

Homicides in the San Diego Region 2016

In 2016, there were 101 homicides reported in the San Diego region, which represented a 20 percent increase from the 84 reported in 2015. While San Diego had the fourth lowest homicide rate of any large U.S. city in 2015¹, the increase in 2016 led to further analysis regarding what law enforcement has documented about these homicides as of April 2017².

A **FIREARM** was the weapon used in 45 percent of homicides in 2016. 24 percent involved a **KNIFE**, 17 percent a **BODY PART**, and 15 percent **ANOTHER TYPE**. However, the use of a firearm varied by motive:

- 100%** (2 of 2) drug-related
- 67%** (6 of 9) gang
- 57%** (4 of 7) domestic violence
- 43%** (15 of 35) argument
- 40%** (2 of 5) robbery

Overall, 48 percent of homicides occurred inside a residence or hotel, 38 percent outdoors, 12 percent in another type building, and 3 percent in another location.

All (100%) homicides related to domestic violence, burglary, drugs, child abuse, and arson occurred in a residence or hotel, compared to 60 percent of those related to robbery, 56 percent to arguments, and 11 percent to gangs.

Arguments were the most common homicide motive in 2016. How many involved individuals who did not know one another?
16 percent

11 percent of homicides that occurred in a residence or hotel were committed by a stranger, compared to 65 percent of homicides occurring outside.

Which Local Law Enforcement Agencies Reported Homicides in 2016?

Agency	Total Number	Number with Motive Identified	Motive Type
San Diego	50	28	Argument (61%), Gang (14%), Robbery (11%), Domestic Violence (7%), Burglary (4%), Arson (4%)
Sheriff	34	24	Argument (58%), Domestic Violence (17%), Drugs (8%), Gang (8%), Burglary (4%), Child Abuse (4%)
Oceanside	8	5	Argument (60%), Domestic Violence (20%), Gang (20%)
Escondido	4	4	Argument (25%), Domestic Violence (25%), Gang (25%), Robbery (25%)
National City	3	3	Argument (33%), Burglary (33%), Gang (33%)
Chula Vista	1	0	N/A
El Cajon	1	1	Robbery (100%)

¹ Of the 46 U.S. cities/districts with populations of 400,000 or more in 2015, the City of San Diego had a homicide rate of 2.6 per 100,000 population, following Honolulu (1.5), Austin (2.5), and El Paso (2.5). The four with the highest homicide rates were Baltimore (55.4), Detroit (43.8), Milwaukee (24.2), and Washington, D.C. (24.1).

² It is important to note that as investigations continue this information could change and in some cases, the number of homicides is relatively small, which should limit any generalizations that are made to other years or other jurisdictions.

101 Homicide Victims

Gender

75% male **25%** female

Gender varied by motive with males more likely to be victims in those related to gangs (89%), arguments (83%), and robberies (80%). Only 13 percent of domestic violence homicide victims were male.

Age

The average age of a homicide victim was **40.0**, and age also varied by motive:

- Child Abuse – 1.0 year of age (1)
- Gangs – 24.8 (9)
- Domestic Violence – 34.5 (8)
- Argument – 38.4 (36)
- Drugs – 39.0 (2)
- Robbery – 55.8 (5)
- Arson – 63.0 (1)
- Burglary – 76.3 (3)

Ethnicity



89 Homicide Suspects Identified in 72 Cases

- 60 cases had 1 suspect, 9 had 2 suspects, 1 had 3 suspects, and 2 had 4 suspects.
- Of the 11 cases with multiple suspects and an identified motive, 4 were arguments, 3 were gang-related, and 1 each child abuse, domestic violence, drug, or robbery-related.

Gender

- Of the 88 suspects where gender was identified, **85 percent** were male, **15 percent** female.
- Of the 11 homicides with a female suspect, 5 involved a male victim and 6 a female victim.
- The motive in homicides with a female suspect included arguments (2), domestic violence (2), and arson, drugs, child abuse, and robbery (1 each).

Age

The average age of homicide suspects was **33.9**.

Ethnicity



Homicides That Occurred in 2016 by Incident Date and Motive

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1-DV	18-Unk	2-Drug	2-Arg	1-Unk	10-Unk	1-Unk	2-Gang	3-Gang	1-Unk	4-Arg	3-Arg
7-Burg	27-Arg	5-Unk	3-Arg	7-Unk	12-Burg	3-Unk	20-Unk	11-DV	3-Arg	13-Arg	4-Arg
11-CA		9-Gang	3-Rob	11-Rob	16-Arg	4-Unk	26-Arg	16-Unk	4-Drug	13-Arg	5-DV
20-Arg		16-Gang	5-Arg	23-Unk	19-Unk	5-Unk		21-Arg	9-Unk	18-DV	7-Unk
21-Arg		19-Rob	9-Arg	27-Arg	21-Arg	6-Unk		24-Arg	10-Arg	18-DV	11-Arg
22-Gang		22-Unk	12-Rob	27-Unk	22-Arg	18-Arg		29-Arg	11-Arg	18-Unk	12-Unk
24-Arg			12-Arg	28-Unk	22-Arg	28-Unk			12-Arson	21-Arg	19-Gang
25-Arg			16-Rob		24-DV	30-Unk			12-DV	22-Unk	24-Arg
31-Unk			16-Unk		27-Unk				13-Gang		25-Arg
			17-Gang		27-Unk				15-Unk		26-DV
			20-Arg		29-Unk				19-Unk		
			21-Unk						22-Burg		
			24-Arg						25-Gang		
			24-Arg						26-Arg		
			25-Unk								