

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Eagle Pass, Texas

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.

Eagle Pass, Texas

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

Demographics¹

- Population: 22,413 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 75.1% white; 0.3% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian; 0.8% Asian; 23.4% other; 3.2% two or more races; 98% Hispanic
- County: Maverick

Politics²

- Mayor: Jose Aranda
- City Council: Jose Sifuentes; Silvia Serrano-Diaz; David Riojas; Malena Herrera
- Police Chief: Juan Castaneda

Programs/Initiatives³

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
Designated in 1990, the Southwest Border HIDTA/South Texas Partnership is responsible for the following Texas counties: Bexar, Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Starr, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala. This region received its HIDTA designation due to the high level of illicit drugs imported into and distributed from the region throughout the United States. Goals of this Partnership include the reduction of regional drug trafficking, money laundering activities, drug-related crime, drug availability, and drug-related public corruption.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 912 larceny-theft offenses known to the police in Eagle Pass in 2000.⁴

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Eagle Pass, 2000

Offense	Number
Murder	1
Forcible rape	3
Robbery	10
Aggravated assault	11
Burglary	148
Larceny-theft	912
Motor vehicle theft	96
Arson	3

- During 2000, there were 194 arrests for drug violations in Maverick County.⁵

Number of Drug Arrests, Maverick County, 1997-2000

Offense Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Trafficking, all drugs	13	16	4	2
Possession, all drugs	265	285	232	192
Trafficking, marijuana	2	2	0	0
Possession, marijuana	192	216	183	146
All drug offenses	278	301	236	194

Drugs⁶

- 6.3% of adults in the South Texas region consisting of Maverick County (along with eight other counties) reported using drugs in the past year.
- 2.8% of adults in the entire Upper South region of Texas (which consists of 28 counties including Maverick County) reported that they spent a lot of time using drugs.

Drug-Related Problems, Upper South Region, Texas, 2000

Type of Problem	Percent Reporting Problem
Used more than intended	2.2%
Tried to cut down	2.2
Spent a lot of time using	2.8
Hazardous use/neglected roles	4.5
Gave up important activities	1.4
Continued use despite problems	2.4
Tolerance	2.7
Withdrawal symptoms	0.9
Used drug(s) to relieve withdrawal symptoms	0.8
Felt dependent on drug	0.9

Juveniles

- During 2000, 12.9% of elementary school students along the Texas border (including Maverick County) reported using inhalants at least once during their lifetime.⁷

Percent of Elementary School Students Reporting Drug Use, Texas Border, 2000

Drug Type and Grade	Used in School Year	Used in Lifetime
Inhalants	9.5%	12.9%
Grade 4	7.9	10.7
Grade 5	8.4	11.5
Grade 6	12.3	16.6
Marijuana	1.9	2.6
Grade 4	0.7	0.9
Grade 5	1.0	1.6
Grade 6	4.2	5.4

- Among Texas border students in grades 7-12, more than 32% reported using an illicit drug at least once during their lifetime.⁸

Percent of Secondary School Students Reporting Drug Use, Texas Border, 1998 and 2000

Drug Type	Past Month Use		Ever Used	
	1998	2000	1998	2000
Any illicit drug	15.6%	15.6%	33.3%	32.5%
Inhalants	8.9	8.8	21.0	20.6
Marijuana	12.7	12.7	30.2	28.9
Cocaine/crack	6.0	5.7	13.7	13.8
Hallucinogens	1.4	1.0	4.0	3.3
Uppers	2.8	2.3	7.1	6.0
Downers	3.0	2.4	7.7	6.2
Rohypnol	5.0	4.2	13.4	12.6
Steroids	0.6	0.8	1.8	2.3
Ecstasy	0.7	1.5	2.1	3.5
Heroin	0.6	0.6	1.9	1.6

Enforcement

- Southwest Border HIDTA/South Texas Partnership Initiatives include:⁹
 - Eagle Pass Multi-Agency SWB HIDTA Investigative Task Force: This multi-agency, joint task force is designed for the interdiction, investigation, prosecution, and seizure of illegal drugs and related monetary gains in the counties of Maverick, Val Verde, and Kinney.
 - Unity Task Force: This multi-agency, joint task force is tasked with identifying, dismantling, and/or disrupting internationally tied drug trafficking organizations originating in or through the south border region of Texas.
 - South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center: This multi-agency, joint initiative collects, analyzes, reports, and processes drug-related information into usable strategic or tactical intelligence.
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 78 full-time law enforcement employees in Eagle Pass.¹⁰

Trafficking and Seizures¹¹

- The South Texas Partnership (HIDTA) region consists of the following: more than 23,000 square miles; a 647-mile portion of the Rio Grande River, which marks the Southern Texas Partnership boundary and its border with Mexico; and approximately 70 miles of Gulf of Mexico intercoastal waterways, which form the eastern border of this region.
- The South Texas Ports of Entry are among the busiest in the Nation.
- Drug origins found in this area are primarily Mexico, Central and South America.
- In 1999, the South Texas Partnership seized 48% (136,192 kilograms) more drugs than it did in 1998.
- The amount of U.S. currency seized increased by over 25% (\$4,193,088) from 1998.
- Returns from asset forfeitures assist in developing demand reduction activities in the local communities.

Courts

- There are currently no drug courts in existence or being planned in Eagle Pass. There are also no drug courts located elsewhere in Maverick County.¹²
- During FY 2000, 45% of the Federally sentenced offenders in Southern Texas had been charged with a drug offense. Over 60% of these offenses involved marijuana.¹³

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Southern Texas, FY 2000

Drug Involved	Number	Percent
Marijuana	1,015	62.2%
Powder cocaine	356	21.8
Crack cocaine	149	9.1
Heroin	63	3.9
Methamphetamine	26	1.6
Other	24	1.5

Consequences of Use¹⁴

- During 2000, there were a total of 3 drug-related deaths in Maverick County.

Number of Substance-Related Deaths, Maverick County, 1998-2000

	1998		1999		2000	
	Youth	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth	Adult
Total alcohol-related	N/A	19	1	17	3	20
Direct alcohol-related	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A	2
Indirect alcohol-related	N/A	17	1	15	3	18
Total drug-related	N/A	2	N/A	3	N/A	3
Direct drug-related	N/A	1	N/A	2	N/A	2
Indirect drug-related	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A	1

Treatment¹⁵

- During 2000, there were 33 adult admissions to treatment for inhalants in TCADA (Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse)-funded programs in Maverick County.
- There were also 20 adult admissions to treatment for alcohol.

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

² Eagle Pass Web site: <http://www.cityofeaglepass.com/>

³ Southwest Border HIDTA/ South Texas Partnership Fact Sheet:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/stex-fs.html>

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

⁵ Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Substance-Related Statistics by County:
<http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/statistics/ctysearch.html>

⁶ Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, *2000 Texas Survey of Substance Use Among Adults*:
<http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/AdultHousehold.pdf>

⁷ Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, *Texas School Survey of Substance Use Among Students: Grades 4-6, 2000*, June 2001: http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/school_elementary2000.pdf

⁸ Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, *Texas School Survey of Substance Use Among Students: Grades 7-12, 2000*, May 2001: http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/school_survey2000.pdf

⁹ Southwest Border HIDTA/ South Texas Partnership Fact Sheet:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/stex-fs.html>

¹⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

¹¹ Southwest Border HIDTA/ South Texas Partnership Web site:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/stex-content.html>

¹² 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>

¹³ U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2000 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Southern Texas:
<http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2000/txs00.pdf>

¹⁴ Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Substance-Related Statistics by County:
<http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/statistics/ctysearch.html>

¹⁵ Ibid.

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