

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Louisiana

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.

Louisiana

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

Demographics

- Population (2008 American Community Survey): 4,410,796¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2008 American Community Survey): 64.0% white; 31.9% black/African American; 0.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 1.5% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.8% other race; 1.1% two or more races; 3.4% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Bobby Jindal³
- Lieutenant Governor: Mitch Landrieu⁴
- Attorney General: James “Buddy” Caldwell⁵
- Secretary of State: Jay Dardenne⁶
- U.S. Senate: Mary Landrieu (D); David Vitter (R)⁷
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): Steve Scalise (R); Anh “Joseph” Cao (R); Charlie Melancon (D); John Fleming (R); Rodney Alexander (R); Bill Cassidy (R); Charles Boustany (R)⁸
- Capital: Baton Rouge⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and the following Louisiana Parishes: Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans and Ouachita.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 479 drug arrests in Louisiana.¹¹

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Louisiana, 2003-2007

Year	Arrests
2003	328
2004	506
2005	533
2006	524
2007	479

- In 2008, there were 17,959 total arrests for drug abuse violations in Louisiana.¹²

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Louisiana, 2008

Offense	Juveniles	Total
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Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	15	183
Forcible rape	35	238
Robbery	264	1,035
Aggravated assault	1,352	7,780
Burglary	1,036	3,840
Larceny-theft	3,045	14,812
Motor vehicle theft	207	920
Arson	31	170
Drug abuse violations	1,600	17,959
Driving under the influence	69	7,977

Drugs

➤ Cocaine¹³

Cocaine, primarily crack, is the predominant drug threat in Louisiana because of the high rate of addiction and violence associated with the drug. Cocaine is widely available and frequently distributed across the state. Cocaine abuse is reported in both metropolitan cities and rural areas of the state.

➤ Heroin¹⁴

Heroin is considered a low drug threat in most of Louisiana, except in New Orleans, primarily due to availability and cost. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Monitoring Program, South American heroin is the most common type available. Heroin is sold at the street level in bags or papers in one-half gram quantities.

➤ Marijuana¹⁵

Marijuana continues to be the most commonly abused drug in Louisiana and reports indicate that it is the gateway drug for teens and young adults to experiment with other illicit drugs. Modern indoor cultivation techniques have led to the availability of high-grade marijuana within the state.

➤ Methamphetamine¹⁶

Methamphetamine continues to be a major drug threat in Louisiana and law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine is replacing crack cocaine as the primary drug threat in some areas due to its availability, low cost and long lasting effects.

➤ Club Drugs¹⁷

Though most drugs are either declining or holding steady in their abuse or distribution, club drug abuse and distribution among teenagers and young adults is on the rise in Louisiana. Police and treatment counselors throughout the state report an increase in the availability and abuse of MDMA (ecstasy), Ketamine, Rohypnol, LSD, and GHB.

➤ Diverted Pharmaceuticals¹⁸

The abuse of pharmaceutical drugs continues to rise at an alarming rate. Law enforcement officials report OxyContin, hydrocodone and Xanax abuse continues to be a viable threat.

➤ According to 2006-2007 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 284,000 (8%) Louisiana citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.¹⁹

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

Drug Type of Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	284	8.15%
Past year marijuana use	349	10.01
Past month marijuana use	187	5.36
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	164	4.71
Past year cocaine use	89	2.57
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	216	6.19

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 1.58 million (45.43%) Louisiana citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²⁰
- Additional 2006-2007 NSDUH results indicate that 107,000 (3.08%) Louisiana citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 73,000 (2.10%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²¹

Juveniles

- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 36,000 (10%) Louisiana 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²²

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

Drug Type of Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	36	9.58%
Past year marijuana use	45	11.99
Past month marijuana use	21	5.76
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	21	5.60
Past year cocaine use	4	1.09
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	31	8.33

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 10% of Louisiana 12th graders surveyed in 2008 reported illegally using prescription drugs at least once during their lifetime.²³

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, by Grade, Louisiana, 2008

Drug Type and Use	6th	8th	10th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	2.0%	9.6%	20.2%	27.5%
Current marijuana use	0.8	4.2	8.9	11.2
Lifetime inhalant use	8.9	12.1	10.3	6.8
Current inhalant use	3.7	4.4	2.5	1.2
Lifetime hallucinogen use	0.5	1.4	2.7	3.7
Current hallucinogen use	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.9
Lifetime cocaine use	0.6	1.4	2.1	3.2
Current cocaine use	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	0.5	1.3	2.3	2.5

Current methamphetamine use	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.8
Lifetime stimulant use	1.1	2.3	4.8	5.7
Current stimulant use	0.5	1.0	1.9	2.1
Lifetime sedative use	4.2	7.3	10.3	10.6
Current sedative use	1.6	3.2	4.4	4.0
Lifetime heroin use	0.3	0.7	0.9	1.1
Current heroin use	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4
Lifetime illegal prescription drug use	1.0	3.3	7.5	9.7
Current illegal prescription drug use	0.4	1.3	3.0	3.5
Lifetime ecstasy use	0.4	1.5	4.1	5.9
Current ecstasy use	0.2	0.5	1.3	1.6

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2008, there were 22,621 full-time law enforcement employees in Louisiana (17,306 officers and 5,315 civilians).²⁴

Trafficking and Seizures

- Louisiana's highways continue to be utilized by drug trafficking organizations to transport drugs and drug money into and through the region, in spite of increased law enforcement pressure.²⁵
- The presence of drug trafficking organizations in Louisiana continues to be a significant component of the overall drug threat for the state. Street gangs, motorcycle gangs, foreign drug trafficking organizations and other local and regional organized groups have established footholds in the state.²⁶
- Mexican drug trafficking organizations and African American criminal groups transport the majority of the powdered cocaine into Louisiana. Most of the powdered cocaine transported into Louisiana is then converted into crack cocaine. African American street gangs and independent dealers are the chief retail level distributors of crack.
- Methamphetamine production and distribution generates violent crimes and hazardous conditions. Independent Caucasian groups are the primary local producers and retail distributors of methamphetamine in Louisiana, although more African Americans are becoming involved in methamphetamine distribution.²⁷
- More than 15,000 dosage units of MDMA were seized by Federal agencies in Louisiana during 2008.²⁸

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Louisiana, 2008

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	168.3 kilograms
Heroin	12.9 kilograms
Methamphetamine	10.1 kilograms
Marijuana	1,394.3 kilograms
MDMA	15,647 dosage units

- During 2008, there were 6 methamphetamine laboratory incidents in Louisiana reported by the DEA and state and local authorities.²⁹

Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, Louisiana, 2004-2008

Year	Laboratory Incidents
2004	22
2005	98
2006	22
2007	36
2008	6

- During 2008, more than 2,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in Louisiana as part of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁰

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Louisiana, 2008

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
81	1,652	24	426	2,078

Courts

- Drug Courts³¹
As of July 14, 2009, there were 41 drug courts in Louisiana that had been operating for at least two years, 1 that had recently been implemented and 3 that were being planned.
- During FY 2008, 34.3% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Louisiana had committed a drug offense. Approximately 45% of these drug cases involved crack cocaine.³²

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Louisiana, FY 2008

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	80	22.9%
Crack cocaine	158	45.1
Heroin	15	4.3
Marijuana	17	4.9
Methamphetamine	52	14.9
Other	28	8.0

Corrections

- As of June 30, 2009, the adult population at state and local correctional facilities in Louisiana was 38,854. Approximately 30% of these inmates were incarcerated for drug offenses (as their most serious offense).³³

Most Serious Offense Committed, Adult Inmates, Louisiana, June 30, 2009

Most Serious Offense	Percent
Violent	40.7%
Drug	29.7
Property	17.9
All others	11.7

- There were 539 youthful offenders housed in Louisiana state prisons on June 30, 2009. Approximately 18% of the youthful offenders had committed drug offenses. A youthful offender is an individual 15-19 years of age who has been convicted in criminal court and sentenced to the custody of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections.³⁴

Most Serious Offense Committed, Youthful Offenders, Louisiana, June 30, 2009

Most Serious Offense	Percent
Violent	39.4%
Drug	18.4
Property	31.9
All others	10.3

- There were 40,580 probationers and 22,796 parolees under supervision of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections on June 30, 2009. Approximately 47% of the probationers and 55% of the parolees committed drug offenses.³⁵

Type of Crime Committed by Probationers and Parolees, Louisiana, June 30, 2009

Offense Type	Probation	GTPS*	Parole
Violent	6.6%	13.1%	13.4%
Drug	46.9	44.5	54.7
Property	29.9	26.3	24.8
All others	16.6	16.1	7.1

*Good-time/parole supervision (diminution of sentence)

Consequences of Use

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, there were 4 children in Louisiana affected by methamphetamine laboratories during 2008.³⁶

Treatment

- During 2008, there were 25,392 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Louisiana.³⁷ There were 24,506 such admissions during 2007.³⁸

Admissions to Treatment, Louisiana, 2007-2008

Drug Type	2007		2008	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,687	11.0%	3,131	12.3%

Alcohol with secondary drug	3,896	15.9	4,503	17.7
Cocaine (smoked)	4,844	19.8	4,365	17.2
Cocaine (other route)	1,685	6.9	1,306	5.1
Marijuana	5,417	22.1	5,713	22.5
Heroin	408	1.7	642	2.5
Other opiates	2,631	10.7	2,850	11.2
PCP	32	0.1	30	0.1
Hallucinogens	49	0.2	35	0.1
Amphetamines	978	4.0	718	2.8
Other stimulants	5	0.0	8	0.0
Tranquilizers	366	1.5	341	1.3
Sedatives	239	1.0	222	0.9
Inhalants	18	0.1	10	0.0
Other unknown	1,251	5.1	1,518	6.0
Total	24,506	100.0	25,392	100.0

- According to 2006-2007 NSDUH data, approximately 98,000 (2.82%) Louisiana citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.³⁹
- According to 2008 Louisiana Caring Communities Youth Survey data, approximately 5.2% of Louisiana 12th graders reported needed drug treatment.⁴⁰

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

² Ibid.

³ Louisiana Governor Web site: <http://www.gov.state.la.us/>

⁴ Louisiana Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/lrgovernor/>

⁵ Louisiana Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ag.state.la.us/>

⁶ Louisiana Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/>

⁷ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>

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

⁹ Louisiana Web site: <http://www.louisiana.gov/wps/portal/>

¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/gulfcoast.html>

¹¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Louisiana State Factsheet: http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/state_factsheets/louisiana.html

¹² Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2008*, September 2009: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/index.html>

¹³ Drug Enforcement Administration, 2008 Louisiana State Factsheet: http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/state_factsheets/louisiana.html

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ 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>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Addictive Disorders, Prevention Services & Louisiana Department of Education: *Louisiana Caring Communities Youth Survey Results for 2008 Results for State of Louisiana*: <http://www.dhh.la.gov/offices/publications/pubs-23/2008State%20of%20Louisiana%20Profile%20Report.pdf>

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²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online: <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>

³¹ 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>

³² U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2008 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Louisiana: <http://www.uscc.gov/JUDPACK/2008/la08.pdf>

³³ Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, *Department of Corrections Briefing Book*: <http://www.corrections.state.la.us/view.php?cat=1&id=185>

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ El Paso Intelligence Center, National Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System, Persons Affected Summary, Calendar Year 2008

³⁷ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, Louisiana, 2008: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/LA08.htm>

³⁸ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, Louisiana, 2007: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/LA07.htm>

³⁹ 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>

⁴⁰ Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Addictive Disorders, Prevention Services & Louisiana Department of Education: *Louisiana Caring Communities Youth Survey Results for 2008 Results for State of Louisiana*: <http://www.dhh.la.gov/offices/publications/pubs-23/2008State%20of%20Louisiana%20Profile%20Report.pdf>

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