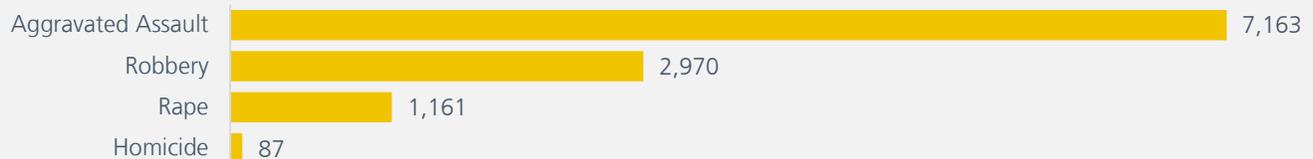


Five Things to Know About Violent Crime in the San Diego Region

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On a bi-annual basis, SANDAG compiles regional crime statistics, with the support of local law enforcement agencies, that allows for a historical analysis of crime for the County that is not possible elsewhere. With the recent release of **Thirty-Nine Years of Crime in the San Diego Region 1980-2018**, this CJ Flash highlights statistics related to the 11,381 Part I¹ violent crimes reported in the region: homicides, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

Number of Part I Violent Crimes Reported in the San Diego Region, 2018



Highlight 1

There were 87 homicides across San Diego County in 2018, 7 more than in 2017, but considerably less than the 39-year high of 278 in 1991. Of the 55 cases in which the homicide victim-suspect relationship could be determined, 36 percent were strangers, 36 percent knew each other to some degree, and 27 percent were family.



Highlight 2

Reported rapes increased for the second consecutive year in 2018, up to an average of about 3 per day across the region. When considering this increase, it is important to remember the definition of rape used in San Diego County was expanded in 2015 to include male victims, penetration with any part or objects, and no longer requires force. In addition, increases in the number of rapes reported could reflect increased awareness and openness to reporting, with victimization surveys² revealing that only 2 in 5 rapes were reported to law enforcement in 2017.

Number of rapes reported in San Diego County since the revised definition began being used

2015: **1,100**

2016: **1,088**

2017: **1,098**

2018: **1,161**

¹ Part I crimes include four violent offenses and three property offenses that are tracked nationwide in a standardized manner by the FBI, with agencies submitting crime data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system.

² Morgan, R. E., & Truman, J. L. (2018). *Criminal Victimization, 2017* (NCJ 252472). Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Highlight 3

The weapon used during robberies and aggravated assaults is tracked as part of UCR. Of the robberies and aggravated assaults reported in the region in 2018, the only ones to increase were strong-arm (6% for robbery and 11% for aggravated assaults); those with a firearm decreased. In 2018, 59 percent of homicides involved a firearm, as did 15 percent of robberies and 12 percent of aggravated assaults.

Percent of 2018 Violent Crimes That Involved a Firearm in 2018

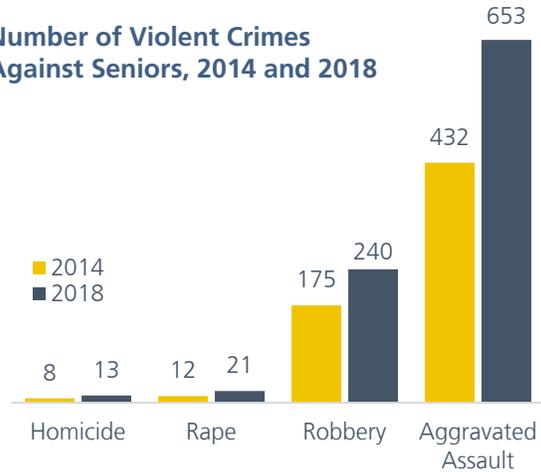


*Strong-arm robbery up **6%** and strong-arm aggravated assault up **11%** over past year*

Highlight 4

Over the past 5 years, the number of violent crimes reported across the region has increased 8 percent, but those involving seniors (age 60 and over) was up 48 percent. With the proportion of this population expected to continue to increase³, this will be an important trend to keep an eye on.

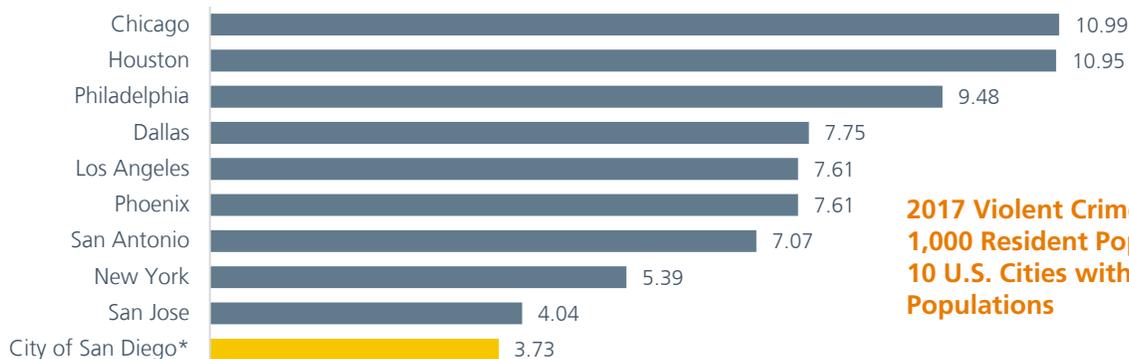
Number of Violent Crimes Against Seniors, 2014 and 2018



*Violent crime against seniors up **48%** over the past 5 years, compared to 8% of all violent crime.*

Highlight 5

How does the City of San Diego compare to other large U.S. cities? While calendar year 2018 statistics are not yet available at the national level, 2017 statistics revealed that the City of San Diego had the lowest violent crime rate of the 10 largest U.S. cities.



2017 Violent Crimes per 1,000 Resident Population, 10 U.S. Cities with Largest Populations

³ Between 2014 and 2018 the overall population in the region increased 3 percent, but those 60 and older increased 16 percent.