

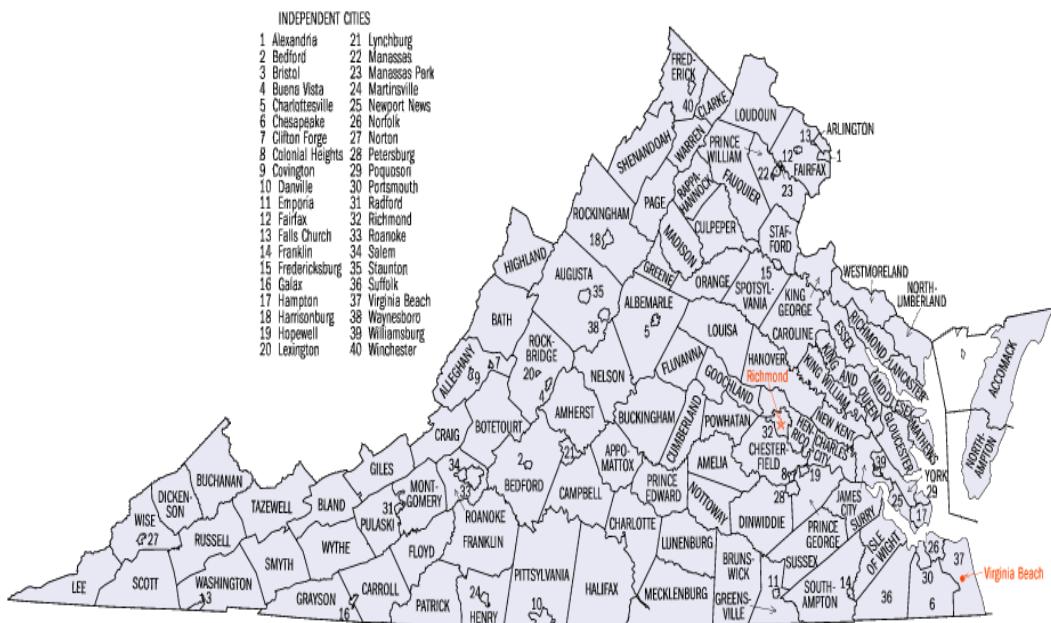
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Virginia

Profile of Drug Indicators

December 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.

Virginia

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 7,642,884¹
- Race/ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 70.8% white; 19.6% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.8% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 2.6% other race; 1.9% two or more races; 6.2% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Tim Kaine³
- Lt. Governor: Bill Bolling⁴
- Attorney General: Robert McDonnell⁵
- Secretary of the Commonwealth: Katherine K. Hanley⁶
- U.S. Senate: John Warner (R), Jim Webb (D)⁷
- U.S. Representatives: Thelma Drake (R), Robert C. Scott (D), J. Randy Forbes (R), Virgil H. Goode, Jr. (R), Bob Goodlatte (R), Eric Cantor (R), James P. Moran (D), Rick Boucher (D), Frank R. Wolf (R), Thomas M. Davis (R)⁸
- Capital: Richmond⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1994, the Washington, D.C./Baltimore HIDTA is responsible for the following Virginia areas: Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Hanover, Henrico, Loudoun, Prince George, and Prince William Counties and the city of Alexandria.
- Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP)¹¹
The mission of the GOSAP is to support positive youth development by providing strategic statewide leadership, fostering collaboration and the sharing of resources at all levels and providing tools and training to practice evidence-based prevention so that Virginia's youth will develop into productive citizens free from substance abuse, violence, delinquency, school drop-out, criminal gang participation and related risky behaviors.
- Substance Abuse Reduction Effort (SABRE)¹²
SABRE is a three-dimensional program of enforcement, treatment and prevention that targets drug dealers, as well as casual and chronic drug users in the Commonwealth.
- Virginia Meth Watch¹³
The purpose of this program is to raise the level of awareness of the methamphetamine lab problem; educate and train retail employees to recognize the signs of individuals who are obtaining the precursors of meth production; and limit the accessibility of precursors.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 539 drug arrests in Virginia.¹⁴

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Virginia, 2002-2006

Year	Arrests
2002	645
2003	597
2004	569
2005	640
2006	539

- During 2006, there were 20 juvenile and 244 adult arrests for murder/non-negligent manslaughter in Virginia.¹⁵

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Virginia, 2006

Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	20	244
Forcible rape	46	340
Robbery	473	1,666
Aggravated assault	660	4,279
Burglary/breaking & entering	1,167	3,137
Motor vehicle theft	261	918
Arson	200	197

- During 2006, there were 32,000 total drug arrests in Virginia.¹⁶ There were 29,746 drug arrests in the state in 2005.¹⁷

Number of Drug Arrests, by Type of Drug, Virginia, 2005-2006

Drug Type	2005	2006
Crack cocaine	5,024	5,623
Cocaine	3,028	3,271
Hashish	29	13
Heroin	672	678
Marijuana	15,633	16,569
Morphine	35	70
Opium	8	13
Other narcotic	758	721
LSD	12	4
PCP	20	25
Other hallucinogens	25	34
Amphetamines/methamphetamine	570	567
Other stimulants	63	85
Barbiturates	22	19
Other depressants	59	103

Other drugs	382	420
Unknown drug type	3,406	3,785
Total	29,746	32,000

- During 2006, the Virginia State Police Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion Unit received 1,939 complaints of diversion activities throughout Virginia. In response to the complaints, 536 investigations were initiated and 397 persons were arrested on 725 charges.¹⁸
- There were 8 incidents of murder/non-negligent manslaughter in Virginia where the offender(s) were suspected of using drugs.¹⁹

Number of Offenses, Offender(s) Suspected of Drug Use, by Offense, Virginia, 2006

Offense	# of Offenses, Drug Use Suspected
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	8
Forcible rape	69
Robbery	77
Aggravated assault	163
Burglary	123
Motor vehicle theft	81
Arson	8

Drugs

- Cocaine²⁰
Both the powder and crack forms of cocaine are prevalent throughout the state of Virginia, in wholesale and retail quantities. Considerable levels of violence continue to be associated with the crack cocaine trade in urban areas.
- Heroin²¹
There are stable, long-term heroin abuse populations in the Richmond and Tidewater areas of Virginia. Pockets of heroin distribution are present in other areas of the state as well, but the problem is less pronounced. Most of the heroin encountered in Virginia tends to be of higher-than-average purity.
- Marijuana²²
Marijuana is the most widely abused drug in the state of Virginia.
- Methamphetamine²³
The Shenandoah Valley region contains the highest percentage of methamphetamine abusers in the state. Methamphetamine and “ice” have also become drugs of choice at raves and nightclubs.
- Club Drugs²⁴
MDMA is the most readily available and frequently abused club drug in Virginia.
- Other Drugs²⁵
Pharmaceutical diversion and abuse continue to be a drug threat to Virginia, with OxyContin® (both brand name and generic), Percocet®, and Dilaudid® the most popular.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 411,000 (7%) of Virginia citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁶

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, Virginia, 2004-2005 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	411	6.76%
Past year marijuana use	555	9.13
Past month marijuana use	297	4.89
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	207	3.41
Past year cocaine use	146	2.41
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	270	4.44

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 2.5 million (40.47%) Virginia citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁷
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 168,000 (2.76%) Virginia citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 115,000 (1.89%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁸

Juveniles

- According to the *Virginia Community Youth Survey: 2005*, 20% of 12th graders reported using marijuana within the past month.²⁹

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Drug Use, Virginia, 2005

Drug Type	8th	10th	12th
Marijuana	6%	15%	20%
Inhalants	8	6	4
Painkillers w/o prescription	5	9	9
Other drugs	4	6	5
Stimulants w/o prescription	3	5	5
LSD	2	3	2
Cocaine	1	3	3
Ecstasy	1	2	2
Methamphetamine	1	2	2
Heroin	1	2	1
Steroids w/o prescription	1	2	1

- Approximately 44% of 12th graders surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.³⁰

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Virginia, 2005

Drug Type	8th	10th	12th
Marijuana	12%	28%	44%
Inhalants	17	14	11
Painkillers w/o prescription	9	15	19
Other drugs	9	14	14
Stimulants w/o prescription	4	9	12
LSD	2	5	9

Cocaine	3	5	7
Ecstasy	2	4	5
Methamphetamine	1	5	4
Heroin	2	2	3
Steroids w/o prescription	1	2	1

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 8% of Virginia 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.³¹

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, Virginia, 2004-2005 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	52	8.31%
Past year marijuana use	76	12.21
Past month marijuana use	33	5.31
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	29	4.58
Past year cocaine use	9	1.39
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	41	6.65

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- The Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation Drug Enforcement Division (DED) was established to provide full-time attention to the enforcement of drug laws in Virginia. Some DED initiatives include:³²
 - Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces – consists of state and local investigators uniting forces to combat illicit narcotics manufacturing, trafficking and usage in Virginia
 - Marijuana Eradication/Operation Grand Slam – eliminates domestically-grown marijuana with funding from the DEA and Department of State Police, along with assistance from various local law enforcement agencies and the Virginia Army National Guard
 - Governor's Initiative Against Narcotics Trafficking (GIANT) – facilitates and assures coordination and cooperation among agencies
 - Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion Unit – works with the DEA, Department of Health Professions, Department of Medical Assistance Services and local law enforcement to eliminate the diversion of prescription drugs for illicit purposes
- Virginia Exile³³

Virginia Exile is designed to build upon the success of Project Exile, a Federal program started in Richmond in 1997. Virginia Exile's purpose is to break the link between guns and drugs, between guns and crime in general and to help put an end to gun violence.
- As of October 31, 2006, there were 22,872 full-time law enforcement employees in Virginia (17,672 officers and 5,200 civilians).³⁴

Trafficking and Seizures

- Cities along the I-95 corridor in Virginia are subject to "spillover" drug distribution from traffickers moving between the two major eastern drug importation hubs of New York City and Miami.³⁵

- Mexican trafficking organizations are making enormous inroads in the cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana distribution markets in nearly every part of the state.³⁶
- While Colombian and Dominican drug trafficking organizations in New York City remain the primary sources for most of the cocaine available in Virginia, many local traffickers are becoming more reliant on Mexican sources of supply.³⁷
- During 2006, Virginia State Police Drug Enforcement (DES) Regional Field Offices seized drugs valued at \$16,140,294.³⁸

Seizures Made by DES Units, Virginia, 2006

	Drugs	Currency	Vehicles	Weapons
DES Reg. Field Offices	\$16,140,294	\$899,251	52	184
Multi-jurisd. task forces	\$8,430,028	\$319,801	50	185
Federal task forces	\$3,579,870	--	--	4
GIANT*	\$13,592,125	\$217,803.62	26	86

* GIANT = Governor's Initiative Against Narcotics Trafficking

- Federal agencies seized more than 250 kilograms of cocaine in Virginia during 2006.³⁹

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Virginia, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	266.4 kilograms
Heroin	0.3 kilograms/374 dosage units
Methamphetamine	13.5 kilograms/13 dosage units
Marijuana	100.8 kilograms
MDMA	10,831 dosage units

- During 2006, there were 23 methamphetamine laboratories incidents in Virginia reported by the DEA and state and local authorities.⁴⁰

Methamphetamine Laboratories Incidents, Virginia, 2002-2006

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2002	10
2003	31
2004	75
2005	52
2006	23

- During 2006, 20,001 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Virginia as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁴¹

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Virginia, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Eradicated Plots</u>	<u>Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>	<u>Grows Seized</u>	<u>Plants Eradicated</u>	<u>Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>
259	18,272	49	1,729	20,001

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴²
As of April 16, 2007, there were 37 drug courts in existence or being planned in Virginia. Thirty-one drug courts had been operating for more than two years, 1 had recently been implemented and another 5 were being planned at that time.
- During FY 2006, 40.4% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Virginia had committed a drug offense. Approximately half (50.9%) of these drug offenses involved crack cocaine.⁴³

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Virginia, FY 2006

<u>Drug Type Involved</u>	<u>Offenses</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Powder cocaine	135	14.5%
Crack cocaine	473	50.9
Heroin	28	3.0
Marijuana	127	13.7
Methamphetamine	145	15.6
Other	21	2.3

Corrections

- The average number of Virginia state responsible offenders incarcerated in Virginia institutions in October 2007 was 32,663.⁴⁴
- At the end of October 2007, there were 58,154 active parolees and probationers under the supervision of the Virginia Department of Corrections.⁴⁵
- In FY 2006, there were 1,368 confined inmates in Virginia convicted of cocaine possession as their most serious offense, representing 3.8% of the total Virginia confined population in FY 2006.⁴⁶

Population by Most Serious Offense, Drug Offenses, Virginia, FY 2006

<u>Drug Offense Type</u>	<u>New Court Admissions</u>		<u>Confined Population</u>		<u>Releases</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Heroin sales	47	0.4%	152	0.4%	55	0.5%
Heroin possession	90	0.7	308	0.8	218	2.0
Cocaine sales	241	1.9	1,191	3.3	571	5.3
Cocaine possession	482	3.8	1,368	3.8	1,102	10.2
Other drug sales	717	5.7	753	2.1	194	1.8
Other drug possession	1,063	8.5	1,043	2.9	339	3.1
Other drug offense	90	0.7	197	0.5	146	1.3
Total drugs	2,730	21.8	5,012	13.8	2,625	24.3

Consequences of Use

- During 2005, authorities reported that there were 19 children affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Virginia.⁴⁷

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 35,197 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Virginia.⁴⁸ This is a decrease from the 36,878 admissions during 2005.⁴⁹ In 2004, there were 57,435 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in the state.⁵⁰

Admissions to Treatment, Virginia, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004		2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	8,729	15.2%	5,232	14.2%	4,892	13.9%
Alcohol with secondary drug	12,235	21.3	7,336	19.9	6,617	18.8
Cocaine (smoked)	8,364	14.6	5,083	13.8	4,382	12.4
Cocaine (other route)	2,396	4.2	1,625	4.4	1,445	4.1
Marijuana	9,467	16.5	6,205	16.8	6,197	17.6
Heroin	4,765	8.3	2,654	7.2	2,204	6.3
Other opiates	2,698	4.7	1,732	4.7	1,534	4.4
PCP	121	0.2	91	0.2	80	0.2
Hallucinogens	146	0.3	81	0.2	39	0.1
Amphetamines	545	0.9	514	1.4	351	1.0
Other stimulants	76	0.1	65	0.2	71	0.2
Tranquilizers	367	0.6	205	0.6	193	0.5
Sedatives	164	0.3	86	0.2	51	0.1
Inhalants	46	0.1	45	0.1	12	0.0
Other unknown	7,316	12.7	5,924	16.1	7,129	20.3
Total	57,435	100.0	36,878	100.0	35,197	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 136,000 (2.24%) Virginia citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁵¹

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³ Virginia Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/>

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⁵ Virginia Attorney General Web site: <http://www.oag.state.va.us/>

⁶ Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth Web site: <http://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/>

⁷ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>

⁸ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov>

⁹ City of Richmond Web site: <http://www.richmondgov.com/>

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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:

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>

