

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Columbus, Ohio

Profile of Drug Indicators

June 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.

Columbus, 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): 693,983¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 65.5% white; 26.2% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.9% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.5% other race; 2.6% two or more races; 3.5% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Columbus is located in Franklin County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Michael Coleman⁴
- City Council: Michael Mentel (President), Kevin Boyce, Hearcel Craig, Andrew Ginther, Mayrella O'Shaughnessy, Charleta Tavares, Priscilla Tyson⁵
- Police Chief: James G. Jackson⁶
- Franklin County Sheriff: Jim Karnes⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1999, the Ohio HIDTA is responsible for the following counties in Ohio: Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark, Summit and Warren.
- You're Extra Special (YES)⁹
YES provides support and education services to help children ages 5-13 cope when someone they love abuses alcohol or other drugs. YES services are offered in 26 public schools and community agencies, as well as on-site at the Columbus Health Department.
- Alcohol/Drug and HIV Intervention Program¹⁰
This program provides prevention education, outreach and early intervention services to adolescents and young adults whose use/abuse of alcohol and other drugs places them at increased risk for acquiring and/or transmitting HIV and other infections.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 37 homicides known to police in Columbus from January through June 2006.¹¹ There were 102 homicides known to the Columbus Police Department during full year 2005.¹²

Index Offenses Known to Police, Columbus, 2005-June 2006

Offense	Full Year 2005	Jan.-June 2006
Homicide	102	37
Rape	518	315
Robbery	3,777	1,789

Aggravated assault	1,714	834
Burglary	14,604	7,443
Theft	31,724	15,195
Motor vehicle theft	7,813	3,144
Arson	465	345

- During 2005, the Narcotics Bureau of the Columbus Division of Police charged 630 people with narcotics-related offenses. The Narcotics Bureau also received 5,500 complaints in 2005 and executed 398 search warrants.¹³
- The Narcotics Bureau mailed 351 Landlord Notification letters during 2005 informing property owners/managers that complaints of illegal narcotic activities were registered against their properties.¹⁴
- The Narcotics Bureau Pharmaceutical Unit conducted more than 200 investigations during 2005, resulting in 141 arrests or direct indictments.¹⁵
- The Investigations Division of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department's Special Investigations Unit received 285 narcotics-related complaints, made 172 arrests, prepared 577 drug abuse cases and was involved in 258 drug buys during 2005.¹⁶

Drugs

- Crack Cocaine¹⁷
Crack cocaine continues to be readily available in the Columbus area. According to data gathered from January through June 2006, crack cocaine sold for \$40-\$60/sixteenth of an ounce and \$100/eighth of an ounce in the area. Reports indicate that the typical crack user was described as being either white or African American, middle-aged (40 years or older) and of lower socioeconomic status.
- Powder cocaine¹⁸
Powder cocaine availability has remained stable in the Columbus area. While crack users were typically of lower socioeconomic status, users of powder cocaine were typically described as upper-class, working professionals or college students. Prices for powder cocaine ranged anywhere from \$40-\$125/gram.
- Heroin¹⁹
From January through June 2006, an increase in the availability of heroin was reported in Columbus. The reported price for heroin during this time was \$130-\$150/gram.
- Marijuana²⁰
Marijuana continues to be readily available in the Columbus area. An eighth of ounce of low- to mid-range quality marijuana sold for \$20-\$25, while an eighth of ounce of high-quality marijuana sold for \$50.
- Methamphetamine²¹
Most reports in the Columbus area indicate a low availability of methamphetamine, although gay users reported a high availability of methamphetamine. Crystal methamphetamine was reported to be the most common type of methamphetamine in Columbus area and typically sold for \$120/gram and \$1,200-\$2,000/ounce.

- Club Drugs²²
Ecstasy use among the gay population of drug users is quite common in the Columbus area. Additionally, Psilocybin mushrooms and LSD were both reported as being available at low levels.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals²³
Pharmaceutical tranquillizers such as Valium® (diazepam) and Xanax® (alprazolam) remain popular in the Columbus area. Recent reports also indicate an increase in the abuse of pharmaceutical opioids such as OxyContin®, Vicodin® and Percocet® among youth.

Enforcement

- As of May 8, 2005, there were 2,172 full-time law enforcement employees in Columbus (1,829 sworn and 343 civilian personnel).²⁴

Trafficking and Seizures

- During 2005, the Columbus Division of Police Investigative “A” Unit and HIDTA Task Force seized more than 4,000 pounds of marijuana.²⁵

Amount and Value of Drugs Seized, Unit “A”/HIDTA Task Force, Columbus, 2005

Drug Type	Amount	Value
Marijuana	4,711 pounds	\$7,066,500
Powder cocaine	91 kilograms	\$2,548,000
Heroin	2 kilograms	\$120,000
Methamphetamine	3.5 kilograms	\$105,000
Halluc. mushroom	31 pounds	\$192,660
Steroids	1,200 unit doses	\$10,000
Khat	78 pounds	\$8,892

- The Columbus Division of Police Investigative “B” Unit seized 411 pounds of marijuana, 3,157 grams of powder cocaine, 96.8 grams of crack cocaine, and 555 unit doses of ecstasy and 60 unit doses of LSD during 2005.²⁶
- Investigative “C” Unit of the Columbus Division of Police seized narcotics worth more than \$500,000 during 2005.²⁷
- Investigative “E” Unit seized 366 pounds of marijuana, 129 kilograms of powder cocaine, 110 grams of crack cocaine, 252 grams of methamphetamine, 20 grams of hallucinogenic mushrooms and 368 unit doses of prescription drugs during 2005.²⁸
- During 2005, the Columbus Division of Police Investigative/Tactical Unit seized an estimated \$472,000 worth of marijuana and cannabis plants, \$180,000 worth of powder cocaine and \$274,000 worth of crack cocaine
- During 2005, the Narcotics Bureau Pharmaceutical Unit recovered \$17,591 worth of prescription drugs.²⁹
- The Investigations Division of the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department’s Special Investigations Unit seized drugs worth an estimated \$36,686 during 2005.³⁰
- Columbus is a distribution center for heroin traffickers involved in the transport of heroin to smaller cities within the state of Ohio, as well as to smaller cities outside the state.³¹

Courts

- Drug Courts³²

As of April 16, 2007, there were 2 drug courts which had been in operation for at least two years in Columbus. There were no additional drug courts in operation or being planned in Columbus at that time.

Treatment

- The Columbus Health Department Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program provides gender-specific intensive outpatient and low intensive outpatient treatment for adults, as well as Africentric-focused outpatient treatment for men.³³

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, 2005 American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

² Ibid.

³ Columbus Web site: <http://www.ci.columbus.oh.us/>

⁴ Columbus Mayor Web site: <http://mayor.ci.columbus.oh.us/>

⁵ Columbus City Council Web site, Council Members:

http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/council_members/index.asp

⁶ Columbus Police Department Web site: <http://www.columbuspolice.org/>

⁷ Franklin County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.sheriff.franklin.oh.us/>

⁸ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/ohio.html>

⁹ Columbus Department of Health Web site, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program:

http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov/programs/programs_2.asp

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January-June 2006*, December 2006: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/prelim06/index.html>

¹² Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>

¹³ Columbus Division of Police, *2005 Annual Report*:

<http://www.columbuspolice.org/PDFFiles/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Franklin County Sheriff's Office, *2005 Annual Report*:

http://www.sheriff.franklin.oh.us/annual_report_final_web.pdf

¹⁷ Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, *Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network, January 2006 – June 2006*, June 2006:

<http://www.odadas.state.oh.us/gd/Templates/Pages/GDContentViewer.aspx?content=3657>

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Columbus Division of Police, Division Statistics and Info:

<http://www.columbuspolice.org/AboutCPD/stats.htm>

²⁵ Columbus Division of Police, *2005 Annual Report*:

<http://www.columbuspolice.org/PDFFiles/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Franklin County Sheriff's Office, *2005 Annual Report*:

http://www.sheriff.franklin.oh.us/annual_report_final_web.pdf

³¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, Ohio Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/ohio.html>

³² 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

³³ Columbus Department of Health Web site, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program:

http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov/programs/programs_2.asp

This Drug Indicator Profile was prepared by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by ONDCP and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this Profile or other drug issues, please contact:

ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Web Site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

Email Form: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/utilities/contact.html>

