

Arrests in the San Diego Region: Law Enforcement's Response to Crime

On an annual basis, SANDAG prepares a CJ Bulletin that examines arrests by local law enforcement and how they have varied over time. These data are received from the California Department of Justice and serve as a supplement to the bi-annual crime bulletins because information regarding who (e.g., adult/juvenile) is arrested is available, as well as for Part II offenses (e.g., driving under the influence) which are not currently tracked as part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting process. With the recent release of this **CJ Bulletin** with data through 2016, this CJ Flash highlights some of key findings.

Highlight 1

In 2016, San Diego County had the **second highest** adult and juvenile arrests rate of the five largest California counties, following only San Bernardino.

Highlight 2

226

Average number of adult arrests per day, San Diego region, 2016

15

Average number of juvenile arrests per day, San Diego region, 2016

Highlight 3

Juveniles arrests have changed considerably over time

66%

How much the juvenile arrest rate has dropped since 2007 (52.4) to 2016 (17.9), compared to a 23 percent decrease for adults.

3%

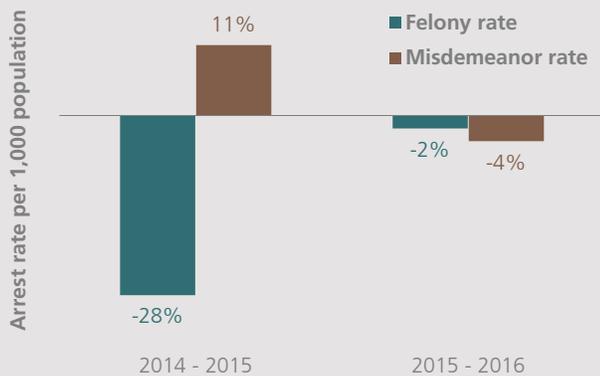
Increase in alcohol- and drug-related arrests of juveniles from 2015 to 2016, including an 18 percent increase in felony and misdemeanor arrests related to marijuana.

#1

Misdemeanor petty theft/burglary: most common reason a juvenile was arrested in 2016

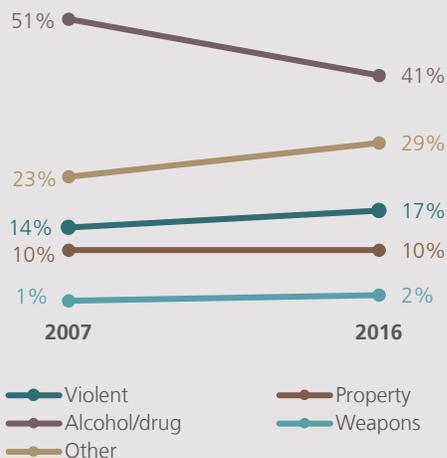
Highlight 4

After Proposition 47 (Prop 47)¹ went into effect, the felony arrest rate decreased (-28%) and the misdemeanor arrest rate increased (+11%) – as could be expected with the change in crime levels from felonies to misdemeanors. However, in 2016, the felony arrest rate continued to decline (-2%), but so did the misdemeanor arrest rate, and to an even greater degree (-4%).



Highlight 5

Over time, the proportion of adult arrests for alcohol- and drug-related offenses decreased, from about 1 in every 2 in 2007, to around 2 in every 5 in 2016. The proportion of arrests for property offenses has remained stable at 1 in every 10.



Highlight 6

From 2015 to 2016, adult arrests for felony-level property offenses (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft) were up, but misdemeanor level petty theft and burglary arrests were down.

Adult felony
property
offenses
up 17%
2015-2016

Adult
misdemeanor
property
offenses down
26% 2015-2016

Highlight 7

34%

The size of the increase in the number of adult arrests for failure to appear (FTA) from 2012 (5,449) to 2016 (7,297).

¹ In November 2014, California voters passed Prop 47 which reduced a number of property and drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors.