

DATE ISSUED: July 24, 2003 REPORT NO. 03-162

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of July 30, 2003

SUBJECT: January – June 2003 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 index crimes for the first six months of 2003, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, and traffic incidents. Comparisons are to the first six months of 2002, unless otherwise noted.

DISCUSSION

In San Diego, the total number of index crimes increased by 7.4% in the first six months of 2003 to 26,576, compared to 24,749 in the first half of 2002. Index crimes are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting program collects information on these crimes from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and uses the data to measure crime nationwide.

The total index crime rate per one thousand residents was 41.68 in the first half of 2003, an increase from the total index crime rate of 39.42 at midyear 2002.

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
MID YEAR INDEX CRIME REPORT
(January to June 2003 vs. January to June 2002)**

| | 2002 | 2003 | % Change | (Rates per 1,000) | | Clearances | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Murder | 24 | 28 | 16.7% | 0.04 | 0.04 | 29.2% | 39.3% |
| Rape | 158 | 203 | 28.5% | 0.25 | 0.32 | 50.6% | 72.4% |
| Robbery | 759 | 841 | 10.8% | 1.21 | 1.32 | 35.8% | 35.0% |
| Agg. Assault | 2,496 | 2,550 | 2.2% | 3.98 | 4.00 | 70.0% | 60.7% |
| Violent Crimes | 3,437 | 3,622 | 5.4% | 5.47 | 5.68 | 61.2% | 55.2% |
| Burglary | 3,706 | 4,198 | 13.3% | 5.90 | 6.58 | 12.7% | 10.5% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Theft | 12,557 | 12,718 | 1.3% | 20.00 | 19.95 | 14.8% | 13.3% |
| Veh. Theft | 5,049 | 6,038 | 19.6% | 8.04 | 9.47 | 5.5% | 3.2% |
| Property Crimes | 21,312 | 22,954 | 7.7% | 33.94 | 36.00 | 12.2% | 10.2% |
| TOTAL INDEX | 24,749 | 26,576 | 7.4% | 39.42 | 41.68 | 19.0% | 16.3% |

Crime Trends

After more than a decade of declining crime rates, crime rates in San Diego and other cities throughout the United States are increasing. Eight of the twenty largest U.S. cities showed increases in the number of index crimes at end of 2002. Ten of these cities showed increases in violent crimes at the end of 2002.

January through June 2003 shows the first increase in the violent crime rate in San Diego since 1992. This increase follows rises in both the property crime and total index crime rates at the end of 2001, which was the first increase in more than a decade. The midyear 2003 property crime rate and total index crime rates continue to reflect the upward trend.

Criminologists have identified the following factors as contributing to changes in crime rates in recent years:

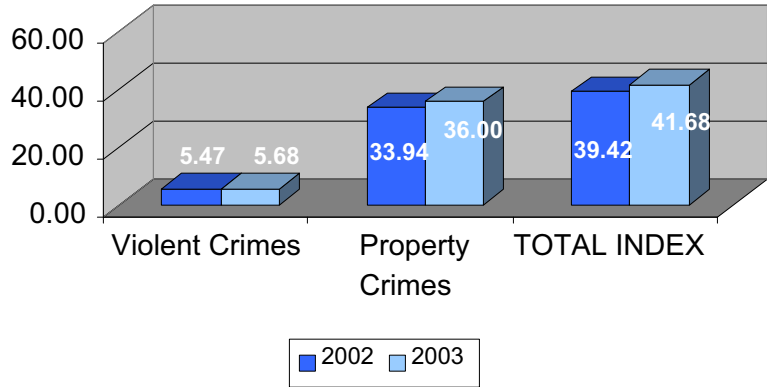
∞ Demographics, specifically, the number of teenagers and young adults in the population, have an effect on crime. The aging baby boom generation in the early 90's helped reduce crime. An increase in the number of people aged 15 to 25, starting in 2000, coincides with recent increases in crime. This age range represents those people who are most likely to commit

crimes.

"According to SANDAG, the 15-to-24 age group is estimated to increase by 10.2% between 2000 and 2010 in San Diego. By comparison, the population for this age group declined 2.9% between 1990 and 2000."

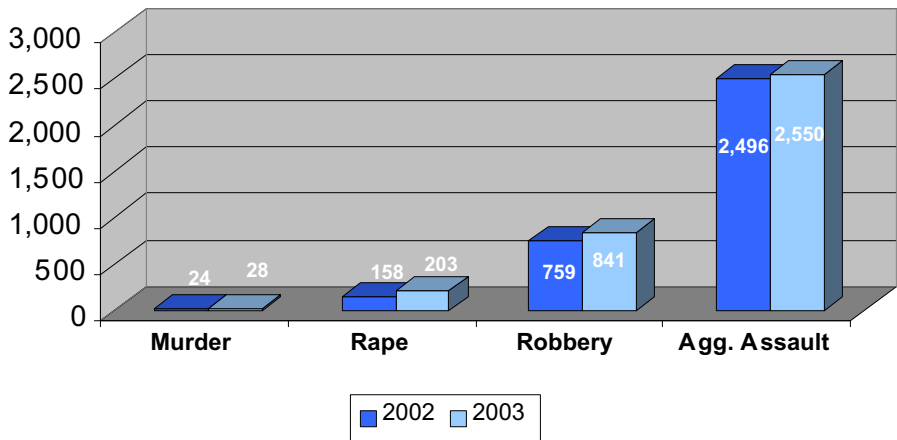
- Economic stability or decline impacts crime. A strong economy through the 90's and low unemployment rates coincided with the declining crime rate. More recently, the U.S. is experiencing economic instability and rising unemployment. According to the State's Employment Development Department, unemployment in San Diego County was 4.5% in June 2003, up from 4.4% in June 2002. Nationwide, unemployment was 6.5% in June 2003, up from 6.0% in June 2002.
- Incarceration and release of criminals affects crime. Expansion of prisons in the early 90's and three strike laws resulted in incarceration of a large numbers of felons. Larger numbers of prisoners have been released in the last few years, with those convicted during high crime of the late 80's returning to the streets. For example, 576,680 inmates were released from state and federal prisons nationwide in 1999, and 630,207 inmates were released in 2001, a 9.3% increase. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, dramatic incarceration rates in the 80's and 90's are leveling off in 2001 and 2002.
- Recidivism also affects crime. According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics study that tracked 272,111 inmates for three years after their release from prison in 1994, 67.5% were rearrested within three years for a new offense, almost exclusively a felony or serious misdemeanor. More than half of those studied -- 51.8% -- were back in prison within three years of their release, serving time for a new prison sentence or for a technical violation of their release, like failing a drug test, missing an appointment with their parole officer, or being arrested for a new crime. Re-arrest rates varied by the type of crime: property offenders, 73.8%; released drug offenders, 66.7%; public order offenders (such as those imprisoned for driving while intoxicated or for a weapons offense), 62.2%; and offenders sentenced for violence, 61.7%.

Rates per 1,000 Population



Violent Crimes

Violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault – increased by 5.4% in the first six months of 2003 compared to the same period in 2002. The rate of violent crimes per one thousand population was 5.68, up from 5.47.



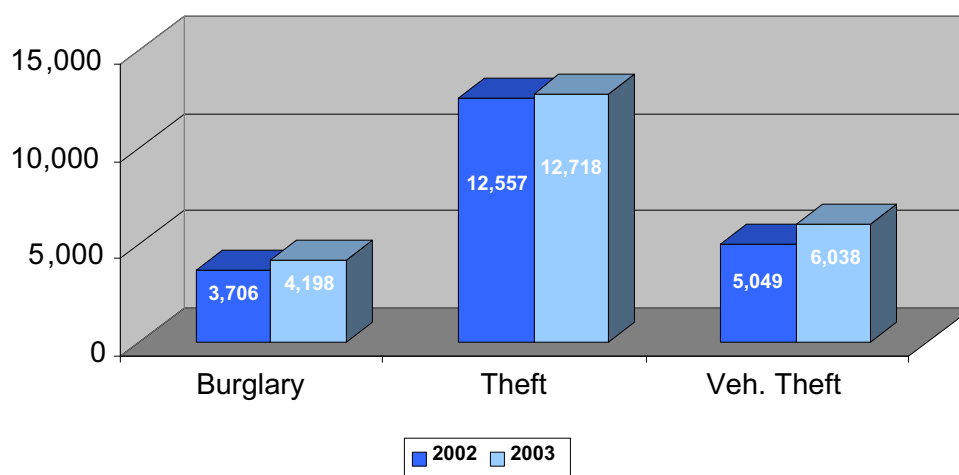
Homicides increased by 16.7% in the first six months of 2003, with 28 cases compared to 24 cases in the same period last year. Rapes increased by 28.5%, with 203 cases compared to 158 cases in 2002. Robberies increased by 10.8%, with 841 cases compared to 759 in 2002. Aggravated assaults increased by 2.2%, with 2,550 cases compared to 2,496.

Additionally, domestic violence cases increased by 1.5%, with 5,123 cases this year compared to 5,045.

Violence and property crimes attributed to gang members decreased by 15.1%, from 450 in the first half of 2002 to 382 this year. A series of gang related homicides early in the year prompted the Department to increase enforcement efforts, resulting in the overall decrease in gang related crime activity.

Property Crimes

Property crimes -- burglary, larceny and auto theft -- increased by 7.7% in January through June 2003, from 2002.



Burglaries increased by 13.3%. Several commercial burglary series contributed to the increase. A countywide series targeting safes and Automated Teller Machines accounted for 42 cases and ended with the arrest of a suspect in May. A Northern Division commercial series, with at least 15 cases, also ended with several suspects arrested in February.

Thefts (larceny) increased by 1.3% from 12,557 in the first six months of 2002 to 12,718 in 2003. Auto thefts increased by 19.6%, from 5,049 in 2002 to 6,038 in 2003. One cause for the increase in auto thefts was a suspect who stole a Saturn master key and sold hundreds of duplicates. As a result, there were 300 Saturn vehicles stolen citywide from January to June 2003, compared to 77 in the first half of 2002.

Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared during the first half of 2003 was 16.3%, compared to 19.0% in 2002. 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 55.2% of violent crimes in the first half of 2003, compared to 61.2% in the first half of last year. According to the FBI, the national average for violent crime clearances

was 46.2% in 2001. (More recent data is not yet available.) Police cleared or solved 10.2% of property crimes this year, compared to 12.2% in the first half of 2002. According to the FBI, the national average for property crime clearances was 16.2% in 2001. (More recent data is not yet available.)

The clearance rate for rapes increased from 50.6% in the first half of 2002 to 72.4% in 2003. Solid investigative work, resulting in the arrests of suspects, resulted in the increase in rape cases cleared, despite the increase in rape cases at midyear compared to last year.

Hate Crimes

Hate crimes -- crimes directed against persons, groups, or property because of race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability -- increased from 45 in the first half of 2002 to 49 cases in 2003. Of those cases 26 (53.1%) were identified as crimes motivated by ethnicity, while 18 cases (36.7%) were motivated by sexual orientation, and 5 cases (10.2%) were motivated by religion. Ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religion remained the leading types of hate crimes.

Juvenile Arrests and Crime Victims

Arrests of juveniles decreased by 6.5% in the first six months of 2003, with 4,895 arrests in 2003 compared to 5,233 in 2002. Of these arrests, the biggest decrease -- 20.8% -- was in arrests made during curfew hours from 10 p.m. to 8:29 a.m.

The number of crimes with juvenile victims increased 17.2%, to 443 in the first half of 2003 from 378 in 2002. Of these cases, the biggest increase -- 51.5% -- occurred during curfew hours -- from 10 p.m. to 8:29 a.m.

Traffic Incidents

The total number of traffic collisions decreased by 0.4%, from 6,126 in the first half of 2002 to 6,099 in 2003. Of these collisions, fatal collisions decreased by 22.6%, from 31 in 2002 to 24 in 2003. Injury collisions decreased by 1.6%, from 2,757 in the first six months of 2002 to 2,714 in 2003. The number of collisions with property damage increased by 0.7%, from 3,338 in 2002 to 3,361 in 2003.

The total number of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs decreased 10.3%, from 1,780 in the first half of 2002 to 1,596 in 2003.

**San Diego
Domestic Violence
January to June**

| | 2002 | 2003 | 02 to 03 % Change |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Criminal Cases: | | | |
| Firearms | 34 | 29 | -14.7% |
| Knife/Cutting Instrument | 139 | 148 | 6.5% |
| Other Dangerous Weapon | 773 | 783 | 1.3% |
| Personal Weapon (hands, etc.) | 3,072 | 3,069 | -0.1% |
| Total Criminal Cases | 4,018 | 4,029 | 0.3% |
| Non-Criminal Calls: | 1,027 | 1,094 | 6.5% |
| Total Cases | 5,045 | 5,123 | 1.5% |

San Diego
Crimes Committed By Gang Members
January to June

| Crime Type | 2002 | 2003 | 02 to 03 % Change |
|--|------------|------------|----------------------|
| All Crimes: | | | |
| Homicide | 10 | 11 | 10.0% |
| Attempt Homicide | 5 | 3 | -40.0% |
| Assault | 105 | 89 | -15.2% |
| Robbery | 40 | 31 | -22.5% |
| Auto Theft | 24 | 43 | 79.2% |
| Other | 266 | 205 | -22.9% |
| Total | 450 | 382 | -15.1% |
| Assaults & Attempt Homicides: | | | |
| Shooting | 54 | 33 | -38.9% |
| Stabbing | 18 | 14 | -22.2% |
| Other | 37 | 45 | 21.6% |
| Total | 109 | 92 | -15.6% |
| Drive-By Shootings | 21 | 10 | -52.4% |
| Arrests of Gang Members | 1,546 | 1,725 | 11.6% |

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

| | 2002 | 2003 | 02 to 03 % Change |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Hate Crimes | 45 | 49 | 8.9% |

| | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Count | % of Total | Count | % of Total |
| Hate Crimes | | | | |
| Ethnicity | 24 | 53.3% | 26 | 53.1% |
| Sexual Orientation | 12 | 26.7% | 18 | 36.7% |
| Religion | 9 | 20.0% | 5 | 10.2% |
| Gender | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Disability | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |

**San Diego
Juvenile Arrests
January to June**

| | 2002 | 2003 | 02 to 03 % Change |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Daytime Hours* | | | |
| Felony | 489 | 455 | -7.0% |
| Misdemeanor | 1,690 | 1,759 | 4.1% |
| Other | 150 | 84 | -44.0% |
| Daytime Total | 2,329 | 2,298 | -1.3% |
| After School Hours* | | | |
| Felony | 505 | 558 | 10.5% |
| Misdemeanor | 1,075 | 959 | -10.8% |
| Other | 83 | 97 | 16.9% |
| After School Total | 1,663 | 1,614 | -2.9% |
| Curfew Hours* | | | |
| Felony | 221 | 234 | 5.9% |
| Misdemeanor | 343 | 286 | -16.6% |
| Other | 677 | 463 | -31.6% |
| Curfew Total | 1,241 | 983 | -20.8% |
| ALL HOURS TOTAL | 5,233 | 4,895 | -6.5% |

*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 June**

| | 2002 | 2003 | 02 to 03 % Change |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| Daytime Hours* | | | |
| Murder | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Rape | 6 | 17 | 183.3% |
| Robbery | 16 | 16 | 0.0% |
| Aggravated Assault | 33 | 45 | 36.4% |
| Daytime Total | 56 | 78 | 39.3% |
| After School Hours* | | | |
| Murder | 3 | 3 | 0.0% |
| Rape | 21 | 25 | 19.0% |
| Robbery | 85 | 85 | 0.0% |
| Aggravated Assault | 145 | 149 | 2.8% |
| After School Total | 254 | 262 | 3.1% |
| Curfew Hours* | | | |
| Murder | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Rape | 18 | 26 | 44.4% |
| Robbery | 10 | 27 | 170.0% |
| Aggravated Assault | 40 | 50 | 25.0% |
| Curfew Total | 68 | 103 | 51.5% |
| ALL HOURS TOTAL | 378 | 443 | 17.2% |

*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
Traffic Incidents
January to June**

| | 2002 | 2003 | 02 to 03 % Change |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Collisions | | | |
| Fatal | 31 | 24 | -22.6% |
| Injury | 2,757 | 2,714 | -1.6% |
| Property Damage Only | 3,338 | 3,361 | 0.7% |
| Total | 6,126 | 6,099 | -0.4% |
| Citations | 72,172 | 58,167 | -19.4% |
| DUI | | | |
| Arrests | 1,780 | 1,596 | -10.3% |
| Collisions | 446 | 399 | -10.5% |

**San Diego
Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1990 to 2003**

| Year | Violent Crime Rate | Property Crime Rate | Total Index Crime Rate |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1990 | 10.77 | 80.05 | 90.82 |
| 1991 | 12.24 | 73.41 | 85.65 |
| 1992 | 12.87 | 67.39 | 80.26 |
| 1993 | 11.50 | 61.25 | 72.75 |
| 1994 | 10.63 | 54.12 | 64.75 |
| 1995 | 9.25 | 44.38 | 53.63 |
| 1996 | 8.58 | 43.47 | 52.05 |
| 1997 | 8.22 | 41.31 | 49.53 |
| 1998 | 7.20 | 37.63 | 44.83 |
| 1999 | 5.95 | 33.86 | 39.81 |
| 2000 | 5.61 | 30.69 | 36.30 |
| 2001 | 5.92 | 34.41 | 40.33 |
| 2002 | 5.73 | 34.19 | 39.92 |
| 2003* | 5.68 | 36.00 | 41.68 |

*First six months annualized

Respectfully submitted,

John Welter
Interim Chief of Police
Police Department

Approved: P. Lamont Ewell
Assistant City Manager

WELTER/fg/ct