



## Border Security Operations

The unsecured international border with Mexico is the most significant public safety vulnerability to Texas and the nation because of powerful and ruthless Mexican Cartels who work with violent transnational and statewide gangs to smuggle and traffic drugs and people into Texas and throughout the nation.

Since 2014, Texas has committed substantial border security funding that has provided the following:

- 500 new Trooper positions added to the Texas/Mexico region, eliminating the need to deploy Troopers from other parts of Texas.
- 13 tactical boats and crews to conduct day and night marine and rescue operations for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and flooding incidents throughout Texas.
- 8 Night-Vision capable helicopters that are also used to conduct rescue operations for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and flooding incidents throughout Texas.
- 4 Night-Vision capable patrol aircraft that are also used to support natural disaster rescue operations, such as hurricanes and floods, major crime investigations – such as the Austin Bombings – as well as the prevention and response to mass casualty attacks.
- 5,000 day and night-motion sensor cameras used to detect and interdict drugs, criminal aliens, transnational gangs, cartel operatives and human traffickers. In March 2019, the U.S Customs and Border Protection Service formally requested Texas continue the detection camera program because it provides as much as 60% of the U.S. Border Patrol's situational awareness along the Texas/Mexico Border.
- 30 Texas State Guardsmen to install, maintain and monitor the 5,000 detection cameras.
- 44 additional Special Agents to conduct investigations targeting Mexican Cartel networks operating in the border region and the gangs that support their criminal operations on both sides of the border.
- 22 additional Texas Rangers to conduct major violent crime and public corruption investigations in the Border region.
- 6 Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers (2 Texas Ranger Lieutenants, 13 Texas State Guard Analysts) to collect, consolidate and share local, state and federal border incident data used to support operations.
- 2 tactical Special Response Teams (11 Troopers, 8 Special Agents and 4 Texas Rangers).
- Statewide deployments of Troopers, Special Agents, Texas Rangers, Pilots, Tactical Flight Officers, Intelligence Analysts, Communication Specialists and Tactical Teams (Travel Costs and Overtime)
- Increased the non-border region patrol and investigative resources by 17%, or the equivalent of 435 additional positions, in the form of a 50-hour workweek to address the statewide impact of border related drug and gang activity.
- Increased the statewide patrol and investigative resources by 17%, or the equivalent of 652 positions, in the form of a 50-hour workweek without needing to hire, train and equip new officers and at the same time improving DPS' ability to recruit and retain high quality officers.

DPS used the provided resources to deter, detect and interdict criminal activity along the Texas/Mexico border. From June 2014 through July 2019, DPS has impacted the Border Region in the following ways:

**DPS Impacts to the Border Region (June 2014-July 2019)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Marijuana Seized</b>	268,243 lbs
<b>Cocaine Seized</b>	8,777 lbs
<b>Methamphetamine Seized</b>	6,990 lbs
<b>Heroin Seized</b>	579 lbs
<b>U.S. Dollars Seized</b>	\$55,682,227
<b>Criminal Arrests</b>	105,513
<b>Illegal Alien Detections and Referrals to the U.S. Border Patrol</b>	530,295

**Criminal Activity Decreases**

DPS' operational focus continues to be the deterrence of all border-related criminal activity. Since operations began in June 2014, criminal activity along the Texas/Mexico border has decreased without the benefit of additional Border Patrol Agents and new federal detection technologies and infrastructure. Some examples of the decreased criminal activity are as follows:

- 25% decrease in Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Index Crimes in Webb, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron Counties combined from CY2014 to CY2018.
- 90% decrease in the amount of drugs seized per month at the Border Patrol Falfurrias Inland Checkpoint.<sup>2</sup>
- 82% decrease in the amount of drugs seized per month at the Border Patrol Sarita Inland Checkpoint.<sup>3</sup>
- 64% decrease in the amount of drugs seized in all Texas Counties within 150 Miles of the Texas/Mexico Border.<sup>4</sup>
- The number of evasions/bailouts has decreased in the Coastal Bend Area and the Rio Grande Valley.<sup>5</sup>
  - Evasion/bailout activity directly impacts the safety of people on the roadways and Texas property owners.
  - 82% decrease in the number of evasions/bailouts in the Coastal Bend Area
  - 51% decrease in the number of evasions/bailouts in the Rio Grande Valley

An unsecured international border with Mexico has resulted in increased drug and human trafficking and gang violence beyond the border region and DPS resources have been used to detect and interdict drug and human smuggling and trafficking in the non-border regions of the state:

**DPS Impacts to Non-Border Region (January 2014-July 2019)<sup>6 7</sup>**

<b>Drug Arrests</b>	80,167
<b>Gang Arrests</b>	901
<b>U.S. Currency Seized</b>	\$55,483,142
<b>Marijuana Seized</b>	91,418 lbs
<b>Cocaine Seized</b>	6,005 lbs
<b>Methamphetamine Seized</b>	10,559 lbs
<b>Heroin Seized</b>	871 lbs
<b>Fentanyl Seized</b>	358 lbs
<b>Lethal Doses of Fentanyl</b>	Over 81 million

<sup>1</sup> *Texas Border Security Report*. Border Region is defined as Texas DPS West and South Regions. Numbers reported can be found in the *Texas Border Security Report – August 2019*. Additional information on these figures can be found at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/PublicInformation/borderSecStats.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Raw data provided by the U.S. Border Patrol. Date range analyzed was from January 2013 to December 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Raw data provided by the U.S. Border Patrol. Date range analyzed was from January 2013 to December 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Raw data provided by the DEA El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) National Seizure System (NSS) from CY2014 to CY2018.

<sup>5</sup> Bail out data collected by Operation Border Star. Date range analyzed was from September 2013 to December 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Non-Border Region is defined as Texas DPS North, Northwest, Southeast, Central, and Capitol Regions.

<sup>7</sup> DPS numbers provided by Texas Highway Patrol (THP) and Criminal Investigations Division (CID). Not all data, such as fentanyl seizures, were tracked going back to January 2014.