



NORTH CAROLINA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of North Carolina.

North Carolina At-a-Glance:

- The number of meth lab seizure incidents in the state of North Carolina increased 102%, from 196 incidents in 2008 to 395 incidents in 2011.
Source: El Paso Intelligence Center's National Seizure System (EPIC-NSS).
- Approximately 8.88 percent of North Carolina residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8.82 percent.
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2009-2010.
- In 2009, the rate of drug-induced deaths in North Carolina exceeded the national average.
- In 2008, the percentage of North Carolina drug treatment admissions for marijuana rose to exceed those for cocaine.

Drug Use Trends in North Carolina

Drug Use in North Carolina: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 8.88 percent of North Carolina residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82 percent. Additionally, 3.42 percent of North Carolina residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month (the national average was 3.6 percent).

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2009-2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA11-4641/SMA11-4641.pdf>

Drug-Induced Deaths: As a direct consequence of drug use, 1,223 persons died in North Carolina in 2009. This is compared to the number of persons in North Carolina who died from motor vehicle accidents (1,404) and firearms (1,112) in the same year. North Carolina drug-induced deaths (13.0 per 100,000 population) exceeded the national rate (12.8 per 100,000).

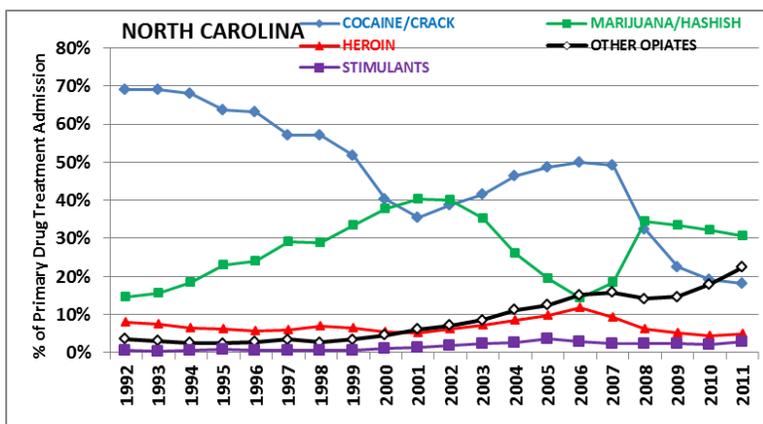
Source: WONDER online databases: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmfi-icd10.html>

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

North Carolina Primary Treatment Admissions:

The graph on the right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in North Carolina from 1992 to 2011. The data show that marijuana, followed by other opiates (including prescription drugs), is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in the state.

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/DASIS.aspx#teds>



resourcing, increasing the number of states with operational PDMPs, and development of state-to-state information-sharing systems would significantly help reduce prescription drug diversion and abuse.

The **North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System** became operational in 2007 under the North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System Act, which was enacted in 2005. The System is under the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. It monitors controlled substances in Schedules II, III, IV, and V. The data are collected weekly; in 2008, an estimated 17,000,000 prescription records were collected.

Source: Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs: <http://www.pmpalliance.org/content/north-carolina-state-profile>

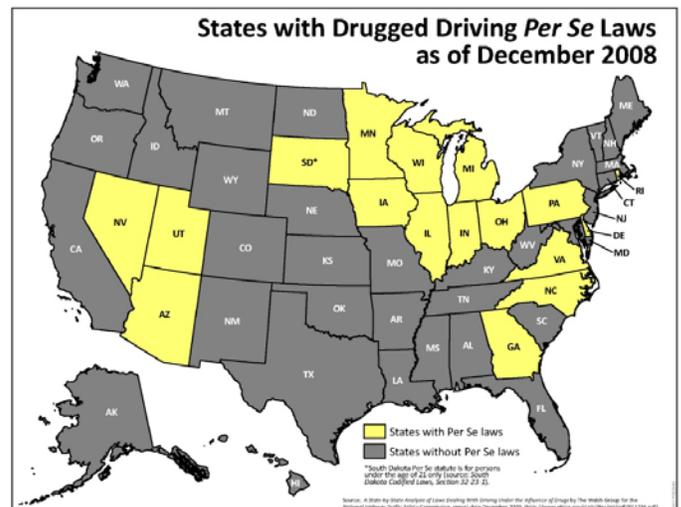
State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs

A comprehensive plan to address prescription drug abuse must include proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired medications. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances will help prevent diversion and abuse of these substances and demonstrate sound environmental stewardship. Federal rulemaking is underway and will further enhance the viability and scope of state and community take-back programs. In the meantime, states are encouraged to work with the DEA to conduct additional take-back events and educate the public about safe and effective drug return and disposal.

Drugged Driving

ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving

In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.



State-Level Action: Enacting Per Se Standards for Impairment

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to develop and implement *Per Se* standards that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.

North Carolina has an operating Per Se standard. According to the North Carolina General Statutes Section 20-138.3, it is unlawful for a person under 21 to drive a motor vehicle while consuming or still remaining in their body, any alcohol or controlled substance previously consumed, unless the controlled substance was lawfully obtained and taken in therapeutically appropriate amounts. Proof Required: that the defendant was driving a vehicle in North Carolina, had any amount of a Schedule I controlled substance, was under the influence of an impairing substance, or was under 21 and had a controlled substance in his/her body.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention

National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages (including those in Native American and Alaska Native communities) to young people about drug abuse and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2012, the following North Carolina coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Cape Fear Coalition for a Drug-Free Tomorrow
- Chatham Community for Alcohol and Drug Youth
- Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Cherokee County
- Coalition for Alcohol & Drug Free Teenagers of Chapel Hill & Carrboro, Inc.
- Coastal Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention (CCSAP)
- Community Engagement Team
- Dare Coalition Against Substance Abuse, Inc.
- Elon Community Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking
- Northern Orange Partnership for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth
- Together for Resilient Youth
- Watauga County Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html

ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) County Info

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies. In designated HIDTA counties, the program provides agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.

Atlanta HIDTA

North Carolina Counties: Alamance, Buncombe, Durham, Gaston, Guilford, Henderson, Johnston, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Randolph, Union, Wake, Wayne, and Wilson.

- The primary focus of the Atlanta HIDTA's North Carolina initiatives continues to be investigating the operations of the Mexican-based drug cartels. The North Carolina HIDTA counties are a primary corridor for the transportation of illicit narcotics throughout the Eastern United States and for the movement of illicit proceeds back to Mexico.
- The HIDTA is also targeting an emergent regional Mexican black tar heroin threat.
- In 2010, six counties in the Asheville and Charlotte areas were added to the North Carolina HIDTA designated areas.

Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of North Carolina

The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2012, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2012, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

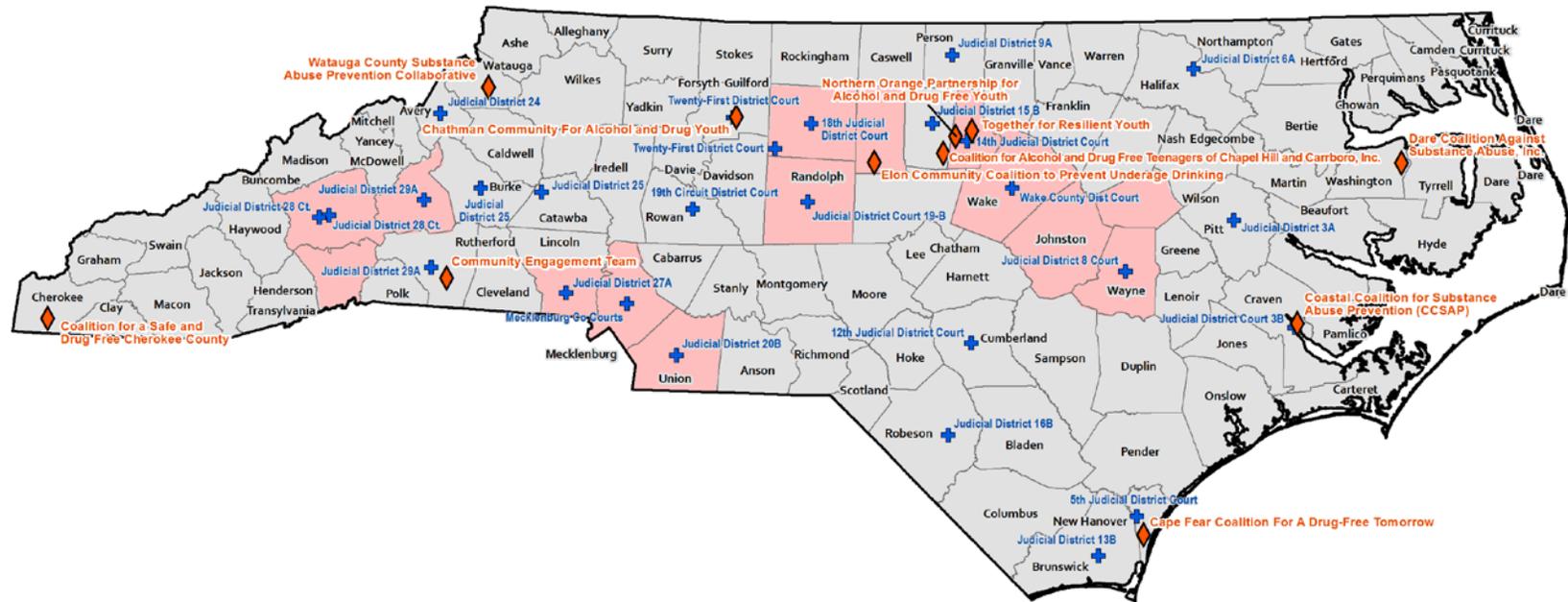
Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of NC	
Department / Office / Program Name	2012
Department of Agriculture	\$ 21,921,434
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	
Cooperative Extension Service	\$ 21,921,434
Department of Defense	\$ 567,500
The Army	
National Guard ChalleNGe Program	\$ 567,500
Department of Education	\$ 31,235,567
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education	
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs	\$ 852,741
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	\$ 30,382,826
Department of Health and Human Services	\$ 253,122,587
Administration for Children and Families	
Enhance Safety of Children Affected by Substance Abuse	\$ 500,000
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	\$ 11,266,772
Transitional Living for Homeless Youth	\$ 783,254
Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services	
Medical Assistance Program - Grants to States for Medicaid To Treat Substance Abuse	\$ 66,851,186
National Institutes Of Health	
Alcohol Research Programs	\$ 41,531,718
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs	\$ 80,176,676
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	\$ 39,601,511
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	\$ 1,134,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance	\$ 8,498,871
Health Resources and Services Administration	
Healthy Start Initiative	\$ 2,778,599
Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$ 21,263,938
Community Planning and Development	
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	\$ 1,226,782
Shelter Plus Care	\$ 9,545,567
Supportive Housing Program	\$ 10,491,589
Department Of Justice	\$ 62,295,643
Office of Justice Programs	
Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program	\$ 1,438,255
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	\$ 8,021,955
Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Discretionary Grants Program	\$ 50,210,575
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program	\$ 499,994
Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program	\$ 400,000
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	\$ 592,061
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Allocation to States	\$ 406,453
Juvenile Mentoring Program	\$ 499,994
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	\$ 226,356
Department of Labor	\$ 1,740,890
Employment and Training Administration	
Youthbuild	\$ 1,740,890
Department of Transportation	\$ 3,435,120

Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of NC

Department / Office / Program Name	2012
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants I	\$ 3,435,120
Department of Veteran's Affairs	\$ 6,324,629
Veterans Health Administration	
VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program	\$ 6,324,629
Executive Office of The President	\$ 2,005,348
Office of National Drug Control Policy	
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants	\$ 1,359,963
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program	\$ 645,385
Grand Total	\$ 403,912,656

File updated January, 2013.

Office of National Drug Control Policy Programs in North Carolina with Drug Court Locations



-  Drug-Free Communities program grantees
-  Drug Court locations
-  Atlanta HIDTA counties
-  County Boundaries

Source: National Drug Court Institute and ONDCP, September 2012



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