

CROSS BORDER TASK FORCE EVALUATION

FACT SHEET



The Project

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) selected 15 sites through a competitive process to receive American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding to target crime stemming from the southern border of the United States, including two programs in San Diego County: the San Diego Cross Border



Violence Project, a multi-agency collaborative effort submitted on behalf of the California Border Alliance Group (Southwest Regional High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Border Crime Suppression Team (BCST). While both projects target illegal activity in San Diego County, the two projects differ in that the San Diego Cross Border Violence Project focuses on integrating the resources of five law enforcement agencies into three existing task forces and the BCST involves uniformed and undercover patrol along the border, in border communities, and along known drug smuggling corridors, in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies.

One year later, the Criminal Justice Research Division of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) successfully competed for additional funds to complete an evaluation of how successful these two efforts were, both over time and in comparison to efforts in Imperial County, which borders San Diego County and faces similar issues, but did not receive this ARRA funding.

Project Goals and Objectives

While research has shown that drug trafficking and related violence can be more effectively addressed when resources are targeted collaboratively, very little, if any research has focused specifically on how task forces can be most effective when addressing the complex issues that occur along the U.S.-Mexico border. As such, this project will yield useful, timely, and practical information for both San Diego and other jurisdictions faced with similar issues regarding how task forces involving local, state, and federal partners can most effectively use resources to dismantle, rather than merely disperse, illegal narcotic activity along the border.

The goal of this two-year project is to determine if these two task force enhancement efforts resulted in improved efficiency and effectiveness in combating criminal narcotics activity along the U.S.-Mexico border. To accomplish this goal, SANDAG staff will:

- » document what law enforcement did in San Diego and Imperial Counties to target cross-border narcotics-related activity before and after the implementation of these projects;

(Continued on reverse)



401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 699-1900
Fax (619) 699-1905
www.sandag.org



- » document project implementation, including challenges and successes, with an emphasis on lessons learned;
 - » measure what outcomes, including improved coordination and information sharing, were associated with these efforts;
 - » determine how efficient these strategies were, given the cost and measurable outcomes.
- » What was the quality and quantity of information and intelligence shared before and after the enhanced ARRA activities?
 - » How was intelligence information used to deploy different strategies?
 - » How many and what type of drug-related investigations were initiated?
 - » What was the level of staffing and training during the project and were resources adequate to meet the goals and objectives?

Key Project Questions

A variety of data collection methods will be used to capture the information in both San Diego and Imperial Counties, including interviews, surveys, program observations, and archival record review. Process and impact evaluation questions that will be answered include:

- » What were the nature, type, and scope of partnerships in place before and after the enhanced ARRA activities?
- » What were the goals and objectives of the task forces and how were they similar and different?

- » What outcomes occurred as a result of drug-related investigations?
- » Were these efforts an efficient use of ARRA resources given the cost and outcomes?

For More Information

Please visit the SANDAG Web site at: sandag.org/cj for more project information, or contact the Criminal Justice Research Division at (619) 699-1910.