



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: January 25, 2016 REPORT NO. 16-005
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee
Agenda of: February 3, 2016
SUBJECT: City of San Diego Crime Briefing
January – December 2015 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 2015 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.

In addition to the statistics covered in this report, it is important to highlight the outstanding partnerships between our police officers, professional civilian staff, volunteers and the community we so proudly serve. These partnerships are essential to address crime fighting and quality of life issues critical to San Diego maintaining its reputation as one of the safest big cities in the United States. Attached to this report are two Quarterly Community Policing Reports that describe these invaluable efforts.

DISCUSSION

Effective January 1, 2015 reported rapes are compiled using the FBI's updated definition, which now includes additional sex crimes such as sodomy and oral copulation, and male victims of sex crimes. As a result, rape statistics, including the number of reported rapes, rape rates per one thousand residents and rape clearance rates for 2015 are not comparable with previous years. The violent crime subtotal and total index figures are also not comparable due to the change in the rape definition.

The table below shows an increase of 8.5% for overall crime using the new rape definition; however if the historical definition for rape is applied to crime in 2015 for more accurate comparisons, overall crime increased by 7.8% in 2015. This was the first increase in overall crime since 2012, when crime went up 6.9%.

	Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		% Clearances	
	2014	2015		2014	2015	2014	2015
Murder	32	37	15.6%	0.02	0.03	75.0%	116.2%
Rape*	371	566	52.6%	0.28	0.41	37.7%	29.9%
Robbery	1,318	1,378	4.6%	0.98	1.01	39.5%	38.7%
Aggravated Assault	3,493	3,601	3.1%	2.60	2.63	60.8%	55.8%
Violent Crimes*	5,214	5,582	7.1%	3.87	4.08	53.9%	49.3%
Burglary	5,115	5,129	0.3%	3.80	3.75	15.4%	12.5%
Theft	16,691	18,933	13.4%	12.40	13.84	17.5%	15.6%
Vehicle Theft	5,006	5,096	1.8%	3.72	3.72	2.0%	1.7%
Property Crimes	26,812	29,158	8.7%	19.92	21.31	14.2%	12.7%
TOTAL INDEX*	32,026	34,740	8.5%	23.80	25.39	20.6%	18.6%

*Note: Effective January 1, 2015, reported rapes are compiled using the FBI's updated definition. Similar data for 2014 is not available; therefore, the rape statistics and corresponding figures are not directly comparable.

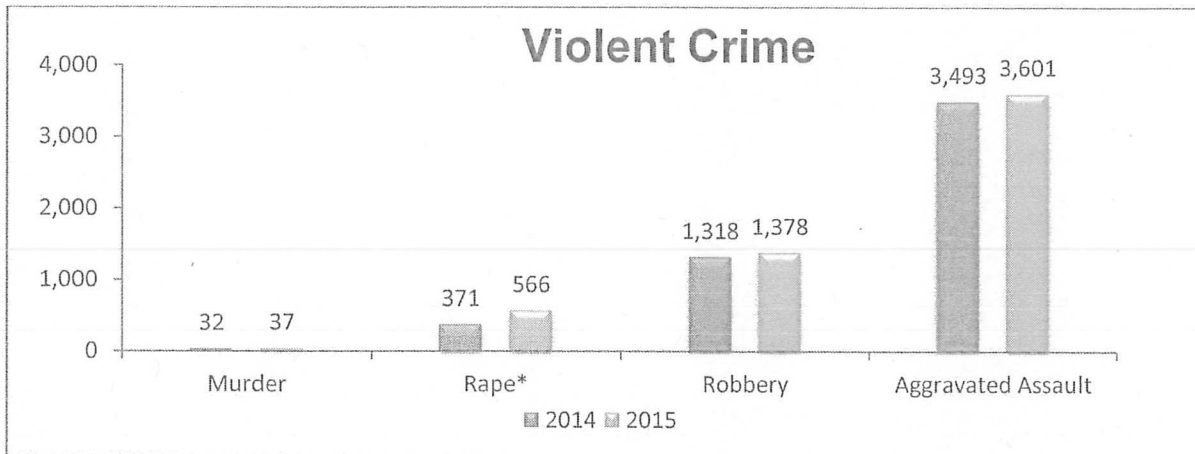
Crime Rates

Although the overall crime rate increased (using the new rape definition), the 2015 crime rate of 25.4 per thousand residents is comparable to rates experienced in the early 1960s.

San Diego Crime Rates per 1,000 Population 2005 to 2015			
Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
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
2014	3.9	20.0	23.8
2015	4.1	21.3	25.4

Violent Crimes

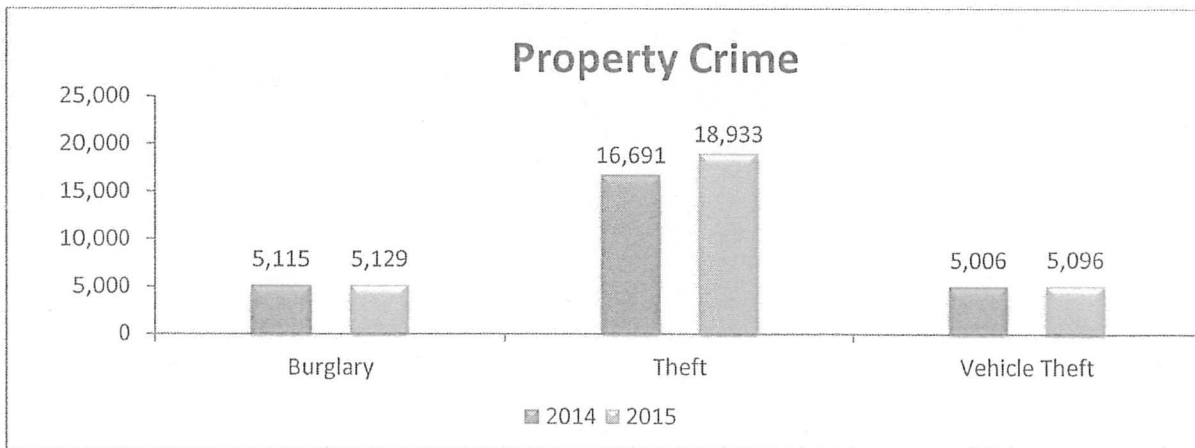
Using the new rape definition, violent crimes increased 7.1% in 2015, when compared to 2014. When using the historical definition of rape for both years, violent crime increased 3.1% in 2015, from 5,214 cases to 5,376 cases. Rape decreased 3.0%, from 371 cases to 360 cases, when using the historical definition to compare the two years. Murders increased from 32 cases in 2014 to 37 in 2015. Total robberies increased 4.6%. Just over two-thirds of robberies were street robberies, which increased 10.5%. Total aggravated assaults increased 3.1% overall. Aggravated assaults involving a firearm had the greatest increase at 14.6%. Nearly a quarter of aggravated assaults were related to domestic violence.



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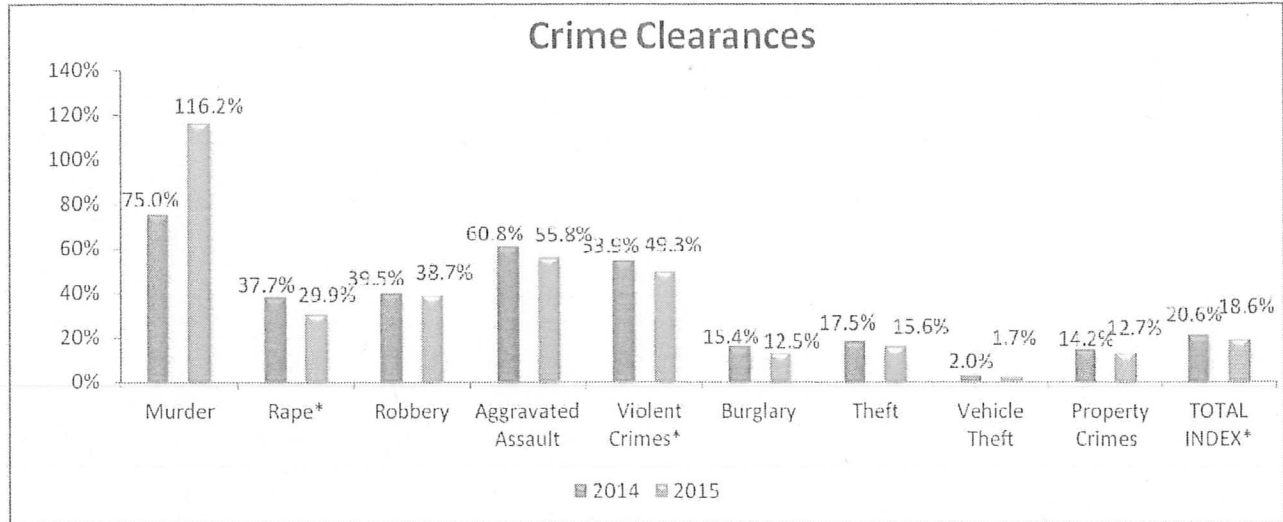
Property Crimes

Overall property crime increased 8.7% in 2015, when compared to 2014. Theft, which includes vehicle break-ins, shoplifting and other thefts, showed the largest increase at 13.4%, from 16,691 cases to 18,933 cases. Vehicle break-ins accounted for 37.2% of total thefts, and increased 8.7% from 2014 to 2015. Burglary remained relatively constant with a slight 0.3% increase overall. Residential burglary increased 8.7% while commercial burglary decreased 15.3%.



Crime Clearances

Clearance rates for each of the categories were lower in 2015 than clearance rates in 2014. A notable exception was the 2015 homicide clearance rate of 116.2%, which indicates there were more homicide clearances than cases in 2015. This was the result of 14 homicide clearances of cases that occurred prior to 2015.



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Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases remained relatively constant in 2015, with an increase of 0.2% when compared to 2014. Incidents involving firearms increased, while incidents involving other weapons decreased. The majority of domestic violence cases do not involve any type of weapon.

San Diego Domestic Violence January to December			
	2014	2015	14 to 15 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	27	35	29.6%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	186	162	-12.9%
Other Dangerous Weapon	839	735	-12.4%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	5,194	5,137	-1.1%
Total Criminal Cases	6,246	6,069	-2.8%
Non-Criminal Calls:			
	1,131	1,324	17.1%
Total Cases	7,377	7,393	0.2%

Gang Crimes

Overall, the number of crimes committed by gang members decreased in 2015, by 6.9%. Assaults and attempted homicides increased 4.9%. Stabbings decreased 32.4%, while shootings increased 20.0% and other assaults increased 10.7%. The number of drive-by shootings was the same for 2014 and 2015 with a total of 6 cases. Arrests of gang members decreased, by 7.8% in 2015.

San Diego			
Crimes Committed by Gang Members			
January to December			
Crime Type	2014	2015	14 to 15 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	4	6	50.0%
Attempt Homicide	7	13	85.7%
Assault	196	200	2.0%
Robbery	91	123	35.2%
Auto Theft	75	75	0.0%
Other	605	494	-18.3%
Total	978	911	-6.9%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	45	54	20.0%
Stabbing	37	25	-32.4%
Other	121	134	10.7%
Total	203	213	4.9%
Drive-By Shootings	6	6	0.0%
Arrests of Gang Members	2,998	2,763	-7.8%

Hate Crimes

There were 36 hate crimes in 2015, a slight decrease of 2.7% from 2014. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation and ethnicity accounted for the highest percentage of cases at 38.9%, followed by religion at 19.4%, and gender at 2.8%. There was one gender based hate crime in 2015, the first in the City since 2003, when there were 3 cases. Cases motivated by religion increased from 3 cases in 2014 to 7 cases in 2015, while cases based on sexual orientation and ethnicity both decreased.

San Diego Reported Hate Crimes January to December				
Hate Crimes	2014	% of Total	2015	% of Total
Ethnicity	17	45.9%	14	38.9%
Sexual Orientation	17	45.9%	14	38.9%
Religion	3	8.1%	7	19.4%
Gender	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
				14 to 15 % Change
Total Hate Crime	37		36	-2.7%

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crime increased, by 16.8% from 2014 to 2015. There were more juvenile victims in each of the time categories, with the largest increase during daytime hours. These differences were largely impacted by the new rape definition implemented in 2015.

Juvenile Statistics January to December			
Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:	2014	2015	14 to 15 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Murder	0	1	N/A
Rape*	11	31	181.8%
Robbery	16	7	-56.3%
Aggravated Assault	41	50	22.0%
Daytime Total*	68	89	30.9%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Murder	0	1	N/A
Rape*	29	54	86.2%
Robbery	71	64	-9.9%
Aggravated Assault	139	144	3.6%
After School Total*	239	263	10.0%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Murder	1	1	0.0%
Rape*	21	46	119.0%
Robbery	18	19	5.6%
Aggravated Assault	57	54	-5.3%
Curfew Total*	97	120	23.7%
ALL HOURS TOTAL*	404	472	16.8%

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

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Juvenile Arrests

Although total juvenile arrests show a decrease of 35.1%, it is likely at least some of the decrease is due to historical records being added to the database in 2014. Additionally, felony arrests decreased due to shifts in certain violations from the felony category to the misdemeanor category via the passage of Proposition 47 in November 2014.

Juvenile Statistics January to December			
Juvenile Arrests:	2014	2015	14 to 15 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Felony	339	226	-33.3%
Misdemeanor	1,211	753	-37.8%
Other	17	10	-41.2%
Daytime Total	1,567	989	-36.9%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Felony	537	245	-54.4%
Misdemeanor	900	696	-22.7%
Other	6	3	-50.0%
After School Total	1,443	944	-34.6%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Felony	205	114	-44.4%
Misdemeanor	558	375	-32.8%
Other	1,095	739	-32.5%
Curfew Total	1,858	1,228	-33.9%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	4,868	3,161	-35.1%

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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.

Response times to all priority calls increased in 2015, when compared to 2014. Priority E calls had the smallest increase with 2.9%.

Average Response Times by Priority January to December			
Priority	2014	2015	% Change
E	6.8	7.0	2.9%
1	12.5	14.3	14.4%
2	29.2	35.0	19.9%
3	73.5	87.1	18.5%
4	72.6	119.4	64.5%

The total number of dispatched calls decreased 5.9% when compared to 2014. The number of Priority E and 4 calls each increased, while priority 1, 2 and 3 calls each decreased.

Dispatched Calls by Priority January to December			
Priority	2014	2015	% Change
E	31,131	36,175	16.2%
1	213,471	187,916	-12.0%
2	230,671	217,173	-5.9%
3	74,924	72,904	-2.7%
4	26,480	28,279	6.8%
Total	576,677	542,447	-5.9%

CONCLUSION

The statistics in this report reflect crime in the City of San Diego. The attached Quarterly Community Policing Reports detail many essential partnerships with our community, as well as outreach and other types of community involvement that are vital to San Diego maintaining its distinction as one of the safest large cities in the United States.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Zimmerman". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shelley Zimmerman
Chief of Police