

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Utah

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 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.

Utah

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 2,550,063¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 89.1% white; 0.9% black/African American; 1.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.9% Asian; 0.7% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 4.5% other race; 1.8% two or more races; 11.2% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Jon Huntsman Jr.³
- Lt. Governor: Gary Herbert⁴
- Attorney General: Mark Shurtleff⁵
- House of Representatives: Rob Bishop (R); Jim Matheson (D); Chris Cannon (R)⁶
- U.S. Senate: Robert Bennett (R), Orrin Hatch (R)⁷
- Capital: Salt Lake City⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
The Rocky Mountain HIDTA was designated in 1996 and consists of counties in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. The following counties in Utah are part of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA: Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Washington and Weber.
- Prevention Dimensions¹⁰
The mission of Prevention Dimensions, which was started in the early 1980's, is to provide a strong foundation of effective violence and substance abuse prevention strategies in Utah Schools. Teachers receive effective prevention resources and a positive prevention attitude they can implement in the classroom. The foundation of this prevention strategy has been enhanced and updated based on current research in effective school-based prevention.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 184 drug violation arrests in Utah during 2007.¹¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Utah, 2003-2007

Year	Number of Arrests
2003	229
2004	237
2005	258
2006	207
2007	184

- From January through June 2007, there was 1 juvenile and 13 adult homicide arrests in Utah.¹² During full year 2006, there were 3 juvenile and 41 adult homicide arrests in the state.¹³

Number of Arrests, Index Offenses, Utah, Full Year 2006-June 2007*

Offense Type	Full Year 2006		Jan.-June 2007	
	Juvenile	Adults	Juvenile	Adults
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	3	41	1	13
Forcible rape	108	145	47	60
Robbery	70	371	38	164
Aggravated assault	235	1,016	110	488
Burglary	463	906	181	397
Larceny theft	5,073	8,295	2,697	4,421
Motor vehicle theft	233	385	109	200
Arson	85	48	49	18

* Data does not include arrests made by the Utah Highway Patrol

- From January through June 2007, there were 475 juvenile and 1,615 arrests for marijuana possession in Utah.¹⁴ During full year 2006, there were 880 juvenile and 3,128 adult arrests for marijuana possession in Utah.¹⁵

Number of Drug-Related Arrests, Utah, Full Year 2006-June 2007*

Offense Type	Full Year 2006		Jan.-June 2007	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Sale/Manufacturing				
Opium/Cocaine	7	291	4	238
Marijuana	59	228	35	133
Synthetic narcotics	10	61	9	40
Other	52	257	20	129
Possession				
Opium/Cocaine	30	1,073	23	631
Marijuana	880	3,128	475	1,615
Synthetic narcotics	21	365	8	161
Other	421	2,447	227	1,197

* Data does not include arrests made by the Utah Highway Patrol

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁶
Cocaine is encountered throughout Utah and crack cocaine is available in limited quantities. Prices for cocaine powder remain stable.
- Heroin¹⁷
Heroin poses a serious problem throughout Utah. Mexican brown and black tar heroin are readily available throughout the state, though multi-ounce and larger quantities are primarily distributed in Utah's major cities.

- Marijuana¹⁸
The majority of marijuana encountered in Utah is of Mexican origin, although it is also grown in the fertile soil of the remote areas of the state.
- Methamphetamine¹⁹
The dramatic reduction in locally produced methamphetamine has been accompanied by an increase in the availability of Mexican methamphetamine in Utah. The price of methamphetamine supplied by Mexican poly-drug trafficking organizations has increased in the last year. Several recent investigations revealed that traffickers were charging \$1,100 per ounce of methamphetamine, as compared to as little as \$650-\$700 per ounce in late 2005.
- Club Drugs²⁰
MDMA and designer drugs are a problem along the Wasatch Range, which stretches from Provo to Ogden. These drugs are available through bars, clubs, private parties and raves.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals²¹
Current investigations indicate that diversion of OxyContin continues to be a problem in Utah, while diazepam, meperidine, and methadone were also identified as being among the most commonly abused and diverted pharmaceuticals in state.
- According to 2005-2006 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 133,000 (7%) of Utah citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²²

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	133	6.83%
Past year marijuana use	161	8.28
Past month marijuana use	85	4.33
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	75	3.85
Past year cocaine use	47	2.40
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	121	6.21

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 832,000 (42.62%) Utah citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²³
- Additional 2005-2006 NSDUH results indicate that 59,000 (3.05%) Utah citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 41,000 (2.11%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²⁴

Juveniles

- During 2005, 15.5% of high school students in Utah reported using marijuana within their lifetime.²⁵

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Utah, 2005

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	13.9%	17.2%	15.5%
Current marijuana use	5.4	9.7	7.6

Lifetime cocaine use	3.6	4.7	4.1
Current cocaine use	2.0	2.5	2.3
Lifetime inhalant use	10.0	13.4	11.8
Lifetime heroin use	0.9	3.5	2.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.2	4.0	3.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.4	3.7	2.6
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	0.8	3.6	2.3
Lifetime ecstasy use	2.1	4.4	3.3
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	2.1	6.2	4.2

- Approximately 10% of Utah high school seniors surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana within the past month.²⁶

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Utah, 2005

Drug Type and Use	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	9.0%	14.6%	18.1%	22.1%
Past month marijuana use	5.0	7.2	9.3	9.6
Lifetime cocaine use	2.7	4.9	4.6	4.2
Past month cocaine use	1.5	1.8	3.2	2.6
Lifetime inhalant use	13.9	12.0	10.3	9.7
Lifetime heroin use	1.9	1.6	3.6	1.7
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.0
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	3.3	2.7	3.0	1.3
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	4.3	0.7	3.2	1.2
Lifetime ecstasy use	1.7	3.5	4.1	4.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	5.1	5.0	2.3	4.0

- Approximately 1.7% of Utah students surveyed in 2005 reported using marijuana on school property at least once within the past month.²⁷
- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 8% of Utah 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁸

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

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	19	8.15%
Past year marijuana use	23	10.04
Past month marijuana use	12	5.08
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	12	5.25
Past year cocaine use	4	1.91
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	18	7.79

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 7,502 law enforcement employees in Utah (4,495 police officers and 3,007 civilian employees).²⁹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Mexican poly-drug trafficking organizations dominate all facets of illegal narcotics distribution throughout Utah. Sources of supply for methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and marijuana are primarily located in Mexico, California, the Southwest and the Pacific Northwest.³⁰
- Designer drug distribution in Utah is controlled by local criminal organizations with domestic sources of supply primarily located in California.³¹
- The importation of marijuana from British Columbia, Canada remains active in Utah although the majority of marijuana available in the state is of Mexican origin.³²
- In 2006, there were 6,603 total marijuana plants eradicated in Utah under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³³

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Utah, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
3	5,413	4	1,190	6,603

- During 2007, Federal agencies seized 31.9 kilograms of methamphetamine in Utah.³⁴

Amount of Drug Seized by Federal Agencies, Utah, 2007

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	18.2 kilograms
Heroin	8.4 kilograms
Methamphetamine	31.9 kilograms
Marijuana	9.9 kilograms
MDMA	3,128 dosage units

- For the past several years, seizures of methamphetamine labs have declined substantially in Utah. There were 3 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Utah reported during 2007.³⁵

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Utah, 2003-2007

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2003	77
2004	47
2005	50
2006	15
2007	3

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁶
As of April 16, 2007, there were 35 drug courts in operation or being planned in Utah. Twenty-eight drug courts had been in operation for at least two years, 4 drug courts had recently been implemented and 3 drug courts were being planned.

- As of FY 2007, more than 6,300 Utahns had participated or were currently participating in a drug court. Data indicate that 69% of all drug court participants reported abstinence upon discharge from a drug court program.³⁷
- During FY 2006, 22.4% of Federally sentenced defendants in Utah had committed drug offenses. Approximately 75% of these drug offenses involved methamphetamine.³⁸

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Utah, FY 2006

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	18	8.6%
Crack cocaine	1	0.5
Heroin	8	3.8
Marijuana	24	11.4
Methamphetamine	158	75.2
Other	1	0.5

Corrections

- As of December 31, 2006, there were 6,430 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities in Utah.³⁹
- As of December 31, 2006, there were 10,426 persons on probation and 3,374 persons on parole in Utah.⁴⁰

Consequences of Use

- During 2007, authorities reported that there was 1 child affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Utah.⁴¹

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 15,569 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Utah.⁴² There were 14,926 admissions during 2005.⁴³ In 2004, there were 13,931 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in the state.⁴⁴

Admissions to Treatment, Utah, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004		2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,930	21.0%	3,104	20.8%	3,137	20.1%
Alcohol with secondary drug	1,973	14.2	1,686	11.3	1,849	11.9
Cocaine (smoked)	429	3.1	644	4.3	748	4.8
Cocaine (other route)	352	2.5	396	2.7	341	2.2
Marijuana	2,553	18.3	2,277	15.3	2,248	14.4
Heroin	1,105	7.9	1,428	9.6	1,542	9.9
Other opiates	582	4.2	674	4.5	824	5.3
PCP	4	0.0	2	0.0	n/a	n/a
Hallucinogens	18	0.1	27	0.2	25	0.2
Amphetamines	3,761	27.0	4,368	29.3	4,569	29.3
Other stimulants	11	0.1	11	0.1	9	0.1

Tranquilizers	73	0.5	74	0.5	50	0.3
Sedatives	14	0.1	19	0.1	17	0.1
Inhalants	16	0.1	11	0.1	11	0.1
Other unknown	110	0.8	205	1.4	199	1.3
Total	13,931	100.0	14,926	100.0	15,569	100.0

- According to 2005-2006 NSDUH data, approximately 55,000 (2.85%) Utah citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴⁵

Sources

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² Ibid.

³ Utah Governor's Web site: <http://www.utah.gov/governor/>

⁴ Utah Lt. Governor's Web site: <http://www.utah.gov/ltgovernor/>

⁵ Utah Attorney General's Web site: <http://attorneygeneral.utah.gov/>

⁶ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

⁷ U.S. Senate Web site, Utah:

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

⁸ Salt Lake City Web site: <http://www.ci.slc.ut.us/>

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²⁸ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*, February 2008: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm>

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- ³⁵ Ibid.
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