

## Property Crime Down Regionally for Each Category in First Half of 2014

In the first half of 2014, 30,549 Part I property crimes were reported to local law enforcement across the San Diego region, which equates to 19.40 per 1,000 population, or almost 170 per day. The three types of crimes included in these statistics are burglary (residential and non-residential), larceny (petty and grand theft), and motor vehicle theft. Compared to the first half of last year, there was a 13 percent drop in the number of property crimes reported, compared to mid-year increases in 2012 (8%) and 2013 (5%). While we do not know what proportion of all property crime is reported to law enforcement in San Diego County, we do know from the National Crime Victimization Survey that 34 percent of property crime was reported to authorities in 2012, down from 37 percent in 2011 and 38 percent in 2003 (not shown).

Crime Definitions

**Burglary:** Unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

**Larceny:** Unlawful taking, carrying, leading away, or riding away of property from the possession of another that is not taken by force, violence, or fraud.

**Motor Vehicle Theft:** Theft or attempted theft of a self-propelled vehicle that runs on land surfaces.

As Table 1 shows, these decreases in property crime were fairly consistent across the jurisdictions and the three crime types, although the size did vary. Worth noting is that of the 15 jurisdictions with 30 or more crimes in each of the three categories (sufficient for comparison purposes), five had decreases in all three, seven had decreases in two of three, and three were relatively stable or had a decrease in at least one category.

<b>Table 1: PERCENT CHANGE IN PROPERTY CRIMES MID-YEAR 2013 TO 2014</b>			
	<b>Burglary</b>	<b>Larceny</b>	<b>MV Theft</b>
<b>5 Jurisdictions Down In All Three Categories</b>			
Carlsbad	-33%	-9%	-17%
El Cajon	-16%	-31%	-27%
Santee	-53%	-18%	-24%
San Diego	-13%	-11%	-17%
Unincorporated	-14%	-18%	-14%
<b>4 Jurisdictions Down in Two Categories, but Up in MV Theft</b>			
Chula Vista	-36%	-10%	12%
Encinitas	-27%	-21%	5%
National City	-23%	-24%	30%
San Marcos	-20%	-31%	14%
<b>3 Jurisdictions Down in Two Categories, but Up in Larceny</b>			
Escondido	-16%	21%	-13%
Imperial Beach	-2%	34%	-15%
Vista	-25%	<1%	-3%
<b>3 Jurisdictions Relatively Stable or Up in Two or More Categories</b>			
La Mesa	17%	<1%	0%
Lemon Grove	47%	21%	-6%
Oceanside	2%	-19%	7%

*SOURCE: SANDAG, 2014*

85% of Part I crime reported to law enforcement in the first half of 2014 was property crime.

While it is impossible to say with certainty what is related to this recent decline in property crime, law enforcement executives cite proactive and collaborative efforts to ensure compliance with community supervision conditions by ex-offenders, forensic technology to link and identify suspects, working more closely with the community, and utilizing cross-jurisdictional intelligence-led policing to address crime trends as they appear. While comparisons to other jurisdictions for the same time period are not possible at this time, it will be important to continue to track and compare these statistics, as well as investigate other crime measures, to understand how we can maintain public safety in an increasingly sophisticated and technologically advanced world. Limited public agency resources and evolving responsibilities locally related to public safety realignment will also require that collaborative and innovative strategies from prevention to reentry are continued throughout the region.