

# public safety

Crime is down over the last decade, including recent decreases in juvenile arrests, homicides, and gang-related crime. The long-term impact of Prison Realignment in California remains to be seen. San Bernardino County probation officers are newly responsible for supervising certain classifications of offenders being released from state prison, or who previously would have been sentenced to state prison. Initial results show reductions in returns to custody (recidivism) for these lower-level offenders.

## *Local Programs Focus on Education and Resources*

*The San Bernardino County Probation Department is implementing dynamic new strategies for rehabilitation, and providing resources to combat recidivism. Three Adult Day Reporting Centers offer an array of educational and treatment resources, while field supervision officers provide the suppression efforts that deter re-offense.*

# Juvenile Arrests Drop 45% in Five Years

## Description of Indicator

This indicator tracks juvenile arrests and 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). Also tracked is the initial impact of Realignment (AB109).

## Why is it Important?

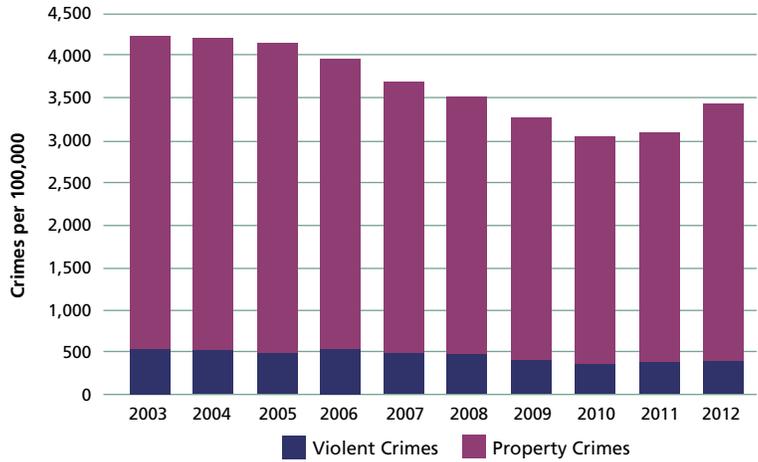
Crime impacts both real and perceived safety. It can also negatively affect investment in a community if a neighborhood is considered unsafe.

## How is San Bernardino County Doing?

The overall crime rate in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area increased for the second year in a row:

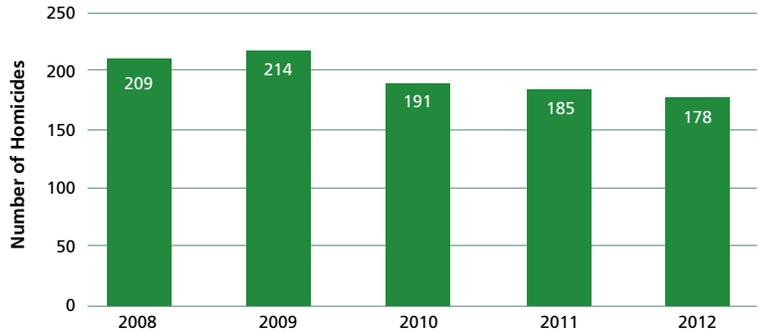
- The violent crime rate increased by 4% between 2011 and 2012, while property crimes increased 7% during the same one-year period.
- Because property crimes account for the majority of crime, the overall crime rate increased nearly 7% between 2011 and 2012.
- However, over the past 10 years, reported crime in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area dropped 20%, or an average of 2.4% per year.
- Riverside-San Bernardino ranks in the middle among neighboring and peer regions compared, and has a higher crime rate than the nation and the state.
- There was a 15% drop in the number of homicide victims in Riverside-San Bernardino between 2008 and 2012, falling from 209 victims in 2008 to 178 in 2012.

**Crime Rate**  
Riverside-San Bernardino, 2003-2012



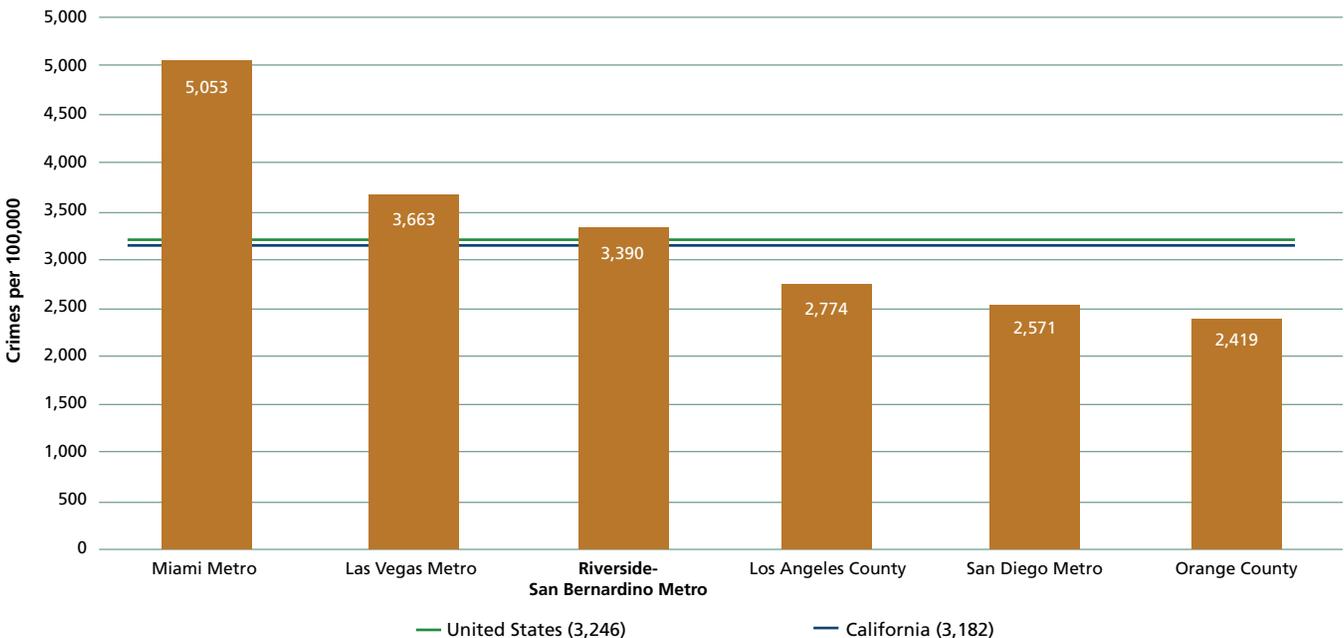
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program ([www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm))

**Victims of Homicide**  
Riverside-San Bernardino, 2008-2012



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, 2012

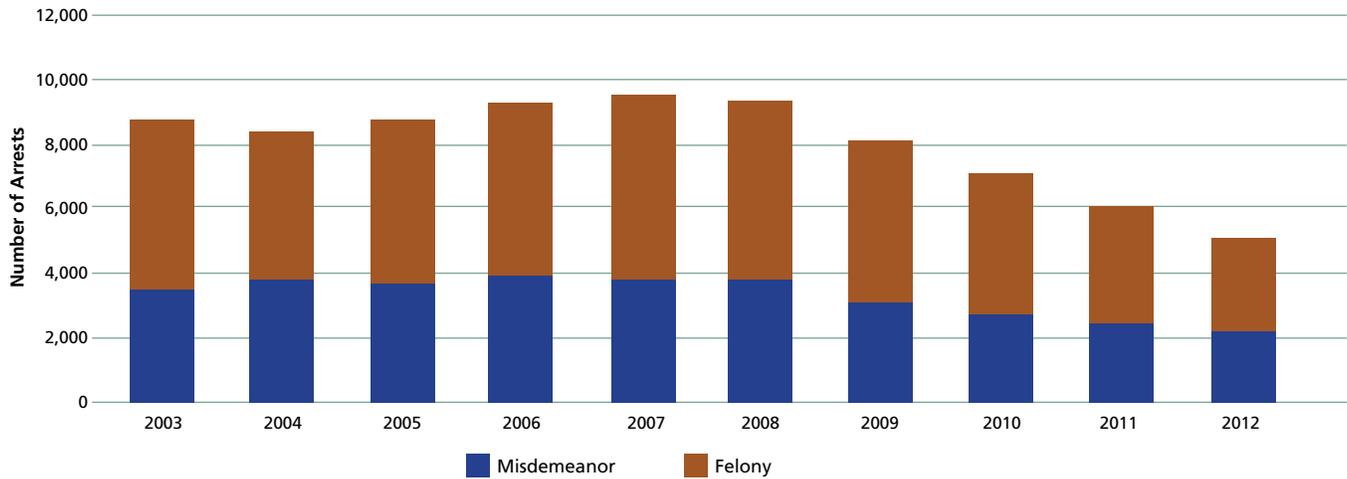


Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program ([www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm))

Juvenile arrests are down:<sup>1</sup>

- During the five-year period between 2008 and 2012, juvenile arrests in San Bernardino County dropped 45%, or an average of 14% each year.
- 42% of the juvenile arrests in 2012 were for misdemeanor charges.

**Juvenile Arrests**  
San Bernardino County, 2003-2012



Source: San Bernardino County Probation Department, Research Unit

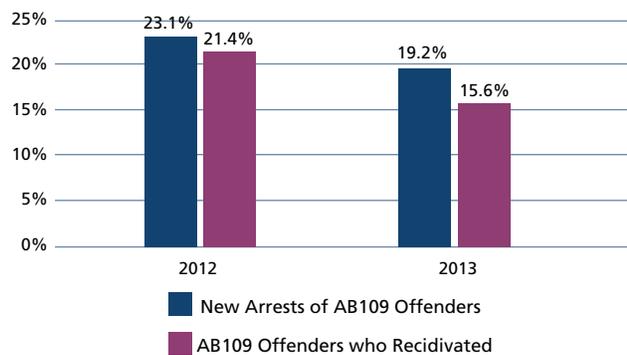
**Tracking Realignment in San Bernardino County**

In October 2011, Realignment legislation (Assembly Bill 109) went into effect. The goal of this legislation is to close the “revolving door” of low-level inmates cycling in and out of California’s state prisons by transferring responsibility to county governments for managing, supervising and treating certain felony offenders (referred to as AB109 offenders) who previously had been eligible for state prison and parole services. Prior to Realignment, the State Department of Corrections had an overall return to custody rate of 82.5% in San Bernardino County for the offender population that is now being supervised by the County Probation Department.

Initial data suggest that realignment has been effective in decreasing the overall return to custody (recidivism) rate:

- By December 2013, arrests for AB109 offenders decreased dramatically to 36.5% – and even lower (19.2%) when excluding technical violation arrests (technical violation arrests include circumstances that violate the terms of release, but do not constitute a new criminal violation of the law).
- Further, by December 2013, the rate of recidivism was 15.6%.

**Percentage of AB109 Offenders with New (Non-technical) Arrests and Percent Recidivating**  
San Bernardino County, 2012 and 2013



Source: San Bernardino County Probation Department

<sup>1</sup>Due to a change in the data source, the data presented are not comparable to the data presented in the 2013 San Bernardino County Community Indicators Report.

# Fewer Gang-Related Crime Filings

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures gang-related crime filings, and the numbers of gangs and gang members as identified by law enforcement.<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?

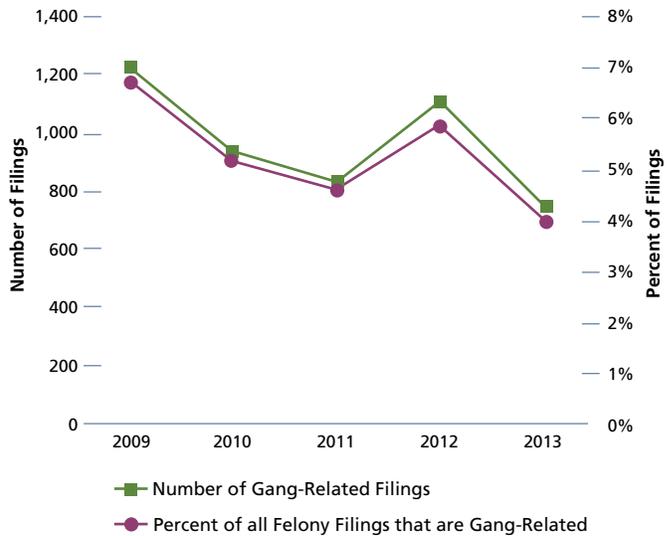
Gang-related filings are down:

- There were a total of 730 gang-related filings in 2013, a 34% decrease from 1,106 filings in 2012.
- In 2013, 29 of the filings against gang-related defendants were for homicide. This reflects a decrease in gang-related homicide filings from 40 in 2012 and 32 in 2011.
- In 2013, 29% of all homicide filings and 4% of all felony filings were gang-related.

In 2013, gang membership decreased:

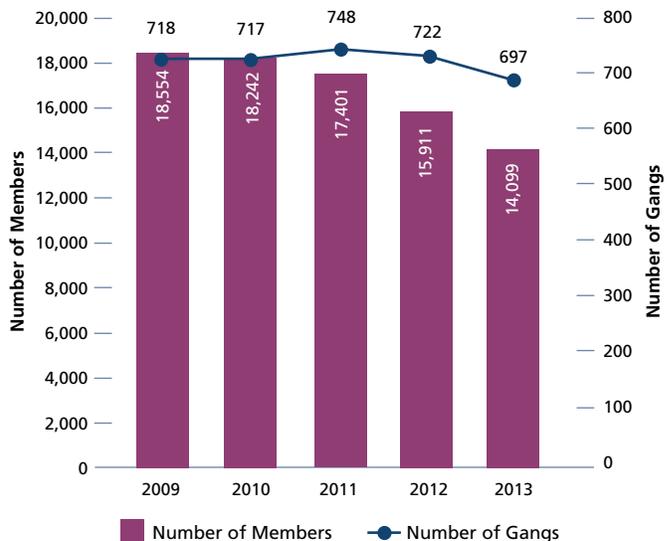
- There were 697 known gangs in San Bernardino County in 2013, below the five-year average of 720 gangs.
- The number of gang members has fallen 24% from 2009 to 2013.

**Gang-Related Filings**  
San Bernardino County, 2009-2013



Source: San Bernardino County District Attorney

**Gangs and Gang Membership**  
San Bernardino County, 2009-2013



Source: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

### Working Together to Reduce Gang Violence

In an effort to address the root causes of youth joining gangs, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department collaborates with several organizations and initiatives countywide. Their goal is to reduce truancy, provide quality mentorship, and shrink the number of youth who join gangs. Participating programs include:

- *Let's End Truancy* – the District Attorney's program to identify the reasons for truancy and work with students and families to increase regular school attendance.
- *County School Attendance Review Board* – law enforcement staff and educators who meet monthly to review cases of extreme truancy, and to investigate best practices in dealing with the issue.
- *Child Welfare & Attendance/Safe Schools Unit* of San Bernardino County Schools – coordinates all the crime-fighting, truancy-fighting, and safety-related efforts of those involved in the local schools.
- *Pastors on Premises* – an informal network of local clergy who provide father figures and mentoring while walking campuses during school hours.
- *County Mentoring Network* – an umbrella group to help facilitate the efforts of all local mentors.
- *Gangs & Drugs Task Force* – an alliance of county stakeholders, primarily law enforcement staff and educators, who meet monthly to discuss solutions to local gang and drug concerns.
- *CleanSWEEP* – the Sheriff's school safety program that battles crime on campus at approximately 100 schools around the county by putting the tool of juvenile citation in the hands of specially trained administrators.

<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.