

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Tennessee

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 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.

Tennessee

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 5,810,590¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 79.6% white, 16.4% black/African American, 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native, 1.3% Asian, 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.2% other, 1.2% two or more races, 3.0% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Phil Bredesen³
- Lt. Governor: John Shelton Wilder⁴
- Secretary of State: Riley Darnell⁵
- Attorney General: Robert E. Cooper, Jr.⁶
- U.S. Senate: Lamar Alexander (R), Bob Corker (R)⁷
- U.S. House of Representatives: David Davis (R), John Duncan, Jr. (R), Zach Wamp (R), Lincoln Davis (D), Jim Cooper (D), Bart Gordon (D), Marsha Blackburn (R), John Tanner (D), Steve Cohen (D)⁸
- Capital: Nashville

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1998, the Appalachia HIDTA is responsible for counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Tennessee. The following Tennessee counties are involved in Appalachia HIDTA efforts: Bledsoe, Campbell, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Macon, Marion, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Unicoi, Van Buren and White.
- MethWatch¹⁰
MethWatch is a public-private partnership designed to help citizens, law enforcement agencies and retailers fight the spread of methamphetamine.
- MethFree Tennessee¹¹
The MethFree Tennessee Web site provides information about the impact of meth on the user, the community and others that may come in contact with the substance.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2005, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 334 arrests for drug violations in Tennessee.¹²

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Tennessee, 2002-2006

Year	Number of Arrests
2002	386
2003	230

2004	298
2005	319
2006	334

- From 2005 to 2006, the number of drug offenses on Tennessee's college campuses decreased 10.5%, from 660 in 2005 to 591 in 2006.¹³

Number of Drug Offenses Reported on College Campuses, Tennessee, 2003-2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Drug/narcotic violations	244	342	418	369
Drug equipment violations	147	179	242	222
Total	391	521	660	591

- During 2006, there were 409 murders reported to law enforcement in Tennessee.¹⁴

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, Tennessee, 2006

Offense Type	# of Offenses
Murder	409
Forcible rape	2,165
Robbery	11,207
Aggravated assault	32,390
Burglary	63,014
Theft	166,984
Motor vehicle theft	22,031
Arson	1,401
Drug/narcotic violations	41,937
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	21,292

- There were 306 adult arrests for murder in Tennessee during 2006.¹⁵

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Tennessee, 2006

Offense Type	Adult Arrests	Juvenile Arrests
Murder	306	36
Forcible rape	297	59
Robbery	2,370	460
Aggravated assault	10,030	1,219
Burglary	5,173	1,417
Theft	20,139	3,899
Motor vehicle theft	2,245	506
Arson	170	98
Drug/narcotic violations	34,887	3,429
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	8,445	289

- The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation reports that there were more than 7,000 drug-related offenses involving crack cocaine during 2006.¹⁶

Number of Drug-Related Offenses, by Drug Type, Tennessee, 2006

Drug Type Involved	# of Offenses
Crack cocaine	7,586
Powder cocaine	2,094
Methamphetamine	1,631
Processed marijuana	16,427
Cultivated marijuana	2,770
Ecstasy	176
GHB	3
Ketamine	6
Heroin	76
Oxycodone	252
Hydrocodone	862
Other prescription drugs	3,550
Other non- prescription drugs	393

- In 23,931 of the 44,399 drug/narcotic violations known to police during 2006, the offender was suspected of using drugs.¹⁷

Offenses in which Offender Suspected of Using, Select Offenses, Tennessee, 2006

Offense Type	Alcohol	Drugs
Murder	29	18
Forcible rape	256	116
Robbery	229	331
Aggravated assault	3,333	1,116
Burglary	535	748
Theft	1,682	2,067
Motor vehicle theft	283	337
Arson	34	10
Drug/narcotic violations	2,960	23,931
Drug/narcotic equipment violations	1,557	10,500

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁸
Cocaine is most commonly consumed in crack form. Crack is the most popular drug of abuse among Tennessee residents.
- Heroin¹⁹
The use of heroin has remained stable over the last six years and is generally limited to a small number of long time users.
- Marijuana²⁰
Marijuana abuse is a serious problem in Tennessee, especially in rural areas of the state.

- Methamphetamine²¹
The availability and demand for methamphetamine continues to increase throughout Tennessee. Much of the methamphetamine consumed in the state is transported from Mexico and states along the Southwest Border.
- Club Drugs²²
Tennessee has a growing Club Drugs problem. These drugs are frequently sold at Raves and have been identified in the cities of Nashville and Knoxville.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals²³
Investigations indicate that the diversion hydrocodone products and pseudoephedrine/ephedrine continues to be a problem in Tennessee. OxyContin®, methadone, morphine and Xanax® are the most commonly abused pharmaceuticals in the state.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 394,000 (8%) of Tennessee citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁴

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	394	7.99%
Past year marijuana use	505	10.26
Past month marijuana use	288	5.85
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	194	3.93
Past year cocaine use	111	2.25
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	271	5.50

* The number of users is in thousands

- Nearly 2 million (51.1%) Tennessee citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁵
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 55,000 (3.15%) Tennessee citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 103,000 (2.09%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁶

Juveniles

- Results of a 2005 survey of Tennessee high school students indicate that 42% reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²⁷

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Tennessee, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	38.6%	45.0%	41.9%
Current marijuana use	16.6	22.4	19.5
Lifetime cocaine use	8.6	8.7	8.7
Current cocaine use	2.4	3.8	3.1
Lifetime inhalant use	12.6	11.6	12.2
Lifetime heroin use	1.7	1.9	1.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	6.0	5.3	5.6
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.9	5.8	5.3

Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.7	5.0	3.9
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.3	2.2	1.8
Tried marijuana before age 13	6.7	11.6	9.2

- Approximately 15% of Tennessee 12th graders surveyed in 2005 reported using cocaine at least once during their lifetime.²⁸

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, Tennessee, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	32.6%	39.9%	44.4%	55.0%
Current marijuana use	16.1	19.8	18.8	24.9
Lifetime cocaine use	5.3	7.9	9.1	14.5
Current cocaine use	1.4	3.9	2.4	5.5
Lifetime inhalant use	14.4	13.8	9.4	10.2
Lifetime heroin use	2.3	2.5	1.8	0.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.4	5.6	5.0	8.3
Lifetime ecstasy use	3.4	5.7	6.2	6.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.2	4.0	2.9	5.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.6	2.7	1.0	1.7
Tried marijuana before age 13	11.8	6.8	8.9	8.7

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 10% of Tennessee 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁹

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	48	10.03%
Past year marijuana use	65	13.58
Past month marijuana use	29	5.98
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	26	5.49
Past year cocaine use	7	1.51
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	43	8.99

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication³⁰
Created in 1983, the Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication (GTFME) works to seek out and eradicate marijuana found growing in Tennessee; arrest and prosecute individuals who knowingly participate in this activity; collect and utilize intelligence data; maintain accurate records of results and expenditures connected with this program and eliminate or disrupt illegal acts against the citizens of Tennessee related to marijuana cultivation.

- Drug Investigation Division³¹
The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Drug Investigation Division investigates violations of Tennessee's drug control laws by gathering evidence, arresting violators and assisting with subsequent prosecutions.
- As of October 31, 2005, there were 24,188 full-time law enforcement employees in Tennessee (15,161 officers and 9,027 civilians).³²

Trafficking and Seizures

- Tennessee has seen a significant increase in the trafficking activities of structured Mexican trafficking organizations.³³
- Cannabis cultivation operations in Tennessee generally extend from March through October. A great amount of high potency marijuana is produced in Tennessee by local Caucasian producers for sale both within and outside the region. Primary outdoor cultivation areas are located in remote areas with good growing climates, such as the Smokey Mountains of southeastern Tennessee and the Cumberland Plateau of northeastern Tennessee.³⁴
- In 2005, Tennessee accounted for 75 percent of the methamphetamine lab seizures in the southeastern United States. However, the number of clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures has decreased significantly since legislation was passed to restrict the availability of precursor chemicals used in the production of methamphetamine.³⁵
- During 2006, the DEA and state and local authorities seized 401 methamphetamine labs in Tennessee.³⁶

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Seizures, Tennessee, 2002-2006

Year	# of Labs Seized
2002	603
2003	822
2004	889
2005	861
2006	401

- Federal agencies seized more than 600 kilograms of cocaine in Tennessee during 2006.³⁷

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Tennessee, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	639.5 kilograms
Heroin	32.45 kilograms
Methamphetamine	12.6 kilograms/28 dosage units
Marijuana	1,792.5 kilograms
MDMA	0.2 kilograms/4,021 dosage units

- During 2005, more than 400,000 marijuana plants were eradicated in Tennessee under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Tennessee, 2005

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
2,741	439,709	0	653	440,362

Courts

- During FY 2006, 32.4% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Tennessee had committed drug offenses. Approximately 28.8% of the drug offenses involved powder cocaine.³⁹

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Tennessee, FY 2006

Offense Type Involved	Number	Percent of Total
Powder cocaine	124	28.8%
Crack cocaine	101	23.4
Heroin	18	4.2
Marijuana	64	14.8
Methamphetamine	104	24.1
Other	20	4.6

- Drug Courts⁴⁰
As of April 16, 2007, there were 33 drug courts in Tennessee that had been operating for over two years, 16 drug courts that were recently implemented and 4 drug courts that were being planned.

Corrections

- In June 2007, there were 19,052 inmates in Tennessee state prisons.⁴¹
- In April 2007, 16.3% of the Tennessee prison population was incarcerated for drug offenses.⁴²
- Substance Abuse Program⁴³
TDOC's substance abuse programs are based on the idea that the program participant is ultimately responsible for his or her recovery. Participants work closely with counselors to develop individual treatment goals and strategies.
- During FY 2005-2006, the Tennessee DOC added 304 new therapeutic community beds at 3 different facilities.⁴⁴
- Each month, 10% of the in-house populations at each Tennessee institution are drug tested. During FY 2006, 20,950 drug tests were conducted and 3% of the tests were positive.⁴⁵
- As of December 31, 2005, there were 49,302 adults on probation and 8,721 adults on parole in Tennessee.⁴⁶

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 2 children in Tennessee injured by methamphetamine laboratories, while another 46 children were affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2005.⁴⁷

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 11,169 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Tennessee.⁴⁸ There were 11,733 treatment admissions in Tennessee during 2005.⁴⁹ In 2004, there were 10,855 treatment admissions.⁵⁰

Admissions to Treatment, Tennessee, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004		2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	3,156	29.1%	3,349	28.5%	3,493	31.3%
Alc. w/ second. drug	1,623	15.0	1,531	13.0	1,296	11.6
Cocaine – smoked	2,060	19.0	2,154	18.4	2,032	18.2
Cocaine – other route	526	4.8	591	5.0	611	5.5
Marijuana	1,181	10.9	1,404	12.0	1,289	11.5
Other opiates	1,282	11.8	1,577	13.4	1,524	13.6
Hallucinogens	6	0.1	23	0.2	17	0.2
Amphetamines	558	5.1	541	4.6	410	3.7
Other stimulants	n/a	n/a	10	0.1	3	0.0
Tranquilizers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0.0
Sedatives	115	1.1	151	1.3	134	1.2
Inhalants	9	0.1	12	0.1	15	0.1
Other/none specified	339	3.1	390	3.3	344	3.1
Total	10,855	100.0	11,733	100.0	11,169	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 92,000 (2.48%) Tennessee citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁵¹

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

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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:

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