



LOUISIANA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

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

Louisiana At-a-Glance:

- In 2009-2010, Louisiana was one of the top ten states for rates of past-year nonmedical pain reliever use among persons age 18-25.
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2009-2010.
- In 2009, the drug-induced death rate in Louisiana was higher than the national average. For the 2004-2008 time period, St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana had the 5th highest rate of drug poisoning deaths in the country, at 48 deaths per 100,000 population.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2008 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2011: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>
- Approximately 7.52 percent of Louisiana residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8.82 percent.
- Marijuana is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Louisiana, although in 2011 24 percent of treatment admissions in Louisiana were for non-heroin opiates.

Drug Use Trends in Louisiana

Drug Use in Louisiana: 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, 7.52 percent of Louisiana residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82 percent. Additionally, 4.14 percent of Louisiana 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, 623 persons died in Louisiana in 2009. This is compared to the number of persons who died in Louisiana from motor vehicle accidents (853) and firearms (810) in the same year. Louisiana drug-induced deaths (13.9 per 100,000 population) exceeded the national rate (12.8 per 100,000).

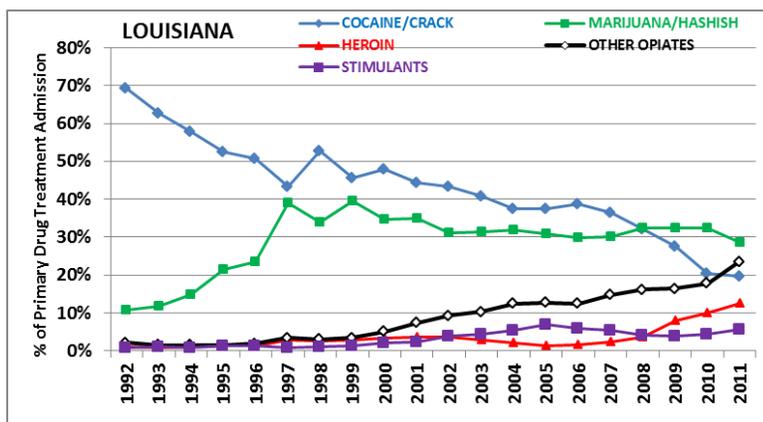
Source: WONDER online databases: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmfi-icd10.html>

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

Louisiana Primary Treatment Admissions:

The graph on the right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in Louisiana from 1992 to 2011. The data show marijuana is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in the state.

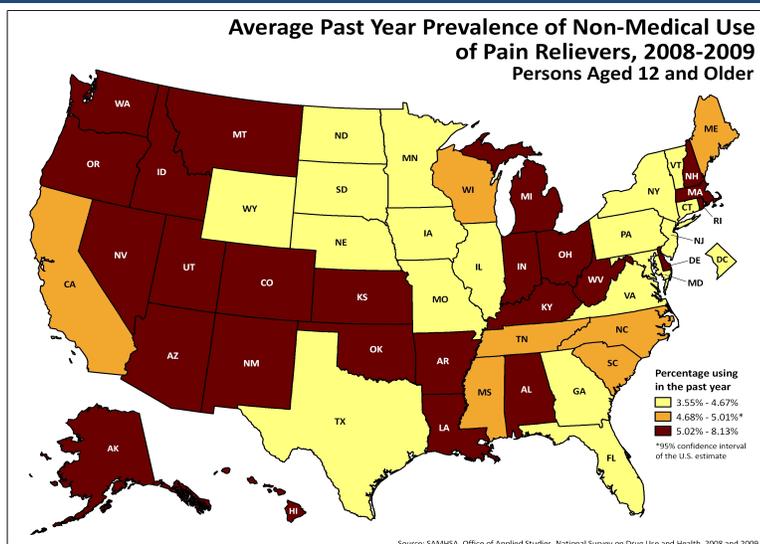
Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:
<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/DASIS.aspx#teds>



Prescription Drug Abuse

ONDCP's Efforts to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the Nation. The Administration's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan entitled "**Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis,**" provides a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse by supporting the expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs; recommending secure, more convenient, and environmentally responsible disposal methods to remove expired, unused, or unneeded medications from the home; supporting education for patients and healthcare providers; and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts.



State-Level Action: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)

PDMPs track controlled substances prescribed by authorized practitioners and dispensed by pharmacies. PDMPs serve a number of functions, including assisting in patient care, providing early warning signs of drug epidemics, and detecting drug diversion and insurance fraud. Forty-one states have operational PDMP programs established by state legislation and funded by a combination of state and Federal funds. An additional 9 states and territories have a prescription drug monitoring program authorized, but not yet operational. Adequate 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.

Louisiana's Prescription Monitoring Program was developed when Act 676 of the 2006 Louisiana Legislature authorized the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to implement and operate an electronic system for the monitoring of controlled substances and other drugs of concern dispensed in the state. The goal of the program is to improve the state's ability to identify and inhibit the diversion of controlled substances and other drugs of concern in an efficient and cost-effective manner and in a manner that shall not impede the appropriate utilization of these drugs for legitimate medical purposes.

Source: Louisiana Board of Pharmacy: <http://www.pharmacy.la.gov/assets/docs/PMP/PMP-GeneralInformation.pdf>

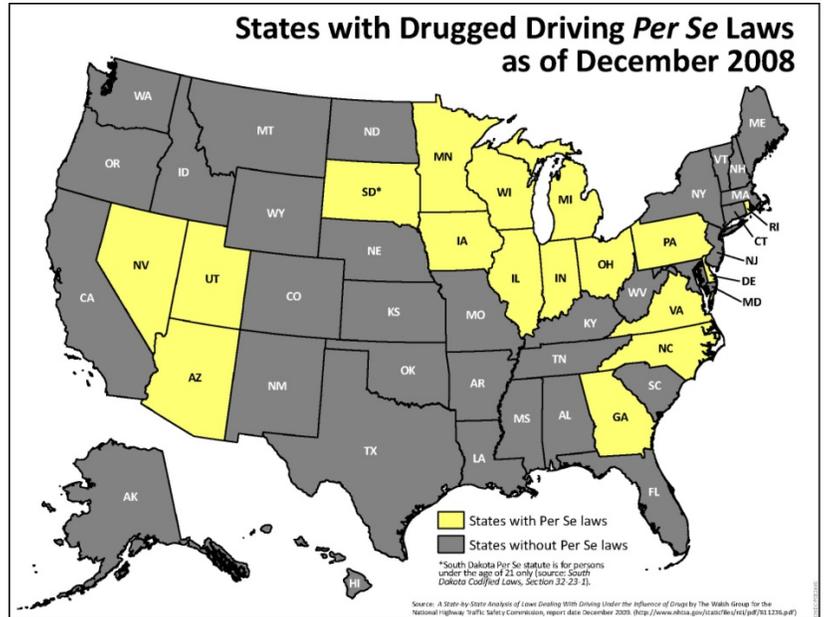
State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs

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.

Louisiana does not have a *Per Se* statute. However, according to Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 14: Section 98, “the crime of operating a vehicle while intoxicated is the operating of any motor vehicle... under the influence of any controlled dangerous substance, when the operator is under the influence of a combination of alcohol and one or more drugs which are not controlled dangerous substances and which are legally obtainable with or without a prescription and in the case that the operator is under the influence of one or more drugs which are not controlled dangerous substances and which are legally obtainable with or without a prescription.” Required proof: Defendant was operating a motor vehicle in Louisiana and he/she was under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance. Refusal to submit to a drug test is admissible into evidence in criminal cases and DUI administrative hearings.

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 Louisiana coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Jefferson Parrish Alliance of Concerned Citizens

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.

HIDTA counties in Louisiana

Gulf Coast HIDTA: Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, and Ouachita parishes.

- The Gulf Coast HIDTA supports 12 drug task forces and one intelligence-related initiative in Louisiana. These task forces are located within every major Louisiana city and address our primary drug threats: violent drug trafficking and the transshipment of illicit drugs and proceeds over Louisiana highways.
- The Gulf Coast HIDTA is currently supporting the installation of a license plate reader system throughout the state which will aid in efforts to identify, disrupt, and dismantle major drug trafficking organizations.
- In 2010, Gulf Coast HIDTA task forces in Louisiana disrupted or dismantled over 80 drug trafficking organizations operating within the state and beyond.

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

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 LA	
Department / Office / Program Name	2012
Department of Agriculture	\$ 10,216,448
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	
Cooperative Extension Service	\$ 10,216,448
Department of Defense	\$ 16,951,400
The Army	
National Guard ChalleNGe Program	\$ 16,951,400
Department of Education	\$ 25,606,957
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education	
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs	\$ 4,165,592
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	\$ 21,441,365
Department of Health and Human Services	\$ 79,345,301
Administration for Children and Families	
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	\$ 7,294,437
Transitional Living for Homeless Youth	\$ 970,242
Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services	
Medical Assistance Program - Grants to States for Medicaid To Treat Substance Abuse	\$ 23,027,776
National Institutes Of Health	
Alcohol Research Programs	\$ 7,866,898
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs	\$ 6,195,290
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	\$ 25,654,671
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	\$ 765,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance	\$ 4,515,750
Health Resources and Services Administration	
Healthy Start Initiative	\$ 3,055,237
Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$ 22,857,009
Community Planning and Development	
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	\$ 2,506,233
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	\$ 203,221
Shelter Plus Care	\$ 1,508,448
Supportive Housing Program	\$ 18,639,107
Department Of Justice	\$ 9,805,155
Office of Justice Programs	
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	\$ 5,274,781
Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Discretionary Grants Program	\$ 800,000
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	\$ 345,756
Juvenile Mentoring Program	\$ 1,938,000
Project Safe Neighborhoods	\$ 149,719
Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative	\$ 1,296,899
Department of Labor	\$ 2,525,858
Employment and Training Administration	
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders	\$ 2,525,858
Department of Transportation	\$ 4,851,196
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants I	\$ 4,211,959
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	\$ 639,237

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

Department / Office / Program Name	2012
Department of Veteran's Affairs	\$ 5,169,066
Veterans Health Administration	
VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program	\$ 5,169,066
Executive Office of The President	\$ 3,824,915
Office of National Drug Control Policy	
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants	\$ 125,000
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program	\$ 3,699,915
Grand Total	\$ 181,153,305

File updated January, 2013.

