

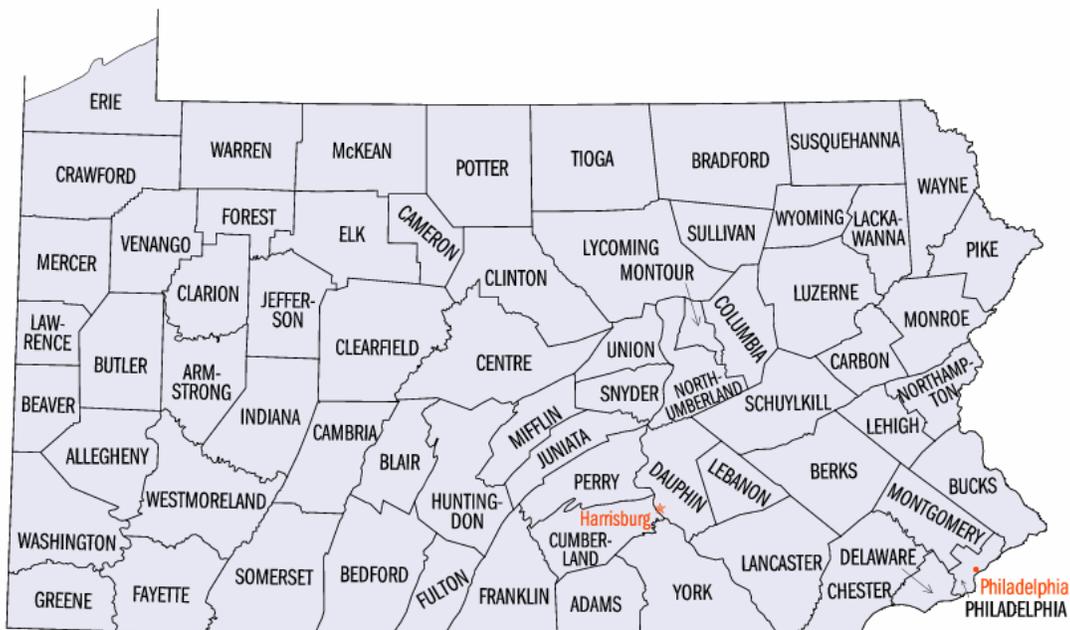
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2004



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.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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

Demographics

- Population (2003 American Community Survey): 1,423,538¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2003 American Community Survey): 40.1% white; 43.7% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 5.1% Asian; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.3% other race; 1.2% two or more races; 9.3% Hispanic/Latino²
- Philadelphia is located in Philadelphia County.³

Politics

- Mayor: John F. Street⁴
- City Council (Districts): Frank DiCicco (1); Anna Verna (2); Jannie Blackwell (3); Michael Nutter (4); Darrell Clarke (5); Joan Krajewski (6); Richard Mariano (7); Donna Reed Miller (8); Marian Tasco (9); Brian O'Neill (10); David Cohen (at-large); W. Wilson Goode, Jr. (at-large); James Kenney (at-large); Jack Kelly (at-large); Blondell Brown (at-large); Frank Rizzo (at-large); Juan F. Ramos (at-large)⁵
- Police Commissioner: Sylvester Johnson⁶
- Sheriff, City and County of Philadelphia: John D. Green⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1995, the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA is responsible for Philadelphia County and Camden, New Jersey.
- Operation Safe Streets⁹
Developed in May 2002, the purpose of this Mayoral initiative is to build coalitions to end the violence, disorder and human tragedies associated with the sale of illegal drugs and drug addiction.
- Junior Posse¹⁰
In October 1988, the Philadelphia Sheriff's Junior Posse Program was initiated to promote drug-free attitudes among school-aged youth. As part of the program, youths are taught the importance of resisting peer pressure to take part in illegal activities.
- "Heads-Up" Drug Prevention Program¹¹
Developed by the Philadelphia Police Department Narcotics Bureau, the Heroin Education and Dangerous Substance Understanding Program ("Heads-Up") attacks drug problems from a prevention standpoint. The program is geared towards children and families to teach them about the dangers of drugs.
- Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network (PAAN)¹²
PAAN impacts upon the drug and violence problems that plague Philadelphia neighborhoods by promoting community safety through direct services and by developing positive alternatives for youths.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to August 2004, there were 3,980 arrests in Philadelphia for the sale/manufacturing of opium or cocaine. During full year 2003, there were 5,911 adult arrests for such offenses.¹³

Number of Arrests for Drug Offenses, Philadelphia, 2003-August 2004

Type of Drug Offense	Full Year 2003		January-August 2004	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Sale/manufacturing				
Opium/cocaine	863	5,911	484	3,980
Marijuana	388	1,860	293	1,480
Synthetic	70	484	37	334
Other	4	98	2	53
Possession				
Opium/cocaine	236	5,327	146	3,601
Marijuana	768	2,782	534	2,098
Synthetic	50	594	32	376
Other	9	56	3	63

- From January to August 2004, there were 10,291 adult arrests for Part I offenses in Philadelphia. During full year 2003, there were 15,258 adult arrests for such offenses.¹⁴

Number of Arrests for Part I Offenses, Philadelphia, 2003-August 2004

Offense	Full Year 2003		January-August 2004	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	19	222	16	155
Forcible rape	68	423	43	278
Robbery	923	2,354	609	1,609
Aggravated assault	819	4,319	606	3,031
Burglary	326	1,360	226	861
Larceny-theft	1,231	4,690	735	3,221
Motor vehicle theft	1,185	1,799	530	1,065
Arson	46	91	48	72
Total Part I	4,617	15,258	2,813	10,291

- Data for 2003 indicate that 67% of Philadelphia adult male arrestees tested positive for at least one of the following drugs: cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, opiates, or PCP.¹⁵

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Philadelphia, 2003

Drug Type	% Positive
Cocaine	30.3%
Marijuana	45.8
Methamphetamine	0.6
Opiate	11.5
Any drug*	67.0
Multiple drugs*	28.0

* Includes cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, opiates, and PCP

- Approximately 53% of Philadelphia adult male arrestees reported using marijuana within the past year. Among the arrestees reporting past year marijuana use, they used the substance an average of 10.8 days within the past month.¹⁶

Past Drug Use Among Adult Male Arrestees, Philadelphia, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	14.6%	7.6%	41.7%	0.6%	7.1%
Past 30 days	16.4%	10.7%	46.6%	0.8%	7.5%
Past year	19.7%	14.8%	53.0%	1.4%	9.4%
Avg. # of days used in month*	9.7	5.5	10.8	4.4	11.3

* Asked of those who reported past year use

Drugs

- Cocaine
Cocaine remains the major drug of abuse in Philadelphia. The predominant form of crack cocaine sold in Philadelphia is a rock that ranges in size from 6 to 9 millimeters and costs \$5. Powder cocaine is often found in \$10-\$20 bags.¹⁷ The crack cocaine available in Philadelphia is approximately 80% pure and the powder cocaine is 60-80% pure.¹⁸ Crack cocaine users tend to be male and over 18 years old. Powder cocaine users tend to be male and between the ages of 18 and 30. Both powder and crack users tend to have a low socioeconomic status and live in the central city.¹⁹
- Heroin
According to Philadelphia drug users in treatment, the average heroin user injects the drug 4-5 times per day.²⁰ *Pulse Check* sources indicate that heroin is widely available in Philadelphia. The price for a gram of heroin ranges from \$75 to \$300.²¹ Heroin users tend to be male 18-30 year olds. They also tend to be of low socioeconomic status and reside in the central city.²² The average street-level purity of heroin in Philadelphia was 66.3% in 2002, down from 73% in 2001.²³
- Marijuana
Focus group participants during 2003 reported an increase in the use of blunts in Philadelphia.²⁴ Marijuana users tend to be between the ages of 18-30, black, of low socioeconomic status, and live in the central city.²⁵ The combination of marijuana and PCP (often mixed in blunts) remained a popular combination among users during 2003.²⁶

- **Methamphetamine**
Methamphetamine is considered “not very” to “somewhat” available in Philadelphia, where a gram costs \$100 and is usually less than 25% pure.²⁷ Adults over the age of 30 are the predominant methamphetamine users in Philadelphia.²⁸
- **Club Drugs**
MDMA is being used in combination with cough syrup in Philadelphia. In spring 2002, an ecstasy pill cost between \$15 and \$35 in Philadelphia, a vial of ketamine cost \$10-\$20, and a tab of LSD cost \$3-\$5.²⁹ In fall 2001, a vial (one dose) of GHB cost \$10-\$20, one Rohypnol pill cost \$10, and one dose of nitrous oxide cost \$5.³⁰ PCP has become easier to obtain in Philadelphia.³¹
- **Other Drugs**
Use of oxycodone and other narcotic analgesics has increased in Philadelphia.³² OxyContin abuse and diverted sales continue to emerge in the rave and nightclub scene in Philadelphia. OxyContin is in great demand by heroin users because it eliminates the need for needles and comes in a controlled measured amount, so users do not have to worry about adulterants.³³ One milligram of diverted OxyContin costs between \$0.50 and \$2.³⁴

Juveniles

- During 2003, approximately 42.9% of high school students surveyed in Philadelphia reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.³⁵

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Philadelphia, 2003

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	40.4%	45.4%	42.9%
Past month marijuana use	17.7	30.4	23.9
Lifetime cocaine use	2.2	3.4	2.9
Past month cocaine use	0.5	1.1	0.8
Lifetime inhalant use	5.7	5.7	5.7
Past month inhalant use	1.6	1.2	1.4
Lifetime heroin use	0.4	2.4	1.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	1.9	2.2	2.0
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	2.0	2.6	2.3
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	0.0	1.5	0.7
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.4	5.4	4.9
Tried marijuana before age 13	6.6	13.7	10.1

- Approximately 25% of Philadelphia high school seniors surveyed in 2003 reported using marijuana within the past month.³⁶

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Philadelphia, 2003

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	33.2%	43.7%	52.1%	50.8%
Past month marijuana use	21.2	24.8	25.1	25.2
Lifetime cocaine use	2.4	2.2	3.5	4.2
Past month cocaine use	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.0
Lifetime inhalant use	5.9	7.0	2.6	6.5
Past month inhalant use	2.1	1.4	0.7	0.7
Lifetime heroin use	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.1	2.5	1.2	1.7
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	2.1	1.7	2.9	2.9
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	0.4	0.9	0.7	1.1
Lifetime ecstasy use	2.2	5.1	5.6	9.1
Tired marijuana before age 13	12.4	8.5	7.9	10.0

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2003, there were 7,844 full time law enforcement employees in Philadelphia (6,932 officers and 912 civilians).³⁷

Trafficking and Seizures

- Philadelphia-based Hispanic distribution organizations are the primary source for heroin sold to users throughout the area.³⁸
- Most wholesale level MDMA distribution in Pennsylvania occurs in Philadelphia.³⁹
- Major interstate rail and highway systems, a major international airport, and key shipping terminals on the 100 miles of waterfront along the Delaware River facilitate drug trafficking into and through the Philadelphia region.⁴⁰
- Multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine are trafficked through the Port of Philadelphia/Camden, the second largest seaport in the nation.⁴¹
- Major New York drug trafficking organizations use Philadelphia as a transshipment point for drugs, drug proceeds, and illegal guns.⁴²

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴³
As of September 2004, there was 1 drug court in Philadelphia that had been in existence for more than 2 years. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Philadelphia at that time.

Corrections

- On June 30, 2002, there were 7,913 inmates in the Philadelphia prison system. For nearly half of the inmates (3,817 inmates or 48.24% of all inmates), the most serious offense committed was a drug offense.⁴⁴
- Opportunities for Prevention and Treatment Interventions for Offenders Needing Support (OPTIONS)⁴⁵
The OPTIONS program provides addiction treatment services to inmates in intensive residential units (therapeutic communities) and in moderate outpatient units. An average of 818 inmates participated in OPTIONS each month during FY 2002.

- Forensic Intensive Recovery (FIR)⁴⁶
The FIR program is an early-parole and re-parole program designed to provide community-based drug and alcohol treatment as an alternative to incarceration. The goals of the FIR program are to reduce prison overcrowding, decrease recidivism, and enhance community safety. Evaluations have shown that FIR clients who complete at least six months of treatment are re-convicted at a rate of 44-66% less than non-participants. During FY 2002, FIR removed 1,926 inmates from incarceration.
- In late FY 2002, the Philadelphia Prison System received licensure for a methadone detoxification program. The program will serve all inmates who were enrolled in a methadone program upon arrest.⁴⁷
- During FY 2002, the Philadelphia Prison System Canine Drug Detection Unit conducted 910 searches. Drugs valued at \$1,145 were found and confiscated.⁴⁸

Consequences of Use

- From July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, there were 336 adult AIDS cases in Philadelphia in which the exposure category was classified as injection drug use, representing 28.3% of the total adult AIDS cases. Another 24 cases (2.0% of the total adult AIDS cases) fell in the dual exposure category of injection drug users who were also men who had sex with other men.⁴⁹
- During the first half of 2003, the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's (ME) Office reported 406 total deaths in which drugs were present (based on toxicology reports).⁵⁰

ME Drug Mentions, Most Frequently Mentioned Drugs, Philadelphia, 1999-June 2003

Drug	1999	2000	2001	2002	1H 2003
Cocaine	238	321	300	270	155
Heroin/morphine	236	332	316	275	111
Alcohol	179	197	185	153	133
Diazepam	67	46	56	28	33
PCP	35	48	45	51	25
Propoxyphene	22	40	43	31	26
Methadone	36	36	46	55	34
Codeine	15	19	45	57	67
Oxycodone	17	49	53	68	33
Diphenhydramine	25	33	53	42	65
Total deaths w/drugs present	533	680	661	593	406
Total drugs mentioned	1,232	1,637	1,857	1,589	1,308
Avg. # of drugs per death	2.31	2.41	2.81	2.68	3.22

- Of the 406 deaths with drugs present in the first half of 2003, adverse reactions to drugs accounted for 32%, overdose accounted for 7.9%, violence accounted for 25.9%, and other causes accounted for 34.2%.⁵¹
- During 2002, there were 27,753 drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes in Philadelphia that were reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). Cocaine was mentioned 12,437 times in the ED episodes.⁵²

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Philadelphia, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combin.	8,565	8,815	8,331	9,228	9,921
Cocaine	13,048	12,434	10,497	11,358	12,437
Heroin	3,445	4,087	4,661	5,362	4,918
Marijuana	5,302	5,465	4,928	5,496	6,787
Amphetamines	361	444	489	400	329
Methamphetamine	48	47	67	60	50
MDMA (Ecstasy)	27	89	141	203	177
Ketamine	--	5	23	--	--
LSD	76	121	104	74	30
PCP	573	580	604	785	1,144
Miscell. hallucinogens	22	53	38	27	39
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0	0
GHB	--	53	79	90	31
Inhalants	16	21	23	41	34
Total ED drug episodes	24,923	24,397	23,428	25,790	27,753
Total ED drug mentions	45,582	45,559	44,375	48,220	52,035

Treatment

- From January to June 2003, there were 3,488 admissions to treatment in Philadelphia. During full year 2002, there were 12,456 treatment admissions.⁵³

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Philadelphia, 2000-June 2003

Primary Drug	2000	2001	2002	1H 2003*
Cocaine	2,497	2,996	3,649	1,038
Alcohol	1,826	2,366	3,425	891
Heroin	2,041	4,279	2,679	766
Other opiates	72	92	187	83
Marijuana	910	1,428	2,025	590
PCP	43	74	188	39
Other hallucinogens	7	12	12	2
Meth./amphetamines	27	83	67	15
Benzodiazepines	37	89	66	26
Other tranquilizers	8	1	3	0
Barbiturates	3	8	23	2
Other sedatives/hypnotics	16	36	19	13
Inhalants	4	1	0	0
Over-the-counter	5	2	2	1
Other (not listed)	60	154	111	22
Total	7,557	11,621	12,456	3,488

* Data for the first half of 2003 are preliminary and subject to change

- During 2003, 5.9% of adult male arrestees in Philadelphia had received outpatient substance abuse treatment within the past year.⁵⁴

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Reporting Past Treatment, Philadelphia, 2003

Outpatient		Inpatient/Residential	
Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
22.9%	5.9%	29.7%	7.7%

- The Philadelphia Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs has developed specialized treatment programs to serve the following populations: dually-diagnosed (substance abuse and mental health problems), women and women with children, Latinos, adolescents, criminal justice clients, persons with AIDS, and homeless persons.⁵⁵

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