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SDPD Yearly Crime Statistics Show 2.7% Overall Decrease for City of San Diego

SAN DIEGO MAINTAINS ONE OF THE LOWEST VIOLENT CRIME RATES AMONG LARGE U.S. CITIES

San Diego – San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit will be joined by Mayor Todd Gloria on Tuesday to release the [2023 annual crime statistics](#). The data show an overall decrease in crime for the second consecutive year and keeping San Diego as one of the safest big cities in America.

“The men and women of the San Diego Police Department put on their uniforms every day with one goal in mind: keeping our communities safe,” Police Chief Nisleit said. “This is proven by the fact that San Diego remains one of the safest big cities in the nation year-over-year, despite continued staffing shortages. This is a testament to proactive police work to prevent crimes from happening and investigative tools that help us hold criminals accountable.”

[ABOUT NIBRS](#)

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) has transitioned to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) as required by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. NIBRS differs from the previous summary reporting method by including more crime categories and allowing continuous reporting based on crime incident dates. NIBRS provides a more comprehensive and dynamic understanding of crimes committed in our city.

Crime categories in NIBRS include crimes against Persons (i.e., assault, homicide, etc.), Property (i.e., burglary, theft, robbery, etc.), and Society (i.e., alcohol and drug offenses, weapon offenses, gambling, etc.). These new categories are a shift from the older FBI reporting style (UCR Summary) of simply reporting violent and property crime counts.

[2023 STATISTICS](#)

Overall crime citywide in San Diego decreased 2.7% in 2023. Compared to the previous year, data show a decrease in over half the crimes tabulated. Crimes against persons have remained relatively the same compared to last year. Crimes against property have remained relatively low, with decreases in all crime sections except for vehicle thefts. While an increase in overall crimes against society is shown, most crime sections, such as prostitution and weapon law violations, show a decrease compared to last year.

Crimes Against Persons	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023	% Change	% Cleared by Arrest in 2023
*Murder	52	45	-13.5%	84.4%
Kidnapping	213	215	0.9%	49.8%
Sexual Assault	868	727	-16.2%	14.4%
Aggravated Assault	4252	4490	5.6%	44.2%
Simple Assault	7210	6979	-3.2%	44.8%
Intimidation	791	912	15.3%	40.2%
Other Sex Offenses	13	16	23.1%	5.9%
Total	13,409	13,395	-0.1%	45.6%
Crimes Against Property				
Robbery	1282	1199	-6.5%	36.4%
Arson	183	144	-21.3%	41.1%
Burglary	3353	2816	-16.0%	12.8%
Larceny	9799	10309	5.2%	13.3%
Car Prowl	5776	5378	-6.9%	1.6%
Vehicle Theft	6442	6658	3.4%	5.4%
Stolen Property Offenses	992	873	-12.0%	64.2%
Vandalism	7236	6811	-5.9%	16.2%
Fraud / Counterfeiting	4370	3014	-31.0%	23.3%
Total	39,433	37,202	-5.7%	11.3%
Crimes Against Society				
Narcotic Violations	5317	5839	9.8%	98.8%
Pornography/Obscene Material	14	12	-14.3%	25.0%
Gambling	5	7	40.0%	85.7%
Prostitution	112	80	-28.6%	100.0%
Weapon Law Violations	1104	981	-11.1%	93.9%
Animal Cruelty	4	24	500.0%	37.5%
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	181	200	10.5%	100.0%
Disorderly Conduct	80	741	*N/A	100.0%
Alcohol Violations	4099	3538	-13.7%	100.0%
Total	10,916	11,422	4.6%	98.8%
Grand Total	63,758	62,019	-2.7%	34.9%

Note: Based on FBI National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) guidelines

*Murder counts/clearances provided by the San Diego Police Department Homicide unit.

*Additional code section added to Disorderly Conduct category in September 2023, therefore the comparison with 2022 is not available.

STATISTICS OF NOTE:

- **Murders decreased by 13.5%.** Of the 45 homicide cases, 6 were confirmed to be associated with gang activity and 5 were associated with family/domestic violence.
- **Sexual assault decreased 16.2%** in 2023.
- **Overall non-fatal shootings decreased by 23 cases,** a 12% decrease compared to 2022.
- **The violent crime rate of 4.4 per thousand residents** is one of the lowest of major cities in the nation.

- **Hate crime reports have increased from 38 cases in 2022 to 66 cases in 2023.**
 - Race accounted for 38% of hate crimes in 2023.
 - Religious bias accounted to 27% of hate crimes.
- **Crimes committed by gang members decreased 12%** and the number of documented gang members decreased by 20%.

SDPD continues to encourage all community members to work with the police department to report suspicious activity, assist in investigations and help create safer communities for all.

The Department will present the annual crime data to the City Council as an information item later this spring.

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