

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Arkansas

Profile of Drug Indicators

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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.

Arkansas

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

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 2,810,872¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 78.6% white; 15.6% black/African American; 0.8% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.0% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 2.4% other race; 1.6% two or more races; 4.9% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Mike Beebe³
- Lieutenant Governor: Winthrop P. Rockefeller⁴
- Attorney General: Dustin McDaniel⁵
- Secretary of State: Charlie Daniels⁶
- U.S. Senators: Blanche Lincoln (D); Mark Pryor (D)⁷
- U.S. Representatives: Marion Berry (D); Vic Snyder (D); John Boozman (R); Mike Ross (D)⁸
- Capital: Little Rock⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- Arkansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children¹⁰
The Alliance is a coalition of professionals assisting local communities to effectively and efficiently identify and protect children endangered by caregivers who produce, distribute or use illegal drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine.
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP)¹¹
ADAP's services and functions include activities such as funding treatment and prevention programs statewide, funding the Regional Alcohol and Drug Detoxification (RADD) Program and providing workplace prevention activities and technical assistance in program development and modification.
- Arkansas for Drug-Free Youth (ADFY)¹²
ADFY, established in 1985, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and violence among Arkansas's youth. ADFY uses concepts of media literacy and skill based training to empower youth to make healthy choices.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 376 drug arrests in Arkansas.¹³

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Arkansas, 2002-2006

Year	Arrests
2002	274
2003	215
2004	225
2005	341
2006	376

- There were 11,154 total drug arrests in Arkansas during 2006.¹⁴

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Arkansas, 2006

Offense	Juvenile	Adult
Murder	6	130
Forcible rape	19	240
Robbery	98	646
Aggravated assault	392	3,704
Burglary	690	2,610
Larceny-theft	1,833	8,619
Motor vehicle theft	78	485
Arson	20	86
Drug violations	959	11,154
Driving under the influence	141	9,388
Liquor laws	228	1,723

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁵
Powder and crack cocaine are significant problems in Arkansas because of their relationship to street gang violence, especially in inner city areas. The movement of street gangs to non-traditional areas combined with the availability of crack throughout Arkansas has led to the drug's spread across the state and into many suburban and rural areas.
- Heroin¹⁶
Heroin is not considered a significant drug problem in Arkansas.
- Marijuana¹⁷
Marijuana is in high demand and readily available throughout Arkansas. Marijuana grown in Mexico and domestically produced marijuana are both popular in the state. The rural nature of the land, the warm climate and long growing season afford cultivators the opportunity to produce domestic marijuana.
- Methamphetamine¹⁸
Methamphetamine is the primary drug of concern in Arkansas. The state is encountering locally produced methamphetamine as well as imported methamphetamine produced in Mexico. Not only does the state's rural landscape provide an ideal setting for illicit manufacturing, but the wide availability of precursor chemicals also contributes to the ease of manufacturing methamphetamine.

- **Club Drugs¹⁹**
The most popular club drug in Arkansas is MDMA, although LSD, GHB and OxyContin are increasing in demand. Club drugs are most frequently used at raves and college hangouts.
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals²⁰**
Hydrocodone products such as Vicodin, oxycodone products such as OxyContin, as well as morphine and pseudoephedrine are the most popular diverted pharmaceuticals in Arkansas.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 173,000 (7%) of Arkansas citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²¹

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

	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	173	7.63%
Past year marijuana use	218	9.61
Past month marijuana use	125	5.52
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	96	4.22
Past year cocaine use	46	2.03
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	129	5.66

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 1 million (45%) Arkansas citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²²
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 74,000 (3.24%) Arkansas citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 51,000 (2.24%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²³

Juveniles

- Results of a 2006 survey of public school students throughout Arkansas indicate that approximately 11% of 8th graders reported using marijuana at some point in their lives.²⁴

Percent of 6th and 8th Grade Students Reporting Substance Use, Arkansas, 2006

Drug Type	6 th Grade		8 th Grade	
	Ever Used	Last 30 Days	Ever Used	Last 30 Days
Marijuana	2.45%	1.04%	10.74%	5.19%
Inhalants	9.30	4.10	15.41	6.53
Hallucinogens	0.53	0.37	1.53	0.89
Cocaine	0.86	0.56	2.16	0.96
Methamphetamines	0.80	0.38	1.93	0.90
Stimulants	0.89	0.49	2.57	1.25
Heroin	0.65	0.31	1.12	0.60
Sedatives	5.28	2.40	10.66	5.30
Ecstasy	0.55	0.34	1.85	0.83

- Approximately 35% of Arkansas 12th graders surveyed in 2006 reported using marijuana at least once in their lives.²⁵

Percent of 10th and 12th Grade Students Reporting Substance Use, Arkansas, 2006

Drug Type	10 th Grade		12 th Grade	
	Ever Used	Last 30 Days	Ever Used	Last 30 Days
Marijuana	25.54%	12.42%	34.94%	16.22%
Inhalants	16.35	5.16	13.16	3.08
Hallucinogens	3.43	1.45	4.69	1.60
Cocaine	4.28	1.62	6.54	2.04
Methamphetamines	4.03	1.61	5.02	1.58
Stimulants	6.25	2.58	7.94	3.07
Heroin	2.00	1.02	2.61	1.02
Sedatives	18.55	9.86	22.44	11.29
Ecstasy	4.63	1.69	6.47	2.06

- Additional survey results indicate that 0.92% of 6th graders, 3.18% of 8th graders, 7.75% of 10th graders and 9.93% of 12th graders reported selling illegal drugs at least once in their lives.²⁶
- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, nearly 14% of Arkansas 12-17 year olds reported past year marijuana use.²⁷

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

	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	26	11.20%
Past year marijuana use	32	13.70
Past month marijuana use	18	7.83
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	15	6.36
Past year cocaine use	4	1.64
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	24	10.32

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2006, there were 8,266 full-time law enforcement personnel in Arkansas (5,405 officers and 2,861 civilians).²⁸

Trafficking and Seizures

- Tens of thousands of pounds of marijuana and hundreds of kilograms of cocaine are seized each year on Arkansas' interstate highways. Interstate 40 remains a popular highway for the transshipment of drugs.²⁹
- Criminal groups in Arkansas are acquiring thousands of cases of pseudoephedrine via wholesalers and use sophisticated schemes to illegally ship, at a considerable profit, pseudoephedrine to methamphetamine producers.
- As air surveillance by law enforcement personnel in Arkansas has intensified, the outdoor marijuana grows in the state have become smaller and more scattered. Asset

forfeiture laws have prompted cultivators to utilize leased hunting land, timberland or national forest land as grow sites.

- Approximately 944 kilograms of marijuana were seized by Federal agencies in Arkansas during 2006.³⁰

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Arkansas, 2006

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	226.4 kilograms
Heroin	4.4 kilograms
Methamphetamine	34.6 kilograms
Marijuana	944.1 kilograms
MDMA	40.9 kilograms/811 dosage units

- During 2006, there were 407 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Arkansas reported by the DEA and state and local authorities.³¹

Number of Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Arkansas, 2002-2006

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2002	460
2003	714
2004	564
2005	426
2006	407

- During 2006, there were 13,501 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in Arkansas under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³²

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Arkansas, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		<u>Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>
<u>Plots Eradicated</u>	<u>Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>	<u>Grows Seized</u>	<u>Plants Eradicated</u>	
133	12,821	8	680	13,501

Courts

- Drug Courts³³
As of April 16, 2007, there were 44 drug courts operating or being planned in Arkansas. Thirty-one drug courts had been operating for at least two years, 10 drug courts had recently been implemented and 3 drug courts were being planned.
- During FY 2006, 29.9% of the Federally sentenced offenders in Arkansas had committed a drug offense. Nearly one-third (32.7) of these drug cases involved methamphetamine.³⁴

Federally Sentenced Drug Offenders, Arkansas, FY 2006

Drug Type	Number	Percentage
Powder cocaine	25	14.9%
Crack cocaine	37	22.0
Marijuana	45	26.8
Methamphetamine	55	32.7
Other	6	3.6

Corrections

- The Arkansas Department of Corrections (DOC) reported a total custodial inmate population of 13,013 on June 30, 2007. Additional DOC population data indicate that 2,789 inmates (stock population) were incarcerated for controlled substance violations during FY 2007.³⁵
- As of December 31, 2006, there were 18,405 adults on parole and 31,508 on probation in Arkansas.³⁶

Consequences of Use

- During 2005, authorities reported that there were 57 children affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Arkansas.³⁷

Treatment

- During 2006, there were 13,692 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Arkansas.³⁸ There were 13,771 such admissions during 2005.³⁹ In 2004, there were 14,005 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in the state.⁴⁰

Admissions to Treatment, Arkansas, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004		2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,573	18.4%	2,314	16.8%	2,527	18.5%
Alcohol with secondary drug	2,020	14.4	1,997	14.5	2,140	15.6
Cocaine (smoked)	1,762	12.6	1,722	12.5	1,647	12.0
Cocaine (other route)	408	2.9	404	2.9	535	3.9
Marijuana	2,997	21.4	2,620	19.0	2,609	19.1
Heroin	44	0.3	25	0.2	40	0.3
Other opiates	645	4.6	764	5.5	778	5.7
PCP	14	0.1	15	0.1	11	0.1
Hallucinogens	21	0.1	23	0.2	26	0.2
Amphetamines	3,150	22.5	3,471	25.2	2,943	21.5
Other stimulants	2	0.0	6	0.0	4	0.0
Tranquilizers	70	0.5	115	0.8	157	1.1
Sedatives	165	1.2	135	1.0	127	0.9
Inhalants	12	0.1	20	0.1	21	0.2
Other unknown	122	0.9	140	1.0	127	0.9
Total	14,005	100.0	13,771	100.0	13,692	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 67,000 (2.96%) Arkansas citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴¹

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