

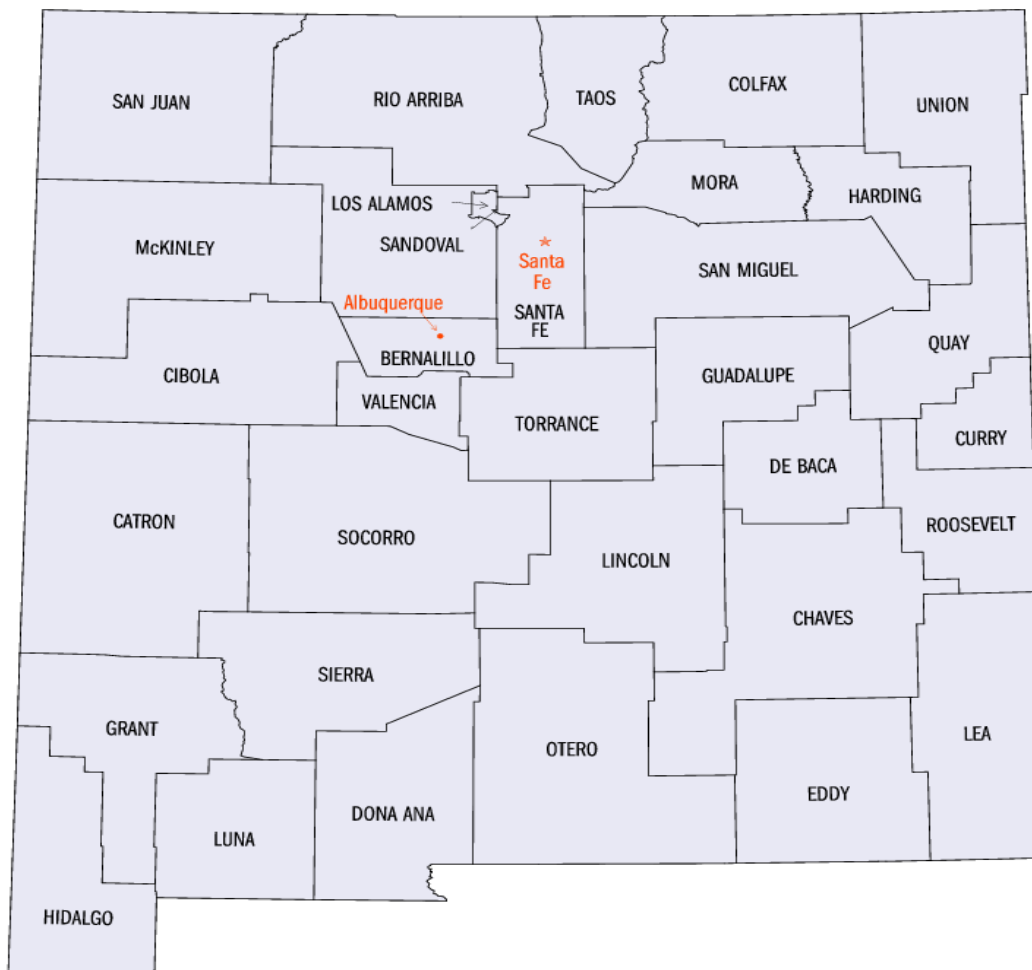
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New Mexico

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 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.

New Mexico

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 1,954,599¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 67.8% white; 2.0% black/African American; 9.7% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.3% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 15.8% other; 3.2% two or more races; 44.0% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Bill Richardson³
- Lt. Governor: Diane Denish⁴
- Attorney General: Gary King⁵
- Secretary of State: Mary Herrera⁶
- U.S. Senate: Jeff Bingaman (D); Pete Domenici (R)⁷
- U.S. House of Representatives: Heather Wilson (R); Stevan Pearce (R); Tom Udall (D)⁸
- Capital: Santa Fe⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1990, the Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Region is responsible for the following counties: Bernalillo, Chaves, Hidalgo, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Valencia and Torrance.
- New Mexico Drug Endangered Children Program¹¹
The New Mexico Drug Endangered Children program provides information about the hazards associated with meth labs and meth production.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 485 drug arrests in New Mexico.¹²

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

Year	Arrests
2003	534
2004	690
2005	645
2006	556
2007	485

- There were 5,775 arrests for drug abuse violations in New Mexico during 2006.¹³

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, New Mexico, 2006

Offense	Juveniles	Total All Ages
Murder	2	67
Forcible rape	13	99
Aggravated assault	50	350
Robbery	334	2,290
Burglary	266	984
Larceny	1,102	4,039
Motor vehicle theft	92	421
Arson	44	76
Drug abuse violations	927	5,775
Driving under the influence	144	8,441
Liquor laws	620	3,716

Drugs

➤ Cocaine¹⁴

Cocaine is readily available for distribution throughout New Mexico in gram to ounce quantities for local consumption. Local law enforcement authorities consistently rank cocaine and crack cocaine distribution and use as one of the state's most prominent drug problems.

➤ Heroin¹⁵

Heroin availability has steadily increased in New Mexico over the last five years as evidenced by the increase in kilogram seizures and a steady decrease in price.

➤ Marijuana¹⁶

Marijuana is the most readily available drug in New Mexico. The majority of the marijuana found in the state is produced in Mexico.

➤ Methamphetamine¹⁷

Methamphetamine is available in multi-kilogram quantities in the state.

➤ Club Drugs¹⁸

MDMA, ketamine, LSD and GHB are all available throughout New Mexico, primarily in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Rave parties are frequently held in the area, often in remote locations on U.S. Forest Service lands.

➤ Other Drugs¹⁹

Several drugs in this category are available in New Mexico because of El Paso's close proximity to Juarez, Mexico, where purchases can be made over-the-counter from unscrupulous pharmacists.

➤ According to 2005-2006 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 132,000 (8%) New Mexico citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁰

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	132	8.34%
Past year marijuana use	163	10.30

Past month marijuana use	96	6.08
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	61	3.83
Past year cocaine use	36	2.30
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	86	5.42

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 627,000 (39.60%) New Mexico citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²¹
- Additional 2005-2006 NSDUH results indicate that 42,000 (2.64%) New Mexico citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 29,000 (1.80%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²²

Juveniles

- According to a 2005 survey of New Mexico high school students, approximately 26% of surveyed students reported being current users of marijuana (used within the past month).²³

Percent of Students Reporting Drug-Related Behavior, by Gender, New Mexico, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Tried marijuana before age 13	16.5%	24.6%	20.7%
Current marijuana use	24.3	27.9	26.2
Used marijuana on school property	6.0	10.8	8.4
Current cocaine use	5.1	10.2	7.9
Lifetime illegal injection drug use	2.9	5.5	4.3

- Additional survey results show that approximately 30% of New Mexico high school seniors reported being current users of marijuana (used within the past month).²⁴

Percent of Students Reporting Drug-Related Behavior, by Grade, New Mexico, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Tried marijuana before age 13	24.5%	19.4%	21.2%	15.4%
Current marijuana use	24.2	25.2	27.1	29.9
Used marijuana on school property	8.6	9.0	7.6	7.9
Current cocaine use	6.2	7.2	10.1	8.6
Lifetime illegal injection drug use	4.3	3.1	4.0	5.9

- Approximately one-third (33.5%) of New Mexico students surveyed in 2005 reported being either offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property.²⁵
- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 20,000 (12%) New Mexico 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁶

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	20	11.66%
Past year marijuana use	28	15.89

Past month marijuana use	14	7.79
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	10	5.50
Past year cocaine use	3	1.97
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	14	8.11

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 4,731 full-time law enforcement employees in New Mexico (3,421 officers and 1,310 civilians).²⁷

Trafficking and Seizures

- Most of the New Mexico/Mexico border area is open desert, barren and generally uninhabited. This terrain offers drug smugglers easy access into the United States and to major interstate highways.²⁸
- The most significant drug threat in New Mexico is the transshipment of drugs and drug proceeds by Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (MDTOs). These MDTOs have also established local poly-drug distribution organizations that are capable of distributing multiple kilogram quantities locally and regionally.²⁹
- Ethnic gangs are the primary distributors of crack cocaine in urban areas. Of special concern is the high level of violence associated with crack cocaine traffickers.³⁰
- The number of New Mexico methamphetamine lab incidents reported by the DEA and state and local authorities decreased from 194 in 2003 to 19 in 2007.³¹

Methamphetamine Lab Incidents, New Mexico, 2003-2007

Year	# of Incidents
2003	194
2004	120
2005	59
2006	33
2007	19

- During 2007, Federal agencies seized more than 200 kilograms of cocaine in New Mexico.³²

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, New Mexico, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	224.1 kilograms
Heroin	5.0 kilograms
Methamphetamine	45.6 kilograms
Marijuana	37,888.6 kilograms
MDMA	2,068 dosage units

- During 2006, more than 3,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in New Mexico as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³³

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, New Mexico, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
27	2,502	7	753	3,255

Courts

➤ Drug Courts³⁴

As of April 2007, there were 34 drug courts in New Mexico that had been operating for at least two years, 4 that had recently been implemented and 17 that were being planned.

➤ During FY 2006, 24.2% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in New Mexico committed a drug offense. Approximately 60% of the drug cases involved marijuana.³⁵

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, New Mexico, FY 2006

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Powder cocaine	59	8.6%
Crack cocaine	21	3.1
Heroin	42	6.1
Marijuana	414	60.3
Methamphetamine	147	21.4
Other	4	0.6

➤ Drug trafficking and immigration cases are putting strain on the Federal judicial and corrections system in New Mexico. The U.S. District Court in New Mexico has the highest case load per judgeship in the nation and is the fourth busiest court overall in the United States.³⁶

Corrections

➤ There were 5,906 male and 620 female inmates within the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) on June 30, 2007. The probation/parole population at that time was 13,598.³⁷

➤ On June 30, 2007, there were 1,486 inmates had committed drug possession or distribution offenses as reported by the NMCD.³⁸

Most Common Offenses Committed by Inmates, New Mexico, June 30, 2007

Offense Type	Males	Females
Burglary	1,109	52
Drug possession	698	155
Battery	804	15
Murder	720	30
Drug distribution	509	124
Evidence tampering	543	24

Sex Crimes	526	1
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Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 6 children in New Mexico affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2007.³⁹
- During 2006, approximately 8% of HIV/AIDS cases reported by the New Mexico Department of Health HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program were related to injection drug use.⁴⁰
- During 2005, there were 379 drug-induced deaths in New Mexico (255 males and 124 females).⁴¹

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 10,397 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New Mexico.⁴² There were 7,830 such treatment admissions reported in the state during 2005.⁴³

Admissions to Treatment, New Mexico, 2005-2006

Drug Type	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,131	27.2%	3,613	34.8%
Alcohol with secondary drug	1,395	17.8	1,525	14.7
Cocaine (smoked)	256	3.3	324	3.1
Cocaine (other route)	248	3.2	327	3.1
Marijuana	498	6.4	635	6.1
Heroin	764	9.8	668	6.4
Other opiates	188	2.4	232	2.2
Hallucinogens	3	0.0	1	0.0
Amphetamines	557	7.1	740	7.1
Other stimulants	1	0.0	2	0.0
Tranquilizers	13	0.2	14	0.1
Sedatives	6	0.1	9	0.1
Inhalants	2	0.0	11	0.1
Other/none specified	1,768	22.6	2,296	22.1
Total	7,830	100.0	10,397	100.0

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 39,000 (2.44%) New Mexico citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁴

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

² Ibid.

³ New Mexico Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.nm.us/>

⁴ New Mexico Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.nm.us/lsgov.php>

⁵ New Mexico Attorney General Web site: <http://www.nmag.gov/>

⁶ New Mexico Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.nm.us/>

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- ⁷ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>
- ⁸ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>
- ⁹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/>
- ¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/New Mexico Region Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/nmex.html>
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