

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**July
2020**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01-31 JUL 2020**



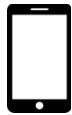
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



The Ranch BOSA is a monthly overview of drug/human smuggling and other criminal activity in south and west Texas. The purpose of this report is to inform ranch owners of emerging trends and relevant incidents.

South Texas Ranch Crime Index Total as of February 28, 2018: 58

The Ranch Crime index comprises rancher input of criminal traffic patterns occurring outside of main highways and roadways, and across ranch properties.



You may use the [Texas DPS iWatch](#) to report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal or terrorist activity, such as drug smuggling, human smuggling, oil field thefts, and other criminal activity. Every report will be reviewed by analysts. You may also contact DPS at 1-866-786-5972, or through the JOIC contacts listed below.



OPERATION BORDER STAR

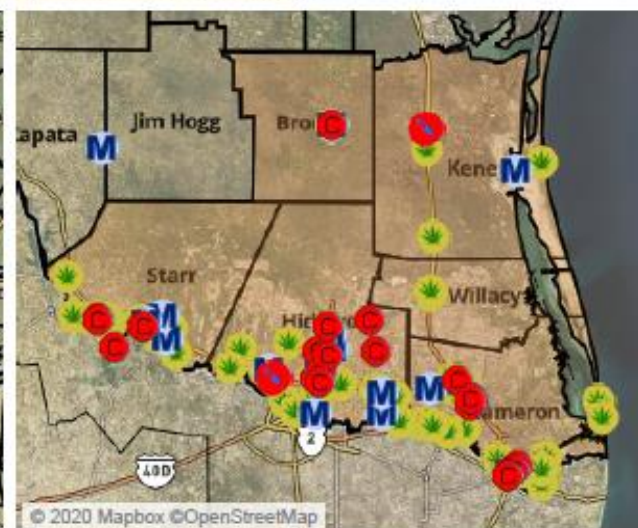
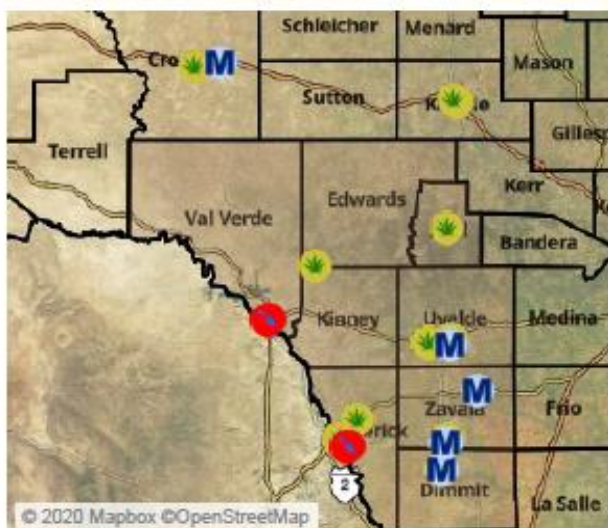
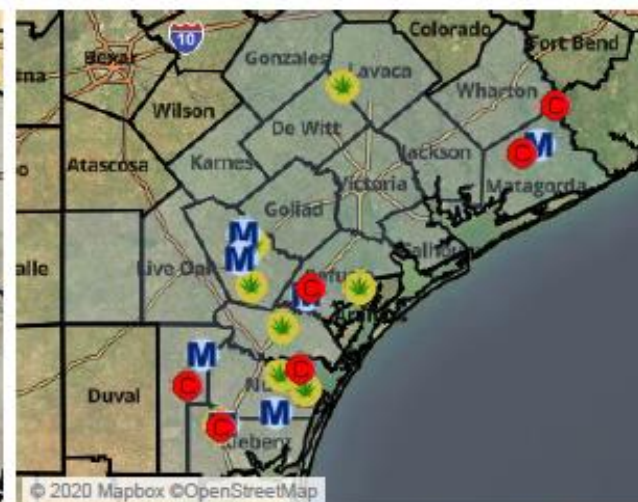
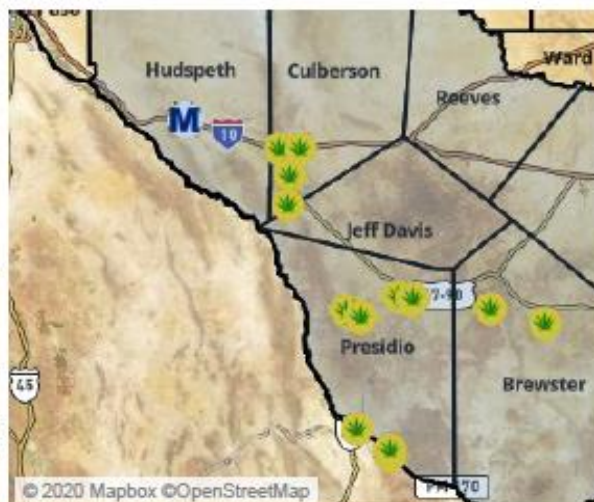
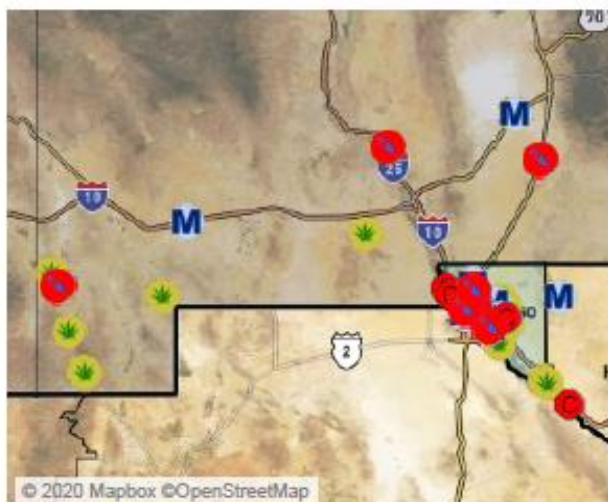
JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio)	Laredo Sector (Laredo)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181	(956) 289-5727	(361) 485-8500
Main E-mail	TBSOC@dps.texas.gov	joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov	joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov	joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov	joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov	joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov	joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov



Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



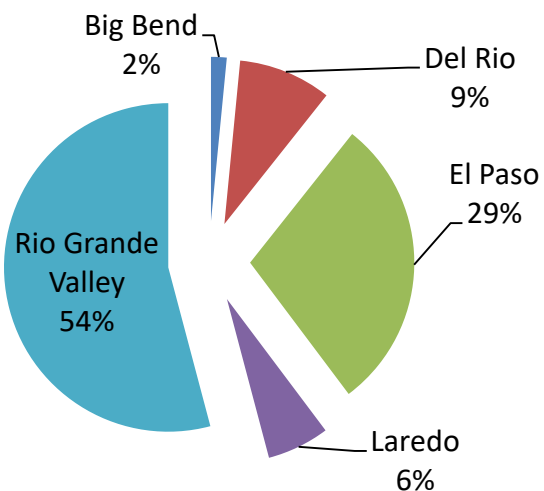
CYTD 2020	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	19,106	18,660	676	55,685	87,964	281	182,372
Cocaine (lbs)	621	35	179	653	2,854	180	4,521
Methamphetamine (lbs)	3,139	180	1,023	6,795	6,528	5	17,671
Heroin (lbs)	151	10	53	108	304	38	664



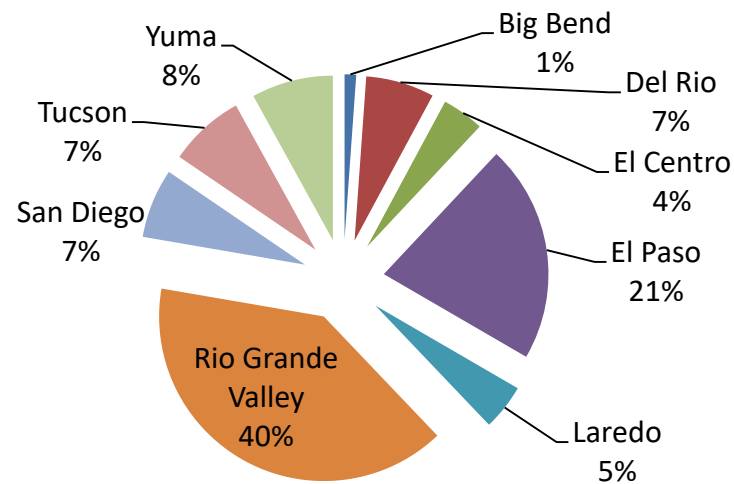
Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month



Texas Border Sector Apprehensions FY2019 (OCT-SEP)



Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions FY2019 (OCT-SEP)

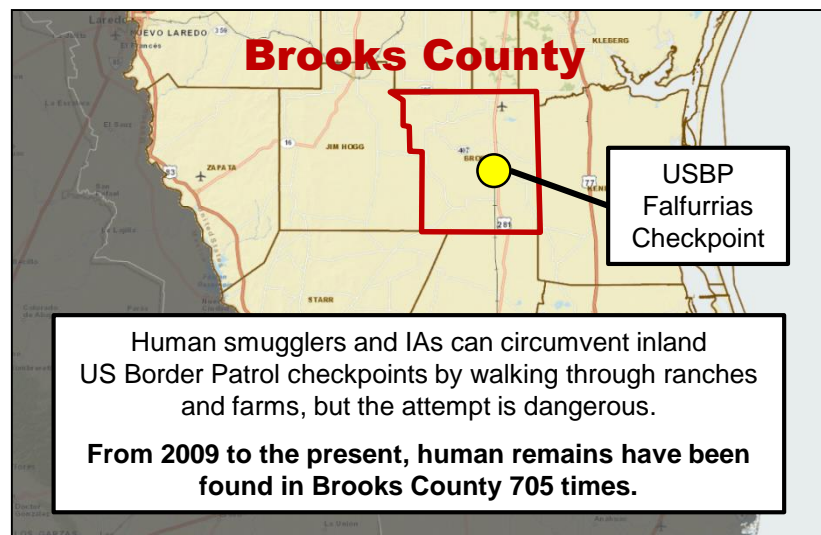


For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	13,142	2,500	19,119	26,521	40,207	--	101,489

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	8,039	1,128	8,159	3,966	19,546	--	40,838

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs)	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015
Texas Border	57,603	34,383	31,827	47,192	31,109



BIG BEND SECTOR

On 01 JUL, USBP Agents seized 226.67 lbs of marijuana that was found abandoned on a ranch southwest of Marfa. Five subjects were encountered asleep under a tree. As Agents approached, one of the subjects woke up and alerted the group. The five subjects absconded. The marijuana, which was found in five burlap sacks wrapped in cellophane tape, was referred to Alpine DEA.

On 02 JUL, USBP Agents seized four burlap sacks that were found abandoned on a ranch southwest of Marfa. Four subjects were believed to have absconded. A cell phone and an identification card were found at the scene. Three of the four sacks contained a total of 120.01 lbs of marijuana, and the fourth sack contained 30.37 lbs of methamphetamine. The narcotics were referred to Alpine DEA.



BIG BEND SECTOR

On 08 JUL, USBP Agents, assisted by DPS AVN, apprehended nine IAs who were hiding in rock formations on a ranch north of Valentine.



On 09 JUL, DPS AVN responded to a request for assistance from USBP Agents to locate subjects in distress southwest of Allamore. AVN located six IAs in the shadow of a deer blind and guided Agents to the location.

BIG BEND SECTOR



On 09 JUL, DPS AVN responded to a request for assistance from USBP Agents to locate subjects who were in distress near a camp south of Van Horn because they had no water. AVN located four IAs at an empty water tank and guided Agents to the location.

On 10 JUL, DPS AVN responded to a distress call on a ranch west of Valentine. The Aircrew located two IAs who were in distress because they had no water. The subjects were given water and referred to USBP.



BIG BEND SECTOR



On 10 JUL, DPS AVN responded to an emergency call from a female subject who had an unknown subject knocking on the door of her residence on a ranch north of Candelaria. The Aircrew found an IA hiding in the brush. The subject, who was found to be out of food and water, was detained and referred to USBP.

On 12 JUL, USBP Agents seized 455.14 lbs of marijuana that was found abandoned by a fence along FM 170, east of Redford. The marijuana, which was found in 11 bundles, was referred to Presidio Co SO.

BIG BEND SECTOR

On 13 JUL, Brewster Co SO received information regarding a suspicious person who had been seen near a property, riding a bicycle and carrying three one-gallon jugs of water. Upon arrival, the Deputy was initially unable to find the subject, but later located him fleeing south through an area east of Lajitas. The subject initially ignored verbal commands to stop, but eventually complied. The subject was identified as an IA, detained, and referred to USBP.

On 18 JUL, USBP Agents responded to a call from TPWD Game Wardens who had stopped a vehicle with a possible human-smuggling load north of Sheffield. A concerned citizen had reported that a van had been loading what appeared to be hay bundles into the vehicle. The Agents apprehended an IA human smuggler, an IA guide, and five additional IAs. The vehicle was seized, and the case was referred to Alpine HSI.

BIG BEND SECTOR

On 21 JUL, USBP Agents seized 241.76 lbs of marijuana that had been found abandoned on a ranch south of Van Horn. The marijuana was found in four large burlap backpacks. Foot sign indicated that four subjects had absconded. The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.

On 21 JUL, USBP Agents observed a white 2008 Lincoln Navigator stop on US-67, south of Marfa, and 12 subjects exited the vehicle. Another Agent conducted an inspection on the vehicle at the US-67 Marfa Checkpoint. The LAPR driver was questioned about the stop made prior to the checkpoint, and was detained. A few hours later, the Agents apprehended 12 IAs on a nearby ranch. The driver was identified as the human smuggler and arrested. The IAs were processed, and the vehicle was impounded.

On 28 JUL, Brewster Co SO Deputies responded to a call from a rancher and detained two IAs in Marathon. The subjects had passports. One of the subjects claimed that, after their van became stuck near Alpine, they had hitchhiked to Marathon while en route to Fort Stockton. The subjects were referred to USBP.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 01 JUL, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy was notified of a vehicle theft that had occurred at an oil-field site in Catarina. The victim stated that his 2010 Chevrolet Silverado pickup had been stolen. While searching the area, the Deputy observed the vehicle being followed by a USBP Agent south of Asherton. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch gate, and was found abandoned. The Agent apprehended the driver, who was identified as an IA. The Agent processed the IA, and the Deputy impounded the vehicle.

On 02 JUL, a Real Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch in Leahey regarding a burglary. The victim stated that food and a few other items were missing. The Deputy suspects that the burglary was committed by IAs traveling through the area.

On 02 JUL, a Kinney Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2004 Cadillac Escalade south of Brackettville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and four occupants bailed out and fled. The Deputy detained three additional occupants, and USBP Agents detained the four subjects who had fled. The Agents apprehended six IAs and the driver/human smuggler. The vehicle had a license plate from another vehicle and was reported stolen from San Antonio. The Deputy impounded the vehicle.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 06 JUL, USBP Agents apprehended five IAs on a ranch east of El Indio. One of the IAs was unresponsive, and was transported via EMS to a hospital. A Dimmit Co SO Deputy was dispatched to the hospital to take the report. The subject was later declared deceased. The remaining subjects were processed.

On 06 JUL, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe south of Brackettville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a fence onto a ranch east of Brackettville, where the occupants bailed out. The Trooper detained five IAs. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio. The IAs were referred to USBP, and the Trooper impounded the vehicle.

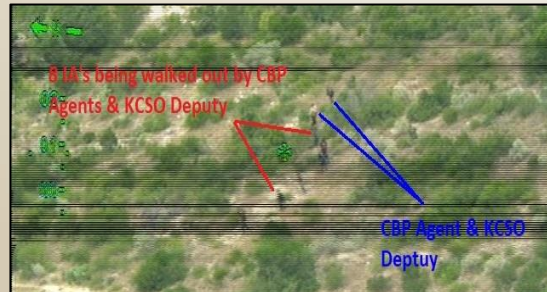


On 06 JUL, a Zavala Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in Batesville regarding a rancher locating an abandoned gray 2011 Ford F-150 pickup. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio and appeared to have been used in a human-smuggling attempt, was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 07 JUL, a Kinney Co SO Deputy assisted USBP Agents with the apprehension of ten IAs on a ranch near US-277, west of Brackettville.

On 08 JUL, a Kinney Co SO Deputy received information regarding a white 2010 Ford E350 suspected of being used to pick up IAs on US-277, south of Del Rio. The Deputy located the vehicle on US-90, west of Brackettville, and a pursuit ensued. USBP Agents and DPS AVN assisted. The vehicle turned north onto RR 674, and continued onto a ranch, where the occupants bailed out and fled. The driver and three of the passengers absconded. The Aircrew guided the Agents to nine IAs, who were apprehended. The following day, two other IAs from the bailout were apprehended. The 11 IAs were processed. The vehicle had a fictitious license plate, and was reported stolen from San Antonio. Due to damage and the rough terrain, the vehicle was not impounded at the time.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 13 JUL, a Kinney Co SO Deputy detained a pedestrian south of Brackettville. The subject stated that he had become lost while walking through ranches. The subject, who initially gave a false name and DOB, was found to be carrying a single vehicle key that fit a 2015 Ram pickup that had been involved in a bailout earlier in the day. The subject admitted to having been the load driver involved in the bailout, and was released to USBP.

On 25 JUL, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-250 on RR 674 in Brackettville, when a pursuit ensued. Additional Troopers deployed stop-sticks, and the vehicle crashed into a ranch fence, where several subjects bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from New Braunfels, was impounded.

On 27 JUL, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2006 Ford F-350 pickup on FM 481, north of Eagle Pass, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and a USBP Agent found it abandoned. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded by the Trooper.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 06 JUL, Hebbronville USBP Agents recovered a stolen 2011 GMC Sierra 2500 pickup on a ranch near Mirando City. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Walker Co, was referred to Duval Co SO.

On 09 JUL, Webb Co SO Deputies responded to reports of subjects trespassing on a property near Rio Bravo. As the Deputies arrived, they observed four subjects run behind a residence. One of the subjects climbed over a fence and absconded. The remaining subjects were identified as three IAs and referred to USBP.

On 11 JUL, a Webb Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch in Laredo regarding three IAs who were flagging down motorists. The IAs claimed to have paid \$8,000 to be taken from MX to Houston by a human smuggler, who had instead dropped them off and fled. The subjects were referred to USBP.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 06 JUL, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in central Brooks County regarding human remains found by USBP Agents. Clothing and several other personal items were found near the body. The Brooks Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.



On 16 JUL, McAllen USBP Agents seized 70 lbs of marijuana. The Agents observed five subjects load bundles into a black minivan near Havana and conducted a vehicle stop, when a pursuit ensued. CBP OAM, THP Troopers, and RGV SIU responded to assist. The vehicle was driven into a field, and several subjects bailed out and fled into the brush. The Agents found the marijuana in the minivan and apprehended four subjects. DEA assumed custody of the subjects and narcotics. The vehicle was seized.

On 21 JUL, Harlingen USBP Agents seized 71.14 lbs of marijuana near La Paloma. The Agents observed several subjects running through fields toward the River, responded, and discovered the marijuana. DEA assumed custody of the narcotics.



COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 02 JUL, a Bee Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on SH-359 and US-181 in Skidmore, when pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a barbed-wire fence onto a ranch and was later found abandoned. A THP Trooper assisted. The Deputy searched the vehicle and seized 114.18 lbs of marijuana. The marijuana was referred to DPS.

On 21 JUL, a George West PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2015 Ford F-250 pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven off the road and through a fence and was not located. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston.

On 29 JUL, THP Troopers responded to reports of a vehicle crash near Premont. The Troopers discovered a Premont ISD 2020 Chevrolet Suburban that had crashed into a wire fence. The vehicle, which was stolen from Premont, was recovered. No arrests were reported.



Total Pursuits and Bailouts – CYTD *

Event	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	9	20	121	33	95	39	317
Bailouts	2	25	146	33	55	22	283

** Totals include all incidents reported by the JOICs, not merely those that are ranch-related*

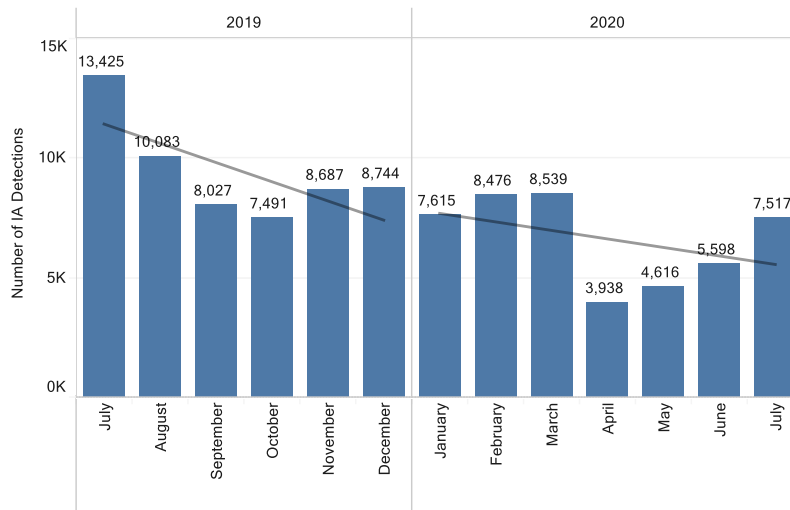




Statistical Summary – JUL 2020



Drawbridge IA Detections

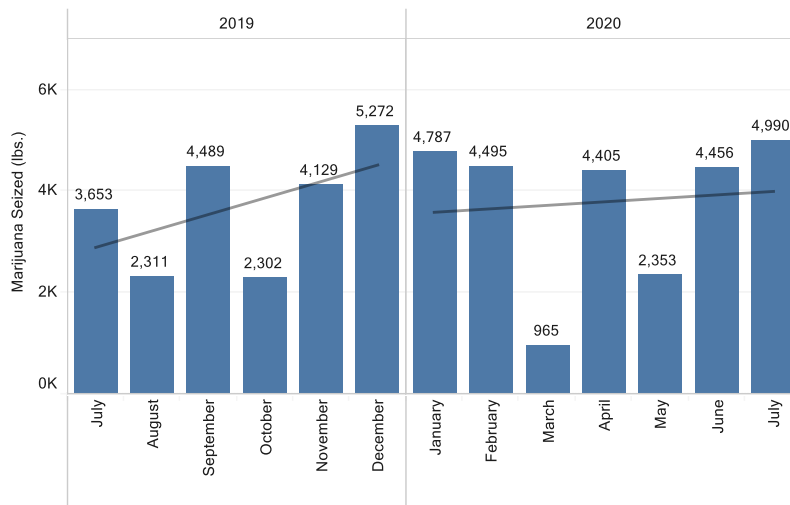


Operation Drawbridge Totals: Fiscal YTD 2020*

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	79,248
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	42,643
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	607
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	0
Meth Seized (lbs.)	12
Firearms Detected	5

* Figures are based on initial reporting and are subject to change.
* Fiscal Year is defined as September 1st through August 31st.

Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 - JUL 2020

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	679,777
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	561,411
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	1,156
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	44
Firearms Detected	53

If any comments or questions arise from this product, please contact:

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



TBSOC@dps.texas.gov
Duty Phone: 512-424-7561
Fax: 512-424-7041

