



CRIMINAL JUSTICE FAX



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Domestic Violence Incidents in the San Diego Region

On average, more than two domestic violence (DV) incidents were reported to law enforcement every hour of every day in 2004¹. Table 1 shows the actual number of reported DV incidents, as well as the percent change from 2003 to 2004 across the 18 jurisdictions and unincorporated areas in the County. While there was a two percent decrease overall from 2003, there was variation across the region, with seven jurisdictions experiencing a decrease (ranging from 3% to 9%) and eleven showing an increase (ranging from 2% to 15%) (one jurisdiction reported the same number of incidents in both years).

Table 1
SAN DIEGO COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS BY JURISDICTION

	2003	2004	Percent Change
Carlsbad	395	360	-9%
Chula Vista	1,881	1,818	-3%
Coronado	57	58	2%
El Cajon	719	672	-7%
Escondido	882	898	2%
La Mesa	379	365	-4%
National City	684	624	-9%
Oceanside	1,998	2,070	4%
San Diego	10,526	10,033	-5%
Del Mar	9	14	--
Encinitas	208	208	0%
Imperial Beach	261	297	14%
Lemon Grove	187	191	2%
Poway	195	204	5%
San Marcos	373	359	-4%
Santee	281	322	15%
Solana Beach	31	34	10%
Vista	505	557	1%
Total Unincorporated	2,160	2,221	3%
TOTAL	21,756	21,351	-2%

NOTES: If comparison numbers equal 30 or less, percent changes are omitted. Total includes incidents reported by the San Diego Harbor Police, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and local universities.

Changes in the number of incidents are related to a number of factors, including effective efforts to encourage individuals to come forward and report DV incidents (resulting in a rise in the numbers) or aggressive judicial policies that may improve the system's response and contribute to a decline in incidents. Viewed within this larger context, tracking these fluctuations is one means to measure the impact of system changes. To learn more about crime in the region, or domestic violence studies conducted by the Criminal Justice Research Division, please visit SANDAG's Web site at www.sandag.org/cj.

¹ Domestic violence incidents are predominately aggravated assaults, but also include other Part I and Part II crimes such as vandalism, threats, and trespassing.