

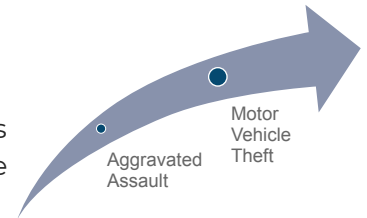


## ICYMI: In Case You Missed It - 2021 CJ Stats in Review

As 2021 draws to a close, SANDAG and staff of the Criminal Justice Research Division would like to wish you a safe holiday season and a happy new year. This last CJ Flash of 2021 summarizes nine highlights that were released by the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse this past year. If you would like to ensure you are on the SANDAG mailing list to be notified when new publications are released, please email [cjdata@sandag.org](mailto:cjdata@sandag.org).

### Highlight 1:

Both violent and property crime rates were up at mid-year 2021, compared to mid-year 2020, as reported in the [2021 Mid-Year Crime Bulletin](#). However, because 2020 was an unprecedented year, this report also looked at comparisons between 2019 and 2021. As shown in a [CJ Flash](#), the two crimes that had increased at mid-year 2021 (compared to both 2019 and 2020) were aggravated assault and motor vehicle theft.



Theft of motor vehicle parts up

**86%**

from mid-year 2020 to mid-year 2021.

### Highlight 2:

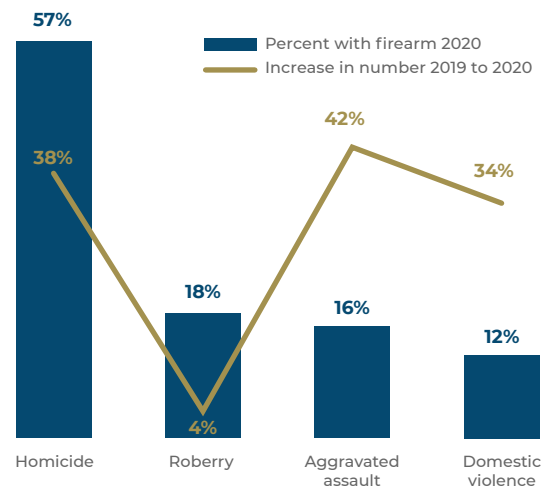
The most common crime reported to law enforcement is larceny (about 1 in every 2 during the first half of 2021). While overall larcenies were up 10% (compared to 2020), theft of motor vehicle parts (which is one of the specific types of larceny crimes) was up 86%, as highlighted in this [CJ Flash](#). According to local law enforcement, thefts of catalytic converters has risen nationally and is expected to continue to increase. Prevention techniques include securing the converter with locks and cages, as well as engraving the device.

### Highlight 3:

The increase in violent crimes, especially those that include the use of a firearm, specifically “ghost guns”, has been a trend of concern for local law enforcement and elected officials. As Figure 1 shows, which was first presented in this [CJ Flash](#), in 2020, there was a 38% increase in the number of homicides involving a firearm (compared to 2019), 42% increase for aggravated assaults, 34% increase for domestic violence incidents, and 4% increase for robberies. Calendar year 2021 statistics will be available in the first half of 2022.

Figure 1:

**Percent of crimes that involved the use of a firearm in 2020 and percent increase in these crimes with a firearm from 2019 to 2020**





### Highlight 4:

The increase in the number of reported hate crimes in 2020 and 2021 was a concern both nationally and locally. This [CJ Flash](#) summarized mid-year 2021 hate crime statistics and showed that there were 45 hate crime incidents reported to law enforcement in the first half of 2021, which is just under one per week, on average. The most common motivation (almost two-thirds) for these hate crimes was actual or perceived race/ethnicity, with half of these victims representing Black/African-American individuals. About one in five (18%) of victims in the first half of 2021 were Asian/Pacific Islander individuals, compared to 6% in 2020.

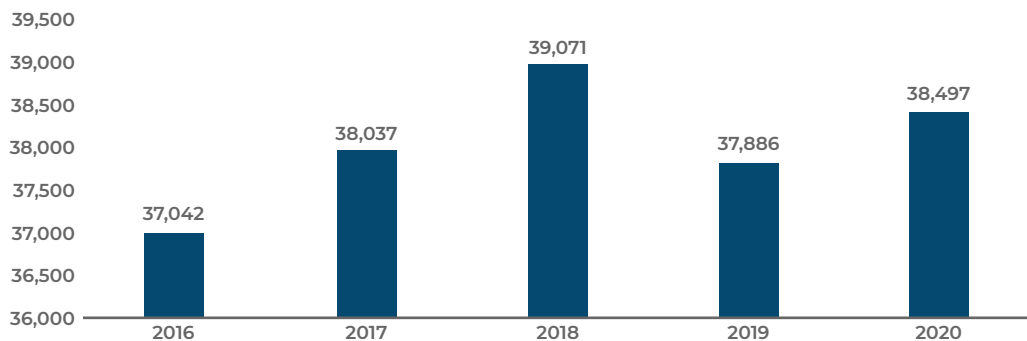
**2** IN EVERY **3**  
hate crimes reported in San Diego County in the first half of 2021 was related to an individual's actual or perceived race/ethnicity.

### Highlight 5:

The short- and long-term mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community, especially the most vulnerable, is still yet to be seen. As described in this [SANDAG InfoBits](#) report, local law enforcement received an average of 105 mental health calls for service (CFS) in 2020, an increase of 4% from five years earlier (Figure 2). Additionally, about one in three (35%) individuals interviewed in our local jails as part of the SANDAG Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) study reported that their mental health was negatively impacted with the pandemic and stay-home order and 41% noted their substance use had increased.

Figure 2:

**Number of Mental Health Calls for Service to Local Law Enforcement in the San Diego Region, 2016-2020**



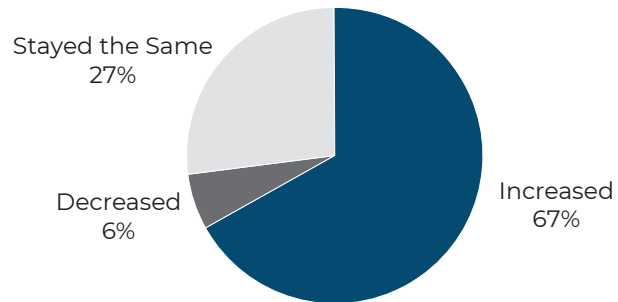


## Highlight 6:

Meth remained the drug of choice among local adult arrestees in 2020, with 56% testing positive at the time of their booking into jail. As this [CJ Flash](#) describes, meth was more available and more potent than ever, and law enforcement has noted how current production methods have resulted in a drug that may lead to mental health issues, especially for individuals who are without a stable residence.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 3

### Percent of Arrestees Who Think that the Demand for Meth has Increased, Decreased, or Stayed the Same



## Highlight 7:

The increase in drug overdose deaths, nationally and in San Diego County, was another growing concern in 2021. As described in this [CJ Flash](#), locally, about half of unintentional deaths due to drugs involved methamphetamine (meth). Additionally, there was a 126% increase in the number that involved fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid similar to morphine. As Figure 4 shows, just under half (45%) of San Diego County arrestees who reported they had ever overdosed had ever been administered naloxone, a medication that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose, and 42% of these individuals had received it more than once. These statistics demonstrate the need to better understand where overdoses in our community are occurring, meet these individuals where they are, and continually attempt to engage them in treatment opportunities.

Figure 4:

### Naloxone Administration to San Diego County Adult Arrestees, 2020



<sup>1</sup> Quinones, S. (October 18, 2021). I don't know that I would even call it meth anymore. The Atlantic. Available online : <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/11/the-new-meth/620174/>

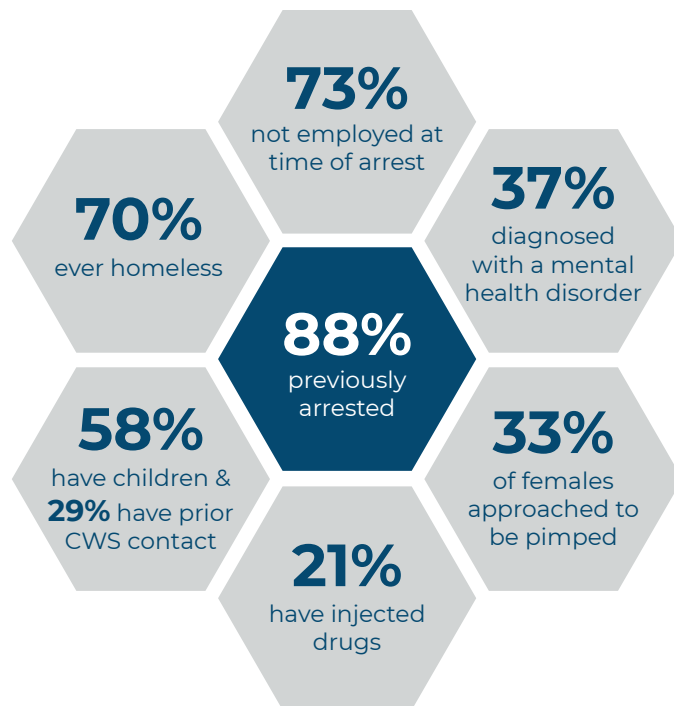


## Highlight 8:

As the most recently released [CJ Bulletin](#) described, there have been significant decreases in arrests for all racial/ethnic groups. However, Black/African-American individuals remain overrepresented among justice populations, representing 5% of San Diego County's population, but from 11% of status offense arrests to 22% of weapons-related arrests. As the region looks at ways to continually improve access to opportunities and to remedy inequalities and inequities, continued discussion and collaboration across systems and stakeholder groups to address the [underlying needs](#) of those with a history of justice system involvement, including homelessness, employment, mental health issues, and substance use, is critical (Figure 5).

Figure 5:

### Characteristics and Risk Factors Reported by San Diego County Adult Arrestees, 2020



## Highlight 9:

Since the passage of Proposition 64 made marijuana legal for recreational use by individuals 21 years of age and older in 2016, youth use has increased and perception of any potential harmful effects has decreased, as discussed in this [CJ Flash](#). At the same time, vaping among youth has increased, with the majority of juveniles reporting they have vaped at school and they do not think vaping is bad for them. As youth today face greater mental health challenges than ever, collaborative outreach and education continue to be important to avoid a reliance on any type of substance that may be used to address these challenges.

**46%** of youth interviewed in 2020 said marijuana was the first drug they had tried and the average age of first use was **11.6 years old.**