

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

San Francisco, California

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 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.

San Francisco, California

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 719,077¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 53.2% white; 6.5% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 33.1% Asian; 0.4% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 3.8% other race; 2.7% two or more races; 13.8% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- The city of San Francisco is located in San Francisco County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Gavin Christopher Newsom⁴
- Board of Supervisors (Districts 1-11, respectively): Jake McGoldrick; Michela Alioto-Pier; Aaron Peskin (President); Ed Jew; Ross Mirkarimi; Chris Daly; Sean Elsbernd; Bevan Dufty; Tom Ammiano; Sophie Maxwell; Gerardo Sandoval⁵
- Chief of Police: Heather Fong⁶
- San Francisco County Sheriff: Michael Hennessey⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1997, the Northern California HIDTA is responsible for 10 counties, including San Francisco County.
- Drug Elimination Team⁹
San Francisco's police department, district attorney's office, public defender's office, sheriff's department, probation department, and health department created the Drug Elimination Team (DET). The DET partnership focuses on the reduction of drug-related crime by assessing crime trends throughout the city to develop and implement integrated strategies to suppress and prevent drug-related activity.
- Crystal Meth Task Force¹⁰
This task force is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive solution that addresses the challenges of methamphetamine use throughout the city.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 96 murder/non-negligent manslaughter offenses known to police in San Francisco during 2005.¹¹

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, San Francisco, 2005

Offense Type	2005
Murder/non-negl. manslaughter	96
Forcible rape	172
Robbery	3,078
Aggravated assault	2,639
Burglary	6,208
Larceny-theft	19,887
Motor vehicle theft	8,174
Arson	188

- There were 5,904 adult felony drug arrests and 1,663 adult misdemeanor drug arrests in San Francisco County during 2005. There were also 133 juvenile felony drug arrests and 24 juvenile misdemeanor drug arrests in San Francisco County during 2005.¹²

Number of Drug Arrests, San Francisco County, 2004-2005

	2004		2005	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Felony	130	6,200	133	5,904
Narcotics	103	4,551	111	4,295
Marijuana	24	836	19	677
Dangerous drugs	3	779	3	883
Other	--	34	--	49
Misdemeanor	29	1,471	24	1,663
Marijuana	20	353	21	357
Other	9	1,118	3	1,306

- During 2004, the Narcotics & Vice Division of the San Francisco Police Department made 952 drug arrests.¹³

Drugs

- Cocaine
Cocaine is widely available in San Francisco,¹⁴ although indicators of drug abuse suggest a level or downward trend in the prevalence of cocaine use since 2003. The price of cocaine has risen slightly in the San Francisco Bay area from 2002, according to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC). Local prices for powder cocaine in 2004 were \$16,000–\$21,000 per kilogram, \$530–\$800 per ounce, and as low as \$10 per quarter gram. Crack prices were around \$600 per ounce and \$20–\$50 per “rock.”¹⁵
- Heroin
Indicators of drug abuse suggest that heroin use declined during the period from 2000 to 2004, but may have leveled off since then in San Francisco.¹⁶ However, heroin remains the number one drug of abuse in the city.¹⁷ Injection remains by far the preferred route of use. The median age of users is higher than ever, estimated to be

above 40. Heroin street buys in the San Francisco Bay area during 2004 were of Mexican origin, according to the Domestic Monitoring Program. That year's samples averaged 11 percent pure and \$0.98 per pure milligram. Prices of Mexican black tar heroin ranged from \$9,200 to \$30,000 per kilogram and from \$230 to \$850 per ounce in 2004. Additionally, gram prices ranged from \$50 to \$75.¹⁸

➤ **Marijuana**

Marijuana use indicators peaked in the San Francisco area in 2001 and have substantially declined since then. In 2004, sinsemilla marijuana sold for \$3,000–\$6,000 per pound, and domestic marijuana sold for \$4,000–\$5,000 per pound. Domestic marijuana sold for about \$200 per ounce.¹⁹

➤ **Methamphetamine**

The use of methamphetamine in the San Francisco Bay area may be leveling off, after a long era of increases culminating in a peak around 2004 or 2005. In San Francisco, during 2004, a pound of “crystal” methamphetamine sold in the \$10,000–\$13,000 range, an ounce sold in the \$600–\$1,500 range, and a gram sold in the \$80–\$100 range.²⁰

➤ **Club Drugs**

The use of club drugs in the San Francisco Bay area remains rare.²¹ The NDIC reported that in 2004, street prices of MDMA were in the range of \$15–\$40 per tab.²²

➤ **Other Drugs**

There has been an increase in the appearance of oxycodone in the street scene of San Francisco.²³

Juveniles

- Nearly 30% of San Francisco high school students surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.²⁴

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, San Francisco, 2005

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	28.2%	30.9%	29.5%
Current marijuana use	13.2	18.0	15.6
Lifetime cocaine use	4.7	4.6	4.7
Lifetime heroin use	1.5	3.0	2.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.7	3.7	3.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.4	2.7	2.6
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.8	2.2	2.0
Tired marijuana before age 13	7.6	11.3	9.5

- More than 6% of San Francisco 12th graders surveyed in 2005 reported using cocaine at least once during their lifetimes.²⁵

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, San Francisco, 2005

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	16.6%	29.6%	35.4%	39.4%
Current marijuana use	9.6	15.4	18.1	20.2
Lifetime cocaine use	2.7	4.4	5.2	6.3
Lifetime heroin use	2.1	1.5	2.3	2.9
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.2	3.0	3.7	4.4
Lifetime steroid use	2.6	1.7	2.8	2.8
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	1.9	1.0	1.7	2.9
Tired marijuana before age 13	8.9	10.5	10.0	7.3

Enforcement

- As of October 2005, there were 2,553 law enforcement employees in San Francisco (2,193 officers and 360 civilians).²⁶
- San Francisco Police Department: Narcotics & Vice Division²⁷
The Narcotics section of the Narcotics & Vice Division investigates all narcotics complaints received from citizens. Narcotic units also proactively investigate, infiltrate and arrest narcotic traffickers and those involved in narcotic trafficking organizations.

Trafficking and Seizures

- The DEA San Francisco Field Division reports that Mexican criminal groups control the local wholesale and midlevel distribution of methamphetamine in the San Francisco bay area. Several counties near the bay area have been sites of “superlabs,” capable of producing 10 pounds or more of methamphetamine per production cycle.²⁸
- A large, and increasing, quantity of marijuana is sold legally from medical marijuana outlets to certified purchasers in the bay area.²⁹
- During 2004, the San Francisco Police Department Narcotics & Vice Division seized drug-related assets valued at more than \$1,200,000 from drug traffickers.³⁰

Courts

- Drug Courts³¹
As of November 22, 2006, there were 3 drug courts in San Francisco that had been operating for over 2 years. No additional drug courts were operating or being planned in San Francisco at that time.
- San Francisco Adult Drug Court³²
The adult drug court is a pre-adjudication felony diversion program that began operating on March 15, 1995. Its target population includes eligible non-violent offenders charged with drug possession, certain possession for sale and sales charges, felony petty theft with a prior, auto burglary, and passing bad checks.
- Juvenile Drug Court³³
San Francisco's juvenile drug court, the "Youth Treatment and Education Court" (Y-TEC) serves juveniles ages 14-18 who have a history of criminal and substance abuse problems. Y-TEC offers both substance abuse treatment and education services.

Corrections

- San Francisco County Sheriff's Department jail substance abuse programs include the following:³⁴
 - Sisters in Sober Treatment Empowered in Recovery (SISTERS): This program is an in-custody therapeutic community that provides educational and substance abuse counseling for women. SISTERS is staffed by counselors from Walden House and Deputy Sheriffs.
 - Roads to Recovery: This in-custody therapeutic community provides educational and substance abuse counseling for men. Deputy Sheriffs and counselors from Milestones staff it.

Consequences of Use

- There were more than 700 emergency department (ED) visits involving cocaine, in San Francisco during the 1st Quarter of 2006. There were more than 2,700 ED visits involving cocaine during full year 2005.³⁵

Number of ED Reports, Selected Drugs, San Francisco, 2004-March 2006

Drug Type	2004	2005	Jan.-March 2006
Cocaine	2,458	2,718	771
Heroin	1,278	1,187	289
Methamphetamine	1,093	1,422	249
Marijuana	596	664	177
MDMA	90	11	27
Oxycodone/combinations	73	129	30
Hydrocodone/combinations	201	254	71
Benzodiazepines	519	403	117

- According to the San Francisco Medical Examiner, cocaine was present in 133 deaths, from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 (FY 2004).³⁶

Drugs Present in Deaths, Selected Drugs, San Francisco, FY 2004

Drug	# of Times Present in Deaths
Cocaine	133
Benzoyllecgonine*	145
Morphine-type alkaloids	124
Codeine	74
Methamphetamine	51
Amphetamine	44
Phencyclidine (PCP)	2
MDMA (ecstasy)	6
MDA	7
11-nor-delta-9-THC	4
Methadone	50
Hydrocodone	18
Oxycodone	11

* Benzoylcegonine is a metabolite of cocaine and is generally present when cocaine is detected. In some cases, benzoylcegonine, but not cocaine, was present which indicated that there had been some exposure to cocaine.

- There were an estimated 1,925 total cases of individuals living with AIDS in San Francisco associated with injection drug use in September, 2006.³⁷

Treatment

- From July-December FY 2006, there were 5,894 admissions to drug treatment in San Francisco County. During FY 2005, there were 8,759 treatment admissions.³⁸

Admissions to Treatment, Selected Drugs, San Francisco Co., FY 2004-Dec. FY 2006

Primary Drug	FY 2004	FY 2005	July-Dec. FY 2006
Cocaine	2,527	2,350	1,566
Heroin	3,646	3,589	2,834
Amphetamine	1,235	1,242	886
Marijuana	950	822	535
All drugs	8,520	8,759	5,894

- Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT)³⁹
The purpose of San Francisco’s OBOT program is to expand access to effective treatment, increase patient choice, integrate care, reduce stigma and assure regulatory consistency for existing narcotic treatment programs. The first patient was enrolled in OBOT in July 2003.

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