

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alaska

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.

Alaska

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 670,053¹
- Race/ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 68.7% white; 3.2% black/African American; 13.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.5% Asian; 0.6% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.8% other race; 8.1% two or more races; 5.6% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Sarah Palin³
- Lt. Governor: Sean Parnell⁴
- Attorney General: Talis J. Colberg⁵
- U.S. Senate: Lisa Murkowski (R); Ted Stevens (R)⁶
- U.S. House of Representatives: Don Young (R)⁷
- Capital: Juneau⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- Alaska Meth Education Project⁹
The Alaska Meth Education Project has been developed as a statewide response to the growing methamphetamine problem in Alaska. A statewide strategic plan, including a media campaign consisting of TV, radio and print ads, will be developed as part of the Project.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, there were 1,759 arrests reported drug abuse violations in Alaska.¹⁰

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Alaska, 2007

Offense	Under Age 18	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	6	39
Forcible rape	9	75
Robbery	24	160
Aggravated assault	143	1,453
Burglary	152	470
Larceny	1,037	3,390
Motor vehicle theft	91	357
Drug abuse violations	271	1,759
DUI	91	5,187
Liquor laws	277	1,847

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 69 arrests for drug violations in Alaska.¹¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Alaska, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	97
2004	73
2005	118
2006	121
2007	69

Drugs

- Cocaine¹²
Cocaine is readily available in most areas of Alaska and is seen with great frequency in powder form. Crack cocaine is available in Alaska's major urban areas, such as Anchorage and Fairbanks. Powder cocaine usually sells for \$100-\$150/gram and is primarily ingested by snorting. Crack cocaine is sold in small rock quantities for \$20 and is usually smoked.
- Heroin¹³
Heroin continues to be available in Alaska. Different types of heroin are available in Alaska including Mexican, Colombian and Southeast Asian.
- Marijuana
Marijuana is the most abused and widespread drug in Alaska. In June 2006, then-Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski signed HB 149 which re-criminalized the use and possession of marijuana.¹⁴ There is a high demand for Alaskan-grown marijuana because of its high THC content.¹⁵
- Methamphetamine¹⁶
Though methamphetamine lab seizures are down, methamphetamine imported into Alaska continues to be available.
- Club Drugs¹⁷
MDMA, LSD and GHB are all available in the Alaska.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals¹⁸
The abuse and trafficking of oxycodone, hydrocodone and anabolic steroids continues to be a concern in Alaska.
- According to 2005-2006 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 58,000 (11%) of Alaska citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.¹⁹

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	58	11.10%
Past year marijuana use	76	14.42
Past month marijuana use	46	8.83
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	22	4.24
Past year cocaine use	13	2.55
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	29	5.47

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 149,000 (28.53%) Alaska citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁰
- Additional 2005-2006 NSDUH results indicate that 18,000 (3.39%) Alaska citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 13,000 (2.51%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²¹

Juveniles

- Results of a 2007 survey of Alaska high school students indicate that approximately 45% reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²²

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Alaska, 2007

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	44.4%	44.9%	44.7%
Current marijuana use	18.9	22.0	20.5
Lifetime cocaine use	6.6	8.7	7.8
Current cocaine use	2.5	3.0	2.9
Lifetime inhalant use	16.7	12.3	14.4
Lifetime heroin use	0.9	2.4	1.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.3	4.9	4.6
Lifetime ecstasy use	8.0	7.1	7.5
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.8	3.7	3.3
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.9	3.3	2.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	9.5	14.1	11.9

- More than half of Alaska 12th graders surveyed in 2007 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.²³

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, Alaska, 2007

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	34.8%	50.3%	43.3%	52.3%
Current marijuana use	16.9	23.7	19.8	22.2
Lifetime cocaine use	6.0	9.9	6.7	8.2
Current cocaine use	1.8	4.1	2.2	3.3
Lifetime inhalant use	13.6	17.9	13.4	12.9
Lifetime heroin use	0.7	3.0	2.4	0.1
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.4	6.1	6.5	3.2
Lifetime ecstasy use	5.7	8.5	8.4	7.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.5	3.4	3.7	3.0
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	2.2	3.0	1.4	1.4
Tried marijuana before age 13	12.1	13.2	11.5	10.6

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 11% of Alaska 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁴

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	7	11.11%
Past year marijuana use	10	15.66
Past month marijuana use	5	8.26
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	3	5.11
Past year cocaine use	1	1.73
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	5	7.99

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2007, there were 1,888 full-time law enforcement employees in Alaska (1,204 officers and 684 civilians).²⁵
- Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE)²⁶
The Alaska State Troopers ABADE program coordinates law enforcement efforts to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol throughout the state. ABADE consists of 7 investigative teams:
 - Alaska Interdiction Task Force: located in Anchorage, members of this unit investigate drug trafficking at various points of entry.
 - Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team: the primary area of responsibility for this team is interior Alaska.
 - Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team: this unit focuses on investigations within the Matanuska-Susitna region.
 - South Central Areawide Narcotics Team: the primary area of responsibility for this team is the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, Girdwood and Whittier.
 - Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team: the focus of this team ranges from street level dealers to major offenders.
 - Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team: this team is responsible for Alaska's west coast, including Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham and the Aleutian Chain.
 - Major Offenders Unit: located in Anchorage, members of this unit travel and conduct long-term drug/alcohol investigations throughout Alaska.
- Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP)²⁷
The Alaska National Guard CDSP provides assistance in several ABADE units. CDSP provides operational resources, such as manpower, equipment and logistical support to Federal, state and local law enforcement throughout Alaska.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Due to its non-contiguous location with the rest of the United States and shared border with Canada, Alaska is both a transshipment state as well as consumer state for controlled substances.²⁸
- Drug trafficking organizations obtain the majority of methamphetamine for sale in Alaska from sources in the lower 48 states.²⁹
- During 2007, the DEA and state and local authorities in Alaska did not report any methamphetamine lab incidents.³⁰

Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Alaska, 2003-2007

Year	Number of Lab Incidents
2003	40
2004	66
2005	37
2006	4
2007	0

- There were 29.8 kilograms of cocaine seized by Federal agencies in Alaska during 2007.³¹

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Alaska, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	29.8 kilograms
Heroin	2.9 kilograms
Methamphetamine	1.9 kilograms
Marijuana	187.7 kilograms
MDMA	309 dosage units

- During 2007, ABADE units seized 41.55 kilograms of cocaine.³²

Drugs Seized by ABADE Units, Alaska, 2005-2007

Drug Type	2005	2006	2007
Cocaine	27.87 kilograms	21.44 kilograms	41.55 kilograms
Marijuana	105 pounds	763 pounds	145.47 pounds
Methamphetamine	2,782.74 grams	7,971.06 grams	3,952.30 grams
Hydrocodone	64 dosage units	521 dosage units	432 dosage units
OxyContin/Oxycodone	435 dosage units	1,589 dosage units	2,176.50 dos. units
Other Rx drugs	1,782 dosage units	1,179 dosage units	1,862.50 dos. units

- During 2007, more than 5,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Alaska under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³³

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated/Seized, Alaska, 2007

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
8	101	85	5,079	5,180

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁴
As of August 11, 2008, there were 19 drug courts in existence or being planned in Alaska. Fourteen drug courts had been operating for at least years and 5 were being planned at that time.

- During FY 2007, 34.6% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Alaska had committed a drug offense. Forty percent of these drug offenses involved powder cocaine.³⁵

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Alaska, FY 2007

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	18	40.0%
Crack cocaine	10	22.2
Marijuana	5	11.1
Methamphetamine	10	22.2
Other	2	4.4

Corrections

- On December 31, 2006, there were 5,069 prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or Federal correctional authorities in Alaska.³⁶
- On December 31, 2006, there were 6,095 adults on probation and 1,044 adults on parole in Alaska.³⁷

Consequences of Use

- During 2007, authorities did not report any children affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Alaska.³⁸

Treatment

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 16,000 (3.07%) Alaska citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.³⁹

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² Ibid.

³ Alaska Governor Web site: <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/>

⁴ Alaska Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/lrgov/>

⁵ Alaska Attorney General Web site: <http://www.law.state.ak.us/>

⁶ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>

⁷ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

⁸ The City and Borough of Juneau Web site: <http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/>

⁹ Alaska Meth Education Project Web site: <http://www.muni.org/AlaskaMethEd/index.cfm>

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- ³⁰ Ibid.
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