

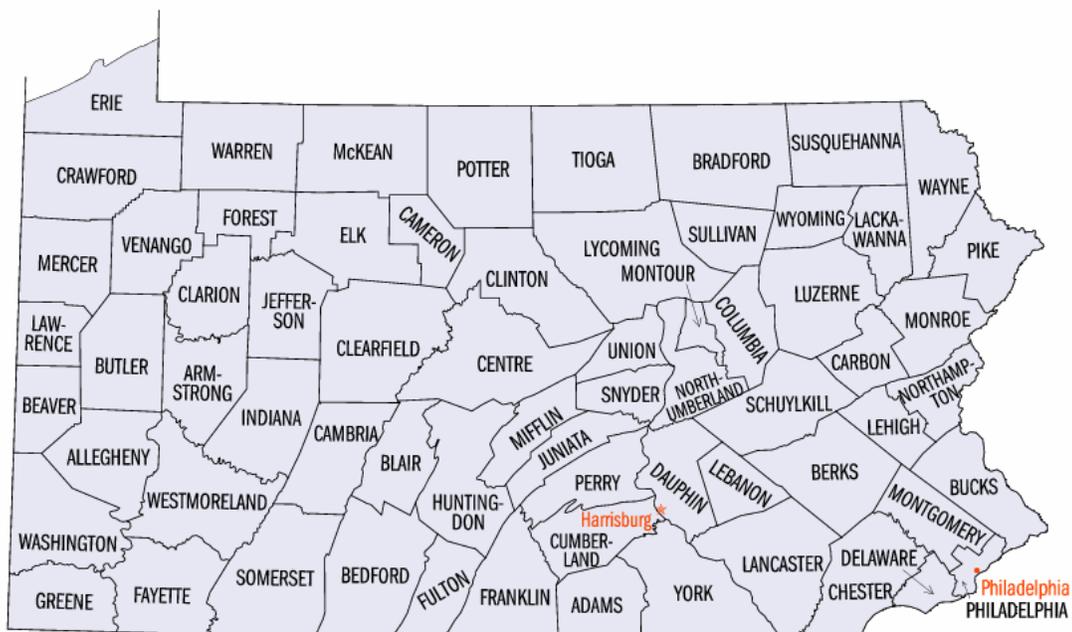
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Profile of Drug Indicators

November 2006



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.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 284,366¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 64.4% white; 28.8% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.8% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.0% other race; 1.8% two or more races; 1.8% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²
- Pittsburgh is located in Allegheny County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Luke Ravenstahl⁴
- City Council: Daniel Deasy; Jeffrey Koch; James Motznik; Doug Shields; Tonya Payne; Len Bodack; William Peduto; Twanda Carlisle⁵
- Chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police: Nathan Harper⁶
- Allegheny County Sheriff: Peter R. DeFazio⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- United Citizens Against Narcotics (U-Can)⁸
The U-Can Program is a group of concerned Pittsburgh residents who fight drug trafficking to rid Pittsburgh neighborhoods of illegal drug dealing and return the streets to law-abiding citizens.
- Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services⁹
The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services provides services designed to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction. These services respond effectively to immediate needs and, utilizing the strengths of individuals and families, empower people in treatment and recovery to live successfully in their community.
- Operation Weed and Seed¹⁰
One of the major goals of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed and Seed program is to provide a comprehensive, multi-agency strategy to control and prevent violent crime, drug trafficking and drug-related crime in the target communities. Pittsburgh's Weed and Seed effort has brought crime down by over 41% in target neighborhoods.
- Allegheny County Needle Exchange Program
Needle exchanges are illegal without a prescription under Pennsylvania's paraphernalia law except when used as disease control measures.¹¹ Since April 7, 2002, Prevention Point Pittsburgh has handed out free needles, bottle caps for cooking drugs, alcohol prep pads, and condoms. In addition, the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and the Partnership for Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention have utilized a certified HIV tester to provide free counseling and HIV/AIDS testing. Previously, Prevention Point Pittsburgh illegally distributed 6,000 needles a week directly to shooting galleries and to individuals in the Hill District, McKeesport, and other areas of Pittsburgh for six years.¹²

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 644 adult arrests for opium or cocaine sale/manufacturing in Pittsburgh reported from January through August, 2006. During FY 2005, there were 857 such arrests.¹³

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh, FY 2004-August 2006

Type of Drug Offense	FY 2004	FY 2005	Jan.-Aug. 2006
Sale/Manufacturing			
Opium/cocaine	778	857	644
Marijuana	203	173	163
Synthetic	18	20	13
Other	2	3	1
Possession			
Opium/cocaine	1,117	1,213	796
Marijuana	692	625	671
Synthetic	69	56	36
Other	0	6	1

- There were 20 juvenile arrests for marijuana sale/manufacturing in Pittsburgh reported from January through August, 2006.¹⁴

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh, FY 2004-August 2006

Type of Drug Offense	FY 2004	FY 2005	Jan.-Aug. 2006
Sale/Manufacturing			
Opium/cocaine	79	99	80
Marijuana	29	19	20
Synthetic	1	1	1
Other	0	0	0
Possession			
Opium/cocaine	29	51	23
Marijuana	79	122	102
Synthetic	2	0	0
Other	1	0	0

- There were 19 adult arrests in Pittsburgh for murder/non-negligent manslaughter reported from January through August, 2006. During FY 2005, there were 48 adult arrests for murder/non-negligent manslaughter in Pittsburgh.¹⁵

Number of Adult Arrests, Index Offenses, Pittsburgh, FY 2004-August 2006

Offense	FY 2004	FY 2005	Jan.-Aug. 2006
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	41	48	19
Forcible rape	28	30	17
Robbery	491	401	289
Aggravated assault	680	556	432

Burglary	516	445	288
Larceny-theft	777	721	513
Motor vehicle theft	119	94	64
Arson	15	9	4

- There was one juvenile arrest in Pittsburgh for murder/non-negligent manslaughter reported from January through August, 2006.¹⁶

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Index Offenses, Pittsburgh, FY 2004-August 2006

Offense	FY 2004	FY 2005	Jan.-Aug. 2006
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	7	8	1
Forcible rape	7	8	3
Robbery	174	124	89
Aggravated assault	182	126	78
Burglary	150	102	72
Larceny-theft	106	97	48
Motor vehicle theft	102	76	24
Arson	5	5	3

Drugs

- Heroin¹⁷
Intelligence indicates that the availability of heroin appears to be on the rise in western Pennsylvania, especially in the Pittsburgh area. Although the overall purity of heroin remains low, purity levels in the Pittsburgh area appear to be rising slightly over the past several months.
- Club Drugs¹⁸
MDMA (ecstasy) is primarily available at rave parties and nightclubs in Pittsburgh.

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2005, there were 943 full-time law enforcement employees in Pittsburgh (880 officers and 63 civilians).¹⁹
- Narcotics/Vice Division²⁰
The Narcotics/Vice Division of the Pittsburgh Police Bureau focuses its investigations on illegal activities such as gangs, prostitution, drug sales, and nuisance bars. Community members are able to work with Narcotics/Vice detectives to solve community issues by providing information and requesting their assistance.
- Airport Drug Interdiction Team²¹
A specialized unit of the Allegheny County Police, the Airport Drug Interdiction Team conducts daily surveillance of airline flights using drug dogs.
- Allegheny County Police Narcotic K9s²²
Narcotic K9s are capable of conducting drug searches of areas, homes and vehicles. The Allegheny County Narcotic K9s also assist other law enforcement agencies in conducting searches.

Courts

- Drug Courts²³

As of September 21, 2006, there was 1 drug court that had been in existence for over 2 years and 1 that had recently been implemented in Pittsburgh. No other drug courts were in existence or being planned at that time.

➤ Allegheny County District Attorney Narcotics Unit²⁴

The Narcotics Unit primarily prosecutes felony drug cases from throughout Allegheny County. This includes individuals who deliver or sell drugs to others and individuals in possession of drugs with the intent to deliver or sell those drugs to others. The most prevalent drugs involved in these types of cases include heroin, crack cocaine, powder cocaine, ecstasy and OxyContin.

Consequences of Use

➤ There were 172 accidental drug poisoning deaths in Allegheny County during 2004.²⁵

Number of Accidental Drug Poisoning Deaths, Allegheny County, 2000-2004

Year	# of Deaths
2000	113
2001	103
2002	125
2003	176
2004	172

Treatment

➤ There were 83 licensed drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Allegheny County from July 2003 to June 2004.²⁶

Type of Treatment Facilities Service, Allegheny County, July 2003-June 2004

Service Provided	# of facilities offering service*
Inpatient non-hospital	20
Inpatient hospital	7
Correctional institution	0
Partial hospitalization	24
Outpatient	66
Total facilities	81

*Each facility may provide more than one type of service.

➤ From July 2003 through June 2004, there were 11,664 admissions to state-supported drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Allegheny County. These admissions involved 7,703 different clients.²⁷

➤ Of the treatment clients, 4,713 were being treated for a drug abuse problem, 2,942 were being treated for alcohol abuse, and 48 were being treated for another reason (includes family members receiving counseling).²⁸

Sources

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

² Ibid.

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- ³ City of Pittsburgh Web site: <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/>
- ⁴ Pittsburgh Mayor Web site: <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/>
- ⁵ Pittsburgh City Council Web site: <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/council/>
- ⁶ Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Web site: <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/>
- ⁷ Allegheny County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.sheriffalleghenycounty.com/>
- ⁸ Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Web site, U-Can Program section:
http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/html/u_can_program.html
- ⁹ Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services Web site: <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/dhs/BH/da.html>
- ¹⁰ City of Pittsburgh Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/weednseed/>
- ¹¹ *Planet Q News*, "Allegheny County Paves Way for Needle Exchange Program," December 2001, Vol. 8 No.12
- ¹² *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, "Needle Exchange Program Running Smoothly," June 04, 2002:
<http://www.post-gazette.com/healthscience/20020604hneedles3.asp>
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- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Drug Enforcement Administration, Pennsylvania State Factsheet:
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- ¹⁸ Ibid.
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- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Office of Justice Programs Drug Courts Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, September 21, 2006:
http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf
- ²⁴ Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, Narcotics Division Web site:
<http://www.da.allegheny.pa.us/Narcotics.htm>
- ²⁵ Pennsylvania Department of Health, Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System:
<http://app2.health.state.pa.us/epiqms/Asp/ChooseDataset.asp>
- ²⁶ Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, *Allegheny County Health Profile 2005*: <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/countyprofiles/2005/allegheny.pdf>
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Ibid.

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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