

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### McAllen, 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.

## McAllen, Texas

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

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 106,414 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 80.6% white; 0.6% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.0% Asian; 16.3% other; 2.8% two or more races; 82.5% Hispanic
- County: Hidalgo

### **Politics<sup>2</sup>**

- Mayor: Leo Montalvo
- City Manager: Mike Perez
- Board of Commission: Carlos Garza; Jan Klinck
- Chief of Police: Victor Rodriguez

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area<sup>3</sup>  
Designated in 1990, the Southwest Border HIDTA/South Texas Partnership is responsible for the following 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.
- McAllen has been designated an official Weed and Seed site.<sup>4</sup>

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime<sup>5</sup>**

- During 2001, McAllen Police Officers made 9,194 arrests. 14.6% of these arrests involved juveniles age 16 and under.
- There was a 100% increase in the number of murders known to the McAllen police from 2000 to 2001.

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, McAllen, 2000-2001

Offense Type	2000	2001	% Change
Murder	2	4	100%
Rape	1	9	800
Robbery	116	120	3.5
Aggravated assault	279	340	21.9
Burglary	1,370	1,604	17.1
Theft	6,163	6,364	3.3
Motor vehicle theft	856	706	- 17.5

- During 2001, there were 3 drug sale/manufacturing arrests in McAllen. All 3 arrests involved marijuana.

- There were also 1,210 drug possession arrests in McAllen in 2001. 66% of these arrests involved marijuana, 32% involved opium/cocaine, 1% involved synthetic drugs, and 1% involved a substance not covered in these categories.

### Drugs<sup>6</sup>

- 7.7% of Hidalgo County adults reported using an illicit drug in the past year.
- 1.7% of adults in the entire Lower South region of Texas (which consists of 19 counties, including Hidalgo.) reported that they continued using drugs despite experiencing problems associated with their drug use.

#### Drug-Related Problems, Lower South Region, Texas, 2000

Type of Problem	Percent Reporting Problem
Used more than intended	0.5%
Tried to cut down	1.8
Spent a lot of time using	2.2
Hazardous use/neglected roles	2.5
Gave up important activities	1.0
Continued use despite problems	1.7
Developed tolerance	1.8
Withdrawal symptoms	0.6
Used drug(s) to relieve withdrawal symptoms	0.4
Felt dependent on drug	0.7

### Juveniles

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

#### 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, approximately 32% reported using an illicit drug at least once during their lifetime.<sup>8</sup>

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:<sup>9</sup>
  - South Texas HIDTA McAllen Initiative: This initiative consists of four multi-agency task forces working against internationally-backed drug trafficking organizations operating in and through the Hidalgo County area.
  - South Texas Multi-Agency Drug-Related Public Corruption Task Force: Operating from McAllen, this task force focuses on drug-related, public corruption investigations.
  - Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task Force: This multi-agency intelligence task force provides near real-time, tactical intelligence support for multiple initiatives and task forces within the southern sector of Texas. This task force provides on-site analytical support for the South Texas HIDTA McAllen Initiative.
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 332 full-time law enforcement employees working in McAllen.<sup>10</sup>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- During 2001, Hidalgo and Starr County law enforcement agencies seized nearly 21,000 pounds of marijuana.<sup>11</sup>

Amount of Drugs Seized, Hidalgo and Starr Counties, 2001

Drug Seized	Quantity
Marijuana	20,932.41 pounds
Heroin	11 grams
Cocaine	797.12 pounds
Crack	31.1 grams
Designer drugs	1,625 pills
Barbiturates	599 pills
Amphetamines	2,016.8 grams
Methamphetamine	30.6 grams

- The South Texas Partnership (HIDTA) region consists of 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.<sup>12</sup>
- The South Texas Ports of Entry are among the busiest in the Nation.<sup>13</sup>
- Drug origins found in this area are primarily Mexico, Central and South America.<sup>14</sup>
- In 1999, the South Texas Partnership seized 48% (136,192 kilograms) more drugs than it did in 1998.<sup>15</sup>
- The amount of U.S. currency seized increased by over 25% (\$4,193,088) from 1998.<sup>16</sup>

### Courts

- There are currently no drug courts in existence in McAllen. However, as of January 17, 2002, there was one drug court being planned in this city. This will be a juvenile drug court.<sup>17</sup>
- 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.<sup>18</sup>

### 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 Use<sup>19</sup>

- During 2000, there were 34 drug-related deaths in Hidalgo County.

### Number of Substance-Related Deaths, Hidalgo County, 1998-2000

	1998		1999		2000	
	Youth	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth	Adult
Total alcohol-related	11	210	9	188	10	188
Direct alcohol-related	N/A	36	N/A	35	N/A	34
Indirect alcohol-related	11	174	9	153	10	154
Total drug-related	N/A	27	1	34	1	33
Direct drug-related	N/A	16	N/A	29	1	23
Indirect drug-related	N/A	11	1	5	N/A	10

### Treatment<sup>20</sup>

- During 2000, there were 146 adult admissions to treatment for cocaine in TCADA (Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse)-funded programs in Hidalgo County.

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Hidalgo County, 2000

Drug Type	Juveniles	Adults
Alcohol	7	279
Cocaine	16	146
Crack	10	95
Downers	--*	--*
Heroin	--*	52
Marijuana/hashish	87	98
Other drugs	15	--*
Other opiates	N/A	4
Inhalants	6	--*

\* The number of admissions is less than 4.

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

<sup>2</sup> McAllen Web site: <http://www.mcallen.net/>

<sup>3</sup> Southwest Border HIDTA/ South Texas Partnership Web site:  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/stex-content.html>

<sup>4</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Web site, Texas section: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/map/tx.htm>

<sup>5</sup> McAllen Police Department, *Crime in McAllen, 2001*: [http://www.mcallen.net/PDF-forms/Monthly\\_Reports/pd/2001crimeinmcallen.pdf](http://www.mcallen.net/PDF-forms/Monthly_Reports/pd/2001crimeinmcallen.pdf)

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

<sup>7</sup> 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](http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/school_elementary2000.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> 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](http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/school_survey2000.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Southwest Border HIDTA/ South Texas Partnership Web site:  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/stex-content.html>

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

<sup>11</sup> McAllen Police Department, *Crime in McAllen, 2001*: [http://www.mcallen.net/PDF-forms/Monthly\\_Reports/pd/2001crimeinmcallen.pdf](http://www.mcallen.net/PDF-forms/Monthly_Reports/pd/2001crimeinmcallen.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Southwest Border HIDTA/ South Texas Partnership Web site:  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/stex-content.html>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> 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>

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2000 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Southern Texas:  
<http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2000/txs00.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, *Substance-Related Statistics by County*:  
<http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/research/statistics/ctysearch.html>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

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