



## Public Safety Budgets in the San Diego Region

On an annual basis, SANDAG works with local public safety agencies to compile expenditures and staffing by agency to document how these amounts vary across functions and over time.<sup>1</sup> With the release of “Public Safety Allocations in the San Diego Region: Expenditures and Staffing for FY 2017–18,” this CJ Flash highlights some of the key findings.

### Highlight 1

In FY 2018, local public safety expenditures in the San Diego region were back up to where they were ten years ago.

**\$2.21  
billion**

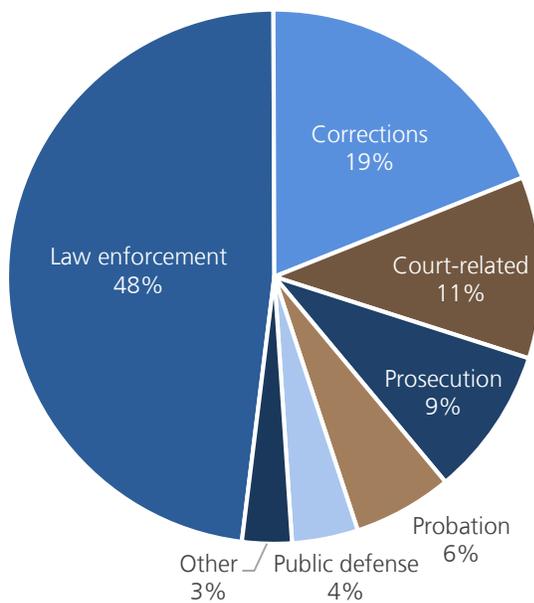
spent on public safety regionally in FY 2018

- **Fifth consecutive increase** after four prior decreases
- **3% higher** than one year ago and **7% higher** than five years ago
- **\$668** spent per San Diego County resident on public safety functions

### Why have public safety budgets increased?

According to the agencies surveyed, expenditure increases related to higher labor, staffing, retirement, operations, workers’ compensation, information technology, and other equipment costs, as well as allocation of State funds to offset local costs for public safety realignment, grants, and other one-time start-up expenses.

### How public safety expenditures were allocated in the San Diego region in FY 18



### Highlight 2

**Almost half of public safety expenditures went to law enforcement in FY 18.**

<sup>1</sup> Actual expenditures, adjusted to current dollars, were used for all years presented as part of this analysis to ensure comparability. For more information on the methodology used to compile these figures, please refer to the full report: [sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid\\_4563\\_25312.pdf](https://sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_4563_25312.pdf)

## Number of local public safety employees in the San Diego region FY 18



NOTE: Sworn officers included law enforcement, District Attorney and City Attorney investigators, and Probation Officers not working in institutions. Non-sworn law enforcement included law enforcement staff as well as Probation. Numbers rounded from those shown in report.

## Highlight 3

**Almost 13,000 public safety staff positions** were funded in FY 18 across the region. Despite recent increases (that were consistent with expenditure increases), this FY 18 figure was still lower than it was in FY 2009, ten years earlier (13,733).

## Highlight 4

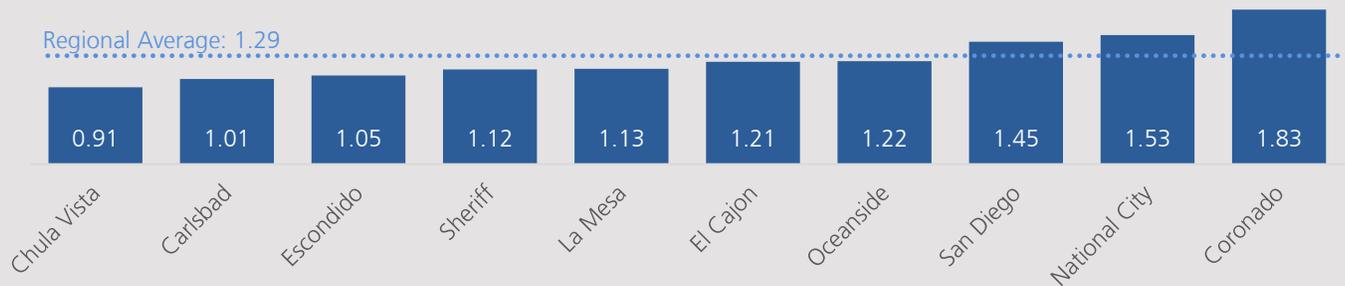


**Even though law enforcement services represented half of every public safety dollar spent in the region,** the number of sworn officers per 1,000 population (1.29 in FY 18) was still lower across San Diego County law enforcement departments, compared to the national average of 2.40.

## Sworn officer to resident population ratio per 1,000

National Average: 2.40

Regional Average: 1.29



According to the Public Police Institute of California,<sup>2</sup> research has shown that increasing police staffing is a cost-effective way to prevent crime, citing research that shows that **each additional police officer can reduce crime by 1.3 violent crimes and 4.2 property crimes per year** and that the crime-reducing benefit of hiring an additional officer exceeds \$300,000 per year.

<sup>2</sup> Martin, B. & Lofstrom, M. (2018, October). *Law enforcement staffing in California*. San Francisco, CA: Public Police Institute of California.