

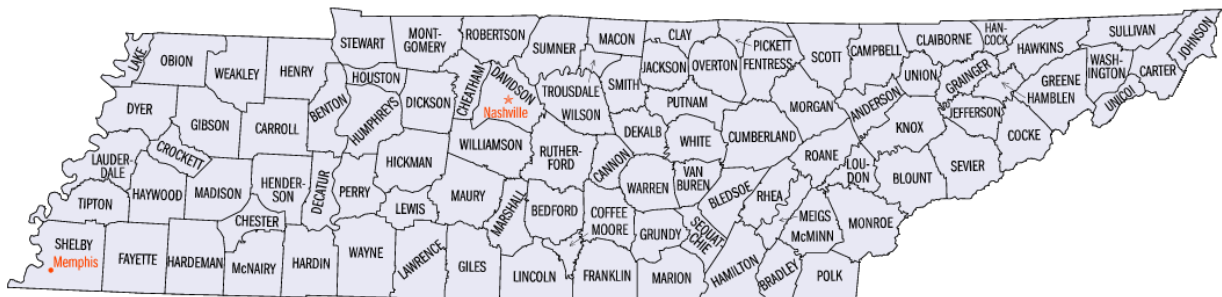
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Tennessee

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 2009



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.

Tennessee

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

Demographics

- Population (2007 American Community Survey): 6,156,719¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2007 American Community Survey): 80.1% white; 16.9% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.3% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.4% other; 1.3% two or more races; 3.4% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Phil Bredesen³
- Lt. Governor: Ron Ramsey⁴
- Secretary of State: Tre Hargett⁵
- Attorney General: Robert E. Cooper, Jr.⁶
- U.S. Senate: Lamar Alexander (R); Bob Corker (R)⁷
- U.S. House of Representatives: David Roe (R); John Duncan, Jr. (R); Zach Wamp (R); Lincoln Davis (D); Jim Cooper (D); Bart Gordon (D); Marsha Blackburn (R); John Tanner (D); Steve Cohen (D)⁸
- Capital: Nashville

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1998, the Appalachia HIDTA is responsible for counties in Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee. The following Tennessee counties are involved in Appalachia HIDTA efforts: Bledsoe, Campbell, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Macon, Marion, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Unicoi, Van Buren, Washington and White.
- MethWatch¹⁰
MethWatch is a public-private partnership designed to help citizens, law enforcement agencies and retailers fight the spread of methamphetamine.
- MethFree Tennessee¹¹
The MethFree Tennessee Web site provides information about the impact of meth on the user, the community and others that may come in contact with the substance.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 306 arrests for drug violations in Tennessee.¹²

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Tennessee, 2003-2007

Year	Number of Arrests
2003	230
2004	298

2005	319
2006	334
2007	306

- During 2008, there were 526 drug offenses reported by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation on Tennessee's college campuses.¹³

Number of Drug Offenses Reported on College Campuses, Tennessee, 2005-2008

Offense Type	2005	2006	2007	2008
Drug/narcotic violations	418	369	336	348
Drug equipment violations	242	222	191	178
Total	660	591	527	526

- During 2008, there were 408 murders reported to law enforcement in Tennessee.¹⁴

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, Tennessee, 2008

Offense Type	# of Offenses
Murder	408
Forcible rape	2,079
Robbery	10,828
Aggravated assault	31,684
Burglary	64,470
Theft	169,165
Motor vehicle theft	18,757
Arson	1,268
Drug/narcotic violations	42,130
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	19,514

- There were 310 adult and 17 juvenile arrests for murder in Tennessee during 2008.¹⁵

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Tennessee, 2008

Offense Type	Adult Arrests	Juvenile Arrests
Murder	310	17
Forcible rape	348	68
Robbery	2,386	549
Aggravated assault	10,479	1,130
Burglary	5,738	1,516
Theft	27,236	5,408
Motor vehicle theft	2,154	475
Arson	223	85
Drug/narcotic violations	35,540	3,262
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	7,256	301

- The offender was suspected of using drugs in 9 of the homicides known to police in Tennessee during 2008.¹⁶

Offenses in which Offender Suspected of Using, Select Offenses, Tennessee, 2008

Offense Type	Alcohol	Drugs
Murder	22	9
Forcible rape	247	86
Robbery	185	200
Aggravated assault	3,405	812
Burglary	478	499
Theft	1,703	1,797
Motor vehicle theft	189	140
Arson	30	14
Drug/narcotic violations	2,733	23,882
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	1,363	9,754

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁷
Cocaine is most commonly consumed in crack form. Intelligence indicates that cocaine trafficking organizations are experiencing difficulty receiving cocaine from their Mexican and Latin suppliers; which is attributed to the increased commitment and successes of law enforcement and military personnel in their efforts to impede the flow of illicit drugs to and through the United States. Consequently, increased cocaine prices have been reported across the state.
- Heroin¹⁸
The use of heroin has remained stable over the last six years and is generally limited to a small number of long time users.
- Marijuana¹⁹
Marijuana abuse and trafficking is a serious problem in Tennessee, especially in rural areas of the state.
- Methamphetamine
The availability and demand for methamphetamine continues to increase throughout Tennessee. Much of the methamphetamine consumed in the state is transported from Mexico and states along the Southwest Border. Methamphetamine use and abuse is anticipated to increase in Tennessee as the drug gains popularity over crack cocaine.²⁰ The occurrence of clandestine methamphetamine labs has increased 20.5% from 2007-2008.²¹
- Club Drugs²²
Tennessee continues to have a growing “club drug” problem, with MDMA (ecstasy), LSD, and GHB being the most common drugs of abuse. These drugs are frequently sold at Raves and have been identified in the cities of Nashville and Knoxville.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals²³
Diverted pharmaceuticals pose a growing problem in Tennessee. The Tennessee Medical Board indicates that consumption of hydromorphone, hydrocodone, meperidine, and amphetamine are above average in the state. Dilaudid and morphine are also mentioned as heavily abused drugs.
- According to 2006-2007 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 444,000 (9%) of Tennessee citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁴

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, Tennessee, 2006-2007 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	444	8.79%
Past year marijuana use	503	9.96
Past month marijuana use	288	5.71
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	262	5.19
Past year cocaine use	139	2.75
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	351	6.94

* The number of users is in thousands

- More than 2 million (43.42%) Tennessee citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁵
- Additional 2006-2007 NSDUH results indicate that 151,000 (2.98%) Tennessee citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 104,000 (2.07%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁶

Juveniles

- Results of a 2007 survey of Tennessee high school students indicate that 38% reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²⁷

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Tennessee, 2007

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	33.0%	43.1%	38.1%
Current marijuana use	15.0	23.8	19.4
Lifetime cocaine use	4.9	8.2	6.6
Current cocaine use	1.7	4.0	2.9
Lifetime inhalant use	12.6	14.6	13.7
Lifetime heroin use	1.9	3.2	2.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.6	4.7	3.8
Lifetime ecstasy use	3.9	7.9	6.0
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.3	6.6	5.0
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.7	2.8	2.2
Tried marijuana before age 13	6.9	14.2	10.6

- Approximately 15% of Tennessee 9th graders surveyed in 2007 reported using inhalants at least once during their lifetime.²⁸

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, Tennessee, 2007

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	28.7%	38.3%	42.8%	44.9%
Current marijuana use	15.2	20.9	19.5	23.5
Lifetime cocaine use	5.8	5.6	7.7	7.7
Current cocaine use	2.0	3.2	3.5	3.0
Lifetime inhalant use	15.0	14.9	13.5	9.9
Lifetime heroin use	1.7	3.8	2.4	2.5

Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.0	4.8	3.8	3.6
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.4	6.7	5.3	7.3
Lifetime illegal steroid use	4.1	5.2	6.7	3.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.9	2.6	2.5	1.7
Tried marijuana before age 13	12.4	11.3	7.9	9.7

- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 10% of Tennessee 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁹

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, Tennessee, 2006-2007 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	49	9.77%
Past year marijuana use	62	12.51
Past month marijuana use	31	6.20
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	29	5.74
Past year cocaine use	8	1.51
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	45	9.09

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication³⁰
Created in 1983, the Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication (GTFME) works to seek out and eradicate marijuana found growing in Tennessee; arrest and prosecute individuals who knowingly participate in this activity; collect and utilize intelligence data; maintain accurate records of results and expenditures connected with this program and eliminate or disrupt illegal acts against the citizens of Tennessee related to marijuana cultivation.
- Drug Investigation Division³¹
The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Drug Investigation Division investigates violations of Tennessee's drug control laws by gathering evidence, arresting violators and assisting with subsequent prosecutions.
- As of October 31, 2008, there were 25,067 full-time law enforcement employees in Tennessee (15,529 officers and 9,358 civilians).³²

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mexican traffickers and Mexican drug trafficking organizations continue to play an increasingly dominant role in the importation and distribution of illegal drugs within the state.³³
- During 2008, the DEA and state and local authorities reported 533 methamphetamine lab incidents in Tennessee.³⁴

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Tennessee, 2004-2008

Year	# of Lab Incidents
2004	889
2005	861
2006	401

2007	539
2008	533

- Federal agencies seized more than 1,300 kilograms of cocaine in Tennessee during 2008.³⁵

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Tennessee, 2008

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	1,375.1 kilograms
Heroin	59.3 kilograms
Methamphetamine	144.7 kilograms
Marijuana	1,160.6 kilograms
MDMA	0.1 kilograms/57,215 dosage units

- During 2008, more than 500,000 marijuana plants were eradicated in Tennessee under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁶

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Tennessee, 2008

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
2,428	539,300	2	70	539,370

- During 2008, the Appalachia HIDTA reported seizing more than 1,700 kilograms of commercial grade and high potency marijuana.³⁷

Amount of Drugs Seized by the Appalachia HIDTA, Tennessee, 2008

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Powder cocaine	68.822 kilograms
Crack cocaine	0.949 kilograms
Ice meth	1.040 kilograms
Powder meth	7.077 kilograms
Marijuana (commercial grade)	935.488 kilograms
Marijuana (high potency)	850.813 kilograms
Heroin	0.327 kilograms
Oxycodone	2,679 dosage units
Hydrocodone	124 dosage units

Courts

- During FY 2008, 37.3% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Tennessee had committed drug offenses. Approximately 30% of the drug offenses involved crack cocaine.³⁸

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Tennessee, FY 2008

Offense Type Involved	Number	Percent of Total
Powder cocaine	160	28.5%
Crack cocaine	168	29.9
Heroin	21	3.7
Marijuana	59	10.5
Methamphetamine	136	24.2
Other	17	3.0

➤ Drug Courts³⁹

As of July 14, 2009, there were 46 drug courts in Tennessee that had been operating for at least two years, 8 drug courts that were recently implemented and 5 drug courts that were being planned.

Corrections

- As of June 30, 2009, there were 27,325 incarcerated felons in Tennessee state prisons.⁴⁰
- In May 2007, 16.1% of the Tennessee prison population was incarcerated for drug offenses.⁴¹
- Substance Abuse Program⁴²
TDOC's substance abuse programs are based on the idea that the program participant is ultimately responsible for his or her recovery. Participants work closely with counselors to develop individual treatment goals and strategies.
- During FY 2007-2008, the Tennessee DOC reports that 112 inmates completed Substance Abuse Programs.⁴³
- As of December 31, 2007, there were 56,179 adults on probation and 10,496 adults on parole in Tennessee.⁴⁴

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 4 children in Tennessee injured by methamphetamine laboratories, while another 69 children were affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2008.⁴⁵

Treatment

- During 2008, there were 9,806 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Tennessee.⁴⁶ There were 10,278 treatment admissions in Tennessee during 2007.⁴⁷ In 2006, there were 11,187 treatment admissions.⁴⁸

Admissions to Treatment, Tennessee, 2006-2008

Drug Type	2006		2007		2008	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	3,448	30.8%	2,265	22.0%	1,794	18.3%
Alc. w/ second. drug	1,323	11.8	1,527	14.9	1,367	13.9
Cocaine – smoked	2,037	18.2	1,749	17.0	1,357	13.8
Cocaine – other route	616	5.5	487	4.7	421	4.3
Marijuana	1,304	11.7	1,413	13.7	1,715	17.5

Other opiates	1,529	13.7	1,740	16.9	2,012	20.5
Hallucinogens	18	0.2	112	1.1	112	1.1
Amphetamines	414	3.7	287	2.8	275	2.8
Other stimulants	3	0.0	6	0.1	8	0.1
Tranquilizers	1	0.0	1	0.0	n/a	n/a
Sedatives	133	1.2	284	2.8	216	2.2
Inhalants	15	0.1	11	0.1	15	0.2
Other/none specified	346	3.1	396	3.9	514	5.2
Total	11,187	100.0	10,278	100.0	9,806	100.0

- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 129,000 (2.55%) Tennessee citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁹

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