

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

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 56,495 Part I¹ property crimes in the region: burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts.

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



Highlight 1

Property crime in the San Diego region was at a 39-year low in 2018, with 16.93 crimes reported per 1,000 population. This was 75 percent lower than the 39-year high in 1989 of 67.26. When considering these rates, it is important to remember that according to victimization surveys², only 36 percent of property crimes overall are reported to law enforcement and that identity theft³ is not tracked as part of UCR.

Highlight 2

Even though the region is at a historic low in terms of reported property crime, an average of half a million dollars was still stolen across the region per day in 2018. About 1 in 3 of these dollars was recovered, typically in the form of motor vehicles.



\$500,000 in property stolen per day



31% of value of stolen property recovered



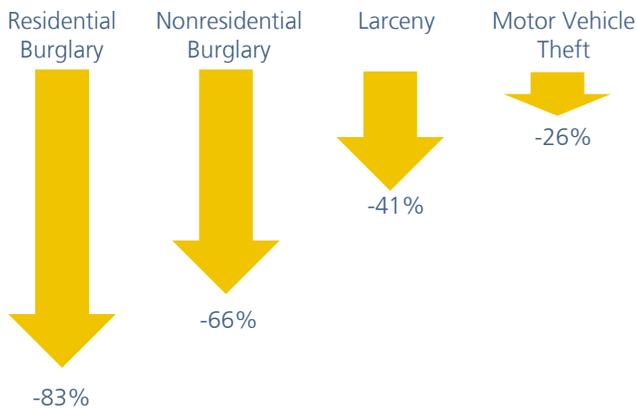
Motor vehicles represent **91%** of the value of recovered property

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.
³ Harrell, E. (2019). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2016* (NCJ 251147). Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Highlight 3

Since 1980, the number of residential burglaries has dropped 83 percent and nonresidential burglaries 66 percent – more than any other property crime. This decrease is even more pronounced when one considers the number of households in the region over the same 39-year period has increased 70 percent. It is important to note, however, that in 2018 1 in 2 burglaries involved no forced entry, so it is still important to not make one’s residence an easy target.

Percent Decrease in Property Crimes 1980-2018 in the San Diego Region

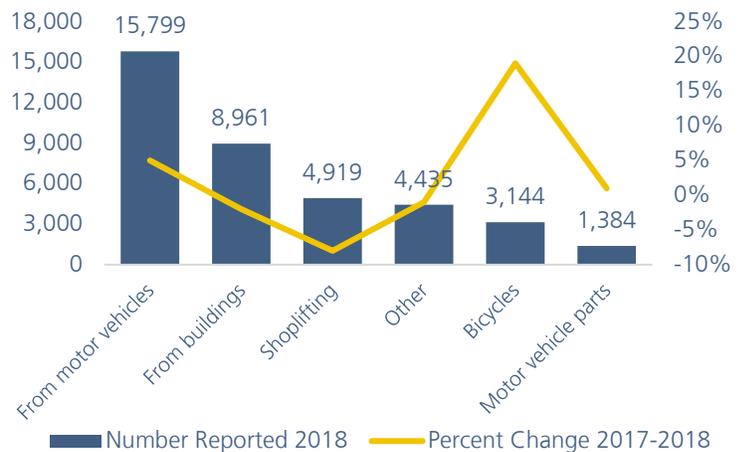


1 in every 2 burglaries in 2018 involved no forced entry.

Highlight 4

Two in every 5 larcenies in 2018 were the result of a theft from a motor vehicle, making it the most common type, followed by theft from a building. Compared to 2017, reported thefts of bicycles, from motor vehicles, and motor vehicles parts were up, but shoplifting, thefts from buildings, and other⁴ types of thefts were down.

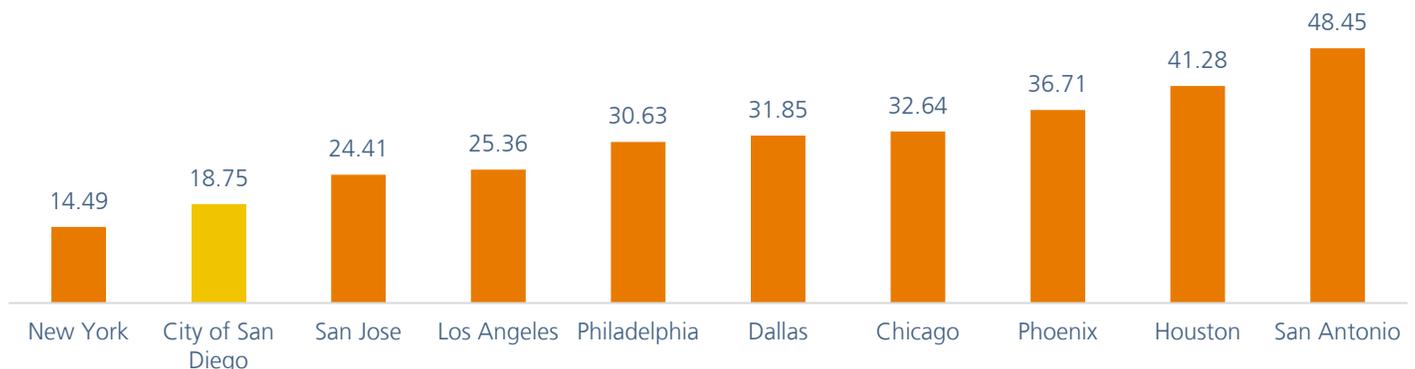
Number of Larcenies by Type Reported in 2018 and Percent Change in Number 2017-2018



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 second lowest property crime rate of the 10 largest U.S. cities.

2017 Property Crime Per 1,000 Resident Population, 10 U.S. Cities with Largest Populations



⁴ Other includes purse-snatching, pickpocketing, theft from coin-operated machines, and theft from areas open to the public.