

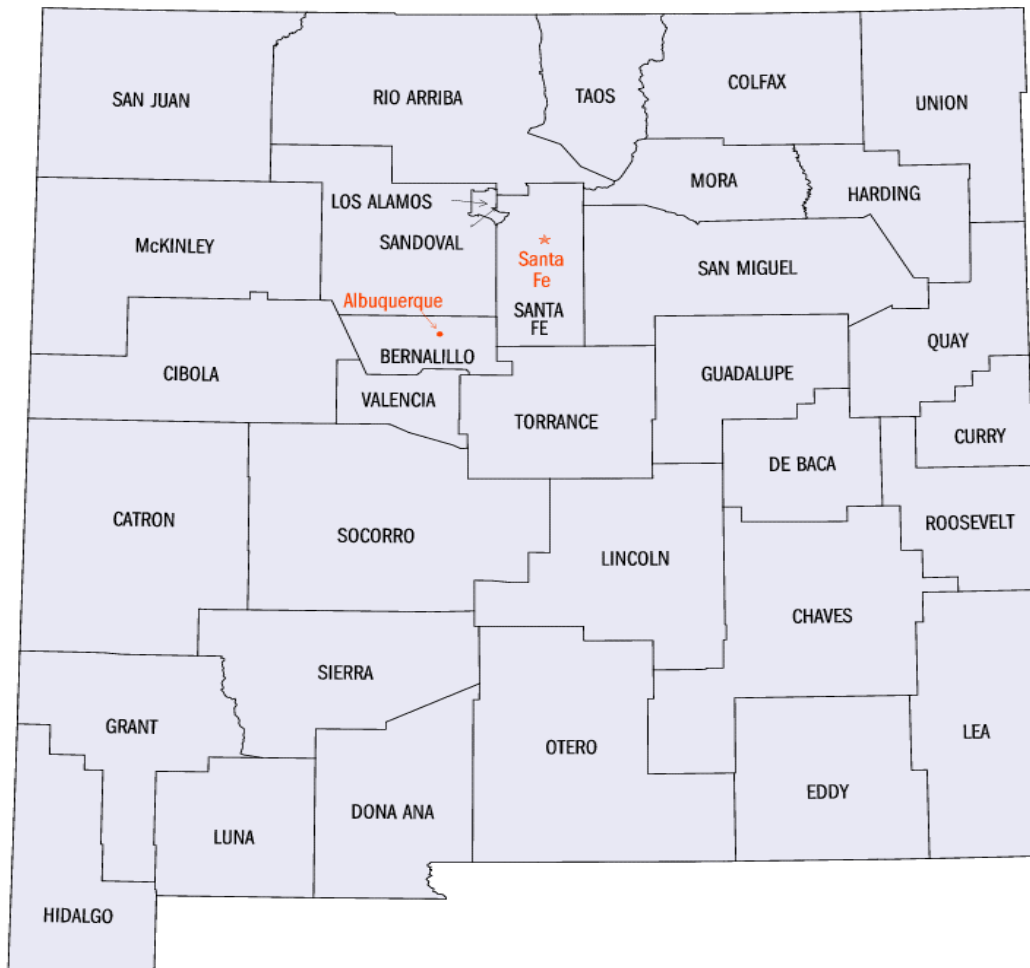
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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.

Alamogordo

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

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 35,582
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 78.7% white; 5.8% black/African American; 1.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.6% Asian; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; 12.6% other race; 4.4% two or more races; 33.4% Hispanic origin
- County: Otero

Politics²

- Mayor: Donald Carroll
- City Commissioners (Districts 1-7, respectively): Stephen Easley; Donald Cooper; Donald Carroll (Mayor); John Van Doren (Mayor Pro-Tem); Inez Moncada; Ed Cole; Ron Griggs
- City Manager: Pat McCourt
- Director, Alamogordo Department of Public Safety: S.A. Trujillo
- Sheriff, Otero County: John Lee

Programs/Initiatives³

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
Designated in 1990, the Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Partnership is responsible for thirteen counties, including Otero County. In addition to these thirteen counties, the New Mexico Partnership region also encompasses four ports of entry and approximately 180 miles of international border shared with Mexico.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime⁴

- There were over 950 larceny-theft offenses known to police in Alamogordo during 2000.

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Alamogordo, 2000

Offense	
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	2
Forcible rape	29
Robbery	8
Aggravated assault	54
Burglary	219
Larceny-theft	951
Motor vehicle theft	26
Arson	5

Drugs⁵

- Cocaine
The importation, distribution, and consumption of powder and crack cocaine are the biggest threats in the New Mexico Partnership (HIDTA) region.
- Heroin
The availability of Mexican black tar heroin continues to increase throughout New Mexico. Brown and white heroin have also been encountered in the State.
- Marijuana
Mexican marijuana is the most prevalent drug abused in the New Mexico Partnership (HIDTA) region.
- Methamphetamine
The availability of methamphetamine from Mexico, California, and also produced locally is increasing rapidly.

Enforcement

- Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Partnership initiatives include the following:⁶
 - New Mexico Regional Coordination Center: Provides a base of operations to coordinate joint law enforcement, drug interdiction and special operations along the New Mexico/Mexico border.
 - Region VI Multi-Agency Task Force: This initiative is made up of task forces in five counties, including Otero County. The purpose of this task force is to interdict bulk quantities of drugs being smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico.
 - New Mexico Enhanced Line Watch Operations: This initiative brings together several Federal, State, and local agencies for temporary operations along the border, focusing on gangs involved with the interdiction of narcotics, weapons, and drug proceeds trafficked through southern New Mexico.
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 81 full-time law enforcement employees working in Alamogordo. 60 of these employees were officers, while the remainder were civilians.⁷

Trafficking and Seizures⁸

- Most of the New Mexico/Mexico border area is open desert, barren and generally uninhabited offering drug smugglers easy access into the United States and to major interstate highways. Also, the areas between the ports of entry offer favorable conditions of smuggling alternatives.
- The proximity to the Ciudad Juarez, Mexico/El Paso, Texas corridor threatens the region since this corridor is a major contributor to the flow of narcotics into and through the region.
- Drug traffickers are increasingly exploiting the NAFTA provisions, which brought about significant increases in commercial trade.
- Freight trains and commercial motor vehicle carriers which cross the Texas/New Mexico and Mexican borders, travel through New Mexico and are frequently used by major Mexican drug trafficking organizations to transport drugs into the United States.

Courts⁹

- As of January 17, 2002, there was one drug court in Alamogordo that had recently been implemented. This is a juvenile drug court. There is also one drug court being planned in Alamogordo.

Consequences of Use¹⁰

- There were 3 drug caused deaths in Otero County during 2000 reported by the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator.

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

² Alamogordo Web site: <http://www.ci.alamogordo.nm.us/>

³ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site, Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Partnership Fact Sheet: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/nmex-fs.html>

⁴ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

⁵ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site, Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Partnership Fact Sheet: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/nmex-fs.html>

⁶ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site, Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Partnership Fact Sheet: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/nmex-fs.html>

⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

⁸ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site, Southwest Border HIDTA/New Mexico Partnership Fact Sheet: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/nmex-fs.html>

⁹ 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>

¹⁰ New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator, *Annual Report 2000*: <http://omi.unm.edu/00AR.pdf>

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