

Homicides Decreased in 2022 in the San Diego Region

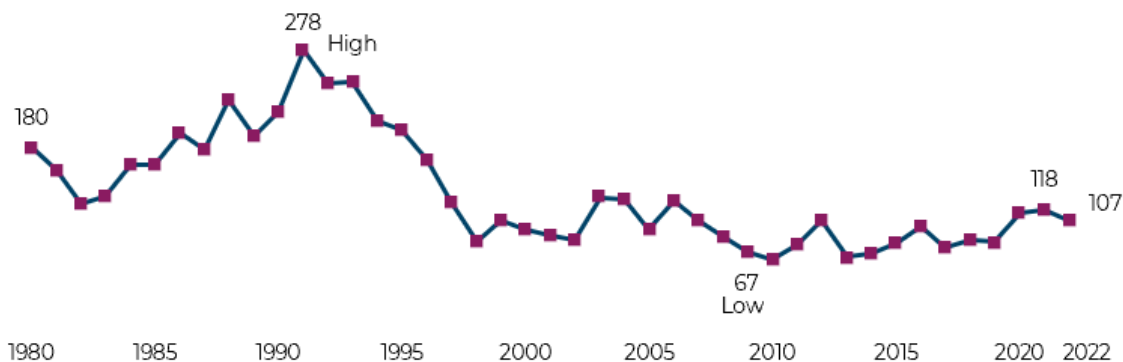
As part of a cooperative agreement with San Diego County law enforcement agencies, the SANDAG Criminal Justice Clearinghouse compiles Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics monthly for each jurisdiction, reporting on crime trends twice annually. With the recent release of the crime bulletin, 43 Years of Crime in the San Diego Region 1980-2022, this CJ flash highlights some key statistics related to the homicides reported this year within the region.

Highlight 1

Over the past 43 years, there have been fluctuations in the number of homicides in the San Diego region, with the high being 278 in 1991 and the low being 67 in 2010. Despite a 9% decrease in the homicide rate in 2022, compared to the previous year, every homicide remains an unacceptable loss.

Figure 1

The number of homicides in 2022 decreased 9%, compared to 2021

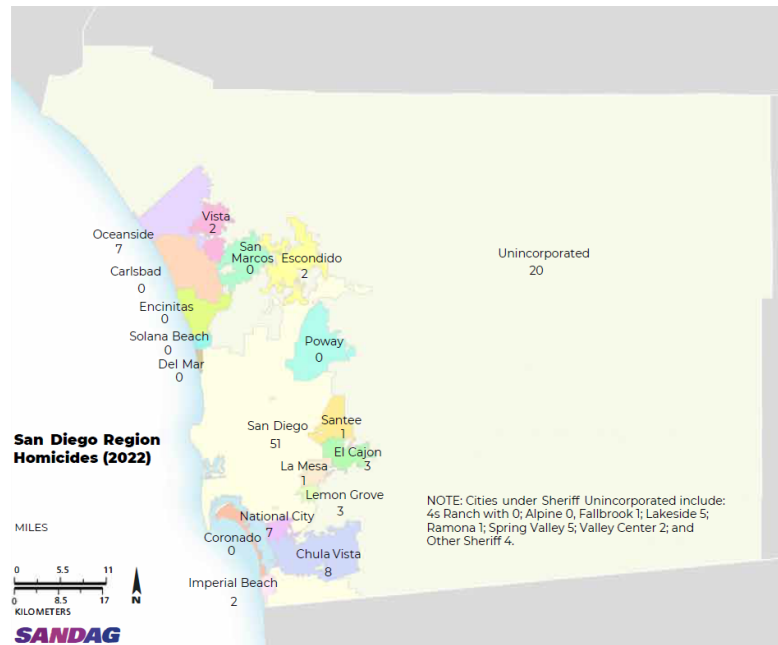


Highlight 2

The decrease, however, was not consistent by jurisdiction, with the number of homicides by each city in the county varying dramatically, ranging from 0 to 51 homicides. The largest increase in homicide numbers was seen in Lakeside and National City, which each had 4 more homicides in 2022, bringing the totals from 1 to 5 and 3 to 7, respectively. Other cities, specifically Carlsbad, San Marcos, and Solana Beach, saw their homicide numbers drop to 0 in 2022 (compared to 2, 3, and 1 in 2021, respectively). It is important to note that the number of homicides in each jurisdiction may vary based on the size of the cities

Figure 2

Homicide numbers in the San Diego Region by jurisdiction, 2022



Highlight 3

When looking at the weapons used in homicides, it is important to highlight the high proportion caused by firearms. Of the homicides with a known weapon, homicides that involved firearms were much more common (60%) than those involving other weapons, such as a knife or sharp object (20%), personal weapon like one’s hands or feet (10%), or a blunt object (5%). This is an important issue as the percentage of firearms being utilized as the primary homicide weapon in 6 out 10 incidents in the last five years (not shown).

60% of homicides involved a **firearm**

Highlight 4

The majority of victims knew their killers

59%

Most homicide victims in 2022 were Hispanic/Latino(a) (40%), 40 or older (42%), and male (77%). White/Caucasian (34%) individuals between the ages of 30 and 39 (25%) were the second most frequently reported victims. Regardless of demographic factors, the majority of victims knew their killers. Of the homicides that had information on the suspect to victim relationship, the suspect was known by the victim (e.g., acquaintance, family member, partner) in about three in every five cases (59%). When the suspect was known by the victim, firearms were less commonly used (46%), compared to when the suspect was not known to the victim (61%).