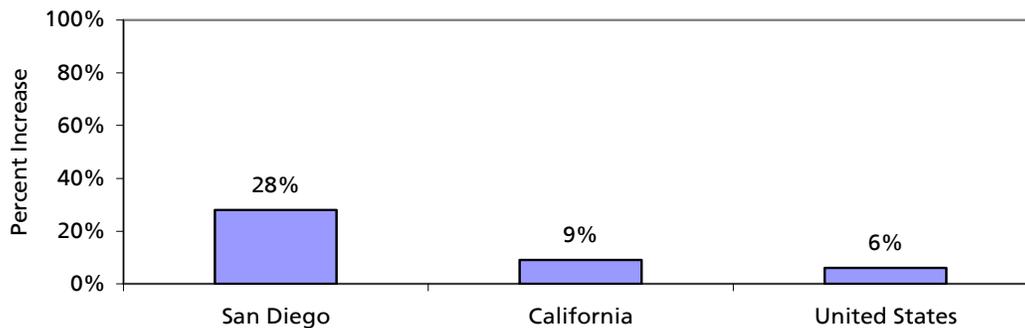


Crime Down In San Diego, but Robbery Continues to Increase

The 2007 Annual Crime Bulletin for the San Diego Region was recently released by SANDAG. As noted in this report, the San Diego region's overall FBI Index Crime Rate was 33.40 per 1,000 population in 2007. The violent crime rate of 4.41 was the lowest in the past 25 years and the property crime rate of 28.99 was the second lowest¹. While the lower violent crime rate reflects positively on the region's efforts to address crime, the rise in the number of reported robberies is still a concern for law enforcement. The 4,387 robberies reported in 2007 reflect a 30 percent increase over the past five years. In addition, the San Diego region has experienced a larger increase in the number of robberies than either the State or the nation. Specifically, when compared to available five-year data (2002 to 2006²), robberies in California and the nation had increased less than ten percent³ (Figure 1).

Figure 1
SAN DIEGO REGION EXPERIENCED A GREATER INCREASE
BETWEEN 2002 and 2006 COMPARED TO THE STATE AND NATION



SOURCE: SANDAG (2008) Twenty-Five Years of Crime in the San Diego Region: 1983 through 2007.

Despite this increase, robbery characteristics have remained constant, with nearly all occurring either outside in public (e.g., streets, alleys) or at commercial locations (e.g., banks, convenient stores), and fewer than one in ten taking place in residential settings. In addition, the proportion of armed robberies (i.e., committed with a firearm, knife, or other dangerous weapon) has also remained fairly stable, with about two in five classified as armed. Of these, just over one-half involved firearms.

This increase has the attention of law enforcement and robbery has been identified by the local Chiefs and the Sheriff as a priority in the region for 2008. Planned reduction efforts include public information campaigns, crime prevention efforts, and targeted enforcements. For more information about crime in the region visit SANDAG's Web site at www.sandag.org/cjc.

¹ Violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault and property crime includes burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft).

² 2007 data are not available from the State or nation. During these 4 years, San Diego experience a 28 percent increase.

³ United States FBI, Crime in the U.S., 2002 through 2006. Available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm#cius>.