

DATE ISSUED: March 11, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-052

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of March 17, 2004

SUBJECT: 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 2003 index crimes, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, and traffic incidents. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, arson, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. 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.

San Diego 2003 Index Crimes

				(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	2002	2003
Murder	47	65	38.3%	0.04	0.05	78.7%	58.5%
Rape	330	406	23.0%	0.26	0.32	52.7%	62.6%
Robbery	1,627	1,626	-0.1%	1.30	1.28	37.3%	35.0%
Agg. Assault	5,189	5,269	1.5%	4.13	4.13	66.9%	56.7%
Violent Crimes	7,193	7,366	2.4%	5.73	5.78	59.7%	52.3%
Burglary	7,639	8,076	5.7%	6.08	6.33	12.2%	10.3%
Theft	24,577	25,739	4.7%	19.57	20.19	13.9%	12.4%
Veh. Theft	10,715	12,567	17.3%	8.53	9.86	4.8%	3.1%
Property Crimes	42,931	46,382	8.0%	34.19	36.38	11.3%	9.5%
TOTAL INDEX	50,124	53,748	7.2%	39.92	42.15	18.3%	15.4%
Arson	206	238	15.5%	0.16	0.19	20.4%	16.4%

DISCUSSION

The total number of index crimes in San Diego increased 7.2% in 2003. There were 53,748 reported index crimes in 2003, compared to 50,124 in 2002. Last year was the second time crime increased during this decade. In 2002 crimes decreased 0.6% from 2001 (50,445 reported crimes); in 2001 crimes increased 8.8% from 2000 (46,361 reported crimes); in 2000 crimes decreased 6.5% from 1999 (49,585 reported crimes).

The total index crime rate per one thousand residents was 42.15 in 2003, compared to 39.92 in 2002, 39.50 in 2001, and 36.30 in 2000, which was the lowest rate since 1966. As the following chart shows, even though the overall crime rate has increased each year this decade, last year's crime rate was still lower than in the 1990s, except for 1999.

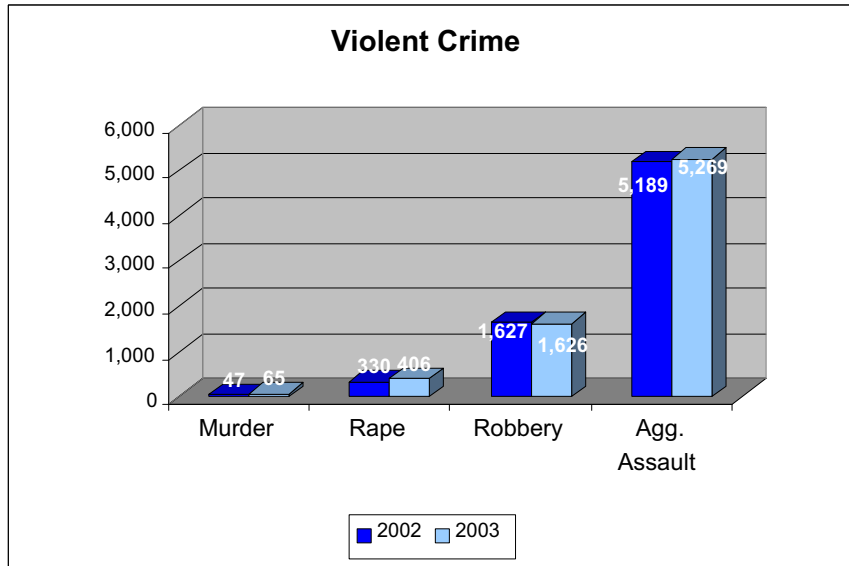
San Diego
Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1992 to 2003

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
2003	5.78	36.38	42.15

Violent Crimes

Violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and arson – increased 2.4% in 2003. There were 7,366 violent crimes in 2003 compared to 7,193 in 2002. The rate of violent crimes per one thousand residents was 5.78, compared to 5.73 in 2002.

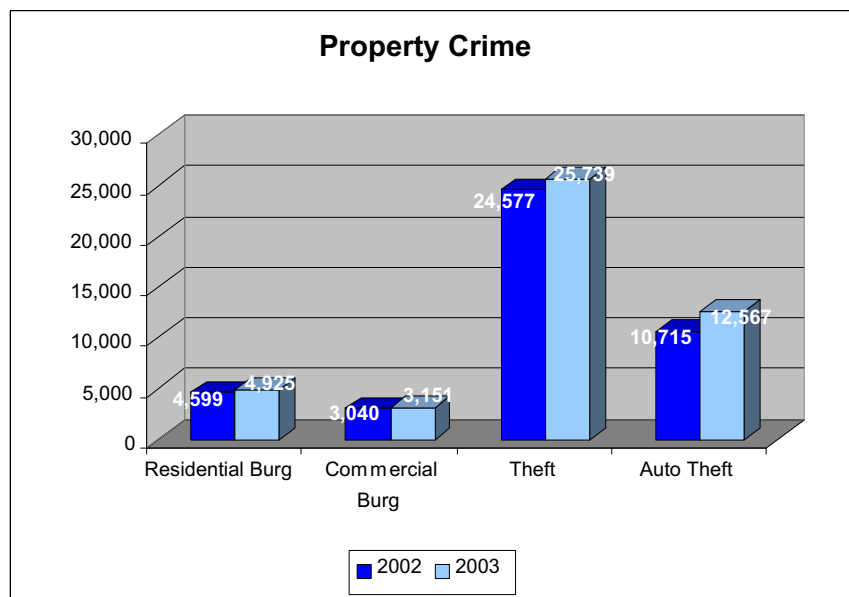
Of violent crimes, homicides and rapes showed the biggest increases. Homicides increased 38.3% in 2003 with 65, compared to 47 in 2002. Rapes increased 23% in 2003, with 405 compared to 330 in 2002. Robberies decreased 0.1% in 2003, with 1,626 compared to 1,627 in 2002. Aggravated assaults increased 1.5% in 2003, with 5,269 compared to 5,189 in 2002. Arsons increased 15.5%, with 238 in 2003, compared to 206 in 2002.



Property Crimes

Property crimes -- burglary, larceny and auto theft – increased 8.0% in 2003. There were 46,382 property crimes in 2003 compared to 42,931 in 2002. The rate of property crimes per one thousand residents was 36.38 in 2003, compared to 34.19 in 2002.

Vehicle thefts showed the largest increase. Vehicle thefts increased 17.3% in 2003, with 12,567 compared to 10,715 in 2002. Burglaries increased 5.7%, with 8,076 compared to 7,639 in 2002. Larceny or theft cases increased 4.7%, with 25,739 compared to 24,577 in 2002.



Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared in 2003 was 15.4%, compared to 18.3% 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 52.3% of violent crimes last year, compared to 59.7% in 2002. The national average for violent crime clearances was 46.8% in 2002. Police cleared or solved 9.5% of property crimes last year, compared to 11.3% in 2002. The national average for property crime clearances was 16.5% in 2002.

Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 3.0% in 2003, with 10,526 compared to 10,856 in 2002. Criminal cases decreased 4.1%, while the number of domestic violence calls that did not develop into crimes increased 1.2%. Cases involving firearms increased 17.2%, and cases involving knives or cutting instruments increased 4.9%.

Gang Crimes

Crimes attributed to gang members decreased 11.4% in 2003, with 759 cases compared to 857 in 2002. Twenty of the 65 homicides in San Diego were attributed to gang members, a 17.6% increase compared to 17 gang homicides in 2002. Attempted homicides and robberies attributed to gang members decreased 12.5% and 23.2% respectively, while assaults and auto thefts attributed to gang members increased 1.6% and 15.9% respectively. Shooting and stabbings attributed to gang members decreased 4.5% and 17.6% respectively, while drive-by shootings fell 25.8%, to 23 in 2003 from 31 in 2002. Arrests of gang members increased 0.9%, to 3,310 in 2003 from 3,282 in 2002.

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes decreased 4.5% to 84 in 2003 from 88 in 2002. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for 44 cases (52.4% of the total), followed by sexual orientation with 31 cases (36.9% of the total), and religion with 6 cases (7.1% of the total). There were three hate crimes based on gender in 2003 (3.6% of the total), compared to none in 2002.

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crimes was 115 in 2003, the same number in 2002. Arrests of juveniles decreased 1.5%, with felony arrests accounting for the largest portion of arrests after school and during curfew hours.

Traffic Incidents

The number of collisions decreased 1.9% in 2003 with 12,301 in 2003, compared to 12,535 in 2002. There were 49 fatal collisions in 2003, compared to 52 in 2002. The number of traffic citations fell 12.3% in 2003, with 118,345 in 2003, compared to 134,935 in 2002. Similarly, the number of DUI arrests and collisions decreased in 2003, 4.2% and 7.3% respectively.

**San Diego
Domestic Violence
January to December**

	2002	2003	02 to 03 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	64	75	17.2%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	288	302	4.9%
Other Dangerous Weapon	1,701	1,570	-7.7%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	6,674	6,425	-3.7%
Total Criminal Cases	8,727	8,372	-4.1%
Non-Criminal Calls:	2,129	2,154	1.2%
Total Cases	10,856	10,526	-3.0%

San Diego
Crimes Committed by Gang Members
January to December

Crime Type	2002	2003	02 to 03 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	17	20	17.6%
Attempt Homicide	8	7	-12.5%
Assault	192	195	1.6%
Robbery	82	63	-23.2%
Auto Theft	63	73	15.9%
Other	495	401	-19.0%
Total	857	759	-11.4%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	89	85	-4.5%
Stabbing	34	28	-17.6%
Other	77	90	16.9%
Total	200	203	1.5%
Drive-By Shootings	31	23	-25.8%
Arrests of Gang Members	3,282	3,310	0.9%

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

Crimes

	2002	2003	02 to 03 % Change
Hate Crimes	88	84	-4.5%

Crimes

	2002		2003	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	52	59.1%	44	52.4%
Religion	12	13.6%	6	7.1%
Sexual Orientation	24	27.3%	31	36.9%
Gender	0	0.0%	3	3.6%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

**San Diego
Juvenile Statistics
January to December**

Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:

	2002	2003	02 to 03 % Change
Daytime Hours*			
Murder	2	1	0.0%
Rape	18	21	16.7%
Robbery	31	24	-22.6%
Aggravated Assault	64	69	7.8%
Daytime Total	115	115	0.0%
After School Hours*			
Murder	4	4	0.0%
Rape	50	41	-18.0%
Robbery	162	160	-1.2%
Aggravated Assault	271	298	10.0%
After School Total	487	503	3.3%
Curfew Hours*			
Murder	0	2	N/A
Rape	46	42	-8.7%
Robbery	31	42	35.5%
Aggravated Assault	87	99	13.8%
Curfew Total	164	185	12.8%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	766	803	4.8%

*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 Statistics
January to December**

Juvenile Arrests:

	2002	2003	02 to 03 % Change
Daytime Hours*			
Felony	815	785	-3.7%
Misdemeanor	2,889	3,064	6.1%
Other	210	139	-33.8%
Daytime Total	3,914	3,988	1.9%
After School Hours*			
Felony	953	1,142	19.8%
Misdemeanor	1,998	1,770	-11.4%
Other	183	180	-1.6%
After School Total	3,134	3,092	-1.3%
Curfew Hours*			
Felony	415	515	24.1%
Misdemeanor	674	642	-4.7%
Other	1,223	978	-20.0%
Curfew Total	2,312	2,135	-7.7%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	9,360	9,215	-1.5%

*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
Traffic Incidents
January to December**

	2002	2003	02 to 03 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	52	49	-5.8%
Injury	5,646	5,474	-3.0%
Property Damage Only	6,837	6,778	-0.9%
Total	12,535	12,301	-1.9%
Citations	134,935	118,345	-12.3%
DUI			
Arrests	3,566	3,416	-4.2%
Collisions	861	798	-7.3%

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police
Police Department

Approved: P. Lamont Ewell
Assistant City Manager

LANSDOWNE/fg/ct