

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 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.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 205,442¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 41.2% white; 54.0% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.7% other race; 1.5% two or more races; 1.6% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Baton Rouge is located in East Baton Rouge Parish.³

Politics

- Mayor-President: Melvin “Kip” Holden (Mayor of Baton Rouge and President of East Baton Rouge Parish)⁴
- Metropolitan Council (Districts 1-12, respectively): Wayne Carter; Ulysses “Bones” Addison; Pat Culbertson; Joe Greco; Charles Kelly; Martha Jane Tassin; Byron Sharper; Mike Walker; Darrell Ourso; Lorri Burgess; David Boneno; Mickey Skyring⁵
- Chief of Police: Jeff LeDuff⁶
- East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff: Greg Phares⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for areas of Alabama, Mississippi and 8 parishes in Louisiana, including East Baton Rouge Parish.
- The Future of Baton Rouge is Up to YOUth⁹
The purpose of this program is to prevent the use of club drugs and underage drinking through community outreach, speakers, drug- and alcohol-free events, trainings and other activities.
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)¹⁰
The D.A.R.E. Program is at the forefront of substance abuse prevention education. The East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office successfully implemented D.A.R.E. in the Fall Semester of 1994. Currently D.A.R.E. is taught in 22 Private/Parochial and 19 Public Schools in East Baton Rouge Parish. During the 2005-2006 school year over 3,000 students graduated from the D.A.R.E. Program.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, there were 56 murders known to police in Baton Rouge and during 2005 there were 49 murders known to police.¹¹

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Baton Rouge, 2005-2006

Offense	2005	2006
Homicide	49	56
Rape	83	101

Robbery	1,000	1,057
Aggravated assault	1,573	1,757
Burglary	3,948	4,022
Larceny-theft	8,951	9,215
Motor vehicle theft	1,558	1,491
Arson	183	223

Juveniles

- Results of a 2004 survey of students in East Baton Rouge Parish indicate that nearly 34% of 12th grade students reported lifetime use of marijuana. In 2002, approximately 38% of 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.¹²

Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, East Baton Rouge Parish, 2002 and 2004

Substance	Grade 6		Grade 8		Grade 10		Grade 12	
	2002	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004
Marijuana	3.8%	3.8%	15.9%	14.3%	28.1%	21.8%	38.3%	34.2%
Inhalants	10.1	11.6	14.1	14.1	11.6	10.4	9.0	8.8
Hallucinogens	1.1	0.6	2.9	1.3	4.3	1.7	6.5	4.0
Cocaine	1.5	0.8	2.4	1.6	2.5	1.2	3.5	3.9
Stimulants	0.9	1.2	1.7	2.3	4.9	4.4	6.3	7.4
Sedatives	n/a	4.4	n/a	6.6	n/a	8.4	n/a	11.0
Heroin/opiates	n/a	0.7	n/a	1.3	n/a	0.7	n/a	2.1
Ecstasy	n/a	0.7	n/a	2.6	n/a	2.8	n/a	5.2

- Approximately 17% of East Baton Rouge Parish 12th graders surveyed in 2004 reported past month use of marijuana.¹³

Students Reporting Past Month Drug Use, East Baton Rouge Parish, 2002 and 2004

Substance	Grade 6		Grade 8		Grade 10		Grade 12	
	2002	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004
Marijuana	1.7%	2.0%	7.9%	7.5%	13.3%	10.3%	16.7%	16.5%
Inhalants	5.5	5.4	6.0	6.9	3.9	2.9	2.2	2.1
Hallucinogens	0.7	0.4	1.5	0.9	2.2	0.7	1.7	1.2
Cocaine	1.1	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.2
Stimulants	0.4	0.9	0.7	1.2	3.0	1.8	2.5	2.4
Sedatives	n/a	2.3	n/a	3.5	n/a	4.7	n/a	5.6
Heroin/opiates	n/a	0.3	n/a	0.6	n/a	0.2	n/a	0.4
Ecstasy	n/a	0.4	n/a	1.0	n/a	1.0	n/a	1.3

- During 2004, approximately 8% of East Baton Rouge Parish 12th graders surveyed reported selling illegal drugs at least once in their lifetime.¹⁴

Students Reporting Substance-Related Antisocial Behavior, E. Baton Rouge Parish, 2004

Antisocial Behavior	Grade 6	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 12
Drunk or high at school	4.1%	10.9%	13.3%	16.3%
Sold illegal drugs	1.3	6.1	6.8	8.3

- Among 6th Grade East Baton Rouge Parish students surveyed in 2004 who reported alcohol, tobacco and other Drug (ATOD) use, the average age of initial marijuana use was approximately 11 years of age.¹⁵

Average Age of Students Reporting First ATOD Use, East Baton Rouge Parish, 2004

Substance	Grade 6		Grade 8		Grade 10		Grade 12	
	2002	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004
Marijuana	11.8	11.2	12.2	12.3	13.5	13.4	14.5	14.3
Cigarettes	10.7	10.6	11.4	11.5	12.2	12.3	12.9	13.0
Alcohol use	10.7	10.7	11.6	11.7	12.7	12.8	13.9	13.9
Reg. al. use	11.5	11.1	12.2	12.1	13.9	13.9	15.4	15.3

Enforcement

- School Drug Task Force¹⁶
The purpose of this Baton Rouge Police Department initiative is to investigate crimes involving drugs, explosives and weapons in schools, school buses and at school-sponsored events within the Parish.
- Narcotics Division¹⁷
The Narcotics Division of the Baton Rouge Police Department is responsible for investigating crimes involving illegal drugs as well as related vice crimes.
- DWI Task Force¹⁸
The purpose of the DWI Task Force is to patrol after dark to enforce laws related to impaired drivers under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- As of October 31, 2005, there were 773 full-time law enforcement employees in Baton Rouge (611 officers and 162 civilians).¹⁹

Trafficking and Seizures

- With the adoption of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexican drug cartels have taken advantage of the increased cross-border commercial traffic. Combined with the privatization of Mexico's railroads, the potential for the utilization of the rail system to transport drugs into Louisiana, particularly Baton Rouge due to its large switching stations, is notable.²⁰

Courts

- Drug Courts²¹
As of November 22, 2006, there were 2 drug courts in Baton Rouge that had been operating for more than two years, 1 drug court that had been recently implemented and 1 drug court was being planned. There were no additional drug courts in operation or being planned in Baton Rouge at that time.

Corrections

- The East Baton Rouge Parish Prison has a total capacity of 1,594.²²
- Drug-related programs within the Baton Rouge Department of Juvenile Services include:
 - Drug Screening Program: This is an intense supervision program that targets juvenile drug offenders, high-risk probationers, and those probationers in the substance abuse treatment program.²³
 - Chemical Awareness Program: This is a monthly 4-hour program designed for assessment, prevention, and educational purposes. Participants include juveniles who commit alcohol or drug-related offenses, as well as youth identified as high-risk.²⁴
 - Operation Eiger/Nova Out-Patient Substance Abuse Treatment Program: The purpose of this intensive program is to evaluate the needs of the juvenile probationer and recommend appropriate treatment.²⁵

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 Baton Rouge-East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Web site: <http://brgov.com/dept/Mayor/>

⁵ Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council Web site: <http://brgov.com/dept/council/>

⁶ Baton Rouge Police Department Web site: <http://brgov.com/dept/brpd/>

⁷ East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.ebrso.org/>

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 Louisiana Department of Public Safety TIGER (Traffic Issues: A Guide to Enforcement Resources) Web site, The Future of Baton Rouge is Up to YOUth section: <http://www.dps.state.la.us/tiger/UpToYOUth.htm>

¹⁰ East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office D.A.R.E. Program Web site: <http://www.ebrso.org/ebrso.php/dare>

¹¹ Baton Rouge Police Department Web site, Crime Statistics: <http://brgov.com/dept/brpd/csr/>

¹² Louisiana Office for Addictive Disorders, *Louisiana 2004 Caring Communities Youth Survey Report for East Baton Rouge Parish*: <http://www.dhh.state.la.us/offices/publications/pubs-23/East%20Baton%20Rouge%20Parish%20Profile%20Report.pdf>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Baton Rouge Police Department Web site, Criminal Investigations section: <http://brgov.com/dept/brpd/criminal.htm>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Baton Rouge Police Department Web site, Uniform Patrol section: <http://brgov.com/dept/brpd/uniformpatrol.htm>

¹⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>

²⁰ Drug Enforcement Administration, Louisiana State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/louisiana.html>

²¹ 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

²² Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, *Quarterly Statistical Performance Report (QSPR): 2005-Q1*: http://www.corrections.state.la.us/Statistics/PDF_QSPR/C.pdf

²³ Baton Rouge Department of Juvenile Services Web site, Special Programs section: <http://brgov.com/dept/juvenile/specialprograms.htm>

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Baton Rouge Department of Juvenile Services Web site, Intensive Supervision Program section:
<http://brgov.com/dept/juvenile/isp.htm>

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