

FACT SHEET: DRUG USE AND MISUSE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



DRUG ABUSE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY¹

In FY 2009-2010, 60,629 Los Angeles County residents were admitted to publicly funded treatment programs. The most frequently reported drugs for which clients received treatment were marijuana/hashish (27.2%), alcohol (25.6%), methamphetamine (18.1%), and cocaine/crack (13.0%).

| | Male | Female | Other | Total |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| Heroin | 4,898 | 2,186 | 1 | 7,085 |
| Marijuana | 11,174 | 5,313 | 3 | 16,490 |
| Alcohol | 9,193 | 6,304 | 4 | 15,501 |
| Meth | 5,761 | 5,183 | 3 | 10,947 |
| Cocaine/ Crack | 4,817 | 3,036 | 1 | 7,854 |
| All Drugs | 37,308 | 23,307 | 14 | 60,629 |

DRUG USE AMONG LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, GRADES 9-12²

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Have ever used marijuana | 37.6% |
| Currently ³ use marijuana | 19.3% |
| Have ever used cocaine | 9.7% |
| Currently use cocaine | 3.6% |
| Have ever used inhalants | 16.9% |
| Have ever used ecstasy | 11.0% |
| Have ever used heroin | 3.8% |
| Have ever used methamphetamine | 7.1% |

DRUG SEIZURES IN THE LOS ANGELES HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA^{4,5}

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Marijuana (kg) | 72,191 | 30,431 | 64,913 | 202,991 |
| Cocaine (kg) | 4,062 | 4,461 | 2,367 | 6,042 |
| Methamphetamine (kg) | 2,229 | 733 | 465 | 2,061 |
| PCP (liquid gallons) | 23 | 314 | 75 | 69 |
| Heroin (kg) | 15 | 83 | 56 | 63 |
| MDMA (dosage units) | 46 | 144 | 176,030 | 46,892 |

DRUG-RELATED MORTALITY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Drug overdose, including unintentional alcohol poisoning, is the fourth leading cause of premature death in Los Angeles County and the 17th leading cause of death overall. It is the fourth leading cause of premature death among men (15,446 deaths) and the seventh leading cause of premature death among women (5,495 deaths) in Los Angeles.⁶

Drug-related deaths:⁷ 923

Top drugs involved:

- Opiates
- Cocaine
- Alcohol
- Stimulants
- Antidepressants

Drug-related suicides: 145

Top drugs involved:

- Antidepressants
- Alcohol
- Misc. anxiolytics, sedatives, hypnotics
- Opiates/opioids
- Benzodiazepines

DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY⁸

Drug offenses account for the highest percentage of overall felony arrests in Los Angeles County. In 2008, there were 40,928 felony arrests for drug offenses and 34,312 misdemeanor drug arrests.

| Arrests | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Adult Felony | 32,069 | 7,366 | 39,435 |
| Adult Misd. | 25,530 | 4,918 | 30,448 |
| Juvenile | 1,285 | 208 | 1,493 |

¹Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System, FY 09-10

²Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance 2009, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

³"Current use" is that which occurred in the 30 days prior to the survey.

⁴Includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties

⁵Drug Market Analysis 2009, National Drug Intelligence Center, United States Department of Justice

⁶*Mortality in Los Angeles County 2007: Death and Premature Death with Trends for 1998-2007*, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

⁷A drug-related death is one where the drug is implicated in the death; the relationship between the death and drug need not be causal. Drug Abuse Warning Network 2008

⁸California Criminal Justice Profile 2008, California Department of Justice