





MID-YEAR 2015 CRIME STATISTICS: ARE WE UP OR DOWN?


For over 35 years, SANDAG's Criminal Justice Research Division has compiled and analyzed Part I Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics on a bi-annual basis from the region's eleven local law enforcement agencies. With numerous changes at the State level, from Public Safety Realignment (AB 109) to Proposition 47, along with other issues faced by law enforcement across the country, there has been the perception that crime couldn't go any lower and may start to increase. With mid-year (January to June 2015) crime statistics¹ now available for the San Diego region, what are we seeing reported to local law enforcement, and how does this compare to six² of the seven other largest cities in the U.S., based on current population?

 **Homicides:** There were 43 homicides reported in the San Diego region in 2015, up from 39 at mid-year 2014. In 2015, more homicide motives were identified as being tied to domestic violence and fewer to gang violence. As shown in the figures that follow, among the comparison jurisdictions, one experienced a decrease in homicides, two experienced no change, and four experienced increases, with the largest mid-year changes seen in Chicago and San Antonio.

 **Robbery:** The number of robberies reported in the San Diego region increased slightly (1%) at mid-year 2015 to 1,338, from 1,331 in 2014. Across the seven comparison jurisdictions, two jurisdictions had mid-year decreases, while the other five, including Los Angeles, saw increases.

 **Burglary:** The drop in reported burglaries at mid-year 2015 in the San Diego region was the largest among the crime categories – down 13% from mid-year 2014, with decreases in both the residential (-11%) and non-residential (-15%) categories. Each of the seven jurisdictions, with the exception of Los Angeles, reported mid-year decreases in this crime category.

 **Larceny:** Larceny was the one property crime to increase from mid-year 2014 to 2015 in the San Diego region – by 4%, with 20,651 reported by local law enforcement – an average of 113 per day. Houston and Los Angeles also had increases in their larceny numbers, while four of the other jurisdictions had mid-year decreases.

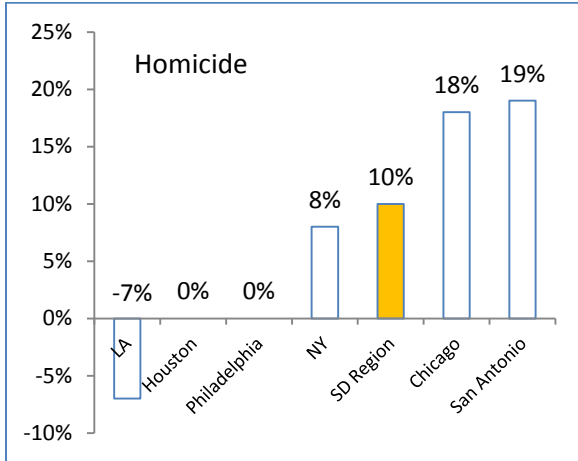
 **Motor Vehicle Theft:** With 4,777 motor vehicle thefts reported in the first half of 2015, this crime category was also down in the San Diego region at mid-year 2015 by 5%. The San Diego region was one of the four jurisdictions that reported decreases, while Chicago and Los Angeles had increases. The number of motor vehicle thefts was not available for New York.

When interpreting these statistics, it is worth noting that according to the most recent national crime victimization surveys, only 83% of motor vehicle thefts, 61% of robberies, 60% of burglaries, and 29% of thefts were reported to law enforcement in 2014. If you are interested in more statistics from the Mid-Year Crime Bulletin, please visit www.sandag.org/cj.

¹ Because changes to the definition of rape were implemented in California in 2015, resulting in some Part II crimes and some aggravated assaults now being coded as rapes, comparisons for rape and aggravated assault across jurisdictions and time are not being made.

² Crime statistics through June 30, 2015 were compared for San Diego County, San Antonio, TX, and Los Angeles, CA; July 31, 2015 for Houston, TX; August 16, 2015 for Philadelphia, PA; and August 30, 2015 for New York, NY and Chicago, IL. Because of variation across jurisdictions, the focus on the comparison is on how mid-year crime numbers varied from 2014 to 2015, rather than the actual number of crimes reported.

Mid-Year 2014 to 2015 Changes- Violent Crimes



Mid-Year 2014 to 2015 Changes- Property Crimes

