

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

DATE ISSUED: February 17, 2014 REPORT NO. 14-017  
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee  
Agenda of:  
SUBJECT: City of San Diego Crime Briefing  
January – December 2013 Index Crimes

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the January through December 2013 index crimes, as well as domestic violence cases, gang statistics, hate crimes, juvenile crimes and response times. 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

The total number of index crimes in San Diego decreased 0.5% in 2013 compared to 2012. The number of crimes in each of the categories in 2013 continues to be similar to the number of reported crimes from decades ago.

	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2012	2013		2012	2013	2012	2013
Murder	47	39	-17.0%	0.04	0.03	74.5%	56.4%
Rape	304	316	3.9%	0.23	0.24	52.3%	34.5%
Robbery	1,517	1,456	-4.0%	1.15	1.10	42.7%	42.6%
Aggravated Assault	3,661	3,492	-4.6%	2.77	2.63	58.0%	59.0%
<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>5,529</b>	<b>5,303</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>	<b>4.18</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>53.0%</b>
Burglary	5,902	6,355	7.7%	4.47	4.79	13.9%	13.8%
Theft	19,188	19,230	0.2%	14.52	14.50	16.6%	16.1%
Vehicle Theft	6,610	6,143	-7.1%	5.00	4.63	1.7%	2.3%
<b>Property Crimes</b>	<b>31,700</b>	<b>31,728</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>23.99</b>	<b>23.92</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL INDEX</b>	<b>37,229</b>	<b>37,031</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>28.18</b>	<b>27.92</b>	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>

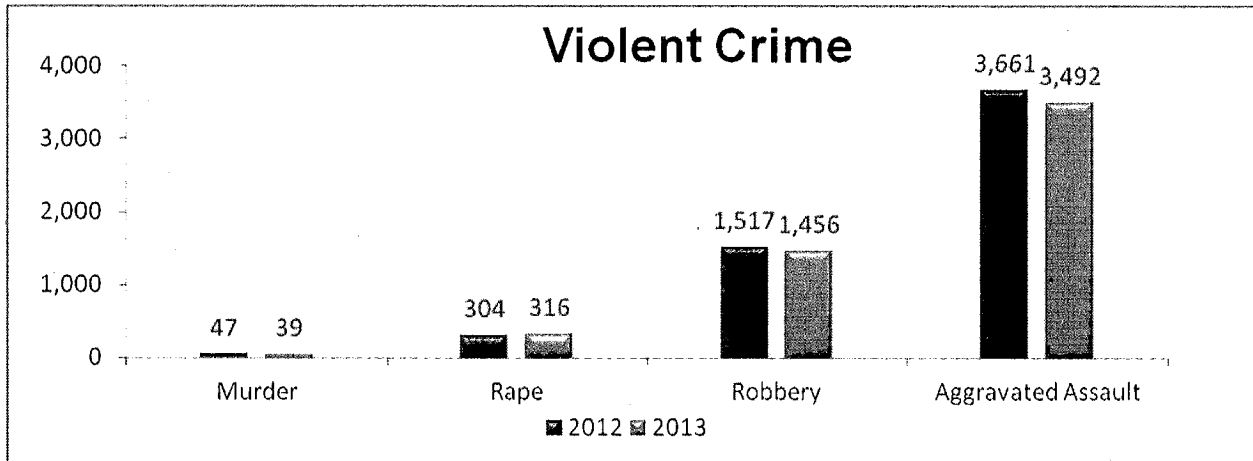
## Crime Rates

The violent crime rate of 4.0 per thousand residents in 2013 is comparable to rates in the early 1970s. The property crime rate of 23.9 per thousand and overall crime rate of 27.9 per thousand are comparable to rates in the early 1960s.

San Diego Crime Rates per 1,000 Population 2003 to 2013			
Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
2003	5.8	36.4	42.2
2004	5.2	35.1	40.4
2005	5.1	35.4	40.5
2006	4.9	34.5	39.4
2007	4.7	33.0	37.8
2008	4.5	30.1	34.6
2009	4.4	23.8	28.2
2010	4.1	22.4	26.4
2011	3.9	22.7	26.5
2012	4.2	24.0	28.2
2013	4.0	23.9	27.9

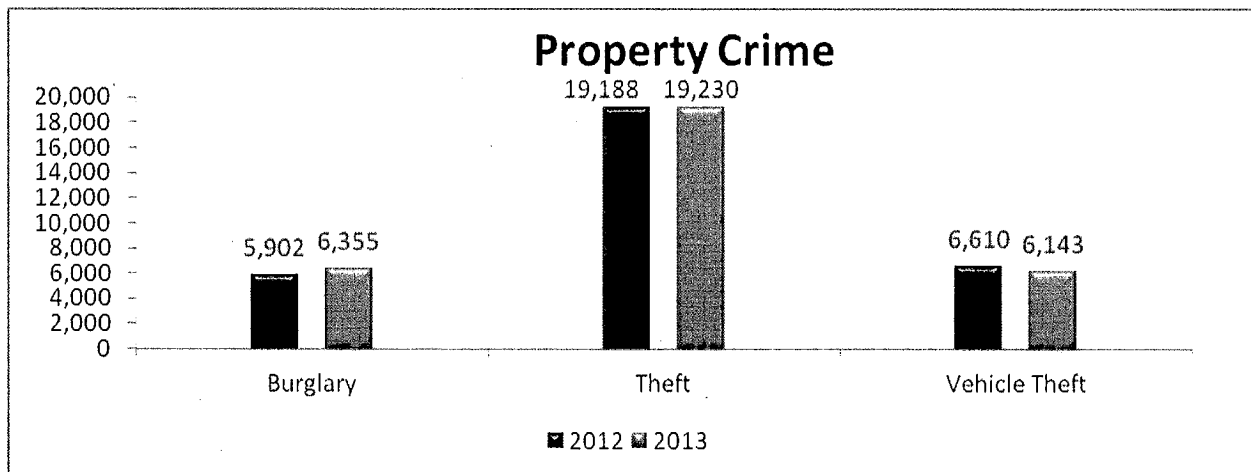
## Violent Crimes

Violent crimes decreased 4.1% in 2013, when compared to 2012. Murders decreased 17.0%, from 47 cases in 2012 to 39 in 2013. Rape increased slightly, by 3.9% in 2013. Alcohol is a contributing factor in many rape incidents. Overall, robbery decreased 4.0% in 2013; approximately two-thirds of robberies are street robberies. Aggravated assaults decreased 4.6% from 2012 to 2013. About 26% of aggravated assaults in 2013 were domestic violence related. Assaults involving guns show the largest decrease, with 10.4% fewer crimes in 2013 compared to 2012.



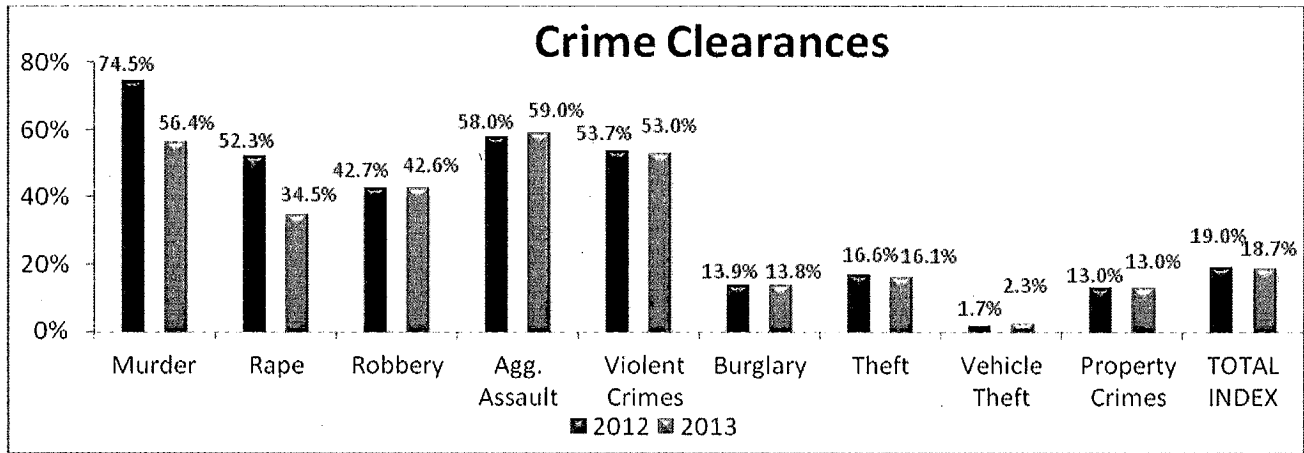
## Property Crimes

Overall property crime did not significantly change in 2013, when compared to 2012. Burglary showed an increase of 7.7% and theft increased slightly, by 0.2%. Vehicle theft decreased 7.1% in 2013, resulting in the fewest stolen vehicles since 1975, when there were 5,456 cases.



## Crime Clearances

Overall, clearance rates in 2013 were similar to clearance rates in 2012.



## Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases remained relatively constant in 2013. Incidents involving firearms showed the largest increase, of 8.8%, while incidents involving other dangerous weapons decreased by 3.8%.

San Diego Domestic Violence January to December			
Domestic Violence	2012	2013	12 to 13 % Change
<b>Criminal Cases:</b>			
Firearms	34	37	8.8%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	196	199	1.5%
Other Dangerous Weapon	861	828	-3.8%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	5,062	5,068	0.1%
<b>Total Criminal Cases</b>	<b>6,153</b>	<b>6,132</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
<b>Non-Criminal Calls:</b>			
	1,035	1,093	5.6%
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>7,188</b>	<b>7,225</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

## Gang Crimes

The total number of crimes committed by gang members increased by 5.3% in 2013. Overall assaults and attempted homicides decreased by 5.7%, due to decreases in assaults other than shootings and stabbings. Arrests of gang members increased, by 13.3% in 2013.

<b>Crimes Committed by Gang Members January to December</b>			
<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>12 to 13 % Change</b>
<b>All Crimes:</b>			
Homicide	16	3	-81.3%
Attempt Homicide	11	15	36.4%
Assault	200	187	-6.5%
Robbery	125	125	0.0%
Auto Theft	63	76	20.6%
Other	594	656	10.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Assaults &amp; Attempt Homicides:</b>			
Shooting	49	50	-2.0%
Stabbing	29	41	41.4%
Other	133	108	-18.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>
Drive-By Shootings	8	17	112.5%
Arrests of Gang Members	3,067	3,476	13.3%

## Hate Crimes

There were 44 hate crimes in 2013, an increase of 25.7% from 2012. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for half of the cases. Sexual orientation accounted for 29.5% and religious bias accounted for 20.5% of all hate crimes.

<b>San Diego Reported Hate Crimes January to December</b>				
<b>Hate Crimes</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Ethnicity	18	51.4%	22	50.0%
Sexual Orientation	11	31.4%	13	29.5%
Religion	6	17.1%	9	20.5%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
				<b>12 to 13 % Change</b>
<b>Total Hate Crime</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>25.7%</b>

## Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crime decreased 22.4% from 2012 to 2013. There were fewer juvenile victims in each of the time categories, except for daytime hours, which increased 22.4%. Juvenile violent crime during after school hours accounted for 58.1% of all juvenile violent crimes.

<b>Juvenile Statistics January to December</b>			
<b>Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>12 to 13 % Change</b>
<b>Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)</b>			
Murder	2	0	-100.0%
Rape	6	6	0.0%
Robbery	13	14	7.7%
Aggravated Assault	37	51	37.8%
<b>Daytime Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
<b>After School Hours (1330 to 2159)</b>			
Murder	3	0	-100.0%
Rape	31	21	-32.3%
Robbery	117	85	-27.4%
Aggravated Assault	195	134	-31.3%
<b>After School Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>-30.6%</b>
<b>Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)</b>			
Murder	2	0	-100.0%
Rape	23	25	8.7%
Robbery	28	16	-42.9%
Aggravated Assault	75	61	-18.7%
<b>Curfew Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-20.3%</b>
<b>ALL HOURS TOTAL</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>-22.4%</b>

The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994.

Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996.

## Juvenile Arrests

All time categories showed a decrease in the number of juvenile arrests, with a total decrease of 15.5% for all hours. Much of the decrease is due to fewer arrests for curfew and daytime loitering.

<b>Juvenile Statistics January to December</b>			
<b>Juvenile Arrests:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>12 to 13 % Change</b>
<b>Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)</b>			
Felony	296	305	3.0%
Misdemeanor	1,364	1,238	-9.2%
Other	16	12	-25.0%
<b>Daytime Total</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>-7.2%</b>
<b>After School Hours (1330 to 2159)</b>			
Felony	424	336	-20.8%
Misdemeanor	960	765	-20.3%
Other	10	6	-40.0%
<b>After School Total</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>-20.6%</b>
<b>Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)</b>			
Felony	171	154	-9.9%
Misdemeanor	493	411	-16.6%
Other	1,210	951	-21.4%
<b>Curfew Total</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>-19.1%</b>
<b>ALL HOURS TOTAL</b>	<b>4,944</b>	<b>4,178</b>	<b>-15.5%</b>

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Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996.

## Response Times

San Diego Police Department dispatches incoming calls according to a hierarchy of call types as defined below.

Priority E: Imminent threat to life, dispatch immediately.

Priority 1: Threat to life, serious crime in progress, dispatch immediately.

Priority 2: Threat to life has passed or does not exist, minor crime in progress/serious crime where suspect has left scene, dispatch as quickly as possible.

Priority 3: Non-urgent requests for service such as noise only loud parties, report only calls, and crime scene follow-up, dispatch as soon as possible after higher priority calls.

Priority 4: Minor requests for service such as found property, most parking violations, etc., dispatch when there are no higher priority calls awaiting assignment in the beat.

Priority 1 calls showed a slight decrease in response times while priority E, 2, 3 and 4 calls increased. Priority 3 calls had the largest increase of 11.3%.

Average Response Times by Priority January to December			
Priority	2012	2013	% Change
E	6.3	6.6	4.8%
1	11.8	11.7	-0.8%
2	25.2	27.4	8.7%
3	61.9	68.9	11.3%
4	67.4	70.9	5.2%

The total number of dispatched calls remained relatively constant in 2013, with a decrease of 0.8% when compared to 2012. Priority E and 4 calls increased, while priority 1, 2 and 3 calls each decreased.

Dispatched Calls by Priority January to December			
Priority	2012	2013	% Change
E	26,168	27,062	3.4%
1	218,748	216,394	-1.1%
2	238,592	234,945	-1.5%
3	75,805	75,313	-0.6%
4	20,878	21,709	4.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>580,191</b>	<b>575,423</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>



## **Highlights for 2013**

In addition to the crime statistics presented in this report, the following information focuses on many of the highlights throughout the year from different units and divisions within the San Diego Police Department. These highlights include special projects and effective ways to combat crime within our City.

### **Public Safety Realignment (AB 109)**

The Public Safety Realignment plan resulting from AB 109 was implemented regionally in October 2011. This realignment shifted the sentences of some non-violent offenders from serving time in state prison to local jail, and created a new offender status called Post Release Offender (PRO), who are supervised by County Probation rather than State Parole. In response to these changes, the Department began proactively monitoring PROs released within the City, and providing officers with training on probation and parole procedures and release conditions.

In October 2013, additional funding was made available to each of the area commands to develop special details and compliance checks on AB 109 subjects and related criminal activity. In November, surveillance of suspected burglars was conducted by Northern, Eastern, Mid City and Northeastern personnel. In December, the 290 unit conducted sex registrant compliance checks around Balboa Park. Additionally, patrol details focused around shopping malls, which resulted in few reported thefts during the holiday season.

### **PERT/HOT/SIP Programs**

The San Diego Police Department is involved with three award winning outreach programs that address homelessness and those with mental health issues: the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT), Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and Serial Inebriate Program (SIP).

PERT partners mental health clinicians with police officers riding together on patrol and responding to calls involving mental health emergencies. In response to significant increases in the number of mental health calls, the PERT Coordinating Council is currently working with the Department, as well as other San Diego County law enforcement agencies, to increase the number of PERT units fielded within the City and the County as a whole. In 2013, PERT also hosted twelve PERT academies for officers, focusing on mental health education and awareness, as well as de-escalation techniques. Over 300 SDPD officers have been PERT certified.

The HOT team combines a San Diego Police Officer, PERT clinician and County Health and Human Service Specialist in outreach teams, working with other providers to place homeless persons into transitional shelters and then into more permanent housing. In 2013, these officers contacted more than 1,300 people and placed over 500 persons into treatment.

SIP, jointly funded by the City and County, is a collaboration of law enforcement, the City Attorney's Office, Superior Courts and County Behavioral Health, as well as community-based homeless support agencies and treatment providers. The program provides chronic homeless

alcoholics a choice between incarceration and treatment, and in 2013, SDPD officers arrested 429 persons identified as serial inebriates. Additionally, SIP officers worked with Rural/Metro to identify the top ten persons transported by ambulance to local hospitals for severe alcohol intoxication. Over a twelve month period, these ten individuals accounted for 316 medic transports totaling approximately \$456 thousand in fire and paramedic costs. Efforts led to the prosecution of six of these individuals, who have been diverted into local treatment programs.

The HOT team and SIP program were recognized by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as “Best Practices” for reducing chronic street homelessness. HOT, SIP and PERT each continue to earn national acclaim and are replicated by other cities throughout the country.

### **Identity Theft**

Identity Theft detectives are providing ongoing presentations to civic and business groups to help educate the community on the growing threat of identity theft and the measures available to help combat the problem. Additionally, detectives are developing close working relationships with loss prevention and fraud investigators associated with large retailers often targeted in ID theft schemes. In one recent case, a loss prevention representative provided police with information regarding a suspect frequenting one of the stores. The prompt and detailed information resulted in the suspect’s arrest, recovery of nearly \$30 thousand worth of fraudulently purchased tools and equipment, and the discovery of stolen mail and other personal identifying information belonging to several hundred additional victims.

### **Gang Unit**

In 2013, gang detectives partnered with agencies representing all levels of law enforcement on operations that resulted in significant arrests, recovery of guns and drugs, as well as the development of important intelligence that will continue to be useful in combating gang related violent crime, organized crime and cross border violence. One investigation included the use of a confidential informant who provided information on numerous gang members involved in the illegal trafficking of narcotics and firearms. The investigation resulted in 9 arrests and the seizure of large quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, other drugs and 19 firearms.

### **Eastern Division**

Officers at Eastern Division were able to connect suspects from several drug arrests to additional drug dealing, burglaries and thefts associated with a problem residence. During a three month period, officers and detectives targeted activity related to the house, resulting in 16 arrests, including charges for narcotics, auto theft and burglary, and the seizure of cash. The house was foreclosed and the owner/occupant vacated the property. Prior to the operation, burglary and thefts were common in the surrounding area; however during the operation there were no reported crimes.

## **Northeastern Division**

More than 70 commercial burglaries, impacting multiple divisions throughout the City, were determined to be related due to similar method of entry, type of loss and suspect descriptions. In response, undercover details were initiated during times and locations likely to be targeted by the suspects. In November, a Northeastern officer observed a male matching the description of the suspects standing near the front of a closed business in the early morning hours. Three suspects were arrested after a short pursuit, and subsequent searches resulted in the seizure of firearms, narcotics and burglary tools and items consistent with credit card fraud. The suspects were charged with several counts of commercial burglary and are currently being held on federal charges as part of a larger investigation. The commercial burglaries stopped after the arrests were made.

## **Northern Division**

Northern Division is taking a multi-faceted approach to combat the impact of the homeless in the various beach and inland communities. A two-person Quality of Life Team utilizes tools such as geographic probation and letters of agency to solve aggressive panhandling and other crime problems created by individuals who take up residence in canyons, alleyways and outside businesses. Officers work in conjunction with the HOT team and City Attorney Neighborhood Prosecution Unit, combining proactive police work and problem solving in a three-step process that includes: proactive enforcement to address criminal behavior; offering help and services to those individuals who will accept the assistance; and imposing stay-away orders as part of the sentence, post-conviction. During the fourth quarter of 2013, the Quality of Life Detail made 98 arrests and obtained 15 stay-away orders, resulting in improved quality of life in the area.

## **Southern Division**

Southern Division officers helped to plan and execute a large-scale, collaborative AB 109 operation in November. This multi-agency operation was led by County Probation's South Bay Post Release Offender and High Risk Supervision Units to conduct compliance checks on AB 109 and other high risk probationers residing in the South Bay area. During the operation, 60 high risk probationers and AB 109 offenders were contacted. Officers seized 17 firearms and made 27 arrests, 8 of which were for new crimes. Probation violations included narcotics, weapons and ammunition possession, under the influence of alcohol/controlled substances, restraining order violations, possession of gang paraphernalia, failure to submit to drug testing, and a sex offender in possession of pornography.



William M. Lansdowne  
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