

## FBI Violent Crime Statistics for California Cities

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According to the FBI<sup>1</sup>, there were 1,248,185 violent crimes reported to law enforcement across the United States in 2016, an increase of 4 percent from 2015. Three of the four regions (Midwest, South, West) in the country experienced an increase, with the West's increase the greatest (6%); the State of California experienced a 5 percent increase. With the State of California supporting efforts for local jurisdictions to collaboratively invest in strategies to combat violence in their communities, this CJ Flash examined how homicide, robbery, and aggravated assault rates varied across California cities in 2016, as well as the 18 incorporated jurisdictions in San Diego County<sup>2</sup>.

### Highlight 1

461 California cities reported violent crime statistics to the FBI in 2016. These cities varied greatly in size, from Vernon (with a population of 114) to Los Angeles (with a population of over 4 million).

### Highlight 2

Cities with populations of 1,000 or more<sup>3</sup> with the five highest crime rates in 2016 included ones in various counties, including Alameda (Emeryville, Oakland), Butte (Gridley), Fresno (Mendota, Selma), Inyo (Bishop), Kings (Avenal), Lassen (Susanville), Los Angeles (Commerce, Compton), San Bernardino (Barstow, San Bernardino), San Joaquin (Stockton), and San Mateo (Colma).

Highest homicide rates



Highest robbery rates



Highest aggravated assault rates



<sup>1</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation (2017). *Crime in the United States, 2016*. Available online at <https://ucr.fbi.gov>

<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that for consistency, all crime and population numbers presented here were extracted from Table 6 of the 2016 FBI crime data and no changes to statistics compiled locally were made to ensure compatibility with the original source. For more information regarding these statistics or a similar analysis of 2015 crime data, please contact the CJ Division at [cjdata@sandag.org](mailto:cjdata@sandag.org).

<sup>3</sup> Three jurisdictions that would have been included in these results if jurisdictional size was not considered include Vernon with a population of 114 (and 1 homicide, 18 robberies and 8 aggravated assaults), Industry with a population of 204 (and 0 homicides, 40 robberies, and 48 aggravated assaults), and Sand City with a population of 391 (and 0 homicides, 4 robberies, and 3 aggravated assaults). The violent crime rates for these jurisdictions are very high because of their small population sizes even though the actual number of offenses is relatively small compared to other jurisdictions.

### Highlight 3

The homicide rates per 1,000 population for the top five cities ranged from 0.23 in Avenal to 0.35 in Compton; the range for San Diego County cities was 0 to 0.05. The robbery rates for the top five cities ranged from 4.27 in Commerce to 8.04 in Emeryville; the range for San Diego County cities was 0.12 to 2.08. The aggravated assault rate for the top five cities ranged from 9.80 in Stockton to 15.19 in Gridley; the range for San Diego County cities was 0.72 to 2.85.

### Highlight 4

Of the 461 California cities, regardless of population size, four cities were in the top 5 percent (23 of 461) in terms of the highest homicide, robbery, and aggravated assault rates – Vernon, San Bernadino, Stockton, and Compton. Eight ranked among the top 5 percent in two of the three categories – Industry, Sand City, Colma, Oakland, Barstow, Irwindale, Inglewood, and Richmond.

### How did the Violent Crime Rates reported by the FBI for San Diego County cities compare to others in the State in 2016?<sup>4</sup>

- None of San Diego County’s cities were in the top 5 percent of those with the highest homicide, robbery, or aggravated assault rates in 2016 (or 2015).
- Only four other California cities had a homicide rate lower than Carlsbad’s.
- Coronado had the lowest robbery and aggravated assault of the 18 local jurisdictions, compared to the rest of the state.

### 2016 Violent Crime Rate Rankings San Diego County cities compared to other cities in California

San Diego County cities	Homicide rate ranking – How high	Robbery rate ranking – How high	Aggravated assault ranking – How high
	Compared to other cities in California (of 461)	Compared to other cities in California (of 461)	Compared to other cities in California (of 461)
Carlsbad	457th	305th	318th
Chula Vista	219th	210th	249th
Coronado	361st	421st	380th
Del Mar	254th	282nd	275th
El Cajon	207th	96th	206th
Encinitas	433rd	385th	285th
Escondido	155th	158th	167th
Imperial Beach	132nd	247th	236th
La Mesa	431st	173rd	198th
Lemon Grove	370th	45th	122nd
National City	106th	67th	165th
Oceanside	114th	162nd	171th
Poway	418th	362nd	356th
San Diego	134th	157th	164th
San Marcos	452nd	294th	260th
Santee	139th	336th	269th
Solana Beach	323rd	384th	350th
Vista	175th	163rd	174th

<sup>4</sup> For more information about San Diego County crime rates from 1980 through 2016, please access the most recent annual crime report available here: [http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid\\_2113\\_21861.pdf](http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_2113_21861.pdf)