

OPERATION ROUTE 66



FINAL REPORT



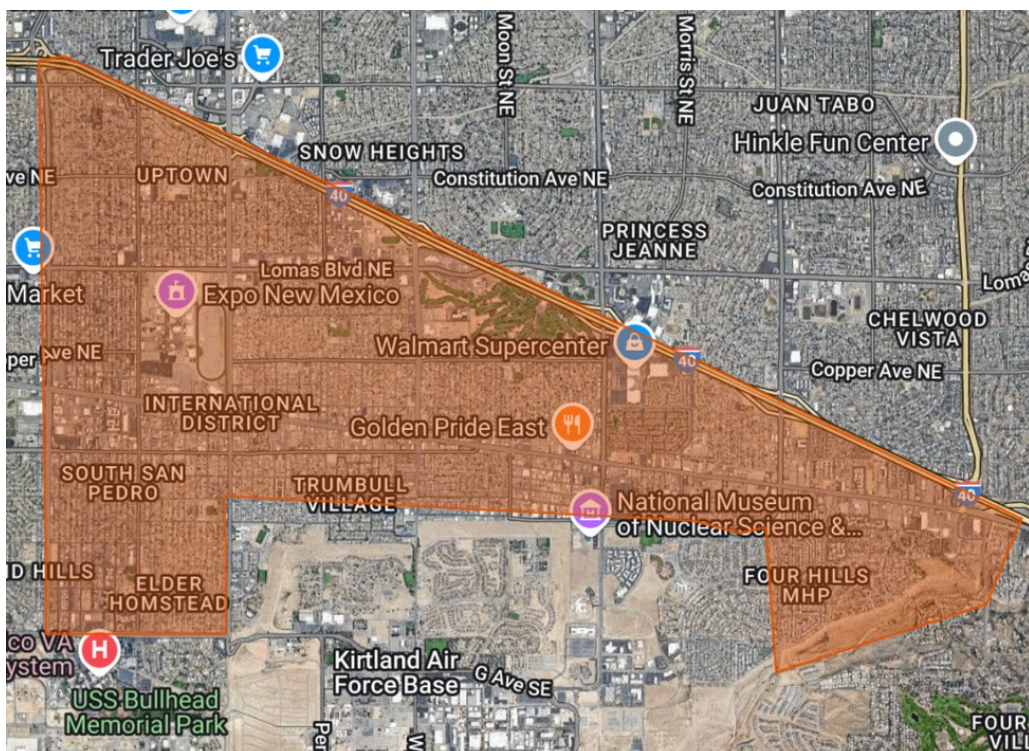
Operation Overview

Operation Route 66 (Operation 66) is a targeted law enforcement operation aimed at combating open-air fentanyl use, reducing street-level crime, and reestablishing a strong police presence in critical areas of Southeast Albuquerque. Launched in response to escalating drug activity and community safety concerns, the project brings together local agencies in a coordinated effort to disrupt fentanyl distribution networks, deter criminal behavior, and engage with affected neighborhoods. Key components of the initiative include patrols, strategic arrests, community outreach, and data-driven resource deployment. The overarching goal is to restore order, improve public health outcomes, and reinforce public trust in law enforcement.

Executing Operation 66

Operation 66 was executed through a strategic deployment of law enforcement resources, funded in part by the Governor's Office through the Warrant Enforcement Funds. This financial support enabled sustained patrol operations, overtime specialty-enforcement operations, and inter-agency collaboration in high-priority areas. Agencies involved employed a data-driven approach, using real-time crime analysis to identify hotspots and prioritize enforcement actions. Officers conducted methodical field operations, including narcotics enforcement, warrant service, and community engagement efforts. Throughout the initiative, statistical tracking played a critical role with arrest data and crime trend analyses being collected and reviewed to adjust tactics, measure impact, and ensure accountability.

The operation was strategically focused on a designated area in the southeastern region of the city, with particular emphasis on the vicinity surrounding Central's International District. This location was selected based on recent crime data, identifying it as a high-crime area warranting targeted enforcement and resource allocation.



Agency Unit Involvement Breakdown

In the face of increasing challenges posed by serious crime rates, our recent law enforcement initiative has produced significant results reflecting our officers' and partner agencies' unwavering commitment, coordination, and dedication. Through a multifaceted and intelligence-led operation, we have made measurable progress in enhancing public safety and disrupting criminal networks.

Four agencies participated in Operation 66, averaging 100 officers weekly, with 17 specialty units working in the designated operation zone (figure 1,2). Units operated under the jurisdiction and authority of their agency's command as applicable to the Operation 66 directive.

Performance Metrics

1. Data was tracked on the number of total arrests, the number of individuals with warrants, the type of warrant (felony, misdemeanor, or both), the number of warrants cleared in total, the stolen vehicles recovered, the firearms seized, the narcotics collected, and the location of the arrest.
2. Narcotics were broken down into five major categories (fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, prescription), with the option for officers to include "other" if needed. Amounts were tracked by kilos, grams, and number of pills.
3. Additional categories included tracking if the individual had mental health flags or if they were released for medical reasons.

Results

With 699 arrests were made, 7 being violent homicide offenders. This demonstrates our operation's assertive approach to removing violent offenders, repeat criminals, and individuals with outstanding legal obligations from the community. This figure represents not just a numerical success but a direct influence on the potential for further criminal activity in the designated target zone.

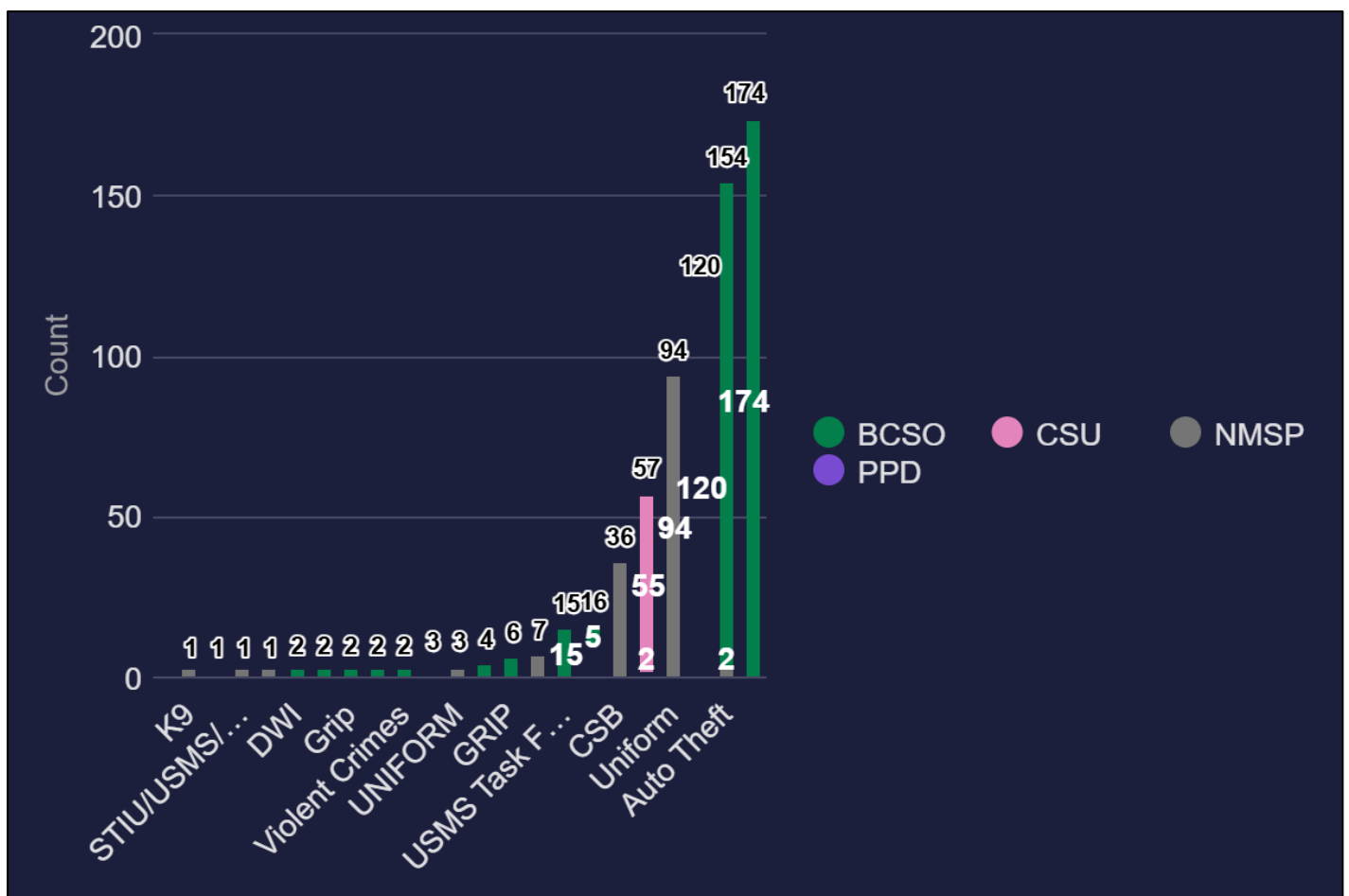


Figure 1

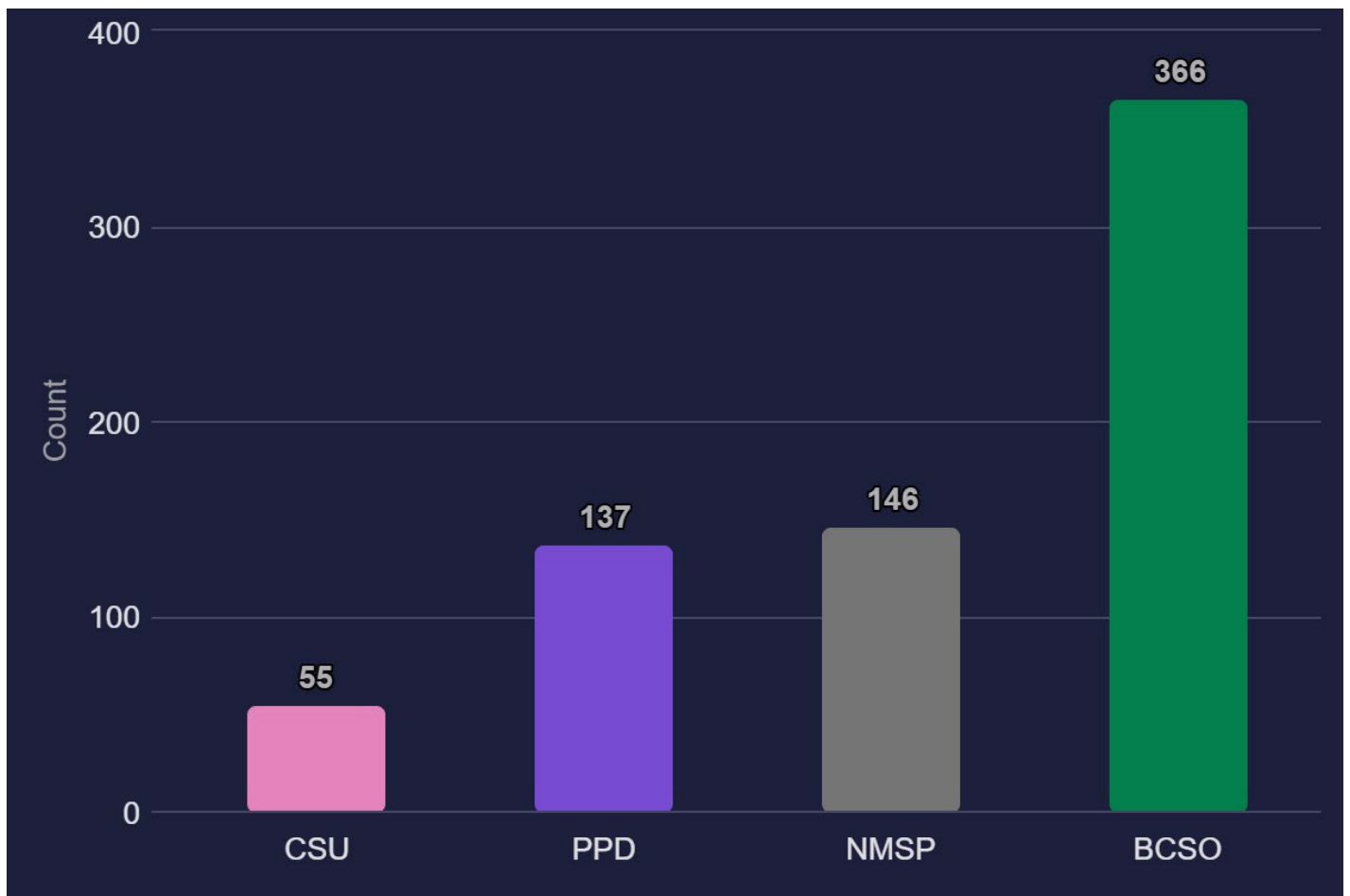


Figure 2

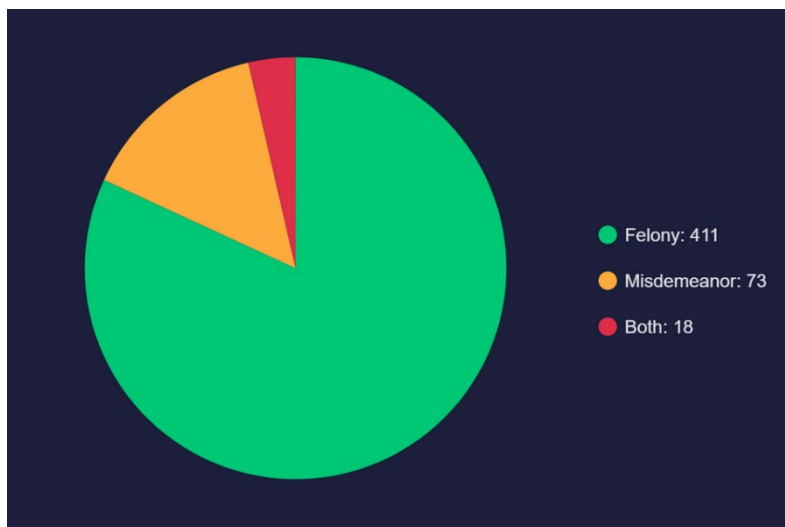


Figure 3

Over 500 outstanding arrest warrants were cleared during the operation. An overwhelming majority of individuals arrested had either felony or felony and misdemeanor warrants (fig 3.). The act of arresting on and clearing these warrants not only contributes to reducing the outstanding Bernalillo County

warrant backlog, but this operation has restored a sense accountability and legal closure to hundreds of unresolved cases. Each cleared warrant signifies a step toward justice for victims and a more effective judicial process.

The recovery of 62 stolen vehicles underscores the effectiveness of our investigative and surveillance units. This success not only returns property to rightful owners but also disrupts the infrastructure of vehicle theft rings, a common gateway crime that supports larger criminal enterprises. Additionally, the removal of 52 illegally possessed or stolen firearms from our streets represents a direct intervention in potentially violent situations. Each firearm seized is a life potentially saved and an act of prevention that strengthens community safety.

In one of the most impactful elements of this operation, we seized over 35,000 fentanyl pills. This substantial seizure directly contributes to harm reduction and disrupts the distribution pipeline of a deadly substance. In conjunction with this, nearly a full kilogram of methamphetamine was taken off the streets, representing a serious blow to narcotics trafficking networks and an important step in reducing drug-related crimes and addiction rates in our region.

No significant outcomes were observed in the categories of mental health or medical release during this operation. Due to limited data availability, a comprehensive analysis in these areas could not be conducted at this time.

Discussion

These results were achieved through collaborative efforts involving specialized task forces, local precincts, and agency partnerships. The operation demonstrates that targeted enforcement strategies, combined with data-driven deployment and inter-agency coordination, can yield powerful outcomes. In a time when crime rates are trending upward nationally, this operation stands out as a model of effective policing and a testament to the resilience of our law enforcement agencies. Rather than being reactive, our teams took a proactive stance,

preventing crimes before they occurred, protecting communities, and restoring public confidence.

Beyond the numbers, the impact of this operation is deeply felt within our neighborhoods. Each arrest, seizure, and recovery contributes to a safer environment for residents and families. These efforts serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders and send a strong message that our agencies are prepared and equipped to respond.

The success of this operation provides a strategic blueprint for future enforcement actions. It underscores the importance of ongoing training, resource allocation, community engagement, and technology integration in maintaining and expanding these gains.

While broader crime trends remain a serious concern, the results of this operation provide compelling evidence that strategic enforcement initiatives can and do make a difference. Through diligence, coordination, and a clear mission focus, we have made our communities safer, held offenders accountable, and reaffirmed our commitment to public service and justice.
