

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Charleston, West Virginia

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2006



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.

Charleston, West Virginia

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 American Community Survey): 53,421²
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 American Community Survey): 80.6% white; 15.1% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.8% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.3% other race; 1.9% two or more races; 0.8% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)³
- The city of Charleston is located in Kanawha County.

Politics

- Mayor: Danny Jones⁴
- City Council (Districts 1-21, respectively): Patrick Jones; William Hanna; James “Moses” Lanham; Rev. James Ealy; Teresa “Tricky” Reed; Edward Talkington; Paul James Monroe; Bob White; Betty Morton; Archie Chestnut; Marc Weintraub; Jim Harris Jr.; Linda M. Nielsen; Jack E. Harrison; David Kent Higgins; Brenda H. Robertson; Bobby Reishman; John Miller, Jr.; Ditty L. Markham; Cheryle Hall; Michael Clower (At Large: J. Thomas Lane; Charles W. Loeb, Jr.; Jerry L. Ware; Harry Deitzler; Mark A. Sadd; Mary Jean Davis)⁵
- City Manager: David Molgaard⁶
- Chief of Police: Brent Webster⁷
- Kanawha County Sheriff: Mike Rutherford⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
The Appalachia HIDTA was designated in 1998 and is responsible for counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, and 12 counties in West Virginia, including Kanawha.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2004, the Charleston Police Department reported 418 drug violations.¹⁰

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, Charleston, 2004

Offense	Number of Offenses
Homicide	12
Forcible sex offenses	62
Aggravated assault	465
Robbery	155
Burglary/breaking and entering (B&E)	962
Larceny-theft offenses	2,712
Motor vehicle theft	430
Arson	36
Drug offenses	418

- There were 374 arrests in Charleston during 2004 for drug/narcotic violations.¹¹

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Charleston, 2004

Offense	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Murder/non-negligent mansl.	0	4	4
Forcible rape	0	1	1
Aggravated assault	8	141	149
Robbery	4	18	22
Burglary/B&E	5	20	25
Arson	0	2	2
Motor vehicle theft	9	13	22
Drug/narcotic violations	29	345	374
Drug equipment violations	1	8	9
Driving under the influence	1	133	134

- Kanawha County had the largest number of West Virginia task force drug arrests in 2004, with 205 drug arrests.¹²

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2004, there were 189 full-time law enforcement employees in Charleston (161 officers and 28 civilians).¹³

Courts

- Drug Courts¹⁴
As of April 14, 2006, there was 1 drug court in Charleston that had recently been implemented. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Charleston at that time.

Corrections

- On June 30, 2005, there were 60 offenders in the Charleston Work/Study Release Center.¹⁵
- During FY 2004-2005, 89 inmates were enrolled in substance abuse treatment at Charleston Work/Study Release and 69 inmates completed this treatment.¹⁶

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>
² U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>
³ Charleston, West Virginia Web site: <http://www.cityofcharleston.org/>
⁴ Charleston Mayor’s Web site: <http://www.cityofcharleston.org/>
⁵ Charleston City Council Web site: <http://www.cityofcharleston.org/council.htm>
⁶ Charleston City Manager: <http://www.cityofcharleston.org/manager.htm>
⁷ Charleston Police Department Web Site, Chief’s Office:
<http://www.charlestonwvpolice.org/html/Admin/Chief%20Ofc.htm>
⁸ Kanawha County Sheriff’s Web site: <http://www.kanawha.us/sheriff/default.aspx>
⁹ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/appalachia.html>

¹⁰ West Virginia State Police, *Crime in West Virginia 2004*:

<http://www.wvstatepolice.com/ucr/2004wvcrimes.pdf>

¹¹ West Virginia State Police, *Crime in West Virginia 2004*:

<http://www.wvstatepolice.com/ucr/2004wvcrimes.pdf>

¹² West Virginia Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, *Drug and Violent Crime Control Task Force Report, 2003-2004*, September 2005: <http://www.wvdcjs.com/publications/DVCCTF0304.pdf>

¹³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2004*, October 2005:

http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_04/

¹⁴ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, April 14, 2006:

http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf

¹⁵ West Virginia Division of Corrections, *Annual Report FY 2004-2005*, December 2005:

<http://www.wvf.state.wv.us/wvdoc/Annual%20Rpt/2005AR.pdf>

¹⁶ West Virginia Division of Corrections, *Annual Report FY 2004-2005*, December 2005:

<http://www.wvf.state.wv.us/wvdoc/Annual%20Rpt/2005AR.pdf>

This Drug Indicator Profile was prepared by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by ONDCP and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this Profile or other drug issues, please contact:

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