

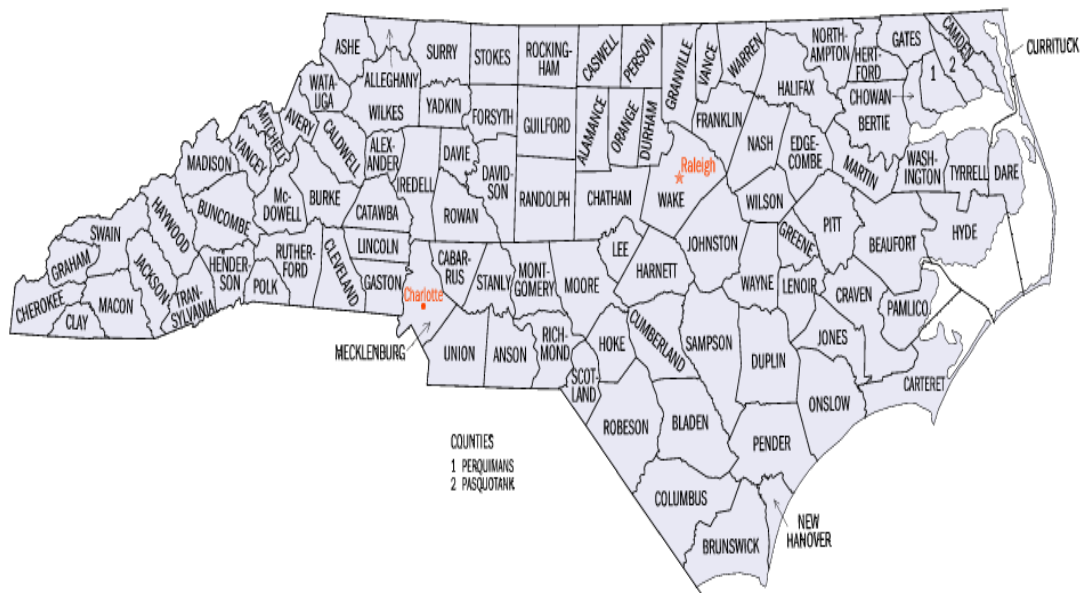
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of North Carolina

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 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.

North Carolina

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 8,856,505¹
- Race/ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 70.3% white; 21.4% black/African American; 1.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.8% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 3.9% other race; 1.4% two or more races; 6.7% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Michael F. Easley³
- Lt. Governor: Beverly Perdue⁴
- Secretary of State: Elaine F. Marshall⁵
- Attorney General: Roy A. Cooper III⁶
- U.S. Senate: Elizabeth Dole (R); Richard Burr (R)⁷
- U.S. House of Representatives (Districts 1-13, respectively): G.K. Butterfield (D); Bob Etheridge (D); Walter B. Jones (R); David E. Price (D); Virginia Foxx (R); Howard Coble (R); Mike McIntyre (D); Robin Hayes (R); Sue Wilkins Myrick (R); Patrick McHenry (R); Heath Shuler (D); Melvin L. Watt (D); Brad Miller (D)⁸
- Capital: Raleigh⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- Next Step for Youth Initiative¹⁰
The Governor's Next Step for Youth Initiative is a comprehensive prevention effort designed to prevent and reduce the use of marijuana, other illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco by North Carolina youth.
- Partnership for a Drug-Free North Carolina¹¹
The Partnership for a Drug-Free North Carolina provides services to reduce the negative impact of substance abuse and mental illness on North Carolina's individuals, families and communities.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 305 arrests for drug violations in North Carolina.¹²

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, North Carolina, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	215
2004	270
2005	407
2006	293
2007	305

- During 2007, there were 23,710 arrests for marijuana possession in North Carolina.¹³

Number of Drug Arrests, North Carolina, 2006-2007

Offense	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Sale/mfg. – opium/cocaine	204	195	3,611	4,407	3,815	4,602
Sale/mfg. – marijuana	278	315	2,427	2,276	2,705	2,591
Sale/mfg. – synthetic narcotics	7	9	79	161	86	170
Sale/mfg. – other dang. drugs	24	19	264	298	288	317
Possession – opium/cocaine	472	415	11,478	11,281	11,950	11,696
Possession – marijuana	2,851	3,312	18,262	20,398	21,113	23,710
Possession – synthetic narc.	70	89	526	1,002	596	1,091
Possession – other dang. drugs	175	155	2,066	1,942	2,241	2,097

- There were 715 homicide arrests in North Carolina during 2007.¹⁴

Number of Index Offense Arrests, North Carolina, 2006-2007

Offense	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Murder/non-neg. manslaughter	52	60	686	655	738	715
Forcible rape	98	83	752	619	850	702
Robbery	891	1,033	3,927	3,776	4,818	4,809
Aggravated assault	1,739	1,523	15,880	14,846	17,619	16,369
Burglary	3,425	3,543	14,773	14,291	18,198	17,834
Larceny-theft	7,484	8,108	34,846	36,539	42,330	44,647
Motor vehicle theft	448	331	1,754	1,626	2,202	1,957
Arson	156	187	306	292	462	479

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁵
Crack cocaine distribution networks present an enormous social threat to North Carolina's inner city communities.
- Heroin¹⁶
Heroin use and availability is reportedly low but growing in North Carolina and is mainly confined to the major central and eastern metropolitan centers.
- Marijuana¹⁷
Marijuana is one of the most commonly abused drugs in North Carolina.
- Methamphetamine¹⁸
Although domestic methamphetamine production is waning in north Carolina, Mexican-manufactured methamphetamine, primarily in the crystalline form (Ice), is readily available in the large metropolitan centers of the state, and increasingly in rural communities elsewhere.
- Club Drugs¹⁹
MDMA (Ecstasy) has increased in popularity across the state and is especially popular with college and high-school aged people (15- to 25-year-old age bracket) who frequent rock concerts, bars, dance clubs and other social venues. Other club

drugs of abuse that are popular in North Carolina include GHB, LSD, PCP, ketamine and psilocybin.

- Prescription Drugs²⁰
The abuse of prescription narcotics is widespread through North Carolina. Their widespread appeal is due to the relative ease of acquisition.
- According to 2005-2006 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 549,000 (8%) of North Carolina citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²¹

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, North Carolina, 2005-2006 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	549	7.69%
Past year marijuana use	707	9.90
Past month marijuana use	399	5.59
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	285	4.00
Past year cocaine use	167	2.33
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	344	4.81

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 2.9 million (40.76%) North Carolina citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²²
- Additional 2005-2006 NSDUH results indicate that 217,000 (3.04%) North Carolina citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 145,000 (2.02%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²³

Juveniles

- Approximately 36% of North Carolina high school students surveyed in 2007 reported that they have used marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.²⁴

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Gender, North Carolina, 2007

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	34.7%	37.9%	36.4%
Current marijuana use	17.9	20.2	19.1
Lifetime cocaine use	5.8	7.9	7.0
Lifetime inhalant use	14.2	13.3	13.8
Lifetime heroin use	1.5	3.8	2.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.4	5.8	4.7
Lifetime ecstasy use	5.4	7.1	6.4
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.4	5.2	3.9
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	2.0	3.0	2.5
Tried marijuana before age 13	5.9	10.6	8.3

- Approximately 46% of North Carolina high school seniors surveyed in 2007 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.²⁵

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, North Carolina, 2007

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	25.9%	32.4%	45.0%	46.0%
Current marijuana use	15.9	17.3	21.3	22.8
Lifetime cocaine use	4.7	5.5	8.5	9.2
Lifetime inhalant use	16.6	13.7	13.4	9.5
Lifetime heroin use	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.7
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.0	6.1	3.0	6.2
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.5	6.3	6.6	7.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.5	4.2	2.7	3.9
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.0
Tried marijuana before age 13	9.1	10.5	7.4	4.3

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 10% of North Carolina 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁶

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, North Carolina, 2005-2006 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	75	10.39%
Past year marijuana use	93	12.81
Past month marijuana use	51	7.02
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	38	5.25
Past year cocaine use	10	1.44
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	52	7.20

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 30,671 full-time law enforcement employees in North Carolina (21,419 officers and 9,252 civilians).²⁷
- Clandestine Lab Response Program²⁸
Created in 1988, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Clandestine Lab Response Program now has more than 100 agents trained to bust clandestine drug labs.

Trafficking and Seizures

- North Carolina has experienced a significant increase in drug trafficking activity, the majority of which is due to the influx of foreign nationals into the state.²⁹
- Money laundering of drug proceeds continues to be a significant threat to North Carolina. Mexican money-laundering specialists use their North Carolina bases to consolidate illegal drug proceeds, and then forward bulk shipments back to the Southwest Border and Mexico.³⁰

- North Carolina is a destination state for cocaine, as well as a staging and transshipment point to the more northern states along the Eastern Seaboard and in the Midwest.³¹
- Mexican drug-trafficking organizations transport small consignments of Mexican brown and black tar heroin from the Southwest Border states to North Carolina. Other Hispanic, Asian and African American traffickers transport South American, Southeast Asian and Southwest Asian into the state.³²
- Vietnamese organized criminal groups control most of the wholesale distribution of MDMA in the state.³³
- While Mexican trafficking organizations control most of the wholesale market in foreign-grown marijuana throughout North Carolina, Vietnamese criminal groups import Canadian marijuana into North Carolina's larger metropolitan centers from Canada.³⁴
- During 2007, the DEA and state and local authorities in North Carolina reported 153 methamphetamine lab incidents.³⁵

Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, North Carolina, 2003-2007

Year	# of Lab Incidents
2003	167
2004	318
2005	322
2006	187
2007	153

- More than 550,000 dosage units of MDMA were seized by Federal agencies in North Carolina during 2007.³⁶

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, North Carolina, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	385.5 kilograms
Heroin	10.4 kilograms
Methamphetamine	14.0 kilograms
Marijuana	5,061.4 kilograms
MDMA	566,380 dosage units

- During 2007, more than 16,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in North Carolina under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁷

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated/Seized, North Carolina, 2007

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
561	15,115	19	1,253	16,368

- During 2007, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol seized more than 120,000 grams of cocaine.³⁸

Drug and Currency Seizures, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, 2004-2007

Drug/Currency	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cocaine (grams)	42,271	214,919	121,824	89,705
Marijuana (grams)	73,369	395,332	95,089	2,807,351
Currency	\$1,615,186.26	\$1,307,333.00	\$2,667,425.00	\$ 1,471,688.00

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁹
As of August 11, 2008, there were 38 drug courts in existence or being planned in North Carolina. Thirty-two drug courts had been operating for at least two years, 4 had recently been implemented and 2 were being planned at that time.
- During FY 2007, 37.5% of the Federally sentenced defendants in North Carolina had committed a drug offense. Approximately 43% of these drug offenses involved crack cocaine.⁴⁰

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, North Carolina, FY 2007

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	167	24.9%
Crack cocaine	287	42.7
Heroin	5	0.7
Marijuana	40	6.0
Methamphetamine	149	22.2
Other	24	3.6

Corrections

- Of the 39,326 North Carolina prison inmates on June 30, 2008, 2,692 had been sentenced for drug trafficking.⁴¹

Number of Offenders Under Supervision, North Carolina, June 30, 2008

Offense	Prison	Probation	Parole
Drugs – non-trafficking	3,379	24,773	297
Drugs – trafficking	2,692	790	62
Total all offenses	39,326	113,027	4,340

- Division of Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Programs (DACDP)⁴²
The mission of the North Carolina Department of Correction DACDP is to provide comprehensive interventions, programs, and services to help offenders achieve recovery. Examples of DACDP programs include Drug Alcohol Recovery Treatment Program (DART), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT), and therapeutic communities (TC).

Consequences of Use

- During 2007, authorities reported that there was 1 child injured and another 28 children affected by methamphetamine laboratories in North Carolina.⁴³

Treatment

- There were 20,822 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in North Carolina in 2007.⁴⁴ During 2006, there were 17,882 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in North Carolina.⁴⁵ In 2005, there were 24,305 such treatment admissions.⁴⁶

Admissions to Treatment, North Carolina, 2005-2007

Drug Type	2005		2006		2007	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	4,084	16.8%	2,713	15.2%	3,542	17.0%
Alc. w/ second. drug	6,530	26.9	4,574	25.6	5,159	24.8
Cocaine – smoked	3,555	14.6	2,791	15.6	4,669	22.4
Cocaine – other route	3,118	12.8	2,505	14.0	1,293	6.2
Marijuana	2,654	10.9	1,530	8.6	2,215	10.6
Heroin	1,327	5.5	1,245	7.0	1,129	5.4
Other opiates	1,717	7.1	1,601	9.0	1,911	9.2
PCP	4	0.0	3	0.0	9	0.0
Hallucinogens	14	0.1	10	0.1	11	0.1
Amphetamines	490	2.0	302	1.7	269	1.3
Other stimulants	6	0.0	1	0.0	5	0.0
Tranquilizers	186	0.8	138	0.8	168	0.8
Sedatives	72	0.3	44	0.2	39	0.2
Inhalants	9	0.0	14	0.1	3	0.0
Other/none specified	539	2.2	411	2.3	400	1.9
Total	24,305	100.0	17,882	100.0	20,822	100.0

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 192,000 (2.69%) North Carolina citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁷

Sources

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² Ibid.

³ North Carolina Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.nc.us/>

⁴ North Carolina Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ltgov.state.nc.us/>

⁵ North Carolina Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.secstate.state.nc.us/>

⁶ North Carolina Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ncdoj.com/>

⁷ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>

⁸ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

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