



San Diego Crime Victims and Suspects in 2004

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SAN DIEGO CRIME VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS IN 2004

INTRODUCTION

This CJ Bulletin, which is the final in a series of three presenting 2004 annual crime information, includes information from local law enforcement agencies regarding characteristics of crime victims and suspects. Analyses are presented regarding which population subgroups were more likely to be victimized in 2004, as well as how victims and suspects differed by crime type in terms of their ethnicity (White, Black, Hispanic, and "other"), age, and gender.

FAST FACTS

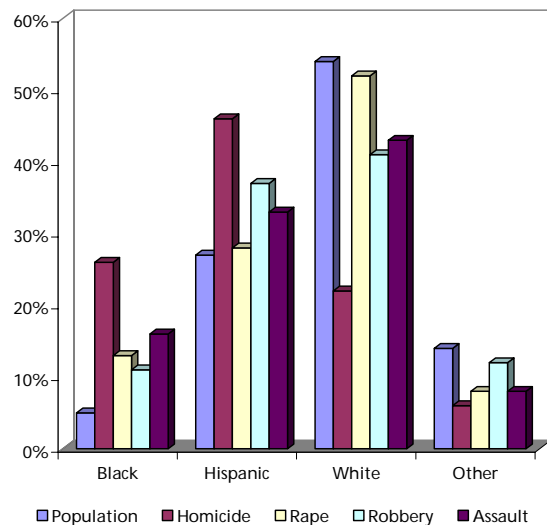
- While Blacks represented only 5 percent of San Diego County's population in 2004, they represented 26 percent of homicide victims, an increase from 14 percent of victims in 2002.
- Youth under the age of 18 represented 13 percent of the population, but 28 percent of rape and 22 percent of homicide victims.
- Females were more likely to be victims of assault than males.
- Adults ages 40 and older were more likely to be a victim of a property crime than a violent crime.
- Whites and individuals who identify with other ethnicities were more likely to be victims of property crime than violent crime.

WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO BE A CRIME VICTIM?

Victimization by Victim Ethnicity

According to 2004 population estimates, slightly more than half (54%) of San Diego residents identify as White, 27 percent as Hispanic, 14 percent as another ethnicity, and 5 percent as Black (Figure 1). However, Blacks were overrepresented as victims in each of the violent crime categories, consistent with national statistics. Specifically, Blacks were significantly overrepresented as victims of homicide (26% of all victims), rape (13%), robbery (11%), and assault (16%).

Figure 1
BLACKS OVERREPRESENTED AS VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME

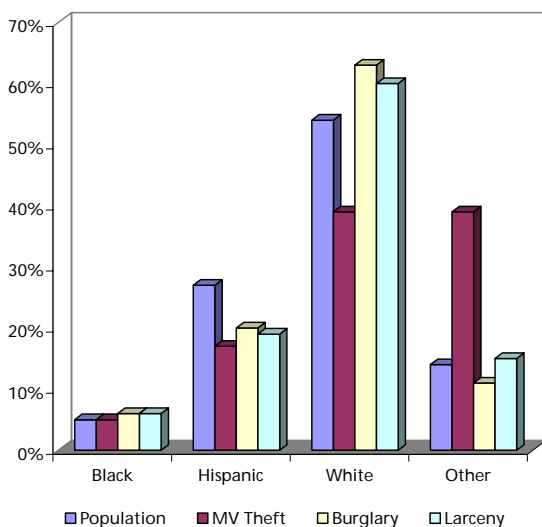


SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

Hispanics also were significantly over-represented as victims of homicide (46% of all victims, compared to 27% of the population), robbery (37%), and assault (33%); Whites were significantly underrepresented as victims of homicide (22% of all victims, compared to 54% of the population), robbery (41%), and assault (43%); and individuals of other ethnicities were significantly under-represented as victims of homicide (6% of all victims, compared to 14% of the population), rape (8%), and assault (8%).

Figure 2 shows the percent of individuals in each of the four population ethnic groups, compared to their representation as victims in the three property crime categories of motor vehicle theft, burglary, and larceny. Notably, Hispanics were underrepresented as victims of each of these property crimes, Whites were overrepresented as burglary and larceny victims, and individuals of other ethnicities were overrepresented as victims of motor vehicle theft.

Figure 2
HISPANICS UNDERREPRESENTED AS VICTIMS OF PROPERTY CRIME



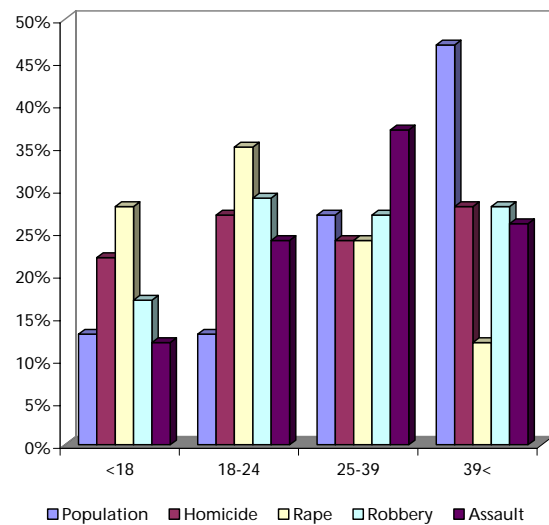
SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

Victimization by Victim Age

As Figure 3 shows, individuals younger than 25 were at significantly greater risk of being a violent crime victim in 2004, compared to other age groups. Specifically, young adults ages 18 to 24 (who represented 13% of the population) were overrepresented in each of the four violent crime categories, representing 35 percent of rape victims, 29 percent of robbery victims, 27 percent of homicide victims, and 24 percent of assault victims.

In addition, juveniles (under the age of 18), who also represented 13 percent of the population, accounted for 28 percent of rape victims, 22 percent of homicide victims, and 17 percent of robbery victims. Adults ages 25 to 39 were overrepresented among assault victims (37%, compared to 27% of the population) and those 40 years of age or older (47% of the population) were underrepresented in each of the violent crime categories (representing from 12% to 28% of victims).

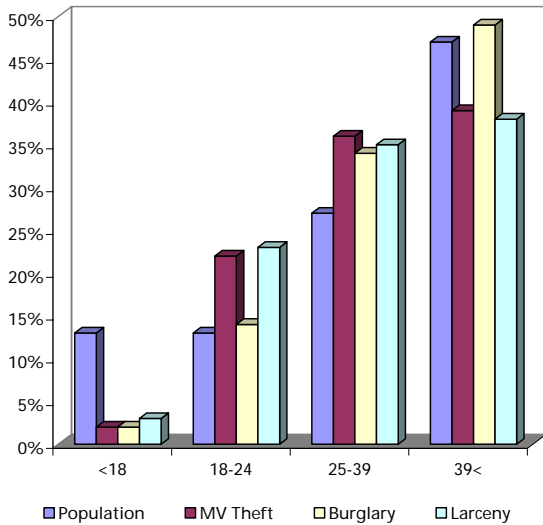
Figure 3
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS OVER-REPRESENTED AS VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS



SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

In comparison, adults between the ages of 25 and 39 were overrepresented in each of the property crime categories. As Figure 4 shows, while they represented 27 percent of the population, they accounted for around one-third of motor vehicle theft (36%), burglary (34%), and larceny (35%) victims. Young adults between 18 and 24 were overrepresented among motor vehicle (22%) and larceny (23%) victims, whereas youth under 18 were underrepresented in each property crime category.

**Figure 4
ADULTS BETWEEN 25 AND 39
OVERREPRESENTED AMONG
PROPERTY CRIME VICTIMS**

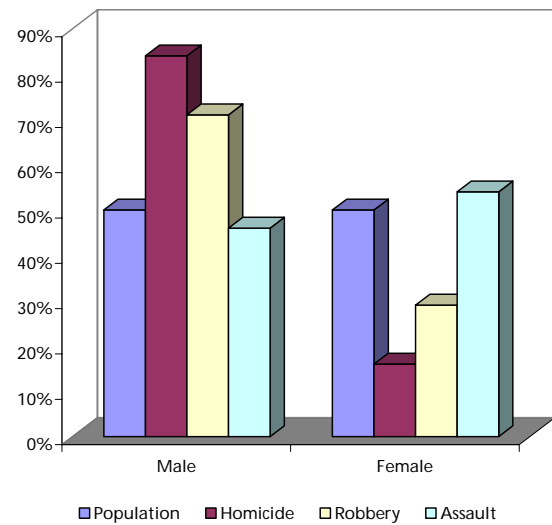


SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

Victimization by Victim Gender

As Figure 5 shows, half (50%) of the region's population in 2004 was male and half (50%) was female. However, there were significant differences in victimization by violent crime type, with males overrepresented as homicide and robbery victims and females overrepresented as assault victims.

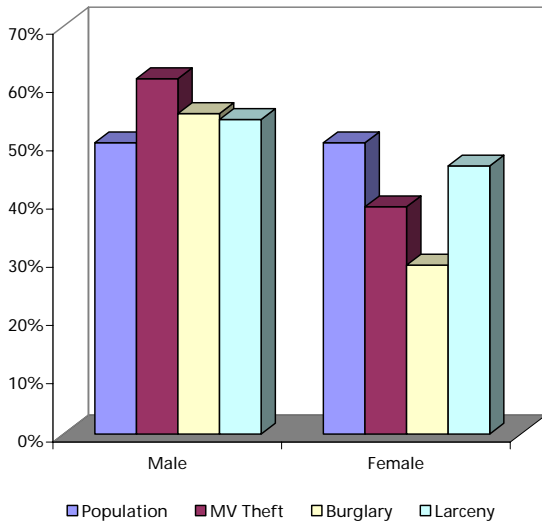
**Figure 5
MALES OVERREPRESENTED AS
VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE AND ROBBERY**



SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

For property crimes, males were more likely than females to be victims of each of the three crime types (motor vehicle theft 61%; burglary 55%; and larceny 54%) (Figure 6).

**Figure 6
MALES OVERREPRESENTED AS
VICTIMS OF ALL PROPERTY CRIMES**



SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

HAVE VICTIMIZATION PROFILES CHANGED OVER TIME?

With victim characteristic data available for 2002, 2003, and 2004, profile changes were compared for the past three years. While there was no change for the majority of crime types (for either race, age, or gender), there were some significant trends worth noting. These included:

- The percent of homicide victims who were Black increased from 14 percent in 2002 to 26 percent in 2004.
- The percent of homicide victims under the age of 18 has more than doubled, from 10 percent in 2002 to 22 percent in 2004.
- The percent of rape victims under the age of 18 has decreased from 38 percent in 2002 to 28 percent in 2004.

DO VICTIM AND SUSPECT PROFILES DIFFER?

Information regarding crime victim characteristics shows that these individuals differ in a number of significant ways from suspects who were arrested for committing those crimes, as Tables 1 and 2 show. Some notable differences in 2004 included:

- Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 represented about one-quarter (27%) of homicide victims, but almost one-half (47%) of homicide suspects.
- Females were more likely to be victims than suspects of each of the violent and property crimes.
- Most (45%) rape suspects were between the ages of 25 and 39.
- Blacks represented 11 percent of robbery victims, but 38 percent of robbery suspects.
- Youth under the age of 18 were more likely to be robbery, motor vehicle theft, burglary, and larceny suspects than victims.
- The ethnic and age descriptions of assault victims and suspects were most similar, compared to other violent crimes.
- Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to be suspects than victims of each of the three property crimes.
- Adults 40 years of age and older were more likely to be victims of property crime (38% to 49%) than violent crime (12% to 28%).

**Table 1
CHARACTERISTICS OF VIOLENT CRIME
VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS DIFFER**

	Victims	Suspects
Homicide		
Black	26%	28%
Hispanic	46%	38%
White	22%	24%
Other ethnicity	6%	9%
Under 18	22%	10%
18 to 24	27%	47%
25 to 39	24%	27%
40 and older	28%	16%
Male	84%	92%
Female	16%	8%
Rape		
Black	13%	23%
Hispanic	28%	42%
White	52%	27%
Other ethnicity	8%	8%
Under 18	28%	12%
18 to 24	35%	22%
25 to 39	24%	45%
40 and older	12%	21%
Robbery		
Black	11%	38%
Hispanic	37%	37%
White	41%	20%
Other ethnicity	12%	4%
Under 18	17%	31%
18 to 24	29%	38%
25 to 39	27%	22%
40 and older	28%	9%
Male	71%	86%
Female	29%	14%
Assault		
Black	16%	20%
Hispanic	33%	36%
White	43%	36%
Other ethnicity	8%	8%
Under 18	12%	11%
18 to 24	24%	25%
25 to 39	37%	40%
40 and older	26%	24%
Male	46%	78%
Female	54%	22%

SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

**Table 2
CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPERTY CRIME
VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS DIFFER**

	Victims	Suspects
MV Theft		
Black	5%	14%
Hispanic	17%	46%
White	39%	32%
Other ethnicity	39%	8%
Under 18	2%	20%
18 to 24	22%	37%
25 to 39	36%	34%
40 and older	39%	9%
Male	61%	79%
Female	39%	21%
Burglary		
Black	6%	17%
Hispanic	20%	36%
White	63%	38%
Other ethnicity	11%	9%
Under 18	2%	27%
18 to 24	14%	31%
25 to 39	34%	29%
40 and older	49%	12%
Male	55%	74%
Female	45%	26%
Larceny		
Black	6%	17%
Hispanic	19%	32%
White	60%	43%
Other ethnicity	15%	9%
Under 18	3%	11%
18 to 24	23%	31%
25 to 39	35%	38%
40 and older	38%	20%
Male	54%	70%
Female	46%	30%

SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2004 Statistics

METHODOLOGY

The numbers presented in this report were provided by the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS). A few qualifications should be considered when interpreting this information.

- Information regarding crime victim characteristics was available from reports that were completed after a crime was reported to law enforcement. It should be noted that not all crimes are reported to law enforcement and that some sectors of the population are more likely to report crime than others.¹
- Information regarding crime suspect characteristics was available from arrest reports. Obviously, descriptives for individuals who committed a crime but were not arrested are not included and it is possible that some individuals in the suspect sample actually did not commit the crime for which they were arrested.
- The victimizations and arrests reported here relate to violent (homicide, rape, robbery, and assault) and property (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) Part I crimes (which are tracked by the FBI in a standardized manner across the country). Individuals whose lives were affected by Part II crimes, which are not tracked in a standardized manner, are not included.
- In some cases, especially with property crimes, a business, organization, or household member can be the reporting party, rather than an individual victim. With these data, businesses/organizations are not included, but for households, the characteristics of the reporting party are reflected.
- Statistics on 2004 population estimates for youth include juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17.
- According to Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) procedures for the crime of rape, all victims are females and all suspects are males.

¹ According to the most recent National Crime Victimization Survey administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2003, 48 percent of all violent crimes and 38 percent of all property crimes were reported to police.