



U.S. Department of Justice
National Drug Intelligence Center



Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



Drug Market Analysis 2011

Source Summary Statement

The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) has high confidence in this drug market analysis as it is based on multiple sources of information that have proved highly reliable in prior NDIC, law enforcement, and intelligence community reporting. Quantitative data, including seizure, eradication, and arrest statistics, were drawn from data sets maintained by federal, state, or local government agencies. Discussions of the prevalence and consequences of drug abuse are based on published reports from U.S. Government agencies and interviews with public health officials deemed reliable because of their expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of drug abuse. Trends and patterns related to drug production, trafficking, and abuse were identified through detailed analysis of coordinated counterdrug agency reporting and information. NDIC intelligence analysts and field intelligence officers obtained this information through numerous interviews with law enforcement and public health officials (federal, state, and local) in whom NDIC has a high level of confidence based on previous contact and reporting, their recognized expertise, and their professional standing and reputation within the U.S. counterdrug community. This report was reviewed and corroborated by law enforcement officials who have jurisdiction in the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and possess an expert knowledge of its drug situation.



**U.S. Department of Justice
National Drug Intelligence Center**



2011-R0813-002

September 2011

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This assessment is an outgrowth of a partnership between the NDIC and HIDTA Program for preparation of annual assessments depicting drug trafficking trends and developments in HIDTA Program areas. The report has been coordinated with the HIDTA, is limited in scope to HIDTA jurisdictional boundaries, and draws upon a wide variety of sources within those boundaries.

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Executive Summary

The drug threat posed to the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) remained relatively unchanged in 2010 compared with 2009, with methamphetamine trafficking and abuse remaining the most persistent drug threat. However, there are some notable exceptions. Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), principally those associated with the Sinaloa Cartel, have increased their use of the region as a primary entry point for marijuana and heroin into the United States and for bulk currency and weapons into Mexico. These DTOs have also altered some of their smuggling methods to circumvent law enforcement efforts and have increased the number of attacks against U.S. law enforcement, attempting to disrupt their trafficking activities. Law enforcement officials in the region also report a growing threat from controlled prescription drugs (CPDs), which have become increasingly available and associated with property crimes in the region.

Key issues identified in the Arizona HIDTA region include the following:

- Mexican traffickers are increasing the already high levels of marijuana and heroin that they transport to and through the Arizona HIDTA region, maintaining high levels of availability in the region and enabling them to supply a growing number of domestic drug markets.
- The Sinaloa Cartel represents the greatest organized criminal drug threat in the Arizona HIDTA counties through its continued dominance over drug trafficking into and through the region.
- Mexican DTOs have increased their use of ultralight aircraft to smuggle drug shipments, predominately marijuana, from Mexico into Arizona.
- Drug-related violence against law enforcement officers in the Arizona HIDTA region is increasing as drug traffickers try to reduce the impact of law enforcement efforts to disrupt drug smuggling.
- The adverse effects of high levels of methamphetamine availability, abuse, and related crime on communities in the HIDTA region far surpass the effects from all other drugs.
- The availability of illegally diverted prescription opioids is increasing in the HIDTA region, and indicators suggest a growing connection between these drugs and property crimes.
- A heightened law enforcement focus on outbound bulk cash currency and weapons trafficking is resulting in increased seizures in Arizona HIDTA counties.

Key Issues^a

Mexican traffickers are increasing the already high levels of marijuana and heroin that they transport to and through the Arizona HIDTA region, maintaining high levels of availability in the region and enabling them to supply a growing number of domestic drug markets.

The Arizona HIDTA region is a major entry point for illicit drugs, particularly marijuana and heroin, transported from Mexico to the United States.¹ Approximately half of the marijuana smuggled from Mexico typically transits Arizona HIDTA counties.² Seizure statistics indicate that Mexican traffickers are increasing marijuana and heroin smuggling from Mexico into the region.³ For example, in fiscal year (FY) 2010, the amounts of seized marijuana and heroin increased from 105,000 pounds to 119,000 pounds and from 190 pounds to 263 pounds, respectively, when compared with FY2009 seizure amounts.⁴ (See Table 1.) Overall, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at Arizona ports of entry (POEs) seized more than 123,000 pounds of illicit drugs with a street value of more than \$161 million in FY2010, a significant increase over FY2009 totals (109,000 pounds of drugs worth approximately \$148 million).⁵

Mexican traffickers appear to have modified their methods of operation in response to increased law enforcement interdiction efforts.⁶ Seizure statistics in HIDTA counties show an increased number of heroin seizure incidents but an overall decrease in the amount of heroin seized (see Table 2 on page 3),⁷ indicating that heroin smugglers are shifting from fewer shipments of large quantities to a greater number of shipments of smaller quantities.⁸ Arizona HIDTA officials suspect that this shift to more, but smaller, shipments may be a way for DTOs to minimize larger losses to interdiction.⁹

Table 1. Drug Seizures at Arizona POEs, in Pounds, FY2009–FY2010

Drug	FY2009	FY2010
Marijuana	105,000	119,000
Methamphetamine	787	730
Cocaine	3,300	3,300
Heroin	190	263

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations.

a. For a general overview of the drug threat in Arizona HIDTA region, please see Appendix A.

**Table 2. Arizona HIDTA Heroin Seizures,
July 2009–June 2010**

Time Frame	Number of Heroin Seizures	Total Amount Seized (pounds)
July–Dec 2009	75	160.5
Jan–June 2010	130	65.8

Source: Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Many law enforcement officials in the region report high levels of availability for marijuana and heroin.¹⁰ For example, all 32 agency respondents to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2011^b in the Arizona HIDTA region indicated that marijuana availability is high within their areas.¹¹ In 2010, 25 of 26 agency respondents noted that marijuana availability was high.¹² Moderate or high heroin availability was reported by 23 of 32 agency respondents in 2011, compared with 17 of 26 respondents in 2010.¹³

Table 3. Drug Availability in Arizona HIDTA Counties, by Number of NDTS Respondents, 2010–2011

Availability	Cocaine		Heroin		Powder Methamphetamine		Ice Methamphetamine		Marijuana		CPDs	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
High	8	7	12	13	6	10	18	21	25	32	13	17
Moderate	7	11	5	10	10	10	5	4	1	0	9	10
Low	11	14	9	8	9	7	3	5	0	0	0	4
No Response	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	2	0	0	4	1
Total Respondents	26	32	26	32	26	32	26	32	26	32	26	32

Source: National Drug Threat Survey, 2010 and 2011.

The Sinaloa Cartel represents the greatest organized criminal drug threat in the Arizona HIDTA counties through its continued dominance over drug trafficking into and through the region.¹⁴

Mexican DTOs, primarily those associated with the Sinaloa Cartel, smuggle large quantities of heroin and marijuana into the United States and bulk currency and weapons from the United States into Mexico.¹⁵ The Sinaloa Cartel dominates drug trafficking routes in Sonora, Mexico, and also controls the drug trafficking corridors in Arizona adjacent to Sonora.¹⁶ The numerous Mexican organizations that constitute the Sinaloa Cartel, such as the Guzmán-Loera and Zambada-Garcia DTOs,¹⁷ control most drug corridors that cross the international border between Mexico and Arizona, including the Tohono O’odham Nation Indian Reservation and the Nogales POE.¹⁸

b. The NDTS is conducted annually by NDIC to solicit information from a representative sample of state and local law enforcement agencies. NDIC uses this information to produce national, regional, and state estimates of various aspects of drug trafficking activities. NDTS data reflect agencies’ perceptions based on their analysis of criminal activities that occurred within their jurisdictions during the past year. NDTS 2011 data cited in this report are raw, unweighted responses from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies solicited through either NDIC or the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) HIDTA program as of February 24, 2011.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) estimates that the Sinaloa Cartel-affiliated DTOs control approximately 90 percent of the drugs that cross the border into Arizona.¹⁹ The cartel also controls much of the illicit money and weapons trafficking (see text box on page 5) along the Arizona–Mexico border and within most areas of the Arizona HIDTA region.²⁰ The Sinaloa Cartel’s wholesale distribution of heroin and marijuana extends beyond Arizona HIDTA counties²² to much of the United States.²¹ (See Figure 1.) Local law enforcement agencies within the HIDTA region report that most of the marijuana and heroin that transits the Mexico–Arizona border area is destined for other domestic markets, including those in East Coast states such as New York, Georgia, and Florida, and midwestern states such as Missouri and Iowa.²³ Additionally, the Sinaloa Cartel smuggles large quantities of drugs into the United States through California²⁴ that members use to supply the Arizona HIDTA region as well as other domestic markets.²⁵

Figure 1. Sinaloa Cartel Area of Influence Within the United States



Source: Federal, state, and local law enforcement reporting.

Two Investigations Reveal “Straw Purchasers” of Firearms in Arizona Supplying the Sinaloa Cartel

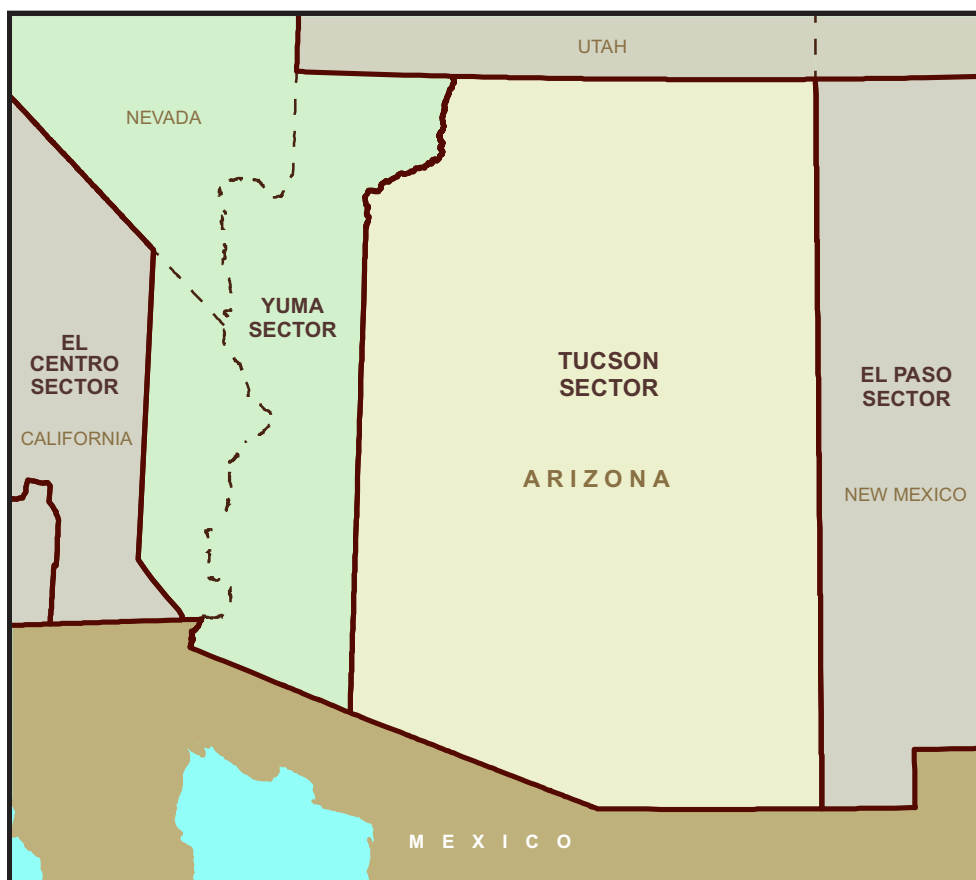
After a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) investigation, two Mesa (AZ) men were sentenced in August 2010 for leading a ring of 10 individuals who purchased more than 100 firearms in the Phoenix and Tucson (AZ) areas and transported them to Mexico. The firearms were then sold to a member of the Sinaloa Cartel. In an unrelated multiagency investigation by the Phoenix Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Strike Force in January 2011, authorities arrested 20 individuals on federal firearms charges after an investigation revealed that members of the group, acting as “straw purchasers,” had bought more than 700 guns to be smuggled into Mexico on behalf of the Sinaloa Cartel. In one instance, seven individuals allegedly spent \$104,251 in cash at various Phoenix area firearms dealers to acquire 140 firearms.²⁶ Of the more than 700 weapons purchased by the group, 372 were recovered in Arizona and Texas, and 185 were recovered in Mexico.²⁷

Source: U.S. Department of Justice.

Mexican DTOs have increased their use of ultralight aircraft to smuggle drug shipments, predominately marijuana, from Mexico into Arizona.²⁸

Seizure data indicate that Mexican DTOs are increasingly using ultralight aircraft along the Arizona–Mexico border as a means of smuggling primarily marijuana into the United States.²⁹ Most of the ultralight activity along the U.S.–Mexico border occurs within the Arizona HIDTA region.³⁰ For example, CBP Air and Marine Operations Center (AMOC) data indicate that the number of ultralight aircraft detected in the Arizona HIDTA region increased sharply from 108 in FY2009 to 260 in FY2010—four times the number (65) detected in FY2010 in the El Paso border area, the next most significant area of ultralight aircraft detection.³¹ Increased ultralight activity was most notable in the Tucson Sector, which includes most of the Arizona–Mexico border area (see [Figure 2 on page 6](#)), where suspected ultralight detections jumped from 88 (of 118 across the entire Southwest Border) in FY2009 to 229 (of 333 across the entire Southwest border) in FY2010, a 160 percent increase.³² AMOC radar detection enabled authorities on the ground to seize some of the aircraft and their cargo after they landed in Arizona.³³ To counter law enforcement interdictions on the ground, some traffickers are air-dropping drug shipments at predetermined locations rather than landing their aircraft and unloading the cargo.³⁴

Figure 2. CBP Tucson and Yuma Sectors



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Drug-related violence against law enforcement officers in the Arizona HIDTA region is increasing as drug traffickers try to reduce the impact of law enforcement efforts to disrupt drug smuggling.³⁵

CBP statistics indicate that violence directed at law enforcement officers has increased within the HIDTA region.³⁶ While assaults against Border Patrol officers decreased from 50 in FY2009 to 32 in FY2010 in the Yuma Sector, assaults increased by 61 percent (from 261 to 421) in the Tucson Sector during the same period.³⁷ (See Table 4 on page 7.) Additionally, DTOs have begun to threaten local police officers to deter their enforcement activities.³⁸ Violent criminal groups often referred to as border bandits, rip crews, or *bajadores*, operate along trafficking corridors in remote locations, preying upon law enforcement officers and smugglers who transit their territories.³⁹ For example, border bandits murdered a CBP agent in December 2010 during a gunfight in an area of Santa Cruz County, known for high levels of illegal activity.⁴⁰ Border bandits often dress in tactical gear in an attempt to appear to be legitimate law enforcement personnel.⁴¹

Table 4. Assaults Against U.S. Border Patrol Agents in Arizona CBP Sectors, FY2009–FY2010

Sector	FY2009	FY2010
Yuma	50	32
Tucson	261	421

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations.

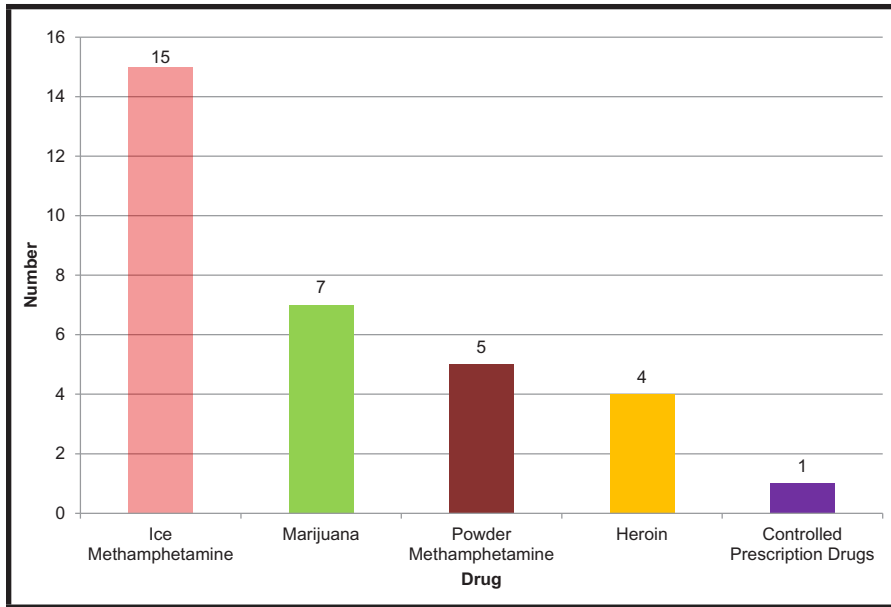
The adverse effects of high levels of methamphetamine availability, abuse, and related crime on communities in the HIDTA region far surpass the effects from all other drugs.

Law enforcement reporting and related data indicate that methamphetamine availability is high in the Arizona HIDTA region.⁴² NDTs 2011 data reveal that 21 of 32 law enforcement respondents cite ice methamphetamine availability as high in their jurisdictions, while 10 of 32 cite powder methamphetamine availability as high.⁴³ (See Table 3 on page 3.) High availability is also indicated by declining methamphetamine prices in major markets in the region.⁴⁴ For example, law enforcement officials in Phoenix report that methamphetamine prices dropped from an average of \$15,250 per kilogram at the end of 2009 to an average of \$14,000 per kilogram in mid-2010.⁴⁵ Moreover, 20 of the 32 NDTs respondents in Arizona HIDTA counties identify methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat in their areas (see Figure 3 on page 8).⁴⁶

Methamphetamine abuse levels are consistently higher than abuse levels for all other drugs in the region.⁴⁷ While treatment admissions for amphetamines have steadily declined since 2007, largely the result of antimethamphetamine abuse initiatives, such treatment admissions have been consistently higher than those for any other drug.⁴⁸ (See Table 5 on page 9.)

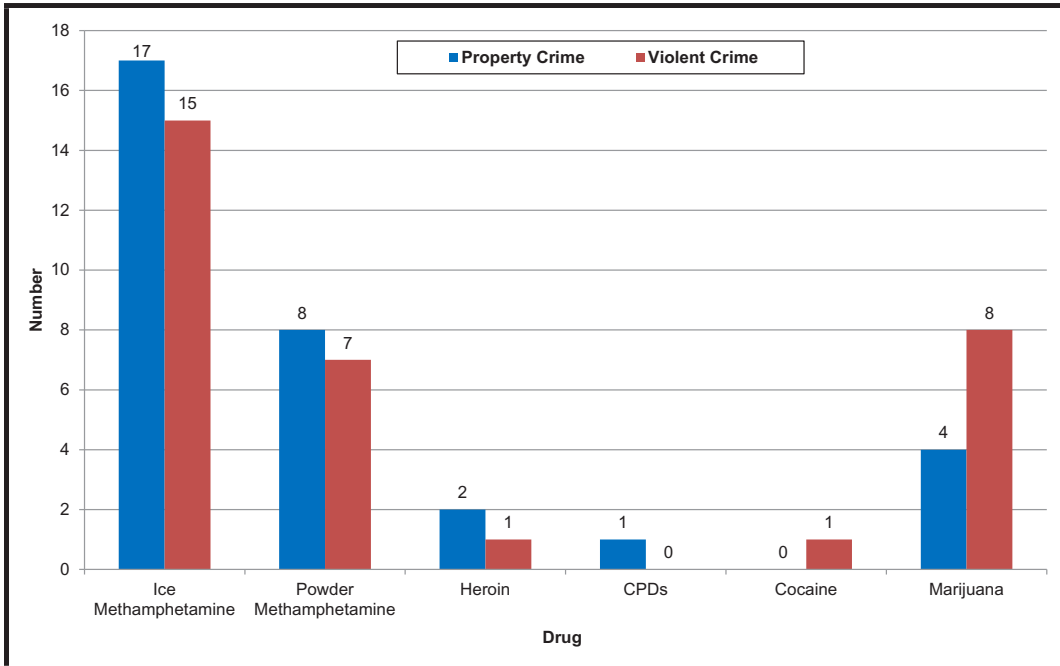
Methamphetamine availability and abuse also have significant adverse effects on communities in the region.⁴⁹ Most drug-related crime in the region is associated with methamphetamine trafficking and abuse.⁵⁰ Methamphetamine in all forms is also reported by respondents to the NDTs as the drug that most contributes to violent crime (22 of the 32 respondents) and property crime (25 of the 32 respondents).⁵¹ (See Figure 4 on page 8.) Further, DEA data indicate a statewide increase in arrests for methamphetamine-related charges from 111 in 2009 to 166 in 2010.⁵²

Figure 3. Greatest Drug Threat in the Arizona HIDTA Region, by Number of NDTs 2011 Respondents



Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2011.

Figure 4. Drugs Contributing Most to Violent and Property Crime in the Arizona HIDTA Region, by Number of NDTs 2011 Respondents



Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2011.

Table 5. Drug-Related Treatment Admissions to Publicly Funded Facilities in the Arizona HIDTA Region, 2007–2010

Year	Cocaine (smoked)	Cocaine (other)	Marijuana	Heroin	Other Opiates	Amphetamines
2007	867	570	1,998	1,187	366	3,104
2008	950	560	2,168	1,599	496	2,872
2009	527	315	2,185	1,828	723	2,385
2010	294	198	1,660	1,585	572	1,679

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set.

The availability of illegally diverted prescription opioids is increasing in the HIDTA region, and indicators suggest a growing connection between these drugs and property crimes.⁵³

According to 2011 NDTs data, an increasing number of respondents (27 of 32) in Arizona HIDTA counties report that the availability of CPDs is high or moderate in their areas, compared with 2010 data (22 of 26 respondents).⁵⁴ (See Table 3 on page 3.) The Arizona HIDTA reports that the predominant CPDs available in the region are opioid painkillers such as OxyContin or Vicodin.⁵⁵

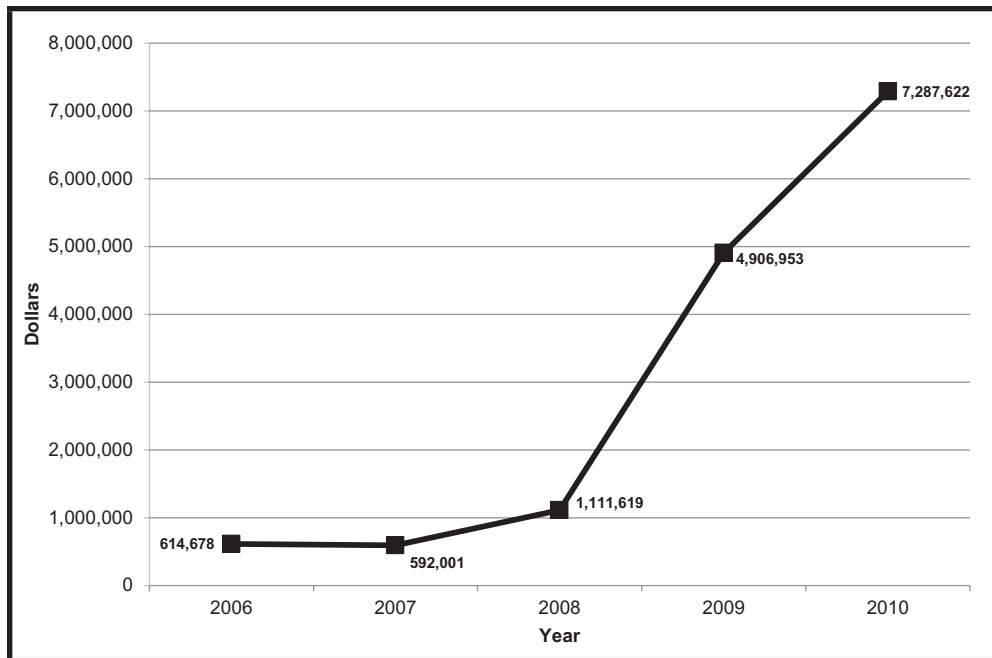
CPD abusers are increasingly committing property crimes, such as burglary, to obtain these CPDs or the means to purchase them.⁵⁶ Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN) data reflect an increasing number of CPD abusers among property crime offenders.⁵⁷ According to the AARIN Annual Adult Report, 12 percent of Maricopa County property crime offenders tested positive⁵⁸ for opiates^c in 2010, up from approximately 6.5 percent of property crime offenders in 2009.⁵⁹ In response to the increasing availability of CPDs in the region, the Arizona HIDTA participates in public safety programs such as DEA’s Operation Take-Back, a national initiative for the surrender of old or unwanted prescription medications for proper disposal.⁶⁰ As a result of this initiative, on September 25, 2010, more than 6,200 pounds of unwanted prescription medications were collected statewide.⁶¹ During one 4-hour period, five Tucson Police Department substations collected 365 pounds of pills.⁶²

A heightened law enforcement focus on outbound bulk cash currency and weapons trafficking is resulting in increased seizures in Arizona HIDTA counties.

CBP and ATF data indicate that increased law enforcement efforts have led to increased outbound bulk cash currency and weapons seizures in the Arizona HIDTA region.⁶³ Total outbound currency seizures at Arizona POEs have increased every year since 2007, reflecting a greater focus on enforcement efforts at the border.⁶⁴ In the Tucson Sector, which encompasses nearly all of the Arizona border area, currency seizures have trended upward every year since 2007, increasing from \$4.9 million in FY2009 to more than \$7.2 million in FY2010.⁶⁵ (See Figure 5 on page 10.) At the remaining POEs within the Yuma Sector, outbound currency seizures decreased during the same period, from \$817,370 in FY2009 to \$119,370 in FY2010, possibly indicating a shift in smuggling operations away from the Yuma Sector because of successful enforcement operations there.⁶⁶

c. Opiates include prescription opioid pain relievers such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, codeine, meperidine, and propoxyphene.

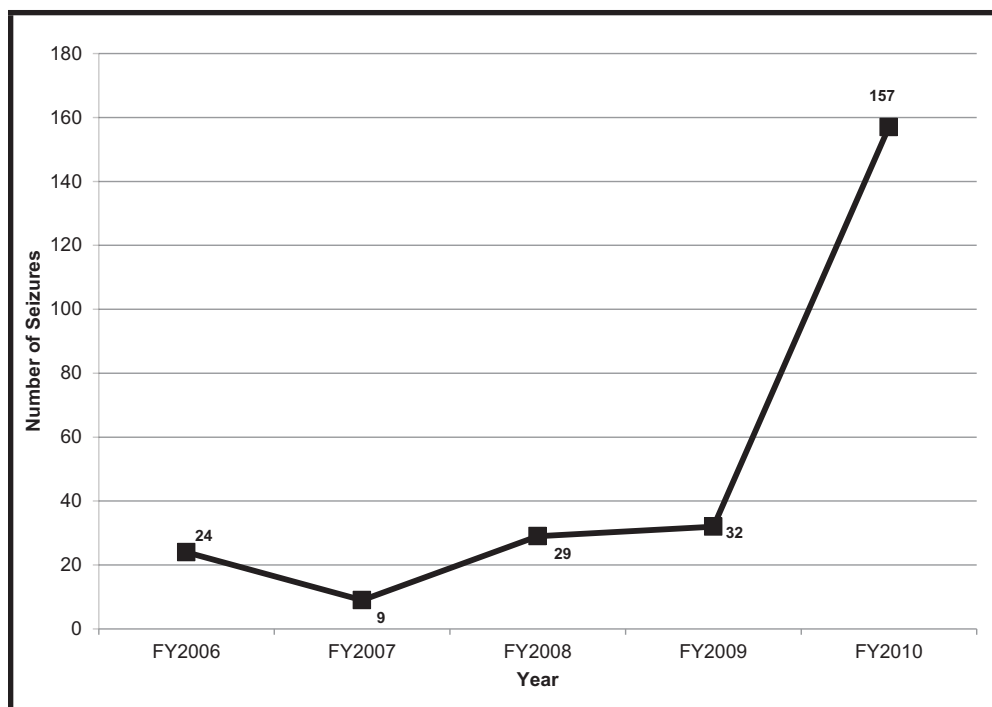
Figure 5. CBP Outbound Currency Seizures in the Tucson Sector, in Dollars, FY2006–FY2010



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations.

ATF statistics indicate that Arizona is also a major source area for weapons traced to crimes committed in Mexico.⁶⁷ In response, law enforcement officials in the Arizona HIDTA region have implemented several successful strategies aimed at reducing the flow of weapons into Mexico.⁶⁸ For example, one antifiarm trafficking strategy featured a 100-day Gun Runner Impact Team (GRIT) initiative that brought an additional 80 agents to Arizona and New Mexico to investigate and disrupt the flow of illegal weapons to Mexico.⁶⁹ The GRIT initiative resulted in the seizure of approximately 1,300 illegally trafficked firearms and 71,000 rounds of ammunition.⁷⁰ Consequently, CBP seizures of weapons and weapons parts increased nearly fivefold in the Tucson Sector from FY2009 to FY2010 (see Figure 6 on page 11).⁷¹ Increases were also noted within the Yuma Sector, most notably at the Wellton Station, where seizures more than tripled, from 23 incidents in FY2009 to 76 in FY2010.⁷²

Figure 6. Outbound Weapons and Parts Seizures in the Tucson Sector, FY2006–FY2010



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations.

Outlook

NDIC assesses with high confidence^d that the Sinaloa Cartel will retain its strong position as the predominant drug trafficking group in the region and will increase its drug trafficking operations in the Arizona HIDTA region. As a result, NDIC assesses with high confidence that Mexican marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine availability in Arizona HIDTA counties will increase in the near term. NDIC assesses with high confidence that the trend toward multiple smaller heroin loads will grow as traffickers attempt to lessen exposure to law enforcement at and near the Arizona–Mexico border. Similarly, NDIC assesses with high confidence that Mexican DTOs will more frequently use alternative smuggling methods such as ultralight aircraft in an attempt to evade increased law enforcement pressure, particularly at POEs. NDIC assesses with high confidence that violence against law enforcement will increase as interdiction efforts are expanded. NDIC assesses with high confidence that the heightened abuse of CPDs will lead to increasing pharmacy thefts and property crime.

d. **High Confidence** generally indicates that the judgments are based on high-quality information or that the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment. **Medium Confidence** generally means that the information is credibly sourced and plausible but can be interpreted in various ways, or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. **Low Confidence** generally means that the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make a solid analytic inference, or that there are significant concerns or problems with the sources.

Appendix A. Arizona HIDTA Overview

Map A1. Arizona HIDTA Counties



The Arizona HIDTA region encompasses the western and southern counties of Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma and includes the entire U.S.—Mexico border in Arizona (see Map A1). The HIDTA region also contains a number of federal lands controlled by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. The proximity to the U.S.—Mexico border itself, with a remote, largely underprotected border area between Arizona’s POEs combined with access to infrastructure such as the highways that connect major Arizona cities with major illicit drug source areas in Mexico, makes the HIDTA region an attractive area for traffickers.

Mexican DTOs excavate and employ tunnels to smuggle illicit drugs into the region from Mexico in order to circumvent law enforcement at the border.⁷³ Such tunnels are often found in the Nogales (AZ)—Nogales, Mexico, area, where an extensive underground drainage and sewer system exists, linking both sides of the border.⁷⁴ DTO members begin a tunnel on the Mexican side of the border, tap into the network of sewage pipes, and then follow the maze under the border until a suitable exit point is reached in the United States.⁷⁵ Often, tunnels end in warehouses or residences, allowing the undetected transfer of drug loads into United States.⁷⁶

Mexican DTOs exploit areas of the Arizona–Mexico border that have limited law enforcement presence. While 323 miles of the 376-mile Arizona–Mexico border have some type of fencing, few physical barriers exist elsewhere along the border between POEs to impede drug traffickers, particularly in the western area of the Tucson Sector, which encompasses the western half of Pima County.⁷⁷ In addition, sections of tribal and public lands straddle the border, resulting in large areas of access with limited law enforcement presence.⁷⁸ The Tucson Sector, for example, includes three national wildlife refuges, two national parks, a national forest, and the Tohono O’odham Nation Indian Reservation.⁷⁹

The Arizona HIDTA region is a principal arrival zone for Mexican marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.⁸⁰ Availability of these drugs in the region is high because of its proximity to the Mexican border and large areas of limited law enforcement presence.⁸¹

Both Phoenix and Tucson are major regional- and national-level distribution centers for illicit drugs smuggled by Mexican DTOs.⁸² Tucson is closer to the U.S.–Mexico border and therefore is a logical transshipment point for drug loads headed north from the border area, primarily Nogales.⁸³ Phoenix’s location at the junction of northbound I-17 and east-west I-10 makes it another ideal transshipment point.

Street gangs supplied by the Sinaloa Cartel control retail-level distribution in the cities and on tribal lands within the HIDTA region.⁸⁴ Hispanic street gangs such as Barrio Hollywood, Barrio Libre, and Brown Pride distribute marijuana, methamphetamine, and heroin in the Tucson area, while Barrio Hollywood and local affiliates of the New Mexican Mafia control retail drug sales in Phoenix.⁸⁵ Local sets of national-level gangs, such as Bloods and Crips, also distribute crack cocaine in HIDTA region cities.⁸⁶ For example, law enforcement officials in Tucson report the presence of two Bloods sets, South Park and Western Hills, as well as the North 4th Avenue Crips.⁸⁷

The Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation is another area of law enforcement concern along the Arizona–Mexico border.⁸⁸ Because the reservation straddles the international border, the area is popular with traffickers.⁸⁹ As a result, many local gangs on the reservation are active in the smuggling and distribution of drugs on and through the reservation.⁹⁰ Additionally, numerous gangs operate on the Tohono O’odham Reservation, including various Bloods, Crips, and Juggalo sets, as well as local unaffiliated gangs.⁹¹

Drug-related incidents, such as robberies and home invasions, constitute much of the violent and property crime committed in Phoenix and Tucson.⁹² Many of these crimes are criminal-on-criminal, aimed at stealing drug loads or proceeds from drug sales, or seeking retribution for lost or stolen drug loads or outstanding drug debts.⁹³ Often, victims of these crimes do not report the incidents to the authorities because of the involvement of both parties in illicit activities.⁹⁴

Numerous federal, state, local, and tribal agencies within the Arizona HIDTA region have formed effective partnerships to combat the threats drugs and drug-related violence pose to the region.⁹⁵

- The Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats (ACTT), a cooperative effort involving more than 60 federal, state, local, and tribal agencies in Arizona, began in 2009 and has proved effective in providing additional security for the Arizona border area.⁹⁶ Since its inception

in September 2009, ACTT has participated in the seizure of more than 1.6 million pounds of marijuana, 3,800 pounds of cocaine, and 1,000 pounds of methamphetamine; more than \$13 million in undeclared U.S. currency; and 268 weapons.⁹⁷ Participants include federal agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), CBP, and the U.S. Attorneys Office, as well as county sheriffs and local and tribal police departments.⁹⁸

- A major multiagency operation in Pinal County (AZ), concluded in early February 2011, resulted in 110 arrests, the recovery of 9 stolen vehicles, and the seizure of 4 firearms and more than 7,500 pounds of marijuana. A subsequent operation in Pinal County, conducted in late February 2011, netted 102 arrests, 7 stolen vehicles, 12 firearms, and more than 3,200 pounds of marijuana.⁹⁹ Participating agencies in both operations included ICE Enforcement Removal Operations and Homeland Security Investigations, CBP Office of Field Operations and Office of Border Patrol, the Bureau of Land Management, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, and the Casa Grande and Eloy Police Departments.¹⁰⁰
- A 3-month investigation by the Counter Narcotics Alliance Street-Level Narcotics group led to the dismantling of a Tucson-area home invasion crew linked to four separate DTOs.¹⁰¹ The investigation resulted in 67 indictments and netted assets estimated at more than \$430,000, including more than \$357,000 in cash.¹⁰²

Endnotes

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15. U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), press release, “Leaders Sentenced for Conspiracy That Supplied Weapons to Sinaloa Cartel,” August 9, 2010; Arizona HIDTA, interview by NDIC IA, January 25, 2011.
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27. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), map of “Fast & Furious Investigation Firearms Recoveries,” January 25, 2011.
28. CBP, response to NDIC Request for Information (RFI), November 23, 2010.
29. CBP, response to NDIC RFI, November 23, 2010.
30. CBP, response to NDIC RFI, November 23, 2010.
31. CBP, response to NDIC RFI, November 23, 2010.
32. CBP, response to NDIC RFI, November 23, 2010.
33. Arizona HIDTA Border Violence Unit, interview by NDIC IA, January 25, 2011.
34. Arizona HIDTA Border Violence Unit, interview by NDIC IA, January 25, 2011.
35. CBP, Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination, *BorderStat Violence Year in Review FY2010*, p. 14.

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