

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Puerto Rico

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

March 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.

## Puerto Rico

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

### **Demographics**

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 3,865,280<sup>1</sup>
- Race/ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 76.4% white; 7.2% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.2% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 11.1% other; 4.9% two or more races; 98.5% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)<sup>2</sup>

### **Politics**

- Governor: Aníbal S. Acevedo Vilá<sup>3</sup>
- Secretary of State: Fernando J. Bonilla<sup>4</sup>
- U.S. House of Representatives Member: Luis G. Fortuño<sup>5</sup>
- Capital: San Juan<sup>6</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>7</sup>  
Designated in 1994, the Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA is responsible for the islands of Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John.

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

- During 2005, there were 766 homicides known to law enforcement in Puerto Rico.<sup>8</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Puerto Rico, 2005

Type of Offense	2005
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	766
Forcible rape	169
Robbery	5,550
Aggravated assault	3,094
Burglary	17,191
Larceny-theft	28,976
Motor vehicle theft	9,299

- Law enforcement in Puerto Rico reported 658 juvenile drug arrests from January through June, 2005. During full year 2004, there were 1,260 juvenile drug arrests in Puerto Rico.<sup>9</sup>

### **Enforcement**

- As of October 31, 2005, there were 21,021 full-time law enforcement employees in Nevada (19,106 officers and 1,915 civilians).<sup>10</sup>

### Trafficking and Seizures

- Cocaine smuggling into the United States via Puerto Rico has declined to low levels as smuggling via the U.S.–Mexico border remains very high. Drug seizure data suggest that the practice of smuggling cocaine shipments through to East Coast points of entry or through Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands has decreased since 2000, now accounting for less than 26 percent of all cocaine seizures arriving in the U.S.<sup>11</sup>
- During 2005, approximately 4 metric tons of cocaine was seized arriving in the U.S. in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.<sup>12</sup>
- The smuggling of illicit drugs into Puerto Rico in maritime cargo is expected to increase over the next 4 years. The enactment of the Central America–Dominican Republic–United States Free Trade Agreement in 2005—legislation designed to eliminate trade barriers and tariffs among the cosignatories— is being implemented by Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on a rolling basis over the next year. Also, the construction of the Port of the Americas in Ponce, Puerto Rico, is expected to be completed in the next 2 to 3 years. As commercial activity through Puerto Rico increases, drug trafficking organizations in South and Central America may divert some additional drug flow away from the Central America–Mexico land corridor to the Caribbean corridor, particularly Puerto Rico.<sup>13</sup>
- Intelligence suggests that the transportation of illicit drugs into Puerto Rico via speed boats will remain significant.<sup>14</sup>

### Courts

- During FY 2006, approximately half (51.1%) of the Federally sentenced defendants in Puerto Rico had committed drug offenses. Approximately 57% (167 offenses) of these offenses involved powder cocaine.<sup>15</sup>

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Puerto Rico, FY 2006

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Drug Offenses
Powder cocaine	167	57.4%
Crack cocaine	59	20.3
Heroin	57	19.6
Marijuana	5	1.7
Other	3	1.0

- Drug Courts<sup>16</sup>  
As of November 22, 2006, there were 11 drug courts in existence or being planned in Puerto Rico. Eight drug courts had been in existence for more than 2 years, 2 were being planned and 1 drug court that had been resurrected. There were no additional drug courts in operation or being planned in Puerto Rico at that time.

### Treatment

- There were 2,033 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Puerto Rico during 2005.<sup>17</sup> This is down from 2,242 treatment admissions in 2004.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, there were 3,709 treatment admissions during 2003.<sup>19</sup>

## Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Puerto Rico, 2003-2005

Drug Type	2003		2004		2005	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	1,026	27.7%	498	22.2%	542	26.7%
Alcohol w/secondary drug	85	2.3	136	6.1	97	4.8
Cocaine (smoked)	31	0.8	33	1.5	33	1.6
Cocaine (other route)	133	3.6	70	3.1	75	3.7
Marijuana	287	7.7	128	5.7	131	6.4
Heroin	2,143	57.8	1,367	61.0	1,147	56.4
Other opiates	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	0.1
Sedatives	1	0.0	1	0.0	n/a	n/a
Tranquilizers	n/a	n/a	1	0.0	n/a	n/a
Other unknown	3	0.1	8	0.4	6	0.3
Total	3,709	100.0	2,242	100.0	2,033	100.0

### Sources

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

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Puerto Rico Governor Web site: <http://www.fortaleza.gobierno.pr/>

<sup>4</sup> Puerto Rico Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.estado.gobierno.pr/mensaje.htm>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

<sup>6</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, 2007 *World Factbook*, Puerto Rico section:

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rq.html>

<sup>7</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/pr\\_vi.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/pr_vi.html)

<sup>8</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006:

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

<sup>9</sup> Policia de Puerto Rico Web site, Menores Intervenidos en Puerto Rico por cometer Faltas:

<http://www.gobierno.pr/PoliciaPR/Estadisticas/MenoresIntervenidosEnPuertoRicoPorCometerFaltas.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006:

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

<sup>11</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *National Drug Threat Assessment 2007*, October 2006:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs21/21137/index.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2006 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Puerto Rico section:

<http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2006/pr06.pdf>

<sup>16</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)

<sup>17</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Substance Abuse Treatment Data, Puerto Rico, 2005: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/PR05.htm>

<sup>18</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Substance Abuse Treatment Data, Puerto Rico, 2004: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/PR04.htm>

<sup>19</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Substance Abuse Treatment Data, Puerto Rico, 2003: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/PR03.htm>

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