

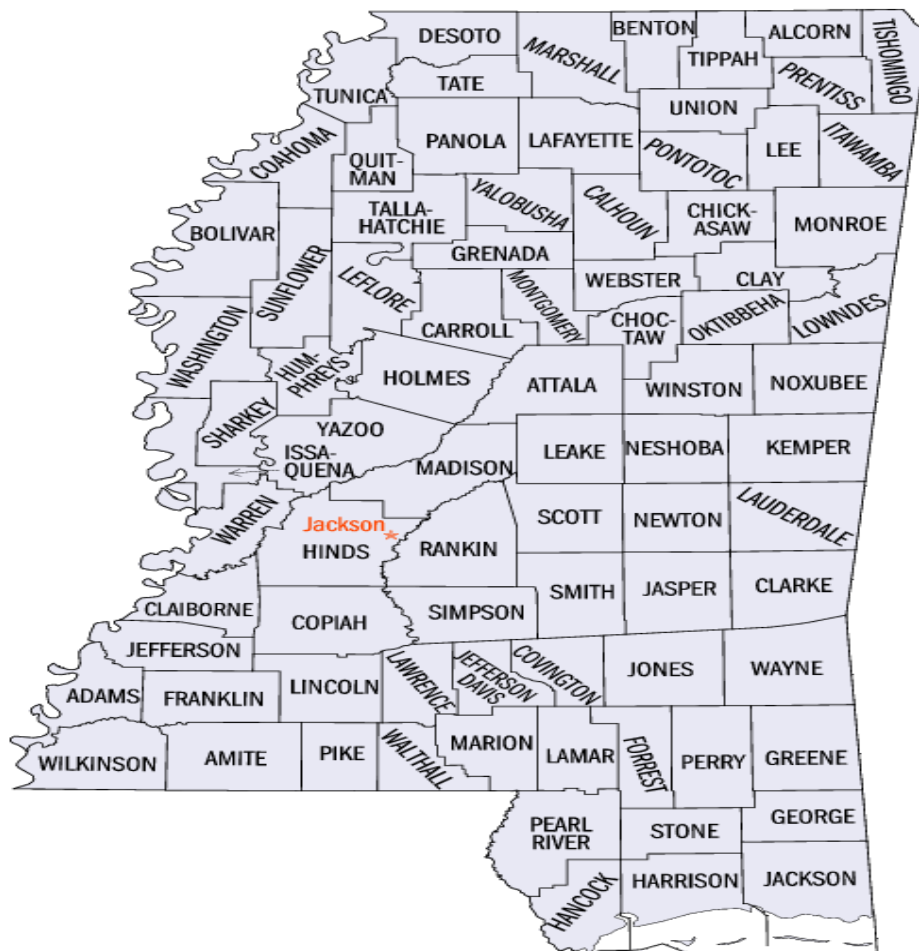
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Mississippi

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 2008



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.

Mississippi

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 2,910,540¹
- Race/ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 60.1% white; 37.4% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.8% Asian; 0.0% Native Mississippian/other Pacific Islander; 0.6% other race; 0.7% two or more races; 1.6% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Haley Barbour³
- Lt. Governor: Phil Bryant⁴
- Attorney General: Jim Hood⁵
- Secretary of State: Delbert Hosemann⁶
- Senate Members: Thad Cochran (R); Roger Wicker (R)⁷
- House Members: Travis W. Childers (D); Bennie Thompson (D); Charles Pickering (R); Gene Taylor (D)⁸
- Capital: Jackson⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA consists of areas in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. The following Mississippi counties fall within the Gulf Coast HIDTA area of responsibility: Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Madison and Rankin.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 186 arrests for drug violations in Mississippi.¹¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Mississippi, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	321
2004	292
2005	140
2006	196
2007	186

- There were 16,190 total drug arrests reported in Mississippi during 2006.¹²

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Mississippi, 2006

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	14	155
Forcible rape	16	203
Robbery	139	624
Aggravated assault	91	1,268
Burglary	604	2,245
Larceny-theft	1,195	6,981
Motor vehicle theft	115	525
Arson	17	106
Drug abuse violations	994	16,190
Driving under the influence	129	11,250
Liquor law violations	241	3,022

Drugs

- Cocaine¹³
Cocaine, primarily crack, is the primary drug threat in Mississippi due to the availability of the drug and its high addiction rate. Cocaine abuse is reported in Mississippi's metropolitan cities as well as its rural areas. The abuse and distribution of cocaine is associated with more incidents of violent crime than any other drug within the state.
- Heroin¹⁴
Heroin is considered a minimal drug threat in Mississippi due to the low demand and high cost of the drug.
- Methamphetamine¹⁵
Methamphetamine is the second most serious drug threat in Mississippi due to its increasing availability, low cost, rapid growth of abuse and its threat to human life and the environment.
- Marijuana¹⁶
Marijuana continues to be the most commonly used drug in Mississippi. Reports indicate it is the gateway drug for teens and young adults who are beginning to experiment with drugs.
- Club Drugs¹⁷
Club drugs are available usually in small quantities throughout Mississippi, especially around university towns. Furthermore, MDMA has become the most prevalent and popular of the club drugs in Mississippi.
- Other Drugs¹⁸
Law enforcement officials report the continued abuse of OxyContin in Mississippi.
- According to 2005-2006 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 177,000 (7%) of Mississippi citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.¹⁹

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, Mississippi, 2005-2006 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	177	7.49%
Past year marijuana use	199	8.45
Past month marijuana use	120	5.11
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	88	3.75
Past year cocaine use	46	1.95
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	102	4.33

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 1.2 million (51.97%) Mississippi citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁰
- Additional 2005-2006 NSDUH results indicate that 72,000 (3.07%) Mississippi citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 47,000 (2.00%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²¹

Juveniles

- Results of a 2007 survey of Mississippi high school students indicate that approximately 36% reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²²

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Mississippi, 2007

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	31.1%	41.0%	35.9%
Current marijuana use	14.3	19.0	16.7
Lifetime cocaine use	4.1	6.5	5.3
Current cocaine use	1.8	3.5	2.7
Lifetime inhalant use	10.9	14.6	12.6
Lifetime heroin use	1.4	4.7	3.1
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.6	5.7	4.2
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.8	9.5	7.1
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.4	5.4	4.0
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.4	4.3	2.9
Tried marijuana before age 13	4.3	11.0	7.8

- Approximately 38% of Mississippi 12th graders surveyed in 2007 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.²³

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

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	29.9%	35.1%	42.3%	38.3%
Current marijuana use	15.2	15.7	21.0	14.2
Lifetime cocaine use	7.5	2.8	5.2	5.0
Current cocaine use	4.3	0.9	2.5	2.3
Lifetime inhalant use	15.8	13.3	11.5	8.1
Lifetime heroin use	4.0	2.1	2.9	2.5

Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.2	4.1	4.6	3.6
Lifetime ecstasy use	7.0	7.1	7.4	6.8
Lifetime illegal steroid use	5.1	3.8	3.3	2.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	3.9	3.6	1.6	1.6
Tried marijuana before age 13	10.0	6.8	6.5	5.3

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 9% of Mississippi 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁴

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, Mississippi, 2005-2006 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	22	8.59%
Past year marijuana use	27	10.65
Past month marijuana use	14	5.36
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	12	4.64
Past year cocaine use	3	1.23
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	18	6.79

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 9,200 full-time law enforcement employees in Mississippi (5,624 officers and 3,576 civilians).²⁵

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mississippi is ideally suited with its interstate system, deepwater and river ports and air and rail systems as the “Crossroads of the South” to facilitate drug movement from the south Texas/Mexico area and Gulf ports to the Midwest and Eastern Seaboard of the United States.²⁶
- Most of the powder cocaine in Mississippi is transported via private and commercial motor vehicles on Interstates 10 and 20 by Colombian and Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) as well as African American criminal groups. African American street gangs and local independent dealers convert most of the powder cocaine into crack cocaine for retail sales.²⁷
- Caucasian independent groups are the primary producers of methamphetamine manufactured in Mississippi, although African American independent groups are becoming involved in the distribution of methamphetamine.²⁸
- Mexican marijuana is commonly transported into and through Mississippi along primary transportation routes. Criminal groups usually transport smaller shipments to reduce the effects of high volume seizures; however, recent reporting indicates that shipments are increasing in size.²⁹
- During 2007, the DEA and state and local authorities in Mississippi reported 137 methamphetamine lab incidents.³⁰

Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, Mississippi, 2003-2007

Year	# of Lab Incidents
2003	336
2004	170
2005	184
2006	145
2007	137

- There were approximately 777 kilograms of marijuana seized by Federal agencies in Mississippi during 2007.³¹

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Mississippi, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	56.1 kilograms
Heroin	0.0 kilograms
Methamphetamine	0.4 kilograms/5 dosage units
Marijuana	777.1 kilograms
MDMA	1,084 dosage units

- During 2007, there were 2,400 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in Mississippi under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³²

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated/Seized, Mississippi, 2007

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
109	2,167	10	233	2,400

Courts

- Drug Courts³³
As of August 11, 2008, there were 31 drug courts in existence or being planned in Mississippi. Twenty drug courts had been operating for at least two years, 7 had recently been implemented and 4 were being planned at that time.
- Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals³⁴
This organization seeks to expand drug court programs throughout the state and to create educational opportunities for drug court professionals.
- During FY 2007, 31.3% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Mississippi had committed a drug offense. Approximately one-third of these drug offenses involved crack cocaine.³⁵

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Mississippi, FY 2007

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	39	20.1%
Crack cocaine	65	33.5

Heroin	2	1.0
Marijuana	33	17.0
Methamphetamine	45	23.2
Other	10	5.2

Corrections

- On September 1, 2008, more than 9,000 inmates under the supervision of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) had committed drug offenses.³⁶

Number of MDOC Inmates, by Offense, September 1, 2008

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	9,465	36.02%
Property	7,313	27.83
Violent	9,496	36.14
Total	26,274	100.00

- There were more than 9,000 drug offenders on probation in Mississippi on September 1, 2008.³⁷

Number of MDOC Probationers, by Offense, September 1, 2008

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	9,103	40.28%
Property	10,589	46.85
Violent	2,908	12.87
Total	22,600	100.00

- There were 1,262 drug offenders on parole in Mississippi on September 1, 2008.³⁸

Number of MDOC Parolees, by Offense, September 1, 2008

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	1,262	44.72%
Property	929	32.92
Violent	631	22.36
Total	2,822	100.00

- During FY 2007, the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) Therapeutic Community (TC) program served 1,499 inmates. Treatment programs were also available at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI), the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF), Community Pre-Release Centers and the Community Work Centers (CWC).³⁹

Number of Inmates Participating in Alcohol/Drug Programs, Mississippi, FY 2007

Program	Served	Completed	Capacity
MSP – TC	1,499	589	432
MSP – TC Aftercare	215	95	60

MSP – Special Needs (Disability Unit)	8	6	20
MSP – Special Needs	89	23	48
CMCF – Program for Females	482	300	232
CMCF – Program for Males (Disability Unit)	70	52	16
SMCI – Regimented Inmate Discipline Area	329	280	19
SMCI – General Population Program Area	959	607	178
Community Pre-Release Centers	587	381	132
Flowood CWC	28	25	n/a
Alcoholics Anonymous at 14 CWCs	351	117	n/a

Consequences of Use

- During 2007, authorities reported that there were 46 children affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Mississippi.⁴⁰

Treatment

- There were 7,368 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Mississippi in 2006.⁴¹
During 2005, there were 8,587 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Mississippi.⁴²
There were 10,079 treatment admissions during 2004.⁴³

Admissions to Treatment, Mississippi, 2004-2006

Drug Type	<u>2004</u>		<u>2005</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	1,953	19.4%	1,540	17.9%	1,168	15.9%
Alc. w/ second. drug	1,756	17.4	1,464	17.0	1,275	17.3
Cocaine – smoked	1,675	16.6	1,535	17.9	1,299	17.6
Cocaine – other route	564	5.6	455	5.3	481	6.5
Marijuana	2,007	19.9	1,521	17.7	1,260	17.1
Heroin	76	0.8	53	0.6	43	0.6
Other opiates	652	6.5	577	6.7	553	7.5
PCP	3	0.0	4	0.0	1	0.0
Hallucinogens	22	0.2	21	0.2	15	0.2
Amphetamines	614	6.1	617	7.2	457	6.2
Other stimulants	7	0.1	3	0.0	8	0.1
Tranquilizers	113	1.1	103	1.2	80	1.1
Sedatives	26	0.3	22	0.3	25	0.3
Inhalants	15	0.1	7	0.1	5	0.1
Other/none specified	596	5.9	665	7.7	698	9.5
Total	10,079	100.0	8,587	100.0	7,368	100.0

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 66,000 (2.81%) Mississippi citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁴

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