

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Nogales, Arizona

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2002



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.

Nogales

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 20,878
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 80.1% white; 0.4% black/African American; 0.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.3% Asian; 18.5% other race; 2.9% two or more races; 96.3% Hispanic origin
- County: Santa Cruz

Politics²

- Mayor: Marco A. Lopez, Jr.
- City Council: Jose Luis De La Ossa; Jeffrey S. Gudenkauf; Rosa Elvira Padilla; Albert M. Kramer; Daniel Rodriguez; Olga Valdez
- City Manager: H. Sue Neilsen
- Chief of Police, Nogales: John Kissinger
- Sheriff, Santa Cruz County: Tony Estrada

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
The Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership was designated in 1990 and is responsible for seven counties, including Santa Cruz. This region consists of 370 miles of largely unsecured international border.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, there were nearly 200 theft offenses known to police in Nogales.⁴

Number of Offenses Reported by Police, Nogales, 1999-2001

Type of Offense	1999	2000	2001
Homicide	--	1	1
Robbery	11	10	7
Burglary	104	172	99
Theft	211	223	192
Grand theft auto	115	132	151
Arson	5	2	2
Aggravated assault	57	90	61

- There were 45 marijuana possession offenses reported by the Nogales Police Department during 2001.⁵

Number of Substance-Related Offenses Reported, Nogales, 1999-2001

Type of Offense	1999	2000	2001
DUI	205	221	234
Narcotic possession	29	12	14
Possession of drug paraphernalia	5	5	8
Marijuana possession	53	78	45
Cocaine possession	4	6	6
Narcotic sale	1	--	1

- During 2001, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office reported 114 drug offenses.⁶

Number of Offenses, Santa Cruz County Sheriff, 1999-2001

Type of Offense	1999	2000	2001
Burglary	113	76	89
Theft	80	108	137
Auto theft	54	34	38
DUI	46	71	121
Drug offenses	80	92	114
Assaults	46	59	66

- During FY 2001, the Santa Cruz County METRO Task Force made 373 drug arrests.⁷
- Since this task force was combined with the Nogales CEASE task force in July 1990, the Santa Cruz County METRO Task Force has made 2,281 drug arrests.⁸

Arrests Made by Santa Cruz Co. METRO Task Force

	FY 2001	FY 1990-2001
Use/Possession	242	1,197
Sales/Trafficking	131	1,094
Total	373	2,281

Enforcement

- Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership initiatives found in Nogales/Santa Cruz County include the following:⁹
 - Border Anti-Narcotic Network: This initiative is made up of Federal, State, local, and Tribal authorities. These agencies cover approximately 8,000 square miles and 150 miles of international border operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation, the Organ Pipe National Park, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges, and all adjacent land between Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties.
 - Santa Cruz County Drug Enforcement Unit: This investigative and interdiction task force is located in Nogales. The purpose of this task force is to combat organized crime and to target secondary core organizations and providers, local distributors, stash houses and organization members.
 - Southern Arizona Border Initiative: This initiative is made up of task forces located in different cities, including Nogales. Members of this initiative target key command and control elements of the major drug trafficking organizations

operating in Southern Arizona, and integrate efforts of all participating agencies and existing task forces in the area.

- Santa Cruz County METRO Task Force¹⁰
The Santa Cruz County Multi-agency Enforcement Against Trafficking and Racketeering Offenses (METRO) Task Force works closely with Federal agencies to address drug trafficking problems in Nogales and Santa Cruz County.
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 80 full-time law enforcement employees working in Nogales. 61 of these employees were officers, while the remainder were civilians.¹¹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Nogales, Arizona and its sister city, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, are on the international border separating the U.S. and Mexico.¹²
- The region that makes up the Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership is made up of geography that provides unlimited opportunities for drug-related activities.¹³
- This Arizona Partnership region has six U.S. Customs land ports of entry, six designated international airports, and an excellent transportation infrastructure exploited by drug traffickers.¹⁴
- Nogales is the largest port of entry for winter fruits and vegetables in the U.S. During the growing season, approximately 1,200 truckloads of produce enter Nogales on a daily basis.¹⁵
- During FY 2001, the Santa Cruz County METRO Task Force seized over 25,000 pounds of cannabis.¹⁶

Seizures Made by Santa Cruz Co. METRO Task Force

	FY 2001	FY 1990-2001
Cocaine (ounces)	13,365	100,427
Cannabis (pounds)	25,368	171,551
Cannabis (plants)	34	306
Heroin (grams)	3	1,782
Amphetamines/methamphetamine (grams)	1	1,114
Other drugs (dosage units)	3,502	14,468
Value of seizures	\$837,764	\$5,510,960

Courts

- There are currently no drug courts being planned or in existence in Nogales.¹⁷
- Santa Cruz County Drug Prosecution Program¹⁸
Administered by the Santa Cruz County Attorney’s Office, this program provides enhanced drug and gang case prosecution and asset forfeiture litigation services to the Santa Cruz METRO Narcotics Task Force and other law enforcement agencies in Santa Cruz County. The objective of this program is to more effectively process the increased drug and gang prosecution and asset forfeiture caseloads generated by the vigorous investigative and enforcement activities of the task force. Since established in July 1992, this unit has concluded 1,607 drug cases, which resulted in 829 felony and 398 misdemeanor convictions.

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Nogales Web site: <http://www.cityofnogales.net/>

³ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site, Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership Fact Sheet: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_az.html

⁴ Nogales Police Department Web site: <http://www.nogalespolice.com/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Santa Cruz County Sheriff, Statistics: http://www.sccso.org/crime_stat.htm

⁷ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement, 2001*, November 2001: http://acjc.state.az.us/112901_Edge%202001%20Acrobat%20Format.pdf

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site, Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership Fact Sheet: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_az.html

¹⁰ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement, 2001*, November 2001: http://acjc.state.az.us/112901_Edge%202001%20Acrobat%20Format.pdf

¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

¹² Santa Cruz County, Area Information: http://www.santacruzcountyaz.org/area_information.htm

¹³ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site, Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership Fact Sheet: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_az.html

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Santa Cruz County, Area Information: http://www.santacruzcountyaz.org/area_information.htm

¹⁶ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement, 2001*, November 2001: http://acjc.state.az.us/112901_Edge%202001%20Acrobat%20Format.pdf

¹⁷ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 17, 2002: <http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>

¹⁸ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement, 2001*, November 2001: http://acjc.state.az.us/112901_Edge%202001%20Acrobat%20Format.pdf

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