

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Phoenix, Arizona

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.

Phoenix, Arizona

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 1,377,980¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 73.7% white; 5.1% black/African American; 2.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.0% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 15.0% other race; 2.1% two or more races; 41.8 % Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Phoenix is located in Maricopa County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Phil Gordon⁴
- City Council Members (District): Dave Siebert (1); Peggy Neely (2); Peggy Bilsten (3); Tom Simplot (4); Claude Mattox (5); Greg Stanton (6); Vice Mayor Doug Lingner (7); Michael Johnson (8)⁵
- Chief of Police: Jack Harris⁶
- Maricopa County Sheriff: Joe Arpaio⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
The Arizona Regional Partnership was designated in 1990 as part of the Southwest Border HIDTA. The Arizona Partnership is responsible for 8 Arizona counties, including Maricopa.
- Crime Free Multi-Housing Program⁹
The Phoenix Crime Free Multi-Housing Program was designed to help residents, owners, and managers of rental property keep drugs and other illegal activities off their property. The Phoenix Police Department offers free seminars about the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program to those interested.
- Methamphetamine Community Awareness Program¹⁰
The Phoenix Police Department Methamphetamine Community Awareness Program "What's Cookin' in Your Neighborhood?" was initiated to educate the public about the methamphetamine problem in the city. The program produced an educational video about how to detect a meth lab and how to respond.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January through November, 2006, there were 8,344 drug offenses known to the Phoenix Police Department.¹¹ During full year 2005, there were 9,507 drug offenses known to police in Phoenix.¹²

Number of Substance-Related Offenses Known to Police, Phoenix, 2005-Nov. 2006

Offense	2005	Jan.-Nov. 2006
Narcotic drug laws	9,507	8,344
Opium	2,612	2,496
Marijuana	3,496	3,213
Synthetic	3,322	2,553
Dangerous drugs	77	82
Driving under the influence	3,527	3,201
Liquor laws	1,016	1,081

- From January through November, 2006, there were 213 homicide offenses known to the Phoenix police.¹³ There were 224 homicides known to police in Phoenix during full year 2005.¹⁴ There were also 16,255 burglary offenses known to the Phoenix Police Department during full year 2005.¹⁵

Number of Part I Offenses Known to Police, Phoenix, 2005-Nov. 2006

Offense	2005	Jan.-Nov. 2006
Murder	224	213
Rape	533	515
Robbery	4,237	3,986
Aggravated assault	5,701	5,547
Burglary	16,255	14,852
Theft	52,537	45,518
Auto theft	24,536	22,056
Arson	472	478

Drugs

- Cocaine
Cocaine is consistently available throughout the Phoenix area,¹⁶ although indicators of abuse suggest that its abuse is decreasing.¹⁷ Cocaine prices in Phoenix were \$400-600/ounce for powder cocaine and \$600-\$650/ounce for crack cocaine during the first quarter of 2006. A rock of crack sold for \$10-\$20 during that time.¹⁸
- Heroin
Heroin availability continues to remain high in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. Throughout 2004, the price of heroin in the area decreased by approximately 40 percent, which indicated an abundance of available heroin. During the last 2 years, purity levels of retail level heroin have increased approximately 7 percent.¹⁹ During the first quarter of 2006, heroin sold for \$50/gram, \$800-\$850/ounce, and \$28,000-\$35,000/kilogram.²⁰ The Phoenix Division of the DEA is noting the increasing presence of heroin in area public schools.²¹
- Marijuana
Marijuana is readily available in large quantities in Phoenix. During the first quarter of 2006, marijuana sold for \$10-\$25/gram, \$75-\$150/ounce and \$500-\$750/pound in Phoenix.²²
- Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine continues to be the apparent drug of choice in the greater Phoenix area.²³ Reported prices for methamphetamine in the Phoenix area have recently decreased. Methamphetamine sold for \$325-\$600/ounce and \$6,500-\$7,500/pound in Phoenix during the first quarter of 2006.²⁴

- **Club Drugs**
Treatment programs that serve adolescents reported the continued abuse of GHB, MDMA, LSD, Coricidin HBP.²⁵ During the first quarter of 2006, MDMA tablets sold for \$20-\$30.²⁶
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**
The most commonly abused pharmaceutical controlled substances in Phoenix in 2005 included OxyContin (\$20-\$80 per 80-milligram tablet and \$20-\$25 per 40-milligram tablet), Percocet (\$5 per tablet), Vicodin ES (\$5 per tablet), Valium (\$4 per 10-milligram tablet), Lortab (\$5-\$6 per 10-milligram), and Soma (\$2-\$5 per tablet).²⁷
- According to 2002-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 7.6% of Phoenix metropolitan area residents (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁸

Juveniles

- Approximately 26% of the Maricopa County 12th graders surveyed in 2006 reported using a drug within the past month.²⁹

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Substance Use, Maricopa County, 2004-2006

Substance	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	2004	2006	2004	2006	2004	2006
Alcohol	24.5%	23.0%	41.5%	36.4%	52.1%	46.0%
Cigarettes	9.3	9.3	16.4	15.2	23.0	21.3
Chewing tobacco	1.7	2.1	2.7	3.2	5.1	4.9
Marijuana	8.7	7.7	15.5	14.3	18.5	18.3
Inhalants	5.3	5.9	2.6	2.8	1.4	1.4
Hallucinogens	1.3	0.9	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.5
Cocaine	1.5	1.7	2.3	2.2	3.3	2.9
Methamphet.	N/A	0.9	N/A	1.3	N/A	1.3
Stimulants	1.3	1.4	2.4	2.9	2.4	2.7
Heroin	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8
Sedatives	5.0	4.4	8.2	6.3	10.3	7.5
Ecstasy	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9
Steroids	N/A	0.8	N/A	1.0	N/A	1.0
Prescription drug	N/A	4.1	N/A	7.1	N/A	8.4
Any drug	16.1	18.3	22.2	23.2	25.2	26.3

- Approximately 41% of the Maricopa County high school seniors surveyed in 2006 reported using marijuana during their lifetimes.³⁰

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Substance Use, Maricopa County, 2004-2006

Substance	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	2004	2006	2004	2006	2004	2006
Alcohol	50.2%	49.1%	68.3%	64.7%	76.1%	72.8%
Cigarettes	29.7	28.0	41.2	39.8	49.9	47.4
Chewing tobacco	5.3	6.5	8.9	9.6	15.2	13.6
Marijuana	18.7	16.6	34.2	31.0	43.0	41.0
Inhalants	12.6	14.6	10.0	10.8	8.8	9.2
Hallucinogens	2.2	1.8	5.0	3.7	8.1	5.4
Cocaine	3.2	3.4	6.8	6.3	10.4	10.8
Methamphet.	N/A	2.3	N/A	4.1	N/A	6.1
Stimulants	2.9	3.2	6.1	7.0	7.4	8.9
Heroin	1.3	1.3	2.4	2.0	3.4	3.0
Sedatives	10.2	9.6	16.5	14.0	21.9	18.2
Ecstasy	2.2	1.7	3.7	2.8	6.0	4.3
Steroids	N/A	1.6	N/A	1.9	N/A	2.4
Prescription drug	N/A	9.4	N/A	15.8	N/A	20.8
Any drug	30.8	34.1	42.8	43.6	50.4	51.2

- Approximately 11.7% of Maricopa County 8th graders, 18.6% of 10th graders, and 20.1% of 12th graders surveyed in 2006 reported being drunk or high at school within the past year.³¹

Enforcement

- Drug Enforcement Bureau³²
The Drug Enforcement Bureau of the Phoenix Police Department is responsible for the investigation and suppression of illegal drugs in Phoenix. This bureau is also involved in the interdiction of drug trafficking through the Sky Harbor International Airport and shipping facilities throughout the city.
- Commercial Narcotics Interdiction Squad³³
Administered by the Phoenix Police Department, this task force is made up of Federal, State, and local officers organized to identify, arrest, and prosecute drug traffickers using commercial transportation and air freight/parcel companies to transport drugs and money for drug purchases.
- Maricopa County Neighborhood Narcotics Enforcement Team
The Maricopa County Neighborhood Narcotics Enforcement Team combines resources of individual agencies in western Maricopa County to combat the increasing gang and narcotic activities in these communities.³⁴
- As of October 2005, there were 3,782 full-time law enforcement employees in Phoenix (2,898 officers and 884 civilians).³⁵

Trafficking and Seizures

- The Phoenix metropolitan area is a major transshipment point for cocaine distribution from Arizona throughout the U.S.³⁶

- Phoenix continues to serve as transshipment and distribution points for high purity/low priced Mexican-produced heroin being smuggled to the Pacific Northwest and other areas across the U.S.³⁷
- Large scale marijuana traffickers utilize tractor-trailers as well as refrigerated utility trailers to transport marijuana through established U. S. routes. Phoenix is commonly used as a stash location until the marijuana is ready to be sent to its final destination.³⁸
- During FY 2006, the Maricopa County Neighborhood Narcotics Enforcement Team seized more than 13,000 pounds of cannabis.³⁹

Seizures, Maricopa Co. Neighborhood Narcotics Enforcement Team, FY 2005-2006

	FY 2005	FY 2006
Cocaine (ounces)	181	154
Cannabis (pounds)	1,261	13,271
Cannabis (plants)	1,178	14,305
Heroin (grams)	19	21
Amphetamines/meth (grams)	2,751	3,183
Other drugs (dosage units)	698	28
Estimated value of non-drug seizures	\$270,642	\$991,054

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁰
As of November, 2006, there were 4 drug courts in Phoenix that had been operating for more than 2 years and 1 drug court that was being planned. There were no additional drug courts in operation or being planned at that time in Phoenix.
- Maricopa County Attorney's Office Special Crimes, Gang, Homicide, Trial and Drug Diversion Bureaus⁴¹
The primary objective of this unit is to coordinate and cooperate with all county law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to increase the apprehension and conviction of drug offenders and seize forfeitable assets. This unit focuses on major, multi-jurisdictional offenders, increased asset seizures, reduction in local user demand for drugs and enhanced operational effectiveness. During FY 2006, this unit concluded 16,976 drug cases.

Maricopa County Attorney's Office Prosecution Activities, FY 2005-2006

	FY 2005	FY 2006
Total cases concluded	10,658	16,976
Number of convictions		
Felony	6,860	11,058
Misdemeanor	2,250	3,689
Undesignated*	27	3
Number of sentences		
Prison	1,920	3,413
Jail/Jail and probation	1,614	1,902
Probation	5,536	9,389

*Undesignated at time of conviction. Type of conviction depends upon fulfillment of other obligations.

Corrections

- Alpha Substance Abuse Program⁴²
The Alpha Substance Abuse Program is the inmate substance abuse treatment program for sentenced inmates under the jurisdiction of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department. Since the Alpha Program began in February 1996, over 700 inmates have successfully graduated and the recidivism rate for Alpha Program graduates is 14%.

Consequences of Use

- The Phoenix Police Department reported that during the first 6 months of 2005, 115 individuals were murdered in Phoenix. Of these 115 individuals, 38 tested positive for methamphetamine, compared with 26 individuals involved in 110 murders in the first 6 months of 2004. During 2004, the Phoenix Police Department reported 22 individuals were shot by department officers. Of the 22 individuals who were shot, 19 tested positive for methamphetamine.⁴³
- The Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Drug Endangered Children's program reported that 408 children were rescued from methamphetamine labs from 2000 to 2005. Of these children, 281 were living in Maricopa County.⁴⁴
- During 2005, there were more than 2,000 emergency department (ED) visits involving methamphetamine in Phoenix.⁴⁵

Number of ED Reports, Selected Drugs, Phoenix, 2005

Primary Drug	2005
Cocaine	1,962
Heroin	784
Methamphetamine	2,287
Marijuana	1,437
All drugs	7,479

Sources

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

² Ibid.

³ Phoenix Web site: <http://phoenix.gov>

⁴ Phoenix Mayor Web site: <http://www.phoenix.gov/MAYOR/index.html>

⁵ Phoenix City Council Web site: <http://phoenix.gov/citygov/electidx.html>

⁶ Phoenix Police Department Web site: <http://www.phoenix.gov/POLICE/index.html>

⁷ Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.mcso.org/index.asp>

⁸ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/Arizona Regional Partnership Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/ariz.html>

⁹ Phoenix Police Department, Crime Free Multi-Housing Program Web site: <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/POLICE/cfmhp1.html>

¹⁰ Phoenix Police Department, Drug Enforcement Bureau Web site: <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/POLICE/deb1.html>

¹¹ Phoenix Police Department, Monthly Count of Offenses Known to Police, 2006 Calendar Year-To-Date: <http://www.phoenix.gov/POLICE/carumonthly.pdf>

¹² Phoenix Police Department, History of UCR – Part II Crimes: <http://www.phoenix.gov/POLICE/part2c1.html>

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- ¹⁶ Drug Enforcement Administration, Arizona State Factsheet: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/arizona.html>
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- ¹⁹ Drug Enforcement Administration, Arizona State Factsheet: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/arizona.html>
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- ³¹ Ibid.
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⁴¹ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement Report, 2006*, November 2006: <http://azcjc.gov/pubs/home/EDGE2006.pdf>

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<http://www.mcso.org/submenu.asp?file=inmateprograms&page=AlphaProgram>

⁴³ 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

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⁴⁵ National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse: Advance Report, June 2006*:
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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>

