



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRIME IS DOWN IN SAN DIEGO

San Diego, CA...Crime in San Diego decreased 0.6% in 2002 compared to 2001, according to year-end statistics compiled by the San Diego Police Department.

There were 50,124 index crimes reported last year, compared to 50,445 in 2001.

Violent crimes—murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault -- decreased 2.9% last year, from 7,406 in 2001 to 7,193.

Of serious crimes, murder showed the most dramatic decrease – 7.8% -- from 2001. There were 47 murders last year, compared to 51 in 2001, and 54 in 2000.

There were fewer rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults last year, as well: 330 rapes, compared to 342 in 2001, a 3.5% decrease; 1,627 robberies, compared to 1,729 in 2001, a 5.9% decrease; and 5,189 aggravated assaults, compared to 5,284 in 2001, a 1.8% decrease.

Property crimes – burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft – decreased 0.3% last year, from 43,039 in 2001 to 42,931. There were 24,577 larcenies or thefts, compared to 25,050 in 2001, a 1.9% decrease; and 10,715 motor vehicle thefts compared to 10,770 in 2001, a 0.5% decrease.

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The only crime that increased last year was burglary, with 7,639, compared to 7,219 in 2001, a 5.8% increase.

“This is good news for San Diego. Despite our low ratio of officers to residents, we remain truly one of the safest cities in the United States,” said Police Chief David Bejarano. “I’m extremely proud of our sworn and civilian members, who work hard to fight crime. We are also fortunate to have many involved and supportive community members who contribute to making our city safe.”

San Diego’s overall crime rate was 39.92 in 2002, slightly higher than 39.50 in 2001. A downward adjustment in population accounted for the slight increase last year. Despite the slight increase, last year’s crime rate was still lower than every year in the 1990’s, except for 1999, when the crime rate was 39.81.

San Diego’s violent crime rate fell in 2002 compared to 2001: 5.73 per one thousand residents, compared to 5.80 in 2001. The property crime rate rose slightly in 2002 compared to 2001: 34.19 per one thousand residents, compared to 33.70 in 2001.

San Diego police solved more crimes last year compared to 2001. Police cleared or solved 59.7% of violent crimes last year, compared to 58.3% in 2001. The national average for violent crime clearances was 46.2% in 2001. Police cleared or solved 11.3% of property crimes last year, compared to 10.7% in 2001. The national average for property crime clearances was 16.2% in 2001.

Chief Bejarano is scheduled to report on 2002 index crimes, other crimes, and the Department’s crime prevention efforts at the March 5, 2003 meeting of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services committee.

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**San Diego
Actual Crimes
January – December 2001 vs. 2002**

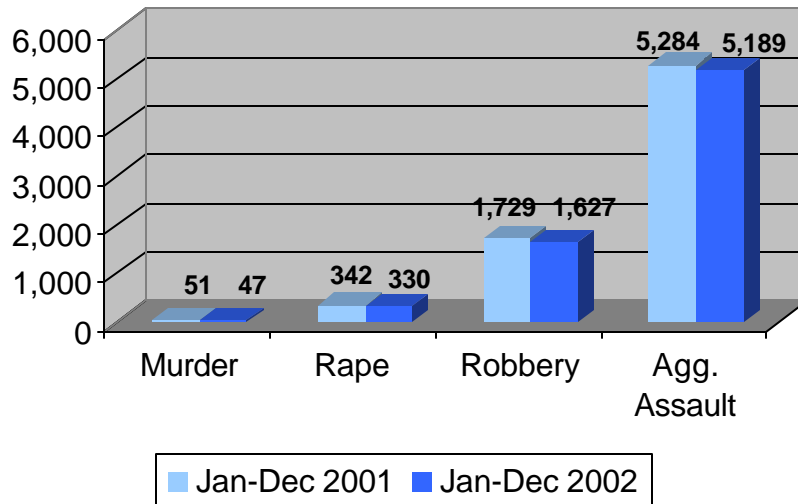
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Murder	51	47	-7.8%
Rape	342	330	-3.5%
Robbery	1,729	1,627	-5.9%
Agg. Assault	5,284	5,189	-1.8%
Violent Crimes	7,406	7,193	-2.9%
SUBTOTAL			
Burglary	7,219	7,639	5.8%
Larceny	25,050	24,577	-1.9%
Motor Veh Theft	10,770	10,715	-0.5%
Property Crimes	43,039	42,931	-0.3%
SUBTOTAL			
Index Crime TOTAL	50,445	50,124	-0.6%

San Diego
Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
January – December 2001 vs. 2002

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Violent Crimes	5.80	5.73
Property Crimes	33.70	34.19
Total Index Crime	39.50	39.92

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Violent Crimes



Property Crimes

