

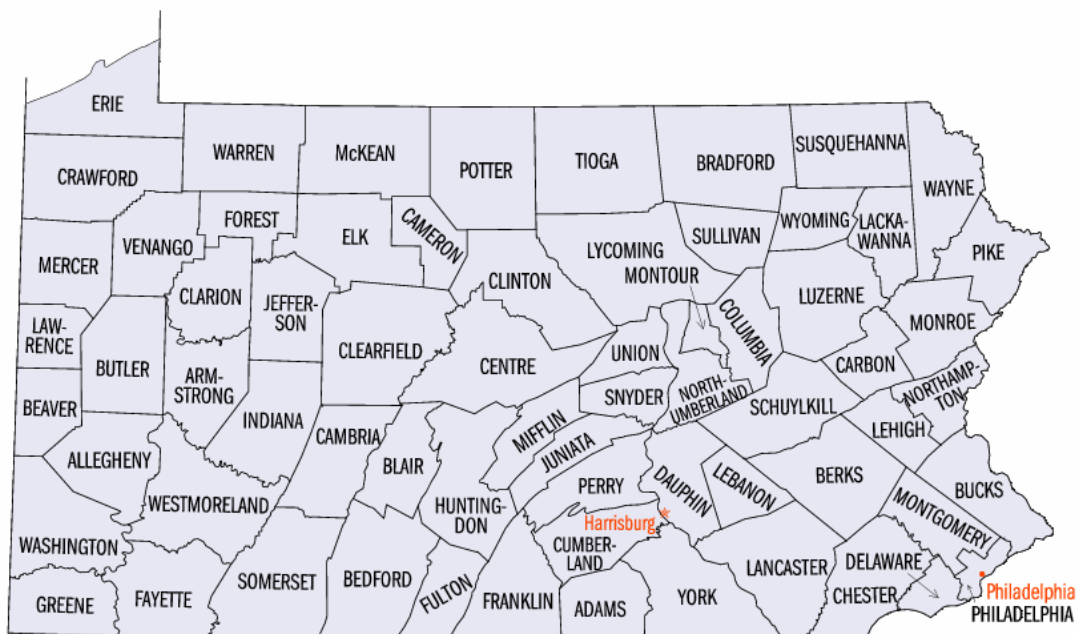
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Profile of Drug Indicators

February 2005



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.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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

Demographics

- Population (2003 American Community Survey): 276,517¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2003 American Community Survey): 67.8% white; 26.3% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.3% other race; 0.6% two or more races; 1.0% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²
- Pittsburgh is located in Allegheny County.³

Politics

- Mayor: Tom Murphy⁴
- City Council (Districts 1-9): Luke Ravenstahl; Alan Hertzberg; Gene Ricciardi; James Motznik; Doug Shields; Sala Udin; Len Bodack; William Peduto; Twanda Carlisle⁵
- Chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police: Robert W. McNeilly, Jr.⁶

Programs/Initiatives

- United Citizens Against Narcotics (U-Can)⁷
The U-Can Program is a group of concerned Pittsburgh residents who fight drug trafficking to rid Pittsburgh neighborhoods of illegal drug dealing and return the streets to law-abiding citizens.
- Pittsburgh/Allegheny County Demand Treatment⁸
Through the Coalition for Leadership, Education, and Advocacy for Recovery (CLEAR), individuals in the Pittsburgh area engage medical, religious, and criminal justice communities to educate consumers about quality treatment. This coalition has successfully encouraged 2 emergency medical facilities to make screenings and brief interviews for alcohol and other drugs standard procedure. The coalition is working towards linking offenders in county jails with treatment after release.
- Allegheny County Needle Exchange Program
Needle exchanges are illegal without a prescription under Pennsylvania's paraphernalia law except when used as disease control measures.⁹ Since April 7, 2002, Prevention Point Pittsburgh has handed out free needles, bottle caps for cooking drugs, alcohol prep pads, and condoms. In addition, the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and the Partnership for Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention have utilized a certified HIV tester to provide free counseling and HIV/AIDS testing. Previously, Prevention Point Pittsburgh illegally distributed 6,000 needles a week directly to shooting galleries and to individuals in the Hill District, McKeesport, and other areas of Pittsburgh for six years.¹⁰

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2004, there were 203 adult arrests for marijuana sale/manufacturing in Pittsburgh.¹¹

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh, 2000-2004

Type of Drug Offense	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine	489	1,030	935	837	778
Marijuana	154	179	174	166	203
Synthetic	28	39	40	37	18
Other	1	4	4	3	2
Possession					
Opium/cocaine	374	1,128	1,172	1,170	1,117
Marijuana	358	1,016	692	601	692
Synthetic	17	71	67	100	69
Other	0	8	3	9	0

- There were 29 juvenile arrests for marijuana sale/manufacturing in Pittsburgh during 2004.¹²

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Pittsburgh, 2000-2004

Type of Drug Offense	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine	20	75	65	81	79
Marijuana	15	18	14	18	29
Synthetic	0	1	0	0	1
Other	0	0	0	1	0
Possession					
Opium/cocaine	4	30	31	23	29
Marijuana	23	92	79	74	79
Synthetic	1	1	0	3	2
Other	0	2	0	0	1

- During 2004, there were 41 adult arrests in Pittsburgh for murder/non-negligent manslaughter.¹³

Number of Adult Arrests, Select Offenses, Pittsburgh, 2000-2004

Offense	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	24	39	39	57	42
Forcible rape	40	50	57	50	28
Robbery	375	485	386	382	491
Aggravated assault	566	589	685	605	680
Burglary	282	382	437	413	516
Larceny-theft	598	980	732	780	777
Motor vehicle theft	216	220	118	124	119

- There were 7 juvenile arrests in Pittsburgh for murder/non-negligent manslaughter during 2004.¹⁴

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Select Offenses, Pittsburgh, 2000-2004

Offense	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Murder/non-negl. mansl.	1	3	8	4	7
Forcible rape	10	9	15	5	7
Robbery	117	113	120	164	174
Aggravated assault	99	95	120	133	182
Burglary	84	108	152	116	150
Larceny-theft	89	99	91	91	106
Motor vehicle theft	116	138	77	108	102

Drugs

- Cocaine

Abuse and distribution of cocaine is widespread in Pittsburgh.¹⁵ During 2002, powder cocaine sold for \$5-\$15/bag, \$75-\$100/gram, and \$280-\$350/0.25 ounce in Pittsburgh. Costs for crack cocaine were \$5-\$20/rock and \$80-\$100/gram.¹⁶
- Heroin

All of the *Pulse Check* sources in Pittsburgh report that heroin use and activity increased during 2002. Heroin purity has increased in Pittsburgh as Colombian white powder heroin availability has grown. During 2002, one bag of South American heroin sold for \$20, while a bundle (10 small bags) sold for \$180-\$200 and 1 gram sold for \$300-\$600.¹⁷ A more potent variety of heroin is used by young people in Allegheny County because it can be snorted instead of injected. Older addicts continue to inject less potent heroin. The heroin available in the county is up to 75% pure, compared to 5% over the past 20 years.¹⁸
- Marijuana

According to *Pulse Check* sources, most of the marijuana available in Pittsburgh is commercial grade and is imported from the western United States. One ounce of commercial grade marijuana sells for \$90-\$150 in Pittsburgh.¹⁹
- Methamphetamine

The use of methamphetamine appears low and stable, but lab activity and sales have increased in Pittsburgh. Locally-produced powder methamphetamine costs \$100-\$200/gram.²⁰
- Club Drugs

MDMA use is prevalent in Pittsburgh and the pills sell for \$20-\$30/single dose, \$1,200-\$1,500/jar of 100 pills, and \$7,500-\$10,000/jug of 1,000 pills. Ketamine is available in Pittsburgh and usually costs \$80-\$90/vial (1-1½ grams), which yields 18-20 single doses. Single doses usually sell for \$20 each.²¹
- Other Drugs

The abuse of OxyContin has increased significantly in Pittsburgh. Diverted methadone is considered easy to purchase in the city and its use has increased. Many OxyContin abusers are switching to methadone because diverted OxyContin is more difficult to obtain.²²

Enforcement

- As of October 2003, there were 981 full-time law enforcement employees in Pittsburgh (896 officers and 85 civilians).²³
- Narcotics/Vice Division²⁴
The Narcotics/Vice Division of the Pittsburgh Police Bureau focuses its investigations on illegal activities such as gangs, prostitution, drug sales, and nuisance bars. Community members are able to work with Narcotics/Vice detectives to solve community issues by providing information and requesting their assistance.
- Airport Drug Interdiction Team²⁵
A specialized unit of the Allegheny County Police, the Airport Drug Interdiction Team conducts daily surveillance of airline flights using drug dogs.
- Allegheny County Police Narcotic K9s²⁶
Narcotic K9s are capable of conducting drug searches of areas, homes and vehicles. The Allegheny County Narcotic K9s also assist other law enforcement agencies in conducting searches.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Pittsburgh serves as a regional drug distribution center. Most drugs brought to the city are sold to local users, but a portion reaches midlevel and retail distributors in Southwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northwestern West Virginia.²⁷
- New York-based Israeli drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) supply cocaine to Israeli criminal groups in Pittsburgh. Local independent African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, and other ethnic criminal groups, as well as local unaffiliated street gangs distribute cocaine in gram, ounce, and multi-ounce quantities.²⁸
- Most heroin in Pittsburgh is transported from Philadelphia via the Pennsylvania Turnpike, with Dominican DTOs as the primary wholesale and midlevel suppliers.²⁹
- Jamaican and Mexican criminal groups are the most active marijuana distributors in the Pittsburgh area.³⁰
- The Port of Pittsburgh is the busiest inland port in the United States. The large volume of commercial traffic at the Port presents a potential for drug smuggling, but a lack of drug seizures at the Port suggests that drug activity is minimal.³¹

Courts

- Drug Courts³²
As of September 2004, there was 1 drug court that had been in existence for over 2 years and 1 drug court being planned in Pittsburgh.
- Allegheny County District Attorney Narcotics Unit³³
The Narcotics Unit is dedicated to prosecuting serious drug offenders arrested throughout Pittsburgh. This unit works with police to prosecute major dealers, seize narcotics and dealer's assets, and remove dealers from the streets.

Corrections

- State Correctional Institution (SCI) Pittsburgh, formerly known as Western Penitentiary, is Pennsylvania's oldest operating correctional institution. Opened in 1882, the facility is located on 21 acres of land with approximately 12 acres located inside the walled perimeter. The facility is located on the banks of the Ohio River, approximately five miles from downtown Pittsburgh.³⁴

- As of April 30, 2004, the SCI Pittsburgh inmate population was 951.³⁵
- Special Intensive Supervision Drug Project³⁶
Pittsburgh's Special Intensive Supervision Drug Project enables non-violent incarcerated individuals with a history of substance abuse to return to the community and begin the process of readjustment. It also enables parole agents to have smaller caseloads, allowing them to provide more structured and stringent supervision through the use of frequent and unannounced field visits, weekly urinalysis testing, and the use of electronic monitoring equipment.

Consequences of Use

- Allegheny County Coroner data indicate that heroin alone was involved in 56 (26.6%) of the 210 accidental drug overdose deaths during 2002. Heroin in combination with another drug was a factor in 118 (56.1%) of the deaths.³⁷
- There were 143 drug-induced deaths in Allegheny County during 2002.³⁸

Number of Drug-Induced Deaths, Allegheny County, 1991-2002

Year	# of Deaths	Year	# of Deaths
1991	68	1997	87
1992	56	1998	111
1993	70	1999	135
1994	79	2000	137
1995	106	2001	116
1996	73	2002	143

- Out of the 1,424 AIDS cases in Allegheny County during 2003 that involved males, intravenous drug use (IDU) was a risk factor in 20% of the cases. IDU was also a risk factor in 29% of the 88 AIDS cases involving white females and 40% of the 206 AIDS cases involving black females in the county during 2003.³⁹

Treatment

- There were 83 licensed drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Allegheny County from July 2001 to June 2002.⁴⁰

Type of Service Provided by Treatment Facilities, Allegheny County, 2001-2002

Service Provided	# of facilities offering service*
Inpatient non-hospital	22
Inpatient hospital	6
Correctional institution	0
Partial hospitalization	26
Outpatient	67
Total facilities	83

*Each facility may provide more than one type of service.

- From July 2001 to June 2002, there were 7,236 admissions to state-supported drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Allegheny County. These admissions involved 4,720 different clients.⁴¹

- Of the treatment clients, 3,278 were being treated for a drug abuse problem, 1,415 were being treated for alcohol abuse, and 27 were being treated for another reason (includes family members receiving counseling).⁴²

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