

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Tucson, Arizona

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2006



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.

Tucson, Arizona

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

Demographics

- Population (2004 American Community Survey): 494,353¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2004 American Community Survey): 67.4% white; 4.6% black/African American; 1.9% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.5% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 20.6% other race; 2.8% two or more races; 38.7% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race).²
- Tucson is located in Pima County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Robert Walkup⁴
- City Council (Wards 1-6, respectively): Jose Ibarra; Carol West; Karen Uhlich; Shirley Scott; Steve Leal; Nina Trasoff⁵
- City Manager: Mike Hein⁶
- Chief of Police: Richard Miranda⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
The Arizona Partnership, one of the five partnerships of the Southwest Border HIDTA, was designated in 1990 and is responsible for 8 Arizona counties, including Pima County.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to August 2006, there were 2,636 drug possession offenses reported by the Tucson Police Department. During full year 2005, there were 4,386 such offenses.⁹

Number of Drug Offenses, Tucson, 2004-August 2006

Offense Type	Full Year 2004	Full Year 2005	January-August 2006
Possession	4,182	4,386	2,636
Sale	639	497	333
Poss. of paraphernalia	1,880	2,126	1,440
Paint or glue sniffing	11	11	11

- During 2005, there were 56 homicides reported by the Tucson Police Department. This is up from 54 homicides in 2004.¹⁰

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, Tucson, 2004-2005

Offense Type	2004	2005
Homicide	54	56

Sexual assault	387	378
Robbery	1,552	1,685
Aggravated assault	2,879	2,930
Burglary	6,302	5,130
Larceny	34,404	19,642
Motor vehicle theft	6,338	6,527
Arson	277	307

- There were 3,263 adult arrests for marijuana possession in Pima County during 2005.¹¹

Number of Drug Arrests, Pima County, 2005

	Juvenile	Adult
Sale/manufacturing		
Opium, cocaine, derivatives	29	494
Marijuana	51	219
Synthetic narcotics	23	213
Other dangerous non-narcotics	17	157
Possession		
Opium, cocaine, derivatives	13	125
Marijuana	1,240	3,263
Synthetic narcotics	95	1,281
Other dangerous non-narcotics	529	3,716

- Data for 2003 indicate that 73.3% of adult male arrestees and 68.6% of adult female arrestees in Tucson tested positive for at least one of the following drugs at arrest: cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, or PCP.¹²

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive, Tucson, 2003

Drug Type	Male	Female
Cocaine	42.5%	40.0%
Heroin	4.2	9.7
Marijuana	44.1	29.0
Methamphetamine	16.0	23.9
Any drug	73.3	68.6
Multiple drugs	31.3	32.7

- Approximately 55% of Tucson's adult male arrestees reported using marijuana in the past year. Among the male arrestees reporting past year marijuana use, the average number of days the drug was used in the past month was 11.6 days.¹³

Past Drug Use, Adult Male Arrestees, Tucson, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth-amphet.	Heroin
Past 7 days	15.7%	18.0%	40.6%	11.6%	3.8%

Past 30 days	18.9%	23.9%	46.2%	13.7%	5.2%
Past year	23.0%	30.7%	54.5%	19.5%	6.2%
Avg. # of days used in month	9.2	5.0	11.6	9.2	11.1

- Approximately 44.1% of Tucson's adult female arrestees reported using marijuana in the past year. Among the female arrestees reporting past year marijuana use, the average number of days the drug was used in the past month was 8.0 days.¹⁴

Past Drug Use, Adult Female Arrestees, Tucson, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth-amphet.	Heroin
Past 7 days	18.0%	12.4%	25.8%	17.0%	4.6%
Past 30 days	20.5%	17.0%	31.6%	19.6%	4.6%
Past year	24.5%	27.6%	44.1%	24.5%	6.1%
Avg. # of days used in month	12.3	4.4	8.0	11.4	16.5

Juveniles

- Results of a survey of Pima County youth indicate that nearly half (45.6%) of high school seniors surveyed in 2004 reported lifetime use of marijuana.¹⁵

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Substance Use, Pima County, 2004

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	55.4%	68.8%	77.0%
Cigarettes	35.5	40.7	49.1
Smokeless tobacco	6.0	6.1	12.4
Marijuana	22.9	36.3	45.6
Inhalants	16.8	10.1	5.9
Hallucinogens	2.2	4.3	7.2
Cocaine	3.6	8.5	10.1
Stimulants	2.9	5.8	6.0
Heroin	1.7	2.7	2.9
Sedatives	13.1	17.8	17.9
Ecstasy	2.9	4.7	5.3
Any drug	36.8	45.9	52.2

- Approximately 17.9% of the Pima County high school seniors surveyed in 2004 reported using marijuana within the past month.¹⁶

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Substance Use, Pima County, 2004

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	27.7%	38.0%	48.4%
Cigarettes	9.9	13.8	18.3
Smokeless tobacco	1.8	2.1	3.6
Marijuana	11.2	16.4	17.9
Inhalants	7.5	3.1	1.3

Hallucinogens	1.3	2.2	1.5
Cocaine	1.4	3.6	3.5
Amphetamines	1.4	2.7	2.4
Heroin	0.5	0.9	0.5
Sedatives	7.0	8.4	7.0
Ecstasy	0.8	1.1	0.9
Any drug	21.2	24.4	23.7

- Approximately 9.4% of Pima County high school seniors, 10.1% of tenth graders, and 6.5% of eighth graders surveyed in 2004 reported that they had sold illegal drugs within the past year.¹⁷
- Additionally, 20.9% of seniors, 20.4% of tenth graders, and 14.6% of eighth graders reported being drunk or high at school within the past year.¹⁸

Enforcement

- Counter Narcotics Alliance (CNA)¹⁹
CNA is a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency narcotics task force in Pima County that is administered by the Tucson Police Department.
- As of October 31, 2004, there were 1,276 full-time law enforcement employees in Tucson (951 officers and 325 civilians).²⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- Tucson is commonly used as a drug stash location until the substances are ready to be sent to their final destination.²¹
- The Tucson metropolitan area is a major transshipment point for cocaine distribution from Arizona throughout the United States.²²
- During FY 2005, the CNA Task Force seized 101,498 pounds of cannabis. From FY 1988 to FY 2005, the CNA Task Force seized approximately 2,001,628 pounds of cannabis.²³

Seizures Made by the CNA Task Force, FY 1988-FY 2005

	FY 2005	FY 1988-2005
Cocaine	63,260 grams	14,811 pounds
Cannabis	101,498 pounds	2,001,628 pounds
Cannabis - plants	107 plants	9,380 plants
Heroin	187 grams	22 pounds
Methamphetamine	3,868 grams	>78 pounds
Other drugs (dosage units)	139,523	350,913
Value of seizures	\$7,325,423	\$54,970,552

Courts

- Drug Courts²⁴
As of April 14, 2006, there were 2 drug courts in Tucson that had been operating for over 2 years and 1 that was recently implemented. There were no other drug courts in existence or being planned in Tucson at that time.
- Pima County Drug Prosecution Project²⁵

Administered by the Pima County Attorney's Office, this program provides prosecution and court litigation services for all law enforcement agencies in Pima County. Since beginning in July 1991, this project has concluded 16,578 cases, which resulted in 13,059 felony and 376 misdemeanor convictions.

- Tucson City Attorney's Drug Enforcement Project²⁶
This program handles all non-felony drug cases referred by the Tucson Police Department's CNA Task Force and the Pima County Attorney's Office, along with asset forfeiture cases. Since July 1991, the activities of this project have resulted in the conclusion of 42,226 drug cases, leading to 27,243 misdemeanor convictions. During FY 2005, 617 offenders were diverted to treatment in lieu of prosecution under this program.
- Approximately 44% of the Pima County Drug Prosecution Project convictions in FY 2005 involved cocaine.²⁷

Percent of Convictions by Drug Type, Tucson-Area Projects, FY 2005

Drug Type	Pima County Drug Prosecution Project	Tucson City Attorney's Drug Enforcement Project
Cocaine	44%	0%
Heroin	2	0
Marijuana	18	45
Methamphetamine	28	0
Other drug	6	3
Paraphernalia	2	52

Consequences of Use

- There were 160 drug-induced deaths in Tucson during 2004.²⁸
- During 2004, there were 173 drug-induced deaths involving Pima County residents.²⁹

Number of Drug Deaths, Pima County Residents, 2004

Cause	2004
Abuse of substance	10
Accidental poisoning by drug	131
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs	23
Assault by drugs	0
Undetermined intent of poisoning by drugs	9
Drugs causing adverse effects in therapeutic use	0
Total	173

- During 2004, there were 5,953 hospital discharges related to drug dependence and abuse involving Pima County residents.³⁰

Number of Drug-Related Hospital Discharges, Pima County Residents, 2004

Age	Female	Male	Total
< 15	29	34	63
15-19	195	195	390

20-44	1,485	2,067	3,552
45-64	591	935	1,526
65 +	270	152	422
Total	2,570	3,383	5,953

Treatment

- During 2003, 19.3% of adult male arrestees and 17.7% of adult female arrestees in Tucson reported receiving outpatient substance abuse treatment at some point within their lives.³¹

Adult Arrestees Reporting Substance Abuse Treatment, Tucson, 2003

Arrestees	Outpatient		Inpatient	
	Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
Male	19.3%	4.5%	26.8%	6.0%
Female	17.7	5.5	27.4	8.6

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, 2004 American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

² Ibid.

³ Tucson Web site: <http://www.cityoftucson.org/>

⁴ Tucson Mayor Web site: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/mayor.html>

⁵ Tucson Mayor and City Council Web site: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/mcc.html>

⁶ Tucson City Manager Web site: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/cmgr2.html>

⁷ Tucson Police Department Web site: <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/police/index.php>

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

⁹ Tucson Police Department, Crime Search:

http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/police/Crime_Statistics/search/body_search.htm

¹⁰ Tucson Police Department, Part I Crime Statistics, 1980-2005:

http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/police/Crime_Statistics/Tucson_Police_Department/pt1_05.pdf

¹¹ Arizona Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Arizona 2005*, July 2006:

<http://www.azdps.gov/crimereport/AzDpsArFy2005.pdf>

¹² National Institute of Justice, *Drug and Alcohol Use and Related Matters Among Arrestees, 2003*:

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¹⁹ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement (EDGE) Report, 2005*,

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²⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2004*, October 2005:

http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_04/index.html

²¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, Arizona State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/arizona.html>

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- ²⁴ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, April 14, 2006: http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf
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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>

