

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**March
2020**

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



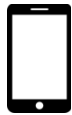
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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.



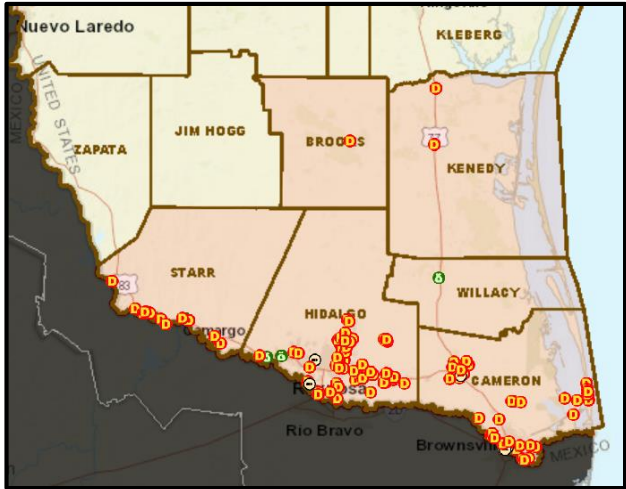
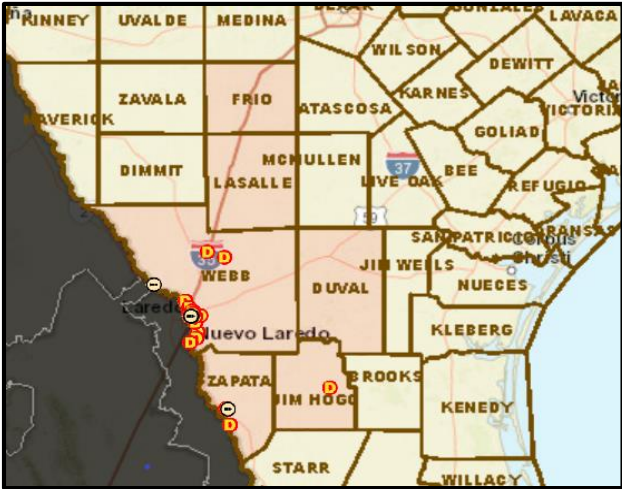
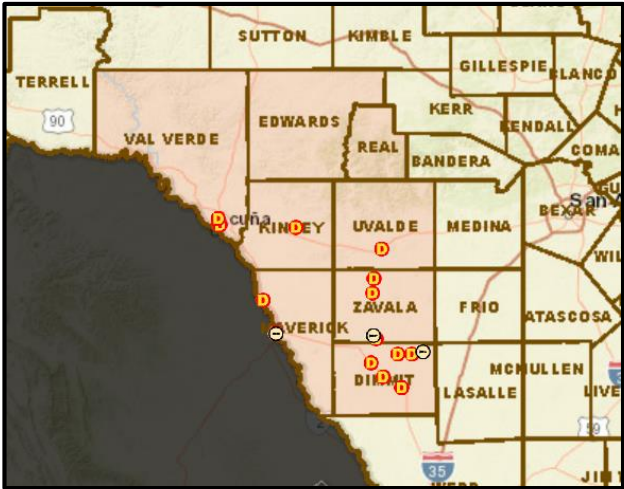
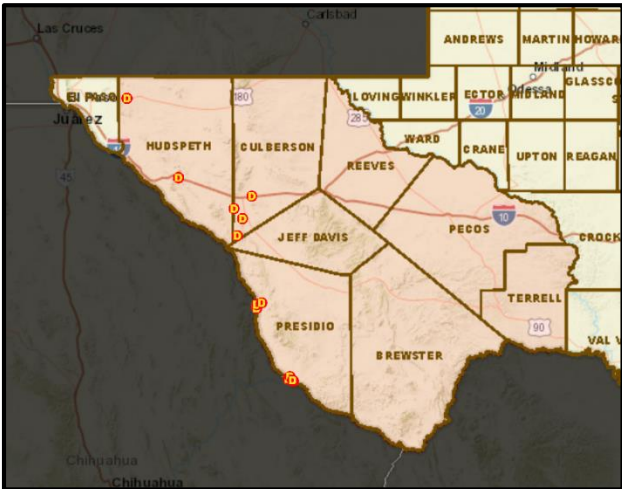
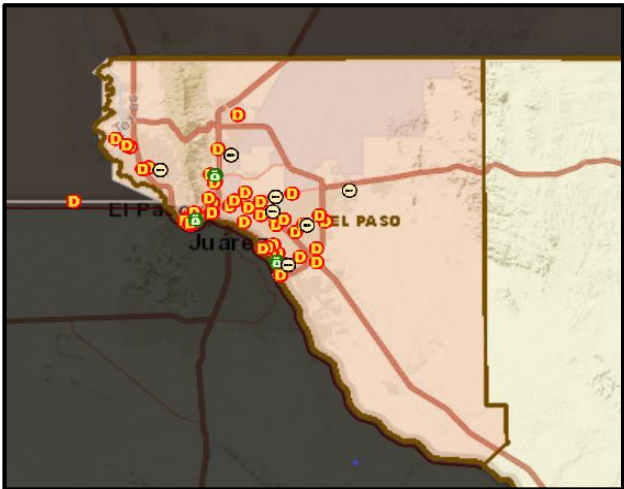
You may use the [Texas DPS iWatch](#) to report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal or terrorist activity, such as drug smuggling, human smuggling, oil field thefts, and other criminal activity. Every report will be reviewed by analysts. You may also contact DPS at 1-866-786-5972,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



OPERATION BORDER STAR

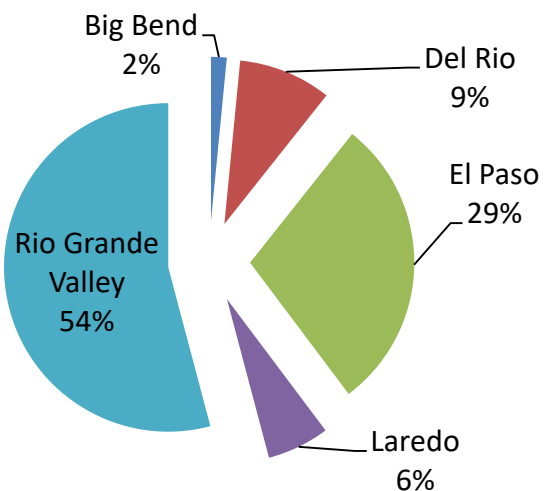
JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio)	Laredo Sector (Laredo)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181	(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

Seizures – CYTD 2020	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Marijuana (lbs)	11,792	6,904	674	19,778	27,866	26	67,040
Cocaine (lbs)	100	12	117	298	1,115	109	1,751
Methamphetamine (lbs)	2,157	3	286	1,728	3,338	4	7,516
Heroin (lbs)	3	10	< 1	19	66	11	109

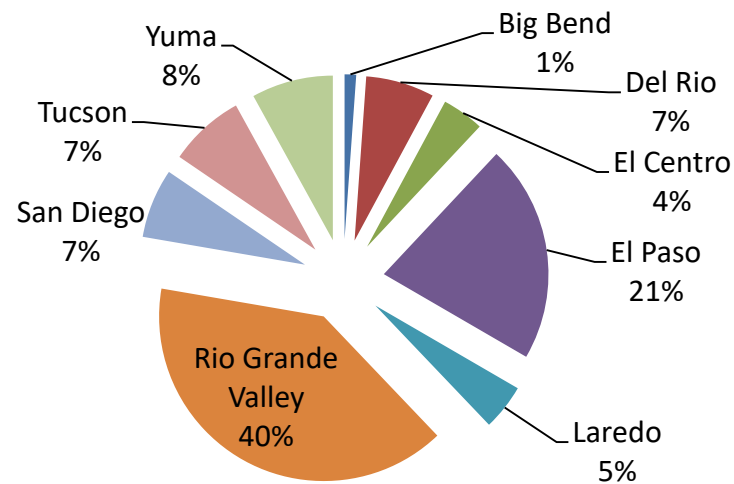




Texas Border Sector Apprehensions FY2019 (OCT-SEP)



Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions FY2019 (OCT-SEP)

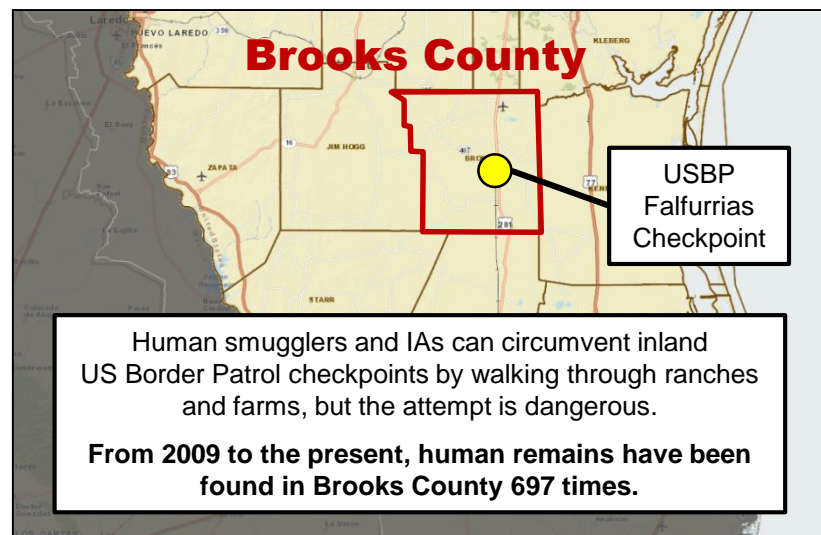


For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	11,029	1,562	6,400	11,275	19,577	0	49,843

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	6,661	746	3,140	2,545	12,650	0	25,742

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 11 MAR, USBP Agents seized 288.90 lbs of marijuana that had been found abandoned on a ranch south of Van Horn. The marijuana, which was found in five large burlap backpacks, was referred to Alpine DEA.

BIG BEND SECTOR

On 05 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies and USBP Agents apprehended 16 IAs on a ranch southwest of Marathon. One of the subjects was identified as an MS-13 gang member. The subjects were processed.

On 17 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies detained two IAs near a ranch east of Marathon. The subjects were referred to USBP. One of the IAs was identified as being associated with the Guerrero Alien Smuggling Organization.

On 18 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies responded to a report of three subjects on a ranch south of Alpine. Two IAs were detained, and another subject absconded. The two IAs were referred to USBP.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 03 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy was dispatched to investigate an abandoned white 2014 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on a ranch near US-83, south of Catarina. A USBP Agent had followed the vehicle until it was driven onto the ranch. The Agent found the vehicle abandoned and impounded it. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 04 MAR, a Val Verde Co SO Deputy detained two IAs who were walking along the road outside a ranch north of Comstock. The IAs were referred to USBP and processed.

On 06 MAR, USBP Agents conducted an inspection on a gold 2002 GMC Yukon on FM 481, southwest of Uvalde, when the vehicle failed to yield. Uvalde Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle in Uvalde, when the vehicle failed to yield again, and was driven through a ranch fence at FM 1023, east of Uvalde.

The Agents and Deputies found the vehicle on fire in a ditch.
No subjects were found in the area. The vehicle was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR



On 05 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2017 Ford F-150 pickup on FM 65, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven across one ranch and stopped on another. The vehicle was reported stolen from Austin, and the front license plate belonged to a different vehicle. The vehicle had a punched-out keyhole on the driver side, and the rear seats had been removed. The vehicle was impounded. Later, an IA from the vehicle was encountered at the front gate of one of the ranches. The IA was referred to USBP and processed.

On 06 MAR, a Kinney Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch near RR 674, north of Brackettville regarding a group of suspicious subjects. The Deputy detained three IAs, who were referred to USBP and processed.

On 07 MAR, USBP Agents observed a black 2009 Ford F-150 pickup being driven erratically on FM 133, southeast of Catarina. The Agents followed the vehicle at a safe distance and observed it being driven through a fence and onto a ranch in southeast Dimmit Co. The vehicle was found abandoned. The Agents found 11 IAs in the brush, but the driver absconded. The vehicle was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 07 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2010 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 1572, east of Spofford, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto a ranch near US-90, east of Brackettville, and seven occupants bailed out. Kinney Co SO Deputies and USBP Agents were dispatched to search the area, but the subjects had absconded. The vehicle had a fictitious license plate, and was reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was impounded.

On 08 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2018 Dodge Ram pickup on FM 395, north of Crystal City, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven across one ranch and stopped on another. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 09 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2009 Chevrolet Traverse on US-83, south of Asherton, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto a ranch near US-83, and the occupants bailed out. USBP Agents searched the area, but the occupants absconded. The vehicle was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 09 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy, with the assistance of a THP Trooper, conducted a traffic stop on a white 2011 Ford F-250 pickup on FM 117, south of Batesville, when a pursuit ensued. The driver continued into Frio Co, striking another vehicle and driving onto a ranch off CR 4440, west of Pearsall. The vehicle was not located.

On 10 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 Dodge Ram pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. USBP Agents responded to assist, and located the vehicle abandoned in the brush. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 12 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2018 GMC Sierra pickup east of Asherton when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle's ignition and door lock had been tampered with, and it had a fictitious rear license plate. The vehicle was stolen from Harris Co.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 12 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2005 Ford F-150 pickup east of Big Wells, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto private property. The Deputy arrived on scene and found that the vehicle had crashed into a mobile home and was on fire. USBP Agents arrived on scene to assist. No subjects were discovered in the home or in the vehicle, and the vehicle was impounded.

On 13 MAR, USBP Agents seized 79.14 lbs of abandoned marijuana in two bundles from a barn south of Normandy. The marijuana was referred to DEA.

On 13 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2016 Dodge Ram pickup near Big Wells. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was found abandoned. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.



DEL RIO SECTOR



On 13 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 Dodge Ram pickup south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch gate. Six of the seven occupants bailed out and absconded, and the Deputy detained the subject who had remained. USBP Agents assisted and processed the IA. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio, and was displaying a different license plate. The vehicle was impounded.

On 18 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2016 Ford F-150 pickup on SH-85, west of Brundage, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out. USBP Agents were dispatched to assist, but the occupants absconded. The vehicle had a fictitious license plate, and was reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 19 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2010 Volkswagen Jetta on US-83 in Crystal City. The two occupants gave the Deputy inconsistent stories. A USBP Agent informed the Deputy that a group of suspected IAs was being tracked on a ranch near FM 2691, and the Deputy suspected that the subjects were scouting for the group. The subjects were questioned and released.

On 20 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2017 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 133, east of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and was found abandoned. USBP Agents apprehended seven IAs who had been in the vehicle, but the driver absconded. The vehicle, which had fictitious license plates and was stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

On 22 MAR, USBP Agents inspected a 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche pickup on FM 481 in Uvalde Co, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle stopped on a ranch, and five occupants bailed out and absconded. A Uvalde Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 24 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado pickup north of Crystal City, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven across one ranch and was found abandoned on another.

On 24 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2005 Nissan Armada on US-57, east of Batesville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a fence onto a ranch, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was impounded.



On 26 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado pickup south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. USBP Agents assisted. The vehicle, which was missing the back seat and had been stocked with food, was impounded.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 01 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents encountered a white 2019 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on a ranch off US-44 near Encinal. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was referred to THP.

On 09 MAR, a THP Trooper observed a 2018 Ford F-150 pickup being driven through a ranch fence in southwest La Salle Co. The driver bailed out and absconded. USBP Agents assisted in a search, but no additional subjects were found. The vehicle was stolen from Austin.

On 10 MAR, THP Troopers were notified by the owner of a ranch along IH-35 near Encinal of an abandoned 2012 Toyota 4Runner. The vehicle, which was stolen from Houston, was recovered.

On 15 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2014 Dodge Ram pickup near IH-35 in Cotulla. The driver refused to get out of the vehicle, drove through a ranch fence, and then bailed out and fled. The Trooper was assisted by La Salle Co SO Deputies, USBP Agents, and DPS AVN but the subject was not located. The vehicle was reported stolen from Seguin.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 16 MAR, Zapata USBP Agents assisted DEA Agents in an area where drugs were being smuggled. The Agents located a silver 2006 Ford F-150 pickup exiting the area. A Zapata Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and arrested the driver. The Agents seized 18 bundles in a field and 12 bundles in the vehicle, totaling 675.60 lbs of marijuana. DEA Agents took custody of the subject and narcotics, and the vehicle was impounded by Zapata Co SO.



On 16 MAR, a Duval Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2010 Ford F-150 pickup in central Duval Co, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and 15 subjects bailed out. USBP Agents apprehended eight IAs, and the vehicle was seized by Duval Co SO.

On 19 MAR, Encinal PD Officers conducted a traffic stop on a white 2014 Ford F-150 pickup on IH-35, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and found abandoned with the doors open. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. USBP was notified, and the vehicle was recovered.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 04 MAR, Brooks Co SO Deputies responded to a call from a ranch in eastern Brooks Co regarding human remains. USBP Agents escorted the Deputy to the site, and the Brooks Co Evidence Unit assumed custody of the remains.



On 13 MAR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a call from a ranch near Falfurrias regarding human remains.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 01 MAR, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy was dispatched to CR 162 & FM 624 in George West to meet with a subject regarding an abandoned gray 2018 Ford F-250 pickup that he had found on his property. The vehicle was reported stolen from George West.

On 12 MAR, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2013 Ford F-150 pickup on CR 425 and FM 716 in Premont, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch gate. USBP Agents assisted, but were unable to locate the vehicle on the property.

On 14 MAR, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2010 Ford F-150 pickup in Premont, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch gate, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was removed from the brush and towed to an impound yard.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 17 MAR, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2019 Nissan Titan pickup in Swinney Switch, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle then began traveling toward Bee Co, and THP Troopers took over the pursuit. The vehicle was driven through several fences and gates, and was later found abandoned in Atascosa Co.

On 20 MAR, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy was involved in a pursuit with a 2018 GMC Sierra pickup in George West. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston.

On 27 MAR, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2010 Ford F-150 pickup on FM 534 and FM 3024 in Swinney Switch, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven south onto CR 349, then crashed through a ranch gate and continued for a mile into a field, where several occupants bailed out. The Deputy detained 11 IAs and referred them to USBP.



Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY2014 - Present)*

Event	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	6	136	1,010	605	2,071	753	4,581
Bailouts	5	142	1,251	1,098	1,850	720	5,066

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

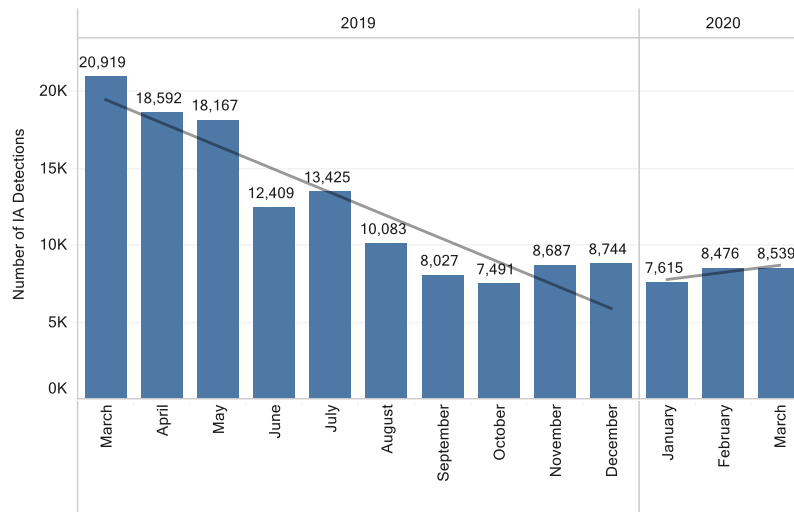




Statistical Summary – MAR 2020



Drawbridge IA Detections

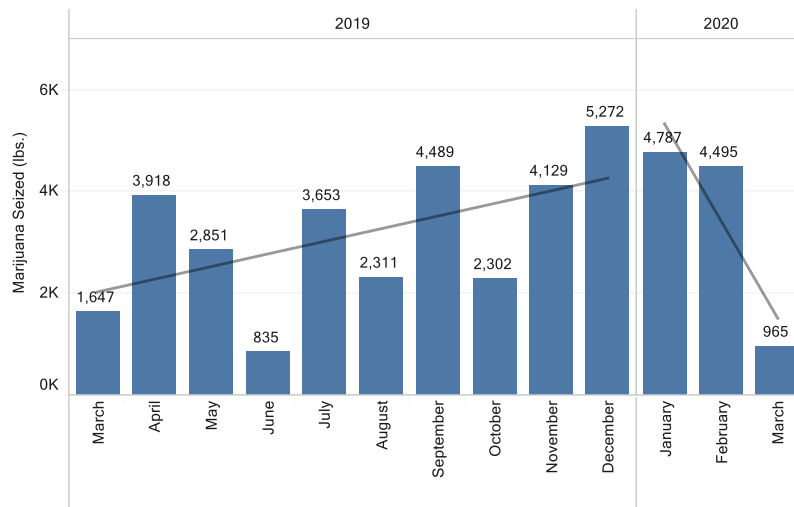


Operation Drawbridge Totals: Fiscal YTD 2020*

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	57,579
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	26,439
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	0
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	0
Meth Seized (lbs.)	0
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 - MAR 2020

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	658,142
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	545,207
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	549
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	32
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

