

# Program Performance Report

## **AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA): COMBATING CRIMINAL NARCOTICS ACTIVITY STEMMING FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES (CCNA) PROGRAM**

*October 2010–September 2011*

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**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the United States Program

## Performance Update (October 2010–September 2011)<sup>1</sup>

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was passed on February 13, 2009 as a one-time stimulus response to the economic crisis. One of the main goals of the Recovery Act was to create new and save existing jobs. One way of accomplishing this goal was through funding federal grants as the Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the United States (CCNA) Grant Program. In order to provide transparency and accountability for Recovery funding, data is maintained by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in a separate database and is posted online. Data specific to the creation and retention of jobs through Recovery funding can be found at [www.recovery.gov/FAQ/Pages/DownloadCenter.aspx](http://www.recovery.gov/FAQ/Pages/DownloadCenter.aspx).

The ARRA CCNA program was initiated by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to help law enforcement agencies in a variety of ways, including facilitating personnel acquisition and retention. Among Southern Border program features are several key objectives:

- Combating criminal narcotics activity along the Southern Border.
- Enhancing Southern Border jails, community corrections, and detention operations.
- Facilitating justice information sharing, collaboration, and problem solving.
- Offering national training and technical assistance.

The ultimate goal of ARRA Southern Border is to help law enforcement agencies along the Southern Border of the United States combat criminal narcotics activity, as well as to help high-intensity drug-trafficking areas (HIDTA) affected by that border activity. To do this, the program provides resources to assist and equip these agencies and help them hire and retain law enforcement officers.

## Key Findings

- The rate at which drug-related investigations resulting in an arrest or conviction remained steady across the four quarters. This rate also demonstrates the percentage of cases being closed. The following rates were reported for the past four quarters:
  - October–December 2010: 19.6%
  - January–March 2011: 23.9%
  - April–June 2011: 23.5%
  - July–September 2011: 25.4%
- During July-September 2011, ARRA Southern Border grantees seized more than 5,500 kg of commercial-grade marijuana, more than 370 kg of cocaine (powder), and more than 120 kg of methamphetamine.
- The ARRA Southern Border program has seized at least \$1,000,000 in assets each quarter.
- Grantees have reported hiring and retaining various staff including<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> This report is based on self-reported grantee data from the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) and outliers are not included in the graphs. Grantees report to the PMT on a quarterly basis. The four quarters are January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December. Data included in this report is as of February 16, 2012.

- Lab analysts who analyze the evidence resulting from criminal narcotic activity along the southern border. This includes processing DNA and fingerprints to identify drug smugglers, human mules transporting drugs, and higher level drug organization members.
- Surveillance officers that work as task force members and in specialized units such as fugitive apprehension.
- Prosecutors that work with task forces in obtaining orders of forfeiture, filing charges, and assisting criminal investigations.
- An Assistant Attorney General that aids in investigating and prosecuting drug-related felony cases.

## Accomplishments<sup>3</sup>

**Between October 2010 and September 2011, grantees reported the following accomplishments:**

- Developing an intelligence management system to assist law enforcement with data collection and the directing of resources. The intelligence management system helps investigators from various agencies collaborate on investigations and access all data in one place.
- Continued operation of laboratory analysis of seized drug evidence.
- Establishing a tip line to reach Spanish-speaking communities. The tip line was promoted via a flyer campaign, and radio and TV advertisements.
- Support of essential services that allow for the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking organizations.
- Increased ability to hire and retain staff and officers.
- Support for victim services.
- A tip line that has been directly responsible for locating and seizing seven assault rifles and nine arrests.

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<sup>2</sup> Information is based on narrative data reported by grantees to the Performance Measurement Tool. For more information about the number of jobs created and retained, please see [www.recovery.gov/FAQ/Pages/DownloadCenter.aspx](http://www.recovery.gov/FAQ/Pages/DownloadCenter.aspx).

<sup>3</sup> The information presented from this point of the report is not representative of all activities conducted with ARRA CCNA funding. The report highlights some activities of ARRA CCNA grantees who have reported in the Performance Measurement Tool. The efforts described are just pieces of the larger, overall effort of ARRA CCNA.

## Key Performance Measures<sup>4</sup>

Measure	Data Elements Used to Calculate Measure	Definition	Interpretation
Number of Drug-trafficking Organizations Dismantled and Disrupted	Number of drug-trafficking organizations disrupted Number of drug-trafficking organizations dismantled	<b>Disrupted:</b> Impeding the normal and effective operation of target organization, as indicated by changes in organizational leadership and/or methods of operation—e.g., financing, trafficking patterns, communications, or drug production.  <b>Dismantled:</b> Destruction of the organization's leadership, financial base, and supply network such that the organization is incapable of operating and/or reconstituting itself.	The number of drug-trafficking organizations dismantled and disrupted is an indication of how law enforcement efforts are succeeding in hindering the operations of these organizations and thus also hindering the marketplace for illegal drugs.
Number of Drug-Related Investigations that resulted in an Arrest or Conviction	Number of drug-related investigations that led to an arrest or conviction	Disposition includes conviction, commitment, order of nolle prosequi, acquittal or dismissal, or transfer of jurisdiction.	A larger number may indicate that law enforcement is closing more drug-related cases. A higher number may also suggest that law enforcement has gathered a sufficient amount of evidence to result in a conviction by prosecutors.
Drug Amounts Seized in Kilograms (kg)	Heroin Cocaine (powder) Crack cocaine Marijuana (commercial grade) Marijuana (hydroponic) Methamphetamine Methamphetamine (Ice) Ecstasy (MDMA)	Examines the amount (in kilograms) of drugs seized during the quarter.	An increase in overall kg seized may indicate that funding is having a positive effect on an agency's drug-related investigations  This measure also helps determine what type of drug has become the "drug of choice" for certain areas. Thus, the seizure of one type of drug in particular may help officials determine which drugs are the most problematic for their area
Value of Assets Seized	Value of real property seized Value of cash seized Value of other assets (jewelry, vehicles, etc.) seized	Examines the value of assets seized (in dollars).	An abundance of assets seized under one category (property, cash, jewelry, vehicles, etc.) may help determine what assets local drug organizations tend to favor.  Examining the type and amount of assets seized will show trends in how drug organizations diversify their resources over time

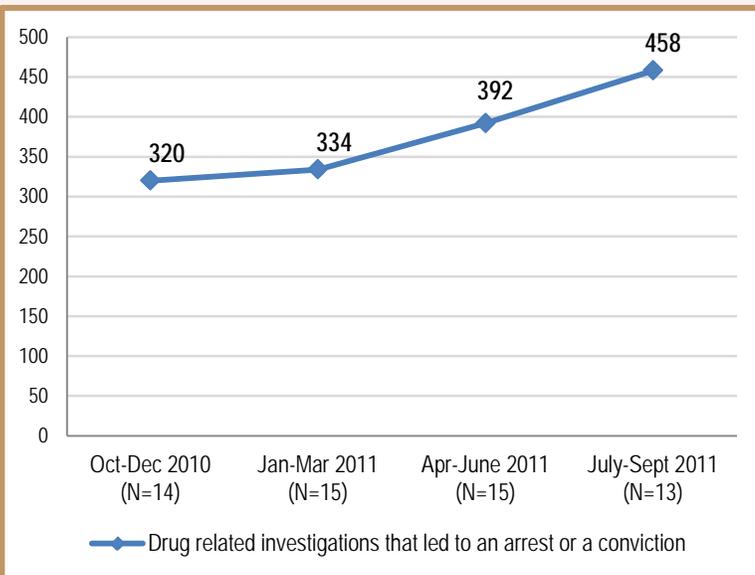
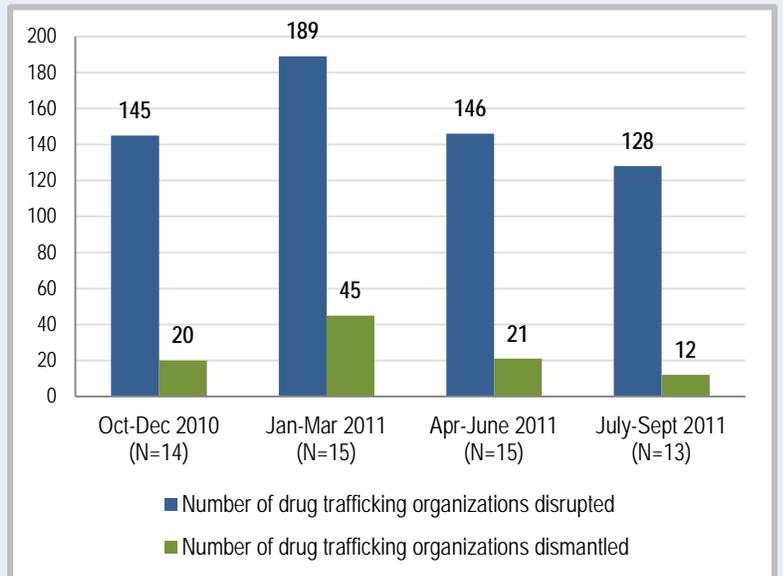
<sup>4</sup> Only grantees under the "Combating Criminal Narcotics" category of ARRA Southern Border answer these measures.

## Graphs of Performance Measures

**Figure 1. Number of Drug Trafficking Organizations Disrupted or Dismantled<sup>5</sup>**

Grantees have reported an average of 152 drug-trafficking organizations disrupted and 25 organizations dismantled each quarter. To date, 864 drug trafficking organizations have been disrupted and 172 have been dismantled.

Fluctuations in the numbers may be attributed to the fact that disruption and dismantling of organizations may take significant time. Additionally, organizations may have different resources dedicated to these activities and thus some grantees report higher numbers than others.



**Figure 2. Number of Drug Related Investigations that Led to an Arrest or Conviction**

Figure 2 displays the number of drug-related investigations that led to an arrest or conviction. The number of investigations has risen each of the past four quarters, averaging 376 investigations across quarters.

<sup>5</sup> One grantee accounted for approximately 50% of reported disrupted drug trafficking organizations, but was determined to not be an outlier.

### Figure 3. Drug Amounts Seized in Kilograms (kg)

Grantees have reported data suggesting that commercial-grade marijuana is the most prominent type of drug seized, with an average of 11,689 kilograms being seized each quarter. Cocaine (powder) was the second most commonly seized drug, with an average of 214 kilograms seized each quarter.

The large spike in commercial-grade marijuana seized during the January-March 2011 quarter is due to the fact that two grantees seized large amounts in a large one-time seizure.

While they are not nearly as common as marijuana and powder cocaine, grantee organizations also seized other illegal substances, including heroin, methamphetamine, and ecstasy.

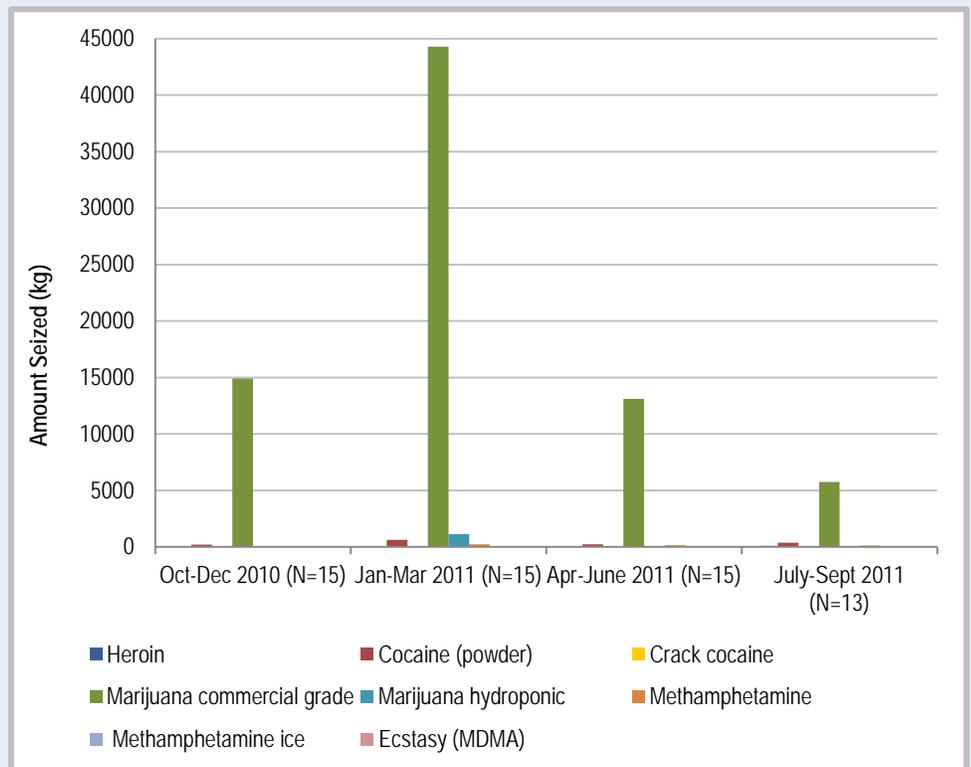
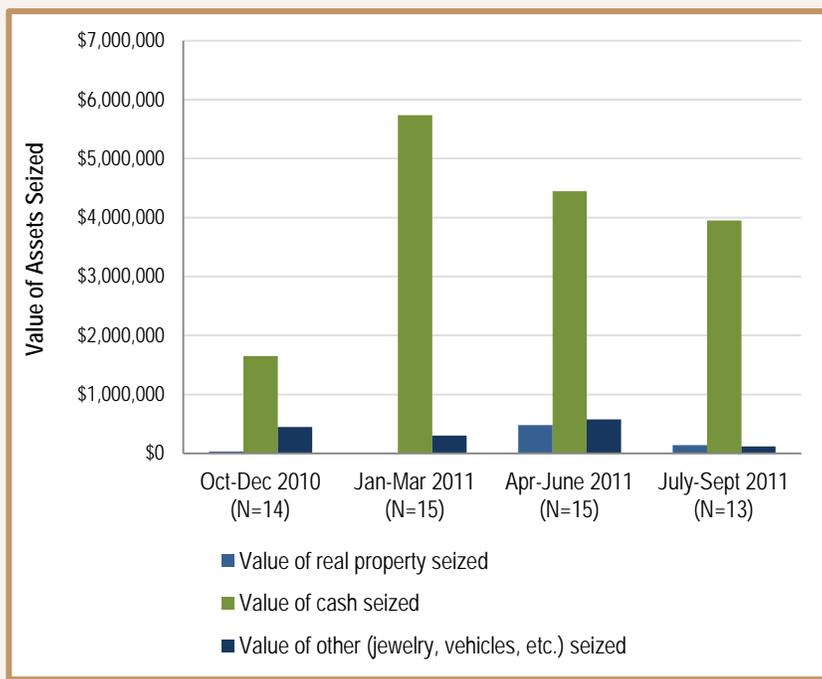


Table 1. Drug Amounts Seized in Kilograms (kg)

Type of Drug	Oct-Dec 2010	Jan-Mar 2011	Apr-June 2011	July-Sept 2011
Heroin	1.72	22.88	55.49	91.35
Cocaine (powder)	196.10	624.40	241.67	376.06
Crack cocaine	0.66	11.27	0.04	19.92
Marijuana commercial grade	14,912.16	44,295.18	13,105.83	5,748.18
Marijuana hydroponic	0.24	1,136.08	1.89	2.51
Methamphetamine	30.99	222.51	146.58	121.94
Methamphetamine ice	2.63	0.91	41.13	1.84
Ecstasy (MDMA)	0.03	0.06	0.11	0.00
<b>TOTAL KGs</b>	<b>15,144.53</b>	<b>46,313.29</b>	<b>13,592.75</b>	<b>6,361.80</b>



**Figure 4. Value of Assets Seized in Investigations**

Cash is the most commonly reported asset seized, with nearly \$3,944,186 seized on average across quarters.

Grantees reported an average of more than \$163,230 in real property seized across quarters.

On average, more than \$362,441 in other assets (such as jewelry and vehicles) was seized across quarters.

To date<sup>6</sup>, \$25,086,452.42 in seized assets was reported. Using the amount of funding awarded to the ARRA Southern Border program (\$29,660,493), the return on investment for assets seized (their value to date divided by total amount of ARRA Southern border funding) is 84.6%.

Fluctuations in amounts seized are due to several grantees reporting large single seizures.

**Table 2. Value of Assets Seized in Investigations**

Assets Seized	Oct-Dec 2010	Jan-Mar 2011	Apr-June 2011	July-Sept 2011
Value of real property seized	\$33,520	\$1,000	\$478,400	\$140,000
Value of cash seized	\$1,651,729	\$5,733,704	\$4,444,037	\$3,947,274
Value of other (jewelry, vehicles, etc.) seized	\$447,324	\$302,182	\$578,999	\$121,259
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,132,573</b>	<b>\$6,036,886</b>	<b>\$5,501,436</b>	<b>\$4,208,533</b>

<sup>6</sup> ARRA CCNA grantee reporting began in the PMT in July 2009.