

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Louisiana

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.

Louisiana

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 4,287,768¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 64.4% white; 31.6% black/African American; 0.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 1.3% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.1% other race; 1.0% two or more races; 2.9% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Kathleen Babineaux Blanco³
- Lieutenant Governor: Mitch Landrieu⁴
- Attorney General: Charles Foti, Jr.⁵
- Secretary of State: Jay Dardenne⁶
- U.S. Senate: Mary Landrieu (D), David Vitter (R)⁷
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): Bobby Jindal (R); William J. Jefferson (D); Charlie Melancon (D); Jim McCrery (R); Rodney Alexander (R); Richard H. Baker (R); Charles Boustany (R)⁸
- Capital: Baton Rouge⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for areas of Alabama, Mississippi, and the following Louisiana Parishes: Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans and Ouachita.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 524 drug arrests in Louisiana.¹¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Louisiana, 2002-2006

Year	Arrests
2002	467
2003	328
2004	506
2005	533
2006	524

- In 2006, there were 23,506 total arrests for drug abuse violations in Louisiana.¹²

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Louisiana, 2006

Offense	Juveniles	Total
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	40	292
Forcible rape	45	306
Robbery	188	953
Aggravated assault	762	5,697
Burglary	1,032	3,819
Larceny-theft	2,457	12,081
Motor vehicle theft	250	1,078
Arson	25	109
Drug abuse violations	1,832	23,506
Driving under the influence	76	8,755

Drugs

- Cocaine¹³
Cocaine, primarily crack, is the predominant drug threat in Louisiana because of the high rate of addiction and violence associated with the drug. Cocaine is widely available and frequently distributed across the state. Cocaine abuse is reported in both metropolitan cities and rural areas of the state.
- Heroin¹⁴
With the exception of the greater New Orleans area, heroin distribution and abuse do not pose significant threats in Louisiana.
- Marijuana¹⁵
Marijuana continues to be the most commonly abused drug in Louisiana and reports indicate that it is the gateway drug for teens and young adults to experiment with other illicit drugs. Modern indoor cultivation techniques have led to the availability of high-grade marijuana within the state.
- Methamphetamine¹⁶
Methamphetamine continues to be a major drug threat in Louisiana and law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine is replacing crack cocaine as the primary drug threat in some areas due to its availability, low cost and long lasting effects.
- Club Drugs¹⁷
The abuse and distribution of club drugs in Louisiana is on the rise. Police and treatment counselors throughout the state report an increase in the availability and abuse of MDMA (ecstasy), Ketamine, Rohypnol, LSD and GHB.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals¹⁸
The abuse of pharmaceutical drugs continues to rise at an alarming rate. Law enforcement officials report OxyContin, hydrocodone and Xanax abuse continues to be a viable threat.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 299,000 (8%) Louisiana citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.¹⁹

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

	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	299	8.18%
Past year marijuana use	340	9.31
Past month marijuana use	202	5.54
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	147	4.03
Past year cocaine use	74	2.02
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	196	5.36

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 1.55 million (42.44%) Louisiana citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁰
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 112,000 (3.06%) Louisiana citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 76,000 (2.07%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²¹

Juveniles

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 36,000 (9%) Louisiana 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²²

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

	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	36	8.99%
Past year marijuana use	45	11.39
Past month marijuana use	23	5.75
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	20	5.07
Past year cocaine use	5	1.19
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	32	8.14

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 18,969 full-time law enforcement employees in Louisiana (14,779 officers and 4,190 civilians).²³

Trafficking and Seizures

- Louisiana’s highways continue to be utilized by drug trafficking organizations to transport drugs and drug money into and through the region, in spite of increased law enforcement pressure.²⁴
- Mexican drug trafficking organizations and African American criminal groups transport the majority of the powdered cocaine into Louisiana. Most of the powdered cocaine transported into Louisiana is then converted into crack cocaine. African American street gangs and independent dealers are the chief retail level distributors of crack.
- Methamphetamine production and distribution generates violent crimes and hazardous conditions. Independent Caucasian groups are the primary local producers

and retail distributors of methamphetamine in Louisiana, although more African Americans are becoming involved in methamphetamine distribution.²⁵

- Nearly 80,000 dosage units of MDMA were seized by Federal agencies in Louisiana during 2006.²⁶

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Louisiana, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	548.8 kilograms
Heroin	4.2 kilograms
Methamphetamine	5.6 kilograms
Marijuana	2,792.0 kilograms
MDMA	79,842 dosage units

- During 2006, there were 22 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Louisiana reported by the DEA and state and local authorities.²⁷

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Louisiana, 2002-2006

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2002	133
2003	94
2004	22
2005	98
2006	22

- During 2006, more than 5,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in Louisiana as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.²⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Louisiana, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		<u>Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>
<u>Eradicated Plots</u>	<u>Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>	<u>Grows Seized</u>	<u>Plants Eradicated</u>	
144	3,562	50	1,605	5,167

Courts

- Drug Courts²⁹
As of April 16, 2007, there were 38 drug courts in Louisiana that had been operating for more than two years, 2 that had recently been implemented and 4 that were being planned.
- During FY 2006, 30% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Louisiana had committed a drug offense. Approximately 43% of these drug cases involved crack cocaine.³⁰

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Louisiana, FY 2006

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	55	17.9%
Crack cocaine	132	42.9
Heroin	27	8.8
Marijuana	26	8.4
Methamphetamine	52	16.9
Other	16	5.2

Corrections

- As of June 30, 2007, the adult population at state and local correctional facilities in Louisiana was 36,786. Approximately 30% of these inmates were incarcerated for drug offenses (as their most serious offense).³¹

Most Serious Offense Committed, Adult Inmates, Louisiana, June 30, 2007

Most Serious Offense	Percent
Violent	40.3%
Drug	30.2
Property	18.9
All others	10.6

- There were 480 youthful offenders housed in Louisiana state prisons on June 30, 2007. Approximately 24% of the youthful offenders had committed drug offenses. A youthful offender is an individual 14-19 years of age who has been convicted in criminal court and sentenced to the custody of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections.³²

Most Serious Offense Committed, Youthful Offenders, Louisiana, June 30, 2007

Most Serious Offense	Percent
Violent	31.7%
Drug	24.4
Property	33.3
All others	10.6

- There were 38,952 probationers and 23,506 parolees under supervision of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections on June 30, 2007. Approximately 47% of the probationers and 57% of the parolees committed drug offenses.³³

Type of Crime Committed by Probationers and Parolees, Louisiana, June 30, 2007

Offense Type	Probation	GTPS*	Parole
Violent	6.7%	15.6%	12.2%
Drug	47.3	44.2	57.3
Property	31.8	28.0	26.7
All others	14.2	12.0	3.8

*Good-time/parole supervision (diminution of sentence)

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 29 children in Louisiana affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2005.³⁴

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 22,275 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Louisiana.³⁵ There were 24,994 such admissions during 2005.³⁶

Admissions to Treatment, Louisiana, 2005-2006

Drug Type	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	3,186	12.7%	2,846	12.8%
Alcohol with secondary drug	3,954	15.8	3,463	15.5
Cocaine (smoked)	5,132	20.5	4,549	20.4
Cocaine (other route)	1,571	6.3	1,645	7.4
Marijuana	5,498	22.0	4,739	21.3
Heroin	258	1.0	269	1.2
Other opiates	2,271	9.1	1,997	9.0
PCP	3	0.0	16	0.1
Hallucinogens	72	0.3	47	0.2
Amphetamines	1,227	4.9	941	4.2
Other stimulants	2	0.1	7	0.0
Tranquilizers	275	1.1	286	1.3
Sedatives	251	1.0	217	1.0
Inhalants	12	0.0	11	0.0
Other unknown	1,264	5.1	1,242	5.6
Total	24,994	100.0	22,275	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 108,000 (2.97%) Louisiana citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.³⁷

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

² Ibid.

³ Louisiana Governor Web site: <http://www.gov.state.la.us/>

⁴ Louisiana Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/ltgovernor/>

⁵ Louisiana Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ag.state.la.us/>

⁶ Louisiana Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/>

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

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

⁹ Louisiana Web site: <http://www.louisiana.gov/wps/portal/>

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

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