

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Cincinnati, Ohio

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

February 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.

## Cincinnati, Ohio

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

### **Demographics**

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 287,540<sup>1</sup>
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 48.8% white; 46.0% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.4% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.8% some other race; 2.0% two or more races; 1.4% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)<sup>2</sup>
- Cincinnati is located in Hamilton County.<sup>3</sup>

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Mark Mallory<sup>4</sup>
- City Council: James R. Tarbell (Vice Mayor), Y. Laketa Cole (President Pro-Tem), John Cranley, Chris Monzel, David Crowley, Jeff Berding, Chris Bortz, Leslie Ghiz, Cecil Thomas<sup>5</sup>
- City Manager: Milton R. Dohoney, Jr.<sup>6</sup>
- Chief of Police: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr.<sup>7</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati<sup>8</sup>  
Formed in 1995 to mobilize the community to take an active role in preventing substance abuse, this Coalition has broadened to a ten county region encompassing Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Brown, and Clermont counties in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties in Northern Kentucky; and Franklin and Dearborn counties in Indiana. The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati focuses on regional initiatives, while member coalitions work to bring initiatives into each neighborhood throughout the region.

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

- During 2006, the Cincinnati Police Department made 714 juvenile and 12,734 adult arrests for drug violations.<sup>9</sup> There were 755 juvenile and 12,801 adult arrests for drug violations during 2005.<sup>10</sup>

Number of Drug Arrests, Cincinnati, 2005-2006

Juvenile		Adult	
2005	2006	2005	2006
755	714	12,801	12,734

- During 2006, there were 26,849 Part I offenses known to police in Cincinnati. In 2005, there were 27,245 Part I offenses known to the Cincinnati Police Department.<sup>11</sup>

Number of Part I Offenses Known to Police, Cincinnati, 2005-2006

Offense	2005	2006
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	79	85
Forcible rape	386	344
Robbery	2,291	2,329
Aggravated assault	1,276	1,151
Burglary	5,427	5,980
Larceny-theft	14,445	13,922
Motor vehicle theft	3,341	3,038
Part I total	27,245	26,849

- During 2006, there were 1,092 traffic citations and arrests in Cincinnati for driving under the influence.<sup>12</sup>
- Since 1990, the Cincinnati Police Department’s Pharmaceutical Diversion Squad has investigated more than 2,600 cases, resulting in more than 1,300 felony drug arrests for pharmaceutical diversion offenses. The squad has also enjoyed a 98% conviction rate on its arrests.<sup>13</sup>

**Drugs**

- Cocaine<sup>14</sup>  
Cocaine, especially crack cocaine, is the most serious drug problem in Cincinnati. While African Americans continue to dominate the crack-user population, crack use among other ethnic groups is increasing. Qualitative data indicate that new crack users are more likely to be young, female and white. Interviewees reported that crack is attractive to the younger population because of its relatively low cost. An analysis of the purity of cocaine samples seized by the local DEA in 2005 showed that the average purity of powder cocaine was 55.3% and the average purity of crack cocaine was 67.0%. During the last 6 months of 2005, the street price of powder cocaine was \$30–\$70/gram and \$100–\$180/8-ball. The street price of crack cocaine, reported during the last 6 months of 2005, was \$20–\$50/gram and \$120–\$150/8-ball.
- Heroin<sup>15</sup>  
Interviews with former and current drug users indicate there is an increase in the use of heroin among whites. Additionally, a trend toward younger users continues, with individuals as young as 11–15 experimenting with heroin. Retail prices for heroin were \$180–\$200/gram in 2005. Midlevel prices for heroin were \$2,000–\$2,600/ounce for Mexican brown heroin and \$2,500–\$5,000/ounce for Mexican black tar heroin.
- Marijuana<sup>16</sup>  
Marijuana is widely available and abused in the Cincinnati area. The retail price for low-grade marijuana was \$10–\$15/gram, while the retail price of high-grade marijuana was \$30–\$60/gram in 2005. Midlevel prices for medium-grade marijuana ranged from \$120–\$200/ounce and costs for high-grade marijuana ranged from \$300–\$400/ounce. Prices for medium-grade marijuana ranged from \$900–\$1,500/pound at the wholesale level and prices for high-grade marijuana ranged from \$2,000–\$5,000/pound.
- Methamphetamine<sup>17</sup>

Methamphetamine abuse indicators remain low in the Cincinnati area. Methamphetamine sold on the street for \$80–\$100/gram and 1,000–\$1,200/ounce in 2005.

➤ **Club Drugs<sup>18</sup>**

Qualitative data show a decline in overall availability and use of MDMA during 2005. Regular users tended to be involved in the rave scene and to be 18–25 years of age. A single dose of MDMA sold for \$10–\$25 during 2005.

➤ **Diverted Pharmaceuticals<sup>19</sup>**

OxyContin continues to be a pharmaceutical drug of choice in Cincinnati. Both active and former drug users reported frequent travel from Kentucky to Cincinnati in order to take advantage of the lower prices for OxyContin. In 2005, OxyContin sold for \$30–\$60/80 milligrams, \$25–\$30/40 milligrams and \$10–\$15/20 milligrams in Cincinnati.

**Juveniles**

- More than 20% of Greater Cincinnati area students, in grades 7 through 12, surveyed in 2006 reported lifetime illicit drug use,<sup>20</sup> as well as lifetime marijuana use.<sup>21</sup>

Percent of 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders Reporting Drug Use, Cincinnati Area, 2004-2006

	2004	2006
Lifetime illicit drug use	22%	21%
Past month illicit drug use	15	13
Lifetime marijuana use	21	18
Past month marijuana use	13	11

- More than 20% of Greater Cincinnati area 12<sup>th</sup> graders, surveyed in 2006 reported past month illicit drug use,<sup>22</sup> while approximately 19% of Greater Cincinnati area 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported past month marijuana use.<sup>23</sup>

Percent of 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Cincinnati Area, 2006

Grade	Past month illicit drug use	Past month marijuana use
7	4%	2%
8	8	6
9	11	10
10	16	15
11	19	17
12	21	19

- More than 20% of Greater Cincinnati area students, in grades 7 through 12, surveyed in 2006 who reported being in trouble with police also reported lifetime illicit drug use, while only 2% of are students who did not use illicit drugs reported being in trouble with police.<sup>24</sup>

Behavior Reported and Impact on Illicit Drug Use, 7th-12th Graders, Cinc. Area, 2006

Behavior Reported	% of illicit users	% of non-illicit users
Received good grades	49%	76%

Absent 10+ days from school	13	2
Been in trouble at school	19	4
Threatened to harm student	18	1
Carried a gun to school	13	1
Threatened to harm teacher	7	2
Trouble with the police	21	2
Participated in gang activity	14	1
Threatened to harm parents	9	1
Thought about suicide	19	4
Caught using drugs or alcohol	24	2
Been punished when caught	19	4

- Approximately 2 out of 3 Greater Cincinnati area students, in grades 7 through 12, surveyed in 2006 who reported lifetime illicit drug use also reported having peers who use drugs.<sup>25</sup>

#### Risk & Prot. Factors and Impact on Illicit Drug Use, 7th-12th Graders, Cinc. Area, 2006

<b>Risk and Protective Factors</b>	<b>% of illicit users</b>	<b>% of non-illicit users</b>
Parents talk about drugs	24%	30%
Parents set clear rules	49	73
Parents enforce consequences	40	60
Parents disapprove of using drugs	62	84
Peers who use drugs	67	9
Peers disapprove of using drugs	35	65
Participate in extracurricular act.	39	63
Involved in faith-based program	23	47
Take part in community activities	14	27
School rules on drug use at school	66	78
School enforces rules on drug use	67	76
Been to a party where alc. is present	63	8
Have a full or part time job	41	27

- More than 20% of Greater Cincinnati area students, in grades 7 through 12, surveyed in 2006 who reported being in trouble with police also reported lifetime marijuana use, while only 2% of are students who did not use marijuana reported being in trouble with police.<sup>26</sup>

#### Behavior Reported and Impact on Marijuana Use, 7th-12th Graders, Cinc. Area, 2006

<b>Behavior Reported</b>	<b>% of marij. users</b>	<b>% of non-marij. users</b>
Received good grades	48%	76%
Absent 10+ days from school	13	2
Been in trouble at school	19	4
Threatened to harm student	18	3
Carried a gun to school	13	1
Threatened to harm teacher	8	1

Trouble with the police	22	2
Participated in gang activity	14	2
Threatened to harm parents	9	1
Thought about suicide	18	4
Caught using drugs or alcohol	25	2
Been punished when caught	20	5

- Approximately 70% Greater Cincinnati area students, in grades 7 through 12, surveyed in 2006 who reported lifetime marijuana use also reported having peers who use marijuana.<sup>27</sup>

Risk & Prot. Factors and Impact on Marijuana Use, 7th-12th Graders, Cinc. Area, 2006

<b>Risk and Protective Factors</b>	<b>% of marij. users</b>	<b>% of non- marij users</b>
Parents talk about drugs	24%	30%
Parents set clear rules	48	73
Parents enforce consequences	39	60
Parents disapprove of using marij.	56	76
Peers who use marij.	71	10
Peers disapprove of using marij.	11	58
Participate in extracurricular act.	38	63
Involved in faith-based program	22	47
Take part in community activities	14	27
School rules on drug use at school	66	78
School enforces rules on drug use	68	76
Been to a party where alc. is present	43	6
Have a full or part time job	42	27

**Enforcement**

- As of October 2005, there were 1,331 full-time law enforcement employees working in Cincinnati (1,080 officers and 251 civilians).<sup>28</sup>
- Regional Narcotics Unit (RENU)<sup>29</sup>  
This multi-agency unit investigates primary sources of illicit drugs in the Cincinnati area. The Narcotics Unit of the Cincinnati Police Department is one of the agencies involved with RENU.
- Mid-Level Enforcement Unit<sup>30</sup>  
This unit of the Cincinnati Police Department is responsible for undercover personnel assigned to investigate mid-level drug activity.
- Pharmaceutical Diversion Squad<sup>31</sup>  
Created in 1990, the Pharmaceutical Diversion Squad of the Cincinnati Police Department is responsible for the investigation of the illegal diversion of pharmaceutical drugs and health care fraud.
- Special Operations Unit<sup>32</sup>  
Within the Organized Crime Division of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, this unit investigates retail drug trafficking activity in Hamilton County.

### Trafficking/Seizures

- Qualitative data revealed that local methamphetamine manufacturers made use of “buying groups” to obtain precursor chemicals needed for methamphetamine production. Because of tighter restrictions on multiple or volume purchases, cooks have many different people acquire small quantities of precursor chemicals from local retailers to avoid suspicion and attention.<sup>33</sup>
- Wholesalers of heroin use Cincinnati as a distribution center for smaller cities in and outside the state of Ohio.<sup>34</sup>
- During 2006, the Cincinnati Police Department seized nearly 11,000 grams of crack cocaine.<sup>35</sup>

Amount (in Grams) of Cocaine Seized by Cincinnati Police Department, 2004-2006

Drug	2004	2005	2006
Powder cocaine	39,820.80	66,403.64	130,031.57
Crack cocaine	13,676.53	11,836.09	10,999.46
Marijuana	1,409,476.26	1,585,877.75	--

### Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>36</sup>  
As of November 22, 2006, there were 2 drug courts in Cincinnati that had been operating for over 2 years. There were no additional drug courts in operation or being planned at that time in Cincinnati.

### Corrections

- The Corrections Division of the Hamilton Sheriff’s Office is responsible for the operation of all adult detention facilities in Hamilton County under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff’s Office. The average daily inmate population within the Corrections Division facilities is 2,000, with an estimated 55,000 admissions annually. The total system capacity is 2,270.<sup>37</sup>

### Treatment

- In Cincinnati, more than 30% of treatment admissions by primary drug of abuse involved crack cocaine, during FY 2005.<sup>38</sup>

% of Treatment Admissions, Primary Drug of Abuse Cincinnati, FY 2005\*

Drug	% Treatment Admissions
Crack cocaine	34.3%
Marijuana	32.0
Heroin	12.9
Other opiates/opioids	10.1
Powder cocaine	7.1
Amphetamines/Methamphetamines	1.1
Other Drugs	2.4

\*Data Excludes Alcohol

## Sources

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- <sup>4</sup> Cincinnati Mayor Web site: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/mayor/pages/-3048-/>
- <sup>5</sup> Cincinnati City Council Web site: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/council/pages/-3242-/>
- <sup>6</sup> Cincinnati City Manager Web site: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cmgr/pages/-3046-/>
- <sup>7</sup> Cincinnati Police Department Web site: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/pages/-3039-/>
- <sup>8</sup> Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati Web site: <http://www.drugfreecincinnati.org/>
- <sup>9</sup> Cincinnati Police Department, 2006 Crime Statistics:  
<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/pages/-5192-/>
- <sup>10</sup> Cincinnati Police Department, 2005 Crime Statistics:  
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- <sup>12</sup> Cincinnati Police Department, 2006 Executive Information Summary:  
[http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/downloads/police\\_pdf13368.pdf](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/downloads/police_pdf13368.pdf)
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- <sup>20</sup> Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, *2006 Student Drug Use Survey: Illicit Drug Consumption by Youth in Greater Cincinnati*:  
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- <sup>22</sup> Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, *2006 Student Drug Use Survey: Illicit Drug Consumption by Youth in Greater Cincinnati*:  
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<sup>36</sup> Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, November 22, 2006: [http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us\\_drugcourts.pdf](http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf)

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