

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Yuma, 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.

Yuma

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 77,515
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 71.1% white; 3.3% black/African American; 1.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.6% Asian; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 22.2% other; 4.1% two or more races; 47.5% Hispanic
- County: Yuma

Politics

- Mayor: Lawrence Nelson²
- Deputy Mayor: Karen Hill³
- City Council: Bobby Brooks, Ed Hansberger, Paul Johnson, Norma Nelson, and Ema Lea Shoop⁴
- Yuma County Sheriff: Ralph Ogden⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
The Arizona Partnership was designated in 1990 as part of the Southwest Border HIDTA. This region has 350 miles of largely unsecured international border. The Arizona Partnership is responsible for seven Arizona counties, including Yuma County.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Since its inception in April 1988, the Southwest Border Alliance Narcotics Enforcement Team, which is administered by the Yuma Police Department, has arrested 4,933 drug law violators. Of these arrests, approximately 70% were for sales/trafficking offenses.⁷

Arrests Made by the Southwest Border Alliance Narcotics Enforcement Team

	FY 2001	FY 1988-2001
Use/possession	124	1,490
Sales/trafficking	343	3,443
Total	467	4,933

Drugs⁸

- Marijuana continues to be the most abused and trafficked drug in Arizona.
- Cocaine is the second most abused drug in this State.
- Methamphetamine, due to the nature of its manufacture, poses the most significant policing problem statewide.

Enforcement

- Southwest Border Alliance Narcotics Enforcement Team⁹
 The purpose of this multi-agency task force is to identify, arrest and prosecute drug traffickers, seize drugs and cash assets, and follow investigative leads on drug smuggling activity occurring within the Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership area. Administered by the Yuma Police Department, participants in this Alliance include the Yuma County Sheriff’s Department, the Yuma Police Department, the Yuma County Attorney’s Office, as well as the Drug Enforcement Administration and other Federal and State/local law enforcement agencies.
- Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership initiatives located in Yuma include the following:¹⁰
 - Border Anti-Narcotic Network: This multi-agency task force focuses on reducing drug trafficking and related crimes. This initiative covers 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.
 - HIDTA Enforcement Agencies Task Force: Collocated in Phoenix, Tucson, and Yuma, this task force apprehends fugitives in order to disrupt narcotics smuggling, distribution, money laundering, and street gang activities.
 - Southern Arizona Border Initiative: This initiative is made up of six multi-agency task forces located in different cities, including Yuma. These task forces 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.
- As of October 2000, there were 187 full-time law enforcement employees working in Yuma. 130 of these employees were officers, while the remainder were civilians.¹¹

Trafficking and Seizures

- Yuma is located in the southwestern corner of Arizona near the borders of California, Sonora (Mexico), and Baja California (Mexico).¹²
- During FY 2001, the Southwest Border Alliance Narcotics Enforcement Team seized over 50,000 grams of amphetamines/methamphetamine.¹³

Seizures Made by Southwest Border Alliance Narcotics Enforcement Team

	FY 2001	FY 1988-2001
Cocaine (ounces)	2,679	232,024
Cannabis (pounds)	28,819	178,571
Cannabis (plants)	0	944
Heroin (grams)	45,929	65,063
Amphetamines/meth (grams)	51,741	336,343
Other drugs (dosage units)	4,399	528,226
Estimated value of seizures	\$518,766	\$10,852,653

- Drug proceeds are smuggled from Arizona to Mexico in bulk form by vehicles, commerce shipments, private and commercial aircraft, and pedestrians.¹⁴

Courts

➤ Drug Courts¹⁵

As of January 2002, there was one drug court in Yuma that had been operating for over two years. There was also one drug court being planned in Yuma at that time. This drug court will be a juvenile drug court.

➤ Yuma County Drug, Gang and Violence Prosecution¹⁶

Administered by the Yuma County Attorney's Office, this project provides drug case prosecution and asset forfeiture litigation services to all law enforcement agencies in Yuma County, and particularly to the Southwest Border Alliance Narcotics Task Force. This project handles all felony and misdemeanor drug cases in Yuma County. This unit also conducts ongoing training programs for Federal, State and local narcotics officers. Since July 1991, this unit has concluded 7,067 cases, with 1,260 convicted drug law violators being sent to prison.

Yuma County Drug, Gang and Violence Prosecution Activities

	FY 2001	FY 1991-2001
Total cases concluded	571	7,067
Number of convictions		
Felony	463	4,381
Misdemeanor	92	1,513
Number of sentences		
Prison	85	1,260
Jail/Jail and probation	70	1,071
Probation	412	2,643
Value of non-drug forfeitures	\$190,540	\$1,957,842

Sources

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

² Yuma Web site: <http://www.ci.yuma.az.us/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Yuma County Sheriff Web site: <http://www.co.yuma.az.us/so/index.htm>

⁶ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

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 Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership Fact Sheet: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_az.html

⁹ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement, 2001*, November 2001: http://acjc.state.az.us/112901_Edge%202001%20Acrobat%20Format.pdf

¹⁰ Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership Fact Sheet: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_az.html

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

¹² Yuma Web site: <http://www.ci.yuma.az.us/>

¹³ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement, 2001*, November 2001: http://acjc.state.az.us/112901_Edge%202001%20Acrobat%20Format.pdf

¹⁴ Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership Fact Sheet: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_az.html

¹⁵ 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>

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

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

