

public safety

Short-term trends show small increases in child abuse and neglect reports, children entering foster care, and domestic violence. However, the long-term outlook is positive: child abuse and neglect reports dropped 26% in the past 10 years, domestic violence is down 13%, and the number of gang members has declined. Similarly, despite a recent increase in crime, the overall crime rate has declined over five years, as have juvenile arrests. The past five years have also witnessed a 30% drop in homicides.

Partnership to Help Child Victims: Strong and Growing

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department partners with other agencies to investigate the physical and sexual abuse of children. One successful tool in this type of investigation is the Children's Assessment Center. Created in 1994, the center is designed to perform forensic physical and emotional evaluations of victims while reducing the associated trauma. The Sheriff's Department and its Crimes Against Children Detail play an active role in the center, working closely with other agencies to develop a collaborative and strong partnership. In 2013 the Children's Assessment Center will be moving to a new location over twice the size of the existing building. The new center will accommodate increased staffing to better meet the needs of abused children in San Bernardino County.

Long-Term Trends are Encouraging

Description of Indicator

This indicator tracks child abuse by measuring confirmed child abuse and neglect reports (substantiated allegations) 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 allegations per 1,000 children in 2012.
- While recent data show a slight (1%) increase in child abuse and neglect reports since 2011, the 10-year trend shows a decline of 26%.
- Likewise, while the number of children entering foster care increased 5% since 2011, it decreased 13% in the 10-year period between 2003 and 2012.
- At 3.7 per 1,000 children, San Bernardino County's rate of children entering foster care is lower than that of Los Angeles County (4.5) and Riverside County (3.9) and slightly greater than the statewide average of 3.4 per 1,000 children.
- 48% of substantiated allegations in San Bernardino County resulted in foster care placement, a higher proportion than the state and all counties compared.

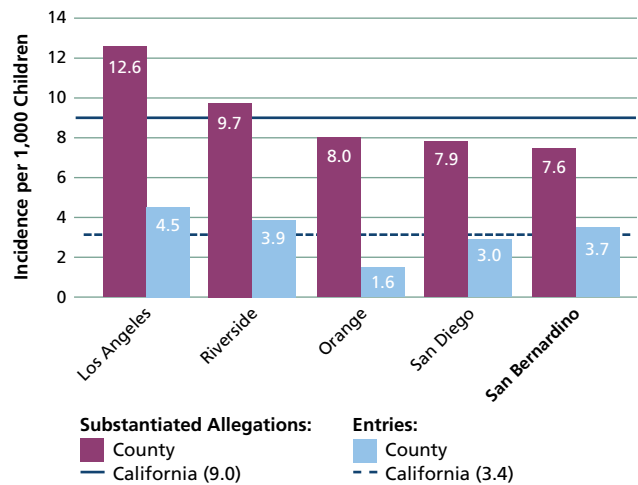
Domestic violence-related calls for assistance rose:

- 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.

Helping San Bernardino County's Children Achieve Permanency

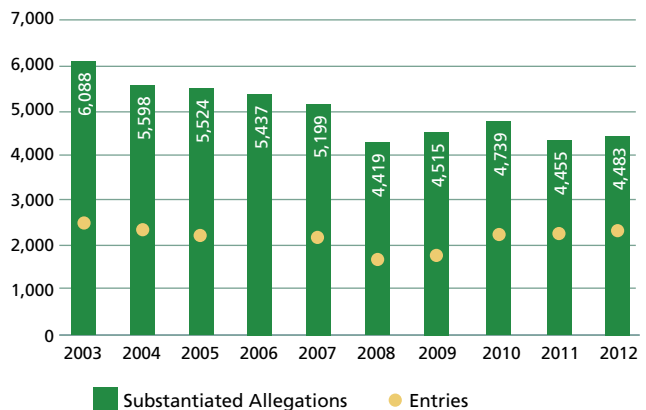
On average, San Bernardino County children in foster care for less than 24 months tend to achieve higher rates of permanency than the statewide average, with 42.6% exiting to adoption, guardianship or reunification, compared to 43.6% statewide. Of San Bernardino County children in care for 24 months or longer, 26.2% of the children exit to adoption, guardianship or reunification, which is greater than the statewide average of 23.5%. Among the five Southern California counties compared, San Bernardino County ranks second for children in care 24 months or longer exiting to permanency and third for children in care less than 24 months exiting to permanency.

Substantiated Allegations and Entries to Foster Care County Comparison, 2012



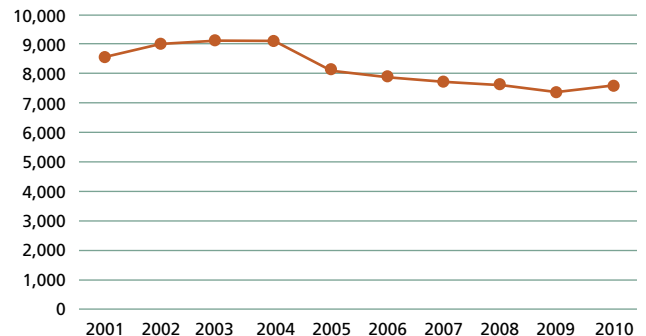
Source: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/default.aspx)

Substantiated Allegations and Entries to Foster Care San Bernardino County, 2003-2012



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 San Bernardino County, 2001-2010



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

● Connecting the Dots Family Safety is at risk when Gang-Related Crime is present.

Number of Homicides Continues to Drop

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).

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?

While the overall crime rate in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area increased between 2010 and 2011, the long-term trend remains downward:

- The violent crime rate decreased by 4% between 2010 and 2011, while property crimes increased 5% during the same one-year period. Because property crimes account for the majority of crime, the overall crime rate increased almost 4% between 2010 and 2011.
- However, over the past five years, reported crime in Riverside-San Bernardino dropped 14%, or an average of 4% each year.
- Riverside-San Bernardino ranks in the middle among neighboring and peer regions compared, and has a lower crime rate than the nation but a higher crime rate than the state.
- There was a 30% drop in the number of homicide victims in Riverside-San Bernardino between 2007 and 2011, falling from 265 victims in 2007 to 185 in 2011.¹

Juvenile arrests are also down:²

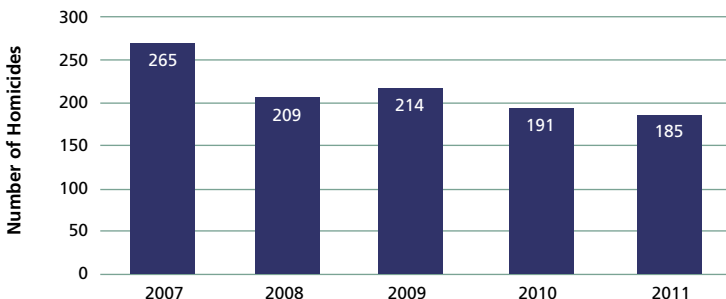
- Between 2007 and 2011, juvenile arrests in San Bernardino County dropped 37%, or an average of 11% each year.
- Almost three-quarters (72%) of the juvenile arrests in 2011 were for misdemeanor charges.
- Typically, juvenile arrests account for 15% of all arrests.

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 2011, 8,256 felons were paroled or reparaoled in San Bernardino County for a rate of 403 parolees per 100,000 population, compared to 261 per 100,000 statewide. However, the 2011 rate marks a 34% decrease from the 2007 rate of 601 parolees per 100,000 population.

Source: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Prisoners and Parolees, 2011

Victims of Homicide

Riverside-San Bernardino, 2007-2011

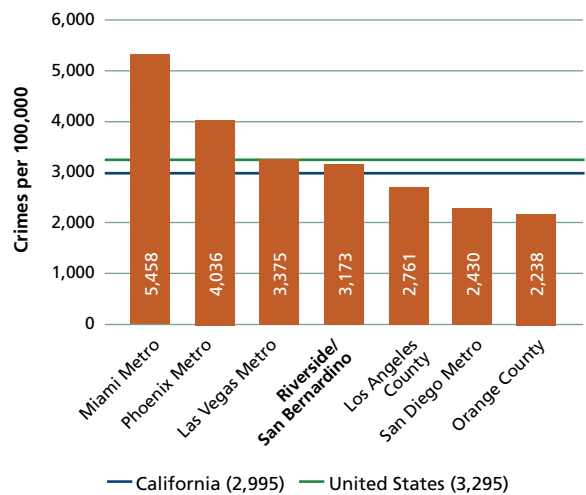


Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program (www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm)

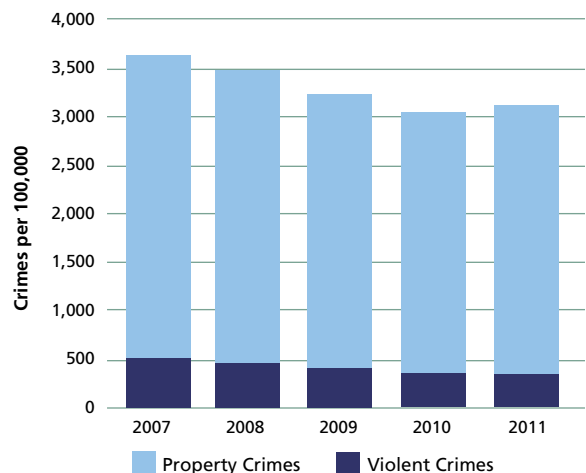
¹ Due to a change in the data source, the homicide victims data presented in this indicator are not comparable to the data presented in the 2012 San Bernardino County Community Indicators Report.

² California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Profiles (<http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjpc/stats/arrests>)

Crime Rate
Regional Comparison, 2011



Crime Rate
Riverside-San Bernardino, 2007-2011



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

Initial Impact of Realignment

In October 2011, Realignment legislation (Assembly Bill 109) went into effect. This legislation intends 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 felon offenders who previously had been eligible for state prison and parole services. Initial data suggest that realignment has been effective in decreasing the overall return to custody (recidivism) rate. 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. By February 2013, this rate decreased dramatically to 37.5%.

Connecting the Dots
 Increases in the Crime Rate may be a downstream result of Substance Abuse.

More Gang-Related Filings; Fewer Identified Gang Members

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.¹

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 up:

- There were a total of 1,106 gang-related filings in 2012, an increase from 845 in 2011 and 953 in 2010.
- In 2012, 40 of the filings against gang-related defendants were for homicide. This reflects an increase in gang-related homicide filings from 32 in 2011 and 29 in 2010. The 40 filings in 2012 are the highest number of gang-related homicide filings in the past six years.
- In 2012, 38% of all homicide filings and 6% of all felony filings were gang-related.²

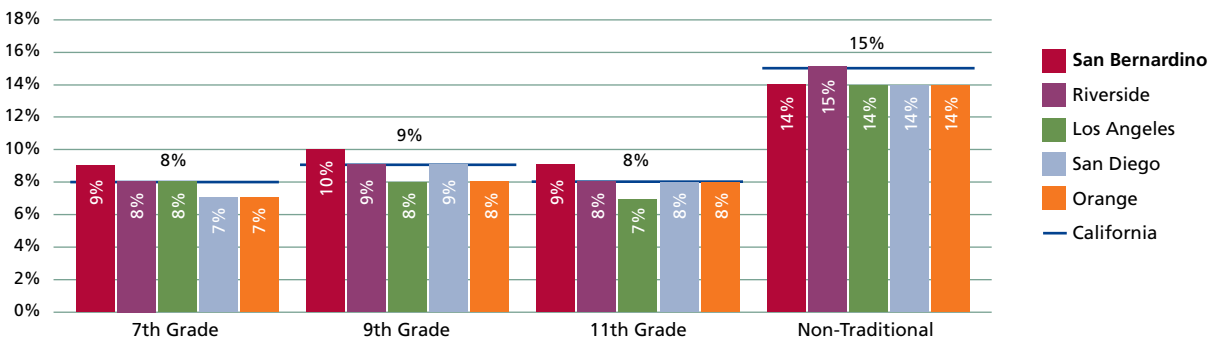
Gang membership decreased:

- There were 722 known gangs in San Bernardino in 2012, below the five-year average of 724 gangs.
- The number of gang members has fallen steadily from 2009 to 2012.

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

- Unchanged from the previous year, in 2011, 9% of 7th graders, 10% of 9th graders, and 9% of 11th graders considered themselves gang members. Fewer non-traditional students consider themselves gang members compared to 2010.
- 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.

Youth Response to "Do you consider yourself a member of a gang?" County Comparison, 2011

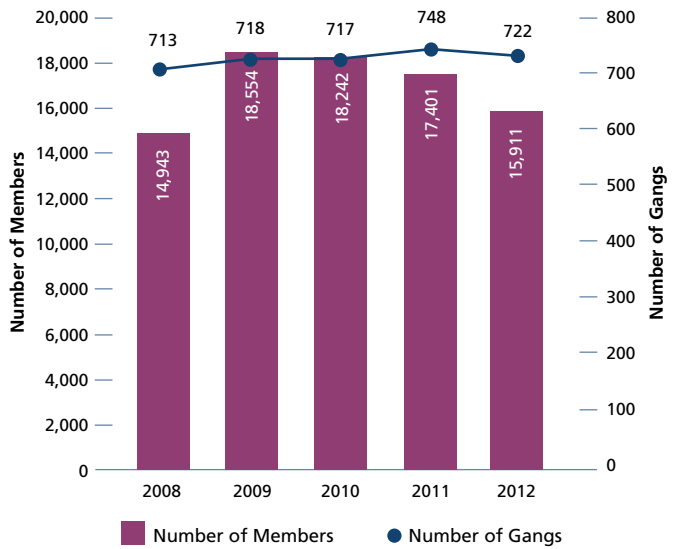


Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, County and Statewide 2009/11 Main Reports, WestEd Health and Human Development Program for the California Department of Education (<http://cbks.wested.org/reports>)

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.

² Filings data are furnished by the San Bernardino County District Attorney.

Gangs and Gang Membership
San Bernardino County, 2008-2012



Source: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Challenges of Tracking Countywide Gang Activity

The data presented in this indicator are strong proxies for tracking gang-related criminal activity in San Bernardino County; however, each data set has its limitations. For example, using a detailed set of criteria, law enforcement agencies submit information on gang members to a statewide law enforcement database and gang members are removed from the state database if they have not had contact with law enforcement in the last five years. However, shifts in the numbers of gangs and gang members may reflect administrative effects, such as efforts by law enforcement to identify gangs and gang members, rather than more or less gang activity. Filings may provide a stronger sense of actual criminal activity, although there may be gang-related criminal activity for which there is insufficient evidence to file a charge. Finally, whether or not youth consider themselves part of a gang is a good indicator of actual gang membership since the survey is confidential; however, failure to disclose gang affiliation is still possible.

● **Connecting the Dots**
Gang-Related Crime contributes to the overall Crime Rate.