



San Diego Crime Victims and Suspects in 2005

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SAN DIEGO CRIME VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS IN 2005

INTRODUCTION

This SANDAG CJ Bulletin, which is the final in a three-part series presenting 2005 annual crime information, includes crime and arrest report data from local law enforcement agencies regarding characteristics of crime victims and suspects. Analyses are presented regarding which population subgroups were more likely to report being victimized in 2005, as well as how victims and suspects differed by crime type, in terms of their ethnicity, age, and gender. This information is useful to those interested in better understanding who is affected by crime in our region and using this information to help develop strategies to best meet the needs of these individuals.

WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO REPORT BEING A CRIME VICTIM?

Ethnicity

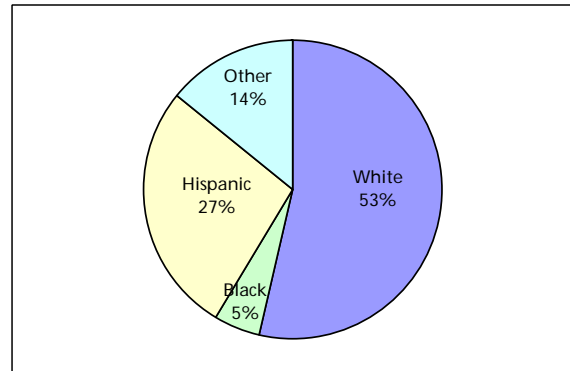
In 2005, slightly over one-half (53%) of the San Diego region's population were non-Hispanic White, around one-quarter (27%) were Hispanic, 14 percent represented "other" ethnicities, and 5 percent were non-Hispanic Black (Figure 1). However, these proportions differed from the ethnicity of violent crime victims¹. Specifically, Blacks and Hispanics were significantly overrepresented as victims of violent crime (15% versus 5% and 34% versus 27%, respectively), while Whites were significantly underrepresented (43% versus 53%) (Figure 2). There also were disparities in the crime of rape², where Blacks again were overrepresented (13% of victims) and individuals of other ethnicities were underrepresented (7% of victims). Whites

¹Violent crime includes homicide, robbery, simple assault, and aggravated assault.

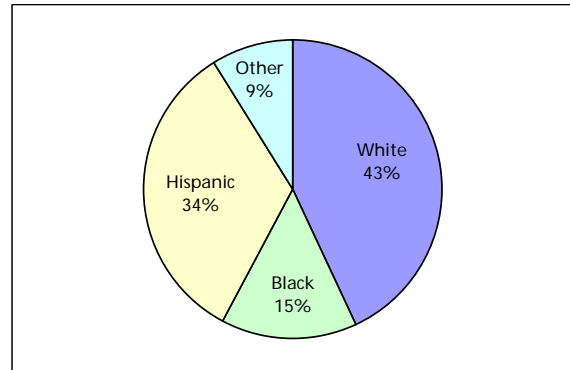
²According to Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards for the crime of rape, all victims are females and all suspects are male.

represented 54 percent and Hispanics 26 percent of rape victims, similar to their representation in the general population (Table 1).

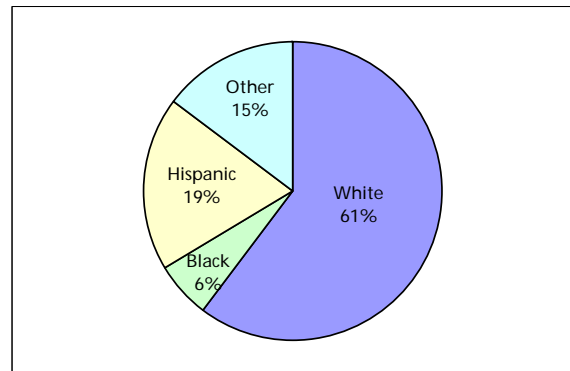
**Figures 1, 2, and 3
POPULATION ETHNICITY, 2005**



VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM ETHNICITY, 2005



PROPERTY CRIME VICTIM ETHNICITY, 2005



*NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.
SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2005 Statistics*

In terms of property crime, the ethnicity of victims also differed significantly from the population overall. Specifically, Hispanics were significantly underrepresented (19% versus 27%) and Whites were significantly overrepresented (61% versus 53%) (Figure 3).

Age

According to 2005 estimates, 13 percent of the region's population were between the ages of 10 and 17, 13 percent were between the ages of 18 and 24, 26 percent were between 25 and 39, and 47 percent were 40 years of age and older (Figure 4). Similar to ethnicity, residents in the region had different probabilities of being the victim of a violent crime, depending on their age. That is, individuals between 18 and 24 and those between 25 and 39 were significantly more likely to be a victim of a violent crime (25% and 35%, respectively), compared to their proportions in the population (13% and 26%). In comparison, individuals who were 40 years of age and older were significantly underrepresented as violent crime victims (27% versus 47% of population) (Figure 5). A slightly different pattern of disproportionality existed for the crime of rape, with female youth under 18 and those 18 to 24 significantly overrepresented (28% and 35%, respectively), and those 40 and older underrepresented (15%) (Table 1).

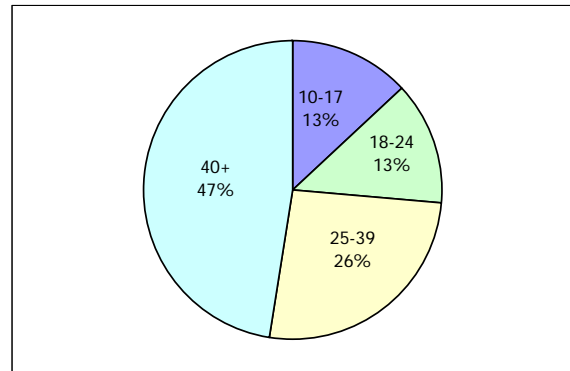
In terms of property crime, individuals under 18 were underrepresented among property crime victims (3%), while those between the ages of 18 and 24 and 25 and 39 were overrepresented (20% and 35%, respectively) (Figure 6).

Gender

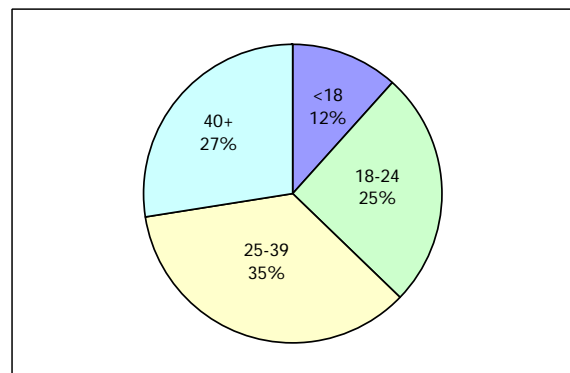
In 2005, one-half (50%) of the region's population were male and one-half (50%) were female. There was little difference in this proportion for violent crime victims (51% female and 49% male), with a slight

difference for property crime (45% female and 55% male) (not shown).

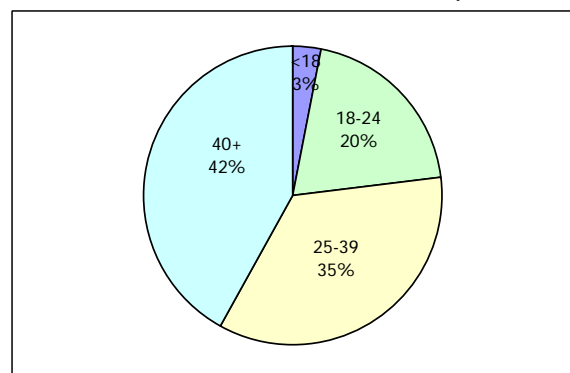
**Figures 4, 5, and 6
POPULATION AGE, 2005**



VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM AGE, 2005



PROPERTY CRIME VICTIM AGE, 2005



NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2005 Statistics

WHO WERE VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE IN 2005?

Because the loss of a human life is the most tragic crime possible, more detailed information is provided here regarding the 105 individuals who died as a result of a criminal homicide in 2005³. According to the California Department of Justice (personal communication, 2006), of the 73 homicides in 2005 for which motive could be determined, 32 percent were related to an argument, 18 percent to gang activity, 16 percent to other motives, 13 percent to robbery or burglary, 11 percent to drugs, and 10 percent to domestic violence (not shown).

- Two females and eight males under the age of 18 were murdered in 2005. Six of these ten youth were Hispanic, three were Black, and one was another ethnicity.
- Seven female and 29 male homicide victims were between the ages of 18 and 24. Twenty-one (21) of these 36 individuals were Hispanic, 9 were Black, 4 were White, and 2 represented other ethnicities.
- Eight female and 22 male homicide victims were between the ages of 25 and 39. Sixteen (16) of these 30 individuals were Hispanic, 9 were Black, 4 were White, and 1 represented another ethnicity.
- The remaining victims who were 40 years of age and older included 6 females, 22 males, and 1 person whose gender was not identified. Twelve (12) of these 29 victims were White, 7 represented other ethnicities, 6 were Black, and 4 were Hispanic. While this ethnic profile was different from other age groups, Whites still were underrepresented as homicide

victims given their proportion of the population, even though most White victims of homicide were over the age of 40. This pattern possibly could be related to motive, but it is not possible to determine using the data available for this report.

WHAT WERE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS FOR EACH OF THE CRIME TYPES?

Because the pattern of victimization can vary across crime type, more detailed information is provided in Tables 1 and 2. In addition, the characteristics of the suspects arrested for these crimes are provided. Some noticeable differences include:

- Blacks and Hispanics represented a greater proportion of homicide victims than rape, assault, or robbery victims.
- Whites represented a greater proportion of homicide suspects, compared to homicide victims.
- Females represented over one-half (54%) of assault victims, but only 22 percent of assault suspects.
- Females represented from one-fifth to almost one-third of property crime suspects.
- More than one-quarter (29%) of robbery suspects who were identified were under the age of 18, compared to about one in ten for other violent crimes.

³This number (105) differs from the 98 homicides reported regionally by SANDAG due to variations in categorization schemes across different law enforcement databases.

**Table 1
VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM AND SUSPECT
CHARACTERISTICS, 2005**

	Victims	Suspects
Criminal Homicide		
Black	26%	27%
Hispanic	45%	35%
White	19%	33%
Other ethnicity	10%	6%
Under 18	10%	7%
18 to 24	35%	42%
25 to 39	29%	39%
40 and older	27%	12%
Male	78%	84%
Female	22%	16%
Rape		
Black	13%	21%
Hispanic	26%	43%
White	54%	31%
Other ethnicity	7%	5%
Under 18	28%	6%
18 to 24	35%	31%
25 to 39	22%	48%
40 and older	15%	15%
Robbery		
Black	10%	32%
Hispanic	38%	39%
White	41%	24%
Other ethnicity	12%	6%
Under 18	14%	29%
18 to 24	31%	40%
25 to 39	27%	22%
40 and older	28%	10%
Male	67%	87%
Female	33%	13%
Assault		
Black	15%	19%
Hispanic	33%	36%
White	44%	37%
Other ethnicity	8%	8%
Under 18	12%	10%
18 to 24	25%	25%
25 to 39	37%	41%
40 and older	27%	25%
Male	46%	78%
Female	54%	22%

SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2005 Statistics

**Table 2
PROPERTY CRIME VICTIM AND SUSPECT
CHARACTERISTICS, 2005**

	Victims	Suspects
Burglary		
Black	6%	17%
Hispanic	19%	36%
White	62%	38%
Other ethnicity	12%	9%
Under 18	2%	26%
18 to 24	14%	33%
25 to 39	34%	28%
40 and older	50%	13%
Male	56%	72%
Female	44%	28%
Larceny		
Black	6%	17%
Hispanic	18%	35%
White	61%	41%
Other ethnicity	15%	7%
Under 18	4%	11%
18 to 24	22%	27%
25 to 39	35%	40%
40 and older	39%	22%
Male	54%	69%
Female	46%	31%
Motor Vehicle Theft		
Black	6%	14%
Hispanic	20%	49%
White	44%	30%
Other ethnicity	30%	7%
Under 18	2%	19%
18 to 24	21%	37%
25 to 39	34%	35%
40 and older	42%	9%
Male	63%	80%
Female	37%	20%

SOURCES: Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and SANDAG 2005 Statistics

METHODOLOGY

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

- Information regarding crime victim characteristics was available from incident reports that were completed when 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 may be more likely to report crime than others⁴.
- Information regarding crime suspect characteristics was available from arrest reports. Obviously, descriptives from individuals who committed a crime but were not arrested are not included and it is possible that some individuals in the suspect sample did not commit the crime for which they were arrested.
- With the exception of homicide, for a victim or suspect's information to be included in these statistics, all three variables (ethnicity, age/date of birth, and gender) had to have valid information input into the ARJIS database.
- Information regarding violent crime victims and suspects was more reliably available than property crime victims and suspects. Therefore, it is possible that the percents presented for violent crime may be more valid than those presented for property crime.
- The number of victims reported in this bulletin varies from the number of crimes reported in other publications because of missing information for some crimes,

multiple victims for one crime, the inclusion of simple assault victims, and the inclusion of some crimes later determined to be unfounded.

- 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 2005 population estimates for youth include juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17, but it is possible that an individual who was the victim of a crime was younger than this.

⁴The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs.