

# public safety

At a rate lower than the state and nation, San Bernardino's crime rate continues its downward trend. Homicides are down, as are child abuse reports and entries into the foster care system. While the number of gang-related cases is also down, there was an increase in the number of reported gangs, and about 9% of San Bernardino County youth consider themselves a member of a gang.

## *Early Action Helps Troubled Teens*

*The Juvenile Intervention Program (JIP) is designed to show troubled teens the reality of incarceration and the importance of making better life choices. It is a structured, one-day program that utilizes personnel from the Sheriff Department's Public Affairs Division and college interns from the University of Redlands. Since JIP began in 2004, more than 4,600 juveniles have participated. Of the families who responded to a three-month follow up survey, 78% indicated that they continue to see an improvement in their child's behavior.*

# Child Abuse and Neglect Reports Drop

## Description of Indicator

This indicator tracks child abuse by measuring confirmed child abuse and neglect reports (substantiated referrals) and the number of children entering foster care. Domestic violence is tracked by measuring calls for assistance.

## Why is it Important?

Foster care placement is often the final act to protect children from abuse and neglect after repeated attempts to stabilize their families. Domestic violence threatens the physical and emotional wellbeing of children and women in particular, and can have lasting negative impacts. It can also lead to homelessness when the abused flees a dangerous environment.

## How is San Bernardino County Doing?

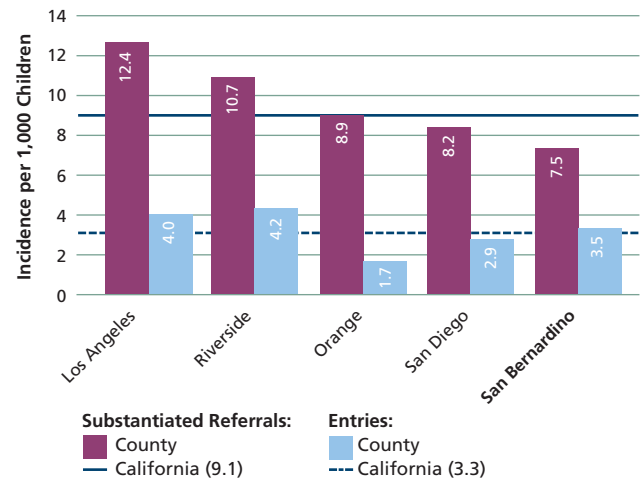
Child abuse and neglect reports for San Bernardino County are comparatively low:

- Compared to neighboring counties and the state, San Bernardino County had the fewest substantiated child abuse and neglect referrals per 1,000 children in 2011.
- Between 2010 and 2011, there was a 6% decrease in child abuse and neglect reports, marking an overall decline of 25% during the 10-year period.
- The number of children entering foster care remained relatively unchanged since 2010, although there was a 13% decrease in the 10-year period between 2002 and 2011.
- At 3.5 per 1,000 children, San Bernardino County has the third highest rate of children entering foster care compared to neighboring counties and the statewide average.
- 46% of substantiated referrals in San Bernardino County resulted in foster care placement, a higher proportion than the state and all counties compared.

Domestic violence-related calls for assistance rose:

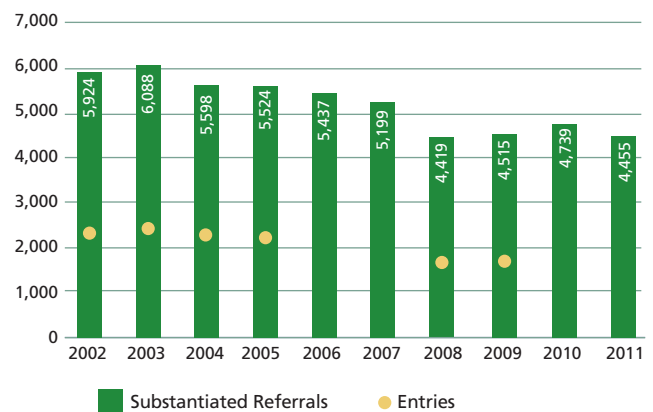
- In 2010, there were 7,563 domestic violence-related calls for assistance, compared to 7,327 in 2009 (3% increase).
- Despite the increase, the 10-year trend in calls for assistance remains downward, falling 11% since 2001.

Substantiated Referrals and Entries to Foster Care County Comparison, 2011



Source: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center ([http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_cbwelfare/default.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_cbwelfare/default.aspx))

Substantiated Referrals and Entries to Foster Care San Bernardino County, 2002-2011



Source: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center ([http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_cbwelfare/default.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_cbwelfare/default.aspx))

Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance San Bernardino County, 2001-2010



Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Special Requests Unit

## Connecting the Dots

Family Safety is affected by numerous factors, one of which is Mental Health.

# Lower Crime Rate than the State and Nation

## Description of Indicator

This indicator compares crime rates among regions and tracks crime rate trends. Crimes included are violent felonies (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property felonies (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft). Victims of homicide by race or ethnicity are also shown.

## Why is it Important?

Crime impacts both real and perceived safety. It can also negatively affect investment in a community if a neighborhood is considered unsafe.

## How is San Bernardino County Doing?

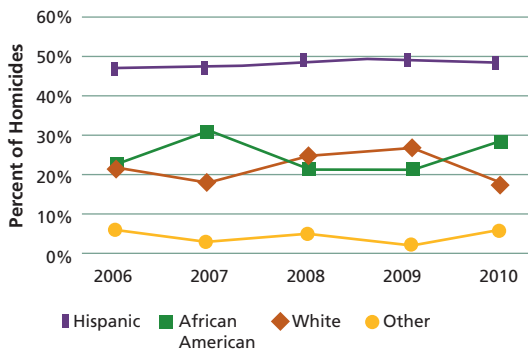
The Riverside-San Bernardino metro area's crime rate continued to fall:

- Over the past five years, reported crime in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area dropped 22%, or an average of 6% each year.
- Riverside-San Bernardino ranks in the middle among neighboring and peer regions compared, and has a lower crime rate than both the state and nation.

Homicides are down:

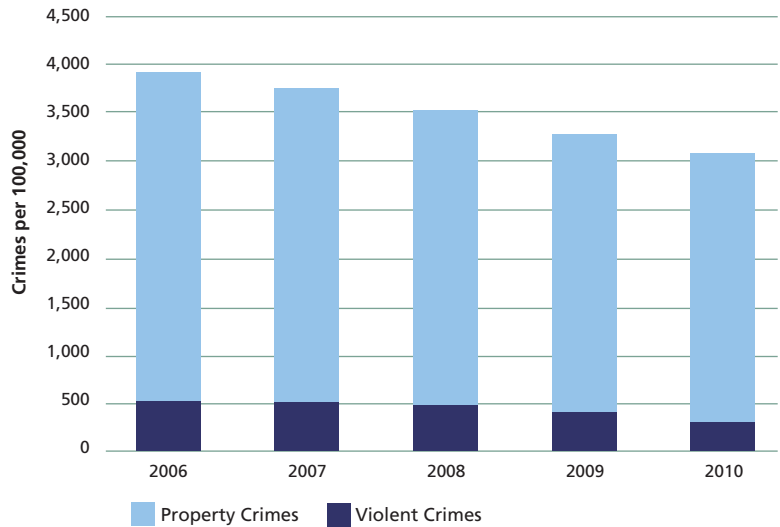
- There was a 35% drop in the number of homicide victims between 2006 and 2010, falling from 161 victims in 2006 to 104 in 2010.
- In 2010, 48% of homicide victims were Hispanic, 17% were White, and 29% were African American.

## Victims of Homicides by Race/Ethnicity San Bernardino County, 2006-2010



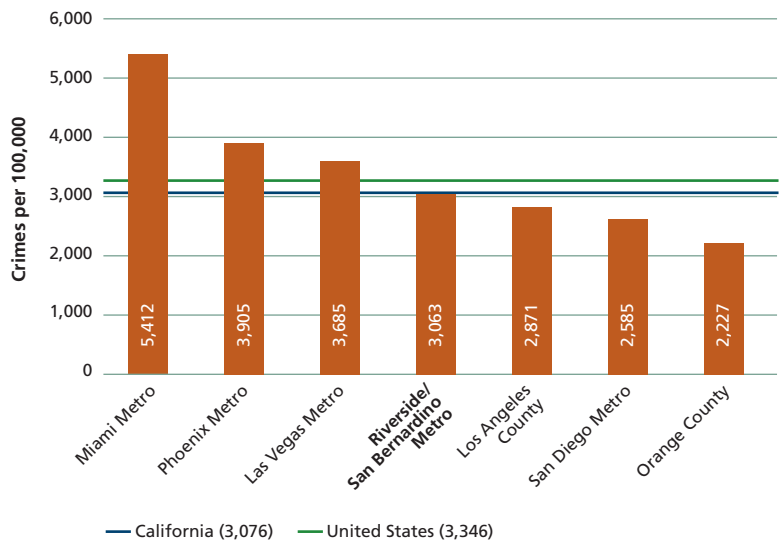
Source: California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Special Request Unit (<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/>)

## Crime Rate Riverside-San Bernardino Metro Area, 2006-2010



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program ([www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm))

## Crime Rate Regional Comparison, 2010



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program ([www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm))

## Historic Realignment Legislation Goes into Effect

In 2011, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 109, referred to widely as "realignment." This legislation intends to close the "revolving door" of low-level inmates cycling in and out of California's state prisons. As of October 2011, county governments have the responsibility for managing, supervising and treating certain felon offenders who previously had been eligible for state prison and parole services. Because realignment is still relatively new to the counties and state, it is still too early to determine the impact on crime rates or communities. Tracking of crime rates and parolee release and recidivism rates will thus be very important in order to measure the impact of this historic legislation.

## Connecting the Dots

The Crime Rate is influenced by Substance Abuse.



# Gang Activity Trends Mixed

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures gang-related crime filings, the numbers of gangs and gang members as identified by law enforcement, and the percentage of youth who are self-identified gang members.<sup>1</sup>

## Why is it Important?

This indicator can help the community gauge the extent and nature of gang-related crime. It can aid policymakers in determining the effectiveness of programs to combat gang-related crime and the level of funding needed to support these programs.

## How is San Bernardino County Doing?

In 2011, there were more gangs but fewer gang members:

- Between 2007 and 2011, the number of known gangs in San Bernardino County rose 7% to 748 gangs.
- While the number of gang members in the county has fallen over the past two years, the five-year trend is still an increase of 38% more gang members in 2011 (17,401) than in 2007 (12,645).<sup>2</sup>

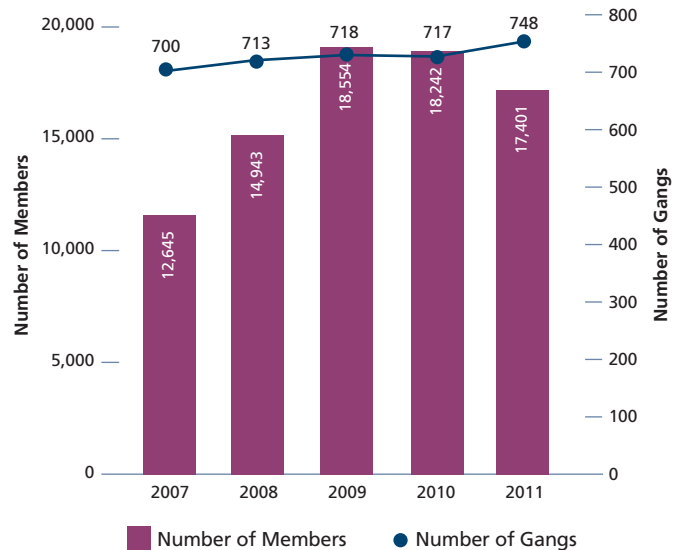
Gang-related filings show mixed trends:

- There were a total of 845 gang-related filings in 2011, down from 953 in 2010 and 1,253 in 2009.
- However, gang-related filings specific to homicide increased; there were 32 filings in 2011, up from 29 in 2010 and 27 in 2009. While this is an increase over the prior two years, it is less than the peak of 37 gang-related homicide filings in 2008.
- In 2011, 25% of homicide filings and 5% of all felony filings were gang-related.

San Bernardino County youth are slightly more likely than youth in most neighboring counties to consider themselves a gang member:

- In 2010, 9% of 7th graders, 10% of 9th graders, and 9% of 11th graders considered themselves gang members, an improvement over 2009 results.<sup>3</sup>
- These rates are one percentage point above the statewide averages for all grades except non-traditional students, where California's rate exceeds San Bernardino County's.

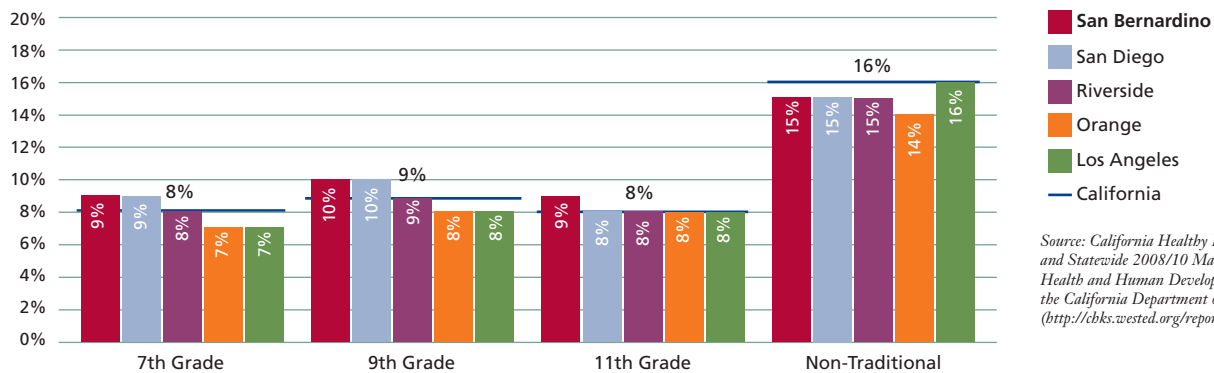
Gangs and Gang Membership  
San Bernardino County, 2007-2011



Note: Using a detailed set of criteria, law enforcement agencies submit information on gang members to a statewide law enforcement database. Gang members are removed from the state database if they have not had contact with law enforcement in the last five years.

Source: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

## Youth Response to "Do you consider yourself a member of a gang?" County Comparison, 2010



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, County and Statewide 2008/10 Main Reports, WestEd Health and Human Development Program for the California Department of Education (<http://cbks.wested.org/reports>)

<sup>1</sup> A filing is a charging document filed with the superior court clerk by a prosecuting attorney alleging that a person committed or attempted to commit a crime.

<sup>2</sup> A long-term rise in the number of gangs and gang members does not necessarily reflect a rise in gang activity, but may instead reflect increased efforts by law enforcement to identify gangs and gang members. Filings may provide a stronger sense of actual criminal activity.

<sup>3</sup> 2010 data are from the California Healthy Kids Survey 2008/10 Main Report; 2009 data are from the CHKS 2007/09 Main Report.

### Connecting the Dots

Gang-related Crime is a primary contributor to the community's overall Crime Rate.