

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New York

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 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.

New York

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 19,306,183¹
- Race/ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 66.4% white; 15.5% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 6.9% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 9.2% other race; 1.7% two or more races; 16.3% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: David A. Paterson³
- Attorney General: Andrew Cuomo⁴
- Secretary of State: Lorraine A. Cortés-Vázquez⁵
- U.S. Senate: Charles E. Schumer (D), Hillary Clinton (D)⁶
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-29, respectively): Timothy Bishop (D); Steve Israel (D); Peter King (R); Carolyn McCarthy (D); Gary Ackerman (D); Gregory Meeks (D); Joseph Crowley (D); Jerrod Nadler (D); Anthony Weiner (D); Edolphus Towns (D); Yvette Clarke (D); Nydia Velazquez (D); Vito Fossella (R); Carolyn Maloney (D); Charles Rangel (D); Jose Serrano (D); Eliot Engel (D); Nita Lowey (D); John Hall (D); Kirsten Gillibrand (D); Michael McNulty (D); Maurice Hinchey (D); John McHugh (R); Michael Arcuri (D); James Walsh (R); Thomas Reynolds (R) Brian Higgins (D); Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D); John “Randy” Kuhl, Jr. (R)⁷
- Capital: Albany⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated as one of the five original HIDTAs in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA is responsible for the following areas in New York: Albany, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk and Westchester Counties as well as New York City.
- New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)¹⁰
The mission of OASAS is to improve the lives of New Yorkers by ensuring quality prevention and treatment services for chemical dependence and compulsive gambling and by promoting recovery from addiction.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 2,080 arrests for drug violations in New York.¹¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, New York, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	1,425
2004	2,121
2005	2,159

2006	2,107
2007	2,080

- There were 459,341 index offenses reported to police in New York during 2007, a 3.8% decrease from the 477,462 index offenses reported during 2006.¹²

Number of Index Offenses Reported to Police, New York, 2006-2007

Offense	2006	2007
Murder	925	801
Rape	3,163	9,914
Robbery	34,377	31,032
Aggravated assault	45,313	44,973
Burglary	68,420	64,499
Larceny	293,195	287,180
Motor vehicle theft	32,069	27,942
Total index offenses	477,462	459,341

- There were 43,844 adult arrests in New York for felony drug violations during 2007.¹³ There were 42,265 such arrests during 2006.¹⁴

Number of Adult Arrests, New York, 2006-2007

Offense Type	2006	2007
Total felony	169,275	171,987
Violent	45,498	44,413
Drug	42,265	43,844
DWI	6,237	6,423
Other	75,275	77,307
Misdemeanor	380,100	400,515
Property	105,104	112,445
Drug	90,488	101,754
DWI	46,195	46,075
Other	138,313	140,241
Total adult arrests	549,375	572,502

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁵
Crack cocaine is readily available in economically depressed areas in all major New York cities, along with some suburban and semi-rural areas, and is occasionally a source of violence in upstate cities. Such violence usually occurs when new dealers challenge more established dealers over territory.
- Heroin¹⁶
Heroin is readily available from Colombian and Dominican organizations operating in the New York metropolitan area. Furthermore, the heroin trafficking and abuse problem is increasing in upstate New York.

- **Methamphetamine¹⁷**
Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in New York State is a less serious problem when compared to other drugs. In the New York City area, the methamphetamine market is primarily for crystal methamphetamine produced by Mexico and/or California based Mexican methamphetamine trafficking organizations. The upstate market is primarily methamphetamine powder supplied by local clandestine labs.
- **Club Drugs¹⁸**
MDMA (ecstasy) continues to be available throughout New York. Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada remain the main locations for manufacturing and exporting MDMA.
- **Prescription Drugs¹⁹**
Current investigations indicate that hydrocodone products and OxyContin® are the most commonly abused pharmaceutical drugs in New York. Methadone, benzodiazepines and fentanyl were also identified as being among the most commonly abused and diverted pharmaceuticals in New York. Additionally, steroid trafficking and abuse continue to be a problem in the New York area. Steroid trafficking groups often use the internet to facilitate their illegal activities.
- According to 2005-2006 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 1.5 million (9%) of New York citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁰

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, New York, 2005-2006 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	1,508	9.38%
Past year marijuana use	1,952	12.15
Past month marijuana use	1,139	7.09
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	618	3.85
Past year cocaine use	452	2.81
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	692	4.30

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 6.2 million (38.48%) New York citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²¹
- Additional 2005-2006 NSDUH results indicate that 501,000 (3.12%) New York citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 354,000 (2.21%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²²

Juveniles

- Approximately 35% of New York high school students surveyed in 2007 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.²³

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, New York, 2007

Drug Type and Use	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	34.9%	35.4%	35.2%
Current marijuana use	17.2	20.0	18.6
Lifetime cocaine use	5.1	8.8	7.0

Lifetime inhalant use	10.8	12.7	11.9
Lifetime heroin use	1.6	5.1	3.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.5	6.0	4.4
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.5	7.4	6.1
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.4	5.5	4.1
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	1.6	4.0	2.9
Tried marijuana before age 13	5.0	9.4	7.3

- Approximately 47% of New York 12th graders surveyed in 2007 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.²⁴

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, New York, 2007

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	23.8%	31.4%	42.6%	47.4%
Current marijuana use	12.6	17.1	22.4	24.1
Lifetime cocaine use	4.6	5.4	7.5	10.0
Lifetime inhalant use	11.4	13.1	12.0	9.4
Lifetime heroin use	2.7	3.4	3.2	2.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.3	4.5	4.4	3.7
Lifetime ecstasy use	3.2	5.8	6.9	7.2
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.5	3.8	4.3	3.1
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	3.1	2.9	2.8	1.4
Tried marijuana before age 13	8.0	7.0	7.2	5.9

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 10% of New York 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁵

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, New York, 2005-2006 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	165	10.39%
Past year marijuana use	232	14.60
Past month marijuana use	124	7.81
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	72	4.54
Past year cocaine use	23	1.45
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	94	5.93

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 86,053 full-time law enforcement employees in New York (62,176 officers and 23,877 civilian employees).²⁶
- Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams (CNET)²⁷
CNET assists police agencies that lack the personnel or resources to conduct independent undercover drug investigations. Five regional teams help local police combat street level drug trafficking and related crimes.

Trafficking and Seizures

- New York City has long been home to numerous drug trafficking organizations. The city's large, diverse, multi-class population creates a demand that these organizations are more than willing to serve. New York City also acts as the source for organizations that smuggle drugs to other East Coast destinations and to Canada and Europe.²⁸
- Colombian and Mexican drug trafficking organizations are the primary transporters and distributors of wholesale amounts of cocaine in New York. These traffickers smuggle multi-hundred kilogram shipments of cocaine to New York via tractor-trailers, containerized cargo and mail services.²⁹
- The New York State Department of Health recently introduced official state prescription forms that contain security features designed to prevent alterations and forged prescriptions. The use of these new forms has contributed to a decrease in local pharmaceutical diversion in New York and may have forced abusers and traffickers to use alternate methods of acquiring pharmaceutical drugs, such as ordering them from Internet pharmacies.³⁰
- During 2007, the DEA and state and local authorities in New York reported 11 methamphetamine laboratory incidents.³¹

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, New York, 2003-2007

Year	Number of Incidents
2003	18
2004	49
2005	20
2006	38
2007	11

- More than 150,000 dosage units of MDMA were seized by Federal agencies in New York during 2007.³²

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, New York, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	2,099.0 kilograms
Heroin	257.7 kilograms
Methamphetamine	2.1 kilograms
Marijuana	2,940.5 kilograms
Hashish	3.0 kilograms
MDMA	0.6 kilograms/159,831 dosage units

- During 2007, there were 9,444 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in New York under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³³

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated/Seized, New York, 2007

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
272	7,570	55	1,874	9,444

Courts

➤ Drug Courts³⁴

As of April 16, 2007, there were 184 drug courts in existence or being planned in New York. There were 131 drug courts which had been operating for at least two years, 18 which had recently been implemented and 35 which were being planned at that time.

➤ During 2007, there were 44,974 felony drug offenses prosecuted in New York.³⁵

Dispositions of Felony Drug Offenses in New York Courts, 2006-2007

Dispositions	2006	2007
Convicted	29,345	33,525
Plea	29,012	33,248
Verdict	259	227
Unknown	74	50
Dismissed	7,815	8,583
Acquitted	136	87
Other disposition	2,957	2,779
Total prosecuted	40,253	44,974

➤ During FY 2007, approximately 40.9% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in New York had committed drug offenses.³⁶

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, New York, FY 2007

Drug Type Involved	# of Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	503	31.5%
Crack cocaine	329	20.6
Heroin	390	24.5
Marijuana	208	13.0
Methamphetamine	60	3.8
Other	105	6.6

Corrections

➤ On March 31, 2008, there were 89,929 inmates in correctional facilities throughout New York.³⁷

➤ There were 13,427 drug offenders in custody at yearend 2007 in New York, which represents a 40% decline from the 22,389 drug offenders in custody at yearend 1998.³⁸

- Of the 33,525 drug offenders convicted in New York State courts during 2007, 5,966 were sentenced to prison.³⁹

Sentences for Felony Drug Convictions in New York Courts, 2006-2007

Sentence	2006	2007
Prison	6,037	5,966
Jail	6,685	7,595
Time served	3,159	3,852
Jail & probation	1,445	1,513
Probation	3,295	3,328
Fine	1,467	1,648
Conditional discharge	5,280	6,638
Other	135	126
Unknown	1,842	2,859
Total convictions	29,345	33,525

- As of December 31, 2006, there were 123,418 adults on probation and 53,001 adults on parole in New York.⁴⁰

Consequences of Use

- During 2007, authorities reported that there was 1 child affected by methamphetamine laboratories in New York.⁴¹

Treatment

- During 2007, there were 276,294 drug/alcohol treatment admissions in New York.⁴² There were 307,805 such treatment admissions during 2006.⁴³ During 2005, there were 304,552 treatment admissions in New York.⁴⁴

Admissions to Treatment, New York, 2005-2007

Drug Type	2005		2006		2007	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	56,988	18.7%	54,614	17.7%	50,546	18.3%
Alc. w/ second. drug	83,134	27.3	84,007	27.3	75,475	27.3
Cocaine – smoked	35,350	11.6	36,210	11.8	30,270	11.0
Cocaine – other route	15,536	5.1	17,152	5.6	14,918	5.4
Marijuana	41,835	13.7	43,406	14.1	40,281	14.6
Heroin	59,360	19.5	59,129	19.2	51,229	18.5
Other opiates	6,375	2.1	7,045	2.3	9,046	3.3
PCP	468	0.2	458	0.1	429	0.2
Hallucinogens	192	0.1	116	0.0	83	0.0
Amphetamines	689	0.2	597	0.2	714	0.3
Other stimulants	94	0.0	37	0.0	50	0.0
Tranquilizers	1,224	0.4	1,487	0.5	2,154	0.8
Sedatives	474	0.2	573	0.2	490	0.2
Inhalants	103	0.0	69	0.0	41	0.0

Other/none specified	2,457	0.8	2,905	0.9	568	0.2
Total	304,552	100.0	307,805	100.0	276,294	100.0

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 433,000 (2.70%) New York citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁵

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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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