

YEAR IN REVIEW: CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE FOR 2014

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is unique among regional planning agencies in that it includes staff that compiles regional crime and arrest statistics, serve as a resource for public safety information, and conduct not-for-profit needs assessments, process implementation studies, and outcome evaluations. Public safety was considered a key quality life issue among 100 percent of stakeholders who were recently surveyed about the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse. With that important feedback in mind, this CJ Flash highlights some of the Clearinghouse products released in 2014, which describe key findings pertaining to regional public safety issues over the past year.

- In 2013 (the most recent data available), there were 32 misdemeanor level arrests for **driving under the influence** (DUI) per day on average around the County, down from 47 per day in 2009. However, DUI remains the number one reason an adult is arrested by local law enforcement. (CJ Flash, December 2014)
- **Marijuana** use was at a 14-year high among adult and juvenile arrestees interviewed as part of the Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) program. Among individuals interviewed in 2013, 53 percent of juveniles, 48 percent of adult males, and 34 percent of adult females tested positive for marijuana (up from 42%, 38%, and 27%, respectively in 2000). In addition, 62 percent of juveniles reported marijuana was the first drug they had ever tried, up from 35 percent in 2009. (CJ Bulletins, July and October 2014)
- While **meth** use among the arrestee population wasn't at record highs, the 2013 positive rates (46% adult females, 41% adult males, 10% juveniles) were the highest since 2005. Over half (56%) of these arrestees said they had used meth before work and 42 percent had sold meth or acted as a middleman. (CJ in Brief, November 2014)
- Despite concerns that the reduction in crime seen nationally would reverse, the 2013 **violent crime rate** for the region was the second lowest in the past 30 years and the **property crime rate** was the fourth lowest. For the first half of 2014, the violent crime rate per 1,000 residents was 3.43, a drop of one percent from the first half of 2013; and the property crime rate was 19.40, a drop of 13 percent from the first six months of 2013. (CJ Bulletins, April and October 2014)
- While Part I crimes reported to law enforcement were down, calls for service (CFS) to law enforcement for **mental-health related issues** were up. Based on anecdotal information, SANDAG compiled historical data on these types of CFS and found they were up 55 percent for the four largest local law enforcement agencies (from 14,442 in 2008 to 22,315 in 2013) and that across the region, all of the departments received an average of 69 calls per day. (CJ Fax, March 2014)
- Despite the drops in crime, there were increases in **jail populations** in 2012 with the implementation of AB 109 (public safety realignment) in 2011. In addition to having a greater average daily capacity (113% in 2012 versus 102% in 2011), a greater proportion of inmates were sentenced and required maximum security housing, as well as protective custody and administrative segregation. With the passage of Proposition 47 in November 2014, SANDAG will continue to monitor how legislative changes affect public safety locally. (CJ Bulletin, February 2014)



CRIMINAL JUSTICE FLASH



RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH DIVISION

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- Traditionally, the three most common **motives for homicides** in San Diego County have been arguments, gangs, and domestic violence. In 2013, the proportion of homicides attributed to arguments went up and those attributed to gangs went down. Eighty-three percent (83%) of female victims of homicide were murdered by a spouse, intimate partner, or family member, compared to 16 percent of males (CJ Bulletin, October 2014).

The Clearinghouse staff looks forward to 2015 as we continue to provide the region with valuable public safety data, launch two new evaluations (a veteran's reentry program conducted at a local detention facility and gang-reduction efforts in the North County), and move forward on several existing evaluation projects, including the evaluation of local public safety realignment. If you would like to access any of our publications, please search our website at www.sandag.org/cj. If you need any assistance or would like more information about the Clearinghouse, please contact Liz Doroski at Liz.Doroski@sandag.org. Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to our continued partnership in 2015!