

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New Jersey

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.

New Jersey

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

Demographics

- Population (2007 American Community Survey): 8,685,920¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2007 American Community Survey): 70.7% white; 13.9% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 7.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 7.6% other; 1.6% two or more races; 15.9% Hispanic/Latino origin²

Politics

- Governor: Jon Corzine³
- Attorney General: Anne Milgram⁴
- Secretary of State: Nina Mitchell Wells⁵
- U.S. Senate: Robert Menendez (D); Frank Lautenberg (D)⁶
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-13, respectively) Robert E. Andrews (D); Frank LoBiondo (R); John Adler (D); Christopher Smith (R); Scott Garrett (R); Frank Pallone Jr. (D); Leonard Lance (R); Bill Pascrell Jr. (D); Steven Rothman (D); Donald M. Payne (D); Rodney Frelinghuysen (R); Rush Holt (D); Albio Sires (D)⁷
- Capital: Trenton⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
 - New York/New Jersey HIDTA: Designated in 1990, this HIDTA is responsible for areas of New York and the following New Jersey counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union.⁹
 - Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA: Designated in 1995, this HIDTA is responsible for Philadelphia County in Pennsylvania and the City of Camden in New Jersey.¹⁰
- Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA)¹¹

GCADA is an independent body that reviews and coordinates New Jersey's efforts regarding the education, prevention, treatment, research and evaluation for, and public awareness of, alcoholism and drug abuse.
- New Jersey Division of Addiction Services (DAS)¹²

DAS promotes the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and support the recovery of individuals affected by the chronic disease of addiction. DAS is responsible for regulating, licensing, monitoring, planning and funding substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery support services in New Jersey.
- Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ)¹³

PDFNJ is a state anti-drug alliance which seeks to localize, strengthen, and deepen drug-prevention media efforts.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 655 drug arrests in New Jersey.¹⁴

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, New Jersey, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	554
2004	801
2005	786
2006	677
2007	655

- During 2008, there were 26 juvenile and 256 adult homicide arrests in New Jersey. During 2007, there were 38 juvenile and 238 adult arrests for murder in New Jersey.¹⁵

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, New Jersey, 2007-2008

Offense	<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Murder	38	238	26	256
Rape	56	351	63	315
Robbery	1,465	2,647	1,466	2,962
Aggravated assault	1,621	7,651	1,453	7,657
Burglary	1,651	4,479	1,595	5,112
Larceny-theft	6,234	19,502	6,416	21,079
Motor vehicle theft	253	746	240	713
Drug abuse violations	6,672	49,589	5,930	49,002
DUI	413	30,035	369	28,336
Liquor laws	2,960	6,183	2,640	5,399

- There were more than 40,000 drug arrests in New Jersey during 2008 for the use or possession of drugs.¹⁶

Number of Possession/Use Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 2007-2008

Drug Type	2007	2008
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	17,694	16,654
Marijuana/hashish	22,135	22,453
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	936	1,124
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	2,086	1,942
Total possession/use arrests	42,851	42,173

- During 2008, there were 12,759 arrests in New Jersey for the sale/manufacture of drugs.¹⁷

Number of Sale/Manufacture Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 2007-2008

Drug Type	2007	2008
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	9,278	8,291
Marijuana/hashish	3,347	3,603
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	447	521
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	338	344
Total sale/manufacture arrests	13,410	12,759

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁸
Cocaine remains the most popular drug in New Jersey and is the drug of choice for many abusers within the state. Crack remains readily available throughout the state and remains the drug of choice in many lower income communities.
- Heroin¹⁹
Heroin is the most prevalent drug of abuse in the New Jersey area. Heroin's high purity (among the highest in the nation as evidenced by the Domestic Monitor Program analyses) and low price has attracted numerous new users over the last few years, especially among adolescents in suburban areas.
- Methamphetamine²⁰
Methamphetamine is the most available and widely used clandestinely manufactured drug in the Southern New Jersey area.
- Marijuana²¹
Marijuana is the most widely available and frequently abused illicit drug in New Jersey. The majority of the marijuana encountered in the state is of Mexican origin, although marijuana from Canada and Jamaica has also been encountered.
- Pharmaceutical Diversion²²
The most commonly abused pharmaceuticals in New Jersey are Percocet, OxyContin, Xanax, Vicodin/Vicodin ES, and Hydrocodone/Hydrocodone products. Additionally, the most commonly abused chemicals are GBL, Pseudoephedrine, and Ephedrine.
- According to 2006-2007 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 469,000 (6%) New Jersey citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²³

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	469	6.48%
Past year marijuana use	659	9.10
Past month marijuana use	337	4.66
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	217	3.00
Past year cocaine use	136	1.88
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	257	3.55

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 2.9 million (40.37%) New Jersey citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a "great risk".²⁴
- Additional 2006-2007 NSDUH results indicate that 167,000 (2.30%) New Jersey citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 113,000 (1.56%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁵

Juveniles

- Approximately 11% of New Jersey high school students surveyed during 2007 reported abusing inhalants at least once in their lifetime.²⁶

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, New Jersey, 2007

Drug Type and Use	Percent Reporting Use
Lifetime marijuana use	36.3%
Current marijuana use	19.4
Lifetime cocaine use	5.5
Current cocaine use	2.7
Lifetime inhalant use	10.5
Lifetime heroin use	2.1
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.1
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.8
Lifetime club drug use	2.7
Lifetime hallucinogenic drug use	6.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.5
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.7

- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 60,000 (8%) New Jersey 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁷

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	60	8.32%
Past year marijuana use	89	12.22
Past month marijuana use	42	5.75
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	28	3.82
Past year cocaine use	9	1.29
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	37	5.05

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of 2008, there were 52,618 full-time law enforcement employees in New Jersey (39,521 officers and 13,097 civilians).²⁸

Trafficking and Seizures

- New Jersey is considered an ideal strategic as well as a vulnerable corridor for transportation of drug contraband and illicit currency.²⁹
- New Jersey continues to be a major artery for international cocaine trafficking organizations. Cocaine arrives into New Jersey directly from South American ports as well as the Southwest Border via commercial and private vehicles.³⁰
- A shift in focus by the South American cocaine traffickers from the United States market to the European markets might have increased the cost of cocaine destined for New Jersey because of the increased risk versus the risk of exporting to Europe. In addition, several intelligence sources indicate that the appearance of a shortage in cocaine is a business scheme by the New Jersey based sources of supply to drive up prices/profits.³¹

- Traditionally, methamphetamine production has been associated with Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, independent chemists, and Traditional Organized Crime. Filipino traffickers are also importing large amounts of methamphetamine from Mexico and the Philippines.³²
- There were 3 methamphetamine lab incidents reported by the DEA and state and local authorities New Jersey during 2008.³³

Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, New Jersey, 2004-2008

Year	Number of Lab Incidents
2004	0
2005	3
2006	5
2007	1
2008	3

- During 2008, Federal agencies seized more than 1,500 kilograms of cocaine in New Jersey.³⁴

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, New Jersey, 2008

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	1,575.2 kilograms
Heroin	136.6 kilograms
Methamphetamine	74.6 kilograms
Marijuana	946.8 kilograms
Hashish	20.8 kilograms
MDMA	3,376 dosage units

- During 2008, more than 2,500 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in New Jersey as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁵

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, New Jersey, 2008

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
49	842	35	1,757	2,599

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁶
As of July 14, 2009, there were 27 drug courts in New Jersey that had been operating for at least two years and 3 that were being planned.
- During FY 2008, 33.1% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in New Jersey committed a drug offense. Approximately 30% of the drug cases involved powder cocaine.³⁷

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, New Jersey, FY 2008

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Powder cocaine	98	29.6%
Crack cocaine	96	29.0
Heroin	65	19.6
Marijuana	16	4.8
Methamphetamine	18	5.4
Other	38	11.5

Corrections

- On January 1, 2009, there were 25,436 offenders in New Jersey correctional institutions. Approximately 29% of the inmates committed drug offenses.³⁸

Offenders in Correctional Institutions, by Base Offense, New Jersey, January 1, 2009

Base Offense	# of Offenders	% of Total
Violent	12,602	50%
Property	2,832	11
Public Policy	1,225	5
Weapons	1,199	5
Drugs	7,377	29
Not coded	201	1
Total offenders	25,436	100

- Virtually all of the drug offenses resulting in incarceration were for sale and distribution.³⁹
- At the end of 2007 (December 31), there were 126,390 adults on probation and 15,043 adults on parole in New Jersey.⁴⁰

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were no children in New Jersey affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2008.⁴¹
- There were 674 fatal crashes and 724 fatalities in New Jersey during 2007. Seventy-Two drivers, 15 passengers, 13 pedestrians and 3 pedalcyclists tested positive for drugs.⁴²
- Since mid-April 2006, there have been at least 133 deaths related to the use of non-pharmaceutical fentanyl in New Jersey.⁴³

Treatment

- There were 64,838 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New Jersey during 2008.⁴⁴ During 2007, there were 60,243 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New Jersey.⁴⁵ There were 55,870 treatment admissions during 2006.⁴⁶

Admissions to Treatment, New Jersey, 2006-2008

Drug Type	2006		2007		2008	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	9,851	17.6%	10,643	17.7%	12,223	18.9%
Alc. w/ second. drug	7,036	12.6	7,949	13.2	8,896	13.7
Cocaine – smoked	3,856	6.9	4,074	6.8	3,669	5.7
Cocaine – other route	2,568	4.6	2,753	4.6	2,396	3.7
Marijuana	7,537	13.5	8,160	13.5	9,558	14.7
Heroin	21,405	38.3	22,091	36.7	22,634	34.9
Other opiates	2,691	4.8	3,468	5.8	4,113	6.3
PCP	150	0.3	206	0.3	333	0.5
Hallucinogens	24	0.0	28	0.0	34	0.1
Amphetamines	190	0.3	203	0.3	189	0.3
Tranquilizers	351	0.6	415	0.7	522	0.8
Sedatives	35	0.1	35	0.1	33	0.1
Inhalants	7	0.0	8	0.0	13	0.0
Other/none specified	169	0.3	210	0.3	225	0.3
Total	55,870	100.0	60,243	100.0	64,838	100.0

- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 139,000 (1.92%) New Jersey citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁷

Sources

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² Ibid.

³ New Jersey Governor Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/>

⁴ New Jersey Office of the Attorney General Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/>

⁵ New Jersey Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/state/>

⁶ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>

⁷ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

⁸ New Jersey Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/>

⁹ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/newyork_newjersey.html

¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Philadelphia/Camden High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/phil_camden.html

¹¹ Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/gcada/>

¹² New Jersey Division of Addiction Services Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/das/home/index.html>

¹³ Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey Web site: <http://www.drugfreenj.org/>

¹⁴ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 New Jersey State Factsheet: http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/state_factsheets/newjersey.html

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- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ Ibid.
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- ⁴⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2007, Statistical Tables* December 2008: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus07st.pdf>
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