

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Memphis, Tennessee

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

May 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.

## Memphis, Tennessee

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

### Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 642,251<sup>1</sup>
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 31.3% white; 63.1% black; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 2.6% other race; 1.2% two or more races; 4.1% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)<sup>2</sup>
- Memphis is located in Shelby County.<sup>3</sup>

### Politics

- Mayor: Dr. Willie W. Herenton<sup>4</sup>
- City Council (District): E.C. Jones (1), Brent Taylor (2), Madeleine Cooper Taylor (3), Dedrick Brittenum, Jr. (4), Carol Chumney (5), Edmund Ford (6), Barbara Swearngen Ware (7), Joe Brown (8), Rickey Peete (8), Myron Lowery (8), Scott McCormick (9), Tom Marshall (9), Jack Sammons (9)<sup>5</sup>
- Memphis Police Department Director: Larry A. Godwin<sup>6</sup>
- Shelby County Sheriff: Mark Luttrell<sup>7</sup>

### Programs/Initiatives

- The Drug Dealer Eviction Program (DDEP)<sup>8</sup>  
Shelby County's DDEP is a result of a 1997 state law, which provides that, upon notice, individuals may be evicted for felony drug violations occurring in rental property. After receiving notice, the landlord may proceed with the eviction while maintaining contact with the District Attorney General's Office. If the landlord does not take action, the District Attorney General's Office may proceed with the eviction.

### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 86 homicides known to police in Memphis from January through June 2006.<sup>9</sup> There were 137 homicides known to the Memphis Police Department during full year 2005.<sup>10</sup>

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

Offense	Full Year 2005	Jan.-June 2006
Homicide	137	86
Rape	400	207
Robbery	4,464	2,516
Aggravated assault	7,628	3,925
Burglary	15,844	7,729
Theft	32,632	16,305
Motor vehicle theft	8,304	3,177
Arson	225	127

- During 2005, the Memphis Police Department reported more than 4,800 adult arrests for drug/narcotic violations.<sup>11</sup>

Number of Substance Abuse Related Arrests, Memphis, 2005

Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Drug/narcotic violations	625	4,828
Drug/narcotic equipment	20	693
DUI	9	1,605
Liquor laws	25	454

- During 2005, efforts of the Shelby County Drug Dealer Eviction Program (DDEP) resulted in the removal of 165 individuals from rental properties for possessing illegal drugs with the intent to sell.<sup>12</sup>

Number of DDEP Removals, Shelby County, 2001-2005

Year	# of People Removed
2001	176
2002	175
2003	265
2004	269
2005	165

- The West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force, which is headquartered in Memphis, initiated 421 cases and made 373 arrests during 2005.<sup>13</sup>

**Juveniles**

- Approximately 45% of Memphis high school students surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.<sup>14</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Gender, Memphis, 2005

Drug type and use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	42.2%	48.7%	45.3%
Current marijuana use	20.5	26.8	23.5
Lifetime cocaine use	1.1	3.6	2.3
Current cocaine use	0.8	1.8	1.3
Lifetime inhalant use	6.9	6.5	6.7
Lifetime heroin use	0.8	3.0	1.9
Lifetime methamphetamine use	1.1	3.7	2.4
Lifetime ecstasy use	2.3	4.9	3.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.6	3.9	2.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.0	2.1	1.5
Tired marijuana before age 13	9.1	19.9	14.3

- Approximately one-half of Memphis 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.<sup>15</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Memphis, 2005

Drug type and use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	41.4%	46.2%	46.1%	49.8%
Current marijuana use	22.9	23.3	24.9	22.9
Lifetime cocaine use	1.7	4.3	1.0	1.1
Current cocaine use	0.4	2.8	0.8	0.2
Lifetime inhalant use	8.9	6.9	6.8	1.9
Lifetime heroin use	1.6	3.7	0.9	0.2
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.2	3.2	1.3	1.8
Lifetime ecstasy use	2.4	3.9	4.4	3.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.3	3.1	1.9	1.1
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.1
Tired marijuana before age 13	17.7	16.5	11.7	7.8

**Enforcement**

- As of October 31, 2005, there were 2,657 law enforcement employees in Memphis (1,975 officers and 682 civilians).<sup>16</sup>
- Memphis Police Department Drug Unit<sup>17</sup>  
During 2005, undercover Vice and Narcotics officers were involved in 2,217 misdemeanor arrests and 1,820 felony arrests. These arrests led to the seizure of 246 vehicles, 253 handguns and 33 long guns.
- West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force<sup>18</sup>  
This Task Force is a joint agency comprised of more than 40 law enforcement officers assigned from various law enforcement agencies in four of west Tennessee’s judicial districts. The Shelby County District Attorney’s Office administers the Task Force.
- Shelby County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division<sup>19</sup>  
The Narcotics Division executed 362 search warrants and made 545 drug arrests during 2006.
- Shelby County Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit<sup>20</sup>  
Created in October 2006, the Street Crimes Unit is tasked with targeting suspects in violent crimes who have a connection to the use and trafficking of narcotics.

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- Shelby County is considered a drug distribution hub for the state of Tennessee.<sup>21</sup>
- During 2006, the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division seized more than 17,000 dosage units of illegally diverted prescriptions.<sup>22</sup>

Drugs Seized, Shelby County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Powder cocaine	6.9 kilograms
Crack cocaine	1.6 kilograms
Marijuana	571 pounds
Prescription drugs	17,671 dosage units
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	12 pounds

Crystal methamphetamine	5.9 pounds
Methamphetamine labs	3 labs

- During 2005, the West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force seized more than 350 pounds of powder cocaine.<sup>23</sup>

**Drugs Seized, West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force, 2005**

<b>Drug Type</b>	<b>Amount Seized</b>
Marijuana	1,670.65 pounds/17 plants
Powder cocaine	355.4 pounds
Crack cocaine	680.4 grams
Methamphetamine	51 grams
Methamphetamine labs	36 labs
Heroin	6 pounds
Prescription drugs	3,711 dosage units

- The Shelby County Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit seized 1,731.6 grams of marijuana, 2,573.4 grams of powder cocaine and 67.1 grams of crack cocaine during 2006.<sup>24</sup>

**Courts**

- **Shelby County Drug Court<sup>25</sup>**  
The Shelby County Drug Court offers a treatment alternative to prison time for addicted misdemeanor drug offenders. A total of 801 defendants have graduated from the drug court program through fiscal year 2006. Furthermore, a total of 198 offenders were admitted to the drug court program during 2005.
- During 2005, a total of 87,070 new cases were handled in Shelby County General Sessions Criminal Court, with 162,176 new offenses included in these cases. Drug charges made up 16,551 of the new offenses during 2005. Furthermore, DUI and related charges accounted for 4,609 of the new offenses in Shelby County General Sessions Criminal Court.<sup>26</sup>
- There were 20,044 indicted criminal offenses in Shelby County Criminal Court during 2005. Of these, 5,386 were drug charges and 1,612 were DUI related charges.<sup>27</sup>
- According to the Shelby County Sheriff's Office and Corrections Center, it costs \$95/day to house a single inmate in the Shelby County jail and \$50/day to house an inmate at the Shelby County Corrections Center. An individual in the drug court treatment program will only cost taxpayers about \$8/day.<sup>28</sup>

**Corrections**

- The Shelby County Division of Corrections averages 2,700 inmates and housed as many as 3,300 inmates. Client's sentences range anywhere from a few days to 8 years. The most common sentences are 2-3 years for felony drug charges.<sup>29</sup>
- The average daily population in the Shelby County Jail was 2,497 for males and 244 for females during 2006.<sup>30</sup> There were 985 total participants in the Narcotics Anonymous program at the Shelby County Jail during 2006.<sup>31</sup>

## Sources

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- <sup>2</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup> Memphis Web site: <http://www.cityofmemphis.org/>
- <sup>4</sup> Memphis Mayor Web site: <http://www.cityofmemphis.org/framework.aspx?page=22>
- <sup>5</sup> Memphis City Council Web site: <http://www.cityofmemphis.org/framework.aspx?page=689>
- <sup>6</sup> Memphis Police Department Web site: <http://www.memphispolice.org/>
- <sup>7</sup> Shelby County Sheriff Web site: <http://www.shelby-sheriff.org/>
- <sup>8</sup> Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, 2005 Annual Report: <http://www.scdag.com/Portals/0/annualreport/ar2005.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January-June 2006, December 2006*: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/prelim06/index.html>
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- <sup>11</sup> Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Tennessee 2005*: [http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/Info%20Systems%20Div/TIBRS\\_unit/Publications/Crime%20in%20TN%202005%20Complete.pdf](http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/Info%20Systems%20Div/TIBRS_unit/Publications/Crime%20in%20TN%202005%20Complete.pdf)
- <sup>12</sup> Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, 2005 Annual Report: <http://www.scdag.com/Portals/0/annualreport/ar2005.pdf>
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>14</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Online, Comprehensive Results: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/yrbss/>
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- <sup>16</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>
- <sup>17</sup> Memphis Police Department Web site, Special Operations section: <http://www.memphispolice.org/Special%20Ops.htm>
- <sup>18</sup> Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, 2005 Annual Report: <http://www.scdag.com/Portals/0/annualreport/ar2005.pdf>
- <sup>19</sup> Shelby County Sheriff's Office, 2006 Annual Report, April 2007: <http://www.shelby-sheriff.org/documents/2006AnnualReportFinal.pdf>
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, Tennessee State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/tennessee.html>
- <sup>22</sup> Shelby County Sheriff's Office, 2006 Annual Report, April 2007: <http://www.shelby-sheriff.org/documents/2006AnnualReportFinal.pdf>
- <sup>23</sup> Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, 2005 Annual Report: <http://www.scdag.com/Portals/0/annualreport/ar2005.pdf>
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- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Shelby County Division of Corrections, History: <http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov/FirstPortal/dotShowDoc/Government/CountyServices/Corrections/history.htm>
- <sup>30</sup> Shelby County Sheriff Web site, Jail Division: <http://www.shelby-sheriff.org/divisions/jail.asp>
- <sup>31</sup> Shelby County Sheriff's Office, 2006 Annual Report, April 2007: <http://www.shelby-sheriff.org/documents/2006AnnualReportFinal.pdf>

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