 2005.⁴²

Admissions to Treatment, Connecticut, 2005-2006

Drug Type	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	7,644	16.2%	7,456	16.0%
Alcohol with secondary drug	7,070	15.0	7,355	15.8
Cocaine (smoked)	3,737	7.9	4,029	8.7
Cocaine (other route)	1,847	3.9	2,154	4.6
Marijuana	3,435	7.3	3,879	8.3
Heroin	17,154	36.4	16,527	35.5
Other opiates	1,724	3.7	1,796	3.9
PCP	222	0.5	266	0.6
Hallucinogens	79	0.2	85	0.2
Amphetamines	110	0.2	90	0.2
Other stimulants	13	0.0	11	0.0
Tranquilizers	177	0.4	219	0.5
Sedatives	90	0.2	109	0.2

Inhalants	41	0.1	29	0.1
Other unknown	3,812	8.1	2,486	5.3
Total	47,155	100.0	46,491	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 89,000 (3.05%) Connecticut citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴³

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ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Web Site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

Email Form: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/utilities/contact.html>

