10 Arrest Statistic Facts From 2015

As the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse for the San Diego Region, SANDAG compiles both crime and arrest statistics over time. Crime statistics reflect which Part I crimes are reported to law enforcement while arrest statistics reflect the number and characteristics of individuals arrested for all types of offenses, not just Part I. While the full report, Arrests 2015: Law Enforcement Response to Crime in the San Diego Region, provides detailed information regarding arrest trends for adults and juveniles by type over time, this CJ Flash highlights 10 of the most notable statistics/changes from the first full calendar year since Proposition 47 went into effect, which changed a number of property and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

1. In 2015, 232 adult arrests and 17 juvenile arrests were made across the San Diego region on average, per day.

2. San Diego County has both the second highest adult and juvenile arrest rates of the five largest California counties, following only San Bernardino.

3. The juvenile arrest rate continued to drop, reaching 19.4 arrests per 1,000 population, a drop of 63 percent from ten years ago. In comparison, the adult arrest rate dropped 25 percent over the same time period.

4. Compared to 2014, the adult misdemeanor arrest rate was up 13 percent and the felony arrest rate was down 28 percent.

5. Arrests for felony-level burglaries dropped 59 percent from 2014 to 2015, while misdemeanor arrests for petty theft/burglary increased 34 percent, which reflects the implementation of Prop 47 to some degree.

6. Adult arrests for felony-level alcohol/drug offenses decreased 62 percent from 2014 to 2015. At the same time, these types of arrests at the misdemeanor level increased 14 percent.

7. Arrests for failure to appear (FTA) in court were up 20 percent from 2014 to 2015.

8. Around 2 in every 5 adult arrests in 2015 were for an alcohol- or drug-related offense.

9. In 2015, adult misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI) arrests were down 6 percent, but felony-level DUI arrests were up 27 percent.

10. In 2011, the age group with the highest arrest rate per population was 18 to 19 year olds (70.0 per 1,000). In 2015, those 20 to 29 had the highest arrest rate (58.1).

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1 When interpreting arrest statistics it is important to note that only the most serious arrest charge is tracked; arrests are documented by the location the arrest occurred, not necessarily where the crime occurred; and arrest and crime rates should not be compared because they can occur at different points in time.