

Pima County Sheriff's Office

Who is in charge: Clarence Dupnik.

Where he stands: “We’ve been enforcing the federal law since I’ve been a cop for 55 years, and we’ve been enforcing the fed law from day one. That hasn’t changed. Some agencies weren’t doing that.”

How it’s documented: Uses a “UDA” circumstance code to identify cases involving unauthorized immigrants.

What the Star reviewed: A table showing three years worth of incidents and two months’ worth of full incident reports.

Overview

Sworn officers: 511

Immigration-related incidents the year after SB 1070 took effect that the agency provided: 544

Share of total incidents: <1%

Findings

- Sheriff Dupnik has declined to write a formal policy about immigration enforcement for his deputies to follow. He emphasizes that they should be guided by compassion and good judgment.
- An overwhelming majority of the county’s immigration-related incidents took place in the Ajo area, north of the Lukeville port of entry.
- The initial reasons for cases that were eventually classified as illegal immigration-related ranged from traffic violations to kidnapping. About one-third of the calls were classified as an “other agency assist,” a category that often involved deputies responding to agents about an outstanding warrant.
- Two of the incident reports reviewed involved recent border crossers asking for water at a house. Three involved people who had died in the desert.



Clarence Dupnik