



SNAPSHOT U.S. - Mexico

Major Counter-Drug Initiatives

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No country in the world has more of an impact on the drug trafficking situation in the U.S. than does Mexico. Geographic proximity and the voluminous cross-border traffic provide ample opportunities for drug smugglers to deliver their illicit products to U.S. markets.

The mission of the DEA in Mexico is to bring to the criminal and civil justice systems those individuals involved in the growing, manufacturing, or distribution of controlled substances and chemicals destined for illicit traffic.

Click here for the Embassy Fact Sheet on Reducing U.S. Drug Consumption.

A primary mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Mexico is to assist with the identification, disruption and dismantlement of the command and control elements of the illicit narcotics, chemicals, and money laundering organizations. Through enhanced cooperation with DEA, Mexican counterparts have tackled many complex multinational investigations with very successful results:

- In FY 2007, DEA Mexico offices reported the seizure by Mexican law enforcement and military of a record-breaking \$297,059,296 dollars in revenue denied to traffickers. This amount represented the value of seized drugs, currency, vehicles, aircraft, property, and other assets.
- In January 2007—less than 2 months after President Calderon's inauguration—Mexico extradited four major drug traffickers to the United States, one being the leader of the notorious Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cardenas. For the past eight years, this drug kingpin commanded one of the most brutal drug cartels in the world, an organization that continues to be responsible for much of the narco-violence along the Mexico-U.S. border. Of the 83 extraditions from Mexico to the United States to in 2007, 40% were drug-related.
- In March 2007, information passed from DEA to the Mexican Attorney General's Office resulted in the largest recorded drug cash seizure, \$207 million U.S. dollar equivalent. Also seized in this same investigation were luxury vehicles, designer jewelry, and real estate.
- October 2007 was a record-breaking month in terms of the largest cocaine seizures ever in Mexico. Coordination between DEA and Mexican counterparts resulted in the seizure of 23.6 metric tons in Manzanillo with a street value of more than \$400 million dollars. A separate operation in Tamaulipas resulted in 11.7 tons of cocaine being removed from the market. The trend of increased seizures has contributed to a 44% price increase for cocaine in the United States.



Equipment provided to law enforcement counterparts to dismantle clandestine drug operations includes a mobile laboratory and protective clothing.



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Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
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