

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Columbia, South Carolina

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 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.

Columbia, South Carolina

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 115,575¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 51.0% white; 42.0% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.6% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.3% other; 1.8% two or more races; 4.8% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²
- Columbia is located in Lexington and Richland Counties.³

Politics

- Mayor: Bob Coble⁴
- City Council: E.W. Cromartie, II; Anne Sinclair; Sam Davis; Kirkman Finlay III; Tameika Devine; Daniel Rickenmann⁵
- City Manager: Charles Austin, Sr.⁶
- Chief of Police: T.P. Carter⁷

Programs

- LRADAC, The Behavioral Health Center of The Midlands⁸
This program offers prevention, intervention and treatment programs to citizens of Lexington and Richland Counties

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Columbia Police Department reported 7 homicides. This is down from 15 murders reported during 2005.⁹

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

Offense	2005	2006
Murder	15	7
Rape	53	56
Robbery	381	377
Aggravated assault	870	871
Breaking and entering	1,328	1,277
Larceny	5,534	5,152
Motor vehicle theft	839	663
Index total	9,020	8,403

- Lexington County authorities reported 1,805 arrests for drug law violations in 2006. Richland County law enforcement agencies reported 3,042 drug arrests during 2006.¹⁰
- There were 171 reported drug-related crimes involving at least one gang member reported in Lexington and Richland Counties from January 1, 2006 though April 30,

2007. Law enforcement intelligence indicates considerable gang member involvement in drug activity and crimes in the area.¹¹

Drugs

- Heroin¹²
Mexican drug-trafficking organizations are the most common sources for heroin in the Columbia.
- Methamphetamine¹³
From January through June 2007, methamphetamine prices in Columbia were as follows: \$80-\$120/gram, \$900-\$1,100/ounce and \$12,000-\$15,000/pound. Prices for crystal methamphetamine during that time period were as follows: \$88-\$132/gram, \$1,100-\$1,300/ounce and \$15,000-\$18,000/pound.
- Club Drugs¹⁴
Ecstasy (MDMA) is readily available in Columbia.

Juveniles

- Area school resource officers have indicated that children in Lexington and Richland Counties lacked positive activities and turned instead toward drugs and crime. A number of area principals believe that the availability of drugs in some neighborhoods is a problem for their students¹⁵

Enforcement

- As of October 2006, there were 368 full-time law enforcement employees in Columbia (328 officers and 40 civilians).¹⁶
- Columbia Police Department: Organized Crime and Narcotics Unit (OCN)¹⁷
OCN is responsible for investigating vice, organized crime, illegal drugs and conducting intelligence related to such activities.

Trafficking and Seizures

- During the past year, there has been a significant increase in ecstasy distribution throughout South Carolina with traffickers based out of Columbia distributing a significant portion of the Ecstasy sold.¹⁸

Courts

- Drug Courts¹⁹
As of April 16, 2007, there were 2 drug courts in Columbia that had been in existence for at least two years. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Columbia at that time.

Corrections

- On June 30, 2007, approximately 9.1% of the South Carolina Department of Corrections inmate population was from Richland County and 4.2% was from Lexington County.²⁰

Treatment

- During FY 2007, there were 3,709 admissions to drug treatment involving Richland and Lexington County residents.²¹

Drug Treatment Admissions, by Race, Lexington and Richland Data, FY 2002-2007

Year	White	Black	Other
2002	1,992	1,540	90
2003	1,938	1,417	102
2004	1,924	1,406	66
2005	1,987	1,408	79
2006	2,017	1,480	53
2007	2,189	1,437	83

Sources

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

² Ibid.

³ Columbia, South Carolina Web site: <http://www.columbiasc.net/>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Columbia South Carolina Web site, Mayor and Council Member Contact Information: <http://www.columbiasc.net/index.php?pageid=37>

⁶ Columbia City Government Web site: <http://www.columbiasc.net/?pageid=2>

⁷ Columbia Police Department Web site: <http://www.columbiapd.com/>

⁸ LRADAC, The Behavioral Health Center of The Midlands Web site: <http://www.lradac.org/>

⁹ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, *Crime in South Carolina 2006*, Crime by County and Agency section: <http://www.sled.sc.gov/Documents/CrimeReporting/SCCrimeBooks/2006/139-161%20Crimes%20by%20County.pdf>

¹⁰ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, *Crime in South Carolina 2006*, Crime, Clearance and Arrest Data by County section: <http://www.sled.sc.gov/Documents/CrimeReporting/SCCrimeBooks/2006/121-138%202006%20Crime%20and%20Arrest%20Data.pdf>

¹¹ University of South Carolina - Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, *Assessment of Youth and Gang Violence in Columbia and Richland County*, February 2008: http://www.columbiasc.net/downloads/gangdoc/FinalReport021108_opt.pdf

¹² Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 South Carolina Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/southcarolina.html>

¹³ National Drug Intelligence Center, *2008 National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment*, December 2007 <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs26/26594/26594p.pdf>

¹⁴ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 South Carolina Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/southcarolina.html>

¹⁵ University of South Carolina - Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, *Assessment of Youth and Gang Violence in Columbia and Richland County*, February 2008: http://www.columbiasc.net/downloads/gangdoc/FinalReport021108_opt.pdf

¹⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2006*, September 2007: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/>

¹⁷ Columbia Police Department Web site, Organized Crime and Narcotics Unit: http://www.columbiapd.com/cpd_042.htm

¹⁸ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 South Carolina Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/southcarolina.html>

¹⁹ Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, April 16, 2007: http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf

²⁰ South Carolina Department of Corrections, Distribution of Committing County for SCDC Total Population as of June 30, 2007:

<http://www.doc.sc.gov/research/Admissions/ADMcommittingcntyFY07.pdf>

²¹ South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Drug Treatment Admissions by County, FY 2002-FY 2007: http://www.daodas.state.sc.us/countyleveldataascount_000.swf

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