

## ACTIVE WARRANTS: FUGITIVES SOUGHT FOR APPREHENSION IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION

At any given time, federal, state, and local law enforcement are working together to locate individuals with active warrants who have been directed to appear before a judge in court. While the time required to serve warrants and seek and arrest fugitives can require considerable resources, statistics for the region regarding the number of active warrants have not previously been compiled and reported by the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse. With significant shifts in public safety occurring over the past year, it seemed timely to examine the question of how many active warrants there currently are, whether this number has changed over time, and where in the region these warrants were issued.<sup>1</sup>

As Figure 1 shows, the number of active warrants has decreased 21 percent over the past five years, from 81,226 at mid-year 2008, to 64,312 at mid-year 2012.<sup>2</sup> However, this decrease was almost entirely due to a drop in the number of “other” warrants, which includes warrants issued for misdemeanors and infractions, to juveniles, and for civil issues, while the number of felony warrants stayed relatively stable. At mid-year 2008, felonies represented 22 percent of active warrants, compared to 28 percent at mid-year 2012.

How are active warrants distributed across the region? Address information for where the warrant was issued was available for about half of the active felony warrants and two-thirds of the active other warrants. As Table 1 shows, not surprisingly, the jurisdictions which reported the fewest number of Part 1 crimes at mid-year 2012 (as reported in SANDAG’s Mid-Year Crime Bulletin) also generally had a smaller number of active warrants, from Del Mar with a total of 52 warrants and 105 Part I crimes, to the City of San Diego with 20,548 warrants and 18,004 crimes.

Figure 1  
ACTIVE WARRANTS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
MID-YEAR 2008-2012

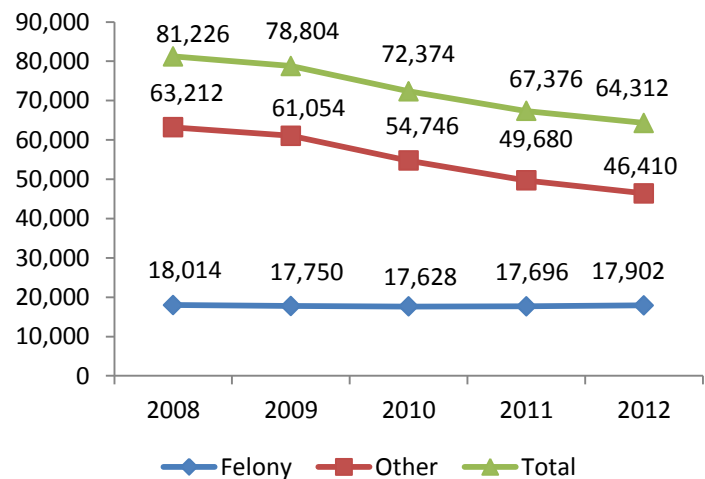


Table 1  
WARRANTS AND PART I CRIMES BY JURISDICTION  
MID-YEAR 2012

|                | Felony Warrants | Other Warrants | # of Part I Crimes |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Del Mar        | 5               | 47             | 105                |
| Solana Beach   | 21              | 60             | 136                |
| Coronado       | 26              | 72             | 248                |
| Poway          | 66              | 315            | 334                |
| Lemon Grove    | 74              | 330            | 279                |
| Encinitas      | 77              | 266            | 701                |
| Santee         | 84              | 324            | 608                |
| Carlsbad       | 107             | 353            | 1,103              |
| La Mesa        | 113             | 603            | 935                |
| Imperial Beach | 113             | 281            | 311                |
| San Marcos     | 168             | 547            | 838                |
| National City  | 266             | 732            | 1,088              |
| Vista          | 363             | 1,110          | 1,145              |
| Chula Vista    | 476             | 1,744          | 2,711              |
| El Cajon       | 503             | 2,200          | 1,483              |
| Escondido      | 530             | 1,822          | 2,182              |
| Oceanside      | 540             | 2,815          | 2,222              |
| Unincorporated | 546             | 2,791          | 3,873              |
| San Diego      | 4,057           | 16,491         | 18,004             |

<sup>1</sup> The San Diego County Sheriff’s Department and San Diego Fugitive Task Force are gratefully acknowledged for their assistance in compiling the statistics for this CJ Fax.

<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that the numbers presented here represent a snapshot of activity at any one time and may fluctuate day-to-day. Information regarding cleared warrants is difficult to compile because once a warrant is closed, it is deleted from the system quickly. A warrant can stay active until an individual is arrested and does not have an automatic expiration date.