

DATE ISSUED: March 14, 2005

REPORT NO. 05-073

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of March 16, 2005

SUBJECT: January – December 2004 Index Crimes

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes January through December 2004 Index Crimes, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, and traffic incidents. Index Crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, 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.

DISCUSSION

Statistics for 2004 reveal violent crime is down 8% overall from the previous year. Murders are down 4.6%, rapes are down 8.1%, and aggravated assaults are down 11%. Robberies increased slightly by 1.5% but showed a 34.2% decrease in the use of weapons. The overall decrease in violent crimes is attributed to aggressive community policing efforts and stronger partnerships between the community and public safety organizations.

The total number of Index Crimes in San Diego decreased 2.8% in 2004. There were 52,217 reported Index Crimes in 2004, compared to 53,748 in 2003. This decrease follows a 7.2% increase in Index Crimes at the end of 2003. The following pages provide an overview and outline on the various types of crimes, the Department's action plan, and strategies aimed at reducing these crimes.

**City of San Diego
Index Crimes 2003 to 2004 Overview**

	2003	2004	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
				2003	2004	2003	2004
Murder	65	62	-4.6%	0.05	0.05	58.5%	90.3%
Rape	406	373	-8.1%	0.32	0.29	62.6%	52.0%
Robbery	1,626	1,650	1.5%	1.28	1.28	35.0%	31.3%
Agg. Assault	5,269	4,689	-11.0%	4.13	3.62	56.7%	59.6%
Violent Crimes	7,366	6,774	-8.0%	5.78	5.23	52.3%	52.6%
Burglary	8,076	7,305	-9.5%	6.33	5.65	10.3%	12.2%
Theft	25,739	25,168	-2.2%	20.19	19.45	12.4%	14.9%
Veh. Theft	12,567	12,970	3.2%	9.86	10.02	3.1%	2.7%
Property Crimes	46,382	45,443	-2.0%	36.38	35.12	9.5%	11.0%
TOTAL INDEX	53,748	52,217	-2.8%	42.15	40.35	15.4%	16.4%
Arson	238	191	-19.7%	0.19	0.15	16.4%	18.8%

**Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1992 to 2004 Annual Review**

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
2004	5.23	35.12	40.35

Violent Crimes

The Department continues to address violent crime proactively:

- Four area commands have established night investigative teams, which work second watch hours so that new cases can be investigated as they occur.
- Central Division's aggressive enforcement of narcotics activity downtown is reducing the numbers of assaults and robberies in the area.
- Eastern Division conducted "Operation ROAR (Reserve Officers Against Robberies)" at the Mission Valley shopping areas during the holiday season to prevent robberies.
- Mid City Division is reducing gang and juvenile problems in a Bayview Heights apartment complex by working with Neighborhood Code Compliance to improve the site and with the management to have problem tenants evicted.
- Northeastern Division utilized bicycle patrols to more effectively impact Asian gang and juvenile activity at problem areas around movie theaters and malls.
- Southeastern Division continues to work with the Gang Unit to address gang violence in the command (see Gang Crimes).
- Southern Division is training business owners near the border to reduce commercial robberies by using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) methods and by improving networking between business owners and the Police Department.
- Western Division arrested one suspect and identified two others in a robbery series targeting gay men. Thirteen cases were solved with the arrest.

Gang Related Crimes

There are 4,116 documented gang members in the City of San Diego. Crimes attributed to gang members increased 7.8% in 2004 from the previous year. Feuding between rival gangs in the Southeastern community drove statistics up early in 2004. Drive by shootings accounted for five gang-related murders, one attempt murder, 35 assaults, and three shootings into residences or vehicles. The majority of assaults involved the use of a firearm. The majority of gang-related cases occurred in the following police commands:

- Southeastern Division (Council District 4) – 305 cases
- Central Division (Council District 8) – 253 cases
- Mid City Division (Council District 3) – 231 cases

There were 62 total homicides in San Diego in 2004, a 4.6% decrease from 2003. Of these homicides, only 35% were attributed to gang activity. Gang related attempted homicides also decreased 14.3%, while assaults by gang members increased 26.7%. Of these assaults, drive by shootings experienced an unusual increase of 48.2%.

To address increased gang violence in San Diego, the Department reallocated personnel to create two violent crime teams, one in Southeastern Division and one in Mid City. The Gang Suppression Team, a uniformed enforcement component of the Gang Unit, was increased from two to three teams. The increases in personnel provided deployment of officers seven days a week, improving the ability to interview key witnesses in a timely manner and to solve gang related crimes.

Gang Enforcement Statistics

Arrests of gang members increased 5.5%, 3,493 in 2004 as compared to 3,310 in 2003. During 2004, the Police Department's Gang Unit:

- Made 1,549 arrests
- Confiscated and recovered 99 firearms
- Completed 365 probation/parole searches resulting in 334 violations
- Impounded \$654,694 in illicit currency
- Impounded 170 cars
- Confiscated:
 - 22,757 grams of Methamphetamine
 - 7,451 grams of Marijuana
 - 260 grams of Rock Cocaine
 - 231 grams of Heroin

Special Operations Targeting Gang Crimes

- May of 2004 – PD obtained gang injunctions on several members of our most violent gang sets located in Southeastern Division. The injunction allows officers to keep public places free of gang congregations where rival groups can quickly turn violent when they come together.
- June of 2004 – PD deployed a tactical operation called “Stop The Violence.” This multifaceted operation utilized personnel from the Gang Unit, Narcotics Section, Special Investigations Unit, the United States Marshals Fugitive Group, San Diego County Probation Department and California State Parole. The operation centered in the Southeastern Division as a direct response to the increasing gang violence stemming predominately from two rival gangs. This operation netted 72 arrests, the seizure of four firearms, and involved 49 probation and/or parole searches to put gang members on notice.

Gang Prevention Efforts

The Department continues efforts to refer “at risk” youths to community-based support organizations and public service agencies. Parents are notified by letter and/or personal contact regarding resources available to assist their “at risk” children with lifestyle changes. The Department also reaches out to the community by providing educational presentations on gang awareness and prevention strategies. These presentations were made to 12 community groups during 2004, including Parents as Teachers, Violence Prevention Network, San Diego State University, Golden Hill Development Corporation, Health and Human Services, and Neighborhood Watch groups in San Ysidro, Nestor, and the Sports Arena neighborhoods. These presentations reached over 290 community members.

As a result of continuing prevention, education and enforcement efforts, the Department is currently experiencing a crime reduction trend as we enter the first quarter of 2005. A comparison between the first two months of 2004 and 2005 shows a 75% decrease in gang related homicides (from four to one). There is also a 36% overall decrease in the number of shootings resulting in assaults and attempted homicides (from 22 to 14 incidents). The Department is focused on maintaining and improving this crime reduction trend.

Property Crimes

Both problem solving and investigative work is used to address property crime throughout the City:

- In Northern Division, a team of night watch detectives is investigating all stolen vehicle and car burglary cases. They have made 40 arrests connected to motor vehicle crimes.
- Northeastern patrol officers arrested two burglary suspects in December who were responsible for nine cases in that division, as well as multiple cases elsewhere in the county.
- Eastern Division used RSVPs to hand out flyers to shoppers in Mission Valley with information about car burglary and auto theft prevention during the holiday season.
- In Southeastern Division, fingerprints were lifted from four homes that were burglarized while tented for extermination. The fingerprints led to the arrests of two suspects.
- Central Division is experiencing more property crimes because of the extensive development downtown. They have established a team of night watch detectives to handle the cases. This team is also conducting surveillance of auto theft and car burglary hot spots.

Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 4.7% in 2004, with 10,033 compared to 10,526 in 2003. Cases involving firearms decreased 34.7%, while cases involving knives or cutting instruments increased 6.3%. The following graph illustrates the comparison between 2003 and 2004 crimes:

Domestic Violence January to December 2003 to 2004 Comparison

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	75	49	-34.7%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	302	321	6.3%
Other Dangerous Weapon	1,570	1,480	-5.7%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	6,425	6,163	-4.1%
Total Criminal Cases:	8,372	8,013	-4.3%
Non-Criminal Calls:	2,154	2,020	-6.2%
Total Cases	10,526	10,033	-4.7%

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes decreased 41.7% to 49 in 2004 from 84 in 2003. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for more than half of the total cases (29), and hate crimes based on sexual orientation accounted for nearly a third of the cases.

Reported Hate Crimes January to December 2003 to 2004 Comparison

Crimes

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Hate Crimes	84	49	-41.7%

Crimes

	2003		2004	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	44	52.4%	29	59.2%
Religion	6	7.1%	4	8.2%
Sexual Orientation	31	36.9%	16	32.7%
Gender	3	3.6%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Traffic Incidents

The number of traffic collisions decreased slightly in 2004, but fatal collisions increased from 49 in 2003 to 60 in 2004. Of the 60 fatalities, 42% involved vehicles, 37% involved pedestrians, 13% involved motorcycles, and 8% involved bicycles. 43% of these collisions involved alcohol and/or drugs. 59% of those who died failed to use required safety devices, including seat belts, shoulder harnesses or helmets. The number of DUI arrests increased 7.7%, and DUI collisions decreased 8.4% in 2004 compared to 2003.

Traffic Incidents
January to December 2003 to 2004 Comparison

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	49	60	22.4%
Injury	5,474	5,256	-4.0%
Property Damage Only	6,778	6,657	-1.8%
Total	12,301	11,973	-2.7%
Citations	118,345	123,454	4.3%
DUI			
Arrests	3,416	3,678	7.7%
Collisions	798	731	-8.4%

The Police Department is committed to reducing crime in the City of San Diego. As we continue our rebuilding efforts towards the 2006 goal of a fully staffed Police Department, we will enhance staffing in critical assignments and expand prevention efforts to specifically address quality of life issues throughout our city.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
 Chief of Police
 Police Department

Approved: P. Lamont Ewell
 City Manager

EWELL/LANSDOWNE/JL