

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Gary, Indiana

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2003



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.

## **Gary, Indiana**

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

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population (2000 Census): 102,746
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 10.1% white; 83.4% black or African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.1% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; 0.1% some other race; 1.2% two or more races; 4.9% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- The city of Gary is located in Lake County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Scott L. King<sup>2</sup>
- Deputy Mayor: Suzette Raggs<sup>3</sup>
- City Council: Roy Pratt (President); Kyle W. Allen, Sr. (Vice President); Marilyn D. Krusas (First District); Robert White (Second District); Mary Brown (Third District); Carolyn D. Rogers (Forth District); Jerome Prince (Fifth District); Alex Cherry (Sixth District); Charles (Chuck) Hughes (At-Large)<sup>4</sup>
- Chief of Police: Garnett Watson<sup>5</sup>
- Lake County Sheriff: Roy Dominguez<sup>6</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- Partnership for a Drug-Free Lake County<sup>7</sup>  
This partnership is the result of several years of cooperation between the Lake County Coordinating Alliance Inc. and the Lake County Partners for Prevention Inc. The Partners represent political and fiscal leaders such as the county prosecutor, county sheriff, and members of the business community.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>8</sup>  
Designated in 1996, the Lake County HIDTA is located in the northwest corner of Indiana. Gary is among the three largest cities that the HIDTA serves. Found within the area are major rail yards, truck depots, the Port of Indiana and the Gary Airport. Lake County's proximity to larger metropolitan areas, its economic problems and the infiltration of street gangs have made it the off ramp for drug trafficking.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program:<sup>9</sup>  
Since FY 1998, only one coalition in Gary has received funding as part of the Drug Free Communities Support Program. In FY 1999, \$100,000 was awarded to the Tree of Life Community Development Corporation and Care Center.
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration discretionary funds awarded to Gary:<sup>10</sup>
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)
    - \$497,150 to the Housing Authority to expand outpatient treatment. The project period is 9/30/01 – 9/29/04.

- \$499,210 to the Housing Authority/City of Gary to expand the availability of substance abuse treatment and case management services. The project period is 9/30/01-9/29/06.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>11</sup>  
Gary has received funding and been officially recognized as a Federal Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs & Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Grants in Gary:<sup>12</sup>
  - Horace Mann Ambridge Neighborhood Improvement received \$175,000 in Discretionary funding for the Weed and Seed Program.
  - Youth Family Community Renewal received \$210,000 in discretionary funding for the Mission Possible Mentoring Program (JUMP grant).
- There were no Gary recipients of the FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.<sup>13</sup>
- There were no Gary recipients for the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court grant program funds.<sup>14</sup>
- There were no Gary recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.<sup>15</sup>

### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Gary was named the homicide capital of the U.S. many times between the 1980s and 1990s. More than 70% of the murders were related to drug distribution and/or abuse.<sup>16</sup>
- During 2000, there were 67 murder and non-negligent manslaughter offenses in Gary.<sup>17</sup> This number increased to 82 during 2001.<sup>18</sup> Preliminary data show that there were 33 murder and non-negligent manslaughter offenses in Gary from January to June 2002.<sup>19</sup>

Number of Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Gary, 2000-June 2002

Offense Type	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan-June 2002
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	67	82	33
Forcible rape	67	77	29
Robbery	543	461	214
Aggravated assault	386	281	112
Burglary	1,667	1,742	739
Larceny-theft	2,202	2,249	1,015
Motor vehicle theft	1,369	1,240	568
Arson	--	--	--
Crime index total	6,301	6,132	2,710

- During 1998, there were 2,300 arrests for drug abuse violations in Lake County. This was an increase from the 1,581 drug abuse violation arrests during 1994.<sup>20</sup>

Number of Drug/Alcohol Arrests, Lake County, 1994-1998

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Drug abuse violations	1,581	1,910	1,792	1,986	2,300
Drug abuse sale/manufacturing	131	153	205	268	276
Opium/cocaine sale/manufacturing	97	58	49	162	158
Marijuana sale/manufacturing	28	39	62	77	81
Synthetic drug sale/manufacturing	1	49	68	1	3
Other dangerous non-narcotics	5	8	25	28	34
Drug possession sub total	1,433	1,749	1,582	1,697	2,023
Opium/cocaine possession	725	803	590	683	841
Marijuana possession	612	773	736	937	1,137
Synthetic narcotic possession	65	144	193	6	14
Other drug possession	31	29	63	71	32
Driving under the influence	2,156	2,306	2,891	2,982	2,649
Liquor law violations	853	749	1,267	1,582	1,428
Drunkness	2,012	2,222	1,949	1,886	2,036

### Drugs

- Crack cocaine is prevalent in Gary.<sup>21</sup>
- Heroin sells for \$2,500-\$6,000 per ounce and \$100-\$150 per gram in Northwest Indiana (near Gary).<sup>22</sup>

### Juveniles

- During 1998, there were 365 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in Lake County, an increase from 274 juvenile drug arrests during 1994.<sup>23</sup>

Number of Juvenile Drug/Alcohol Arrests, Lake County, 1994-1998

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Drug abuse violations	274	346	356	361	365
Drug abuse sale/manufacturing	14	17	31	32	39
Opium/cocaine sale/manufacturing	1	4	1	13	9
Marijuana sale/manufacturing	13	7	19	16	23
Synthetic drug sale/manufacturing	0	3	4	0	1
Other dangerous non-narcotics	0	2	7	2	7
Drug possession sub total	251	326	322	322	326
Opium/cocaine possession	72	71	32	66	83
Marijuana possession	141	204	218	237	231
Synthetic narcotic possession	31	43	55	2	4
Other drug possession	8	8	16	18	8
Driving under the influence	8	15	23	18	27
Liquor law violations	294	278	435	635	521
Drunkness	51	58	50	50	84

## Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, Gary had 355 full time law enforcement employees. 269 of the employees were sworn officers and 86 were civilians.<sup>24</sup>
- Lake County Drug Task Force<sup>25</sup>

This task force is committed to the suppression of illegal drugs and narcotics through the combined efforts of local and county agencies who actively pursue those groups or individuals who manufacture, distribute or sell illegal drugs within the jurisdictional limits of Lake County. The Drug Task Force annually investigates over 300 cases that result in the execution of approximately 100 narcotics related search warrants and the seizure of thousands of dollars in currency and assets.
- Lake County Gang Crimes and Intelligence Unit<sup>26</sup>

This unit is comprised of seven investigators, a narcotic's detection trained canine and a full-time Indiana National Guard Intelligence analyst. The Gang Crime Unit primarily focuses on identification of gang members and their territories, investigation of drive-by shootings, and deterrence of drug usage and sales through interdiction. In the last three years, the unit has generated over 1,400 arrests, resulting in the confiscation of 200 weapons, the seizure of large quantities of illicit drugs (marijuana, powder cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin), the recovery of over 50 stolen vehicles, and the seizure of thousands of dollars in drug money. The Gang Crime Unit has identified over four thousand gang members, which make up 250 gangs in Lake County.
- Lake County HIDTA Enforcement Initiatives:<sup>27</sup>
  - DEA State & Local Task Force: This task force, lead by the DEA, is a multi-agency initiative designed to disrupt and dismantle large scale drug trafficking and money laundering organizations operating in and throughout the Lake County, Indiana area.
  - Gary Response Investigative Team (GRIT): GRIT is a FBI led multi-jurisdictional, collocated task force with a mission to disrupt and dismantle street level drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) responsible for the homicides and drug related crimes in Gary.
  - The Firearms Interdiction Regional Enforcement (FIRE): FIRE is an ATF led collocated, multi-jurisdictional task force. This task force identifies, investigates, and prosecutes persons who illegally purchase, use, distribute, or supply firearms.
  - The Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS): IBIS is a collocated support initiative that conducts special ballistics testing and identification of bullets/casings utilizing IBIS instrumentation.
  - The Lake County Combined Taskforce (LCCTF): LCCTF is a collocated multi-agency task force led by the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the DEA. Its mission is to target, disrupt and dismantle locally established drug trafficking organizations, money-laundering organizations, and violent criminal street gangs operating in Lake County.
  - Northwest Indiana Gang Task Force: This task force is an FBI led multi-agency initiative, collocated with the GRIT team, that identifies and investigates Northwest Indiana based violent street gangs.
  - The Lake County Prosecution Initiative: This task force provides a full time staff of prosecutors supporting HIDTA enforcement initiatives. The staff provides case

- support including preparation, legal strategies, education, trial preparation, and prosecution.
- The Drug Demand Reduction Program: This program is a collocated counter drug operation. Indiana National Guard personnel work with Boys and Girls Clubs, public housing authorities, Weed & Seed Grants, and school corporations providing alternative activities and mentoring programs.
  - Operation Tattoo Zap: Operation Tattoo Zap is a community outreach program providing free tattoo removal for former gang members. This volunteer program allows former gang members to shed a once permanent identifier and reenter mainstream society.

### **Trafficking and Seizures**

- Juvenile street gangs openly compete for control of the more than 300 crack houses in the Gary area.<sup>28</sup>
- The Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords control cocaine distribution in Gary.<sup>29</sup>
- In Gary, retail crack sales occur primarily in areas such as the Bronx/Concord, Glen Park, Midtown, East Side, and the Valley.<sup>30</sup>
- Latin Kings control all aspects of marijuana trade and wholesale distribution.<sup>31</sup>
- Heroin use has increased, especially in urban areas such as Gary. Most retail sales of heroin occur in the Midtown area. Older individuals, between the ages of 40-50, are the primary heroin retailers.<sup>32</sup>
- Street gangs in Lake County have loose alliances with Chicago based gangs. Violence is often used to maintain control within the territory and within the organization, resulting in a large amount of drug-related homicides.<sup>33</sup>
- Lake County is a major distribution point for shipments of bulk marijuana and cocaine destined for the Midwest.<sup>34</sup>
- Methamphetamine production within the state, as well as increased imports of the drug, present an increasing threat to the Lake County area.<sup>35</sup>

### **Courts**

- Drug Courts<sup>36</sup>  
As of January 2003, there was one drug court operating for over 2 years and one drug court being planned in Gary.

### **Corrections**

- As of June 1999, there were 478 persons on parole at Parole District 6 in Gary.<sup>37</sup>

### **Treatment**

- During calendar year 2000, there were four treatment programs in Gary that provided methadone treatment options. These programs served 706 patients during 2000. This number was an increase compared to the 620 persons enrolled in 1999 and the 465 persons enrolled in 1998.<sup>38</sup>

## Sources

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- <sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federally Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report, FY 2001:  
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- <sup>18</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm>
- <sup>19</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January - June 2002*, December 2002: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel02/02ciusprelim.htm>
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- <sup>21</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *Indiana Drug Threat Assessment*, April 2001:  
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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse  
PO Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
1-800-666-3332  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>  
[ondcp@ncjrs.org](mailto:ondcp@ncjrs.org)

