

DATE ISSUED: February 28, 2003

REPORT NO. 03-039

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of March 5, 2003

SUBJECT: 2002 Index Crimes

REFERENCE: N/A

SUMMARY

This is an information item only. No action is required on the part of the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Police Department presents biannual reports to the Committee on index crimes and other crimes. This report summarizes 2002 index crimes, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, and traffic incidents.

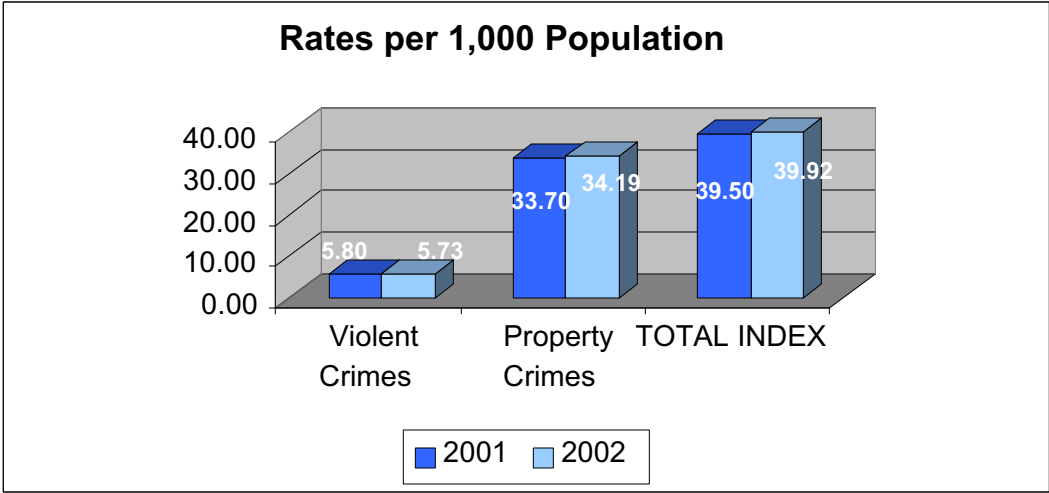
DISCUSSION

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
YEAR END INDEX CRIME REPORT
(January to December 2002 vs. January to December 2001)**

				(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2001	2002	% Change	2001	2002	2001	2002
Murder	51	47	-7.8%	0.04	0.04	74.5%	78.7%
Rape	342	330	-3.5%	0.27	0.26	49.1%	52.7%
Robbery	1,729	1,627	-5.9%	1.35	1.30	31.6%	37.3%
Agg. Assault	5,284	5,189	-1.8%	4.14	4.13	67.5%	66.9%
Violent Crimes	7,406	7,193	-2.9%	5.80	5.73	58.3%	59.7%
Burglary	7,219	7,639	5.8%	5.65	6.08	10.3%	12.2%
Theft	25,050	24,577	-1.9%	19.61	19.57	13.6%	13.9%
Veh. Theft	10,770	10,715	-0.5%	8.43	8.53	4.2%	4.8%
Property Crimes	43,039	42,931	-0.3%	33.70	34.19	10.7%	11.3%
TOTAL INDEX	50,445	50,124	-0.6%	39.50	39.92	17.7%	18.3%

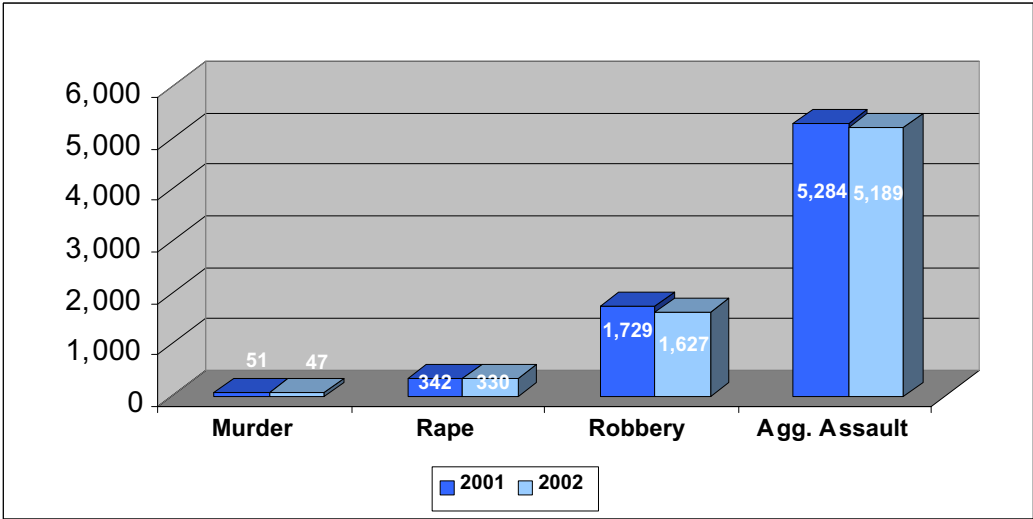
In San Diego, the total number of index crimes decreased 0.6% in 2002 to 50,124, compared to 50,445 in 2001. Index crimes include murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts. The Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting program collects information on these crime types from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and uses the data to measure crime nationwide.

The total index crime rate per one thousand population was 39.92 in 2002, a slight increase from the total index crime rate of 39.50 in 2001. The increase in rates, despite a small decrease in the number of index crimes, is due to a one-time population adjustment, which was made to correct overestimates of growth in previous years.



Violent Crimes

Violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault -- decreased 2.9% in 2002 from 2001. The rate of violent crimes per one thousand population was 5.73, down from 5.80 in 2001.



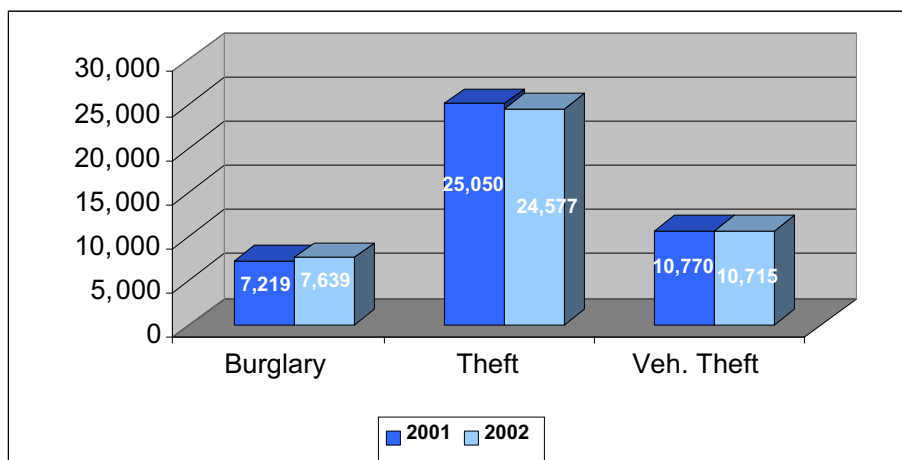
Homicides decreased 7.8% in 2002. Rapes decreased by 3.5% through the end of 2002, with 330 cases compared to 342 cases in 2001. Robberies decreased by 5.9% in 2002, with 1,627 cases compared to 1,729 in 2001. Aggravated assaults decreased by 1.8% through the end of 2002, with 5,189 cases compared to 5,284 the previous year.

Additionally, there was a 1.5% increase in domestic violence cases, from 10,694 in 2001 to 10,856 this year.

Violence and property crimes attributed to gang members decreased 1.9%, from 874 in 2001 to 857 this year.

Property Crimes

Property crimes -- burglary, larceny and auto theft -- decreased 0.3% in 2002 from 2001.



Burglaries increased 5.8%. Commercial burglaries accounted for the largest increase in burglary crime. Several commercial burglary series contributed to the increase, including a window smash series in Mid City (27 cases), a night deposit box series citywide (10 cases), and a soft drink machine series countywide (15 cases in San Diego alone).

Thefts (larceny) decreased by 1.9% from 25,050 in 2001 to 24,577 in 2002. Auto thefts decreased by 0.5%, from 10,770 in 2001 to 10,715 in 2002.

Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared during 2002 was 18.3%, compared to 17.7% in 2001. An offense is “cleared,” or solved, by arrest or by exception. Clearance by arrest occurs when a suspect is arrested, charged, and turned over to the courts for prosecution. Clearance by exception occurs when the suspect is deceased, is already in custody, or is serving a sentence.

Police cleared or solved 59.7% of violent crimes last year, compared to 58.3% in 2001. The national average for violent crime clearances was 46.2% in 2001. Police cleared or solved 11.3% of property crimes last year, compared to 10.7% in 2001. The national average for

property crime clearances was 16.2% in 2001.

Hate Crimes

Hate crimes -- crimes directed against persons, groups, or property because of race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability -- decreased from 168 in 2001 to 88 cases in 2002, with decreases in each category. Of those cases 52 (59.1%) were identified as crimes motivated by ethnicity, while 24 cases (27.3%) were motivated by sexual orientation.

Juvenile Arrests and Crime Victims

Arrests of juveniles decreased by 9.1% in 2002, with 9,360 arrests in 2002 compared to 10,297 in 2001. Of these arrests, the biggest decrease -- 23.3% -- was in arrests made during curfew hours from 10 p.m. to 8:29 a.m.

The number of crimes with juvenile victims decreased 2.7%, to 766 in 2002 from 787 in 2001. Of these cases, the biggest decrease -- 5.7% -- occurred during curfew hours -- from 10 p.m. to 8:29 a.m.

Traffic Incidents

The total number of traffic collisions increased 3.3%, to 12,535 in 2002 from 12,136 in 2001. Of these collisions, fatal collisions remained equal at 52 for both 2001 and 2002. Injury collisions increased 0.7%, to 5,646 in 2002 from 5,606 in 2001. The number of collisions with property damage increased 5.5%, to 6,837 in 2002 from 6,478 in 2001.

The total number of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased 0.3%, to 3,566 in 2002 from 3,555 in 2001.

**San Diego
Domestic Violence
January to December**

	2001	2002	01 to 02 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	53	64	20.8%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	330	288	-12.7%
Other Dangerous Weapon	1,673	1,701	1.7%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	6,642	6,674	0.5%
Total Criminal Cases	8,698	8,727	0.3%
Non-Criminal Calls:	1,996	2,129	6.7%
Total Cases	10,694	10,856	1.5%

San Diego
Crimes Committed By Gang Members
January to December

Crime Type	2001	2002	01 to 02 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	13	17	30.8%
Attempt Homicide	13	8	-38.5%
Assault	213	192	-9.9%
Robbery	82	82	0.0%
Auto Theft	67	63	-6.0%
Other	486	495	1.9%
Total	874	857	-1.9%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	92	89	-3.3%
Stabbing	35	34	-2.9%
Other	100	77	-23.0%
Total	227	200	-11.9%
Drive-By Shootings	37	31	-16.2%
Arrests of Gang Members	3,197	3,282	2.7%

**San Diego
Reported Hate Crimes
January to December**

	2001	2002	01 to 02 % Change
Hate Crimes	168	88	-47.6%

	2001		2002	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	108	64.3%	52	59.1%
Religion	19	11.3%	12	13.6%
Sexual Orientation	40	23.8%	24	27.3%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	1	0.6%	0	0.0%

**San Diego
Juvenile Arrests
January to December**

	2001	2002	01 to 02 % Change
Daytime Hours*			
Felony	865	815	-5.8%
Misdemeanor	2,669	2,889	8.2%
Other	320	210	-34.4%
Daytime Total	3,854	3,914	1.6%
After School Hours*			
Felony	1,136	953	-16.1%
Misdemeanor	2,136	1,998	-6.5%
Other	158	183	15.8%
After School Total	3,430	3,134	-8.6%
Curfew Hours*			
Felony	543	415	-23.6%
Misdemeanor	813	674	-17.1%
Other	1,657	1,223	-26.2%
Curfew Total	3,013	2,312	-23.3%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	10,297	9,360	-9.1%

*Daytime hours are from 0830 to 1329
 After school hours are from 1330 to 2159
 Curfew hours are from 2200 to 0829

The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994.
 Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996

**San Diego
Juvenile Victims of Violent Crime
January to December**

	2001	2002	01 to 02 % Change
Daytime Hours*			
Murder	0	2	0.0%
Rape	15	18	20.0%
Robbery	28	31	10.7%
Aggravated Assault	78	64	-17.9%
Daytime Total	121	115	-5.0%
After School Hours*			
Murder	4	4	0.0%
Rape	35	50	42.9%
Robbery	158	162	2.5%
Aggravated Assault	295	271	-8.1%
After School Total	492	487	-1.0%
Curfew Hours*			
Murder	1	0	-100.0%
Rape	43	46	7.0%
Robbery	29	31	6.9%
Aggravated Assault	101	87	-13.9%
Curfew Total	174	164	-5.7%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	787	766	-2.7%

*Daytime hours are from 0830 to 1329
 After school hours are from 1330 to 2159
 Curfew hours are from 2200 to 0829

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**San Diego
Traffic Incidents
January to December**

	2001	2002	01 to 02 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	52	52	0.0%
Injury	5,606	5,646	0.7%
Property Damage Only	6,478	6,837	5.5%
Total	12,136	12,535	3.3%
Citations	142,575	134,935	-5.4%
DUI			
Arrests	3,555	3,566	0.3%
Collisions	893	861	-3.6%

**San Diego
Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1992 to 2002**

Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
1992	13.09	68.55	81.64
1993	11.50	61.30	72.80
1994	10.63	54.12	64.75
1995	9.25	44.38	53.63
1996	8.44	41.28	49.72
1997	8.22	41.31	49.54
1998	7.20	37.63	44.83
1999	5.95	33.86	39.81
2000	5.61	30.69	36.30
2001	5.80	33.70	39.50
2002	5.73	34.19	39.92

Respectfully submitted,

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Police Department

Approved: Michael T. Uberuaga
City Manager

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