

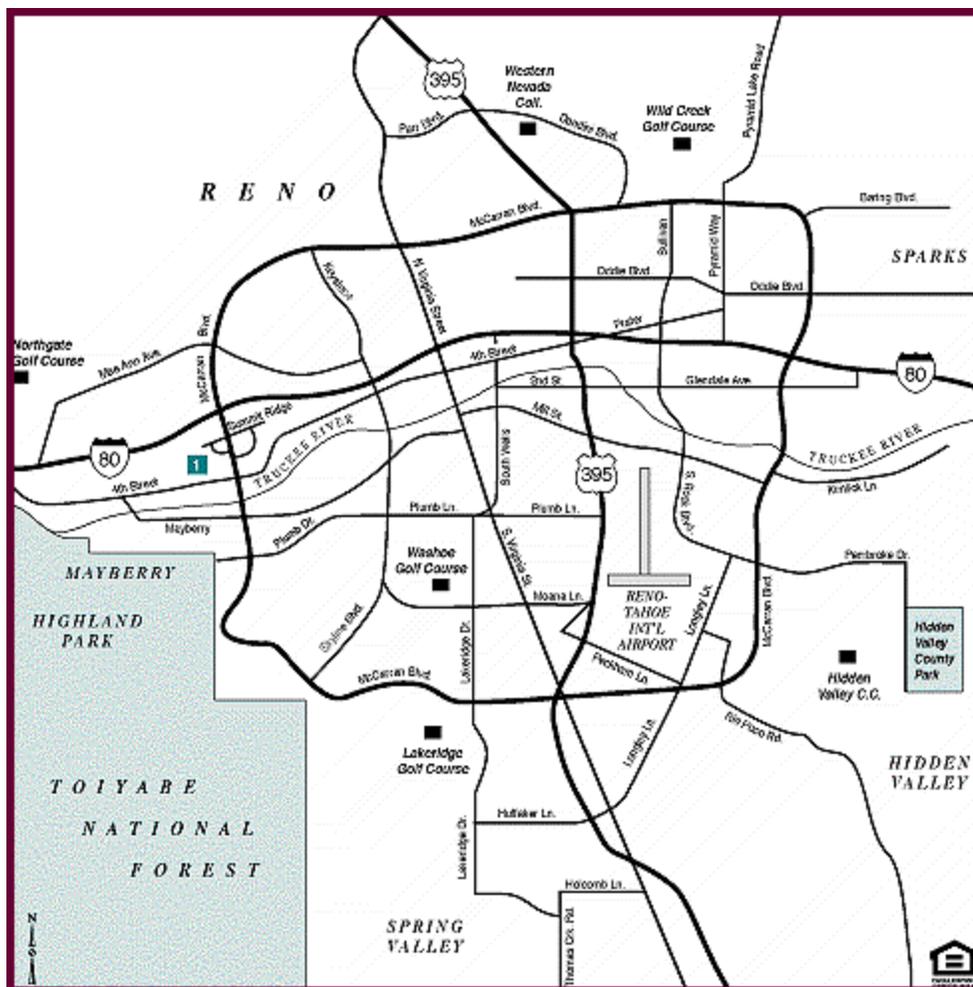
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Reno, Nevada

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2000



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.

## **Reno**

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

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

- Reno is located in Washoe County, NV. The following statistics are for the County of Washoe.
- Population: 254,667 (1990 census), 305,792 (1997 estimate)
- Race/Ethnicity: 90.2% White, 2.5% Black, 2.2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut, 5.2% Asian or Pacific Islander, 12.1% Hispanic Origin (may be of any race)
- Percent of population below poverty level: 10.3%

### **Politics<sup>2</sup>**

- Mayor: Jeff Griffin
- City Council: Pierre Hascheff (at-large member), Toni Harsh (Ward 1), David Rigdon (Ward 2), Jessica Sferrazza Hogan (Ward 3), Sherrie Doyle (Ward 4), David Aiazzi (Ward 5)
- Chief of Police: Jerry Hoover
- Washoe County Sheriff: Richard Kirkland
- Washoe County District Attorney: Richard Gammick

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- In FY 1999 ONDCP in conjunction with OJJDP awarded \$100,000 to Join Together Northern Nevada in Reno, Nevada. The funds were awarded under the Drug Free Community Support Program. Focusing on the Washoe County School District of Northern Nevada, Join Together Northern Nevada will employ a multi-strategy approach to reducing and preventing substance abuse among youth that includes: increased prevention education; improved access to intervention and treatment services; and enhanced communication.<sup>3</sup>
- The Gang Resistance, Education, and Training program (G.R.E.A.T) is taught over a nine week period by certified Reno Police Officers who have received intensive instructor training. The lessons cover a wide variety of topics, which include teaching students to resist peer pressure, learn how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence, set goals for themselves, and understand how gangs impact the quality of their lives. The program is a combined effort of the Reno Police Department, the Washoe County School District, and the community.<sup>4</sup>
- Community services agency and the City of Reno Police Department began plans to develop a Weed and Seed program funded through the U.S. Department of Justice in May, 1996. A portion of funds received through the Weed and Seed Program must be designated for law enforcement activities as these funds will be provided through Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds. The City of Reno Police Department intends to utilize these funds to pay for overtime hours of existing law enforcement officers who partake in additional crime eradication efforts in the Northeast Reno Neighborhood. The remaining money designated for the Weed and Seed project will be provided by

U.S. Department of Justice funds. Community Services Agency and the Reno Police Department have agreed to jointly oversee and administer these funds.

The Greater New Hope Community Development Center CSA has developed a partnership with the Greater New Hope Church in order to put in place a piece of the Weed and Seed Program, the Community Development Center. This Center is an educational, resource, activity and assistance facility catering to the residents of Northeast Reno. Services offered by the Center include Computer Training, Employability Workshops, Entrepreneurial/Small Business Workshops, Homeownership Training, Financial Counseling, Emergency Assistance, and Information and Referral.<sup>5</sup>

- Drug Court -- Under certain conditions, those charged with drug offenses may elect to plead guilty and be placed into the Washoe County Drug Court. The judge places the individual into a drug program where they receive counseling and are drug tested a minimum of three times per week. The judge sees them in a court setting anywhere from once a week to once per month depending on their performance in the program, which lasts 12 to 18 months. At a successful completion the plea of guilty is withdrawn, charges are dismissed, and the records are sealed. A similar program in Las Vegas estimated a 75% success rate. The local program estimates a 70% to 80% success rate. Since the beginning of the program on July 1, 1995 there have been 273 participants. There are tentative plans to ask the judge to require participation in a community work program to be administered by the Sheriff's Office.<sup>6</sup>
- DARE -- Since the DARE program was started by the Washoe County Sheriffs Department in 1989 the program has graduated 10,000 students from 350 classes. Many other students have been reached through short classroom visits by DARE deputies.<sup>7</sup>

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

- The Crime Index Total in Reno fell from 10,075 in 1998 to 9,416 in 1999.<sup>8</sup>

Offenses Known to Reno Police, 1998-99

Offense	1998	1999
Murder	10	14
Forcible Rape	102	88
Robbery	389	358
Aggravated Assault	339	397
Burglary	1,750	1,557
Larceny-theft	6,825	6,266
Motor vehicle theft	660	736
Arson	17	24
Crime Index Total	10,075	9,416

### **Drugs<sup>9</sup>**

- The Washoe County Sheriffs Department's Consolidated Narcotics Unit (CNU) consists of 6 sworn Reno Police Department Officers, 2 Sparks Police Department Officers, 7 sworn Washoe Sheriffs Department Deputies, 2 DEA agents, and 2 civilians from the Washoe Sheriffs Department. The number of arrests made by the

CNU increased from 209 to 295. The number of methamphetamine labs dismantled also increased from 9 in 1997 to 24 in 1998.

Washoe County Sheriffs Department CNU Statistics, 1997-1998

<b>CNU Statistics</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Cases	185	279
Arrests	209	295
Meth Lab Dismantled	9	24
Street Value of Drugs Seized	\$2,497,000	\$5,288,000
K-9 Drug Missions	200	131
Street Value of Drugs Seized	\$913,000	\$303,000

- The number of controlled substances analyzed by the Washoe County Sheriffs Department Crime Lab rose from 984 in 1997 to 1,063 in 1998.

Washoe County Sheriffs Department Crime Lab Statistics

<b>Crime Lab Statistics</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Controlled Substance Samples Analyzed	984	1,063
DrugFire Images Collected and Stored	981	1,218

**Sources**

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>2</sup> City of Reno Web site: <http://www.cityofreno.com/>
- <sup>3</sup> ONDCP Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
- <sup>4</sup> City of Reno Police Department Web site: [http://www.cityofreno.com/pub\\_safety/police/](http://www.cityofreno.com/pub_safety/police/)
- <sup>5</sup> Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- <sup>6</sup> Washoe County Sheriffs Department Web site: <http://www.co.washoe.nv.us/Sheriff/default.HTM>
- <sup>7</sup> Washoe County Sheriffs Department, *State of the Sheriffs Office, 1998, 1999*
- <sup>8</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 1999*, May 2000
- <sup>9</sup> Washoe County Sheriffs Department, *State of the Sheriffs Office, 1998, 1999*

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