

HOW HAVE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF ARRESTS IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION CHANGED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS?

As the regional Clearinghouse for crime statistics in the San Diego region, SANDAG prepares bi-annual reports on crime and annual reports on arrests. Crime data are compiled by SANDAG from local law enforcement and include seven crimes tracked in a standardized way and reported to the FBI; when a crime occurs, law enforcement is tasked with documenting that incident. Arrest data, on the other hand, are compiled by SANDAG through the State Department of Justice and include those seven offense types, as well as others (e.g., alcohol and drug law violations are not captured in crime statistics) and represent law enforcement's response to crime. These statistics also allow analyses regarding who is arrested (e.g., adult/juvenile) and for what level (felony/misdemeanor/status offense) and type of offense (violent, property, alcohol/drug, weapons, other, status).

How have the number and type of arrests in the San Diego region changed over the past five years? What are some of the most noteworthy trends and changes since 2009?

- **Arrest rates for both adults and juveniles are down, but the drop in juvenile arrest rates has been significant.** Since 2009, the adult arrest rate for the region dropped 14 percent, from 41.9 to 35.9. However, during the same time period, the juvenile arrest rate dropped 53 percent, from 55.2 to 25.8. When law enforcement officials were queried last year (when the adult arrest rate exceeded the juvenile arrest rate for the first time ever), they attributed this decrease in juvenile arrests to a greater focus on adult offenders, and particularly the most serious offenders, as well as successful collaborative partnerships in the region to address juvenile delinquency and provide diversion opportunities.
- **For adults, the misdemeanor arrest rate declined 23 percent from 2009 to 2013, but the felony arrest rate increased 8 percent.** In 2009, felonies represented 28 percent of all adult arrests. In 2013, they represented 35 percent.
- **Since 2009, the number of adults arrested for alcohol/drug offenses decreased to the greatest degree, by 24 percent.** In 2009, 137 adults were arrested per day in the San Diego region for an alcohol/drug offense. This dropped to 104 in 2013, driven largely by the drop in arrests for misdemeanor marijuana violations (5,624 in 2009 to 66 in 2013). However, over the same time period, felony-level arrests for dangerous drugs (which include offenses related to methamphetamine, depressants, and hallucinogens) increased 54 percent, other drug offenses (which include prescription drug abuse) increased 30 percent, and narcotics offenses (which include heroin) increased 20 percent.
- **Property crime was one of the two arrest offense categories with five-year increases for adults ("other" offenses came in second).** The 10 percent increase in property crime arrests was driven by a greater number of arrests for motor vehicle theft (531 in 2009 vs. 818 in 2013, a 54% increase) and petty theft (3,016 in 2009 vs. 4,404 in 2013, a 46% increase).
- **For juveniles, there were decreases in all three offense levels (felony, misdemeanor, and status) since 2009, but the drop of 65 percent in the status offense arrest rate was the greatest.** Status offenses are crimes for juveniles, but not adults, and include curfew violations, truancy, and running away.

For more detailed information about 2013 arrest statistics, please visit the SANDAG web site at www.sandag.org/cj where the complete CJ Bulletin is available to be downloaded.