

Cartels in Nearly All Mexican States

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Mexico's drug cartels began controlling and holding territory in the 1980s to maximize profits from pumping Colombian cocaine into the U.S. and protecting their busi-

nesses from government control.

Their power expanded during the past decade with the rise of fentanyl.

Now, with cartels operating in nearly all of Mexico's 32 states, domestic authorities are facing increased pressure

from President Trump to take steps to rein them in.

The U.S. has designated *Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación*, *Cártel de Sinaloa*, *Cártel del Golfo* and other crime syndicates as foreign terrorist organizations.

Mexican security forces are

racing to stop a cartel war from breaking out after they tracked down and killed Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera, the feared Jalisco cartel leader, in recent days.

The chart below offers a look at where the organizations operate.

Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación

Before Nemesio 'El Mencho' Oseguera was killed on Sunday, he had led the group, which became the world's biggest trafficker of cocaine, for more than 15 years. His lieutenants are expected to fight to control smuggling routes.

Sinaloa Cartel

With its founders in U.S. detention centers, the deputies are warring for control. Sinaloa Cartel has diversified over the decades from marijuana to heroin to cocaine to fentanyl. The group has come into increasing conflict with the Jalisco cartel over territory.

Gulf Cartel

The trafficking and extortion conglomerate is based out of Matamoros in the northeast. Today, it mostly operates as a loose confederation of factions that control everything from weapons to drugs to migrant smuggling through Texas.

Beltrán Leyva Cartel

The group, which largely disbanded after several leaders were captured or killed from 2006-12, has quietly built back its drug-trafficking operation. It is aligned with Chapo Isidro, who is now one of Mexico's most powerful drug lords since Oseguera was killed.



Mexico's three major cartels control areas that include some of the country's most popular tourist spots. Jalisco and Sinaloa both have a presence in the state of Quintana Roo, home to beach destinations such as Cancun and Tulum.

Cabo San Lucas in Baja California is in an area with three cartels. And Puerto Vallarta, a popular draw for American retirees, is in the middle of Jalisco territory.

Sources: RANE; David Saucedo; staff reports