Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of South Carolina

Profile of Drug Indicators

December 2007

ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile 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.

South Carolina

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

Demographics
- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 4,321,249[1]
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 67.3% white; 28.6% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.1% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.3% some other race; 1.3% two or more races; 3.4% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

Politics
- Governor: Mark Sanford[2]
- Lieutenant Governor: R. Andre Bauer[3]
- Secretary of State: Mark Hammond[4]
- Attorney General: Henry McMaster[5]
- U.S. Senators: Jim DeMint (R); Lindsey Graham (R)[6]
- U.S. Representatives: Henry Brown, Jr. (R); Joe Wilson (R); J. Gresham Barrett (R); Bob Inglis (R); John Spratt, Jr. (D); James E. Clyburn (D)[7]
- Capital: Columbia[8]

Programs/Initiatives
- Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS)[9]
  The South Carolina DAODAS is responsible for advising the executive branch of state, the General Assembly and other state agencies regarding alcohol and other drug abuse issues. The department's mission is to ensure the provision of quality services to prevent or reduce the negative consequences of substance use and addictions.
- South Carolina Meth Watch Program[10]
  Meth Watch is a program designed to help curtail the theft and suspicious sales of pseudoephedrine products, as well as other common household products used in the illicit manufacturing of methamphetamine in small, toxic labs. A key goal of this program is to promote cooperation between retailers and law enforcement to prevent the diversion of legitimate products for illegal use.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 256 drug arrests in South Carolina.[11]

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, South Carolina, 2002-2006

Year	Arrests
2002	307
2003	260
2004	261
2005	329
2006	256

➤ During 2006, there were 344 total homicide arrests in South Carolina.[12]

Number of Arrests for Select Offenses, South Carolina, 2006

Offense	Juveniles (16 & under)	Total All Ages
Murder	9	344
Forcible rape	60	533
Aggravated assault	203	1,985
Robbery	843	9,103
Breaking & entering	1,007	5,517
Larceny	2,362	17,691
Motor vehicle theft	157	1,272
Arson	67	212

➤ During 2006, there were more than 26,000 adult arrests for simple possession of drugs in South Carolina.[13]

Number of Simple Possession Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, South Carolina, 2006

Drug Type	Juv. (16 & under)	Adult
Opiates/Heroin	35	575
Cocaine	32	2,251
Crack cocaine	95	4,362
Marijuana	1,310	17,755
Hallucinogens	3	94
Other Drugs	82	1,129
Total	1,557	26,166

➤ During 2006, there were 6,178 adult drug law arrests in South Carolina for the sale, manufacture, cultivation and possession with intent to distribute.[14]

Sale/Manu./Cult./Poss.w/Intent to Distribute Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, SC, 2006

Drug Type	Juv. (16 & under)	Adult
Opiates/Heroin	9	178
Cocaine	10	866
Crack cocaine	47	2,368
Marijuana	99	1,777
Hallucinogens	0	28
Other Drugs	23	961
Total	188	6,178

Drugs
➤ Cocaine[15]
   Both powder and crack cocaine abuse have long endured as South Carolina's major drug threat.

- ➢ Heroin[16]

  Heroin abuse and availability has been historically concentrated in South Carolina's inner cities, although recent information suggests that heroin use is on the rise among youth in experimental or party situations.
- ➢ Marijuana[17]

  Marijuana is the most readily available and commonly abused drug in South Carolina.
- ➢ Methamphetamine[18]

  Methamphetamine manufacture and abuse has shown a steady decrease over the past two years throughout South Carolina from 2005 to 2006.
- ➢ Club Drugs[19]

  MDMA is readily available in cities, predominantly in Greenville, Columbia and cities along the Atlantic coast.
- ➢ Diverted Pharmaceuticals[20]

  Current investigations indicate that diversion of OxyContin®, hydrocodone products (such as Vicodin®) and pseudoephedrine continue to be problems in the state.
- ➢ According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 253,000 (7%) of South Carolina citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.[21]

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	253	7.32%
Past year marijuana use	327	9.45
Past month marijuana use	189	5.46
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	120	3.48
Past year cocaine use	81	2.34
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	170	4.91

* The number of users is in thousands

- ➢ Approximately 1.5 million (42.57%) South Carolina citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a "great risk".[22]
- ➢ Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 103,000 (2.96%) South Carolina citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 64,000 (1.85%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.[23]

Juveniles
- ➢ Approximately 12% of South Carolina high school students surveyed in 2005 reported abusing inhalants at least once in their lifetimes.[24]

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, South Carolina, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	33.8%	42.1%	38.0%
Current marijuana use	16.6	21.3	19.0
Lifetime cocaine use	7.1	8.0	7.6
Current cocaine use	2.7	4.9	3.9
Lifetime inhalant use	12.9	11.1	12.2

Lifetime heroin use	2.6	7.1	5.0
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.3	7.1	6.4
Lifetime ecstasy use	5.0	7.0	6.2
Lifetime illegal steroid use	4.6	7.3	6.1
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	1.7	4.4	3.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	6.1	12.6	9.5

➢ Approximately 47% of South Carolina 12th graders surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.[25]

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, South Carolina, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	26.3%	41.0%	43.7%	46.8%
Current marijuana use	16.0	18.5	22.4	20.6
Lifetime cocaine use	7.0	6.1	8.7	8.2
Current cocaine use	4.1	3.1	4.8	3.4
Lifetime inhalant use	17.5	10.5	9.3	7.2
Lifetime heroin use	3.7	5.2	6.8	4.1
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.8	6.1	5.4	7.0
Lifetime ecstasy use	6.2	5.1	7.1	5.5
Lifetime illegal steroid use	5.6	5.9	7.5	4.1
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	2.3	1.9	5.3	3.8
Tried marijuana before age 13	8.1	9.2	10.3	10.3

➢ According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 10% of South Carolina 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.[26]

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	36	9.97%
Past year marijuana use	47	13.12
Past month marijuana use	23	6.43
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	18	4.94
Past year cocaine use	6	1.62
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	26	7.36

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement
➢ As of October 31, 2006, there were 14,332 full time law enforcement personnel in South Carolina (10,597 officers and 3,753 civilians).[27]

Trafficking and Seizures
➢ Cocaine is often transported into the state in its powder form and then converted into crack by local distributors.[28]
➢ Most of the marijuana available in South Carolina is produced in Mexico and trafficked into the area through California[29]

- Methamphetamine manufacturing and trafficking had shown a steady increase from 2002 through 2004 but decreased dramatically after new programs were enacted over the past two years.[30]
- Recent data from law enforcement agencies indicates that Atlanta, Georgia has become a focal point for MDMA distribution in South Carolina.[31]
- From 2002 to 2006, there were 351 methamphetamine laboratory incidents reported in South Carolina. During 2006 there were 69 methamphetamine laboratory incidents reported in the state.[32]

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, South Carolina, 2002-2006

Year	# of Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents
2002	36
2003	42
2004	116
2005	88
2006	69

- During 2006, Federal agencies seized 153.5 kilograms of cocaine in South Carolina.[33]

Federal Drug Seizures, South Carolina, 2006

Drug	Amount Seized
Cocaine	153.5 kilograms
Heroin	3.9 kilograms
Methamphetamine	3.4 kilograms
Marijuana	14.2 kilograms
MDMA	570 dosage units

- In 2006, authorities eradicated and seized 35,336 cultivated marijuana plants in South Carolina under the DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.[34]

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, South Carolina, 2006

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
71	35,142	2	194	35,336

Courts
- Drug Courts[35]
  As of April 16, 2007, there were 36 total drug courts in existence or being planned in South Carolina. Twenty-two drug courts had been operating for more than two years, 2 had recently been implemented and another 12 were being planned at that time.
- In FY 2006, 39.9% of Federally sentenced defendants in South Carolina committed a drug offense. Approximately 45% of these drug offenses involved crack cocaine.[36]

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, South Carolina, FY 2006

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	118	25.9%
Crack cocaine	206	45.3
Heroin	8	1.8
Marijuana	37	8.1
Methamphetamine	58	12.7
Other	28	6.2

Corrections
- ➢ On June 30, 2007, there were 23,434 inmates under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Approximately 48% of these inmates were classified as chemically dependent.[37]
- ➢ As of June 30, 2007, approximately 19.8% of South Carolina inmates (4,740 inmates) were incarcerated for dangerous drugs as their most serious offense.[38]
- ➢ As of December 31, 2005, there were 39,349 adults on probation and 3,155 adults on parole in South Carolina.[39]

Consequences of Use
- ➢ According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 25 children in South Carolina affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2005.[40]

Treatment
- ➢ During 2006, there were 29,150 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in South Carolina.[41] There were 27,407 treatment admissions in 2005.[42] During 2004, there were 23,685 admissions to treatment in South Carolina.[43]

Admissions to Treatment, South Carolina, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004 #	2004 %	2005 #	2005 %	2006 #	2006 %
Alcohol only	9,150	38.6%	9,295	33.9%	8,581	29.4%
Alcohol with secondary drug	3,784	16.0	4,751	17.3	4,778	16.4
Cocaine (smoked)	2,867	12.1	3,578	13.1	3,304	11.3
Cocaine (other route)	748	3.2	1,114	4.1	1,210	4.2
Marijuana	4,648	19.6	5,061	18.5	5,292	18.2
Heroin	319	1.3	438	1.6	314	1.1
Other opiates	995	4.2	1,253	4.6	1,148	3.9
Hallucinogens	15	0.1	14	0.2	15	0.1
Amphetamines	424	1.8	788	2.9	704	2.4
Other stimulants	7	0.0	12	0.0	7	0.0
Tranquilizers	89	0.4	100	0.4	100	0.3
Sedatives	103	0.4	98	0.4	106	0.4
Inhalants	15	0.1	19	0.1	28	0.1
Other unknown	521	2.2	886	3.2	3,563	12.2
Total	23,685	100.0	27,407	100.0	29,150	100.0

➢ According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 95,000 (2.75%) South Carolina citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.[44]

Sources

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