

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Cleveland, Ohio

Profile of Drug Indicators

February 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.

Cleveland, Ohio

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 414,534¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 38.7% white; 53.8% black/African American; 0.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.5% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 4.0% other race; 1.5% two or more races; 7.7% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Cleveland is located in Cuyahoga County.

Politics

- Mayor: Frank G. Jackson³
- City Council Members (Wards 1-21, respectively): Nina Turner; Robert J. White, III; Zachary Reed; Kenneth Johnson; Phyllis Cleveland; Patricia Britt; Fannie Lewis; Sabra Scott; Kevin Conwell; Roosevelt Coats; Michael Polensek; Anthony Brancatelli; Joe Cimperman; Joe Santiago, Jr.; Brian Cummins; Kevin J. Kelley; Matthew Zone; Jay Westbrook; Dona Brady; Martin Sweeney; Michael Dolan⁴
- Cleveland Department of Public Safety Director: Martin Flask⁵
- Cleveland Division of Police Chief: Michael McGrath⁶
- Cuyahoga County Sheriff: Gerald T. McFaul⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1999, the Ohio HIDTA is responsible for the following Counties: Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark, Summit and Warren
- Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County⁹
The Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board administers Federal, State and local funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment services in Cuyahoga County.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 109 homicides known to the police in Cleveland during 2005.¹⁰
Preliminary data for January through June 2006 indicate that there were 43 homicides known to Cleveland police during that time period.¹¹

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Cleveland, 2005-June 2006

Offense	Full Year 2005	Jan.-June 2006
Homicide	109	43
Rape	478	211
Robbery	3,743	1,859
Aggravated assault	2,086	1,041
Burglary	8,598	4,409

Larceny-theft	13,145	4,953
Auto theft	6,900	3,071
Total index offenses	505	231

- There were 5,841 drug/narcotic violations known to the police in Cleveland during 2004.¹²

Number of Substance Abuse-Related Offenses Known to Police, Cleveland, 2004

Offense	# of Arrests
Drug/Narcotic violations	5,841
Drug equipment violations	119
Liquor law violations	577
Driving under the influence	20

Drugs

- Cocaine¹³
Intelligence indicates that powder cocaine is readily available throughout the Greater Cleveland area, particularly in the lower income/inner-city neighborhoods, where many suburbanites travel to purchase the drug. Both treatment professionals and users state that cocaine is rarely used alone, with both groups describing combinations of alcohol and cocaine, cocaine and heroin and cocaine and “poppers” (amyl nitrate). Crack cocaine is reported to be extremely available and easy to purchase throughout the Greater Cleveland area. Both the quality and price of crack cocaine have reportedly decreased over the past 12 months.
- Heroin¹⁴
There has been a dramatic increase in the availability of heroin throughout Cuyahoga County over the past several years. The price of a bag of heroin in the inner-city is \$10-15 per bag. Reportedly, the most available and popular heroin being used in the Cleveland area is black tar heroin. A black tar “ball” sells for approximately \$20. Users and treatment providers report an increase in abuse of heroin within the Hispanic population in Cuyahoga County. Users report that quality heroin can be found within Hispanic neighborhoods throughout the Cleveland area.
- Marijuana¹⁵
Marijuana is consistently reported as easily accessible in the Cleveland area. Users and treatment providers agree that marijuana use among elementary school children continues to increase. Many parents of these children have continued to use marijuana on a recreational basis. Therefore, marijuana may not be viewed as a harmful or addictive drug by these same parents. Intelligence indicates that the price and quality of marijuana has recently risen. Higher quality marijuana sells for approximately \$350-400 per ounce.
- Methamphetamine¹⁶
Law enforcement professionals have continued to report low and unchanged availability of methamphetamine in the Cleveland area.
- Pharmaceutical Drugs¹⁷
OxyContin continues to be a serious problem in Cuyahoga County despite relative lack of availability and high price. Due to the high price of OxyContin, many users

indicate transitioning to heroin because of its greater availability, cheaper price and the perception that heroin provides a better high. When available, OxyContin reportedly sells for \$40-60 per 80 milligram tablet. Additionally, the synthetic painkiller, fentanyl, has been reported by users and dealers as available in Cleveland.

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2005, there were 1,998 full-time law enforcement employees in Cleveland (1,615 officers and 383 civilians).¹⁸
- Cleveland FBI Drug Squad¹⁹
The Cleveland FBI's Drug Squad focuses its investigations on major drug trafficking organizations operating in the Cleveland metropolitan area.
- Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department: Narcotics Unit²⁰
The Narcotics Unit's mission is to identify, arrest and eliminate drug organizations and individuals who control drug operations. The unit is also responsible for the timely investigation of citizen complaints regarding narcotics violations.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Heroin wholesalers use Cleveland as a distribution center for smaller cities in and outside the state.²¹
- Users identified the existence of methamphetamine labs in the inner city and west side of Cleveland but also maintain that law enforcement has continued to be vigilant in disassembling labs and limiting the sale of the ingredients needed for methamphetamine production.²²

Courts

- Drug Courts²³
As of November 22, 2006, there were 3 drug courts in Cleveland that have been operating for more than 2 years and one drug court that was being planned. No additional drug courts were operating or being planned in Cleveland at that time.

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

² Ibid.

³ Cleveland Mayor Web site: <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/mayor/mayorind.html>

⁴ Cleveland City Council Web site: <http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/>

⁵ Cleveland Department of Public Safety Web site:

<http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/government/departments/depind.html>

⁶ Cleveland Division of Police Web site:

<http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/government/departments/pubsafety/police/policeind.html>

⁷ Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department Web site: <http://sheriff.cuyahogacounty.us/>

⁸ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/ohio.html>

⁹ Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County Web site: <http://www.adasbcc.org/>

¹⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>

¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January-June 2006*, December 2006: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/prelim06/index.html>

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- ¹² Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System, *OIBRS Crime Statistics for the State of Ohio - 2004*:
http://www.crimestats.ohio.gov/OIBRS_stats/index.htm
- ¹³ Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, *Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network, January 2006 - June 2006: Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio*, June 2006:
<http://www.odadas.state.oh.us/gd/Templates/Pages/GDContentViewer.aspx?content=2848>
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, September 2006:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>
- ¹⁹ Cleveland Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Web site, Drug Squad section:
<http://cleveland.fbi.gov/drugs.htm>
- ²⁰ Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department: Narcotics Unit Web site:
<http://sheriff.cuyahogacounty.us/narcotics.asp>
- ²¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, Ohio State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/ohio.html>
- ²² Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, *Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network, January 2006 - June 2006: Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio*, June 2006:
<http://www.odadas.state.oh.us/gd/Templates/Pages/GDContentViewer.aspx?content=2848>
- ²³ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, November 22, 2006:
http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf

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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