

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Texas

Profile of Drug Indicators

November 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.

Texas

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

Demographics

- Population (2008 American Community Survey): 24,326,974¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2008 American Community Survey): 73.9% white; 11.4% black/African American; 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.5% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 8.7% other; 2.0% two or more races; 36.5% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Rick Perry³
- Lt. Governor: David Dewhurst⁴
- Attorney General: Greg Abbott⁵
- Secretary of State: Hope Andrade⁶
- U.S. Senate: Kay Hutchison (R); John Cronyn (R)⁷
- U.S. Representatives: Louie Gohmert (R); Ted Poe (R); Sam Johnson (R); Ralph Hall (R); Jeb Hensarling (R); Joe Barton (R); John Culberson (R); Kevin Brady (R); Al Green (D); Michael McCaul (R); K. Michael Conaway (R); Kay Granger (R); William “ Mac” Thornberry (R); Ron Paul (R); Ruben Hinojosa (D); Silvestre Reyes (D); Chet Edwards (D); Sheila Jackson-Lee (D); Randy Neugebauer (R); Charles Gonzales (D); Lamar Smith (R); Pete Olson (R); Ciro D. Rodriguez (D); Kenny Merchant (R); Lloyd Doggett (D); Michael Burgess (R); Solomon Ortiz (D); Henry Cuellar (D); Gene Green (D); Eddie Bernice Johnson (D); John Carter (R); Pete Sessions (R)⁸
- Capital: Austin⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
 - North Texas HIDTA: designated in 1998; responsible for Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Lubbock, Navarro, Parker, Rockwall, Smith and Tarrant Counties in Texas as well as areas of Oklahoma.¹⁰
 - Southwest Border HIDTA/West Texas Region: designated in 1990; responsible for Brewster, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, and Terrell Counties¹¹
 - Southwest Border HIDTA/South Texas Region: designated in 1990; responsible for Bexar, Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Starr, Maverick, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala Counties¹²
 - Houston HIDTA: designated in 1990; responsible for Aransas, Brooks, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Liberty, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio and Victoria Counties¹³
- Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC)¹⁴

This program is composed of several organizations that provide support, resources and countless hours working towards the DEC mission.

➤ Partnership for a Drug-Free Texas¹⁵

Under the supervision of the Department of State Health Services, the Partnership for a Drug-Free Texas generates millions of dollars in advertising and media exposure to encourage Texas youths to make wise choices about alcohol and other drugs.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

➤ During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 2,812 drug arrests in Texas.¹⁶

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Texas, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	2,995
2004	2,870
2005	2,834
2006	2,931
2007	2,812

➤ During 2008, there were 895 homicide arrests in Texas.¹⁷

Number of Arrests, Index Offenses, by Age, Texas, 2008

Offense	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Murder	47	848	895
Forcible rape	251	1,889	2,140
Robbery	1,080	7,383	8,463
Aggravated assault	2,111	21,911	24,022
Burglary	4,235	16,582	20,817
Larceny-theft	18,498	90,079	108,577
Motor vehicle theft	911	5,426	6,337
Arson	236	535	771

➤ There were 144,953 total drug related arrests in Texas during 2008.¹⁸

Number of Drug Arrests, by Drug Type and Age, Texas, 2008

Drug Type	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Sale/manufacturing	522	15,239	15,761
Opium or cocaine	108	5,271	5,379
Marijuana	193	1,407	1,600
Synthetic narcotics	127	7,140	7,267
Other	94	1,421	1,515
Possession	8,831	120,361	129,192
Opium or cocaine	651	33,358	34,014
Marijuana	6,833	63,745	70,578
Synthetic narcotics	499	7,035	7,534
Other	843	16,223	17,066
Drug abuse total	9,353	135,600	144,953

Drugs

➤ Cocaine¹⁹

Cocaine continues to be readily available in Texas. Statewide price ranges for powder cocaine based on data from select sites from July-December 2008 were \$50-\$100/gram, \$400-\$1,000/ounce, and \$11,000-\$28,000/kilogram. Statewide price ranges for crack cocaine were \$10-\$50/rock (with \$10-\$20 being the most common price), \$350-\$1,000/ounce, and \$14,000-\$26,000/kilogram.

➤ Heroin²⁰

The predominant form of heroin in Texas is black tar, which has a dark, gummy, oily texture that can be diluted with water and injected. The price black tar heroin has decreased over the years. Depending on the location, black tar heroin sold on the street for \$5-\$20/paper, balloon, or capsule, \$100-\$300/gram, \$800-\$4,000/ounce, and \$25,000-\$62,000/kilogram.

➤ Methamphetamine²¹

Methamphetamine indicators have changed since 2005, with supplies down, prices increasing, and purity decreasing. Statewide, the purity of methamphetamine dropped from 56% in 2004 to 33% in 2008 because it is being cut with methylsulfonylmethane (MSM). Pure methamphetamine from Mexico, which typically sold for \$18,000-\$20,000/pound, sold for \$18,500/pound when “cut” with MSM.

➤ Marijuana

Marijuana remains readily available and is considered the most widely used illegal drug throughout Texas.²² Hydroponic marijuana sold for \$2,500-\$6,000/pound, commercial grade marijuana sold for \$85-800/pound, and Sinsemilla sold for \$300-\$1,200/pound.²³

➤ Club Drugs

Club drugs remain readily available in North Texas. The most frequently abused club drug is ecstasy (MDMA).²⁴ Ecstasy is often used in combination with other drugs, and the increase in use and abuse of the drug is demonstrated in the increases in the numbers of clients seeking treatment.²⁵

➤ Pharmaceutical Diversion²⁶

The diversion of prescription drugs continues to be a significant enforcement issue in Texas. Hydrocodone, alprazolam, and benzodiazepene products continue to comprise the majority of prescription controlled drugs abused in North Texas. Additionally, OxyContin abuse is on the increase, with most illegal prescriptions being written by pain management doctors. Mexican border town pharmacies remain an important source of illegal pharmaceuticals seized in the Houston Field Division.

➤ According to 2006-2007 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 1.2 million (7%) Texas citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁷

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	1,249	6.65%
Past year marijuana use	1,486	7.92
Past month marijuana use	799	4.25
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	744	3.96
Past year cocaine use	433	2.31

Past year non-medical pain reliever use	887	4.72
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* The number of users is in thousands

- More than 8 million (43.90%) Texas citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁸
- Additional 2006-2007 NSDUH results indicate that 514,000 (2.74%) Texas citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 355,000 (1.89%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁹

Juveniles

- Approximately 5% of Texas high school seniors surveyed in 2008 reported lifetime methamphetamine use.³⁰

Secondary School Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, by Grade, Texas, 2008

Drug Type	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Inhalants	10.7%	10.6%	9.4%	9.6%	7.7%	7.1%
Marijuana	9.5	14.9	23.1	30.1	35.4	38.6
Cocaine/crack	2.9	4.1	6.1	8.1	9.8	11.3
Hallucinogens	1.2	2.1	3.8	6.0	6.5	7.7
Uppers	1.4	2.2	4.4	6.9	8.4	9.9
Downers	1.5	1.9	4.5	7.4	8.7	10.8
Rohypnol	1.4	1.8	2.8	3.4	2.6	2.6
Steroids	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.7
Ecstasy	1.4	2.3	4.4	6.6	7.9	9.4
Heroin	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.8
Meth	2.3	2.7	2.9	4.6	3.9	4.8
Any illicit drug	11.6	16.8	25.2	32.0	37.2	39.7

- Additional Texas student survey data indicate that approximately 17% of high school seniors surveyed in 2008 reported use of an illicit drug during the past month.³¹

Secondary School Students Reporting Past Month Drug Use, by Grade, Texas, 2008

Drug Type	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Inhalants	3.9%	3.5%	2.5%	2.3%	1.6%	2.1%
Marijuana	4.0	5.7	9.8	12.7	14.2	15.3
Cocaine/crack	1.0	1.4	2.3	2.5	2.9	3.3
Hallucinogens	0.5	0.8	1.3	2.2	2.0	2.6
Uppers	0.7	0.8	1.8	2.9	3.1	3.5
Downers	0.6	0.8	1.9	2.9	3.5	4.0
Rohypnol	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.0
Steroids	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
Ecstasy	0.7	0.9	1.6	2.4	2.5	3.4
Heroin	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Meth	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.2

Any illicit drug	5.2	6.9	11.6	14.8	16.1	17.4
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- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 189,000 (9%) Texas 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.³²

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	189	8.96%
Past year marijuana use	236	11.21
Past month marijuana use	115	5.47
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	113	5.37
Past year cocaine use	43	2.04
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	149	7.06

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2008, there were 87,216 full-time law enforcement employees in Texas (52,589 officers and 34,627 civilians).³³

Trafficking and Seizures

- The volume of illicit drugs transported through Texas by land, sea and air is immense. Most drugs are transported through Texas on their way to the major consumer markets of the Midwest and the eastern United States. Drug-related proceeds are then transported back through Texas in bulk quantities to Mexico and points beyond.³⁴
- Bulk currency smuggling is the most popular and effective means employed in transporting drug related proceeds to criminal organizations based in northern Mexico. It is not unusual for state and local police officers to make seizures of hundreds of thousands or millions of “narco” dollars headed southbound through Texas.³⁵
- Marijuana loads seized from private vehicles and semi-tractor trailers range from 230 to 3,636 kilograms. Multi-pound and multi-ton marijuana seizures occur at all transportation terminals, U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection checkpoints, and local courier service locations.³⁶
- Interdiction efforts indicate that prescription drug smuggling from Mexico, where these drugs can be sold over the counter, contributes to the illegal distribution of prescription medications.³⁷
- Texas state and local law enforcement agencies seized more than 575,000 pounds of marijuana during 2008.³⁸

Amount of Drugs Seized by State and Local Law Enforcement, Texas, 2008

Drug	Amounts Seized
Marijuana	577,380 Pounds, 9 Ounces
Hashish	8 Pounds, 11 Ounces, 20 Grams, 9 Liquid Ounces
Morphine	4 Pounds, 5 Ounces, 7 Grams, 1 Liquid Ounce, 803 Dose Units
Heroin	224 lbs., 13 oz., 3 Grams, 55,015 Liquid Ounces, 392,644 DU
Codeine	557 Pounds, 13 Ounces, 17,941 Liquid Ounces, 64,251 DU

Gum opium	12 Pounds, 9 Ounces, 21 Grams
Cocaine – solid	18,498 Pounds, 7 Ounces, 17 Grams
Cocaine – liquid	5,062 Liquid Ounces
LSD	2 Pounds, 6 Ounces, 18 Grams, 19 Liquid Ounces, 93,096 DU
PCP	31 Pounds, 3 Ounces, 20 Grams, 188 Liquid Ounces, 241 DU
Mushrooms	16 Pounds, 6 Ounces, 12 Grams, 31 Dose Units
Peyote	8 Pounds, 14 Ounces, 24 Grams
Designer drugs	416 Pounds, 5 Ounces, 1 Gram, 723 Liquid Ounces, 162,641 DU
Precursor chemicals	232 Pounds, 14 Ounces, 22 Grams, 21,786 Liquid Ounces
Barbiturates	300 Liquid Ounces, 1,287,855 Dose Units
Amphetamines	517 Pounds, 1 Ounce, 8 Grams, 34 Liquid Ounces, 76,676 DU
Methamphetamine	2,199 lbs., 8 Ounces, 12 Grams, 1,824 Liquid Ounces, 29,810 DU
Tranquilizers	986 Liquid Ounces, 5,316,321 Dose Units
Synthetic drugs	8,468 Liquid Ounces, 2,705,976 Dose Units

- There were 112 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Texas reported by the DEA and state and local authorities during 2008.³⁹

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Texas, 2004-2008

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2004	463
2005	269
2006	132
2007	78
2008	112

- During 2008, Federal agencies seized more than 500,000 kilograms of marijuana in Texas.⁴⁰

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Texas, 2008

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	9,487.6 kilograms
Heroin	141.6 kilograms
Methamphetamine	783.6 kilograms
Marijuana	570,793.1 kilograms
Hashish	0.5 kilograms
MDMA	69,341 dosage units

- During 2008, more than 36,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in Texas as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁴¹

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Texas, 2008

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
28	35,542	6	738	36,280

Courts

➤ Drug Courts⁴²

As of July 14, 2009, there were 58 drug courts in Texas that had been operating for at least two years, 6 drug courts which had recently been implemented and 16 that were being planned.

➤ During FY 2008, 29.5% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Texas had committed a drug offense. Approximately 57% of the drug cases involved marijuana.⁴³

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Texas, FY 2008

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	920	19.8%
Crack cocaine	325	7.0
Heroin	144	3.1
Marijuana	2,674	57.4
Methamphetamine	554	11.9
Other	41	0.9

➤ According to a study of Texas drug courts, offenders who completed drug court programs had significantly lower arrest and incarceration rates than non-completers and comparison group offenders.⁴⁴

Corrections

➤ At yearend 2007, there were 171,790 offenders within state and Federal correctional institutions in Texas.⁴⁵

➤ At yearend 2007, there were 434,309 offenders on probation and 101,748 offenders on parole in Texas.⁴⁶

Consequences of Use

➤ According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 6 children affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Texas during 2008.⁴⁷

➤ According to data obtain from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, there were 703 deaths in Texas in which cocaine was mentioned during 2007.⁴⁸

Mentions of Drug Presence on Death Certificates, by Drug Type, Texas, 2007

Drug Type	# of Deaths, Drug Present
Cocaine	703
Heroin/narcotics/morphine/opiates	390
Hydrocodone	360

Fentanyl	48
Methamphetamine/Amphetamine	106
Alprazolam	300
MDMA	6
GHB	2
Ketamine	2
PCP	8
Inhalants	28
Carisprodal (Soma)	208

- During 2008, there were 977 reported Poison Control Center calls related to cocaine use in Texas.⁴⁹

Poison Control Center Calls Related to Drug Use, by Drug Type, Texas, 2008

Drug Type	# of Poison Control Center Calls
Cocaine	977
Heroin	192
Marijuana	502
Methamphetamine	298
DXM	467
Ecstasy	293
GHB & its precursors	49
Ketamine	1
PCP	290
Rohypnol	12
Inhalants	77
Carisprodal (Soma)	390

- In 2008, 12% of Texas AIDS cases were attributed to injection drug use.⁵⁰

Treatment

- During 2008, there were 45,775 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Texas.⁵¹
There were 45,449 such admissions during 2007.⁵²

Admissions to Treatment, Texas, 2007-2008

Drug Type	<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	5,428	11.9%	6,249	13.7%
Alcohol with secondary drug	5,423	11.9	5,726	12.5
Cocaine (smoked)	6,099	13.4	5,473	12.0
Cocaine (other route)	4,792	10.5	4,414	9.6
Marijuana	10,631	23.4	11,082	24.2
Heroin	4,079	9.0	4,529	9.9
Other opiates	2,963	6.5	3,408	7.4
PCP	178	0.4	196	0.4

Hallucinogens	34	0.1	52	0.1
Amphetamines	4,816	10.6	3,677	8.0
Tranquilizers	117	0.3	98	0.2
Sedatives	799	1.8	764	1.7
Inhalants	39	0.1	40	0.1
Other unknown	51	0.1	67	0.1
Total	45,449	100.0	45,775	100.0

- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 457,000 (2.44%) Texas citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁵³

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site, 2008 American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

² Ibid.

³ Texas Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/>

⁴ Texas Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ltgov.state.tx.us/>

⁵ Texas Attorney General Web site: <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/>

⁶ Texas Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/>

⁷ U.S. Senate Web site, Texas Members:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=TX

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

⁹ City of Austin Web site: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us>

¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy, North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/northtexas.html>

¹¹ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/West

Texas Region: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/westtex.html>

¹² Office of National Drug Control Policy, Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/South

Texas Region: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/southtex.html>

¹³ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/houston.html>

¹⁴ Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Web site: <http://www.texasdec.org/>

¹⁵ Partnership for a Drug-Free Texas Web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/sa/partnership.shtm>

¹⁶ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Texas State Factsheet:

http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/state_factsheets/texas.html

¹⁷ Texas Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Texas, 2008*:

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¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center, *Substance Abuse Trends in Texas, June 2009*:

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²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Texas State Factsheet:

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²³ Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center, *Substance Abuse Trends in Texas, June 2009*:

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- ²⁷ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2006-2007 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, May 2009: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm>
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Texas Department of State Health Services, *Adolescent Substance Use in Texas*:
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/sa/Research/survey/Adolescent%20Sub%20Use%20in%20Texas%2001_2009.pdf
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2006-2007 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, May 2009: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm>
- ³³ Texas Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Texas*, 2008:
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- ³⁶ Ibid.
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Texas Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Texas*, 2008:
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- ⁴⁰ Ibid.
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- ⁴² Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, July 14, 2009:
<http://www1.spa.american.edu/justice/documents/2150.pdf>
- ⁴³ U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2008 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Texas:
<http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2008/tx08.pdf>
- ⁴⁴ Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Clearinghouse, *Drug Courts in Texas*, February 2004:
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<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/p07.pdf>
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- ⁴⁸ Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center, *Substance Abuse Trends in Texas*, June 2009:
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- ⁴⁹ Ibid.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid.
- ⁵¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, Texas, 2008 (Data accessed on November 3, 2009): <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/TX08.htm>
- ⁵² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, Texas, 2007 (Data accessed on November 3, 2009): <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/TX07.htm>
- ⁵³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2006-2007 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, May 2009: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm>

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