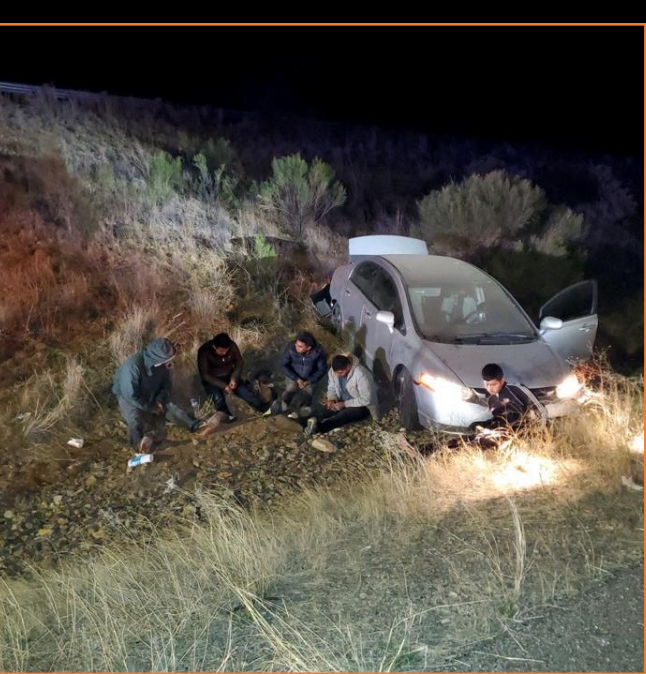


# State of the Arizona-Sonora Border.

Presented by:  
The Cochise County  
Sheriff's Office



Cochise County:  
Ground Zero for  
America's Border Crisis.



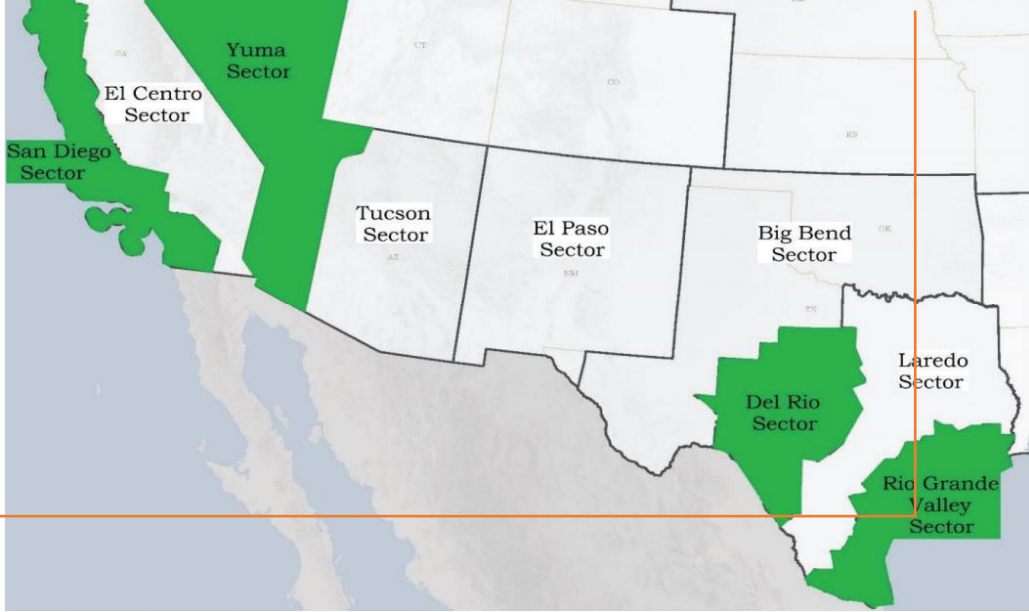




Arizona: Currently, the fentanyl capital of the Nation.

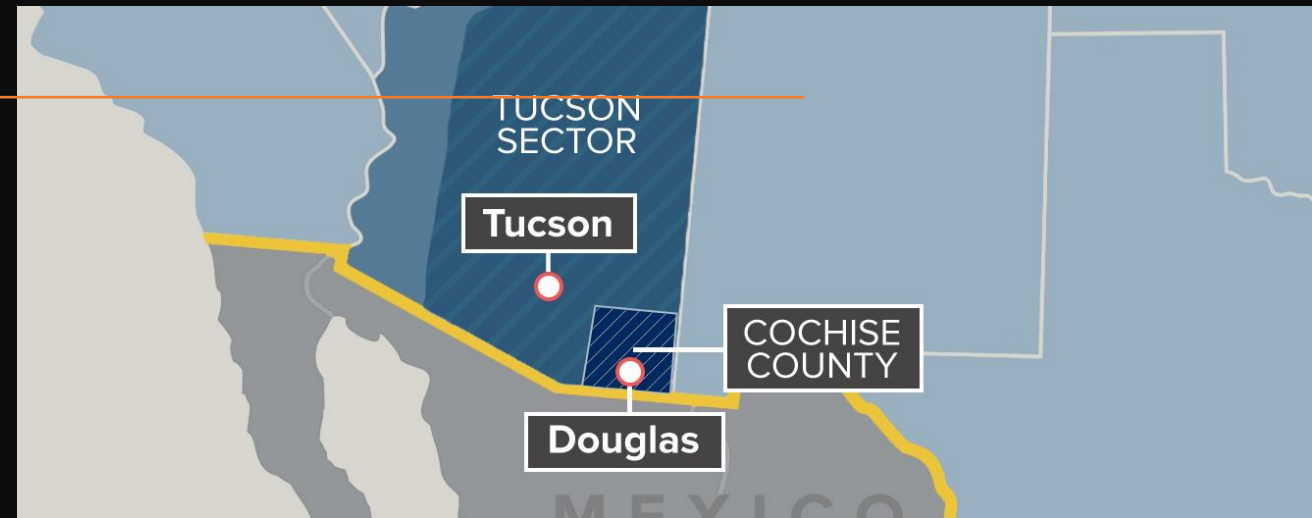
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- An estimated 136,724,650 fentanyl pills were seized in the United States in 2022.
- Over 50% (68,362,323 ) of all fentanyl seized in 2022, was seized in Arizona.
- Of the 68,362,323 pills seized in Arizona, 46.74% (31,954,213) were seized within Cochise County or within 20 miles of Cochise County. This equates to **23.37% of all fentanyl seized** in the United States was seized within Cochise County or within 20 miles of Cochise County.



Arizona; leading the way in between-port entries.

- In 2022, of the 561,553 migrants who were apprehended while illegally entering the United States between ports of entry, 44.87% or 251,954 migrants were apprehended within the Tucson Sector.





# Cochise County: 5



- Is the 38<sup>th</sup> largest county in the United States.
- Encompasses 6300 square miles.
- Shares 83 miles of border fence with Sonora Mexico.
- Has a population of 126,000.
- C.C.S.O. has 99 Sworn Deputy Positions.

## In 2022, C.C.S.O:

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- Has experienced 40% increase in operational tempo as a direct result of the border crisis.
- Booked 1578 people into the C.C.S.O. Jail for border related felonious offenses; 1500 were U.S. Citizens.
- Detained **3049** undocumented aliens.
- Investigated 601 border related crimes where people where feloniously victimized.





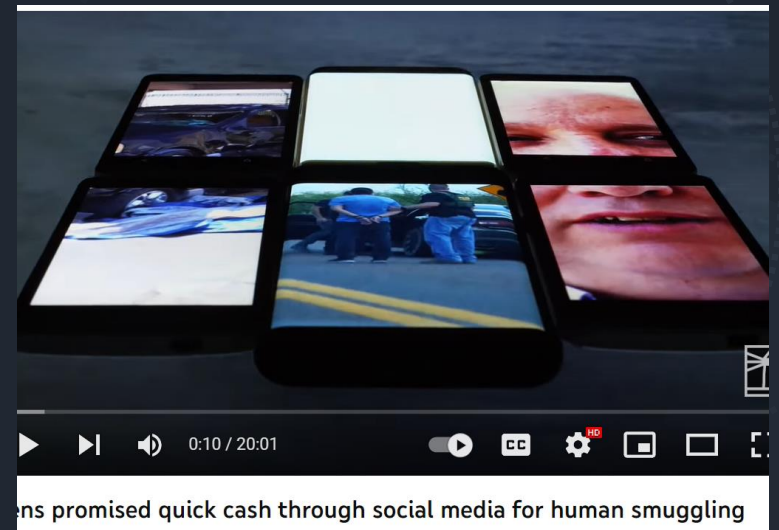
Also, in 2022, C.C.S.O:

- Detected 66,620 undocumented aliens on S.A.B.R.E. digital cameras.
- Of those 66,620, coordinated the physical apprehension of 25,500.
- Investigated 1,306 human smuggling events.
- Investigated smuggling incidents where 882 smugglers were prosecuted.



# Report by Scripps National News

Teens are promised a quick cash for Human Smuggling.





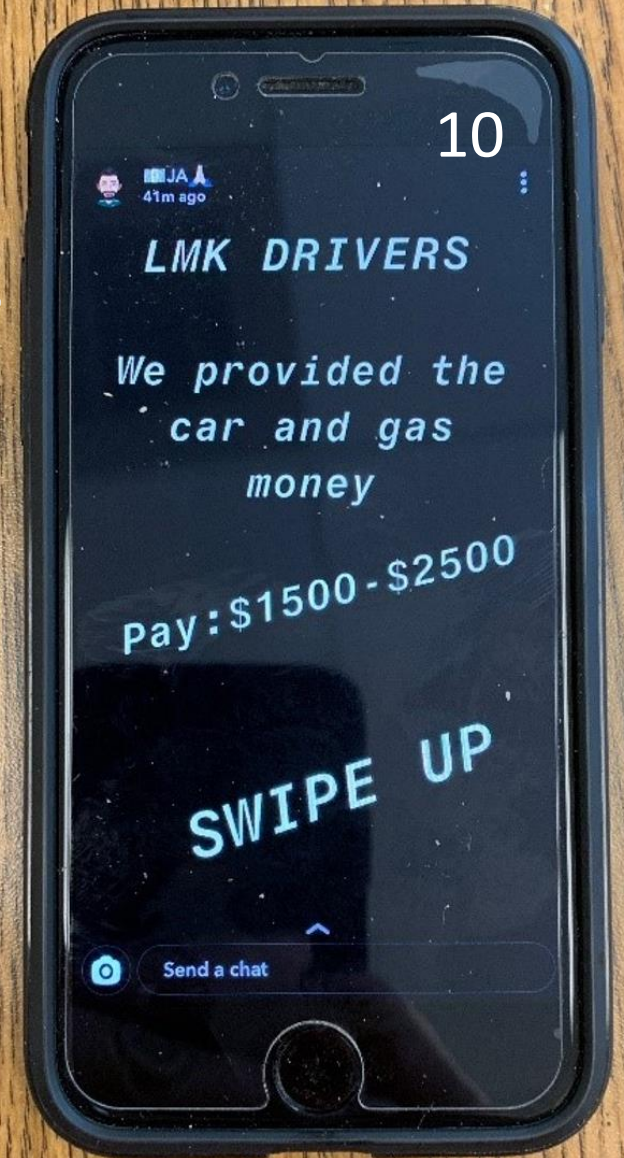
# Border Crisis: Multi-Phased Problem.

- Migrants cross the border into Cochise County in head-to-toe camouflage. S.A.B.R.E. Cameras deployed detect 10-15 migrants per hour seven days a week.
- Methods of entry include crawling over the 31-foot border wall or traversing rough mountainous terrain where no wall exists.
- Migrants then use cellular telephones to communicate with facilitators using social media platforms to arrange transport.



# The Recruitment:

- Facilitators use social media platforms to recruit smugglers as young as 12 years old.
- Nearly 1500 smugglers come into Cochise County a month to smuggle migrants from Cochise County.





# THE PICK-UP



D.T.O.s use I-10, I-40, and U.S. 60 to smuggle contraband east of Arizona.





# THE PURSUITS:

- Smugglers are incentivized to flee from law enforcement at all costs.
- Cochise County Law Enforcement are involved in an estimated 2 to 10 failure to yield incidents per day.
- In 2022, CCSO arrested 232 people for failure to yield.



# The Border Crisis: Death and Destruction

- 9 people died between October 30, 2021, and December 31, 2022, from smuggling related traffic collisions.
- Between March 01, 2022, and December 31, 2022, 601 people were feloniously victimized from smuggling related pursuits.





# Not Nameless Victims: Wanda Sitoski

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- 16-year-old smuggler, Felix Mendez, came to Cochise County to exploit human beings. Failed to stop for law enforcement even after pursuit was terminated.
- Felix continued traveling in excess of 80 mph in 55 mph zone without being persued.
- Ran red light at over 80 mph, split Wanda's car in half, killing her in a fiery inferno.



The Border Crisis:  
Crisis varies by region.

- Top left, YUMA, Arizona.
- Top right, Cochise County, Arizona.



# What is C.C.S.O. doing in response?

- Created and Implemented S.A.B.R.E.
- Created and Implemented C.I.T.
- Received funding for GERONIMO.
- Received funding for Border Operations Center.
- Received 1.9 million dollars to purchase 15 Pursuit Termination Vehicles.
- Received 7.3 million dollars to offset incarceration costs of suspects booked into CCSO Custody for having committed a violation of Arizona Law with a border nexus.



## COCHSIE COUNTY

### S.A.B.R.E

- In 2017, CCSO created the Southeastern Arizona Border Regional Enforcement Team.
- Program has extended to 1200 Buckeye Game Trail Cameras from throughout smuggling corridors in Arizona and New Mexico.
- Innovative technology to transfer images directly into border operations center.





# S.A.B.R.E.

- Comprised of 34 positions.
- Grant funded for five years.
- Provides intelligence, digital surveillance assets, and personnel to Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona, New Mexico, and beyond.



# C.C.S.O. Criminal Interdiction Team.

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- Five full time Interdiction Deputies.
  - One Sergeant.
  - 100 % grant funded for four years.
  - Provides investigative support to all law enforcement agencies in Cochise County.
- 





# COCHISE COUNTY BORDER OPERATIONS CENTER.

21

- Received funding to purchase 5-million-dollar building at zero cost to Cochise County taxpayer.
- Provides collaborative workshop where Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies work together to tackle the Border Crisis.





## GERONIMO

- Received funding to provide Law Enforcement Helicopter 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Fully funded for a period of five years.
- Aircraft available to all first responders in Cochise County.





## Pursuit Termination Vehicles

- Received funding to purchase 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton, 4x4, Four Door, Short Bed Trucks outfitted with customized bumpers and suspension.
- Available to all Cochise County Law Enforcement Agencies.
- Funding included robust defensive driving program for all Cochise County Law Enforcement Agencies.



## Current projects.

- Acquire funding to increase amount of SABRE support and Buckeye cameras to New Mexico Law Enforcement Agencies.
- Acquire funding to create a robust multi-state intelligence sharing network.
- Acquire investigative tools needed to process the thousands of smugglers' cellular telephones seized by Cochise County Law Enforcement.



**THANK YOU**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**SHERIFF Mark J. DANNELS**

**(520) 432-9505 OFFICE**

**(520) 732-0930 CELL**