

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Knoxville, Tennessee

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 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.

Knoxville, Tennessee

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

Demographics

- Population: 173,890 (2000 American Community Survey)¹
- Race/Ethnicity: 79.7% white; 16.2% black/African American; 0.3% Asian; 1.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.7% other race; 1.6% two or more races; 1.6% Hispanic origin²
- Knoxville is located in Knox County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Bill Haslam⁴
- City Council: Joseph Hultquist (1), Barbara Pelot (2), Steve Hall (3), Rob Frost (4), Bob Becker (5), Mark Brown (6), Joe Bailey (at large), Chris Woodhull (at large), Marilyn Roddy (at large)⁵
- Knoxville Chief of Police: Sterling Owen IV⁶
- Knox County Sheriff: Tim Hutchison⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1998, the Appalachia HIDTA is responsible for areas in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. This HIDTA is responsible for 29 Tennessee Counties, including Knox County.
- Metropolitan Drug Commission⁹
The Metropolitan Drug Commission is a private, non-private corporation whose mission is to mobilize the Knoxville and Knox County communities to eliminate the illegal use of controlled substances.
- Knoxville Police Department Narcotics Detail¹⁰
The Narcotics Detail is responsible for enforcing drug laws, by gathering intelligence and suppressing drug abusers and distributors.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2004, there were 21 homicides reported by the Knoxville Police Department.¹¹

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, Knoxville, 2004

Offense Type	# of Offenses
Murder	21
Forcible rape	78
Robbery	526
Aggravated assault	1,026
Burglary	2,497
Theft	7,630

Motor vehicle theft	1,322
Arson	171
Drug/narcotic violations	1,641
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	1,539

- There were 1,516 adult arrests for drug/narcotic violations in Knoxville during 2004.¹²

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Knoxville, 2004

Offense Type	Adult Arrests	Juvenile Arrests
Murder	11	1
Forcible rape	4	0
Robbery	97	11
Aggravated assault	244	26
Burglary	208	43
Theft	1,665	61
Motor vehicle theft	175	49
Arson	0	3
Drug/narcotic violations	1,516	65
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	1,191	2
DUI	901	5
Liquor laws	75	16
Drunkennes	1,843	9

- During 2004, the Knoxville Community Development Corporation Security (KCDC) Detail conducted 425 drug investigations.¹³
- During 2004, the Knoxville Organized Crime Unit built 383 cases against drug violators.¹⁴

Drugs

- Club Drugs
Club drugs have been identified in Knoxville.¹⁵

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2004, there were 477 law enforcement employees in Knoxville (391 officers and 86 civilians).¹⁶

Trafficking and Seizures

- According to DEA drug seizure data, a major drug trafficking corridor runs just east of Knoxville along I-81.¹⁷
- During 2004, the KCDC Detail seized 293 grams of crack cocaine, 803 grams of marijuana, 185 illegal pills and 179 items of drug paraphernalia.¹⁸
- During 2004, the West District Community Response Team confiscated over 283 grams of crack cocaine, over 417 grams of marijuana, and 514 pills.¹⁹

- In 2004, the Special Investigation Team seized over 186 grams of marijuana, 230 pills, and over 3 grams of methamphetamine.²⁰

Courts

- Drug Courts²¹

As of September 29, 2005, there was 1 drug court in Knoxville which had been operating for more than 2 years. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned at that time.

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile, 2000: Knoxville:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

² Ibid.

³ Knoxville Web site: <http://www.ci.knoxville.tn.us/>

⁴ Knoxville Mayor Web site: <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/mayor/default.asp>

⁵ Knoxville City Council Web site: <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/members/>

⁶ Knoxville Police Department Web site: <http://www.ci.knoxville.tn.us/kpd/chief.asp>

⁷ Knox County Sheriff Web site: <http://www.knoxsheriff.org/>

⁸ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/tn.html>

⁹ Metropolitan Drug Commission Web site: <http://www.metrodrug.org/>

¹⁰ 2004 Knoxville Police Department Annual Report:

http://www.cityofknoxville.org/kpd/kpd_annualreport2004.pdf

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Drug Enforcement Administration, Tennessee State Factsheet:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/tennessee.html>

¹⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2004*, October 2005:

http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_04/

¹⁷ Drug Transportation Corridors, DEA: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/18862/transport.htm>

¹⁸ 2004 Knoxville Police Department Annual Report:

http://www.cityofknoxville.org/kpd/kpd_annualreport2004.pdf

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, September 29, 2005:

http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf

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ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Web Site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

Email Form: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/utilities/contact.html>

