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Salt Lake City, Utah Profile of Drug Indicators

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

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Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Salt Lake City, Utah

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 1999

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.

Salt Lake City, Utah

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

Demographics[1]

Total Population, 1990:	159,936
Race/Ethnicity	
White:	139,177
Black:	2,752
American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut:	2,541
Asian or Pacific Islander:	7,566
Other:	7,900
Hispanic (included in distribution above):	15,508

Total Population, 1998 estimate: 172,880[2]

Politics[3]

Mayor:	Deedee Corradini (Vice President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors)		
Council Members:	Carlton Christensen	Joanne Milner	Tom Rogan
	Roger Thompson	M. Bryce Jolley	Deeda Seed
	Keith Christensen		
Chief of Police:	Ruben B. Ortega		

Programs/Initiatives

- The Salt Lake City Budget for fiscal year 1998-99 totals $130,722,800.[4]
- Salt Lake Area Gang Project was established to identify, control, and prevent criminal gang activity and to provide intelligence data and investigative assistance to law enforcement agencies. The Project also provides youths with information on viable alternatives to gang membership and educates the public about the destructiveness of the gang lifestyle.[5]
- The University of Utah, Neighborhood Action Coalition, Salt Lake City, Utah, was a 1998 Drug Free Communities Support Program recipient. The coalition will target the use of illegal drugs and inhalants, as well as alcohol and tobacco use, among youth in two high-risk neighborhoods, Taylorsville and West Valley City.[6]
- Salt Lake City is a Weed and Seed site that includes the west-side neighborhoods of Poplar Grove, Glendale, and Fairpark. These neighborhoods are among Salt Lake's most ethnically diverse communities. The availability of low-income rental housing has attracted a steady immigration of Vietnamese, Laotian, Hispanic and Pacific Islander families. In addition, it is a refugee relocation site for Eastern Europe, causing a rapid increase in refugee populations from Russia, Bosnia, Serbia, etc. Ethnic parents in the target neighborhoods are reportedly extremely concerned by their children's rejection of traditional values, rate of school dropouts, and gang affiliations.[7]

Notable Weed and Seed Programs:[8]

- The Neighborhood Mediation Center provides conflict resolution/mediation services directly in the neighborhoods.
- Outreach to New Americans developed by the city and the national Crime Prevention Council is designed to increase levels of cooperation, trust and communication between minority communities, the city and law enforcement.
- Community Action Teams serve the Weed and Seed target area. There are two multi-disciplinary problem-solving groups that meet weekly to case manage chronic offenders.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Index of Crime, 1997-1998[9]

Offense	1997	1998 Jan-June
Murder	21	8
Rape	141	70
Robbery	620	269
Aggravated Assault	685	333
Burglary	2,911	1,416
Larceny	14,346	6,166
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,990	999
Total Property Crime	**79,401**	**--**
Total Violent Crime	**4,170**	**--**
Index Crime Total	**83,571**	**9,261**

- In 1996, there were a reported 2,031 gang-related crimes committed in Salt Lake City (excluding graffiti). A very high proportion of youth (per capita - 84 per 100 adults versus 62 per 100 adults nationally) contributes to the high juvenile crime rate.[10]

- *Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring*[11]

Salt Lake City ADAM sample size: 231 Males
51 Females

Substance	Percent Positive	
	Male	Female
Any Drug	60.2	68.6
Cocaine	20.3	19.6
Marijuana	36.8	29.4
Opiates	8.2	13.7
Methamphetamine	20.3	31.4
PCP	0.0	0.0
Multiple Drugs	24.2	27.5

- Salt Lake City has developed a serious problem with drug houses. Area drug arrests were up 25% in 1997 and Methamphetamine Labs saw an 82% increase over the

previous year. Over 175 search warrants for drug houses were processed in 1997, the majority in the Weed and Seed area. The Weed and Seed district includes the Poplar Grove, Glendale, and Fairpark neighborhoods. These are west-side neighborhoods and Interstate 15 along with railroad tracks separate the west and east sides of the city.[12]

- Percentage of drug offenses charged at arrest, all drug charges, 1984-1998[13]

Year	Heroin	Cocaine	Marijuana	Amphetamines	Possess Narcotics Equipment	All Others*
1984	0.8%	9.7%	61.2%	2.9%	4.3%	21.2%
1985	3.7%	10.8%	62.9%	4.1%	5.5%	12.9%
1986	5.0%	20.0%	47.1%	4.0%	9.5%	14.4%
1987	3.3%	15.3%	52.6%	4.1%	15.0%	9.7%
1988	6.4%	20.6%	46.2%	2.9%	16.5%	7.3%
1989	4.2%	25.2%	36.7%	4.7%	24.4%	7.1%
1990	4.8%	21.2%	37.8%	4.7%	24.4%	7.1%
1991	2.7%	30.0%	32.8%	2.8%	22.8%	8.9%
1992	2.0%	33.6%	32.7%	1.2%	26.5%	4.0%
1993	3.7%	34.7%	29.1%	1.3%	26.4%	4.9%
1994	5.3%	36.6%	23.2%	2.3%	30.2%	2.3%
1995	6.3%	31.1%	21.4%	2.2%	37.2%	1.8%
1996	6.2%	31.4%	15.6%	1.8%	43.0%	2.0%
1997	7.6%	30.7%	19.9%	2.9%	35.3%	4.6%
1998	**6.5%**	**35.6%**	**18.4%**	**3.4%**	**32.3%**	**3.8%**

*All Others includes Hallucinogens, Opium, Synthetics and Barbiturates.

Drugs[14]

- Salt Lake City police Department indicates that marijuana continues to be the most widely abused drug in their area. However, its use does not present the same problems as the use of other drugs, such as methamphetamine.
- According to Utah State DSA statistics, 57% clients were admitted in Salt Lake City for methamphetamine use as their primary substance of abuse for fiscal year 1998.
- According to the DEA-Metro Narcotics Task Force in Salt Lake City, in 1998 the task force responded to and/or investigated 225 clandestine methamphetamine laboratory cases. Of those 225, all but 14 were “box” or “suitcase” type labs. In addition, recent statistics provided by the DEA, show the Salt Lake City metropolitan area as number two in the nation for methamphetamine labs, second only behind St. Louis, Missouri.
- The Salt Lake City Police Department reports that cocaine remains the predominant drug of choice. However, methamphetamine distribution, production, and consumption are at an all time high in the Salt Lake metro area.

Consequences of Use[15]

- Distribution of drug abuse deaths, 1996

Selected Drug Groups	Number	Percent
Alcohol-in-comb	26	41.3
Amitriptyline (Elavil)	6	9.5
Cocaine	17	27.0
Codeine	10	15.9
d-Propoxyphene (Darvon)	4	6.3
Diazepam (Valium)	7	11.1
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)	1	1.6
Heroin/Morphine	18	28.6
Marijuana/Hashish	--	--
Methadone	6	9.5
Methamphetamine/Speed	1	1.6
PCP/PCP combinations	--	--
All other drugs	52	82.5
Total Drug Mentions	**148**	**234.9**

- Two participating DAWN Medical Examiners reported a total of 842 cases. There were 75 drug abuse cases, a total of 166 drug mentions and 75 drug-abuse deaths in the Metropolitan Statistical Area of Salt Lake City – Ogden, Utah.

Enforcement

Salt Lake City has a total of 564 police employees, of which 407 are officers and 157 are civilians.[16]

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[1] U.S. Census Bureau Web site: http://www.census.gov
[2] Salt Lake City Web site: http://www.ci.slc.ut.us/
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/
[7] U. S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: http://www.weedseed.org/
[8] Ibid.
[9] U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States, 1997*, November 1998.
[10] U. S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: http://www.weedseed.org/
[11] U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, *ADAM: 1998 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, April 1999.
[12] U. S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: http://www.weedseed.org/
[13] Salt Lake City Corporation, Police Department, Community Support Division, special data run.
[14] Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, *Utah Excerpts from 1999 Rocky Mountain HIDTA Threat Assessment.*
[15] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1996*, July 1998.
[16] U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States, 1997*, November 1998.

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