



U.S. Department of Justice
National Drug Intelligence Center



South Texas 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 South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and possess an expert knowledge of its drug situation.



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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 South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) region has a growing influence on domestic drug availability as evidenced by the large and increasing quantities of marijuana and heroin seized in the region the past year, a large percentage of which is destined for drug markets throughout the United States. Marijuana seizures in the region increased 59 percent during the most recent reporting period, from 580,753 kilograms in 2009 to 924,732 kilograms in 2010, while heroin seizures increased 260 percent from 101 kilograms in 2009 to 364 kilograms in 2010.¹ Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are the primary smugglers of these drugs, as well as the cocaine and methamphetamine that are either distributed in or transit the region. Within the region, marijuana is a principal drug threat, followed closely by cocaine.

Key issues identified in the South Texas HIDTA region include the following:

- Mexican marijuana seizures increased significantly in the South Texas HIDTA region in 2010—resulting in increased marijuana flow through the region to drug markets in Texas, the Midwest, the East, and the Southeast.
- The total amount of heroin seized in the South Texas HIDTA region increased significantly over the past year and prices declined, indicating increased availability of the drug.
- Mexican DTOs, the dominant organizational drug threat to the South Texas HIDTA region, are employing gang members to distribute drugs and conduct other criminal activity on their behalf.

Key Issues^a

Mexican marijuana seizures increased significantly in the South Texas HIDTA region in 2010—resulting in increased marijuana flow through the region to drug markets in Texas, the Midwest, the East, and the Southeast.

The flow of Mexican commercial-grade marijuana into and through the South Texas HIDTA region is high and increasing.² In 2010, nearly 1 million kilograms of marijuana that entered the HIDTA region from Mexico were seized in the HIDTA region or in transit to other areas of the country.³ According to National Seizure System (NSS) data, the amount of marijuana seized in the South Texas HIDTA region in 2010 (924,732 kg) was 59 percent higher than the amount seized in 2009 (580,753 kg).⁴ NSS data also reveal that the marijuana seizure total from shipments originating in South Texas HIDTA counties and destined for other drug markets was slightly lower in 2010 (60,454 kg) than in 2009 (60,867 kg) but notably higher than 2008 (50,315 kg).⁵

The significant increase in total marijuana seizures has been accompanied by an increasing number of seized shipments of 1,000 kilograms or greater⁶ and a large number of seizures of abandoned marijuana,⁷ indicating a high level of marijuana availability and a greater amount of the drug transiting the area to other drug markets in the United States.⁸ According to NSS data, the number of marijuana seizures larger than 1,000 kilograms nearly doubled to 17 in 2010 from 9 in both 2009 and 2008.⁹ Law enforcement officials in the South Texas HIDTA region are discovering significant numbers of abandoned marijuana loads in the border area of the HIDTA region,¹⁰ particularly in the Laredo area.¹¹ South Texas HIDTA initiatives reported seizures of abandoned marijuana totaling 122,542 kilograms^b in 2010, and 26,386 kilograms of abandoned marijuana in the first quarter of 2011.¹² Some abandoned marijuana seizures are the result of law enforcement pursuits of marijuana smugglers who abandon the marijuana to avoid apprehension.¹³ Other seizures result from U.S. Border Patrol agents tracking footprints heading north from the Rio Grande and discovering backpack-configured duffle bags of marijuana left in remote areas near the river for eventual pickup by other transporters on the U.S. side of the border.¹⁴

Most marijuana shipments into the South Texas HIDTA region are intended for distribution in drug markets outside the region.¹⁵ According to 2010 NSS data, marijuana shipments from South Texas—specifically Bexar, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Maverick, Starr, Travis, Val Verde, Webb, and Zapata Counties—were primarily destined for drug markets in the Midwest, the Southeast, and the East, but also in Texas.¹⁶ (See Table 1 on page 3.) Traffickers commonly transport marijuana from South Texas to other drug markets in tractor-trailers, passenger and commercial vehicles, and buses.¹⁷ However, they also use trains to transport multiton quantities of the drug from Mexico through the HIDTA region to intended drug markets.¹⁸ (See text box on page 3.)

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

b. Calendar year 2010 was the first year that the South Texas HIDTA included the option for HIDTA initiatives to report drug seizures that could not be claimed under the standard initiative performance reporting. Abandoned marijuana seizures were included in the new option.

**Table 1. Marijuana Seizures Originating in South Texas HIDTA Counties
Destined for Drug Markets in U.S. States, 2010**

		Origination—South Texas HIDTA Counties									
		Bexar	Cameron	Hidalgo	Jim Hogg	Maverick	Starr	Travis	Val Verde	Webb	Zapata
Destination—U.S. States	Alabama	Arkansas	Alabama	Texas	Iowa	Arkansas	Alabama	Illinois	Arkansas	Texas	
	Arkansas	Florida	Arkansas		Texas	Kentucky	Colorado	Texas	Illinois	Unknown destinations	
	Florida	Georgia	California			Louisiana	Georgia		Michigan		
	Georgia	Indiana	Florida			Maryland	Louisiana		Texas		
	Illinois	Kansas	Georgia			Oklahoma	Mississippi		Virginia		
	Iowa	Louisiana	Illinois			Texas	Missouri		Unknown destinations		
	Kentucky	Maryland	Indiana			Unknown destinations	New Jersey				
	Louisiana	Michigan	Iowa				New York				
	Minnesota	Mississippi	Kentucky				Tennessee				
	Mississippi	Missouri	Louisiana				Texas				
	Missouri	Ohio	Maryland				Unknown destinations				
	Oklahoma	South Carolina	Michigan								
	South Carolina	Tennessee	Minnesota								
	Tennessee	Texas	Mississippi								
	Texas	Virginia	Missouri								
	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Nebraska								
	Unknown destinations		New Jersey								
			New York								
			North Carolina								
			Ohio								
		Oklahoma									
		Pennsylvania									
		South Dakota									
		Tennessee									
		Texas									
		Virginia									
		Wisconsin									
		Unknown destinations									

Source: National Seizure System, run date April 21, 2011.

Major Marijuana Shipment Discovered on Train Destined for Chicago

In mid-November 2010, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Eagle Pass (TX) discovered nearly 11 tons of marijuana on a train bound for Chicago. The marijuana was concealed in hundreds of large bundles, or “super sacks,” inside six train cars. In December 2010, a monitored delivery of the train cars and their contents to a Chicago warehouse resulted in the arrests of seven individuals and the confiscation of approximately 21,800 pounds of marijuana.

Source: United States Attorney Northern District of Illinois.

The total amount of heroin seized in the South Texas HIDTA region increased significantly over the past year and prices declined, indicating increased availability of the drug.

The amount of heroin seized in the South Texas HIDTA region increased significantly over the past year.¹⁹ The combined heroin seizure total in South Texas HIDTA counties in 2010 (364 kg) was 260 percent higher than in 2009 (101 kg) and accounted for 80 percent of all

heroin seized in Texas as reported to NSS in 2010 (457 kg).²⁰ The size of heroin loads smuggled across the border into the HIDTA region also trended upward, indicating confidence by DTOs in their ability to successfully move larger amounts of the drug from Mexico into South Texas.²¹ (See text box on page 5.) Heroin seizures associated with South Texas HIDTA initiatives also increased, nearly doubling from 50 kilograms in 2009 to almost 95 kilograms in 2010.²² While total heroin seizure amounts increased in 2010, the wholesale price of heroin in the region decreased, with the average prices for kilogram quantities of Mexican black tar heroin and brown powder heroin considerably lower in 2010 (\$44,000 and \$22,000, respectively) than in 2009 (\$56,000 and \$26,000, respectively), indicating that availability of the drug within the region is increasing for distribution both within and outside the area.²³ (See Table 2.) The increasing availability of heroin in the South Texas HIDTA region is also evidenced by the number of law enforcement agency respondents to the National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS)^c 2011 who indicate moderate availability of the drug in their jurisdictions (10 of 23), an increase from NDTS 2010 responses (3 of 15).²⁴ (See Figure B2 in Appendix B.)

Table 2. South Texas HIDTA, Average Drug Prices, in Kilograms, 2006–2010

Drug	Price in Dollars				
	Year				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cocaine (crack)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	24,500
Cocaine (powder)	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	19,500
Heroin (Mexican black tar)	56,000	56,000	56,000	56,000	44,000
Heroin (Mexican brown powder)	22,000	22,000	26,000	26,000	22,000
Marijuana (Mexican)	850	850	900	900	540
Methamphetamine (ice)	22,000	22,000	23,000	23,000	33,000
Methamphetamine (powder)	7,000	7,000	14,000	14,000	25,000

Source: South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

 = Decrease in Price from Previous Year

 = Increase in Price from Previous Year

The HIDTA region is also being used as a transit zone for heroin destined for other drug markets.²⁵ A portion of the heroin smuggled into the region remains for local consumption; however, the majority of heroin smuggled into South Texas transits the area destined for drug markets within Texas and in the southern, midwestern, eastern, and northeastern United States.²⁶ According to NSS data from 2008 through 2010, heroin shipments that originated in South Texas HIDTA counties were destined for drug markets in California, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, and Texas.²⁷ (See Table 3 on page 5.) Traffickers commonly use personal vehicles with hidden compartments or natural voids to transport heroin from South Texas to other drug markets; they also use commercial buses and rail transportation, typically concealing the drug in suitcases, clothing, and shoes.²⁸ (See text box on page 5.)

c. 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.

Table 3. Heroin Seizures Originating in South Texas HIDTA Counties Destined for Drug Markets in U.S. States, 2008–2010

	Year	Origination—South Texas HIDTA Counties				
		Bexar	Cameron	Hidalgo	Val Verde	Webb
Destination— U.S. States	2008	Tennessee		New Jersey New York		Texas
	2009		New York	Illinois Missouri Texas		
	2010	Texas		Texas Unknown destinations	Texas	California Illinois Texas

Source: National Seizure System, run date April 21, 2011.

Traffickers Are Smuggling Larger Loads of Heroin into South Texas

- In May 2011, CBP officers at the Hidalgo/Reynosa International Bridge seized 20 packages containing nearly 13 kilograms (28 pounds) of brown powder heroin concealed inside the rear tire well area of a northbound vehicle.
- In October 2010, CBP officers at the Laredo port of entry (POE) confiscated the largest amount of heroin ever seized at the POE. The officers discovered 100 packages containing almost 58 kilograms (127 pounds) of brown powder heroin concealed in the roof of a passenger bus entering the United States from Mexico at the Laredo POE. This incident was also the largest heroin seizure made by CBP officers along the Southwest Border since at least 2006.
- While inspecting a northbound vehicle in September 2010, CBP officers at the Hidalgo International Bridge discovered more than 17 kilograms (38.1 pounds) of Mexican brown powder heroin inside 56 packages hidden within the vehicle.
- In July 2010, CBP officers at the Laredo POE seized 28 bundles containing 20 kilograms (45 pounds) of heroin concealed in a northbound vehicle.
- In May 2010, CBP officers at the Hidalgo POE seized 41.42 kilograms (approximately 91 pounds) of brown powder heroin from a commercial bus that had entered the United States from Mexico.²⁹

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection; National Seizure System.

Mexican DTOs, the dominant organizational drug threat to the South Texas HIDTA region, are employing gang members to distribute drugs and conduct other criminal activity on their behalf.

Mexican drug cartels, primarily the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas, are employing Texas-based gangs³⁰ in the HIDTA region (see Table 4 on page 6) to commit cross-border smuggling and drug distribution operations.³¹ Many of these gangs are based in Texas but engage in criminal activity on both sides of the U.S.–Mexico border.³² (See text box on page 7.) The cartels typically

maintain business-type relationships with gangs and gang members, hiring them as contractors to secure drug shipments, guard stash houses, and transport contraband.³³ They also hire gangs and gang members to facilitate the movement of people into the United States, procure weapons and vehicles, and commit acts of violence and other criminal activity.³⁴ Most of the gangs and gang members that interact with Mexican cartels do not have an allegiance to a particular cartel and may work with a variety of Mexican organizations.³⁵ The Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas also employ prison and street gangs, including Texas Mexican Mafia (Mexikanemi), Texas Syndicate, Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos (HPL), Tango Blast (particularly Vallucos), and Tri-City Bombers, to transport and distribute illicit drugs throughout the South Texas HIDTA region.³⁶ (See Table 4.) Mexikanemi is the primary trafficker of heroin in the San Antonio area,³⁷ and Texas Syndicate transports illicit drugs, specifically cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine, to San Antonio or Austin.³⁸

Table 4. Significant Gangs Operating in the South Texas HIDTA Region and DTO Association, 2010

Gang	DTO Association	Area of Operation			
		San Antonio (Bexar County)	Rio Grande Valley (Hidalgo County)	Austin (Travis County)	Laredo (Webb County)
Hermanos de Pistoleros Latinos (HPL)	Gulf Cartel Los Zetas	x			x
Latin Kings	No exclusive relationship with any particular cartel		x		
Tango Blast (Vallucos)	Gulf Cartel Los Zetas		x		
Texas Mexican Mafia (Mexikanemi)	Gulf Cartel Sinaloa Cartel Juarez Cartel Los Zetas	x	x		x
Texas Syndicate	Los Zetas Gulf Cartel Sinaloa Cartel La Familia		x	x	x
Tri-City Bombers	Gulf Cartel		x		

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, *Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2010*; National Gang Intelligence Center.

Law Enforcement Operations Target Gangs with Ties to Mexican DTOs

- In February 2011, after a year-long investigation dubbed “Operation Blue Ice,” law enforcement officials arrested 13 high-level Texas Syndicate members who were involved in trafficking marijuana, methamphetamine, and cocaine in South Texas, particularly in the Austin area. The investigation revealed that the Gulf Cartel was a major drug supplier to members of the prison gang, who would smuggle the drugs from Mexico into Laredo in tractor-trailers or personal vehicles and then transport the contraband along Interstate 35 to Austin for future distribution.
- In March 2011, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)-led investigation resulted in the arrest of 15 gang members and associates in San Antonio. The operation was part of Project Southern Tempest, which targeted transnational gangs with ties to Mexican DTOs. Those arrested in San Antonio were members or associates of San Antonio Tango Blast (Orejones) and Texas Mexican Mafia. Members of Texas Mexican Mafia have established business relationships with major Mexican drug cartels, including the Gulf, Sinaloa, and Juárez Cartels and Los Zetas.³⁹

Source: *The Statesman*; Texas Department of Public Safety; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; *San Antonio Express-News*.

Outlook

NDIC assesses with high confidence^d that the smuggling of marijuana from Mexico into and through the South Texas HIDTA region will continue at high levels as a result of increased production of the drug in Mexico.

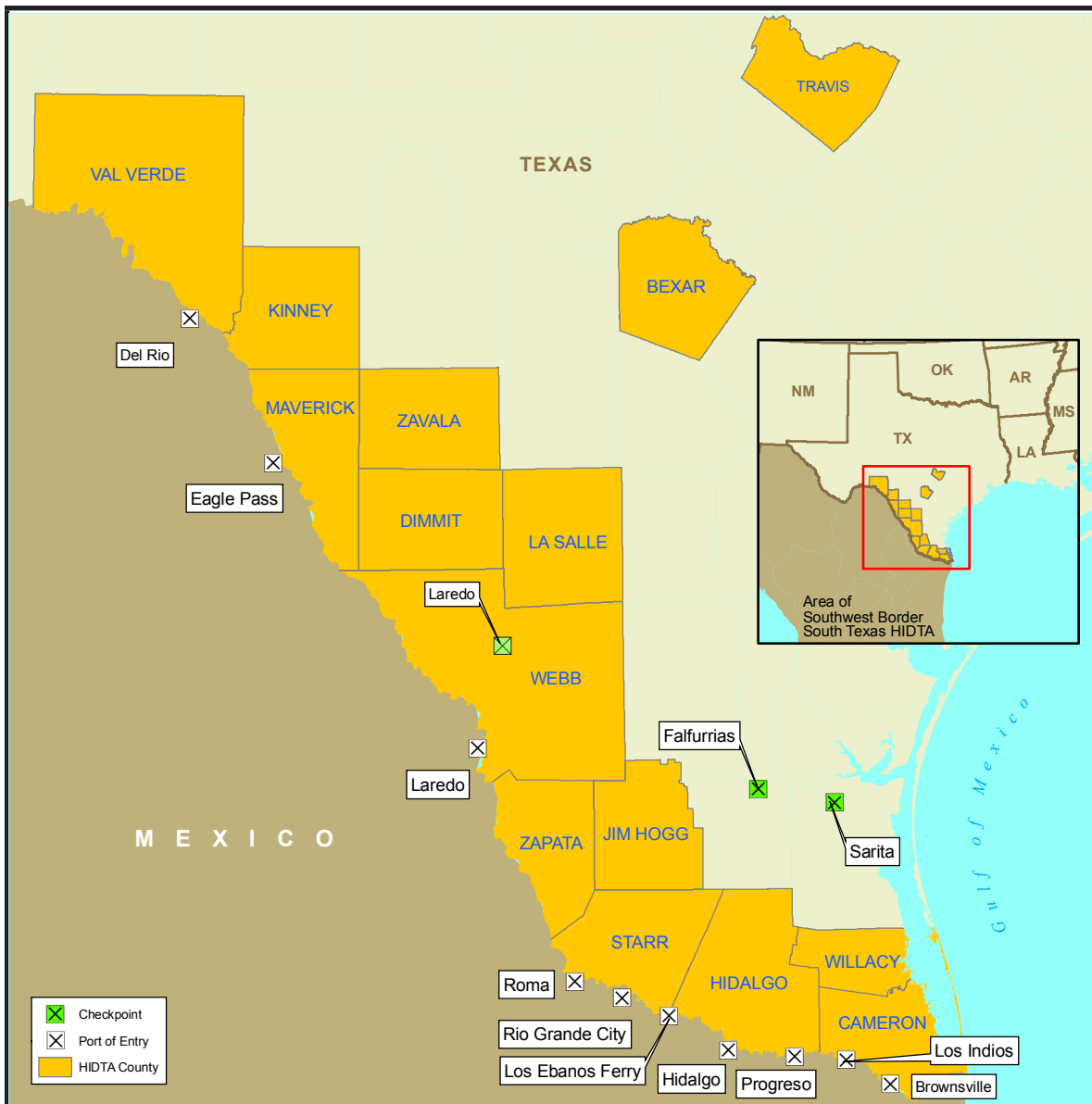
NDIC assesses with high confidence that because of increased heroin production in Mexico, the number and size of heroin seizures in the HIDTA region will continue to rise as drug traffickers increase the flow of heroin from Mexico, increasing the availability of Mexican heroin in drug markets throughout the United States.

NDIC assess with medium confidence that Mexican DTOs will expand their network of operations in the South Texas HIDTA region by increasingly employing members of Texas-based gangs to conduct drug trafficking and other criminal activity on behalf of the DTOs. As gangs become more involved in DTO-related criminal activity, they will pose a greater threat to the region.

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. South Texas HIDTA Region Overview

Map A1. South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



The South Texas HIDTA region is one of the most strategically significant cross-border drug smuggling corridors, sharing a longer segment of the international border with Mexico—625 miles—than does any other HIDTA region along the Southwest Border.⁴⁰ It encompasses 15 South Texas counties, 13 of which are directly adjacent or in proximity to the U.S.–Mexico border. (See Map A1.) Much of the South Texas HIDTA region is sparsely populated; the largest population centers are also the major drug transportation and distribution centers and are concentrated in San Antonio (Bexar County), Austin (Travis County), Del Rio/Eagle Pass (Val Verde and Maverick Counties), Laredo (Webb County), and McAllen/Brownsville (Hidalgo and Cameron Counties).⁴¹ (See Map A2 in Appendix A.) Smaller border communities such as Rio Grande

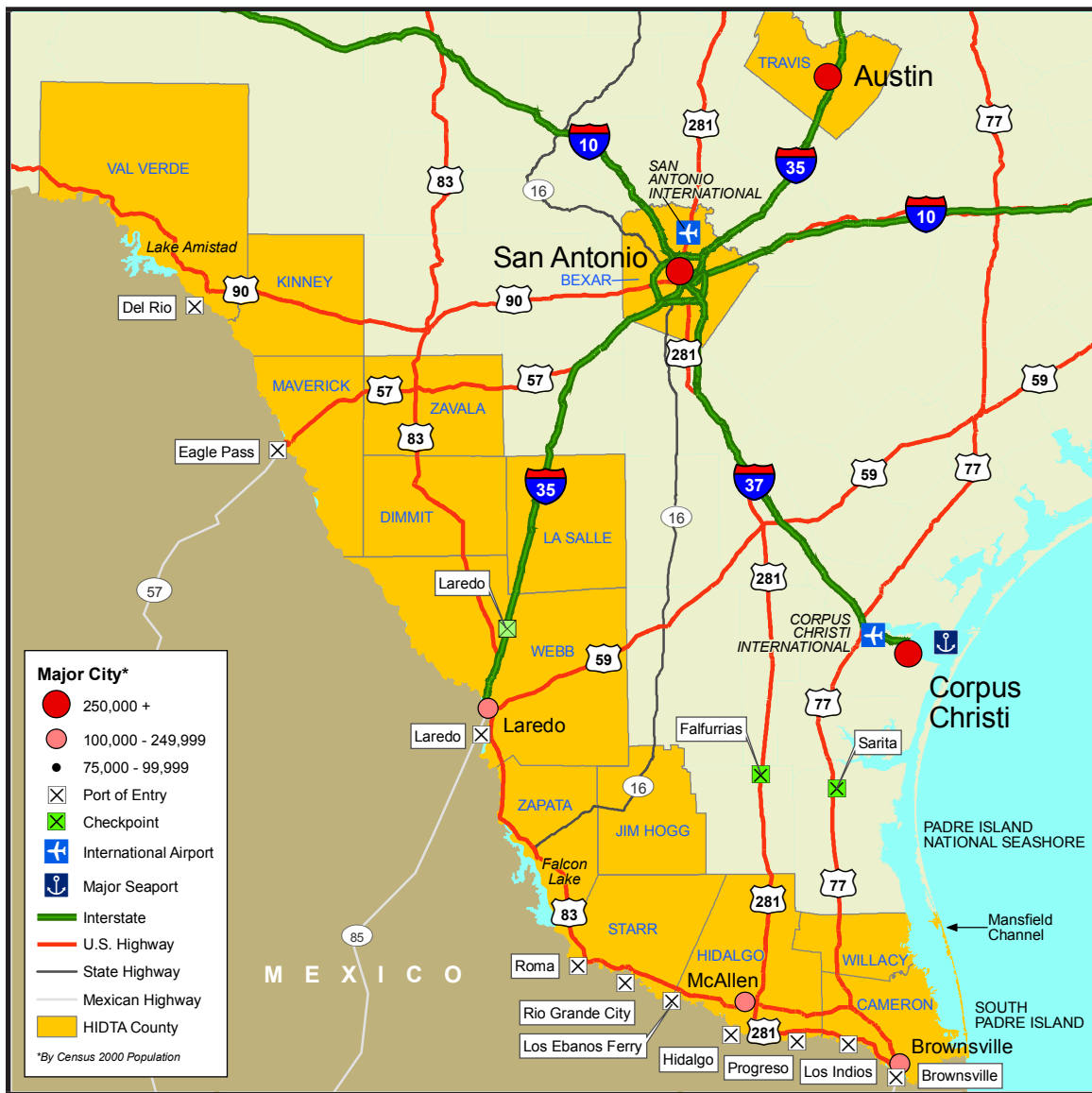
City and Roma serve as significant transshipment zones and distribution centers for illicit drug shipments destined for drug markets in every region of the country.⁴² Despite its limited population, the South Texas HIDTA region has a greater influence on national-level drug trafficking and drug availability than does any other area along the U.S.–Mexico border.⁴³

The combination of vast stretches of remote, sparsely populated land and extensive cross-border economic activity at designated POEs creates an environment conducive to large-scale smuggling by drug traffickers, predominantly Mexican DTOs.⁴⁴ Few physical barriers exist between POEs to impede drug traffickers from smuggling illicit drug shipments into the region from Mexico. Along many areas of the U.S.–Mexico border in South Texas, the Rio Grande River can easily be breached by smugglers on foot, in vehicles, or on boats or makeshift rafts, enabling Mexican DTOs to smuggle multikilogram quantities of illicit drugs, primarily marijuana and cocaine, into the United States.⁴⁵ Drug traffickers can also easily conceal drug shipments among the high volume of legitimate cross-border traffic at the region's POEs, creating significant challenges for area law enforcement officers.⁴⁶ The thousands of private vehicles, commercial tractor-trailers, pedestrians, and passenger buses and trains that cross the U.S.–Mexico border daily provide ideal cover for drug smuggling operations.⁴⁷

The South Texas HIDTA region is also vulnerable to maritime drug smuggling activity.⁴⁸ Mexican drug traffickers often conduct smuggling operations from Tamaulipas, Mexico, using fishing vessels, shrimp boats, and shark boats (*lanchas*) to transport illicit drug shipments to locations along the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), Padre Island National Seashore (PINS), and South Padre Island (SPI).⁴⁹ Upon arriving in these areas, Mexican traffickers typically transfer drug shipments to waiting vehicles or bury them in sand dunes for retrieval at a later time.⁵⁰ Law enforcement officers in these areas also have discovered bundles of marijuana and cocaine that have washed ashore from maritime smuggling operations in the Gulf of Mexico; however, incidences of washed up bundles of drugs have decreased.⁵¹ Traffickers also exploit Lake Amistad and the Lake Amistad National Recreation Area, which straddle the U.S.–Mexico border in Val Verde County, for maritime drug smuggling.⁵²

Marijuana and cocaine are the principal drug threats to the South Texas HIDTA region.⁵³ (See [Figure B1 in Appendix B](#).) The exceedingly high level of marijuana availability is a significant concern to the region's law enforcement officials.⁵⁴ (See [Figure B2 in Appendix B](#).) Cocaine, on the other hand, is the drug most associated with property crime (mainly crack cocaine) and violent crime (primarily powder cocaine) in the HIDTA region.⁵⁵ (See [Figure B3 and Figure B4 in Appendix B](#).) Mexican black tar heroin and brown powder heroin are readily available and abused in the HIDTA region, particularly in Bexar County, where treatment admissions for heroin abuse in 2010 (1,587 admissions) surpassed those in any other South Texas HIDTA county and accounted for 65 percent of the HIDTA region's heroin-related admissions (2,443 admissions) that year.⁵⁶ Mexican methamphetamine availability is stable in the South Texas HIDTA region.⁵⁷ Drug traffickers are also smuggling liquid methamphetamine from Mexico into South Texas.⁵⁸ On two occasions in December 2010, CBP officers at the Laredo POE seized liquid methamphetamine concealed in mini beer kegs.⁵⁹ Additionally, in January 2011, CBP officers at the Brownsville POE seized five beer bottles containing a total of 6 liters of liquid methamphetamine.⁶⁰

**Map A2. South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
Transportation Infrastructure**



DTOs and money laundering organizations (MLOs) are deeply entrenched in the South Texas HIDTA region.⁶¹ The overwhelming majority of the DTOs/MLOs under investigation in 2010 were Mexican organizations, and most of these DTOs/MLOs (180) conducted international operations in the United States and Mexico.⁶² Additionally, of the DTOs/MLOs identified in 2010, 32 were linked to or affiliated with Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOTs),^e 79 were identified as violent, and 77 had gang affiliations.⁶³ (See Table B1 in Appendix B.) These DTOs have established networks of cells in the region to work on their behalf in facilitating not only drug trafficking operations but also other criminal operations, including weapons trafficking and alien smuggling.⁶⁴

e. A CPOT is a DTO known to be linked to or affiliated with a major international DTO and/or money laundering enterprise that is included on the Department of Justice Consolidated Priority Organization Target list.

Appendix B. Table and Figures

Table B1. Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Organizations Operating in the South Texas HIDTA Region, 2010

Scope of Organization	Number of Organizations Under Investigation			Ethnicity/ Nationality of Organizations	Size of Organizations	Drugs Trafficked	Counties/ Areas of Operation	Drug Source Areas	Drug Destinations
	Drug	Money Laundering	Total						
International	167	13	180	African American Caucasian Colombian Hispanic Mexican Mexican American	5 to 54 members	Anabolic steroids Cocaine Heroin Marijuana Methamphetamine	Austin Bexar Cameron Edinburg Hays Hidalgo Maverick Starr Travis Val Verde Webb Zapata	Colombia Mexico Chihuahua Coahuila de Zaragoza Guerrero Hidalgo Jalisco Michoacán de Ocampo Nuevo León Sinaloa Tamaulipas United States California Texas	Alabama California Florida Georgia Illinois Cook Kansas Kentucky Mississippi New Jersey New York New York City North Carolina Ohio Pennsylvania Tennessee Texas Austin Bexar Dallas Hidalgo Houston Starr Washington

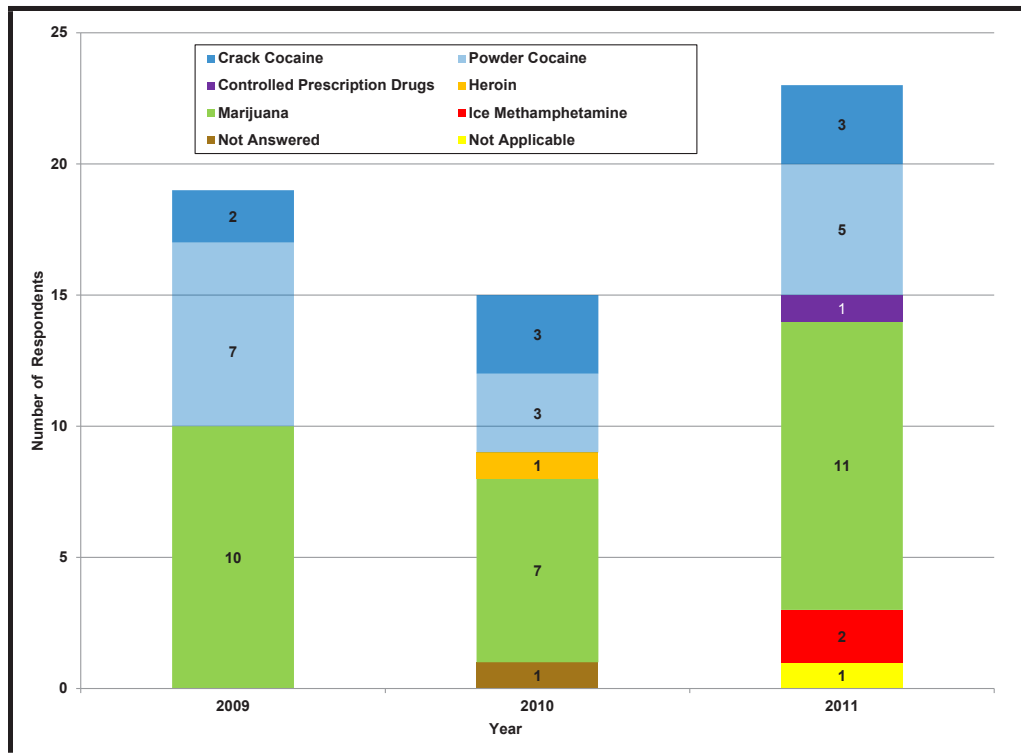
(Table continued from previous page.)

Table B1. Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Organizations Operating in the South Texas HIDTA Region, 2010

Scope of Organization	Number of Organizations Under Investigation			Ethnicity/ Nationality of Organizations	Size of Organizations	Drugs Trafficked	Counties/ Areas of Operation	Drug Source Areas	Drug Destinations
	Drug	Money Laundering	Total						
Multistate	13	0	13	Cuban Hispanic Mexican Mexican American	5 to 8 members	Cocaine Crack cocaine Marijuana Methamphetamine	Austin Bexar Cameron Hidalgo Starr	Colombia Mexico Michoacán de Ocampo Nuevo León Tamaulipas United States Texas	Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia Illinois New Jersey New York Texas Austin Dallas Houston
Local	34	2	36	African American Caucasian Hispanic Mexican Mexican American	5 to 26 members	Cocaine Crack cocaine Heroin Ice methamphetamine Marijuana Methamphetamine	Austin Bexar Hays Hidalgo Starr Webb	Colombia Mexico Coahuila de Zaragoza Tamaulipas United States Texas	Arkansas Delaware Florida Illinois Cook Mississippi New Jersey North Carolina Ohio Texas Austin Bexar Cameron Dallas Houston Virginia

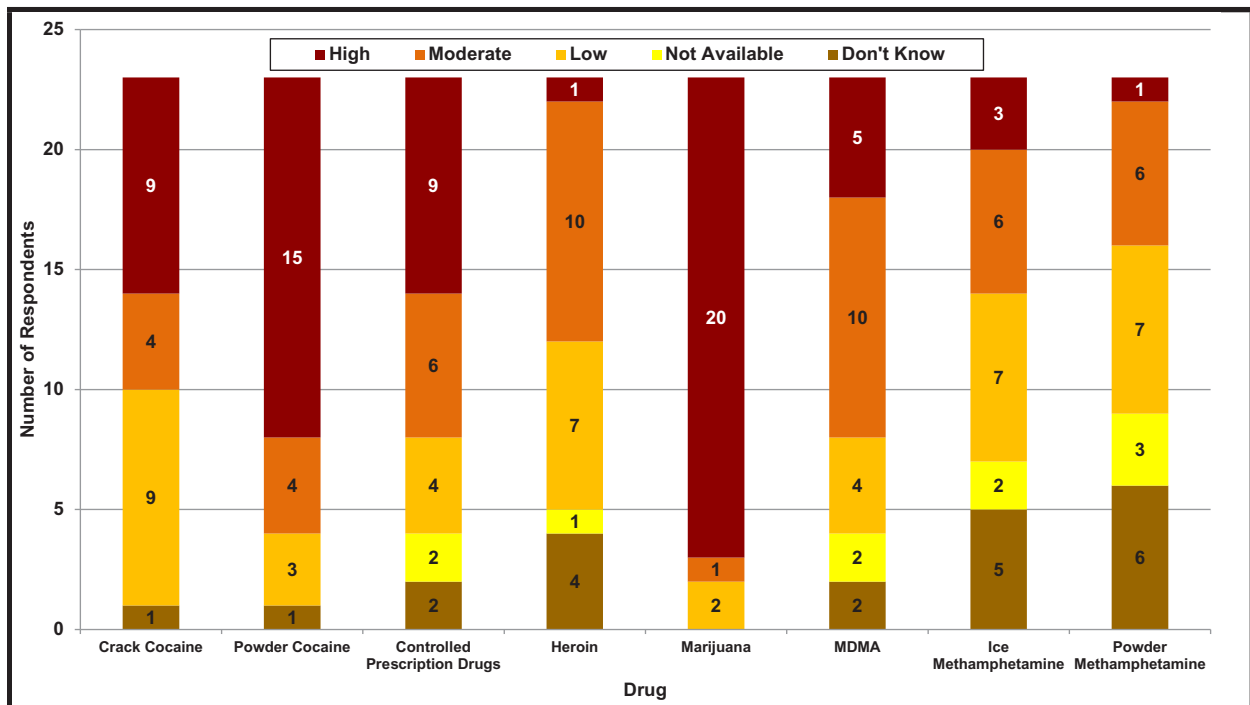
Source: South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Figure B1. Greatest Drug Threat in the South Texas HIDTA Region, by Number of NDTs Respondents, 2009–2011



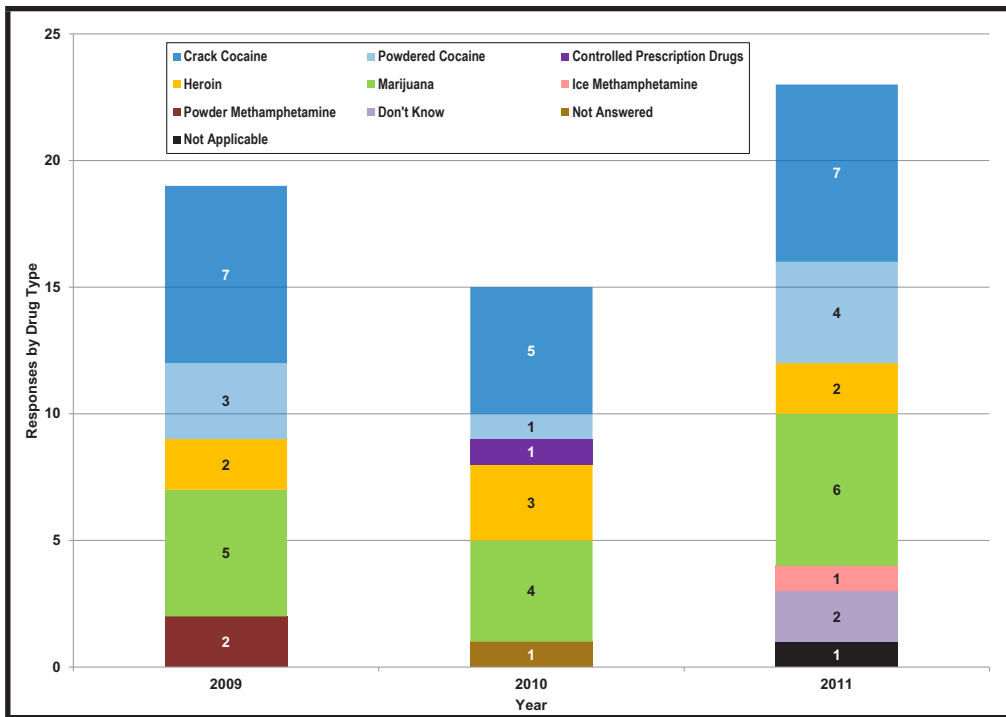
Source: National Drug Threat Survey, 2009–2011.

Figure B2. Drug Availability in the South Texas HIDTA Region, by Number of NDTs Respondents, 2011



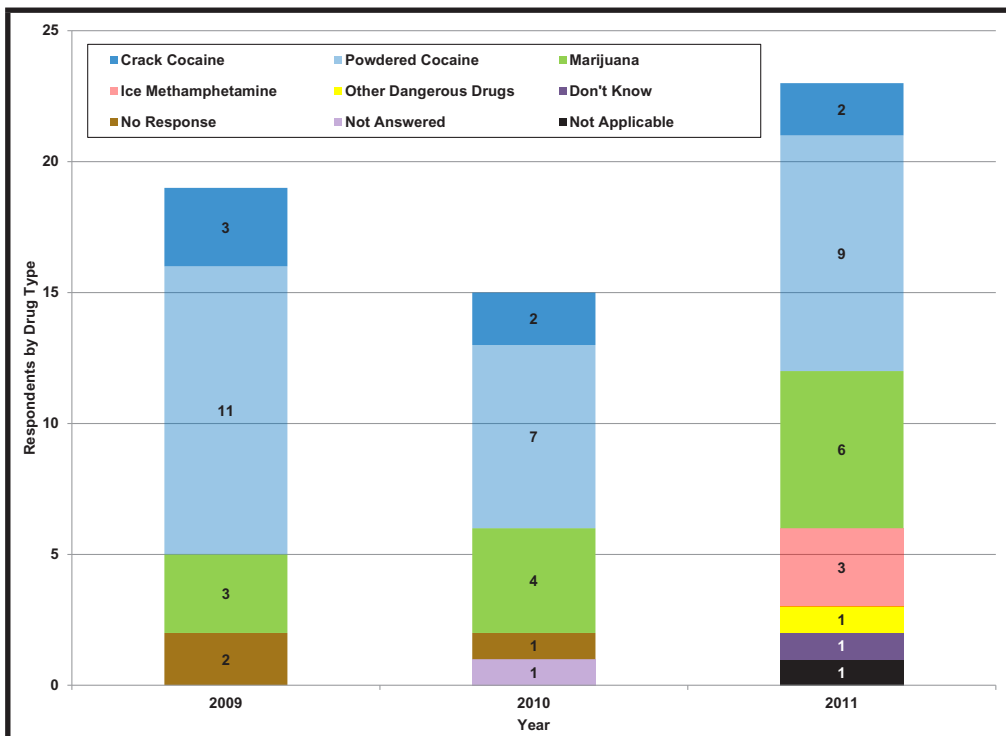
Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2011.

Figure B3. Drug Most Associated with Property Crime in the South Texas HIDTA Region, by Number of NDTs Respondents, 2009–2011



Source: National Drug Threat Survey, 2009–2011.

Figure B4. Drug Most Associated with Violent Crime in the South Texas HIDTA Region, by Number of NDTs Respondents, 2009–2011



Source: National Drug Threat Survey, 2009–2011.

Endnotes

1. El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), National Seizure System (NSS) data, run date April 21, 2011.
2. South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), “1st Quarter 2011 Marijuana Forecast,” February 25, 2011.
3. EPIC, NSS data, run date April 21, 2011.
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6. EPIC, NSS data, run date April 21, 2011.
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8. EPIC, NSS data, run date April 21, 2011.
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10. South Texas HIDTA, PMP database, “Initiatives Expected/Actual: Other Outputs, 2010,” run date April 21, 2011.
11. National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), Field Intelligence Officer (FIO) report, August 17, 2010.
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17. South Texas HIDTA, *Southwest Border South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: Annual Threat Assessment, Budget Year 2011*, June 8, 2010.
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19. EPIC, NSS data, run date April 19, 2011.
20. EPIC, NSS data, run date April 21, 2011.
21. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Houston Field Division, *Trends in the Traffic Report, First Half CY10*, redacted, p. 19.
22. South Texas HIDTA, PMP database, “Exportable Seizure Data,” accessed April 14, 2011.
23. South Texas HIDTA, PMP database, “Drug Prices,” accessed April 14, 2011.
24. NDIC, National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2011.
25. South Texas HIDTA, *Southwest Border South Texas HIDTA Annual Threat Assessment, Budget Year 2011*, p. 26; DEA, Houston Field Division, *Trends in the Traffic Report, First Half CY10*, redacted, p. 19; NSS data, run date April 21, 2011.
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Office of National Drug Control Policy
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South Texas
Intelligence Support Center
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Houston Field Division
Laredo District Office
McAllen Resident Office
El Paso Intelligence Center
National Seizure System
Federal Bureau of Investigation
National Gang Intelligence Center
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Southern District of Texas
U.S. Senate
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Other

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