



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

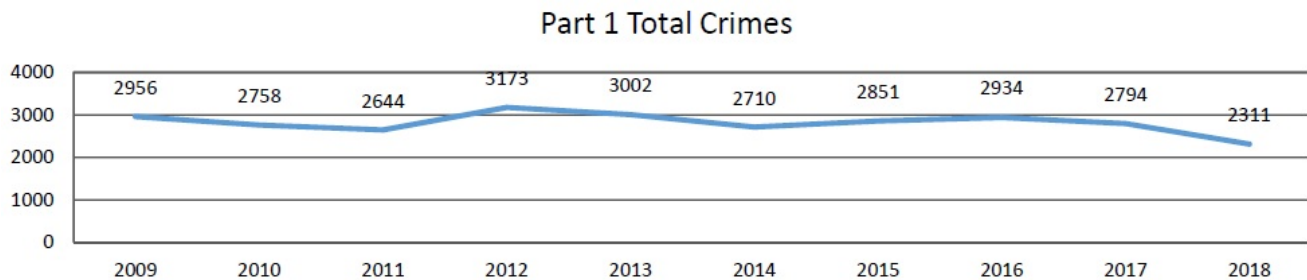
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Date: 3/26/2019
Time: 12:15 p.m.

News Release

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Releases 2018 Crime Stats Overall Crime Rate Continues to Drop

Santa Barbara - The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office is releasing the 2018 crime statistics for communities served by the Sheriff's Office. The overall crime rate was 11% lower than in 2017, and the most serious crimes hit their lowest point in the past 10 years.



Sheriff Brown credits this continuing decline in crime to the hard work and dedication of our Sheriff's Office team, and to the collaborative efforts that are occurring within our communities and throughout the criminal justice system in Santa Barbara County. According to Sheriff Brown, "We are incredibly fortunate to live in a community where law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders and the courts are all working collaboratively to improve public safety within our communities." Sheriff Brown went on to state, "The work of our traditional criminal justice partners is greatly bolstered by the cooperative efforts of other county departments, as well as the many community-based organizations that work with us to enhance the safety and wellbeing of our community members."

The Sheriff's Office is honored to be afforded the opportunity to provide policing services for the cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta and Solvang. Our effectiveness in maintaining public safety within each of these cities is the result of ongoing collaboration with their city councils, their leadership teams, and the communities we serve.

The Sheriff's Office compiles information about crimes occurring within the communities that are served by our organization and submits this information for inclusion within the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports system (UCR). For the purposes of the UCR system, reports are broken down into two major categories: Part 1 crimes, which are the most serious in nature, and Part 2 crimes, which includes a number of lesser criminal offenses and some juvenile status offenses. Part 1 crimes are further broken down into two subcategories: violent crimes and property crimes. Part 1 violent crimes are offenses that involve force or a threat of force and include criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Part 1 property crimes are theft related offenses that do not involve threats or force against the victim, including burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.

When compared with the previous year (2017), overall Part 1 violent crime was down by 20%, with the most significant reductions occurring in robbery (53% drop) and forcible rape (39% drop). Overall Part 1 property crime was down by 21% with the most statistically relevant reductions occurring in burglary (31% drop) and theft (20% drop). The only Part 1 crime that experienced an increase in 2018 was motor vehicle theft, which increased by 10% over the previous year.

On an overall basis, Part 2 crimes were down by 9% over the previous year. However, detailed analysis showed that some individual Part 2 crimes increased and some declined. Part 2 crime categories that experienced notable declines over the previous year included liquor law violations (40% drop), public drunkenness (34% drop) and disorderly conduct (21% drop). Statistically relevant increases included possession of stolen property (69% increase), fraud (25% increase), drug possession (25% increase) and weapons charges (13% increase). We also experienced notable increases in juvenile status offenses over the previous year.

Part 1 crime rates by jurisdiction, 2018 versus 2017:

- Unincorporated areas overall: 21% decline
 - 21% decline in violent crime
 - 20% decline in property crime
- Buellton: 44% overall decline
 - 100% decline in violent crime (3 fewer)
 - 41% decline in property crime
- Carpinteria: 40% overall decline
 - 57% decline in violent crime
 - 38% decline in property crime
- Goleta: 7% overall decline
 - 2% increase in violent crime (1 additional)
 - 9% decline in property crime
- Solvang: 41% overall decline
 - 14% increase in violent crime (1 additional)
 - 48% decline in property crime

The Sheriff's Office is providing detailed breakdowns of the crime stats for review and use by the media and/ or media members. We are also providing several graphics for media use. (attachments)