

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### New York, New York

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

February 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.

## New York, New York

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

### **Demographics**

- Population (2005 American Communities Survey): 7,956,113<sup>1</sup>
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Communities Survey): 44.0% white; 25.3% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 11.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 17.0% other race; 1.6% two or more races; 27.9% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)<sup>2</sup>
- New York City is located in Bronx, Queens, Kings, New York, and Richmond Counties.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Michael Bloomberg<sup>3</sup>
- City Council: The Council is made up of 51 Council Members elected from 51 Council Districts throughout the 5 boroughs of New York City. The City Council is led by Speaker Christine Quinn.<sup>4</sup>
- Police Commissioner: Raymond Kelly<sup>5</sup>
- New York Police Department Chief: Joseph J. Esposito<sup>6</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>7</sup>  
Designated as one of the five original HIDTAs in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA employs a multi-agency task force approach to disrupting and dismantling drug-related money laundering and drug gang organizations. The NY/NJ HIDTA is responsible for the following areas: New York City and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union counties in New Jersey.
- New York Crystal Meth Anonymous<sup>8</sup>  
Crystal Meth Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women in New York City who share their experience, strength and hope with each other so that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from addiction to crystal meth and all other mind-altering substances.

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 2006, there were 594 murders reported to the New York City Police Department.<sup>9</sup>

Offenses Reported to Police, Select Offenses, New York City, 2006

<b>Offense Type</b>	<b>2006</b>
Murder	594
Rape	1,504
Robbery	23,523

Felony assault	17,014
Burglary	22,841
Grand larceny	46,271
Motor vehicle theft	15,768

- There were 27,232 adult felony drug arrests in New York City during 2005.<sup>10</sup>

#### Number of Adult Arrests, New York City, 2004-2005

Offense Type	2004	2005
Total felony	92,636	95,035
Violent	28,017	27,668
Drug	25,504	27,232
DWI	662	697
Other	38,453	39,438
Misdemeanor	190,313	196,112
Property	55,712	55,828
Drug	62,115	64,085
DWI	6,425	7,104
Other	66,061	69,095
Total adult arrests	282,949	291,147

#### Drugs

- Cocaine

Cocaine abuse remains a major problem in New York City. The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) reports that prices for cocaine powder in December 2005 were \$16,000–\$32,000/kilogram and \$600–\$1,200/ounce. However, cocaine prices can fluctuate, as sellers vary the purity of the product and offer several different size packages. Crack users report that crack cocaine continues to be highly available and in demand. The NDIC reports that crack sells for \$18,000–\$30,000/kilogram, \$1,000–\$1,500/ounce, \$23–\$35/gram, and \$7–\$20/rock.<sup>11</sup>

- Heroin

Heroin continues to be a major drug problem in New York City and both availability and demand heroin remain high. However, many heroin users continue to complain, that the heroin currently available is weak because of the extensive use of adulterants. During 2005, South American heroin sold for \$40,000–\$80,000/kilogram and Southwest Asian heroin sold for \$40,000–\$45,000/kilogram. The price for Southeast Asian heroin was \$40,000–\$70,000/700 grams.<sup>12</sup>

- Marijuana

Marijuana indicators in New York City, which had recently increased, appear to be stabilizing, although marijuana continues to be exceedingly available and in high demand. The quality of marijuana varies greatly by seller and location. Usually street sales involve thumb-nail size plastic zip-lock bags that sell for either \$10 or \$20. According to the DEA, prices can range from \$1,000 to \$2,000/pound wholesale for commercial grade marijuana and from \$1,800 to \$7,500/pound for hydroponic marijuana.<sup>13</sup>

- **Methamphetamine**  
Although use is not widespread in the New York City area, crystal methamphetamine abuse is increasing among some subculture groups, especially gay males.<sup>14</sup> Intelligence indicates that methamphetamine can be found in New York City, but the quality is poor and the price is high.<sup>15</sup>
- **Club Drugs**  
Street sources report that MDMA is easy to obtain in many areas of New York City and is available in tablet, capsule, and powdered form. According to the DEA, a dose sells for about \$6–\$8/tablet wholesale and usually sells for \$5–\$38/tablet retail. GHB can be easily obtained in many dance clubs and is usually available in liquid form. In city clubs, GHB may cost \$45–\$65/bottlecap and \$20/single dose. Ketamine is also available in club settings and sells for \$25–\$50/dosage unit.<sup>16</sup>
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**  
Psychoactive prescription drugs continue to be widely available and popular. Intelligence indicates that a variety of these drugs are readily available on the street and some sell for as little as \$0.50/pill. The three most popular and commonly sold psychoactive prescription drugs are alprazolam (Xanax), amitriptyline (Elavil) and clonidine (Catapres).<sup>17</sup>
- **Other Drugs**  
PCP continues to be available in certain areas of the city, especially Harlem.<sup>18</sup>

### Juveniles

- During 2005, approximately 9% of New York high school students reported using inhalants at least once within their lifetime.<sup>19</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, by Gender, New York, 2005

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	25.9%	30.0%	28.1%
Current marijuana use	10.4	14.2	12.3
Lifetime cocaine use	2.8	4.4	3.6
Current cocaine use	1.0	2.6	1.8
Lifetime inhalant use	9.2	8.2	8.7
Lifetime heroin use	0.7	2.9	1.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	1.2	3.8	2.5
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.7	3.4	2.5
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.1	3.1	2.1
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	4.5	8.5	6.5

- During 2005 in New York, approximately 13% of high school seniors reported using marijuana within the past month.<sup>20</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, by Grade, New York, 2005

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	22.9%	27.6%	30.6%	36.1%
Current marijuana use	12.0	12.4	11.5	13.4
Lifetime cocaine use	3.4	4.0	2.8	3.6

Current cocaine use	1.4	2.6	1.0	1.8
Lifetime inhalant use	10.4	10.0	6.6	5.0
Lifetime heroin use	2.2	2.0	0.9	0.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.8	2.9	1.7	1.5
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.2	2.8	0.8	1.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	3.0	2.2	0.6	0.7
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	8.6	6.9	3.8	3.7

### **Enforcement**

- As of October 2005, there were 53,035 full-time law enforcement employees in New York City (35,896 officers and 17,139 civilians).<sup>21</sup>
- The Narcotics Division of NYPD's Organized Crime Control Bureau includes various units with the mission of identifying, arresting, and eliminating drug gangs and individuals who control drug operations. The specialty squads of the Narcotics Division include:<sup>22</sup>
  - Drug Enforcement Task Force: This joint task force consists of Federal, State and NYPD investigators working together to target middle and upper level drug traffickers and importers.
  - Narcotics Investigation and Tracking of Recidivist Offenders (NITRO): The NITRO unit coordinates, develops, maintains and disseminates narcotics intelligence through debriefings and computer databases. The NITRO unit is designed to focus prioritized enforcement efforts on career felony drug offenders and New York City firearms violators identified by the NYPD.
- Narcotics Control Unit (NCU)<sup>23</sup>  
Under the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, NCU is responsible for countering drug trafficking in city-owned buildings. NCU works regularly with approximately 25 police precincts and the Narcotics Division of the NYPD. As a result of NCU efforts, more than 15,500 apartments have been regained from drug dealers and approximately 2,800 former drug buildings have been stabilized.

### **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 as well as to Canada and Europe.<sup>24</sup>
- Due to successful drug initiatives and enforcement operations undertaken in the New York metropolitan area, many drug traffickers are moving their illegal operations upstate in order to earn greater profits, elude law enforcement and avoid competition from rival drug groups.<sup>25</sup>
- Mexican nationals have replaced Colombians as the main source of supply for multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine in New York City.<sup>26</sup>
- Much of the Colombian heroin available in New York is smuggled by couriers arriving at JFK Airport. Colombian heroin trafficking organizations have also developed increasingly sophisticated smuggling methods, including the use of cargo shipments, soaking heroin into clothing and chemically impregnating heroin into

plastic, which is then molded into common shapes. The heroin is subsequently recovered using chemical extraction processes.<sup>27</sup>

- The majority of the marijuana street sellers in New York City are young males between ages 15 and 25. Many of these inner city youths lack job training or have poor scholastic preparation.<sup>28</sup>

### Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>29</sup>  
As of November 22, 2006, there were 19 drug courts in existence or being planned in New York City counties. Thirteen drug courts had been operating for more than 2 years, 1 was recently implemented and 5 were being planned at that time.
- During 2005, there were 19,055 felony drug offenses in New York City prosecuted in city courts.<sup>30</sup>

Dispositions of Felony Drug Offenses, New York City, 2003-2005

	2003	2004	2005
Convicted	18,293	18,150	19,055
Plea	18,051	17,951	18,850
Verdict	233	175	161
Unknown	9	24	44
Dismissed	5,896	6,058	6,792
Acquitted	135	104	97
Other disposition	2,343	1,774	2,479
Total prosecuted	26,667	26,086	28,423

- Drug Treatment Alternative-to-Prison (DTAP)<sup>31</sup>  
Initiated in 1990 by the Kings County District Attorney, DTAP is the first prosecution-run program in the country to divert prison-bound felony offenders to residential drug treatment. This program is based on the premise that defendants will return to society in a better position to resist drugs and crime after treatment than if they had spent comparable time in prison. DTAP targets drug-addicted defendants arrested for non-violent felony offenses who have previously been convicted of one or more nonviolent felonies. Defendants entered into DTAP have their sentences deferred while undergoing 15-24 months of intensive drug treatment.
- As of January 1, 2007, 2,435 defendants had been accepted into the DTAP program, 393 were still in treatment and 983 had completed the program and had their charges dismissed.<sup>32</sup>

### Corrections

- The average daily population within the New York City Department of Correction in FY 2006 was 13,497.<sup>33</sup>
- Of the 19,055 drug offenders convicted in New York City during 2005, 4,483 were sentenced to jail.<sup>34</sup>

Sentences for Felony Drug Arrests, New York City, 2003-2005

	2003	2004	2005
Prison	4,651	3,828	3,536
Jail	3,692	4,081	4,483
Time served	2,155	2,003	1,962
Jail & probation	738	673	595
Probation	1,885	1,726	1,759
Fine	498	557	615
Conditional discharge	3,370	3,601	4,047
Other	61	73	38
Unknown	1,243	1,608	2,020
Total convictions	18,293	18,150	19,055

- Through its Central Placement Unit, the NYC Department of Probation secures drug treatment for probationers with alcohol or drug abuse problems. Treatment can be ordered by the judge or by a probation officer.<sup>35</sup>

**Consequences of Use**

- According to preliminary unweighted Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Live data, there were 14,119 Emergency Department mentions involving cocaine in New York City from January through December 2005.<sup>36</sup>

Number of ED mentions, by substance, NYC, January through December 2005

Drug	January-December 2005
Cocaine	14,119
Heroin	8,607
Other opiate	3,971
Marijuana	4,756
MDMA	163
GHB	28
PCP	490
LSD	40
Ketamine	27

- Of the 95,707 New Yorkers living with HIV or AIDS, injection drug use history continues to be a major transmission risk factor.<sup>37</sup>

**Treatment**

- During 2005, there were 15,340 admissions to treatment in New York City in which cocaine was the primary drug of abuse.<sup>38</sup>

Number of Treatment Admissions, by Primary Drug of Abuse, NYC, 2001-2005

Year	Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana
2001	14,375	22,779	13,270
2002	15,608	22,514	14,310



2003	16,114	23,563	13,471
2004	16,711	23,802	13,303
2005	15,340	21,398	13,258

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> New York City Web site: <http://www.nyc.gov>

<sup>4</sup> New York City Council Web site: <http://www.nycouncil.info/index.cfm>

<sup>5</sup> New York City Police Department Web site: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/>

<sup>6</sup> New York City Police Department, Chief of the Department Web site:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/chfdept/chief-of-department.html>

<sup>7</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/newyork\\_newjersey.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/newyork_newjersey.html)

<sup>8</sup> New York Crystal Meth Anonymous Web site: <http://www.nycma.org/home.html>

<sup>9</sup> New York City Police Department, Weekly Citywide Crime Statistics, Volume 14, number 2:

<http://nyc.gov/html/nypd/pdf/chfdept/cscity.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Adult Arrests: New York City, 1994-2005:

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/arrests/nyc.htm>

<sup>11</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume II: Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group, June 2006*: [http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2\\_606.pdf](http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2_606.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, New York State Factsheet:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/newyork.html>

<sup>15</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume II: Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group, June 2006*: [http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2\\_606.pdf](http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2_606.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Online,

Comprehensive Results: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/yrbss/>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>

<sup>22</sup> New York City Police Department, Organized Crime Control Bureau: Narcotics Division Web site:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/occb/narco2.html>

<sup>23</sup> New York City Department of Housing and Preservation Development, Narcotics Control Unit:

<http://home2.nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/tenants/ncu.shtml>

<sup>24</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, New York State Factsheet:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/newyork.html>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume II: Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group, June 2006*: [http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2\\_606.pdf](http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2_606.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, November 22, 2006:

[http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us\\_drugcourts.pdf](http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Disposition of Felony Drug Arrests, New York City: [http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/dispos/nyc\\_drug.htm](http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/dispos/nyc_drug.htm)

<sup>31</sup> Kings County District Attorney's Office, Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison:

<http://www.brooklynnda.org/dtap/dtap.htm>

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.



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<sup>33</sup> New York City Department of Correction (DOC) Web site, DOC Statistics:

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/doc/html/stats/doc\\_stats.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doc/html/stats/doc_stats.shtml)

<sup>34</sup> New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Web site, Disposition of Felony Drug Arrests, New York City: [http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/dispos/nyc\\_drug.htm](http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/dispos/nyc_drug.htm)

<sup>35</sup> New York City Department of Probation Web site, Adult Services section:

[http://home2.nyc.gov/html/prob/html/units\\_adult.html](http://home2.nyc.gov/html/prob/html/units_adult.html)

<sup>36</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume II: Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group, June 2006*: [http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2\\_606.pdf](http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol2_606.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

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