

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Oregon

Profile of Drug Indicators

February 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.

Oregon

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 3,700,758¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 86.1% white; 1.7% black/African American; 1.8% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.7% Asian; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 3.5% some other race; 3.0% two or more races; 10.2% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Ted Kulongoski³
- Attorney General: Hardy Myers⁴
- Secretary of State: Bill Bradbury⁵
- U.S. Senate Members: Gordon Smith (R); Ron Wyden (D)⁶
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-5 respectively): David Wu (D); Greg Walden (R); Earl Blumenauer (D); Peter A. DeFazio (D); Darlene Hooley (D)⁷
- Capital: Salem⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1999, the Oregon HIDTA serves Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla and Washington counties.
- Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC)¹⁰
The DEC is multi-agency approach to assist and protect children whose lives, health, and safety are jeopardized by drug manufacture, drug dealing or drug abuse in the family home.
- Career Offender/Methamphetamine Production Initiative¹¹
The purpose of this program is to target for federal prosecution persons who qualify as "career offenders" under Federal law and who are engaged in the production of methamphetamine.
- Oregon Drug Lab Cleanup Program¹²
The mission of the Clandestine Drug Lab Cleanup Program is to protect human health by assuring that properties formerly used in illegal drug manufacturing are properly evaluated, decontaminated and fit for re-occupancy.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 259 drug arrests in Oregon during 2007.¹³

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Oregon, 2003-2007

Year	# of Arrests
2003	180
2004	226

2005	217
2006	267
2007	259

- During 2006, there were 17,352 total drug arrests reported by law enforcement in Oregon.¹⁴

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Oregon, 2006

Offense	Under Age 18	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	5	101
Forcible rape	27	263
Robbery	188	939
Aggravated assault	469	2,839
Burglary	661	2,482
Larceny	4,771	17,950
Motor vehicle theft	285	1,767
Arson	209	289
Drug abuse violations	1,812	17,352
DWI	156	14,016
Liquor laws	3,485	13,434

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁵
Cocaine is available throughout Oregon. While powder cocaine is more prevalent, crack cocaine is found in some urban areas.
- Heroin¹⁶
The most common form of heroin encountered in Oregon is Mexican black tar heroin.
- Marijuana
Marijuana is the most abused illegal drug in Oregon and its abuse, cultivation and trafficking are a significant threat.¹⁷ In December 1998, Oregon’s Medical Marijuana Act took effect. This Act provides legal protection against criminal charges of marijuana possession, use or production if the marijuana is for medical purposes and the possession, use and production otherwise comply with the Act.¹⁸
- Methamphetamine¹⁹
Methamphetamine is one of the most widely abused controlled substances in the state and its availability is high. In the past, powder methamphetamine was more common; however, seizures show a switch to the more addictive and potent form of methamphetamine referred to as “ice” or “crystal.”
- Club Drugs²⁰
MDMA, GHB, Ketamine and LSD are available in varying quantities within the state and are generally abused at social venues in more populated areas and on college campuses.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals²¹
The abuse and trafficking of oxycodone, hydrocodone and anabolic steroids continues to be a concern within the state, while Methadone use has increased dramatically in Oregon.

- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 291,000 (10%) of Oregon citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²²

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	291	9.63%
Past year marijuana use	413	13.64
Past month marijuana use	253	8.36
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	114	3.76
Past year cocaine use	63	2.08
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	172	5.68

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 910,000 (30.08%) Oregon citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²³
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 88,000 (2.91%) Oregon citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 62,000 (2.05%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁴

Juveniles

- Results of a 2007 survey in Oregon indicate that 36.2% of 11th grade females and 40.9% of 11th grade males reported lifetime marijuana use.²⁵ Approximately 15.5% of 8th grade females and 18.3% of 8th grade males reported lifetime use of marijuana.²⁶

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Oregon, by Gender, Oregon, 2007

Drug Type	8th Grade		11th Grade	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Marijuana	15.5%	18.3%	36.2%	40.9%
Inhalants	11.8	7.7	8.1	8.1
Methamphetamine	1.9	2.9	3.9	5.1
Cocaine	3.0	3.7	6.4	7.3
Heroin/other opiates/narcotics	1.5	2.5	2.2	4.0
Ecstasy	2.3	3.0	5.9	7.1
Steroids w/o doctor's order	1.7	2.8	1.9	3.6
Injecting illegal drug use	1.4	2.4	2.1	3.4

- Additional results show that 7.7% of 11th grade females and 7.3% of 11th grade males in Oregon reported abusing prescription drugs at least once within the past 30 days.²⁷ Approximately of 5.0% of 8th grade females and 4.1% of 8th grade males reported past month prescription drug abuse.²⁸

Percent of Students Reporting Past 30 Day Drug Use, by Gender, Oregon, 2007

Drug Type	8th Grade		11th Grade	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Marijuana	8.3%	9.5%	17.6%	19.8%
Inhalants	7.3	4.8	3.0	3.2
Prescription w/o doctor's order	5.0	4.1	7.7	7.3
Methamphetamine	1.4	2.1	1.8	2.5
Cocaine	1.7	2.6	2.6	3.6
Heroin	1.0	1.6	1.2	2.2
Ecstasy	1.6	2.1	3.1	4.1
LSD/other hallucinogens	1.6	2.7	3.4	4.6
Any illicit drug	16.4	15.4	23.4	26.9

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 12% of Oregon 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁹

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	36	12.18%
Past year marijuana use	55	18.47
Past month marijuana use	28	9.30
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	15	4.96
Past year cocaine use	5	1.66
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	28	9.38

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 7,471 full-time law enforcement employees in Oregon (4,556 officers and 2,915 civilians).³⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- Oregon is a transshipment point for drugs smuggled from Mexico to Washington and Canada.³¹
- Mexican drug trafficking organizations dominate the illicit drug market in Oregon.³²
- Mexican black tar and brown heroin distribution is controlled by Mexican trafficking organizations.³³
- Caucasian drug trafficking organizations dominate the transportation and distribution of marijuana in Oregon.³⁴
- Large indoor and outdoor growing operations have been discovered on private, state and forest lands, with plants numbering in the thousands. In the last several years, large outdoor grows operated by Mexican drug trafficking organizations have become more prevalent. These groups are actively cultivating cannabis in remote areas, growing thousands of plants yearly.³⁵
- During 2007, Federal agencies seized 875.2 kilograms of marijuana in Oregon.³⁶

Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Oregon, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	28.9 kilograms
Heroin	8.6 kilograms
Methamphetamine	15.0 kilograms
Marijuana	875.2 kilograms
Hashish	0.1 kilograms
MDMA	49,822 dosage units

- During 2007, the DEA and state and local law enforcement agencies reported 20 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Oregon; a decrease from the 375 such reported incidents during 2003.³⁷

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Oregon, 2003-2007

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2003	375
2004	322
2005	189
2006	55
2007	20

- During 2006, there were 113,608 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in Oregon under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Oregon, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
253	106,703	189	6,905	113,608

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁹
As of April 16, 2007, there were 33 drug courts in Oregon that have been operating for at least two years, 10 that had recently been implemented and 10 that were being planned.
- During FY 2006, 25.9% of the Federally sentenced offenders in Oregon had committed a drug offense. The majority (61%) of these drug cases involved methamphetamine.⁴⁰

Federally Sentenced Drug Offenders, Oregon, FY 2006

Drug type	Number	Percent
Powder cocaine	10	7.4%
Crack cocaine	5	3.7
Heroin	6	4.4
Marijuana	25	18.4
Methamphetamine	83	61.0
Other	7	5.1

Corrections

- As of February 1, 2008, the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) total prison population was 13,532. There were 923 inmates incarcerated for drug offenses in the state.⁴¹
- As of February 1, 2008, the Oregon DOC reported that there were 1,656 inmates with severe substance abuse addictions.⁴²
- As of October 1, 2007, there were 20,294 felony offenders on probation and 13,752 offenders on parole in Oregon. Approximately 42.2% of the probationers and 25.1% of the parolees committed drug offenses.⁴³

Consequences of Use

- During 2007, there were no incidents of children in Oregon affected by methamphetamine laboratories, as reported by the El Paso Intelligence Center.⁴⁴
- During 2006, there were 213 total drug-related deaths in Oregon reported by the Oregon State Medical Examiner.⁴⁵

Number of Drug-Related Deaths, Oregon, 2006

Drug Type	Number of deaths
Heroin	89
Cocaine	64
Methamphetamine	90
Combination	31
Total	213

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 47,697 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Oregon.⁴⁶
During 2005, there were 47,506 such treatment admissions in the state.⁴⁷

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Oregon, 2005-2006

Drug Type	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	14,652	30.8%	16,990	35.6%
Alcohol with secondary drug	10,149	21.4	8,859	18.6
Cocaine (smoked)	758	1.6	764	1.6
Cocaine (other route)	318	0.7	370	0.8
Marijuana	6,953	14.6	7,025	14.7

Heroin	3,149	6.6	3,296	6.9
Other opiates	1,005	2.1	1,190	2.5
PCP	3	0.0	3	0.0
Hallucinogens	23	0.0	32	0.1
Amphetamines	10,018	21.1	8,957	18.8
Tranquilizers	14	0.0	16	0.0
Sedatives	93	0.2	102	0.2
Inhalants	19	0.0	22	0.0
Other unknown	352	0.7	71	0.1
Total	47,506	100.0	47,697	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 83,000 (2.75%) Oregon citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁸

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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:

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