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Public Safety

Last fiscal year also saw the consolidation of the Automated Regional Justice Information System. Benefits of consolidation include providing seamless regional public safety policy and enhanced legislative outreach and funding opportunities. A new Public Safety Committee has been established at SANDAG to work with the ARJIS and Criminal Justice Research Divisions to implement comprehensive public safety and research programs.

SANDAG's Criminal Justice Research Division continues to be a resource for local communities to assist in the planning process for crime prevention, public safety, and crime-reduction strategies. The Division functions as the Regional Criminal Justice Research Clearinghouse to compile and analyze crime and arrest trends and to provide historical and current crime and justice information for member agencies, law enforcement, and community organizations. The Division also offers independent and objective evaluation of specific programs geared to address crime, social, and quality of life issues in the region.

SANDAG publishes numerous comprehensive reports on many aspects of the justice system including domestic violence, juvenile arrests, drug abuse trends, resident opinion surveys, and regional crime statistics.

Research projects conducted during FY 2004 include the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM); the Annual Arrest Report; a gun violence prevention effort for Project Safe Neighborhoods, and the Mid-Year Crime Report. Evaluation projects include the effectiveness of an adult literacy program coordinated through the District Attorney's Office; San Diego County Probation's and Sheriff's Connections program for mentally ill offenders; Anti-Defamation League and Juvenile Court Pathways program to teach tolerance; Target Capacity Expansion – HIV Reduction Project; City of San Diego Pilot Clean Syringe Exchange Program; and several San Diego County Probation Departments juvenile justice prevention and intervention programs.

