

## Juvenile Arrests Increased in 2022 with a Higher Proportion for Violent Offenses

In 2022 total arrests decreased 3% compared to the previous year, and adult rates continued to decline to a seven-year low. However, juvenile arrests rates rose when compared to 2021, the first increase in four years. This surge is marked by a higher proportion of arrests for felonies (the most serious offenses), and a substantial surge in arrests for violent offenses (homicides, robbery, rape, and aggravated assault), with arrests for homicides and robberies more than doubling from 2021. This CJ Flash highlights these and other key findings from the CJ Bulletin: [Arrests 2022: Law Enforcement Response to Crime in the San Diego Region](#).

### Highlight 1: Juvenile arrests increase in 2022

The 2022 rate of 8.1 juveniles arrested per 1,000 population in the region represents a growth of 33% from 2021 and marks the first increase since 2019. All jurisdictions, except for La Mesa, had more juvenile arrests in 2022. In comparison, adult arrests continue to steadily decrease from a high of 40.6 in 2016 to 21.5 in 2022.

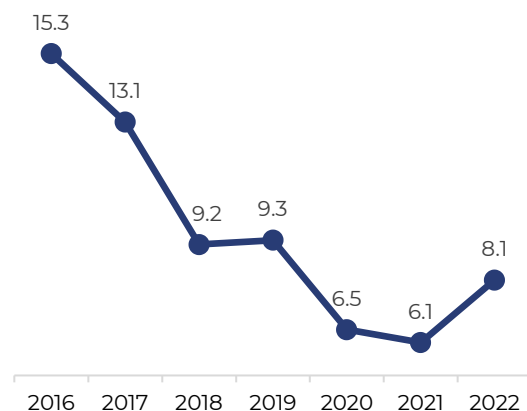
Historically, juvenile arrest rates in the region exceeded those of adults. However, concerted efforts to introduce alternatives to detention and prevention strategies led to a substantial reduction from the 2000s onward. By 2012, juvenile arrest rates had dropped below those of adults for the first time. The downward trend lasted for many years, underscoring the need to assess whether it will continue.

### Highlight 2: More felony-level arrests than 2021

Two in five juvenile arrests were for felony-level offenses in 2022, a 50% increase from the previous year. Arrest rates for misdemeanors declined.

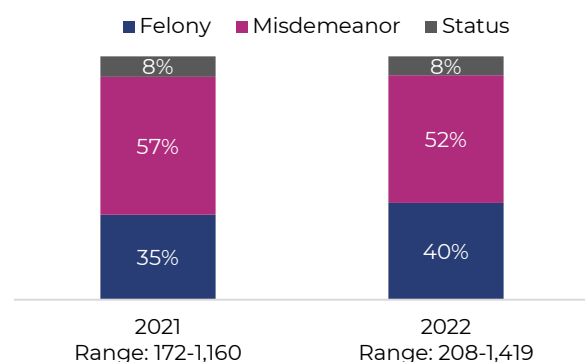
A status offense is one in which only a juvenile can be arrested for. The most common of these are runaways and curfew violations. Status offenses remained unchanged from 2021.

Figure 1: Juvenile arrest rate per 1,000 population (2016-22)



Sources: SANDAG; ARJIS

Figure 2: Proportion of total arrests by charge level (2021-22)

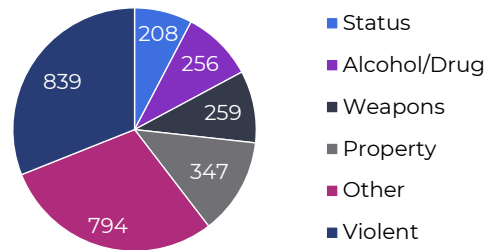


Sources: SANDAG; ARJIS

**Highlight 3: One third of arrests for a violent offense**

Of the 2,703 total juvenile arrests in 2022, almost one-third (839) were for a violent offense, 251 more arrests than in 2021. Total arrests for all offense categories increased in 2022 compared to 2021, with the largest increases for property (64%), violent and alcohol/drug-related offenses (43%) (not shown).

**Figure 4: Total arrests by offense category (2022)**

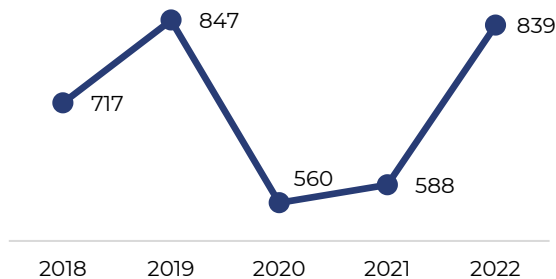


Sources: SANDAG; ARJIS

**Highlight 4: Arrests for homicide and robbery more than doubled**

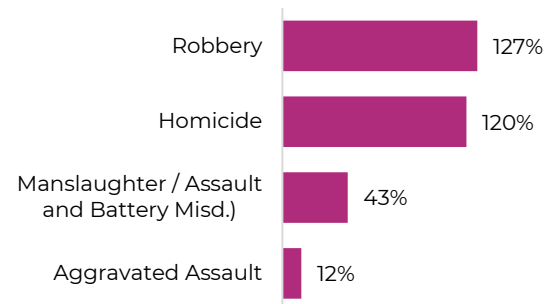
Violent offense arrests among juveniles rose 43% from 2021 to 2022. In 2022 there were increases in the number of arrests for almost all categories of violent offenses, including robberies (81 to 184) and homicides (5 to 11), which more than doubled from the previous year. There were three rape arrests in 2022, unchanged from 2021.

**Figure 5: Total juvenile arrests for violent offenses (2018-22)**



Sources: SANDAG; ARJIS

**Figure 6: Increase in arrests for violent offenses (2021-22)**

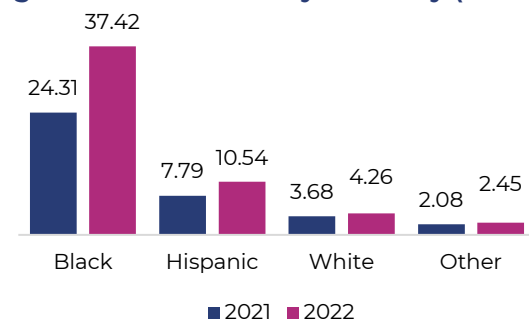


Sources: SANDAG; ARJIS

**Highlight 5: Three out of four arrestees were from minority groups**

Juvenile arrest rates increased for all races/ethnicities in 2022. Compared to the previous year, the largest increases were seen among minority groups (54% for Blacks and 35% for Hispanics). Combined, both groups comprised 78% of all arrestees in 2022 (59% for Hispanics and 17% for Blacks).

**Figure 7: Arrest rates by ethnicity (2021-22)**



Sources: SANDAG; ARJIS

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