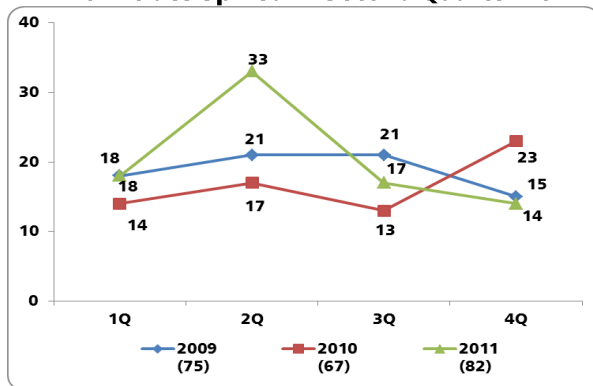


2011 Regional Crime Preview Part 2: Family-Related Motives Contribute to Increase in 2011 Homicides

As the Regional Clearinghouse for crime data, SANDAG’s Criminal Justice Research Division (CJR) tracks seven major violent and property crimes on an annual and mid-year basis. As reported in the companion April CJ Fax (*2011 Regional Crime Preview Part 1: Violent and Property Crime at Another 30-Year Low*), homicide was the only crime to increase in number from 2010 to 2011. While the 82 homicides reported in the region in 2011 represent a considerably lower number than the peak of 278 in 1991, it is a 22 percent increase from 2010 when there were 67 homicides (not shown). As Figure 1 shows, nearly two-thirds (62%) of the 82 homicides in 2011 occurred during the first six months of the year, while the national homicide numbers were down 5.7 percent, according to mid-year 2011 FBI statistics (not shown)¹.

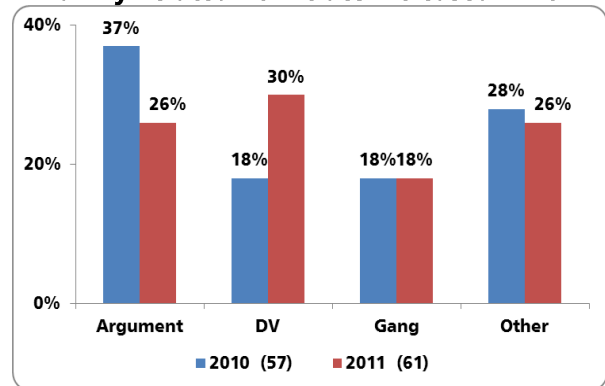
As Figure 2 shows, in both 2010 and 2011 there were three motives (argument, domestic violence, and gangs) that accounted for the majority of homicides for which motive could be determined (85% in 2010 and 74% in 2011) (not shown). However, in 2011 more homicides were attributed to domestic violence compared to 2010 (30% versus 18%, respectively) and fewer to arguments (26% versus 37%, respectively); the proportion attributed to gangs was 18 percent in both years. Motives in the remaining 16 homicides in 2011 included child abuse (8%), robbery, depression, and a lover’s triangle (5% each), and financial concerns (3%).

Figure 1
Homicides Spiked in Second Quarter 2011



SOURCE: SANDAG

Figure 2
Family-Related Homicides Increased in 2011



NOTE: Only homicides with a known motive are included.

SOURCE: SANDAG

More information about these crimes will be detailed in the next CJ bulletin in the 2012 series, *San Diego Violent Crime Victims and Suspects in 2011*, which will be released later this year. To learn more about the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse, or to access the full crime report when it is available, please visit www.sandag.org/cj.

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2012) "Preliminary Semi-Annual Crime Report January-June 2011". Available [on-line] at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/preliminary-annual-ucr-jan-jun-2011/data-tables/table-1>.