

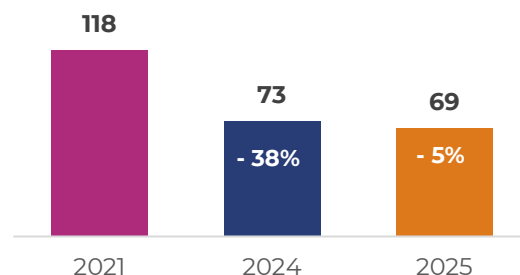
Homicides in the San Diego Region Remain on a Downward Trend in 2025

Since 1980, SANDAG has been reporting on annual crime trends in the San Diego Region, and since 2021, it has done so utilizing crime data from the California Incident Based Reporting System/National Incident Based Reporting System (CIBRS/NIBRS). In 2025, there were a total of 121,415 Group A offenses reported to law enforcement. Of those, 69 incidents were recorded as murders and non-negligent manslaughters, marking a 42% decrease across the last five years. This CJ Flash examines these incidents closely to provide insight into their characteristics and circumstances.¹

Highlight 1: Homicides have fallen significantly, mirroring national trends

There were 69 homicide incidents recorded in 2025, a 5% decrease from the previous year and a 42% decrease from 2021. Nationally, the reported homicide rate also declined, falling 21% from 2024 to 2025 across 35 select cities.² These declines follow a pandemic-era increase in homicides, which rose 29% nationally in 2020—the largest increase in modern U.S. history.³ In this context, it is unclear whether recent local and national declines reflect a return to pre-pandemic levels or represent a broader downward trend.

Figure 1: Number of Reported Homicides in the San Diego Region (2021, 2024, 2025)

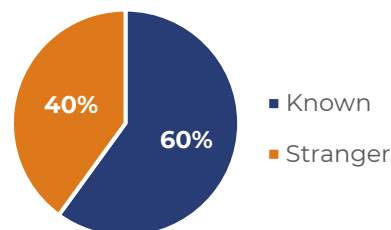


Sources: ARJIS; SANDAG

Highlight 2: Suspect-victim relationships include a significant share of strangers

Supplemental homicide data provided by local law enforcement agencies show that strangers represented the single largest suspect-victim relationship category in 2025, accounting for 40% of homicide cases. The remaining 60% involved a suspect known to the victim, including acquaintances (25%), spouses (11%), other individuals known to the victim (9%), family members (7%), intimate partners (5%), and parent-child relationships (2%).

Figure 2: Relationship Between Homicide Victim and Suspect (2025)



Source: SANDAG

¹ Homicide is the unlawful killing of one person by another and is classified as murder or non-negligent manslaughter under CIBRS/NIBRS.

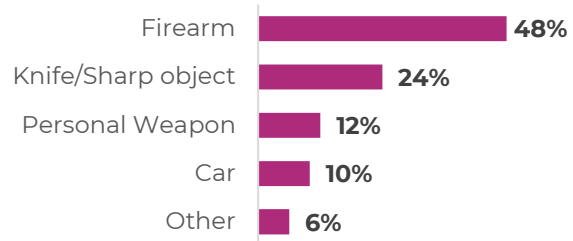
² Council of Criminal Justice, "Crime Trends in U.S. Cities- Year-End 2025 Update," [Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Year-End 2025 Update - Council on Criminal Justice](#).

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "FBI Releases 2020 Crime Statistics," September 27, 2021, <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-2020-crime-statistics>.

Highlight 3: Firearms and sharp objects accounted for nearly three-quarters of homicides

Firearms were the most commonly used weapon in homicides in the region, accounting for nearly one in two cases (48%). Knives or other sharp objects were the second most common (24%), followed by personal weapons, such as hands, feet, or teeth (12%), vehicles (10%), and other weapons (6%).

Figure 3: Weapons Used in San Diego Region Homicides (2025)

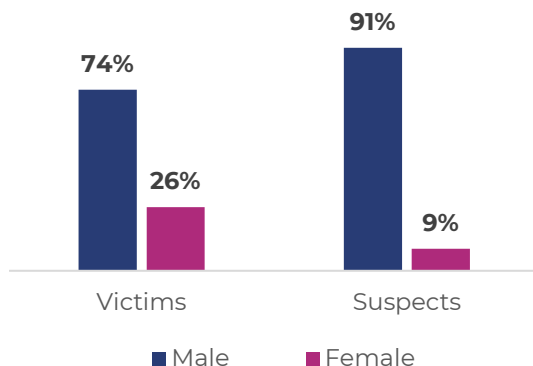


Source: SANDAG

Highlight 4: Homicide victims and suspects are predominantly male, with victims generally older

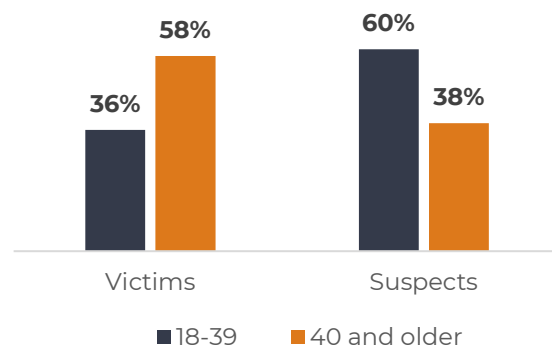
Males accounted for the majority of both homicide suspects (91%) and victims (74%) in 2025. The age distribution differed between the two groups, with victims generally older than suspects: 58% of victims were age 40 or older, compared with 38% of suspects. Conversely, suspects were more concentrated among individuals ages 18–39, who accounted for 60% of suspects compared with 36% of victims.

Figure 4: Gender Distribution Among Homicide Victims and Suspects (2025)



Source: SANDAG

Figure 5: Age Distribution Among Homicide Victims and Suspects (2025)



Source: SANDAG

