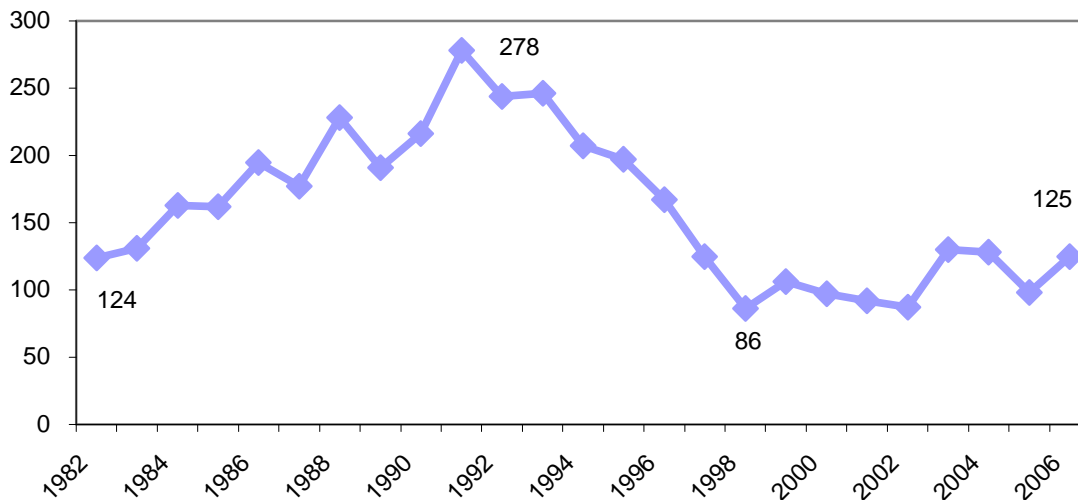


125¹ Homicides Reported by Local Law Enforcement in 2006

According to the most recent crime statistics reported to SANDAG's Criminal Justice Research Division by local law enforcement agencies, there was a total of 125 homicides in the San Diego region in calendar year 2006, with 65 occurring in the first half (as previously reported by SANDAG) and 60 in the second. The 125 homicides represented an increase of 28 percent from calendar year 2005 (when there were 98), returning to numbers previously seen in 2003 (130) and 2004 (128) when there was an increase from the five-year low between 1998 (86) and 2002 (87) (Figure 1).

Figure 1

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES REPORTED IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION, 1982-2006



SOURCE: SANDAG

This possible trend of increased violence has also been reported in other large U.S. cities, including Boston, Cincinnati, Detroit, and Miami. According to the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)², this recent change in the extent and nature of violent crime may be more than just a "blip" and deserves attention and resources before a true tipping point occurs. Locally, law enforcement perceives this spike as being related to an increase in gang violence, alcohol- and narcotics-related crime, and the release of violent offenders back to communities. In an effort to target violent offenders, local jurisdictions are working collaboratively as part of multi-jurisdictional task forces, to best use available resources.

Mid-year (January through June) 2006 regional crime statistics are currently available on SANDAG's Web site at www.sandag.org/cjc and the Annual 2006 Crime Bulletin, with more detailed information regarding all Part I crimes for the region and individual agencies, is scheduled for release in April 2007.

¹ Post publication of this FAX, the number of homicides after final verification was 126.

² Police Executive Research Forum (2006). *Chiefs Concerns – A Gathering Storm – Violent Crime in America 2006*. Available on-line at www.policeforum.org.