Crime Victimization in the San Diego Region

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While crime rates nationally, and in the San Diego region are at record-lows, it is important to note that not all crime is currently captured as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Part I statistics, which is the traditional measure of crime. We also know from national crime victimization surveys that not all crime is reported to law enforcement. With the release of Thirty-Eight Years of Crime in the San Diego Region: 1980 through 2017 and National Crime Victims' Rights Week this month (April 8-14, 2018), this CJ Flash presents recent national and local victimization statistics.

Highlight 1

Over the past 5 years, the probability of being a property crime victim in the San Diego region has **gone down** *based on reported crimes to law enforcement.*

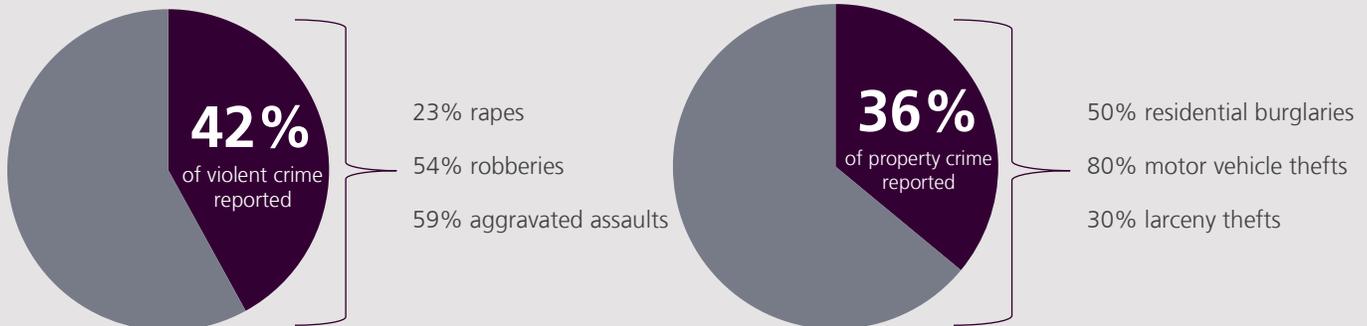| Residential burglary	• 2013: 1 in 127 households • 2017: 1 in 215 households
Larceny theft	• 2013: 1 in 71 residents • 2017: 1 in 87 residents
Motor vehicle theft	• 2013: 1 in 209 registered vehicles • 2017: 1 in 288 registered vehicles

Highlight 2

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), not all crime is reported to law enforcement and reporting rates vary by crime type.[1]

42%
of violent crime reported

23% rapes

54% robberies

59% aggravated assaults

36%
of property crime reported

50% residential burglaries

80% motor vehicle thefts

30% larceny thefts

Highlight 3

Reporting rates for violent crime also vary by victim characteristics.

According to the NCVS, reporting a violent crime victimization to law enforcement varies by victim race (with those identifying as Hispanic having the highest reporting rate at 52% and Blacks the lowest at 40%), age (with victims 65 and older having the highest reporting rate at 60% and those 12 to 17 the lowest at 28%), and marital status (with those who described themselves as divorced having the highest reporting rate at 54% and those never married the lowest at 34%).

1.3% of individuals 12 years and older experienced a violent victimization in 2016 and 8.8% of households had at least one property victimization. If these percentages generalized to the San Diego region, this would equate to 36,159 individuals and 99,767 households in 2017.

- NCVS

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[1] Morgan, R. E. & Kena, B. (2017). *Criminal Victimization*, 2016 (NCJ 251150). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

Highlight 4

Identity theft is on the rise and it is also not often reported to local law enforcement.

According to data from the 2014 NCVS[2], 15 percent of Americans 16 or older (36.5 million at the time) had ever experienced one or more incidents of identity theft in their lifetime, almost half (45%) said they only became aware of it because they were notified by their financial institution, and only 8 percent reported it to police or a law enforcement agency. More recent statistics from 2016[3] reported that there were 15.4 million identity fraud victims nationally in 2016, up from 11.6 million in 2011, and that the estimated value lost because of this theft was $16.0 billion.

"The Community and Law Enforcement are key partners in keeping San Diego safe. We encourage all victims to talk to local law enforcement agencies to report crime. This allows law enforcement to better serve the community by identifying trends to solve or prevent crimes."

*- Chief David Nisleit,
San Diego Police Department*

Highlight 5

Violent crimes against seniors is increasing.

According to national sources, crimes against older adults is concerning because older adults may be less likely to recover from and to report their victimization.[4] Over the past five years, violent crime victimization against those 60 years of age and older has increased to a greater percentage than their growth in the population, and more than the violent crime rate overall.

20% increase in population 60 and older past 5 years

4% increase in population overall past 5 years

Number of violent crime victimizations of seniors up 41% since 2013, compared to 1% increase overall
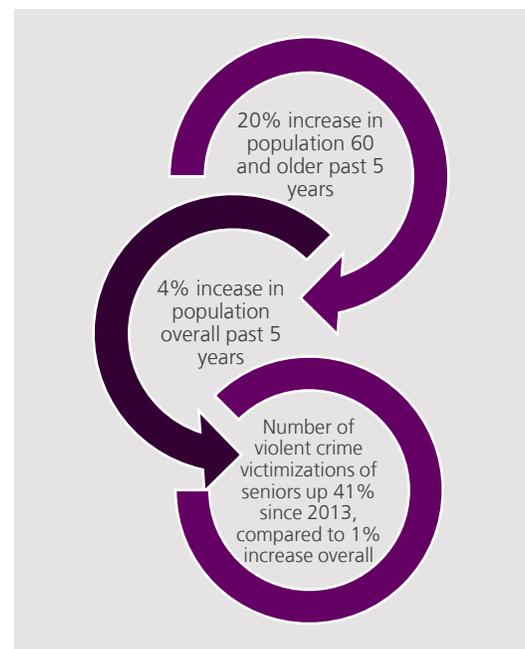
Highlight 6

The number of domestic violence incidents in the San Diego region reported to law enforcement increased in 2017.

Forty-seven domestic violence incidents were reported to law enforcement, on average, each day in 2017 – more than any of the Part I crime types with the exception of larceny.[5] The 17,306 offenses reported last year represented a 4 percent increase from 2016. Because domestic violence is often underreported, increased numbers could reflect outreach that encourages victim reporting and not only increased frequency. It should also be noted that responding to domestic dispute calls represented the highest percentage (29%) of fatal types of calls for services involving law enforcement fatalities between 2010 and 2016 according to recently released statistics.[6]

If you are a crime victim, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office's Victim Assistance Program offers comprehensive services to victims of all types of crime, including crisis intervention, court support, and resource and referral assistance. More information is available at www.sdcda.org/helping/victims/victim-services or by calling (619) 531-4041.

[2] Bureau of Justice Statistics (2015). *Victims of Identity Theft,* 2014 (NCJ 248991). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.
[3] Javelin Strategy and Research (2017). *2017 Identity Fraud Study.* Available on-line at **javelinstrategy.com/coverage-area/2017-identity-fraud.**
[4] Office for Victims of Crime (2018). *Crimes Against Older Adults Fact Sheet.* Available on-line at **ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/.**
[5] Domestic violence reporting by law enforcement was first mandated in 1986 and a domestic violence incident can include a Part I offense (such as aggravated assault) or a Part II offense.
[6] Breul, N. & Luongo, D. (2017). *Making It Safer: An Analysis of U.S. Law Enforcement Fatalities Between 2010-2016*. Washington, DC: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.