

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of California

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 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.

California

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 36,457,549¹
- Race/ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 59.8% white; 6.2% black/African American; 0.7% American Indian/Alaska Native; 12.3% Asian; 0.4% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 17.3% other race; 3.3% two or more races; 35.9% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Arnold Schwarzenegger³
- Lt. Governor: John Garamendi⁴
- Attorney General: Edmund G. Brown Jr.⁵
- Secretary of State: Debra Bowen⁶
- U.S. Senate: Dianne Feinstein (D); Barbara Boxer (D)⁷
- U.S. House of Representatives: Mike Thompson (D); Wally Herger (R); Daniel Lungren (R); John Doolittle (R); Doris Matsui (D); Lynn Woolsey (D); George Miller (D); Nancy Pelosi (D); Barbara Lee (D); Ellen Tauscher (D); Jerry McNerney (D); Fortney Pete Stark (D); Anna G. Eshoo (D); Mike Honda (D); Zoe Lofgren (D); Sam Farr (D); Dennis A. Cardoza (D); George P. Randanovich (R); Jim Costa (D); Devin Nunes (R); Kevin McCarthy (R); Lois Capps (D); Elton Gallegly (R); Howard McKeon (R); David Dreier (R); Brad Sherman (D); Howard Berman (D); Adam Schiff (D); Henry Waxman (D); Xavier Becerra (D); Hilda Solis (D); Diane E. Watson (D); Lucille Roybal-Allard (D); Maxine Waters (D); Jane Harman (D); Laura Richardson (D); Grace Napolitano (D); Linda T. Sanchez (D); Ed Royce (R); Jerry Lewis (R); Gary Miller (R); Joe Baca (D); Ken Calvert (R); Mary Bono Mack (R); Dana Rohrabacher (R); Lorreta Sanchez (D); John Campbell (R); Darrell Issa (R); Brian Bilbray (R); Bob Filner (D); Duncan Hunter (D); Susan Davis (D)⁸
- Capital: Sacramento⁹

Programs and Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
 - Northern California HIDTA: designated in 1997; responsible for Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sonoma counties¹⁰
 - Central Valley HIDTA: designated in 1999; responsible for Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare counties¹¹
 - Los Angeles HIDTA: designated in 1990; responsible for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties¹²
 - Southwest Border HIDTA/California Region (“California Border Alliance Group”): designated in 1990; responsible for San Diego and Imperial counties¹³

- California Access to Recovery Effort (CARE)¹⁴
Funded by the Federal Access to Recovery (ATR) program, this initiative allows people in need of substance abuse treatment to make individual choices for recovery that reflect their personal values. The CARE program serves youth between 12 through 20 years of age residing in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Butte, Shasta and Tehama counties.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 3,055 drug arrests in California during 2007.¹⁵
- During 2006, there were 2,483 homicides reported in California.¹⁶

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

Offense Type	2005	2006
Homicide	2,503	2,483
Forcible rape	9,345	9,213
Robbery	63,424	70,961
Aggravated assault	114,321	111,471
Burglary	249,563	246,449
Motor vehicle theft	256,998	242,692
Larceny-theft	688,820	666,869
Arson	12,272	12,687

- There were 6,088 juvenile and 153,856 adult felony arrests for drug offenses in California during 2005.¹⁷

Number of Felony Drug Arrests, California, 2005

Drug Type	Juvenile	Adult
Narcotics	1,464	50,810
Marijuana	1,817	11,258
Dangerous drugs	2,765	90,207
Other	42	1,581
Total drug offenses	6,088	153,856

- There were 147,301 misdemeanor arrests for drug offenses in California during 2005.¹⁸

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁹
Cocaine is readily available throughout the state with Los Angeles remaining one of the nation’s largest cocaine transshipment and distribution centers. Cocaine is also widely available in San Francisco and other areas of northern California.
- Heroin²⁰
The increased availability of high purity heroin that can be snorted allows a new, younger population to use heroin without a needle.

- **Marijuana²¹**
Marijuana remains the most widely available and abused illicit substance in California.
- **Methamphetamine²²**
Methamphetamine is the primary drug threat in California. Within the state, Hispanics and Caucasians are the almost exclusive consumers of meth. Purity levels of meth have ranged from a low of 10% to a high of 100% pure.
- **Club Drugs²³**
Although ecstasy (MDMA) was considered the most popular club drug in the state among teens and young adults, there are indicators that its use may be decreasing across the board, although the drug remains consistently available in geographical pockets. Recent studies indicate that use of MDMA is expanding from raves and clubs into schools, malls and private residences.
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals²⁴**
Current investigations indicate that the diversion of hydrocodone products, such as Vicodin, and oxycodone products, such as OxyContin, continues to be a problem in California.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 2.6 million (9%) California citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁵

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	2,575	8.85%
Past year marijuana use	3,322	11.41
Past month marijuana use	1,951	6.70
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	1,017	3.50
Past year cocaine use	625	2.15
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	1,349	4.63

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 11.2 million (38.46%) California citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁶
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 880,000 (3.02%) California citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 618,000 (2.12%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁷

Juveniles

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 348,000 (11%) California 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁸

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	348	10.58%
Past year marijuana use	458	13.92
Past month marijuana use	247	7.50

Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	173	5.27
Past year cocaine use	52	1.59
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	223	6.78

* The number of users is in thousands

- During the 2005-2006 school year, approximately 45% of California 11th graders surveyed reported lifetime abuse of an illegal drug.²⁹

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Abuse, by Grade, California, 2005-2006

Drug Type	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Alcohol	17.9%	40.9%	61.9%
Marijuana	7.9	22.3	38.2
Inhalants	7.8	10.2	9.5
Cocaine/crack	2.6	4.1	7.3
Methamphetamine	2.3	3.5	7.0
LSD/psychedelics	2.0	3.2	4.4
Ecstasy	1.1	3.7	5.8
Prescr. painkiller	4.4	9.1	15.1
Heroin	--	2.3	1.9
Other illegal drug	2.5	5.7	8.1
Any illegal drug	15.9	30.0	45.0

- During the 2005-2006 school year, approximately 19% of California 11th graders surveyed reported current (past month) use of marijuana.³⁰

Percent of Students Reporting Current Drug Abuse, by Grade, California, 2005-2006

Drug Type	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Alcohol	12.0%	23.8%	35.8%
Marijuana	4.7	12.6	19.2
Inhalants	4.7	4.9	3.8
Cocaine/crack	--	2.6	3.9
Methamphetamine	--	2.7	3.9
Psychedelics	--	2.4	3.2
Any illegal drug	8.0	15.3	22.4

Enforcement

- As of October 2006, there were 115,912 full-time law enforcement employees in California (75,483 officers and 40,429 civilians).³¹
- California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE)³²
Established in 1927, BNE is the oldest narcotic enforcement bureau in the United States. BNE programs target major drug dealers, violent career criminals, clandestine drug manufacturers and violators of prescription drug laws.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mexican trafficking organizations, working closely with Colombian suppliers, dominate the wholesale cocaine trade in California.³³
- The majority of the cocaine destined for the U.S. enters the country by land conveyance through ports of entry along the California/Mexico border.³⁴
- Cocaine bought by gangs in the Los Angeles area is converted into crack cocaine and then sold locally or distributed to other cities in California and nationally. These organizations frequently use intimidation and violence to facilitate their narcotics trafficking activities.³⁵
- Mexican organizations continue to dominate the production and distribution of high-quality methamphetamine in the state, while a secondary trafficking group, composed primarily of Caucasians, operates small, unsophisticated laboratories.³⁶
- As the supply of pseudoephedrine from Canada has diminished after successful law enforcement operations, there has been a noticeable increase in pseudoephedrine and ephedrine seized that originates in China.³⁷
- More than 10,000 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in California during 2007.³⁸

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, California, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	10,584.3 kilograms
Heroin	212.7 kilograms
Methamphetamine	1,958.2 kilograms/109 dosage units
Marijuana	176,378 kilograms/2,665 dosage units
Hashish	62.5 kilograms/1,367 dosage units
MDMA	7.6 kilograms/318,151 dosage units

- More than 400 pounds of methamphetamine were seized by the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement during 2006.³⁹

Amount/Value of Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement Drug Seizures, California, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized	Estimated Value
Methamphetamine	420.9 pounds	\$1,372,016
Meth. liquid	0.99 gallons	\$37,800
Cocaine	835 pounds	\$34,831,507
Heroin	113 pounds	\$1,144,027
Ecstasy	72,900 dosage units	\$700,075
PCP	10 gallons	\$500,000
Marijuana*	3,358 pounds	\$1,418,794
Marijuana plants*	236,526 plants	\$236,699,500

* Figures exclude seizures from the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) program

- During 2007, there were 221 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in California reported by the DEA and state and local authorities, a decrease from the 1,281 such incidents reported during 2003.⁴⁰

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, California, 2003-2007

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2003	1,281
2004	767
2005	468
2006	353
2007	221

- During 2006, nearly 3 million cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in California as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁴¹

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, California, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
1,517	2,791,726	575	203,559	2,995,285

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴²
As of April 16, 2007, there were 155 drug courts in California that had operating for at least two years, 6 that had recently been implemented and 10 that were being planned.
- During FY 2006, 30.4% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in California committed a drug offense. Approximately 44% of these drug cases involved marijuana.⁴³

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, California, FY 2006

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Powder cocaine	235	13.1%
Crack cocaine	113	6.3
Heroin	55	3.1
Marijuana	789	43.9
Methamphetamine	510	28.4
Other	94	5.2

- Approximately 44% of the adult felony drug offenders sentenced in California during 2005 received a sentence of probation with jail time.⁴⁴

Type of Sentence Received, Convicted Adult Felony Drug Offenders, CA, 2005

Type of Sentence	Percent
State Institutions	19.6%
Probation	32.3
Probation with jail	43.9
Jail	4.2

Corrections

- The California Department of Corrections (CDC) institutional population was 170,133 on February 20, 2008. The CDC parole population on that date was 127,314.⁴⁵
- On June 30, 2007, the offender population in California institutions was 173,274. Approximately 21% of the offenders at that time had committed drug offenses.⁴⁶

Offenders in CDC Institutions, by Offense, California, June 30, 2007

Offense Type	# of Offenders	% of Total
Crimes against persons	87,804	50.7%
Property	35,660	20.6
Drug	35,770	20.6
Other	14,040	8.1
Total	173,274	100.0

- Approximately 8.5% of the total offenders in CDC institutions on June 30, 2007 had committed a controlled substance (CS) possession offense.⁴⁷

Drug Offenders in CDC Institutions, June 30, 2007

Drug Offense	# of Offenders	% of All Offenders
CS possession	14,646	8.5%
CS possession for sale	12,617	7.3
CS sales	5,393	3.1
CS manufacturing	948	0.5
CS other	747	0.4
Hashish possession	49	0.0
Marijuana possession for sales	818	0.5
Marijuana sales	439	0.3
Other marijuana offenses	113	0.1

- As of December 31, 2007, the California parole population was 127,015. Approximately 31% of the parolees had committed drug offenses.⁴⁸

Offenders on Parole, by Offense, California, December 31, 2007

Offense Type	# of Offenders	% of Total
Crimes against persons	32,974	26.0%
Property	38,200	30.1
Drug	38,730	30.5
Other	17,111	13.5
Total	127,015	100.0

- Approximately 15% of the all California parolees on December 31, 2007 had committed a controlled substance (CS) possession offense.⁴⁹

Drug Offenders on Parole, California, December 31, 2007

Drug Offense	# of Offenders	% of All Offenders
CS possession	19,471	15.3%
CS possession for sale	11,850	9.3
CS sales	3,607	2.8
CS manufacturing	1,050	0.8
CS other	785	0.6
Hashish possession	60	0.0
Marijuana possession for sales	1,240	1.0
Marijuana sales	512	0.4
Other marijuana offenses	155	0.1

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 64 children in California affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2007.⁵⁰

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 193,717 drug/alcohol treatment admissions in California.⁵¹ There were 183,278 treatment admissions in California during 2005.⁵² More than one-third of these treatment admissions were related to amphetamines, during both 2005⁵³ and 2006.⁵⁴

Admissions to Treatment, by Primary Substance, California, 2005-2006

Drug Type	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	15,705	8.6%	19,157	9.9%
Alcohol with secondary drug	17,950	9.8	19,314	10.0
Cocaine (smoked)	15,732	8.6	15,951	8.2
Cocaine (other route)	3,336	1.8	3,930	2.0
Marijuana	26,811	14.6	28,767	14.9
Heroin	29,632	16.2	29,523	15.2
Other opiates	3,196	1.7	4,886	2.5
PCP	725	0.4	682	0.4
Hallucinogens	167	0.1	110	0.1
Amphetamines	67,295	36.7	70,173	36.2
Other stimulants	91	0.0	115	0.1
Tranquilizers	250	0.1	247	0.1
Sedatives	324	0.2	268	0.1
Inhalants	334	0.2	99	0.1
Other/none specified	1,730	0.9	495	0.3
Total	183,278	100.0	193,717	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 849,000 (2.92%) California citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁵⁵

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ California Governor Web site: <http://gov.ca.gov/>
- ⁴ California Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ltg.ca.gov>
- ⁵ California Office of the Attorney General Web site: <http://caag.state.ca.us/>
- ⁶ California Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.ss.ca.gov/>
- ⁷ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>
- ⁹ California Web site: <http://www.ca.gov/>
- ¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/northernca.html>
- ¹¹ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/centralvalley.html>
- ¹² Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/losangeles.html>
- ¹³ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/California Region section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/cali.html>
- ¹⁴ California Access to Recovery Effort Web site: <http://californiacares4youth.com/>
- ¹⁵ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 California State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/california.html>
- ¹⁶ California Department of Justice, *Crime in California 2006 Advance Release*: <http://ag.ca.gov/cjsc/publications/advrelease/ad/ad06/ad06.pdf>
- ¹⁷ California Department of Justice, *Crime in California 2005*: <http://ag.ca.gov/cjsc/publications/candd/cd05/arrests.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 California State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/california.html>
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2004-2005 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, February 2007: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k5/State/toc.htm>
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ California Department of Justice, *Tenth Biennial California Student Survey, 2005-2006*, August 2006: <http://www.safestate.org/index.cfm?navId=422>
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2006*, September 2007: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/>
- ³² Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement Web site: <http://ag.ca.gov/bne/>
- ³³ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 California State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/california.html>
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ Ibid.
- ³⁶ Ibid.
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement Web site: <http://ag.ca.gov/bne/>
- ⁴⁰ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 California State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/california.html>

-
- ⁴¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online:
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- ⁴² Office of Justice Programs 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
- ⁴³ U.S. Sentencing Commission, *Statistical Information Packet: Fiscal Year 2006 State of California*:
<http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2006/ca06.pdf>
- ⁴⁴ California Department of Justice, *Crime in California 2005*:
<http://ag.ca.gov/cjsc/publications/candd/cd05/dispositions.pdf>
- ⁴⁵ California Department of Corrections, *Weekly Report of Population as of Midnight February 20, 2008*:
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Offender_Information_Services_Branch/WeeklyWed/TPOPIA/TPOPIAd080220.pdf
- ⁴⁶ California Department of Corrections, *Prison Census Data as of June 30, 2007*, August 2007:
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Offender_Information_Services_Branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd0706.pdf
- ⁴⁷ Ibid.
- ⁴⁸ California Department of Corrections, *Parole Census Data as of December 31, 2007*, February 2008:
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Offender_Information_Services_Branch/Annual/PCensus1/PCensus1d0712.pdf
- ⁴⁹ Ibid.
- ⁵⁰ El Paso Intelligence Center, National Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System, Persons Affected Summary, Calendar Year 2007
- ⁵¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, California, 2006 (report accessed on February 27, 2008): <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/CA06.htm>
- ⁵² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, California, 2005 (report accessed on February 27, 2008): <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/CA05.htm>
- ⁵³ Ibid.
- ⁵⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, California, 2006 (report accessed on February 27, 2008): <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/CA06.htm>
- ⁵⁵ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2004-2005 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, February 2007:
<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k5/State/toc.htm>

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:

ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Web Site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

Email Form: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/utilities/contact.html>

