

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New Jersey

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 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.

New Jersey

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 8,521,427¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 69.9% white, 13.3% black/African American, 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native, 7.3% Asian, 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 7.8% other, 1.5% two or more races, 15.3% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Jon Corzine³
- Acting Attorney General: Stuart Rabner⁴
- Secretary of State: Nina Mitchell Wells⁵
- U.S. Senate: Robert Menendez (D) and Frank Lautenburg (D)⁶
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-13, respectively) Robert E. Andrews (D), Frank A. LoBiondo (R), Jim Saxton (R), Christopher H. Smith (R), Scott Garrett (R), Frank Pallone Jr. (D), Mike Ferguson (R), Bill Pascrell Jr. (D), Steven R. Rothman (D), Donald M. Payne (D), Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R), Rush D. Holt (D), Albio Sires (D)⁷
- Capital: Trenton⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
 - New York/New Jersey HIDTA: Designated in 1990, this HIDTA is responsible for areas of New York and the following New Jersey counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union.⁹
 - Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA: Designated in 1995, this HIDTA is responsible for Philadelphia County in Pennsylvania and the City of Camden in New Jersey.¹⁰
- Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA)¹¹
GCADA was created to coordinate statewide services involving alcoholism and drug abuse. The funding for this program comes from the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction fund. The money in this fund is collected from fines levied on convicted drug offenders.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 677 drug arrests in New Jersey.¹²

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, New Jersey, 2002-2006

Year	Arrests
2002	1,056
2003	554

2004	801
2005	786
2006	677

- From January through June 2006, there were 16 juvenile and 130 adult homicide arrests in New Jersey.¹³ During full year 2005, there were 30 juvenile and 255 adult arrests for murder in New Jersey.¹⁴

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, New Jersey, 2005-June 2006

Offense	<u>Full Year 2005</u>		<u>Jan.-June 2006</u>	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Murder	30	255	16	130
Rape	61	433	27	181
Robbery	1,439	2,805	761	1,429
Aggravated assault	1,800	7,881	912	3,827
Burglary	1,655	4,464	951	2,283
Larceny-theft	5,989	18,684	2,926	8,933
Motor vehicle theft	362	783	192	361
Drug abuse violations	6,579	50,393	3,400	25,463
DUI	406	28,745	160	13,809
Liquor laws	2,757	5,547	1,453	2,781

- There were more than 40,000 drug arrests in New Jersey during 2005 for the use or possession of drugs.¹⁵

Number of Possession/Use Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 2004-2005

Drug Type	2004	2005
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	18,966	20,030
Marijuana/hashish	18,939	19,898
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	739	785
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	1,988	2,012
Total possession/use arrests	40,632	42,725

- During 2005, there were 14,247 arrests in New Jersey for the sale/manufacture of drugs.¹⁶

Number of Sale/Manufacture Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 2004-2005

Drug Type	2004	2005
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	11,146	10,292
Marijuana/hashish	3,229	3,242
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	382	418
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	425	295
Total sale/manufacture arrests	15,182	14,247

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁷
Cocaine remains the most popular drug in New Jersey and is the drug of choice for many abusers within the state. Crack remains readily available throughout the state and remains the drug of choice in many lower income communities.
- Heroin¹⁸
Heroin represents the most significant narcotic problem in New Jersey. High purity and low price heroin has attracted numerous new users over the last few years, especially among adolescents in suburban areas.
- Methamphetamine¹⁹
Methamphetamine is the most available and widely used clandestinely manufactured drug in the Southern New Jersey area.
- Marijuana²⁰
Marijuana is the most widely available and frequently abused illicit drug in New Jersey. The majority of the marijuana encountered in the state is of Mexican origin, although marijuana from Canada and Jamaica has also been encountered.
- Other Drugs²¹
The most commonly abused pharmaceuticals in New Jersey are Percocet, OxyContin, Xanax, Vicodin/Vicodin ES and Hydrocodone/Hydrocodone products. Additionally, the most commonly abused chemicals are GBL, Pseudoephedrine and Ephedrine.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 517,000 (7%) New Jersey citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²²

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, New Jersey, 2004-2005 Data

	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	517	7.21%
Past year marijuana use	670	9.33
Past month marijuana use	368	5.12
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	232	3.24
Past year cocaine use	145	2.03
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	296	4.12

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 2.7 million (38%) New Jersey citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²³
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 187,000 (2.61%) New Jersey citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 128,000 (1.78%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁴

Juveniles

- Approximately 10% of New Jersey high school students surveyed during 2005 reported abusing inhalants at least once in their lifetime.²⁵

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Gender, New Jersey, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	33.5%	38.1%	35.8%
Current marijuana use	17.8	22.0	19.9
Lifetime cocaine use	5.0	6.4	5.7
Current cocaine use	1.9	2.1	2.0
Lifetime inhalant use	8.7	11.5	10.1
Lifetime heroin use	0.9	1.8	1.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.0	3.3	2.6
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.8	5.2	5.0
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.4	3.5	2.4
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.1	1.7	0.9
Tried marijuana before age 13	2.1	7.1	4.6

- Nearly half of the New Jersey 12th graders surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.²⁶

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, New Jersey, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	21.6%	29.8%	46.1%	49.3%
Current marijuana use	12.6	15.1	25.7	28.0
Lifetime cocaine use	3.9	4.6	6.5	8.4
Current cocaine use	0.9	2.0	2.1	3.2
Lifetime inhalant use	10.4	12.4	10.7	6.3
Lifetime heroin use	1.7	1.4	0.7	1.7
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.0	2.4	2.9	3.4
Lifetime ecstasy use	3.8	4.2	5.7	6.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.4	2.8	2.1	2.4
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.6	1.1	0.6	0.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	7.6	3.4	4.3	2.6

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 72,000 (10%) New Jersey 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁷

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, New Jersey, 2004-2005 Data

	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	72	9.64%
Past year marijuana use	94	12.55
Past month marijuana use	48	6.47
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	37	4.91
Past year cocaine use	12	1.64
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	47	6.26

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2005, there were 52,608 full-time law enforcement employees in New Jersey (39,625 officers and 12,983 civilians).²⁸

Trafficking and Seizures

- New Jersey is considered an ideal strategic, as well as a vulnerable, corridor for transporting drug contraband and illicit currency.²⁹
- New Jersey continues to be a major artery for international cocaine trafficking organizations. Cocaine arrives into New Jersey directly from South American ports and the Southwest Border via commercial and private vehicles.³⁰
- There were 2 methamphetamine lab incidents reported by the DEA and state and local authorities New Jersey during 2006.³¹

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, New Jersey, 2002-2006

Year	Labs Seized
2002	3
2003	0
2004	0
2005	3
2006	2

- During 2006, Federal agencies seized nearly 2,000 kilograms of cocaine in New Jersey.³²

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, New Jersey, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	1,931.7 kilograms
Heroin	63.3 kilograms
Methamphetamine	6.6 kilograms
Marijuana	48.7 kilograms
Hashish	0.2 kilograms
MDMA	0.7 kilograms/25,601 dosage units

- During 2005, nearly 2,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in New Jersey as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³³

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, New Jersey, 2005

Eradicated Plots	Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated		
37	1,002	33	958		1,960

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁴
As of April 16, 2007, there were 23 drug courts in New Jersey that had been operating for more than 2 years, 1 that had recently been implemented and 1 that was being planned.
- During FY 2006, 34.1% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in New Jersey committed a drug offense. Approximately 30% of the drug cases involved powder cocaine.³⁵

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, New Jersey, FY 2006

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Powder cocaine	98	30.5%
Crack cocaine	59	18.4
Heroin	92	28.7
Marijuana	35	10.9
Methamphetamine	14	4.4
Other	23	7.2

Corrections

- On January 9, 2006, there were 26,746 offenders in New Jersey correctional institutions. Approximately 32% of the inmates committed drug offenses.³⁶

Offenders in Correctional Institutions, by Base Offense, New Jersey, January 9, 2006

Base Offense	# of Offenders	% of Total
Violent	10,708	40%
Property	3,098	12
Miscellaneous	1,247	5
Weapons	1,096	4
Drugs	8,478	32
Not coded	2,119	8
Total offenders	26,746	100

- Virtually all of the drug offenses resulting in incarceration were for sale and distribution.³⁷
- At the end of 2005 (December 31), there were 139,091 adults on probation and 13,874 adults on parole in New Jersey.³⁸

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were no children in New Jersey affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2005.³⁹
- There were 691 fatal crashes and 748 fatalities in New Jersey during 2005. Thirty-one of the deceased drivers, 10 of the deceased passengers and 12 of the deceased pedestrians involved in these crashes tested positive for drugs.⁴⁰
- Since mid-April 2006, there have been at least 133 deaths related to the use of non-pharmaceutical fentanyl in New Jersey.⁴¹

- Of the 32,885 AIDS cases known to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services on December 31, 2005, 29% (9,604) were injection drug users.⁴²

Treatment

- There were 54,778 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New Jersey during 2006.⁴³ During 2005, there were 55,003 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New Jersey.⁴⁴ There were 54,040 treatment admissions during 2004.⁴⁵

Admissions to Treatment, New Jersey, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004		2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	8,579	15.9%	8,538	15.5%	9,609	17.5%
Alc. w/ second. drug	6,348	11.7	6,300	11.5	6,871	12.5
Cocaine – smoked	3,635	6.7	3,776	6.9	3,791	6.9
Cocaine – other route	2,229	4.1	2,267	4.1	2,507	4.6
Marijuana	6,462	12.0	7,015	12.8	7,380	13.5
Heroin	23,452	43.4	23,289	42.3	21,070	38.5
Other opiates	1,689	3.1	2,196	4.0	2,652	4.8
PCP	159	0.3	112	0.2	142	0.3
Hallucinogens	30	0.1	22	0.0	21	0.0
Amphetamines	192	0.4	171	0.3	184	0.3
Other stimulants	2	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Tranquilizers	261	0.5	280	0.5	347	0.6
Sedatives	47	0.1	37	0.1	33	0.1
Inhalants	9	0.0	2	0.0	7	0.0
Other/none specified	946	1.8	997	1.8	164	0.3
Total	54,040	100.0	55,003	100.0	54,778	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 161,000 (2.25%) New Jersey citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁶

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² Ibid.

³ New Jersey Governor Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/>

⁴ New Jersey Office of the Attorney General Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/>

⁵ New Jersey Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/state/>

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

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

⁸ New Jersey Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/>

⁹ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/newyork_newjersey.html

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¹¹ Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/gcada/>

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- ³⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2005*, November 2006:
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