

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Anchorage, Alaska

Profile of Drug Indicators

June 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.

Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 266,281¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 69.8% white; 6.2% black/African American; 6.0% American Indian/Alaska Native; 7.0% Asian; 0.9% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 2.0 % some other race; 8.2% two or more races; 7.0% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Mayor: Mark Begich³
- Assembly Members (Section): Allan Tesche (1); Bill Starr (2); Debbie Ossiander (2); Matt Claman (3); Dan Sullivan (3); Dick Traini (4); Dan Coffey (4); Sheila Selkregg (5); Paul Bauer (5); Chris Birch (6); Jennifer Johnston (6)⁴
- Chief of Police: Robert Heun⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- Reclaiming Futures Anchorage⁶
Reclaiming Futures Anchorage serves an average of 40 teenagers annually who are arrested 2 or more times and who have a delinquency petition filed in the juvenile court. Teens involved in Reclaiming Futures receive an assessment for substance abuse and an immediate referral for treatment. A multi-disciplinary team made up of agency representatives, a case manager and a mentor oversees each case, and a local court monitors progress.
- SAFE City Program⁷
The purpose of the SAFE City Program is to develop and maintain community prevention and intervention systems which provide collaborative and multi-disciplinary strategies, education and planning in areas including: substance abuse in high risk populations and emergency alcohol services for the public inebriate.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 18 homicides known to the Anchorage Police Department during 2005.⁸

Index Offenses Known to Police, Anchorage, 2005

Offense	Number of Offenses
Homicide	18
Rape	224
Robbery	384
Aggravated assault	1,407
Burglary	1,783
Theft	8,248
Motor vehicle theft	1,334

- During 2005, there were 93 juvenile and 215 adult arrests for drug possession in Anchorage.⁹

Number of Arrests for Drug Offenses, Anchorage, 2005

Type of Drug Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Sale/manufacturing	22	166
Narcotics	12	157
Marijuana	2	9
Synthetic narcotics	0	0
Other	8	0
Possession	93	215
Narcotics	3	0
Marijuana	9	103
Synthetic narcotics	8	68
Other	73	44
Total	230	762

- According to the Anchorage Police Department, 21% of the municipality's homicides during 2005 involved drugs.¹⁰

Alcohol and Drug Involvement in Select Offenses, Anchorage, 2005

Offense	Alcohol		Drugs		Both	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Homicide	2	14%	3	21%	5	36%
Sexual assault	143	68	11	5	41	20
Robbery	95	24	45	12	27	7
All assault	1,574	59	130	5	139	5

- The Anchorage Police Department filed 1,035 police reports related to illegal drugs during 2005.¹¹

Drugs

- Cocaine¹²
Both powder and crack cocaine are encountered with great frequency in Anchorage.
- Marijuana¹³
The availability of BC Bud smuggled from Canada continues to increase in the Anchorage area.
- Methamphetamine¹⁴
The Anchorage area has a significant problem with clandestine labs that produce methamphetamine which is consumed in the local area.

Enforcement

- As of October 2005, there were 495 full-time law enforcement employees in Anchorage (345 officers and 150 civilians).¹⁵

- Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF)¹⁶
Previously known as the Anchorage Detail, the AITF is responsible for investigations that involve drug trafficking at various ports of entry. The AITF is based in the Anchorage International Airport because the majority of passengers and packages arrive at facilities located at or near the airport.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Cocaine is smuggled into Alaska via the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport concealed on passengers or in luggage.¹⁷
- The AITF consistently seizes cocaine, methamphetamine and U.S. currency that are smuggled into Alaska through the Anchorage airport from various source cities in the lower 48 states.¹⁸
- During 2006, the Anchorage DEA District Office was involved in cases responsible for the seizure of over eleven million dollars in drug-related assets and proceeds.¹⁹
- The Anchorage DEA District Office seized more than 900 pounds of marijuana during 2006.²⁰

Drugs Seized, Select Drugs, Anchorage DEA District Office, 2004-2006

Drug	2004	2005	2006
Cocaine	48.75 kilograms	26.09 kilograms	28.91 kilograms
Marijuana	2.57 pounds	5.38 pounds	937.33 pounds
Methamphetamine	1.21 pounds	9.32 pounds	7.93 pounds

Courts

- Drug Courts²¹
As of April 16, 2007, there were 4 drug courts in Anchorage that had been in operation for more than 2 years and 1 additional drug court that was being planned at that time.

Consequences of Use

- During 2005, nearly 75% of the fatal accidents in Anchorage involved either alcohol or drugs.²²

Alcohol/Drug Involvement in Fatal Accidents, Anchorage, 2001-2005

Accidents & Drug/Alc. Inv.	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
# of fatal accidents	27	34	25	29	15
# with drug/alcohol involved	16	20	11	9	11
% with drug/alcohol involved	59%	59%	44%	31%	73%

Sources

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

² Ibid.

³ Anchorage Mayor's Web site: <http://www.muni.org/mayor/mayor.cfm>

⁴ Anchorage Assembly Members' Web site: <http://www.muni.org/assembly2/assemblymembers.cfm>

⁵ Anchorage Police Department Web site, Chief's of Police: <http://www.muni.org/apd1/chiefs.cfm>

⁶ Reclaiming Futures Locations: <http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/sites.asp>

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- ⁷ Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services, SAFE City Program:
<http://www.muni.org/healthssd/safe.cfm>
- ⁸ Anchorage Police Department, *2005 Annual Statistical Report*: <http://www.muni.org/apd1/stats.cfm>
- ⁹ Alaska Department of Public Safety, *Crime Reported in Alaska 2005*:
http://www.dps.state.ak.us/UCR/Docs/UCR_2005.pdf
- ¹⁰ Anchorage Police Department, *2005 Annual Statistical Report*: <http://www.muni.org/apd1/stats.cfm>
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Alaska State Troopers, *2006 Annual Drug Report*:
<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AST/abade/images/2006%20Annual%20Drug%20Report.pdf>
- ¹³ Drug Enforcement Administration, Alaska State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/alaska.html>
- ¹⁴ Alaska State Troopers, *2006 Annual Drug Report*:
<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AST/abade/images/2006%20Annual%20Drug%20Report.pdf>
- ¹⁵ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>
- ¹⁶ Alaska State Troopers, *2006 Annual Drug Report*:
<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AST/abade/images/2006%20Annual%20Drug%20Report.pdf>
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, April 16, 2007:
http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf
- ²² Anchorage Police Department, *2005 Annual Statistical Report*: <http://www.muni.org/apd1/stats.cfm>

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