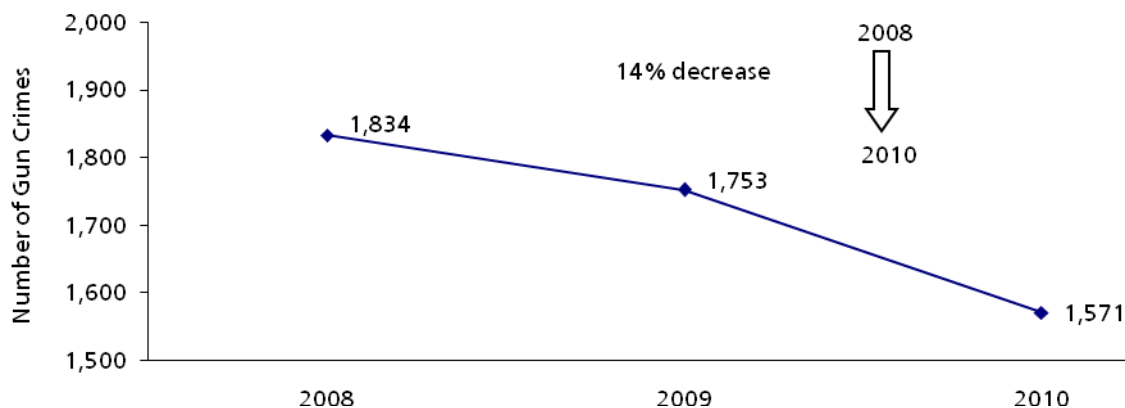


## SAN DIEGO COUNTY MAKING STRIDES IN REDUCING GUN CRIME

The specific factors contributing to the measurable decline in regional and national crime rates are varied and complex. However, a common conclusion in this national discourse is that targeted, intelligence-led policing has contributed to the decrease in crime. One example of this law enforcement approach occurring across the nation is the concentrated effort to target gun crime as a strategic method to reduce violent crime. In San Diego County, the removal of guns from the hands of criminals through a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional initiative ranging from ground-level police tactics, such as targeted suppression activities, to large-scale operations focused on narcotics and gun trafficking across the United States/Mexican border, has coincided with a simultaneous reduction in gun crime<sup>1</sup>. Statistics gathered by SANDAG as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)<sup>2</sup> show that gun crime in the San Diego region has decreased 14 percent since data compilation began in 2008 (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**  
**SAN DIEGO COUNTY GUN CRIME DECLINED FROM 2008 TO 2010**



According to recent statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) on the origin of guns involved in crimes (i.e., where the gun originated from rather than where it was used), Southern California had the unfortunate distinction of being the starting point for a disproportionate amount (68%) of all traced guns in California. San Diego County, however, had the second **lowest** rate of gun matches among the nine southern counties. This rate of 44.9 per 100,000 was substantially lower than Orange County (119.8 per 100,000), which is similar in size to San Diego, as well as Los Angeles County which led the list with 120.5 per 100,000<sup>3</sup>. The decline in gun crime and the comparably low rate of guns from San Diego County suggests that local, state, and federal partners in the San Diego region are collaborating to effectively deploy resources to increase public safety across the region.

<sup>1</sup> Gun crime includes any homicide, assault, robbery, domestic violence or other incident that law enforcement documents as involving a firearm.

<sup>2</sup> PSN, a federal effort to reduce gun crime, is coordinated through regional U.S. Attorney's Offices. For more information about PSN in the Southern District of California, visit [www.psnsandiego.org](http://www.psnsandiego.org).

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (2011). *ATF Posts 2010 Southern California Gun Data*. January 19, 2011 News Release. Los Angeles Field Division. On-line at <http://www.atf.gov/press/releases/2011/01/Firearm-Trace-Data%202011-FINAL.pdf>.