AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

• REENTRY MAPPING NETWORK

• REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

• DRUG USE TRENDS AMONG LOCAL ARRESTEES

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Friday, November 12, 2004

ITEM #

1. ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2004, MEETING MINUTES (pp. 5-10)

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 8, 2004, RETREAT MEETING SUMMARY (pp. 11-12)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Public Safety Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. Committee members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.

CONSENT

5. REENTRY MAPPING NETWORK IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY (Cynthia Burke) (pp. 13-14)

The Reentry Mapping Network (RMN) is a partnership among community-based organizations and the Urban Institute designed to create community change through the mapping and analysis of neighborhood-level data related to reentry and community well-being. In September, San Diego was selected as one of six new partner sites, joining six already established sites. SANDAG’s Criminal Justice Research Division will be working with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office to gather information on where parolees and probationers who are returning to local communities live and what barriers they have (e.g., substance use, employment) to successfully reentering after living in jail or prison.

REPORTS

6. REPORT FROM CHIEFS'/SHERIFF’S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Chief Davis)

Chief Davis will report on the November 3, 2004, meeting of the Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Management Committee.
+7. REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT (Pam Scanlon)  
(pp. 15-16)  
APPROVE

At the October 8th Public Safety Committee (PSC) retreat, Committee members agreed that an appropriate next step would be to conduct a regional needs assessment to help establish short- and longer-term goals for the PSC that will enhance public safety, and benefit member jurisdictions and public safety agencies, while respecting the roles and responsibilities of other regional organizations. The PSC is being asked to approve the use of ARJIS start-up funds to hire a consultant to conduct this needs assessment, with preliminary findings presented to the PSC in January 2005.

+8. DRUG USE TRENDS AMONG LOCAL ARRESTEES (Cynthia Burke)  
(pp. 17-24)  
INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Since 1987 SANDAG has conducted interviews with adult and juvenile arrestees about their recent and past drug use. Locally, this information has been used to assess drug-use trends, identify potential drug epidemics and treatment needs, and monitor drug use within population subgroups. Over the years, this project has also served as a platform for other research with the inclusion of addenda pertaining to such topics as methamphetamine use. Information from interviews conducted in 2003, along with the results of the drug testing, will be presented.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS  
INFORMATION

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 10, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

+next to an agenda item indicates an attachment
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of September 10, 2004

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Padilla (South County). See last page for attendance. Chair Padilla introduced a special guest from Mexico, Deputy Consul General Javier Diaz. Mr. Diaz stated that it is important that liaisons on both sides of the border know each other and are coordinating effectively. Mexico and the U.S. have common concerns.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY 9, 2004, MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Undersheriff Zuniga (County Sheriff’s Department) and a second by Chief Ott (Homeland Security), the Public Safety Committee (PSC) unanimously approved the minutes of July 9, 2004.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT

4. EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE WORKSHOP (INFORMATION)

Jeff Tayman (Department Director of Technical Services) announced that SANDAG will be co-sponsoring, with Caltrans District 11, an Emergency Transportation Operations Preparedness and Response Workshop. The workshop, scheduled for October 20, 2004, is intended to assess the San Diego region’s ability to respond to potential terrorist threats and catastrophic events and to recover critical transportation functions. It will be one of 22 workshops that the Federal Highway Administration is sponsoring around the nation.
5. REPORT FROM CHIEFS'/SHERIFF’S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (INFORMATION)

Chief Davis (County Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Association) stated the committee met on September 1st. Two of the projects discussed will be covered at this meeting (Motor Vehicle Theft and High-Risk Sex Offenders). That committee also discussed the RMS (Regional Records Management System), which is continuing along with the cooperation of the Sheriff’s Department and other law enforcement agencies. He also noted that the Enterprise ARJIS project is progressing well and a comprehensive process involving 20 agencies is providing information to help decide its features and functionality.

6. AUTO THEFT IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY: PROBLEM SCOPE AND POTENTIAL STRATEGIES (DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Cynthia Burke (Director of Criminal Justice Research) introduced Sergeant Andy Mills from the San Diego Police Department and Lieutenant Don Hunter from the Chula Vista Police Department. This panel made a presentation about motor vehicle theft and potential local and regional solutions. One of the reasons motor vehicle theft is important is due to the high cost to society. Over the past year, motor vehicle thefts have increased 18 percent, more than any other property crime. In 2003, $144 million worth of cars were stolen in the county, and while 72 percent of stolen vehicles were recovered, only 4 percent of these offenses were cleared. A crime is cleared when at least one person is arrested and charged with the offense. The motor vehicle theft rate is higher closer to the border, while the recovery rate is lower. Potential regional strategies, including implementing crime-reduction strategies in local and regional plans, education campaigns, and improved coordination were discussed.

Chair Padilla inquired about the percentage of vehicles going over the border. The officers estimated that 20 percent of stolen vehicles are going across the border.

Vice Chair Guerin (North County Coastal) inquired about stolen vehicles going north to Los Angeles. The officers stated that the exact percentage is difficult to determine.

Supervisor Cox (San Diego County) inquired about the frequency of thefts from single-family homes versus apartments. The officers said that from their point of view, more thefts occur in malls and large parking lots because there is more opportunity. They also noted that controlling access to parking lots may help reduce motor vehicle thefts.

Vincent Iaria (County Public Safety) noted that we don’t have a quick enough response before the vehicle crosses the border. The officers agreed, noting that sometimes the vehicle has crossed the border before the owner knows the vehicle is stolen.

Chief Carter (State Public Safety) stated one method would be to move license plate readers north. His agency has portable readers and can check a license within three seconds.
Chief Davis stated that getting this information from the field into the system as soon as possible is crucial. This can be accomplished through the use of computers that officers take into the field.

Chief Lansdowne (County Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Association) stated he would like license readers at both ends of the county, but funding is an issue.

Chief Davis stated that the readers have been at the Mexican border for the last five years.

Supervisor Cox asked how many vehicles are stolen in Mexico and recovered in the U.S. The officers reported that these statistics are not tracked.

Mr. Diaz stated he has no figures with him, but knows it is a growing problem and will send figures to the Committee members. The Mexican government is more than willing to help coordinate with U.S. authorities to increase recovery rates on both sides of the border.

Chief Carter also advised that there are other means of preventing thefts, including the LoJack system and another satellite device that works well. He did not endorse these particular products, but stated this kind of technology works well in the recovery of vehicles.

7. HIGH-RISK SEX OFFENDERS ON THE INTERNET (APPROVE)

Pam Scanlon (Director of ARJIS) introduced Sergeant Kirby Beyer from the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department who presented information on the Sex Offender Information Management System and the releasing of the high-risk sex offenders on the Internet. Sergeant Beyer also did a demonstration of the proposed high-risk sex offender Web page, which will be linked to the existing sex offender pin map.

Copies of two letters were distributed. One letter dated September 10, 2004, from City of San Diego Councilmember Jim Madaffer urged the PSC to support posting of high-risk sex offenders. Another letter dated September 9, 2004, from Assemblyman George Plescia also supported the implementation of the high-risk sex offender application on the Internet. In addition, the Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Management Committee recommended the posting of the high-risk sex offenders at its September 1, 2004, meeting. Jaymie Bradford, a representative from Councilmember Jim Madaffer’s office, thanked Chief Lansdowne and Pam Scanlon for their efforts on this initiative.

San Diego County has the largest amount of sexually violent predators (56 or 57) being returned within the next two years. A Safe Task Force tracks every sexually violent predator and makes contact frequently. There are 4,472 sex offenders in San Diego County: 2,907 serious, 664 other, 34 high-risk, and 867 are unaccounted for (no known address). Information on other than high-risk sex offenders is currently only available from local police departments. AB 488, which is pending approval, will provide for the release of information via the Internet on these other sex offenders.

Chair Padilla wanted to acknowledge Councilmember Jim Madaffer for his efforts in getting the public access to information on sex offenders.
Upon a motion by Chief Lansdowne and a second by Chief Ott (Homeland Security), the PSC unanimously approved the implementation of the high-risk sex offender application on the Internet.

Chair Padilla then directed staff to coordinate with Councilmember Madaffer’s office to announce the release of the high-risk sex offenders on the Internet.

Vice Chair Guerin stated that next Friday, September 17th, Sheriff Kolender will be honored at the Public Safety Recognition Luncheon at USD. Since law enforcement and elected officials will be there, it would be a good time to announce the posting to the media.

8. SANDAG LAUNCHES LOCAL PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a federal initiative to address gun violence. This initiative is administered locally through the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices. SANDAG’s Criminal Justice Research Division is helping to create a mass media strategy to curtail youth gun violence and has created three poster images to call attention to this life-and-death issue. These images will be displayed on bus shelters, billboards, and at selected schools: Lincoln Middle School in Oceanside, Chula Vista Middle School, Gompers Secondary and Horace Mann Middle in the City of San Diego, and Palm Middle School in Lemon Grove. Next steps will be a kick-off event, preparing public service announcements for television, and distributing book covers. Staff will monitor how this prevention message is received across the region and continue to keep this important safety issue in the public eye.

Vice Chair Guerin stated that middle schools are a good place to start. Youth want to use guns to elevate themselves to gangster level.

Vincent Iaria inquired whether primary suspect motivations were listed on the homicide reports and expressed it might be helpful to analyze the reasons.

Chief Lansdowne described current cases in which youths were involved in homicides and had a detached attitude and were “just doing business.” He also noted that in the City of San Diego, the average homicide victim’s age is 26 and the average age of the shooter is 28, and that Friday, Saturday, and Tuesday (payback day) are the worst days.

Chief Davis stated that El Cajon has had four homicides recently. Of those, a primary motivation was a gang situation.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RETREAT (DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Chair Padilla stated he discussed a possible retreat with Vice Chair Guerin and SANDAG staff. He solicited input from the PSC on having a retreat in lieu of the October meeting.

Vice Chair Guerin expressed her desire to have a more informal meeting in a workshop format to plan out the PSC’s goals for next year. She urged members to go back to their agencies and talk with colleagues to find out what is important.
Chief Davis stated that he believes it would be time well spent to have the workshop.

Supervisor Cox agreed that it would be a good idea.

Chair Padilla said the location and format will be determined and members notified. He directed staff to organize a workshop for the next scheduled meeting of the PSC.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the PSC is scheduled for October 8, 2004, at 12:00 Noon.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Padilla adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

JEFF TAYMAN
Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contacts: Pam Scanlon, (619) 699-6971; psc@sandag.org
Cynthia Burke, (619) 699-1910; cbu@sandag.org
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**ADVISORY MEMBERS**

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SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 3

Action Requested: APPROVE

DRAFT OCTOBER 8, 2004, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RETREAT SUMMARY

Chair Padilla (South County) welcomed the members of the Public Safety Committee (PSC) to the retreat and thanked them for their continued interest and participation. Noting its unique composition of elected policymakers and law enforcement officials, he described the potential role for the PSC to be clearly viewed as a benefit to public safety in the region, while respecting the roles and responsibilities of other organizations. Chair Padilla noted that the Committee should establish goals it can accomplish in the short term and that will benefit our member jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies.

Julie Wiley (Deputy General Counsel) provided an overview of the authority and responsibilities of the PSC. In addition to its role as a SANDAG policy committee, the PSC also serves as the governing Board of ARJIS, which through its Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is a legal entity apart from SANDAG. While SANDAG exercises substantial control over ARJIS, ARJIS potentially has the authority to act independently of the SANDAG Board. For example, the PSC could take a position on legislation that affects ARJIS without going to the SANDAG Board for approval. Clarification regarding situations when the Committee can take independent action will be addressed on a case-by-case basis to ensure the program and goals of ARJIS and SANDAG are not in conflict.

The issue of Committee membership was briefly discussed. Julie Wiley noted that modifications to associate voting members and advisory non-voting members only require changes to SANDAG Board policy, but that any changes to the Public Agency voting members will require changing the JPA and obtaining approval from at least two-thirds of member agencies. Pam Scanlon (Director of ARJIS) noted that she has received information from the Courts that they are unable to appoint advisory members to the PSC because of the potential for conflict of interest.

Chief Jim Davis (Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Association) noted that local law enforcement officials recently held a retreat and outlined a number of goals they envisioned for the region. These included: (1) improved regional training (including crime analysts and first responders); (2) addressing issues related to interoperability of communication; (3) a regional information center where crime data could be analyzed in one place; and (4) a regional public safety center for research and communication.

The Committee discussed these goals and how they fit with the vision they had for the PSC. Members agreed that pooling resources was essential to maximize what was available to each individual jurisdiction. Having a regional training center that was POST (Police Officer Standards and Training)-certified could meet the needs of local law enforcement agencies, as well as other first responders in San Diego County and law enforcement personnel from other parts of the State.
The Committee discussed that an appropriate next step in determining the PSC’s vision would be to conduct a regional needs assessment that would identify short- and long-term goals. While individual public safety agencies and departments have undertaken such efforts, they have not been regional in scope. A regional needs assessment would identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration and sharing of resources, and would help establish a consensus on the priorities for regional public safety initiatives. In addition, this study would help highlight a legislative focus for the PSC. The Committee also agreed that a needs assessment would put the region at a competitive advantage and be very useful to help securing funds for public safety initiatives.

Vice Chair Guerin (North County Inland) suggested that a presentation on the PSC and the needs assessment be discussed at the SANDAG Board at its 2005 annual retreat (currently scheduled for February 9-11).

Staff was directed to begin to research the steps necessary to complete this needs assessment, including verifying what information has already been collected, and developing a concise statement of work for carrying out this effort.

JEFF TAYMAN
Department Director of Technical Services

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San Diego Association of Governments

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 5

Action Requested: INFORMATION

REENTRY MAPPING NETWORK IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Introduction

The Reentry Mapping Network (RMN) is a partnership among community-based organizations and the Urban Institute designed to create community change through the mapping and analysis of neighborhood-level data related to reentry and community well being. In September, San Diego was selected as one of six new partner sites that joined six already established sites. SANDAG’s Criminal Justice Research Division will be working with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office to gather information on where parolees and probationers who are returning to local communities live and what barriers they have (e.g., substance use, employment) to successfully reentering after living in jail or prison.

Discussion

With more than 600,000 prisoners released nationally each year, prisoner reentry poses many challenges to the communities involved, including an increased risk to public safety and a limited availability of jobs, housing, and social services for the returning prisoners. Today’s intense cycle of arrest, removal, incarceration, and reentry at levels four times higher than 20 years ago has had profound consequences for communities across the nation who are struggling to address these needs of these individuals and their families. According to current estimates, over 11,500 federal and state parolees call San Diego County home.

Developed with the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Institute of Justice, the RMN seeks to strengthen communities’ capacities to acquire information that will help them better understand the many obstacles to successful prisoner reentry. As part of this one-year project, SANDAG and the District Attorney’s Office will collect and analyze local data related to incarceration, reentry, and community well-being; use the findings to engage community stakeholders toward community improvement; and document their findings and lessons learned. Other local partners in this endeavor include State Parole, County Probation, the Sheriff’s Department, and the Health and Human Services Agency. SANDAG staff will update the Committee on the progress made on these efforts as more data are available.
In addition to San Diego, other cities in this effort are Denver, Colorado; Des Moines, Iowa; Hartford, Connecticut; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Oakland, California; Providence, Rhode Island; Seattle, Washington; Washington, DC; and Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

JEFF TAYMAN
Department Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contact: Cynthia Burke, (619) 699-1910; cbu@sandag.org
REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

At the October 8th Public Safety Committee (PSC) retreat, Committee members agreed that an appropriate next step would be to conduct a regional needs assessment to help establish short- and longer-term goals for the PSC that will enhance public safety and benefit member jurisdictions and public safety agencies, while respecting the roles and responsibilities of other organizations. Per Vice Chair Guerin’s suggestion, the Executive Committee would be requested to place regional public safety as a topic at the upcoming SANDAG Board retreat in February 2005.

Staff is proposing to conduct a regional needs assessment to help identify opportunities and objectives that the PSC can consider as they define their role and mission. This assessment will focus, although not exclusively, on the four priority areas identified at the retreat:

1. Regional training (including crime analysts and first responders);
2. Interoperability and regional communications;
3. A regional information center for centralized analysis of data; and
4. A regional public safety service center for research; grant solicitation and acquisition; and maintenance and support of technology, information, and communications.

As proposed, a summary of initial results of the needs assessment will be presented at the January Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Management Committee and PSC meetings, as well as the February SANDAG Board retreat. Staff is recommending an independent consultant with appropriate expertise assist with conducting needs assessment interviews and surveys with public safety professionals and PSC representatives. This needs assessment was not included in the FY 2004-05 Overall Work Program (OWP) and budget and staff estimates that the cost of this assessment would be between $20,000 and $30,000. Through consolidation, ARJIS saved $16,000 in licensing fees related to data purchased from the San Diego Geographic Information Source (SANGIS). Staff is proposing to use up to this amount as start-up funds to retain the outside expertise. The updated information, best practices, and priorities identified through the assessment will be beneficial to the development of Enterprise ARJIS. Additional SANDAG funding will be identified, which will augment the allocated start-up funds.
Recommendation

It is recommended that the PSC approve the use of up to $16,000 in ARJIS start-up funds to hire a consultant to conduct the needs assessment, the preliminary results of which will be presented to the Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Management Committee and the PSC in January 2005, as well as at the February 2005 SANDAG Board retreat.

Discussion

A regional public safety needs assessment for the PSC will help identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration and sharing of resources; establish consensus on the priorities for regional public safety initiatives; and highlight a legislative focus for the PSC. While individual public safety agencies and departments have undertaken such efforts, they have not been regional in scope, which would be the value added by this effort.

The independent consultant, in conjunction with SANDAG staff, will determine the scope of the assessment, identify key stakeholders, and establish a process for fact-gathering and conducting an environmental scan of existing programs and initiatives. The consultant will also provide statistical metrics for calibrating the discussion and survey feedback. A preliminary summary of findings, as well as recommended next steps, will be presented at the January Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Management Committee and PSC meetings for review and input prior to the February SANDAG Board retreat.

We envision this effort as a first step that would examine information already developed and regional efforts currently underway. The main objective is to identify potential opportunities and objectives for the PSC to consider and help set short- and longer-term priorities. These objectives will be prioritized by the PSC and developed into an action plan to be incorporated into the FY 2005-06 OWP and budget. Completing this plan will depend on securing necessary resources.

JEFF TAYMAN
Department Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contact: Pam Scanlon, (619) 699-6971; pscanlon@arjis.org
DRUG USE TRENDS AMONG LOCAL ARRESTEES

Introduction

Since 1987, SANDAG has conducted interviews with adult and juvenile arrestees about their recent and past drug use. Locally, this information has been used to assess drug-use trends, identify potential drug epidemics and treatment needs, and monitor drug use within population subgroups. Over the years, this project has also served as a platform for other research with the inclusion of addenda pertaining to such topics as methamphetamine use, intravenous drug use, and domestic violence. In addition, this project also enabled us to learn more about the use of illegal firearms by the juvenile population, which was instrumental in the development of the Project Safe Neighborhoods outreach message. Demonstrating their commitment to this project, representatives from law enforcement, prevention, education, and drug treatment providers serve on a Local Coordinating Council for this project and meet quarterly to discuss recent trends.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee receive the report and offer comments and direction where appropriate.

Discussion

Data collected from interviews with 703 adult males, 288 adult females, and 342 juveniles in 2003 are currently being analyzed and summarized in a series of research bulletins (see Attachment 1, which is the first of four bulletins that will be distributed). While the collection of these data have been funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (1987-2003) and the California Border Alliance Group (CBAG) (2003-2004), the analysis and reporting of this information has been made possible with Clearinghouse funding.

Adults

In 2003, 67 percent of adult arrestees tested positive for one or more of the major drugs (marijuana, cocaine, heroin, PCP, and methamphetamine). Marijuana was the most used illicit drug by males and females (with 77% and 73%, respectively, reporting having used the drug) and the only substance that males were more likely to test positive for. That is, female arrestees were more likely than males to test positive for cocaine (15% versus 10%), heroin (9% versus 6%), and methamphetamine (47% versus 38%). Additional analyses also revealed that:

- individuals with a prior record were more likely to test positive for any drug;
• females who were employed were less likely to test positive for cocaine and heroin;

• individuals who identified themselves as White non-Hispanic were more likely to test positive for methamphetamine; and

• individuals ages 18 to 24 were more likely to test positive for marijuana and those ages 25 to 39 were more likely to test positive for methamphetamine.

Juveniles

During 2003, over half (56%) of juveniles tested positive for some type of substance, which was an increase from 46 percent in 2000. Reaction to this rise of substance use among youth is reflected in the focused efforts to increase prevention and intervention programs by law enforcement, treatment providers, schools, and probation.

With input from the Local Coordinating Council, the juvenile instrument was revised in 2003 with the addition of questions regarding perceived risk of drug use, as well as participation in what would be categorized as risk-taking behavior. Analyses of these data (which will be presented in a research bulletin later this month) revealed that:

• while over three-quarters of individuals who use tobacco and methamphetamine feel that these drugs are “bad” or “very bad” for them, only around one-third (32%) of marijuana users perceive this same risk;

• three-quarters or more of the juveniles interviewed reported that alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and methamphetamine are “easy” or “very easy” to obtain; and

• girls and boys differ on a number of risk factors, including girls being less likely to have a stable residence and more likely to have been bullied, run away from home, had suicidal tendencies, and parents who use drugs.

This information will be useful to individuals and groups who work with at-risk and other youth to identify different types of service needs this population have and to seek funding to address them.

Methamphetamine Addendum

Because of the relatively high rate of methamphetamine use in our region and to learn more about the drug in order to help curb its use, additional questions regarding methamphetamine use have been included as part of this project since 1996. That same year, the San Diego County Methamphetamine Strike Force was formed which aims to reduce the manufacture, distribution, and use of methamphetamine in the County through the work of its multi-disciplinary network. The Methamphetamine Strike Force relies on data from the addendum in its annual report card on the state of methamphetamine use in the County. It has also used these data in other efforts, such as investigating the enforcement of laws concerning the selling of chemical precursors in local stores.

Despite local efforts, 38 percent of adult males, 47 percent of adult females, and 15 percent of juveniles tested positive for methamphetamine in 2003. These rates were all higher than they were in 2000 (when they were 29%, 28%, and 11%, respectively). Many of the methamphetamine users
interviewed had initially tried the drug because of their friends’ use and one-third (33%) admitted they were not addicted, and many suffered from sleeplessness, weight loss, and legal and family problems because of the drug. Methamphetamine users also reported obtaining the drug in the eastern regions of the County, although they often lived along the coastal regions. These kinds of findings can help law enforcement aim their efforts to curb distribution and help treatment facilities when targeting potential clients.

Project Future

Originally sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, funding for this project was terminated in 2004. Recognizing the importance of these data to inform local practice and policy on the current trends in substance use among adults and youth, CBAG took the initiative to sponsor both the youth and adult data collection for calendar year 2004. This funding has allowed data collection to occur twice yearly (a 50% reduction from the NIJ-funded effort). However, continued local support will be needed to sustain this project in San Diego County into 2005.

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Drug Use Among Adult Arreestees in San Diego County

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INTRODUCTION

This SANDAG CJ Bulletin presents statistics on drug use among San Diego arrestees. These data were collected through a program called “ADAM” – Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring. ADAM was funded in 39 sites across the country in 2003 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has been the site administrator in San Diego since the program’s inception in 1987. ADAM data are useful at both the national and local levels to law enforcement, treatment providers, and prevention programs to monitor the nature and scope of drug use over time.

As part of this project, arrestees are approached by non-custodial research staff (hired specifically for this project) within 48 hours of their arrest and booking into jail. If the arrestee is available and interested in participating, he/she is asked a number of questions related to his/her drug use history and is also asked to provide a urine sample for drug testing. In 2003, interviews with male arrestees were conducted at the Vista and Central Jails and interviews with female arrestees were conducted at Las Colinas.

For the first time, rather than presenting one report with ADAM statistics, SANDAG’s Criminal Justice Research Division is compiling data for a series of bulletins that will be more useful for policymakers and practitioners alike. This first bulletin, “Drug Use Among Adult Arrestees in San Diego County,” includes information about the past and recent drug use history of adult arrestees and presents past years’ data for comparison. Future bulletins will include information on juvenile drug use, drug markets, and methamphetamine use.

POSITIVE FOR ANY DRUG

Since 2000 (when a new random sampling procedure was instituted), about two-thirds of San Diego arrestees have tested positive for some type of drug (marijuana, cocaine, opiates/heroin, PCP, or methamphetamine) at the time of their arrest. As Figure 1 shows, in 2003, 67 percent of males and 69 percent of females were positive for at least one of these substances.

How does San Diego compare to other ADAM sites? In 2003, half of the other 38 sites that interviewed male arrestees had a higher percentage testing positive for some type of drug. As Figure 2 shows, Chicago, Illinois, had the highest rate of positive male arrestees at 86 percent and Woodbury, Iowa, had the lowest rate at 42 percent.
Compared to the other 24 sites that interviewed females in 2003, San Diego had the tenth highest rate of females testing positive for some type of drug, with 15 sites that were lower. As Figure 3 shows, Portland, Oregon, had the highest percent of females testing positive (82%), while Anchorage, Alaska, had the lowest (52%).

**Figures 2 & 3**
**ARRESTEES NATIONALLY TEST POSITIVE AROUND THE SAME RATE AS SAN DIEGO**

**Male Arrestees**

![Bar chart showing the percentage of males testing positive for drug use across different sites.](image1)

**Female Arrestees**

![Bar chart showing the percentage of females testing positive for drug use across different sites.](image2)

NOTE: There were 39 ADAM sites that interviewed males and 25 ADAM sites that interviewed female arrestees in 2003.


**ALCOHOL**

As Figure 4 shows, male arrestees were significantly more likely to report having ever had five or more drinks in one day in their lifetime, compared to female arrestees (85% versus 70%). They also were significantly more likely to have reported doing so in the past 30 days (52% versus 36%). Please note that urinalysis testing for alcohol was not included in these analyses.

![Bar chart showing the percentage of males and females testing positive for alcohol use.](image3)

NOTE: Cases with missing information are not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG ADAM Program

**MARIJUANA**

Marijuana traditionally has been the most commonly used illicit substance among the U.S. population (SAMHSA’s 2003 National Survey on Drugs and Health). In 2003, about three-quarters (77% of males and 73% of females) of San Diego arrestees had ever tried marijuana, and 45 percent and 39 percent, respectively, reported using this drug in the last 30 days (Figure 5). In addition, 39 percent of males and 29 percent of females tested positive for marijuana. Marijuana was the only illegal drug that males were more likely to test positive for, compared to females.
METHAMPHETAMINE

In 2003, over half of both male and female arrestees (53% of males and 60% of females) reported ever trying methamphetamine and 32 percent and 38 percent, respectively, reported using it in the past 30 days (Figure 6). In addition, 38 percent of males and 47 percent of females tested positive for methamphetamine, both of which were higher than the percentages reporting use in the past 30 days.

COCAIN/Crack

A little more than one-third (39% of males and 36% of females) reported ever trying cocaine and only 4 percent (of both groups) reported using it in the past 30 days (Figure 7). In contrast, females were significantly more likely to report ever using crack (36%), compared to males (28%), and also were more likely to report using it in the past 30 days (14% versus 7%). In 2003, 10 percent of males and 15 percent of females tested positive for cocaine/crack. There has not been any significant change in use for males or females over the past four years.
HEROIN

Less than one in five arrestees interviewed in 2003 (17% of males and 16% of females) reported ever trying heroin (Figure 8). Five percent and seven percent, respectively, reported using it in the past 30 days. In 2003, six percent of males and nine percent of females tested positive for heroin. There has been no significant change in use for males or females over the past four years.

Individuals who identified themselves as White non-Hispanic were significantly more likely to test positive for methamphetamine and those who identified as Black were significantly more likely to test positive for marijuana and/or cocaine. Hispanics were significantly least likely to test positive for any of the five drugs.

Individuals age 18 to 24 were significantly more likely to test positive for marijuana, those age 25 to 39 were more likely to test positive for methamphetamine, and those age 40 and older were more likely to test positive for cocaine.

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

A total of 1,194 adult arrestees were approached as part of the ADAM Program in 2003. Of these, 86 percent agreed to be interviewed and 14 percent declined. Of the 1,030 interviewees, 993 also provided a urine sample at the conclusion of the interview and these individuals are described here. Seven hundred four (704) of these arrestees were male and 289 were female. Other characteristics include:

- 41 percent were White non-Hispanic, 34 percent Hispanic, 20 percent Black, and 4 percent another ethnicity;
- 89 percent completed the interview in English and 11 percent in Spanish;
- 29 percent did not have a high school degree;
- 41 percent worked full-time;
- 56 percent were single and 23 percent were married;
- 14 percent were homeless;
- 28 percent had previously received in-patient drug treatment and 20 percent had received out-patient; and
- 78 percent had previously been arrested and 73 percent had spent prior time in jail.

FACTORS RELATED TO DRUG USE

Additional analyses revealed that several arrestee characteristics are significantly related to drug use, in general, as well as drug of choice.

- Individuals who reported having a prior arrest or previously serving at least 24 hours in jail were significantly more likely to test positive for at least one drug, as well as marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine (but not opiates).

- Females who were employed were significantly less likely to test positive for cocaine and heroin. This difference did not exist for males.