

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of Nevada

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

March 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.

## Nevada

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

### **Demographics**

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 2,495,529<sup>1</sup>
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 73.6% white; 7.3% black/African American; 1.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 5.9% Asian; 0.4% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 8.3% other race; 3.2% two or more races; 24.4% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)<sup>2</sup>

### **Politics**

- Governor: Jim Gibbons<sup>3</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Brian K. Krolicki<sup>4</sup>
- Attorney General: Catherine Cortez Masto<sup>5</sup>
- Secretary of State: Ross Miller<sup>6</sup>
- U.S. Senate Members: Harry Reid (D); John Ensign (R)<sup>7</sup>
- U.S. House of Representatives Members: Shelley Berkley (D); Dean Heller (R); Jon Porter (R)<sup>8</sup>
- Capital: Carson City<sup>9</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>10</sup>  
Designated in 2001, the Nevada HIDTA is responsible for Clark and Washoe Counties.
- Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative<sup>11</sup>  
The mission of Nevada's Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative is to prevent substance abuse by pregnant women.

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 171 drug arrests in Nevada during 2007.<sup>12</sup>

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Nevada, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	176
2004	199
2005	207
2006	244
2007	171

- During 2006, there were 9,789 adult and 1,190 juvenile arrests for drug possession violations in Nevada (this figure does not include drug arrests made by the Nevada Division of Investigation or the Nevada Highway Patrol).<sup>13</sup>

County and Municipal Drug and Liquor Arrests\*, Nevada, 2006

Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Sales & manufacturing	264	2,648
Possession	1,190	9,789
DUI	90	11,000
Liquor laws	1,713	6,778

\* data in the table do not include drug arrests made by the Nevada Division of Investigation or drug and alcohol arrests made by the Nevada Highway Patrol

- The Nevada Division of Investigation (NDI) made 352 adult and 7 juvenile arrests for drug violations during 2006.<sup>14</sup>

Number of NDI Drug Arrests, Nevada, 2006

Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Sales/manufacturing	1	195
Opium/cocaine/derivatives	0	20
Marijuana	0	29
Synthetic narcotics	0	13
Other dangerous/non-narcotic drug	1	133
Possession	6	157
Opium/cocaine/derivatives	0	10
Marijuana	4	45
Synthetic narcotics	0	4
Other dangerous/non-narcotic drug	2	98
Total drug arrests	7	352

- From January through November 2007, there were 107,451 index offenses reported by police in Nevada.<sup>15</sup> There were 121,353 index offenses reported during full year 2006.<sup>16</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Nevada, 2006-Nov. 2007

Offense	Full Year 2006	Jan.-Nov. 2007
Murder	229	181
Rape	1,079	1,012
Robbery	7,027	6,304
Aggravated assault	10,178	10,261
Burglary	24,819	22,685
Larceny	50,258	45,627
Motor vehicle theft	26,962	20,766
Arson	801	585
Total index offenses	121,353	107,451

- During 2006, 9 of the 229 murders in Nevada for which the offense circumstance was known were drug-related.<sup>17</sup>

**Drugs**

- Cocaine<sup>18</sup>  
Cocaine, particularly crack cocaine, is a significant problem in the urban areas of Nevada. Cocaine HCl is moderately available in northern Nevada and readily available throughout the southern areas of the state.
- Heroin<sup>19</sup>  
Mexican black tar heroin remains the most prevalent form of heroin available in Nevada.
- Marijuana<sup>20</sup>  
Domestically cultivated and Mexican grown marijuana remain readily available in Nevada. In June 2001, Nevada Assembly Bill 453 was signed into law allowing patients to use marijuana for medicinal purposes.
- Methamphetamine<sup>21</sup>  
Methamphetamine is the most frequently encountered drug in Nevada and remains available in both personal use and distribution quantities. Mexican produced crystal methamphetamine is the most readily available in Nevada. Purity levels for Mexican produced crystal methamphetamine have decreased from the 90% to 99% range to the 50% range.
- Club Drugs<sup>22</sup>  
The availability of club drugs in Nevada ranges from sporadic in the northern urban areas of the state to readily available in cities in the southern section of the state, particularly Las Vegas. Club drugs are typically abused in local nightclubs, adult entertainment clubs and at raves.
- Pharmaceutical Diversion<sup>23</sup>  
The pharmaceutical controlled substances of choice in Nevada include hydrocodone, Xanax, codeine, diazepam, Ketamine, Lortab and oxycodone.
- According to 2005-2006 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 188,000 (9%) of Nevada citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.<sup>24</sup>

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	188	9.39%
Past year marijuana use	216	10.77
Past month marijuana use	136	6.78
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	85	4.25
Past year cocaine use	42	2.07
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	123	6.15

\* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 705,000 (35.18%) Nevada citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.<sup>25</sup>
- Additional 2005-2006 NSDUH results indicate that 54,000 (2.67%) Nevada citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 37,000 (1.83%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.<sup>26</sup>

**Juveniles**

- Approximately 39% of Nevada high school students surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana during their lifetime.<sup>27</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Nevada, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	36.1%	42.3%	39.3%
Current marijuana use	15.4	19.1	17.3
Lifetime cocaine use	11.8	10.3	11.1
Current cocaine use	5.3	5.4	5.4
Lifetime inhalant use	15.7	14.8	15.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	12.2	11.2	11.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	5.1	5.8	5.5
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	3.0	4.5	3.9
Tried marijuana before age 13	7.7	16.7	12.3

- Approximately 48% of Nevada 12th graders surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.<sup>28</sup>

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, Nevada, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	32.6%	35.1%	45.3%	48.4%
Current marijuana use	14.1	15.4	20.5	19.9
Lifetime cocaine use	10.2	8.8	10.6	14.0
Current cocaine use	5.1	4.0	5.7	5.8
Lifetime inhalant use	16.9	16.0	12.0	12.5
Lifetime methamphetamine use	10.6	10.5	12.3	12.8
Lifetime illegal steroid use	6.0	4.0	4.4	5.6
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	4.7	1.5	4.1	3.6
Tried marijuana before age 13	14.1	9.7	12.3	11.8

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 10% of Nevada 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.<sup>29</sup>

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	22	10.45%
Past year marijuana use	30	14.36
Past month marijuana use	16	7.57
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	10	5.06
Past year cocaine use	4	1.96
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	17	8.42

\* The number of users is in thousands

**Enforcement**

- As of October 2006, there were 9,080 full-time law enforcement employees in Nevada (5,262 officers and 3,818 civilians).<sup>30</sup>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- Due to its close proximity to California and its porous border, Nevada often serves as a transshipment point for drugs destined to the central and eastern sections of the United States.<sup>31</sup>
- African American street gangs predominantly control the distribution market for crack cocaine and base their operations in inexpensive motel rooms and apartments located in impoverished areas throughout Nevada's larger cities.<sup>32</sup>
- Mexican poly-drug trafficking organizations control the heroin trafficking in the state. These trafficking organizations continue to recruit Mexican nationals to live in the urban areas of Nevada to distribute heroin for the organization. User amounts of low purity black tar heroin remain readily available from these low-level suppliers and are most often distributed in open air markets.<sup>33</sup>
- Nevada is both a point of importation and a transshipment location for methamphetamine. The manufacture of methamphetamine in Nevada occurs on a limited basis. The meth imported into the state is produced primarily in "super labs" (producing 10 pounds or more in a 24-hour period) by ethnic Mexican drug trafficking organizations operating in Mexico and California.<sup>34</sup>
- During 2007, Federal agencies seized 52.2 kilograms of cocaine in Nevada.<sup>35</sup>

Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Nevada, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	52.2 kilograms
Heroin	0.1 kilograms
Methamphetamine	27.3 kilograms/950 dosage units
Marijuana	43.5 kilograms
MDMA	20,875 dosage units

- During 2006, there were 1,836 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in Nevada under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.<sup>36</sup>

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Nevada, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
3	54	27	1,782	1,836

- During 2007, the DEA and state and local authorities in Nevada reported 13 methamphetamine laboratory incidents.<sup>37</sup>

### Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Nevada, 2003-2007

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2003	125
2004	50
2005	52
2006	35
2007	13

### Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>38</sup>  
As of April 16, 2007, there were 22 drug courts in Nevada that had been in existence for at least two years, 2 that had been recently implemented and 4 which were being planned at that time.
- During FY 2006, 24.8% of Federally-sentenced defendants in Nevada were charged with drug offenses. Methamphetamine was involved in approximately 75% of these drug offenses.<sup>39</sup>

### Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Nevada, FY 2006

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	5	5.2%
Crack cocaine	9	9.3
Marijuana	4	4.1
Methamphetamine	73	75.3
Other	6	6.2

### Corrections

- At the end of 2006 (December 31), there were 12,901 prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or Federal correctional authorities in Nevada.<sup>40</sup>
- There were 13,208 adults on probation and 3,824 adults on parole in Nevada at the end of 2006.<sup>41</sup>

### Consequences of Use

- In 2007, there were no children affected by methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Nevada according to the El Paso Intelligence Center.<sup>42</sup>

### Treatment

- There were 10,059 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Nevada during 2006.<sup>43</sup>  
There were 10,028 such treatment admissions during 2005.<sup>44</sup>

### Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, by Primary Substance, Nevada, 2005-2006

Drug Type	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	1,977	19.7%	2,326	23.1%
Alcohol with secondary drug	1,335	13.3	1,269	12.6
Cocaine (smoked)	539	5.4	665	6.6

Cocaine (other route)	165	1.6	203	2.0
Marijuana	1,638	16.3	1,409	14.0
Heroin	581	5.8	609	6.1
Other opiates	289	2.9	267	2.7
PCP	12	0.1	6	0.1
Hallucinogens	11	0.1	8	0.1
Amphetamines	3,422	34.1	3,199	31.8
Other stimulants	3	0.0	1	0.0
Tranquilizers	16	0.2	23	0.2
Sedatives	6	0.1	19	0.2
Inhalants	7	0.1	8	0.1
Other/none specified	27	0.3	47	0.5
Total	10,028	100.0	10,059	100.0

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 48,000 (2.37%) Nevada citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.<sup>45</sup>

## Sources

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

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Nevada Governor Web site: <http://gov.state.nv.us/>

<sup>4</sup> Nevada Lt. Governor Web site: <http://ltgov.nv.gov/>

<sup>5</sup> Nevada Attorney General Web site: <http://ag.state.nv.us/>

<sup>6</sup> Nevada Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.nv.us/>

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

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

<sup>9</sup> State of Nevada Web site: <http://www.nv.gov/>

<sup>10</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/nev.html>

<sup>11</sup> Nevada State Health Division, Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative Web site: [http://health.nv.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=123&Itemid=211](http://health.nv.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=123&Itemid=211)

<sup>12</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>

<sup>13</sup> Nevada Department of Public Safety, *Crime and Justice in Nevada, 2006*: <http://www.nvrepository.state.nv.us/ucr/annual/2006CrimeJustice.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Nevada Department of Public Safety, *Uniform Crime Reporting Monthly Report, November 2007*: [http://www.nvrepository.state.nv.us/ucr/2007/2007\\_11.pdf](http://www.nvrepository.state.nv.us/ucr/2007/2007_11.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Nevada Department of Public Safety, *Crime and Justice in Nevada, 2006*: <http://www.nvrepository.state.nv.us/ucr/annual/2006CrimeJustice.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

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- <sup>24</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, February 2008: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm>
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, Youth Online: Comprehensive Results, June 2006: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/yrbss/>
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, February 2008: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm>
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- <sup>31</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>33</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>34</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>35</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>
- <sup>36</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online: <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
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- <sup>38</sup> 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](http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf)
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- <sup>45</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, February 2008: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm>

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