

public safety

The county's crime rate fell for the sixth consecutive year and 2010 saw a leveling off of gangs and gang membership after several years of increase. More good news: San Bernardino County had the fewest substantiated child abuse and neglect referrals per 1,000 children compared to peers and the state, declining 26% over five years. The number of children entering foster care also declined, as well as spousal abuse arrests.

Law Enforcement Intelligence Gets Even Smarter

In early 2010, the County Sheriff merged two previously distinct divisions: Crime Analysis and Criminal Intelligence, to form the Intelligence Division. Analysts now work directly with detectives on crime investigation in San Bernardino County, turning information into actionable knowledge which creates intelligence-led policing. Analysts also review all reports in the Division from the past 24 hours to identify crime patterns, gang-related crimes, suspicious activity reports, and crime trends. Since the merger, a process was established where Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the state and country can request assistance or information from San Bernardino's Law Enforcement Intelligence Network Center (LEINC) to assist in their investigations.

Lowest Rate of Foster Care Among Peers

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 domestic violence calls for assistance and spousal abuse arrests.

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 were comparatively low:

- In 2009, San Bernardino County had the fewest substantiated child abuse and neglect referrals per 1,000 children when compared to neighboring counties and the statewide rate.
- While recent data show a slight increase in child abuse and neglect reports (2% increase from 2008), the overall 10-year trend shows a decline of 30%.
- Likewise, while the number of children entering foster care increased 4% since 2008, it decreased 32% in the 10-year period between 2000 and 2009.
- At 2.8 per 1,000 children, San Bernardino County has the second lowest rate of children entering foster care compared to regional peers and the statewide rate.
- 36% of substantiated referrals in San Bernardino County resulted in foster care placement, a similar proportion as the state and all peers compared except Orange County.

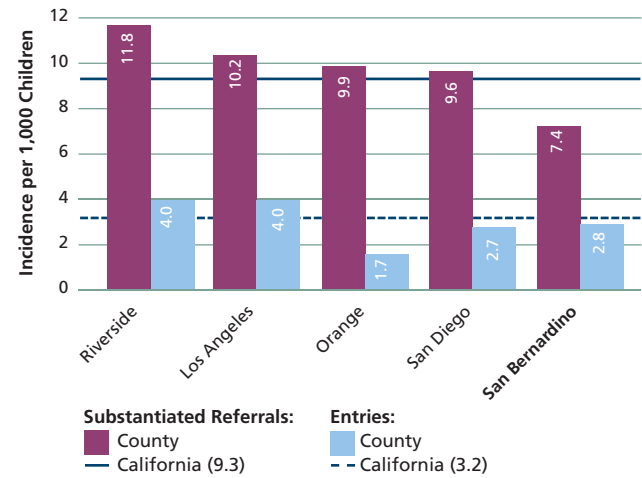
Spousal abuse arrests declined:

- Calls for assistance were down 3% since 2008 at 7,327 calls in 2009.
- Spousal abuse arrests also declined 3% since 2008, totaling 2,428 arrests in 2009.
- In 2009, San Bernardino County had a higher rate of spousal abuse arrests than the statewide average, but a lower level of calls for assistance.

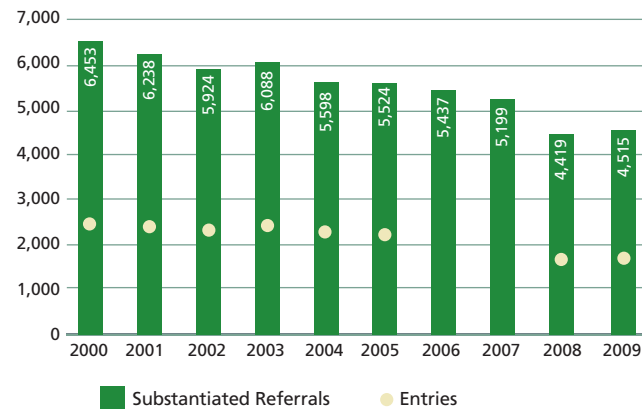
Note: Domestic violence-related calls for assistance per 100,000 are calculated using the total population. Spousal abuse arrests per 100,000 are calculated using the total population at risk, 10-69 years of age.

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

Substantiated Referrals and Entries to Foster Care County Comparison, 2009

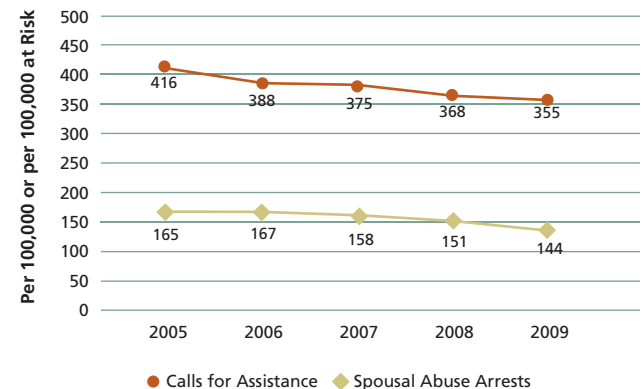


Substantiated Referrals and Entries to Foster Care San Bernardino County, 2000-2009



Source: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/default.aspx)

Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance and Spousal Abuse Arrests San Bernardino County, 2005-2009



Connecting the Dots

Since overcrowding can lead to familial conflict, Family Safety can be improved by providing a wide range of housing choices including rental opportunities as measured by Rental Affordability.



Crime Rate Falls for Sixth Consecutive Year

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?

San Bernardino County's crime rate continued to fall from its 10-year high in 2003:

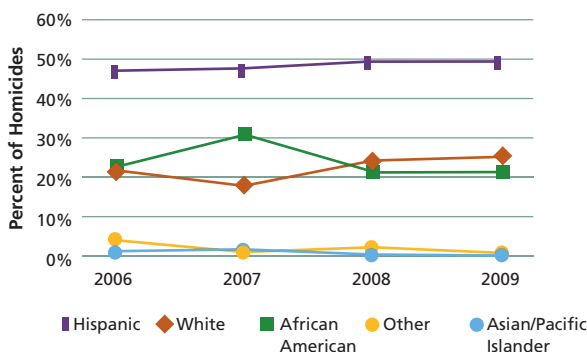
- Over the past 10 years, reported crime dropped 11%, or an average of 2% each year.
- San Bernardino County ranks in the middle among neighbors and peers compared for the overall crime rate.
- There was a 24% drop in the number of homicide victims between 2007 and 2009, falling from 159 victims in 2007 to 121 in 2009.
- In 2009, 49% of homicide victims were Hispanic, 26% were White, and 22% were African American.

Prisoners and Parolees in San Bernardino County

Despite a crime rate similar to the state average, San Bernardino County has a significantly higher proportion of paroled felons under community supervision than the state average and California neighbors. In 2009, 10,729 felons were paroled or reparaoled in San Bernardino County for a rate of 519 parolees per 100,000 population, compared to 338 per 100,000 statewide. However, the 2009 rate marks a 14% decrease from the 2007 rate of 601 parolees per 100,000 population.

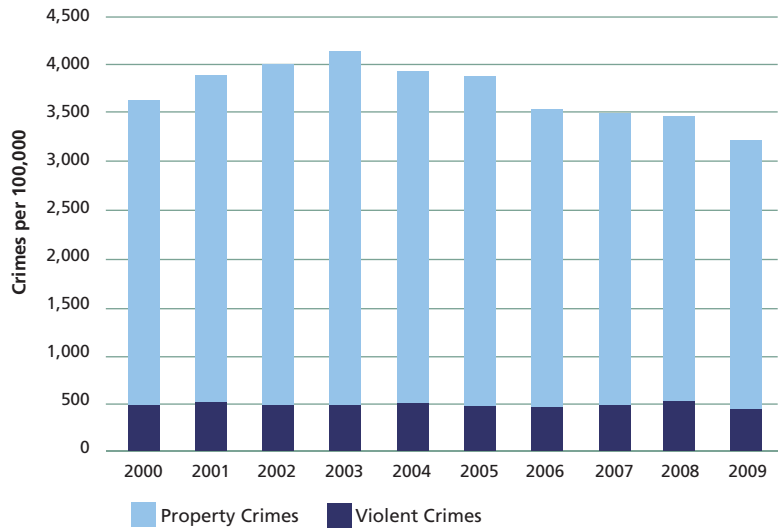
Source: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Prisoners and Parolees, 2009 (www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Offender_Information_Services_Branch/Annual/MISC5/MISC5d2009.pdf)

Victims of Homicides by Race/Ethnicity San Bernardino County, 2006-2009



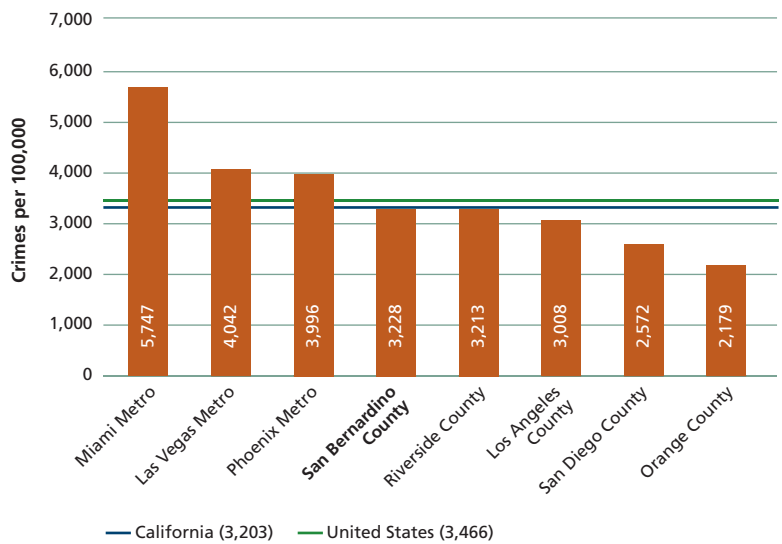
Source: California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Special Request Unit (<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsci/>)

Crime Rate
San Bernardino County, 2000-2009



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

Crime Rate
Regional Comparison, 2009



Sources: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program (www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm) (Phoenix and Las Vegas data) and California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsci/>) (Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange County data)

Connecting the Dots

Crime in the form of vandalism and illegal dumping impacts Water Consumption and Stormwater Quality



Gang Membership Unchanged; Gang-Related Felonies Down

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures gang-related crime filings and the percentage of countywide filings that are gang-related. Also measured are the number of identified gang members and the number of identified gangs in San Bernardino County.

Why is it Important?

This indicator can help the community gauge the extent and nature of gang-related crime. It can also aid policymakers in decisions regarding 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 homicide filings are down:

- There were 26 gang-related homicide filings in 2010 and 27 in 2009. This reflects a drop from 37 in 2008 and 36 in 2007.
- In 2010, 23% of homicide filings were gang-related.
- Among all crimes, roughly 6% of all felony filings in the county were gang-related (combined 2009 and 2010 data).
- There were a total of 953 gang-related filings in 2010, down from 1,253 in 2009.¹

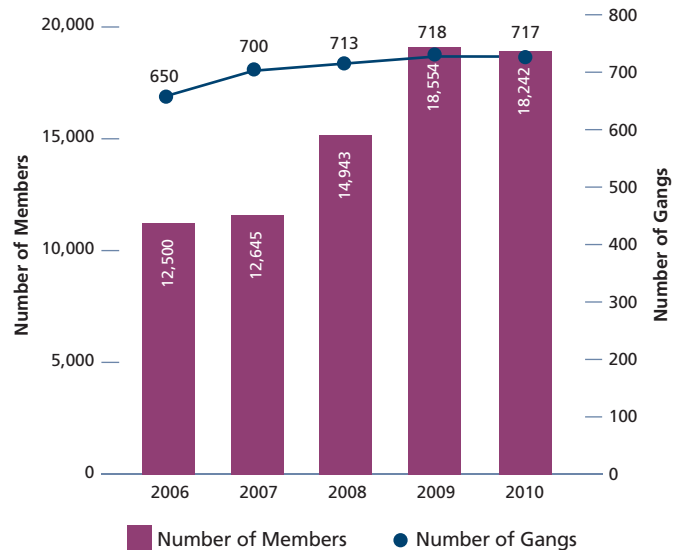
The number of gangs and gang membership was largely unchanged in 2010:

- However, between 2006 and 2010, the number of gangs rose 10% to 717 known gangs in the county as of 2010.
- During the same period, gang membership rose 46% to 18,242 known gang members in the county as of 2010.
- There were fewer gang members in 2010 compared to 2009 and one less gang.

Slightly more San Bernardino County youth consider themselves a member of a gang than youth in neighboring counties:

- 11% of 7th and 9th graders and 9% of 11th graders say they are members of a gang.
- These rates are above the statewide averages for 7th and 9th graders, and the same as the statewide average for 11th graders.

Gangs and Gang Membership
San Bernardino County, 2006-2010

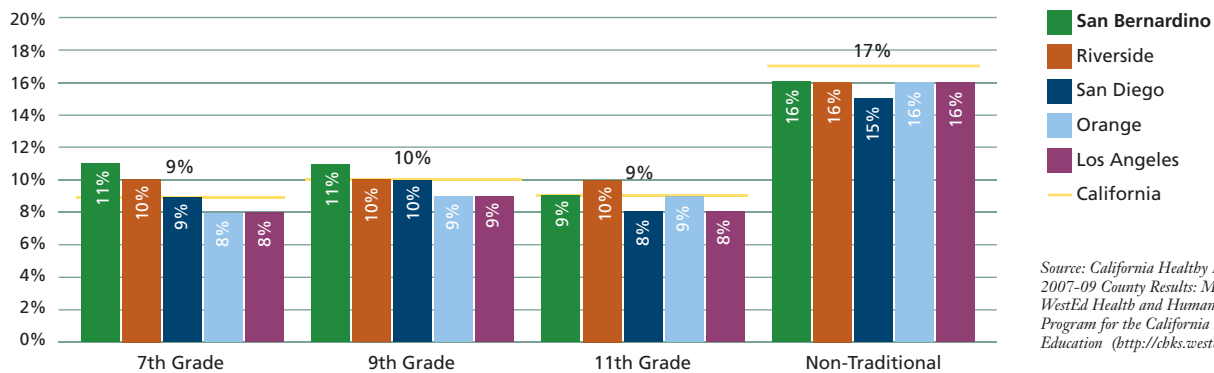


Note: Using a detailed set of criteria, law enforcement agencies submit information on gang members to a statewide law enforcement database. Gang members are removed from the state database if they have not had contact with law enforcement in the last five years.

Source: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

The 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.

Youth Response to "Do you consider yourself a member of a gang?" County Comparison, 2007-09



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, 2007-09 County Results: Main Report, WestEd Health and Human Development Program for the California Department of Education (<http://chks.wested.org/reports>)

¹ 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. Filing data provided by San Bernardino County District Attorney.

Connecting the Dots

When **Gang-Related Crime** impinges on the family, **Family Safety** is at stake.

