

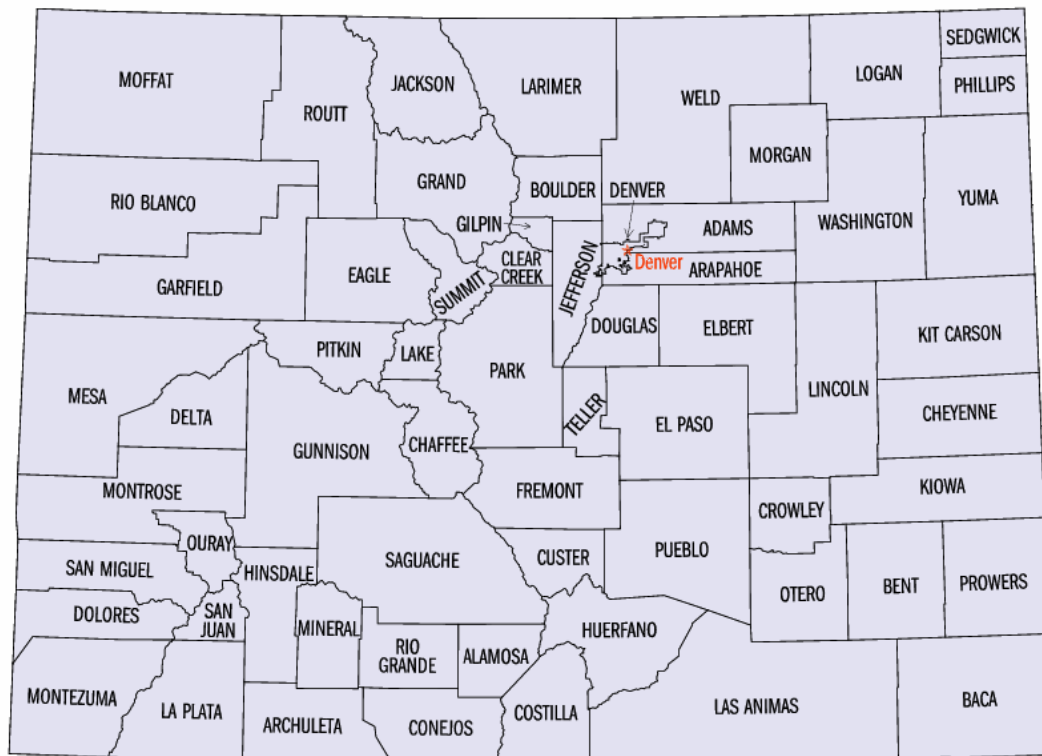
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2006



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.

Colorado Springs, Colorado

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

Demographics

- Population (2005 American Community Survey): 376,985¹
- Race/ethnicity (2005 American Community Survey): 80.3% white; 6.3% black/African American; 0.9% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.6% Asian; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 5.9% other race; 3.7% two or more races; 13.7% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)²
- Colorado Springs is located in El Paso County.³

Political

- Mayor: Lionel Rivera⁴
- City Council (District): Larry Small (Vice Mayor); Scott Hente (1); Darryl Glenn (2); Jerry Heimlicher (3); Margaret Radford (4); Tom Gallagher (at large); Randy Purvis (at large); and Bernie Herpin (at large)⁵
- Chief of Police: Luis Velez⁶
- El Paso County Sheriff: Terry Maketa⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1996, the Rocky Mountain HIDTA is responsible for areas in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. This HIDTA is responsible for 17 Colorado counties, including El Paso.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2005, the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) reported 1,469 adult arrests for drug abuse violations.⁹ In 2004, there were 1,440 such arrests reported.¹⁰

Number of Drug/Alcohol Arrests, Colorado Springs, 2004-2005

Drug Type	2004		2005	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Drug abuse violations	312	1,440	250	1,469
Driving under the influence	21	1,863	28	2,110
Liquor law violations	303	1,092	325	920

- CSPD reported 5 adult arrests for murder during 2005.¹¹ In 2004, there were 12 such arrests reported.¹²

Number of Index Offense Arrests, Colorado Springs, 2004-2005

Drug Type	2004		2005	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Murder	0	12	0	5

Rape	9	41	8	42
Robbery	14	91	20	102
Burglary	105	321	109	347
Auto theft	60	304	50	247
Aggravated assault	63	390	74	451
Larceny	1,026	2,923	882	2,520
Arson	31	7	27	13

- The El Paso County area Metro Vice, Narcotics and Intelligence Division has experienced a sharp increase in the number of cases involving prescription medication fraud. Such cases increased from 55 in 2004 to 101 in 2005.¹³

Enforcement

- Metro Vice, Narcotics and Intelligence Division (Metro VNI)¹⁴
Metro VNI is a multi-agency co-located drug task force which investigates, controls, and prevents the illegal sale, possession or manufacturing of illicit drugs. Units of Metro VNI conduct in-depth investigations of major drug trafficking organizations and gangs involved in drug trafficking and money laundering operations throughout El Paso and Teller Counties.
- Local Inter-agency Methamphetamine Identity Theft (LIMIT) Program¹⁵
Created in 2005, the El Paso County LIMIT program focuses on high-volume identity theft rings comprised of drug traffickers and users.
- As of October 2005, there were 993 full-time law enforcement employees in Colorado Springs (675 officers and 318 civilians).¹⁶

Trafficking and Seizures

- Tovar Drug Trafficking Organization¹⁷
The Colorado Springs-based Tovar Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) was dismantled in 2005 after a 14-month investigation. This organization trafficked in methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, and was found to be one of the most organized and powerful methamphetamine organizations in Colorado. During the Tovar DTO investigation, enforcement efforts resulted in the following seizures:
 - 22.93 pounds of methamphetamine
 - 5.29 pounds of cocaine
 - 9.57 pounds of marijuana
 - 500 marijuana plants
 - 13 handguns
 - 2 shotguns
 - 2 assault weapons
 - 4 vehicles
 - \$43,239 in cash
- Metro VNI reported 8 methamphetamine lab seizures for January to September 2006.¹⁸
During full year 2005, there were 20 meth lab seizures reported.¹⁹
- Metro VNI also seized methamphetamine valued at \$6,559,674 in 2005.²⁰

Amount of Drugs Seized by Metro VNI, 2005

Drug Type	Amount Seized	Value of Seizure
Methamphetamine	17,770 grams/39.1 pounds	\$6,559,674
Cocaine	38,246 grams/84.2 pounds	\$3,824,673
Marijuana	63,627 grams/140.1 pounds	\$1,481,292

- During 2005, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit discovered \$472,000 worth of illegal drugs, which is up from \$50,615 worth of illegal drugs in 2004.²¹

Courts

➤ Drug Courts

As of September 2006, there were two drug courts being planned in Colorado Springs. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Colorado Springs at that time.²² The El Paso County Drug Court program began in 1999 as one of three pilot drug court programs in Colorado.²³

- By the end of 2005, approximately 72% of the people admitted to the El Paso County Drug Court Program had either successfully graduated or were still actively participating in the program.²⁴
- During 2004, the Fourth Judicial District Attorney's Office (responsible for El Paso and Teller Counties) prosecuted 5,830 felony cases, including 1,506 drug-related felonies. From January through November 2005, the District Attorney's Office filed 1,266 drug cases. Methamphetamine-related filings accounted for most of the drug cases (62%).²⁵

Sources

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

² Ibid.

³ Colorado Springs Web site: <http://www.springsgov.com/>

⁴ Colorado Springs City Officials, About City Council Members:

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=1356>

⁵ Colorado Springs City Officials, About City Council Members:

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=1356>

⁶ Colorado Springs City Officials, Chief of Police: <http://www.springsgov.com/Members.asp?MemberID=42>

⁷ El Paso County Sheriff's Office: <http://shr.elpasoco.com/>

⁸ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/rockymountain.html>

⁹ Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2005*: <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/default.htm>

¹⁰ Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2004*: <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k4/default.htm>

¹¹ Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2005*: <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/default.htm>

¹² Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2004*: <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k4/default.htm>

¹³ El Paso County Sheriff's Office, *2005 Annual Report*: <http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/rdonlyres/362FE ECB-8652-4DAB-A2F2-86C189A262C7/0/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

¹⁴ Colorado Springs Police Department, Metro Vice, Narcotics and Intelligence Division:

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=298>

¹⁵ El Paso County Sheriff's Office, *2005 Annual Report*: <http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/rdonlyres/362FE ECB-8652-4DAB-A2F2-86C189A262C7/0/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

¹⁶ Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2005*: <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/default.htm>

¹⁷ El Paso County Sheriff's Office, *2005 Annual Report*: <http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/rdonlyres/362FE ECB-8652-4DAB-A2F2-86C189A262C7/0/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

¹⁸ Colorado Springs Police Department, Meth Lab Seizures 2006:

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=6244>

¹⁹ Colorado Springs Police Department, Meth Lab Seizures 2005:

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=5500>

²⁰ El Paso County Sheriff's Office, *2005 Annual Report*: <http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/ronlyres/362FEECB-8652-4DAB-A2F2-86C189A262C7/0/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

²¹ El Paso County Sheriff's Office, *2005 Annual Report*: <http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/ronlyres/362FEECB-8652-4DAB-A2F2-86C189A262C7/0/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

²² Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Clearinghouse Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, September 21, 2006: http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/us_drugcourts.pdf

²³ Office of the District Attorney, Fourth Judicial District, *2005 Annual Report*:

<http://dao.elpasoco.com/NR/ronlyres/B4FF30CE-A834-4518-8793-F12302BAFE78/0/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

²⁴ Fourth Judicial District Attorney's Office, *2005 Annual Report*:

<http://dao.elpasoco.com/NR/ronlyres/B4FF30CE-A834-4518-8793-F12302BAFE78/0/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

²⁵ Fourth Judicial District Attorney's Office, *2005 Annual Report*:

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ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Web Site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

Email Form: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/utilities/contact.html>

