

# Crime in Santa Clara County - 2016

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Prepared by:

The Crime Strategies Unit

Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office

## Overview

In late 2016, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs Association, created the Crime Strategies Unit. This unit is intended to perform ongoing analysis of crime data and crime trends in the county to assist local police agencies with intelligence-driven projects and investigations.

In this first annual report, the Crime Strategies Unit provides an overview of Santa Clara County's crime and prosecution data, and identifies current trends affecting the region.



## Executive Summary

Santa Clara County has been a vibrant, safe and prosperous county in the last decade. In 2016, the region's population grew rapidly. Property Crime rates declined as employment soared. Some interesting crime trends emerged in the last two years: increased violent crime and decreased property crime. These trends were observed across most cities in the region. This report takes a closer look at the patterns in San Jose, the County's largest city. San Jose's crime levels in 2016 are compared to national and California trends to see how much of an outlier San Jose was in 2016. By and large, San Jose's property crime decline mirrored the national trends. The increased violent crime rate outpaced national trends. However, when taking a broader look at crime in the region, crime levels remain well below their apex in the 1990s. This report also looks at previously unpublished trends in the District Attorney's Office. Felony issuing decreased and misdemeanor filings increased after Proposition 47 reclassified several felonies to misdemeanors.

In its first year, the Crime Strategies Unit will work closely with local and federal law enforcement to develop a strategy to combat rising violent crime. This strategy will rely on data from local sources, as interpreted by Intelligence Analysts from the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC). In its first year, the Crime Strategies Unit will embark on the following anti-violence projects:

- (1) Gun Violence Initiative: increase Crime Lab capacity to process all guns faster and more thoroughly to solve more gun crime and take shooters off the street
- (2) Gangs: focus law enforcement on data-driven gang investigations, and respond to increasing gang violence using intelligence analyzed and developed by the NCRIC
- (3) Coordinated Investigations: identify crime strings, patterns and commonalities through data analysis and facilitate large cross-jurisdictional investigations to target major crime
- (4) Crime Trend Reports: create and distribute intelligence briefs for local police departments

Through increased communication, analysis and collaboration, the Crime Strategies Unit plans to improve Santa Clara County for years to come.

## Table of Contents

<b>OUR COUNTY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Demographic Analysis .....	3
<i>3 City Comparison</i> .....	4
<i>Race in Santa Clara County</i> .....	6
<i>Growing Population</i> .....	9
<b>CRIME STATISTICS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Historic Crime Trends .....	10
Santa Clara County Generally .....	12
Auto Thefts .....	15
San Jose Data .....	15
Police Staffing .....	19
<b>PROSECUTION DATA</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Filed and Rejected Cases .....	22
Trials .....	24
Issued Cases by Type .....	26
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>30</b>



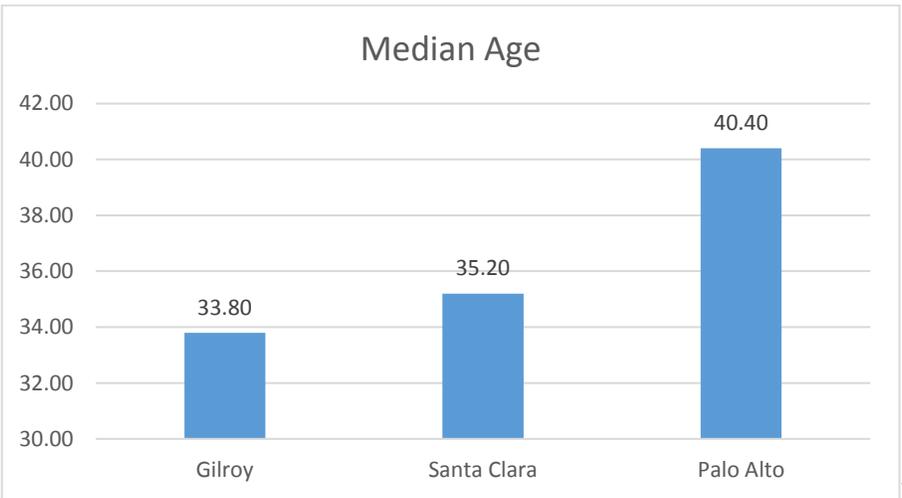
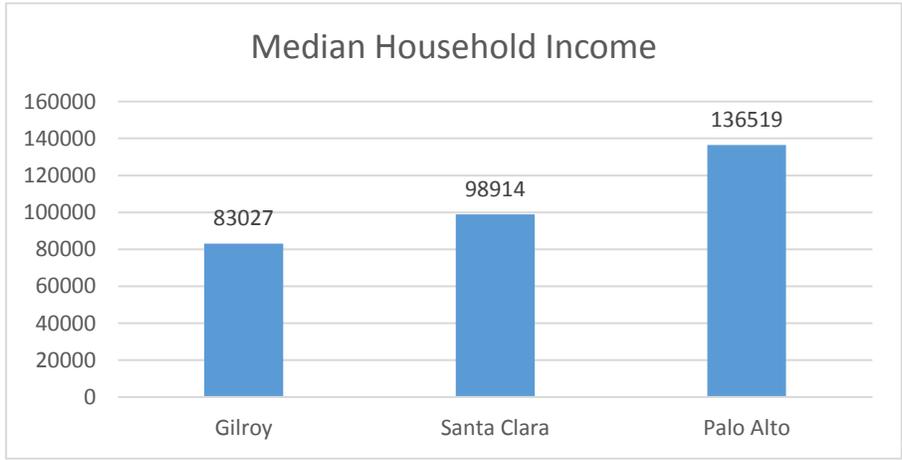
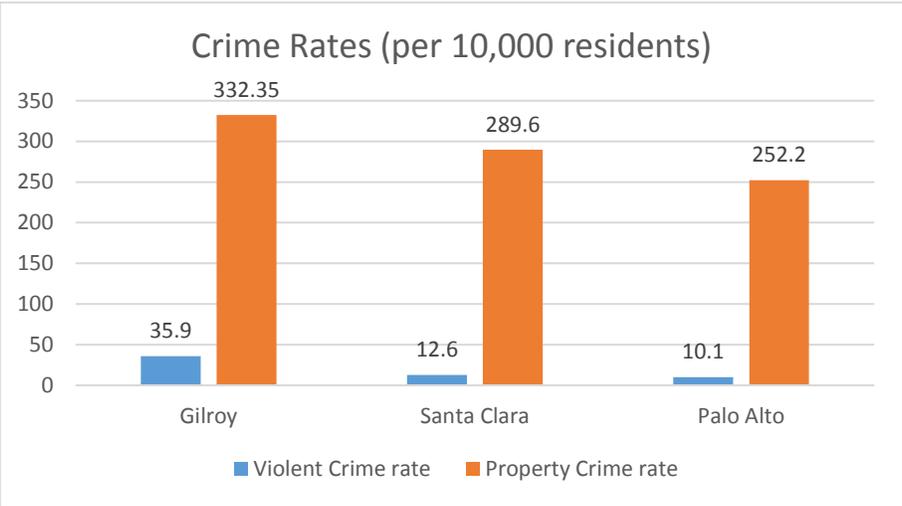
To give a more accurate sense of Santa Clara’s standing in the state, we compared the data to larger counties with similar demographics. Several of California’s largest counties were compared to Santa Clara County to show the varying levels of education, income and employment. The statistics are from 2014, and show that Santa Clara ranks very high among large counties in the state. For the rankings, the rankings for “Less Than High School” give the #1 rank to the county with the lowest percentage with less than a high school education. Similarly, the “Poverty Rate” category gives the #1 rank to the county with the lowest poverty rate.<sup>ii</sup>

EDUCATION			ECONOMICS		
	<b>County</b>	<b>Less Than High School: %</b>		<b>County</b>	<b>Per Capita Income: \$</b>
1	San Diego	11.4	1	Marin	58,004
2	<b>Santa Clara</b>	11.5	2	<b>Santa Clara</b>	42,666
3	Alameda	11.8	3	Alameda	36,439
4	Orange	12.3	4	Orange	34,416
5	Marin	13.7	5	San Diego	31,043
6	Los Angeles	16.4	6	Los Angeles	27,987
	<b>County</b>	<b>High School and Higher: %</b>		<b>County</b>	<b>Median Income: \$</b>
1	Marin	92.5	1	<b>Santa Clara</b>	93,854
2	<b>Santa Clara</b>	86.8	2	Marin	91,529
3	Alameda	86.7	3	Orange	75,998
4	San Diego	85.8	4	Alameda	73,775
5	Orange	84	5	San Diego	63,996
6	Los Angeles	76.8	6	Los Angeles	55,870
	<b>County</b>	<b>Bachelors and Higher: %</b>		<b>County</b>	<b>Poverty Rate: %</b>
1	Marin	54.8	1	Alameda	23.5
2	<b>Santa Clara</b>	47.3	2	<b>Santa Clara</b>	27.3
3	Alameda	42.1	3	San Diego	27.4
4	Orange	37.3	4	Los Angeles	27.9
5	San Diego	35.1	5	Marin	29.4
6	Los Angeles	29.9	6	Orange	31.5

### Santa Clara County: 3 City Comparison

To contextualize county crime data, the county’s mid-sized cities were compared to see if crime was correlated to any demographic indicators. This report focuses on Palo Alto, the northernmost county city, Gilroy, the southernmost, and Santa Clara, located in mid-county.

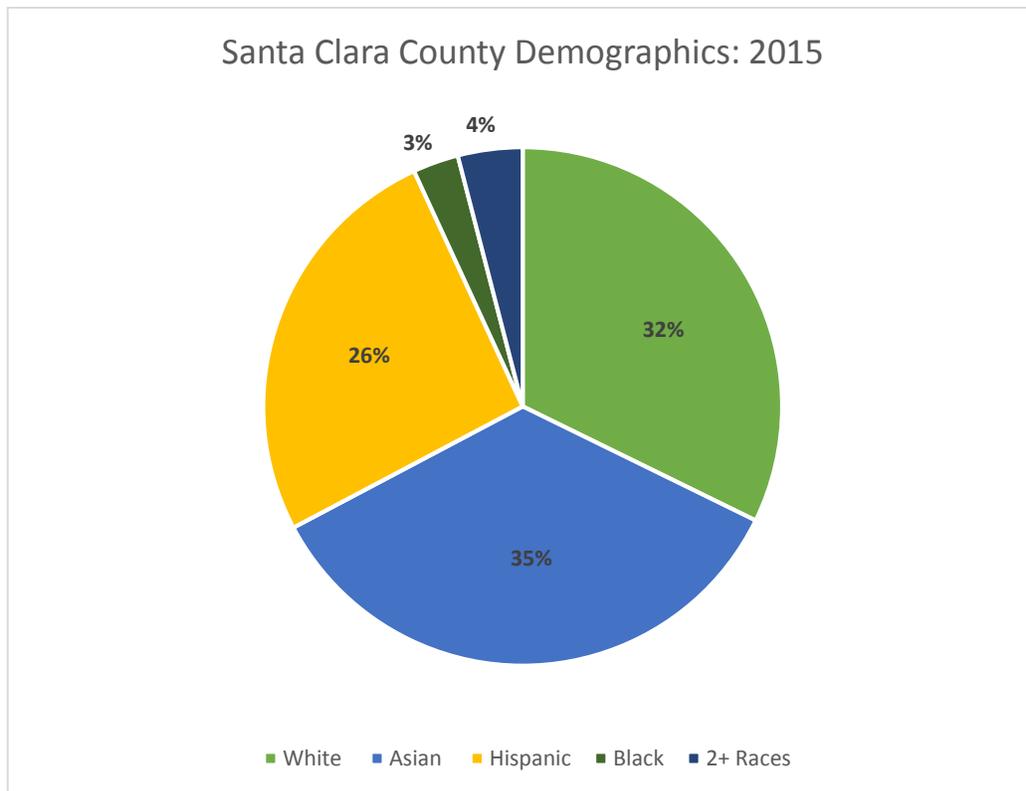
City <sup>iii</sup>	Gilroy	Palo Alto	Santa Clara
Population	53,467	67,560	123,562
% Male	50	47	50.10
% Female	50	53	49.90
Median age	33.80	40.40	35.20
Median Income	\$83,027	\$136,519	\$98,914
Officers per 10k	11.4	12.6	11.6
Violent Crime rate	35.9	10.1	12.6
Property Crime rate	332.35	252.2	289.6



The data demonstrate a clear relationship between median age per city and median household income per city. Palo Alto is the oldest and wealthiest of the three cities, while Gilroy is the youngest and least wealthy. There also seems to be a relationship between age/affluence and crime rates. Palo Alto, the oldest and wealthiest city, is also the city with the lowest crime rates for both property and violent crime. Gilroy has the highest crime rates for both property and violent crime. This suggests that age and economic affluence are important indicators of crime rates. However, as is the case with any crime analysis, there are likely many more factors at play that are difficult to clearly differentiate.

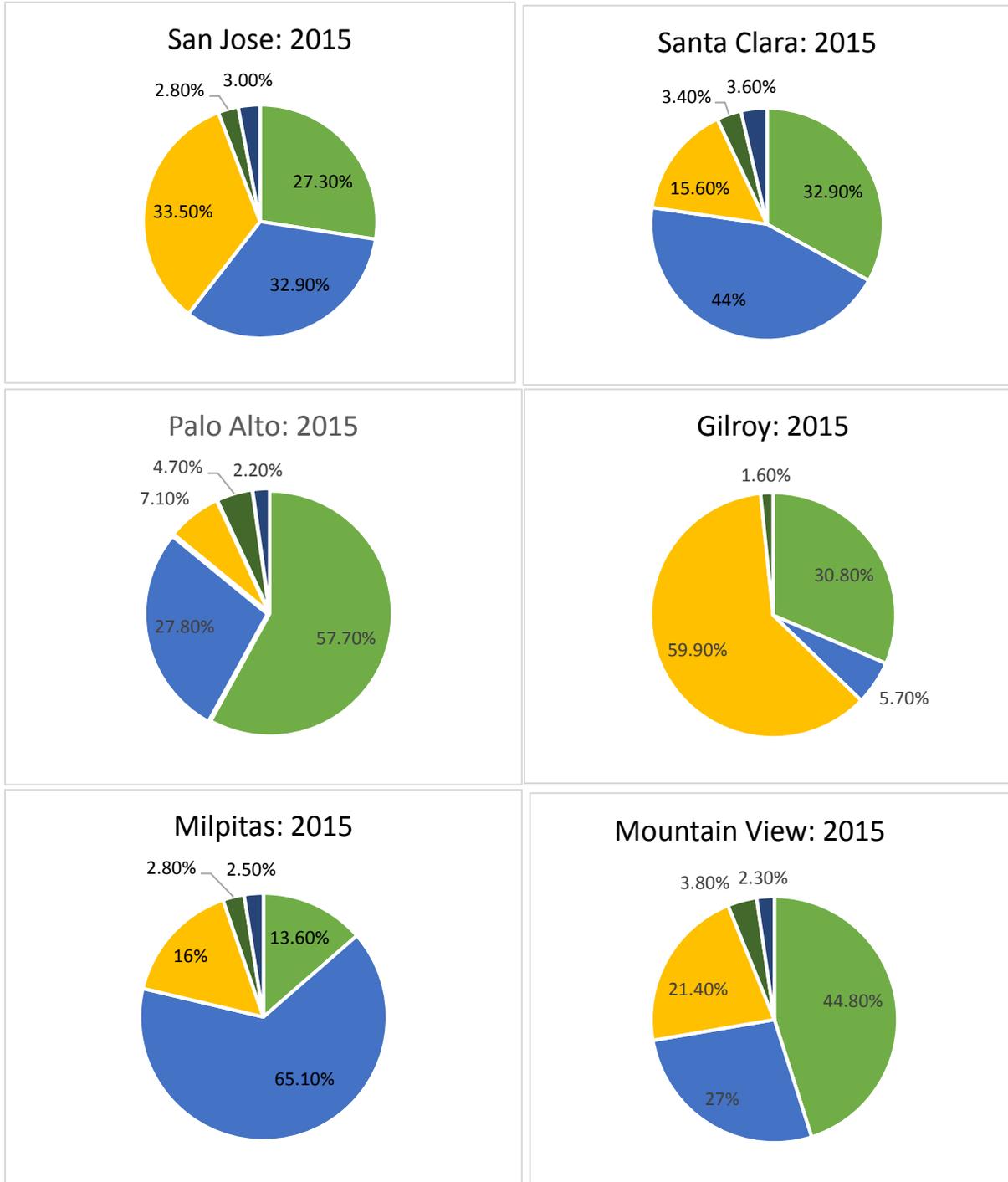
### Race in Santa Clara County

According to 2015 U.S. Census data, in Santa Clara County, the percentages of White, Asian and Hispanic residents are very evenly distributed, each with around a third of the total county population. Black or African-American residents total 3% of the overall county population, and 4% identify as 2+ races.

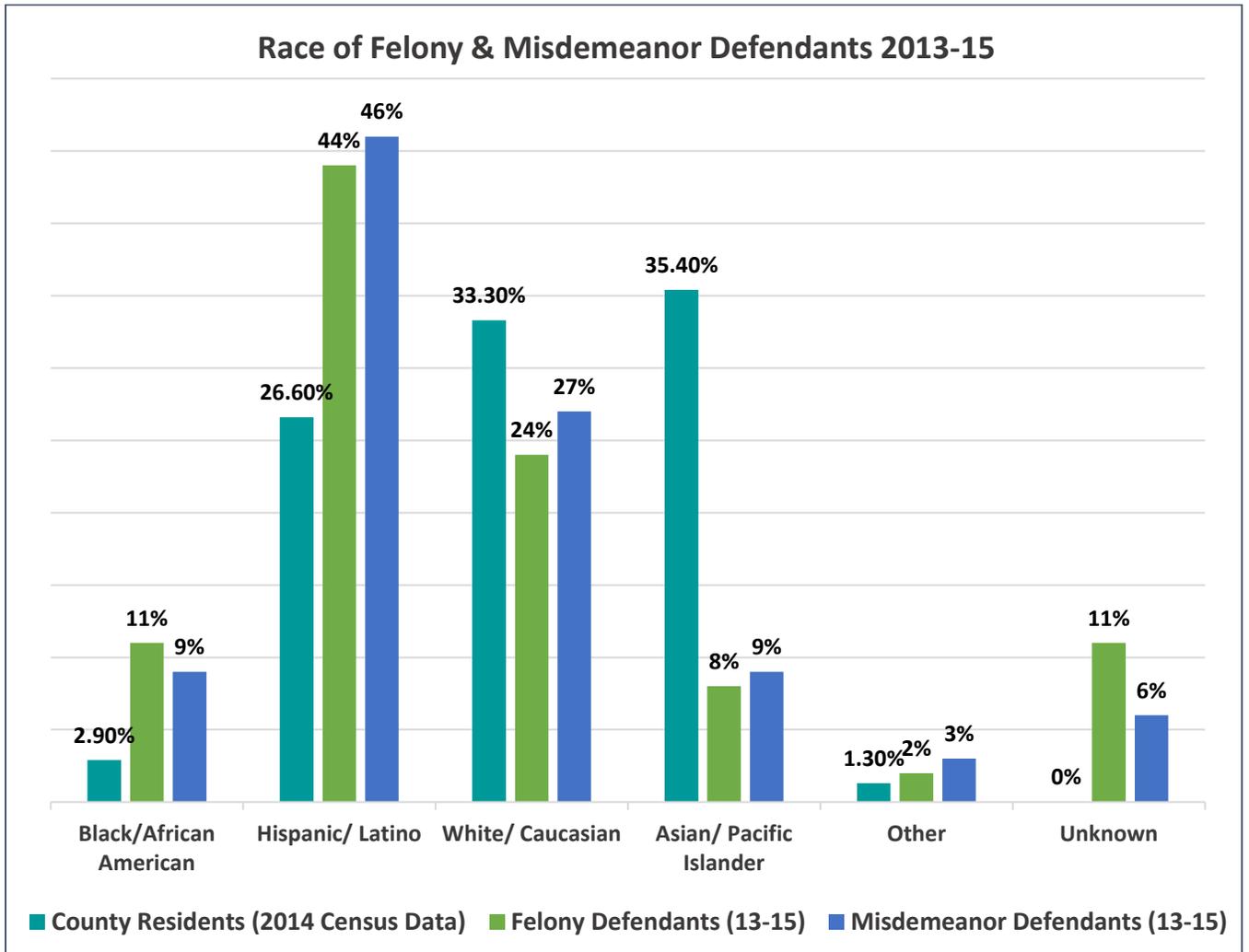


The racial composition of the County’s largest cities shows how each city has a slightly different ethnic breakdown from the County average. San Jose’s demographics are the most similar to Santa Clara County, but Gilroy, Milpitas, and Palo Alto each have a single race with 50% or more of the population.

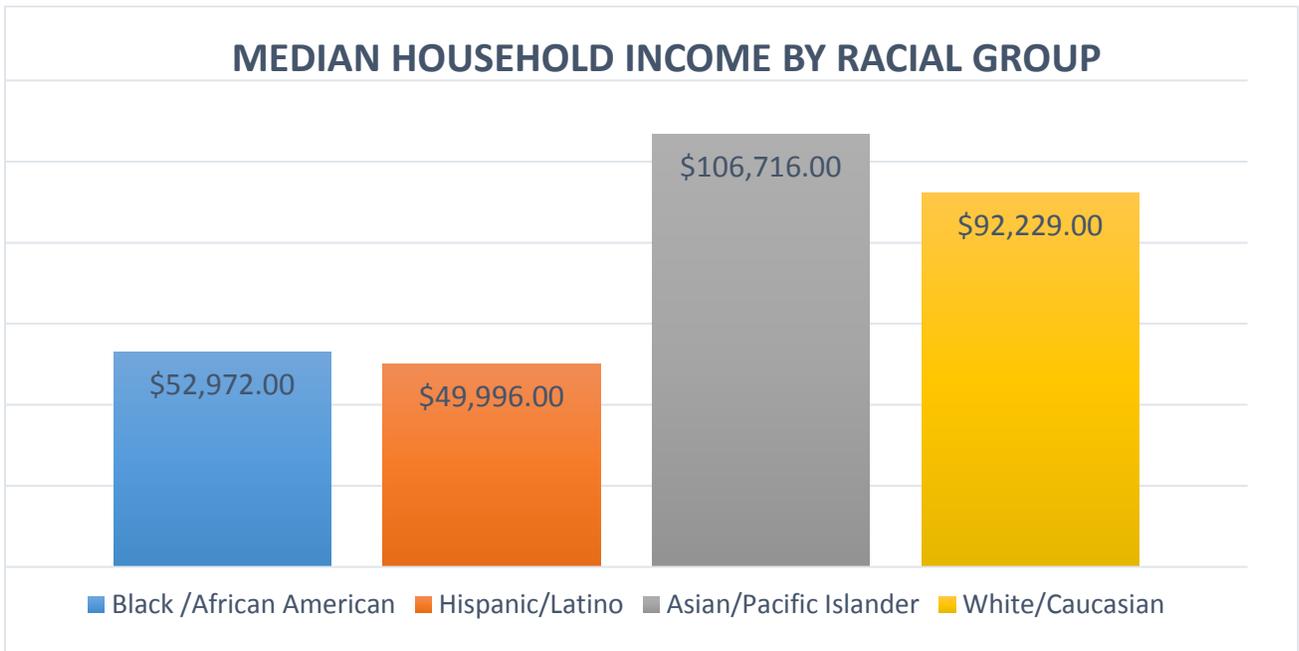
■ White ■ Asian ■ Hispanic ■ Two or More Races ■ Black



In a groundbreaking study of its own prosecution practices in Santa Clara County, the District Attorney's Office released a report called "Race and Prosecutions". The report looked at prosecution rates for various races and determined that across categories, there are higher percentages of Black/African American defendants and of Hispanic/Latino defendants being prosecuted than their percentage in the population. There were lower percentages of Asian/Pacific Islander residents being prosecuted.



This data raised several questions that the Crime Strategies Unit will investigate in the coming year. The group BetaGov will examine issuing and plea bargaining to see if any system bias is present that may be impacting prosecution practices. Racial disparities in prosecution are a major focus of the Crime Strategies Unit and will continue to be examined at each stage of a criminal prosecution including filing, plea negotiation, trial and sentencing.



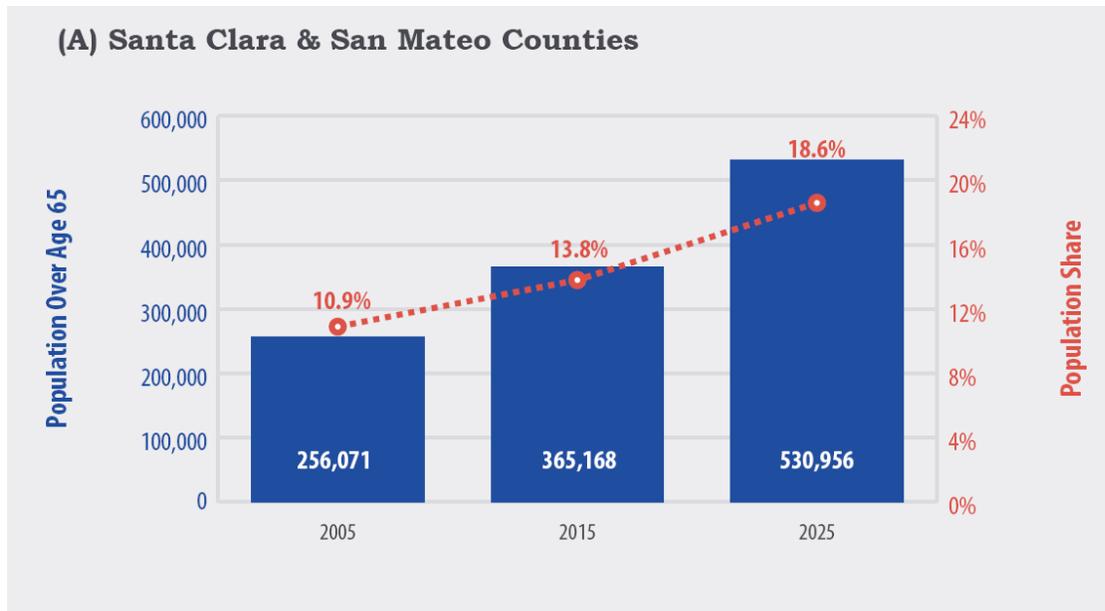
vii

The “Race and Prosecutions” study also noted marked differences in the relative income levels among different racial groups in Santa Clara, as seen in the figure above. In this report, we see that increased income seems to correlate to decreased crime rates in California counties. The exact relationship between income, race and crime is difficult to quantify. Further data on this important area of crime research will be analyzed in future reports from the Crime Strategies Unit.

### Growing Population

The Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies in 2016 performed a robust examination of population trends in Silicon Valley. What the group found was that Silicon Valley’s population is growing rapidly, and growth rates have accelerated since 2011 primarily due to an increase in foreign immigration. The population growth rate in Silicon Valley, which includes Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, peaked in 2013, and was higher that year than it had been since 1998. Between January 2014 and January 2015, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties grew faster than the state average. Santa Clara County ranked as the 7th fastest growing California County in 2015, after having ranked 1st in 2014. Not only is the population growing, but the growth has accelerated (i.e., the rate has increased) since 2011 – more than doubling between 2011 and 2013 from a rate of 0.64% to 1.48%. According to a 2016 research brief entitled “Population Growth in Silicon Valley” the primary cause of the 2011 acceleration in Silicon Valley population growth was the change in net migration patterns that occurred in 2011 as the region emerged from the recession.<sup>viii</sup>





*Total Population and Population Share of Adults Over Age 65 in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, Estimates and Projections, 2005-2025*

Based on California Department of Finance projections, Silicon Valley's population over age 65 will continue to grow rapidly, while the population share of children will decline. Between 2015 and 2025, the population of adults over age 65 in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties is projected to increase by 45.4% (from 365,000 to nearly 531,000) reaching 18.6% of the total population.<sup>ix</sup> In 2013, 12.6% of Silicon Valley's population was age 65 or older – up from 11.8% in 2010. Between 2010 and 2013, the population age 65 and older increased by 11.7%, whereas other age groups (17 and under, 18-24, 25-44, and 45-64) increased by less than 5% (+1.3%, +3.5%, +2.8%, and +4.9%, respectively).

## CRIME STATISTICS

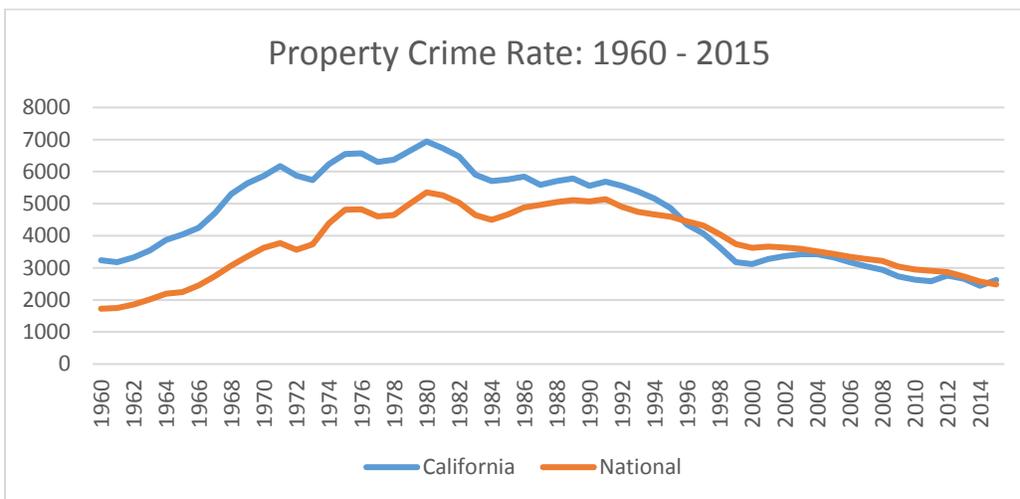
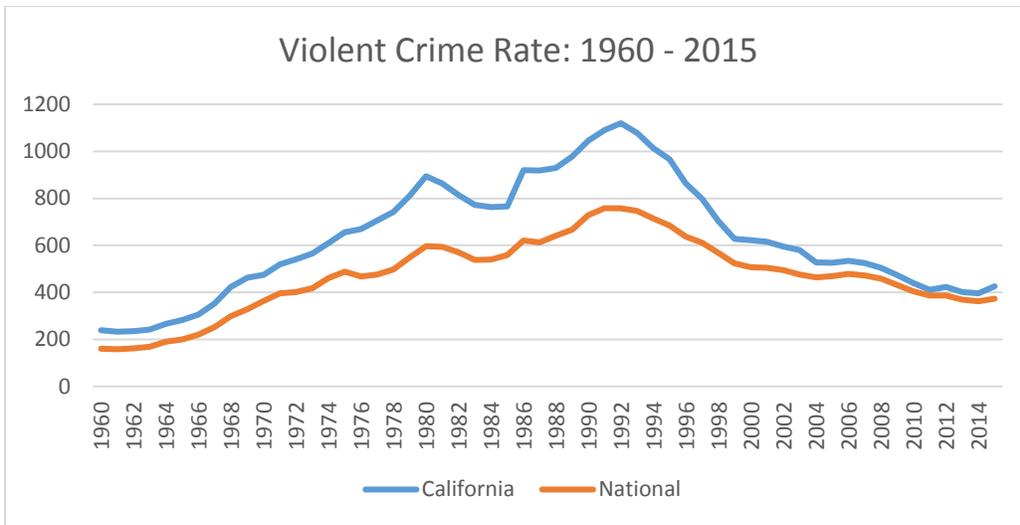
The County of Santa Clara experienced an increase in violent crime and a decrease in property crime in the last year. This general trend has been observed around the United States to varying degrees, however, San Jose's rise in violent crime has outpaced the national averages. Comparing regional, state and national data, we find that most crime trends move in unison, despite vastly different populations and responses to crime.

### Crime Trends Generally:

In the Western World, crime trends throughout the ages have moved in a striking parallel pattern.<sup>x</sup> When crime rates peaked and dipped in one nation, they also did so in other countries. In the 1960s, the world experienced a simultaneous and continuous increase in crime. Across categories, from murders to property crimes, the world saw a steady increase in crime rates from the 1960s to the early 1990s. Suddenly, and without clear explanation, in the early 1990s crime started to plummet.

“By decade’s end, the homicide rate plunged 42 percent nationwide. Violent crime decreased by one-third. What turned into a precipitous decline started later in some areas and took longer in others. But it happened everywhere: in each region of the country, in cities large and small, in rural and urban areas alike. The trend kept ticking downward from there, more slowly and with some fluctuations, to the present day. By virtually any metric, Americans now live in one of the least violent times in the nation’s history. But the forces that drove the Great American Crime Decline remain a mystery. Theories abound among sociologists, economists, and political scientists about the causes, with some hypotheses stronger than others. But there’s no real consensus among scholars about what caused one of the largest social shifts in modern American history.”<sup>xi</sup>

In order to understand our current crime context, we must look at the arc of criminal statistics from 1960 to the present. As seen below, crime in California has steadily declined from 1990s levels and despite recent upticks in violent crime, remains much lower than the high water mark.



In 2015 and again in 2016 the violent crime rate has started to shift upwards, causing local and national experts to question what may be happening to affect this change. As in the past, no single theory has emerged to explain the phenomenon.

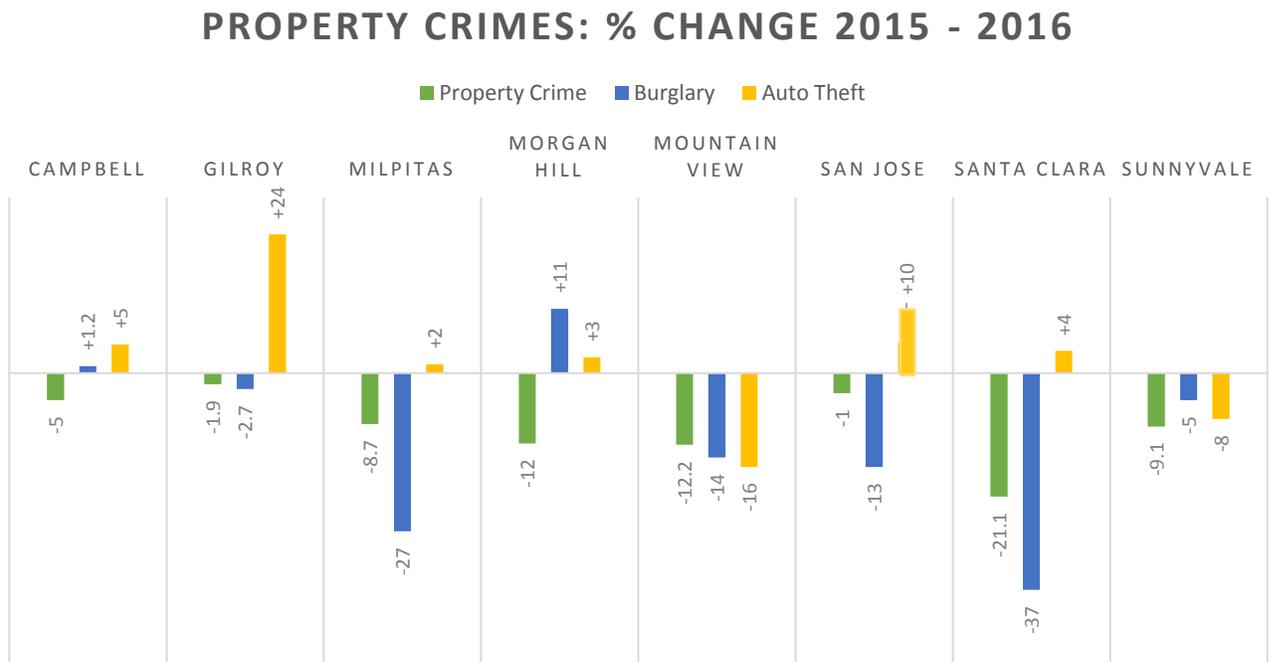
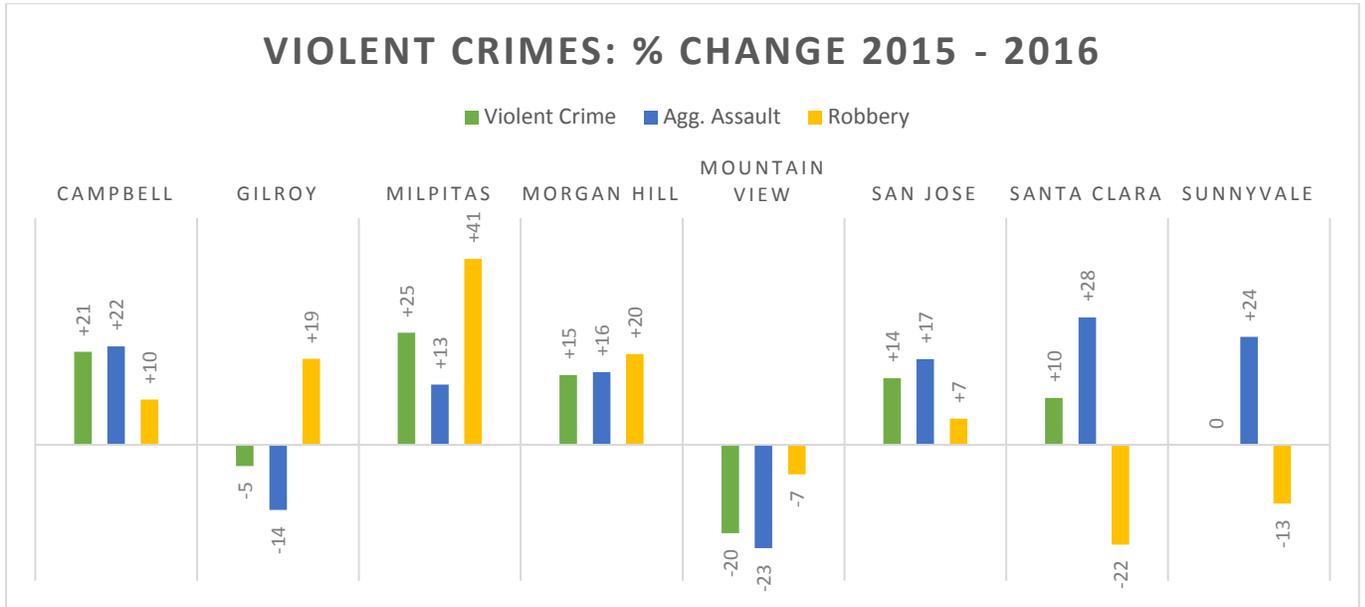
### Santa Clara County Crime

In 2016 Santa Clara County experienced reduced property crime and increased violent crime in most jurisdictions. The differences between the county cities are examined below. First, the raw crime totals, as tabulated based on the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting definitions, are in the following table: <sup>xii</sup>

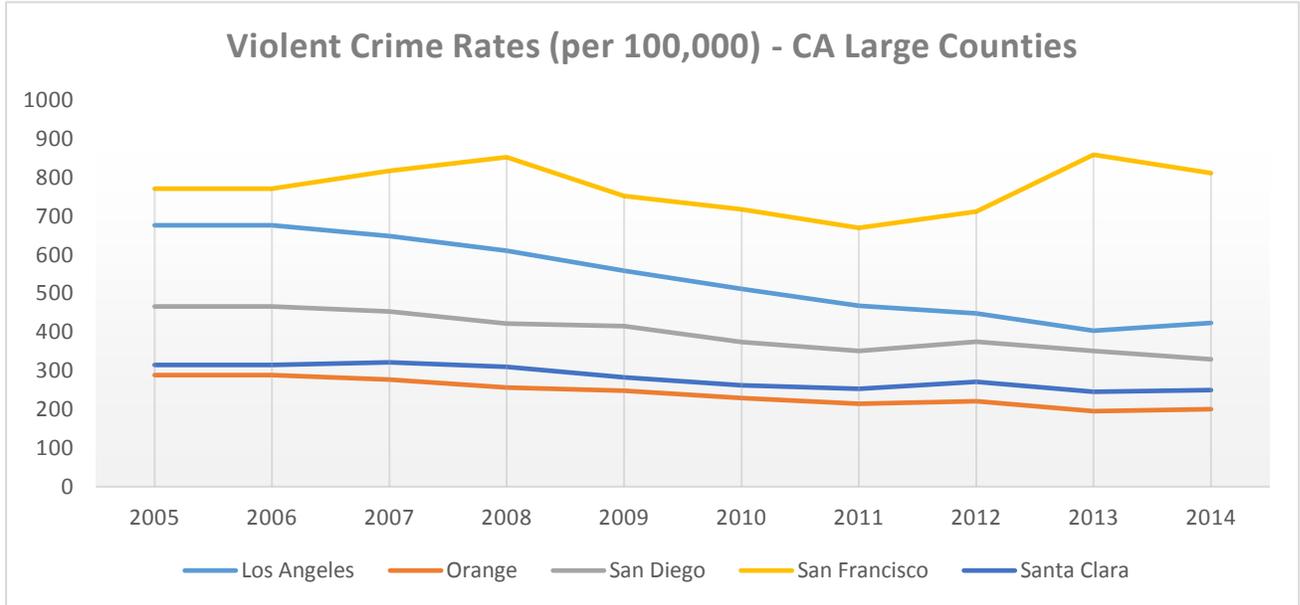
City	Population	Violent crime	Murder & mansl.	Rape	Robbery	Agg. assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Car theft
Campbell	41,544	106	0	17	33	56	554	250	141	149
Cupertino	61,162	75	0	8	16	51	1,019	268	666	70
Gilroy	53,467	183	0	31	57	95	1,742	255	1,132	355
Milpitas	75,520	96	1	9	52	34	1,795	202	1,320	269
Morgan Hill	43,154	82	0	3	21	58	642	111	418	113
Mt. View	80,705	132	0	8	29	95	1,781	280	1,377	119
San Jose	1,031,458	3,887	47	451	1214	2175	24749	4260	12786	7703
Santa Clara	123,562	160	3	17	58	82	2,821	366	2,035	413
Saratoga	31,239	31	1	2	7	21	292	159	122	8
Sunnyvale	152,443	75	1	21	53	83	2,156	520	1,347	273

The above statistics conform with FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), a method that groups crime into two main categories: Violent Crime and Property Crime. "Violent Crime" in the UCR method is a total of all reported rape, murder, aggravated assault (meaning injury or weapon involved), and robbery. "Property Crime" is a total of all reported burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft (meaning the car was stolen) and arson. Each year all agencies in the country report their crime totals using these broad categories, allowing a uniform metric by which crime levels can be compared around the country.

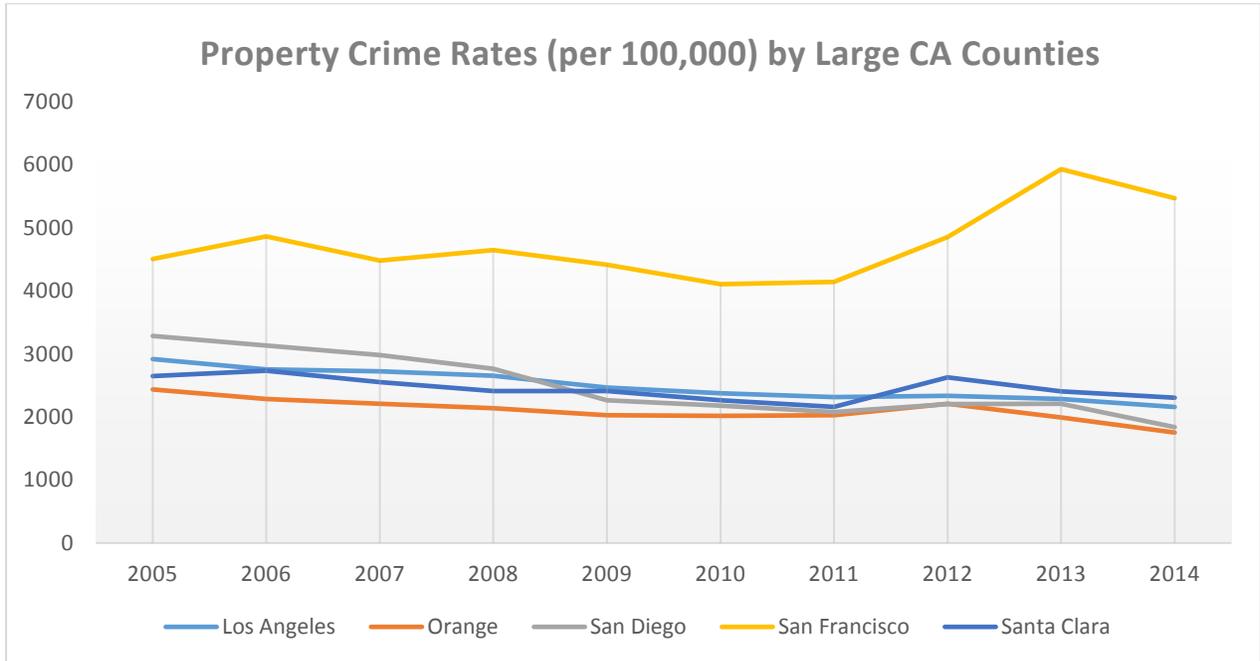
The following chart shows how the cities in Santa Clara county fared in 2016, compared to 2015 (with “violent crime” and “property crime” being the totals as described above):



Santa Clara County’s crime rates, when adjusted for population, are lower than most other similarly sized counties in California. The following chart shows that only Orange County has a consistently lower Violent Crime Rate:

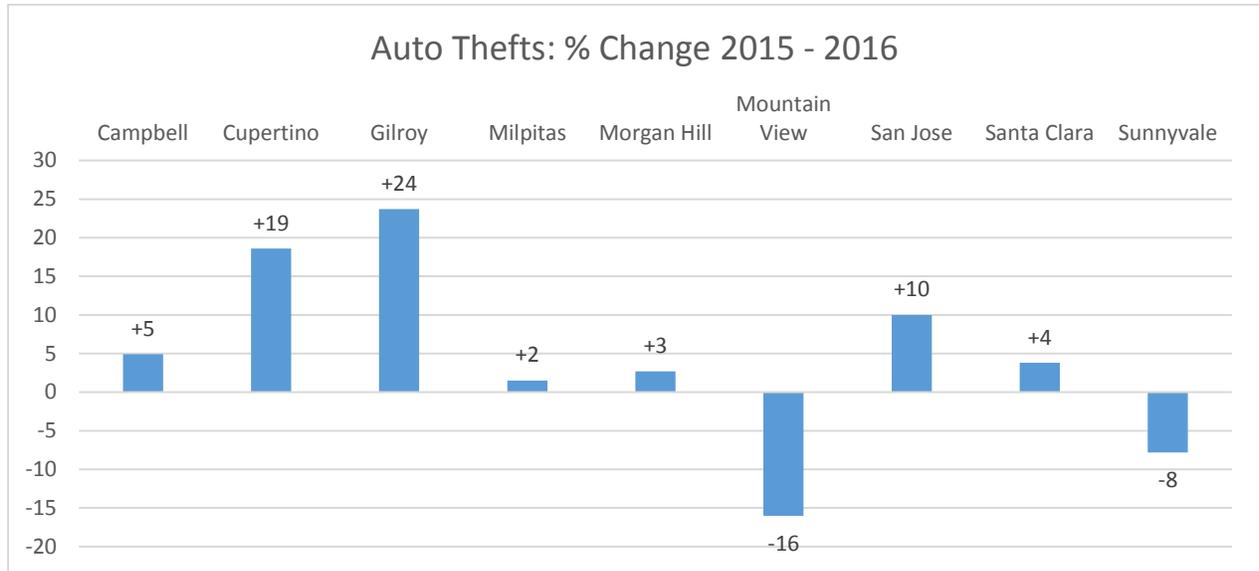


Santa Clara County also ranks well with Property Crime levels compared to these other large California Counties. San Francisco County was the only county to stand out with a significantly higher Property Crime Rate than the rest.



### Auto Thefts On the Rise:

Auto thefts continue to rise around the County. In 2015, California saw a statewide increase in motor vehicle theft of 10.9%.<sup>xiii</sup> This held true in most Santa Clara County jurisdictions in 2016, with Gilroy reaching a 17 year high.

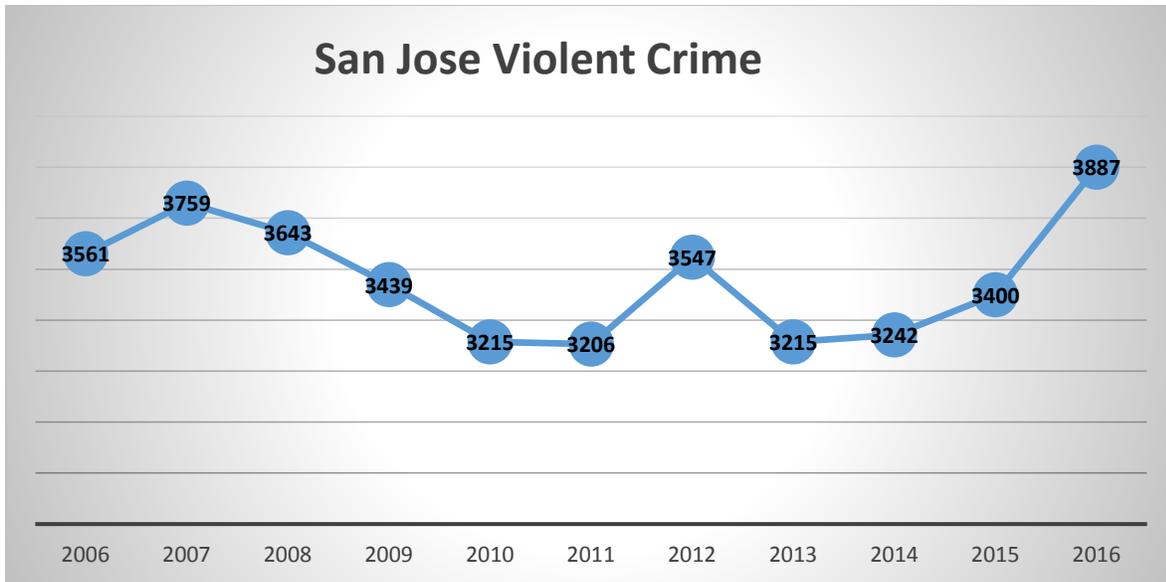


### San Jose Crime

In 2016 San Jose Police department experienced another year of staffing shortages. The year-end data demonstrate that violent crime rose dramatically, while property crime trended down. As discussed herein, San Jose experienced much higher increases in violent crime than the region and the country.

### Violent Crime on the Rise

In 2016, San Jose experienced a dramatic increase in violent crime. Reported violent crimes increased by 14% from 2015 to 2016, to the city's highest level since 2002. While violent crime has gradually trended downward since its peak in 1995, this year's violent crime levels came close to prior high-water marks. The city counted 47 murders, the most since 1991. This year there were 451 reported rapes, the highest number since 1992. It is important to note that in 1991, San Jose's population was 798,542, compared to over a million people in 2016. So, while raw murder and rape numbers are higher than in the last few decades, the population has also grown significantly.

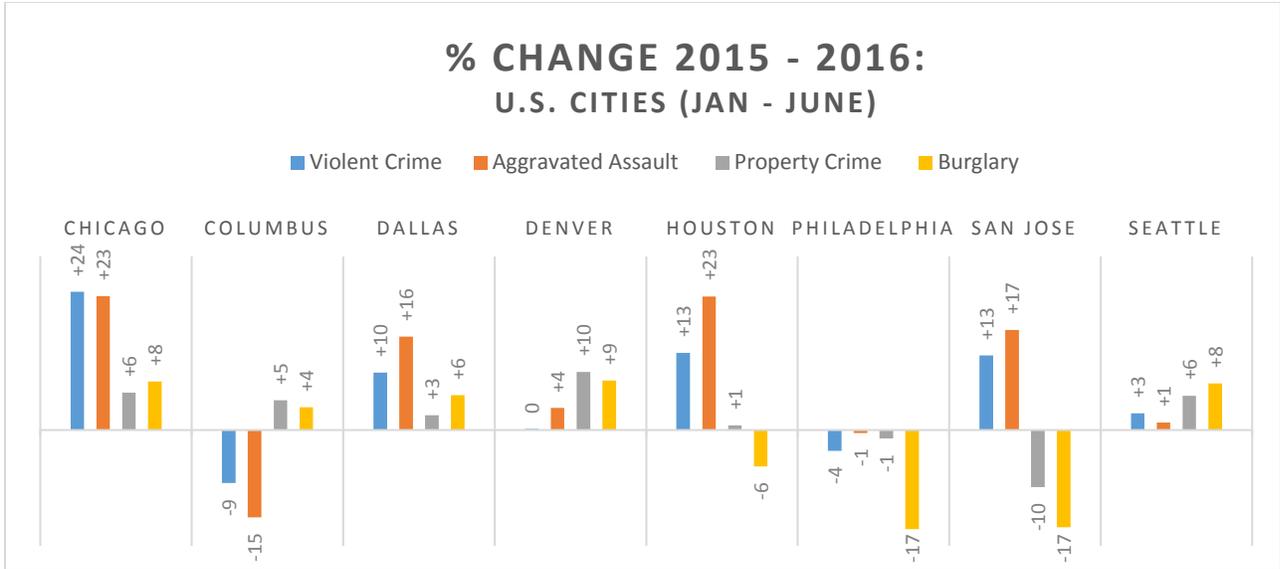


Aggravated assaults and robberies also spiked last year. Aggravated assault reports saw a 17% increase, while robberies increased by 6%. The last time the city saw a spike in violent crime was in 2012. However, 2012 had far fewer rapes and aggravated assaults than 2016.

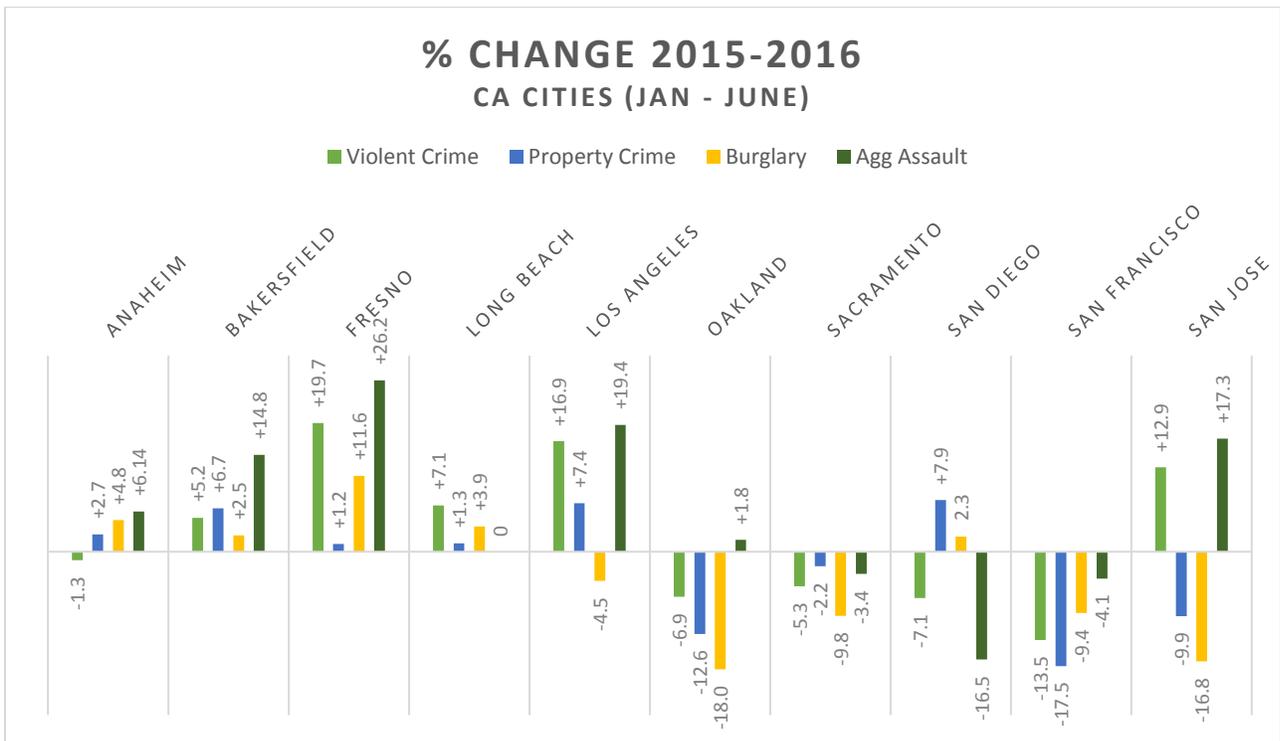
San Jose's violent crime spike outpaced national and California trends in this area. In the tables below, FBI data on violent crime shows regional and population-based changes in crime from January to June of 2015 and 2016. An increase in violent crime was seen across the country. However, San Jose's increases were much higher than any other region in the country. Even when comparing to similarly sized metropolitan areas, San Jose's increases were disproportionately high.

Region	Violent crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault
National Avg.	+5.3	+5.2	+3.5	+3.2	+6.5
Northeast	+1.2	+2.0	+2.7	-3.2	+3.3
Midwest	+5.9	+1.2	+0.2	+3.9	+8.0
South	+5.9	+7.9	+3.2	+5.5	+6.2
West	+6.4	+5.7	+7.4	+4.1	+7.5
<b>San Jose</b>	<b>+14.2</b>	<b>+56.6</b>	<b>+17.3</b>	<b>+5.9</b>	<b>+18.9</b>

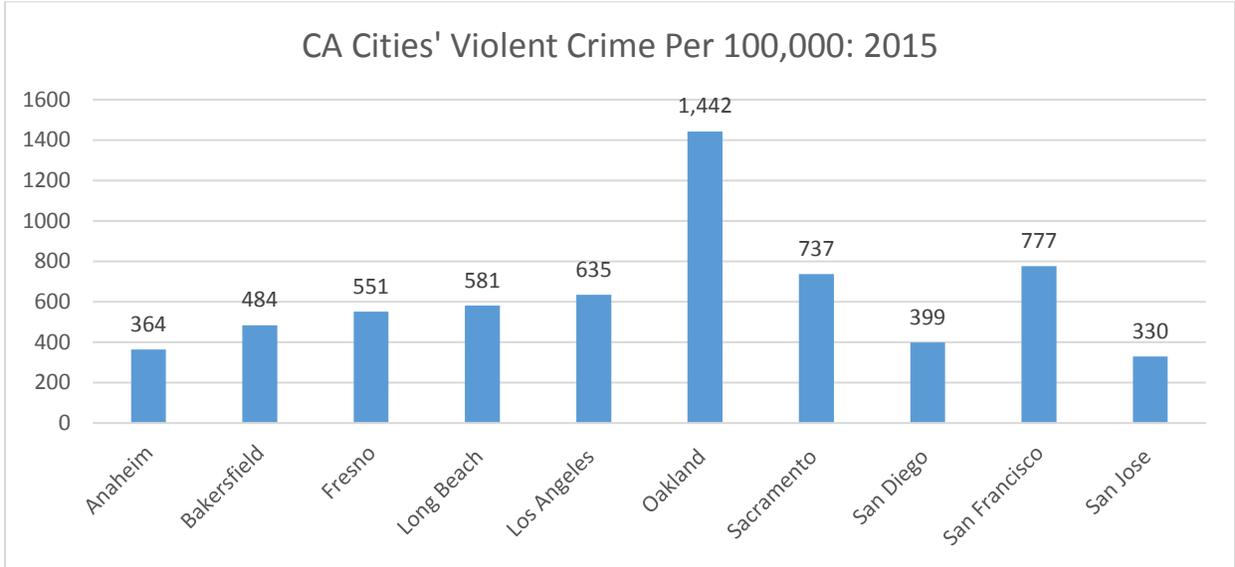
To contextualize San Jose's crime rate changes, this report looked around the country for similarly-sized cities to see if they experienced the same growth in violent crime and drop in property crime. As seen in the chart below, only Houston mirrored San Jose's pattern. Violent crime increased in many big cities, by large margins in Chicago, Houston and Dallas.



For this report data was analyzed from large cities around California to see how San Jose’s violent crime spike compared to similar metropolitan areas. San Jose is the only city that had a spike in violent crime with a large decrease in property crime.



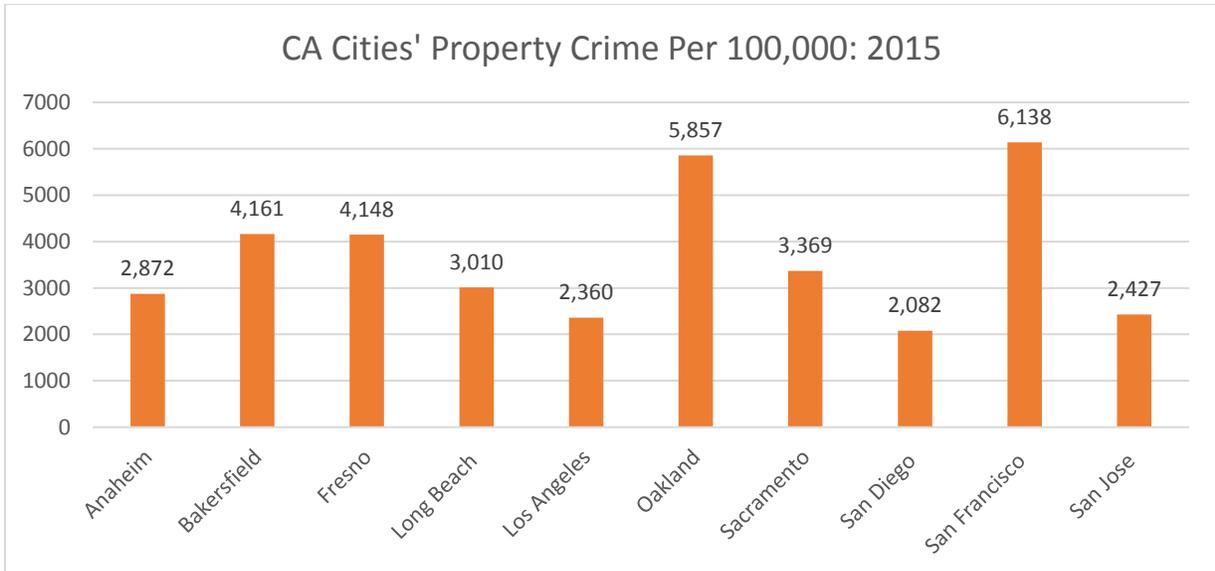
Despite the large upward trend in violent crime last year relative to similarly sized California cities, San Jose’s violent crime rate per 100,000 is the lowest violent crime rate in a large California city in 2015.



### Property Crime

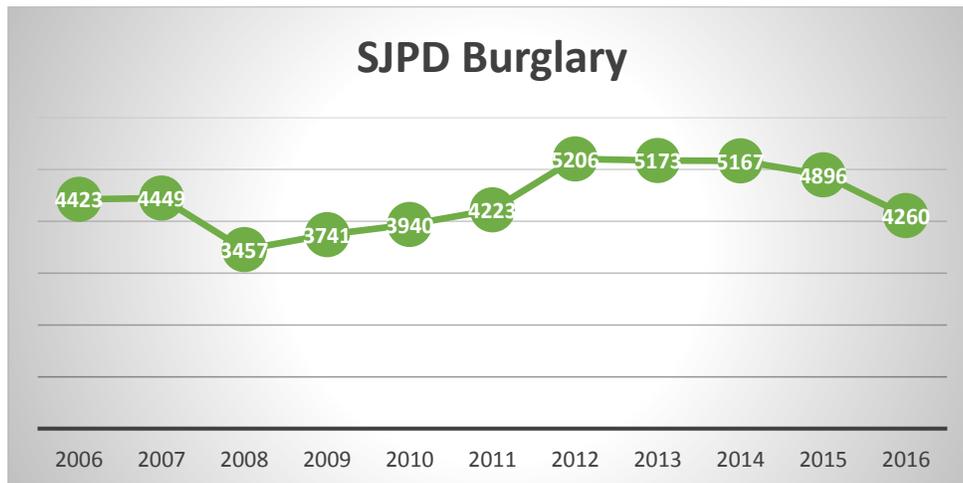
In keeping with national trends, San Jose saw a decrease in most property crime. Property crime has been on the decline in the city since 1991. From 2000 to 2007 the city experienced a gradual increase in property crime, and a noticeable spike in 2012. However, for four years the city has seen a slow decrease in property crimes, and has never neared the crime levels of 1991.

When compared to other large California cities, San Jose’s property crime rate is third lowest, behind only San Diego and Los Angeles in 2015, as seen below.



Burglary in San Jose has declined in a surprising and atypical way. In 2012, the city had 5206 burglaries, its highest number in 17 years. That number has gradually decreased since 2012. San Jose experienced a 13% decline in burglaries in 2016. This decline occurred in a year when staffing was at record lows, the violent crime rate increased, and the city had several high-profile burglary strings. This burglary decline outpaced national trends, when looking at the January – June data from the FBI UCR website.

Region	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Auto theft
Total	-0.6	-3.4	-0.8	+6.6
Northeast	-2.4	-5.9	-1.8	+0.1
Midwest	-1.3	-1.8	-1.6	+2.6
South	-0.9	-4.3	-0.4	+4.1
West	+0.8	-2.4	-0.4	+11.3
<b>San Jose</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>-16.0</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>+5.2</b>

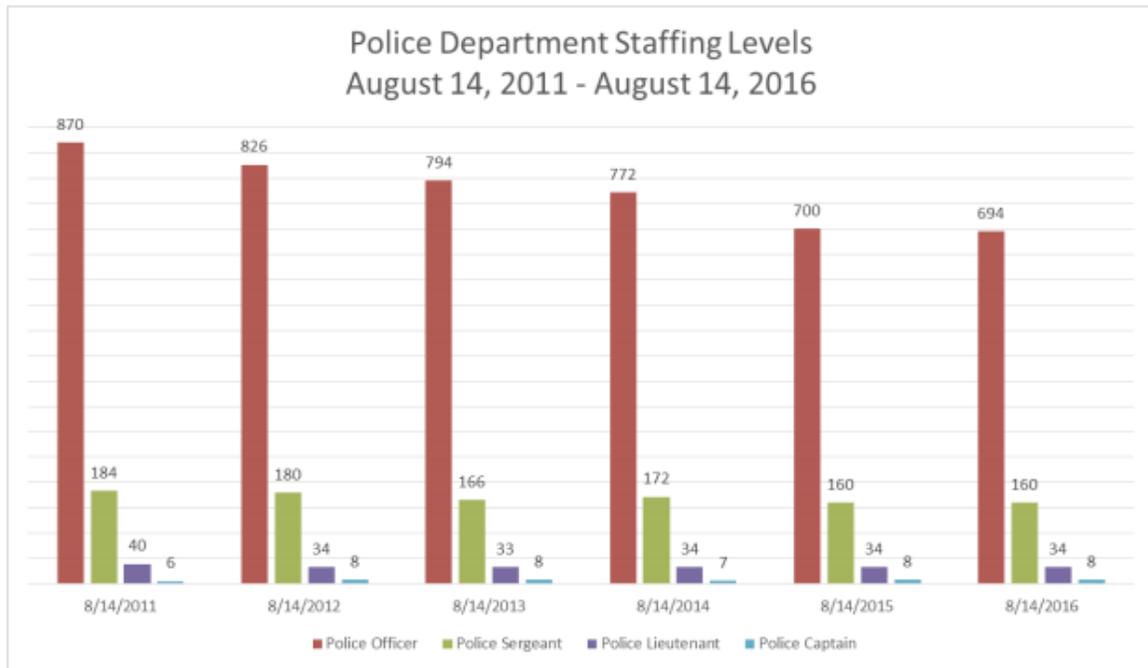


One possible explanation for this decline in reported property crimes is that people are simply not reporting crimes in a city where police staffing has decreased. This possibility, though is undercut by the fact that property crimes decreased across multiple cities in the County with very different police staffing. It is further undercut by the fact that many insurance companies require proof of a report to the police to make a claim for losses related to a burglary. It is therefore unlikely that many burglary victims would not report the crime. Further analysis is needed to understand what is behind the property crime decline.

### Police Staffing:

To understand and evaluate the crime trends in San Jose, one must examine the impact of police staffing. San Jose Police Department experienced a dramatic decrease in the number of sworn personnel over the last five years, resulting in a declared state of emergency in 2016. Beginning in June of 2011, a series of layoffs and then a high rate of police officer retirements and acceptance of jobs at

other police agencies has dramatically reduced the police force in San Jose compared to what it was and compared to other cities in the County.



xiv

On October 4, 2016, Chief Garcia told the San Jose City Council that 485 officers had left the department between 2011 and 2016, and the department only had 806 available officers after counting vacancies, recruits and staff on leave or disability. On August 31, 2016, the city declared a state of emergency after reviewing the staffing situation, allowing the Chief to send 47 members of his detective bureau back out to patrol. When looking at relative staffing levels in the county, San Jose has the fewest number of officers per 10,000 residents.



When compared to other large metropolitan areas in the United States the staffing levels for San Jose police and the police agencies in Santa Clara County are remarkably low. For example, San Francisco with a smaller population than San Jose employs 2,236 police officers – 25.9 officers per 10,000 residents. San Antonio, Texas, which is often compared to San Jose as a city with a similar population, crime rate and demographics employs 2,191 police officers – 15 per 10,000 residents. The national average for cities with more than 500,000 residents is 23.7 officers per 10,000 residents.<sup>xv</sup>



## **PROSECUTION DATA**

Thousands of cases are brought to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office every year for review. They are submitted by the investigating agencies after an arrest or investigation, and the attorneys make a decision about whether to file criminal charges. If the prosecutor decides there is sufficient evidence to charge someone with a crime, a criminal case is "issued" against the suspect. The Crime Strategies Unit examined the issuing practices in Santa Clara County to see the trends in prosecution practices.

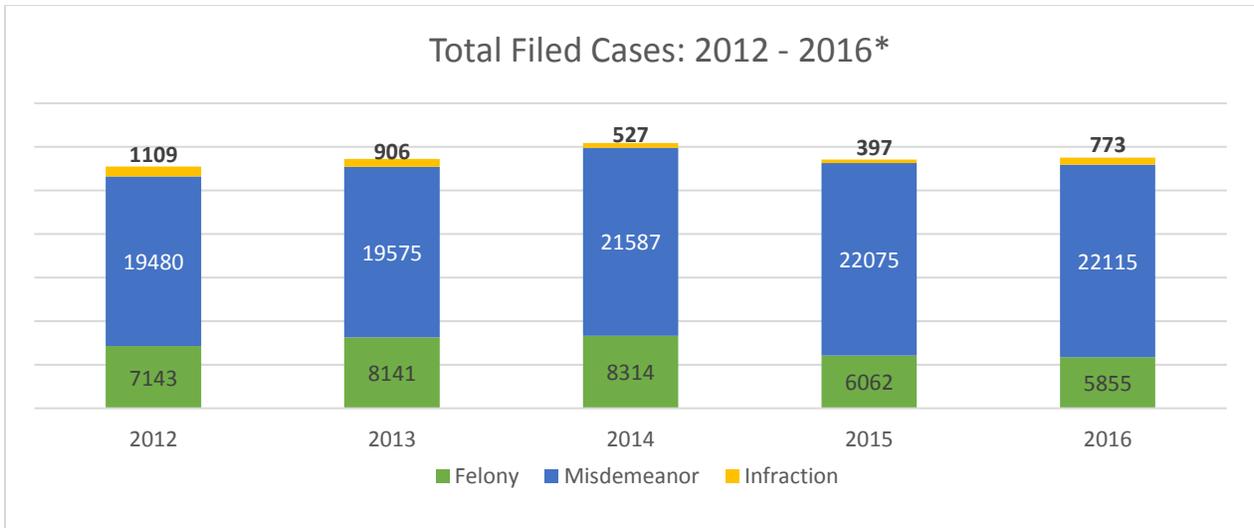
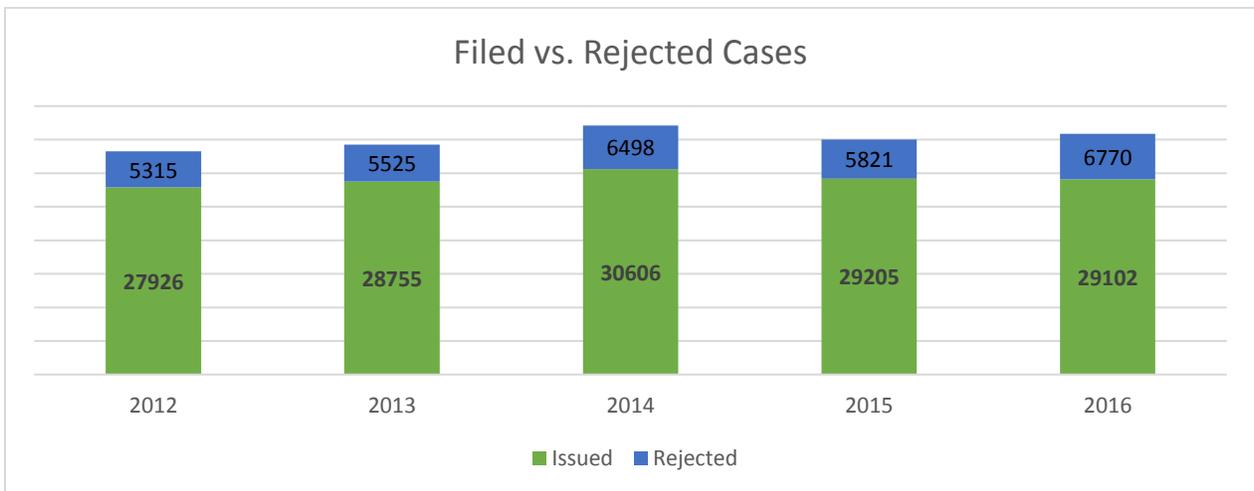
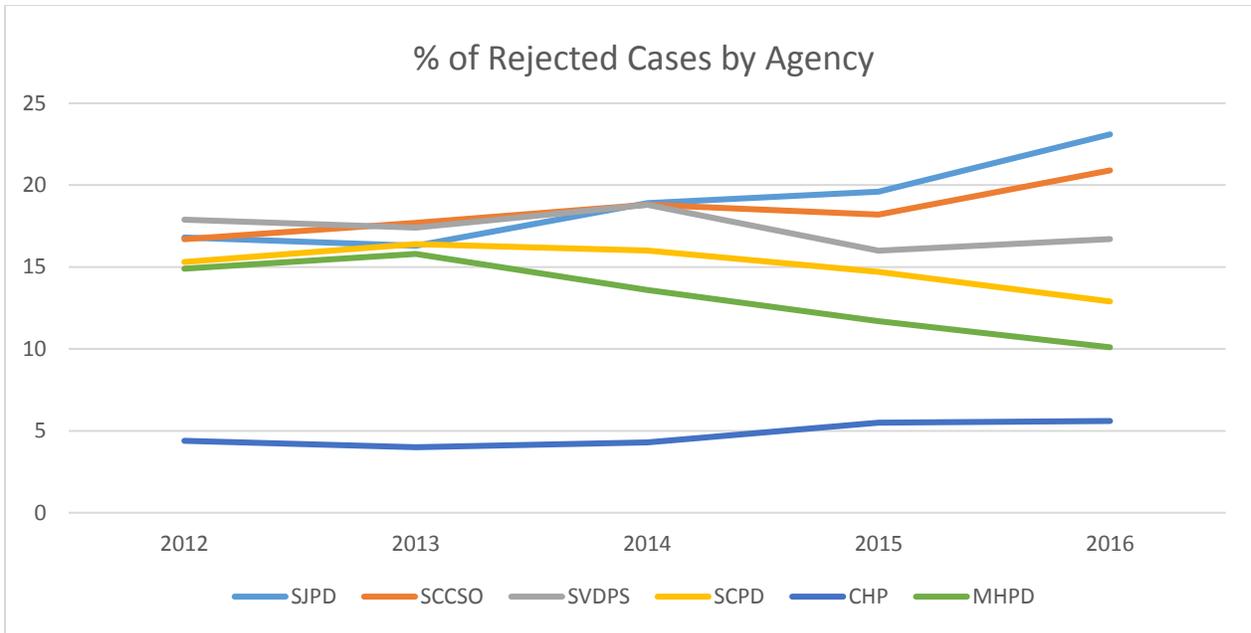


Figure 1 This chart does not include misdemeanors filed by citation, which are also handled by the DA's office. In 2016 the DA's office handled approximately 10,000 misdemeanors that were brought over as citations.

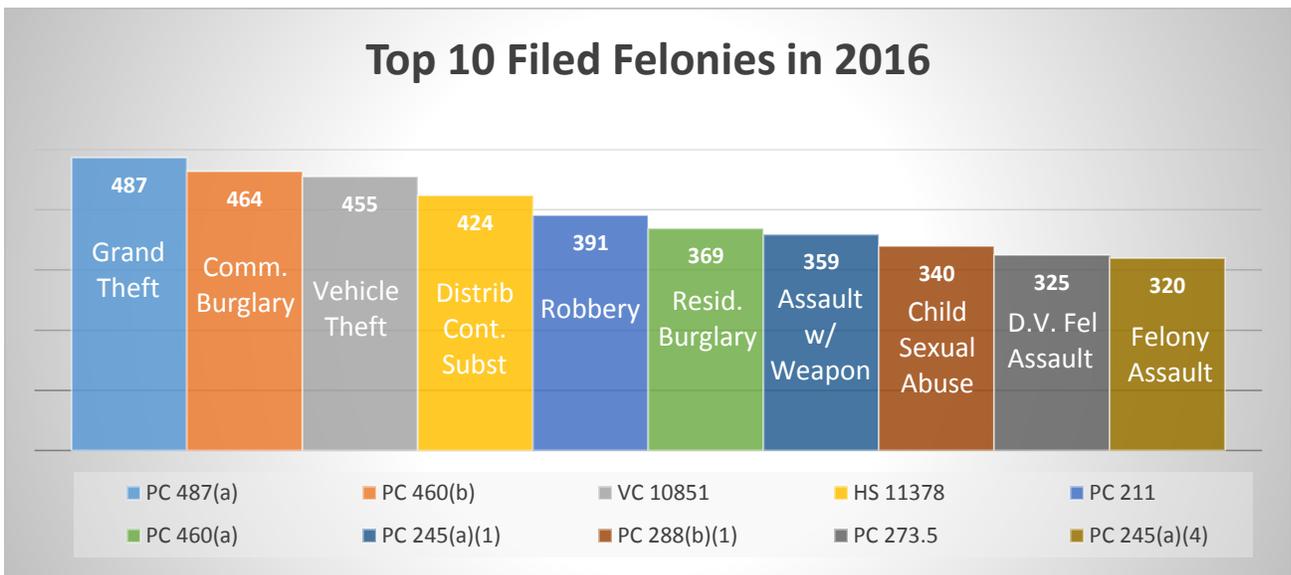
In the last 5 years, misdemeanor filings went up by 13.5% while felony filings decreased by 18%. This is unsurprising in the wake of Proposition 47, which reclassified several felonies to misdemeanors in 2014. In addition to an increase in misdemeanor filings, the DA's Office saw an overall decrease in filed cases in 2016. What we see in the table below is that the percentage of rejected cases increased in 2016 to 23% overall, as compared to 19.9% in 2015.



In examining the rejected cases, some trends were observed. First, not all agencies' cases were rejected at an increased rate. Filings from the Sheriff's Office and San Jose Police Department reached their lowest levels in five years, with an increase in rejected cases in 2016.



An analysis of the most common felonies over the last five years revealed that Grand Theft and Auto Theft have always been among the most frequent felonies. The most commonly filed felony charge in 2016 was Grand Theft of property with a value over \$950. Commercial Burglary was the second most-filed felony, and Vehicle Theft was third. In prior years, the most frequently filed felony was possession of methamphetamine, under Health and Safety Code 11377(a). However, with the passage of Proposition 47, that crime is now mostly a misdemeanor in California.



In addition to identifying the most frequently-filed felonies in the county, several different felonies were analyzed to determine the defendants' home zip codes. In the following chart, the top five most common defendant zip codes for selected charges are displayed. Most defendants came from San Jose zip codes: 95116 (East of Downtown), 95127 (East Foothills), 95112 (Downtown), 95122 (Southeast).

However, no single zip code represented the most defendants across categories. In fact, for residential burglaries the most commonly seen defendant home address was East Palo Alto. Gilroy appears in the top five for every major felony category. This is unsurprising given that Gilroy had some of the highest violent and property crime rates per 10,000 in the county.

Zip Code Rank	Drug Sales: HS 11378	Residential Burglary: 460(a)	Felony Assault: PC 245(a)(1)	Auto Theft: VC 10851
1	95127	94303 (E. Palo Alto)	95111	95116
2	95112	95116	95112	95112
3	95111	95020 (Gilroy)	95116	95122
4	95122	95122	95020 (Gilroy)	95020 (Gilroy)
5	95020 (Gilroy)	95127/95111	95122	95127

### Trials

The District Attorney’s Office handles thousands of cases a year, and occasionally these cases proceed to jury or court trial. The time, expense and inconvenience of a trial make it an option of last resort for the People, who most often resolve cases before trial. In 2014, Santa Clara County felonies only went to trial around 1% of the time. However, the office has many trial attorneys who conduct over 200 trials every year. In 2016, we saw fewer trials than in prior years.

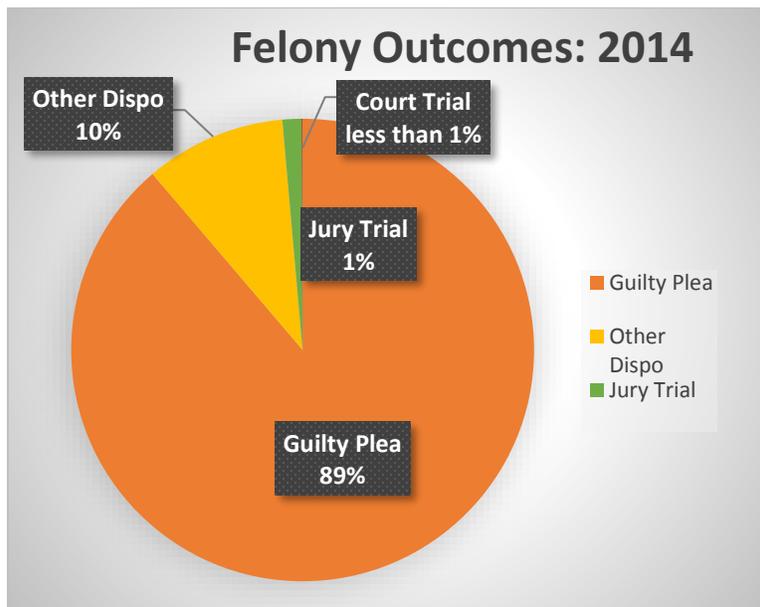


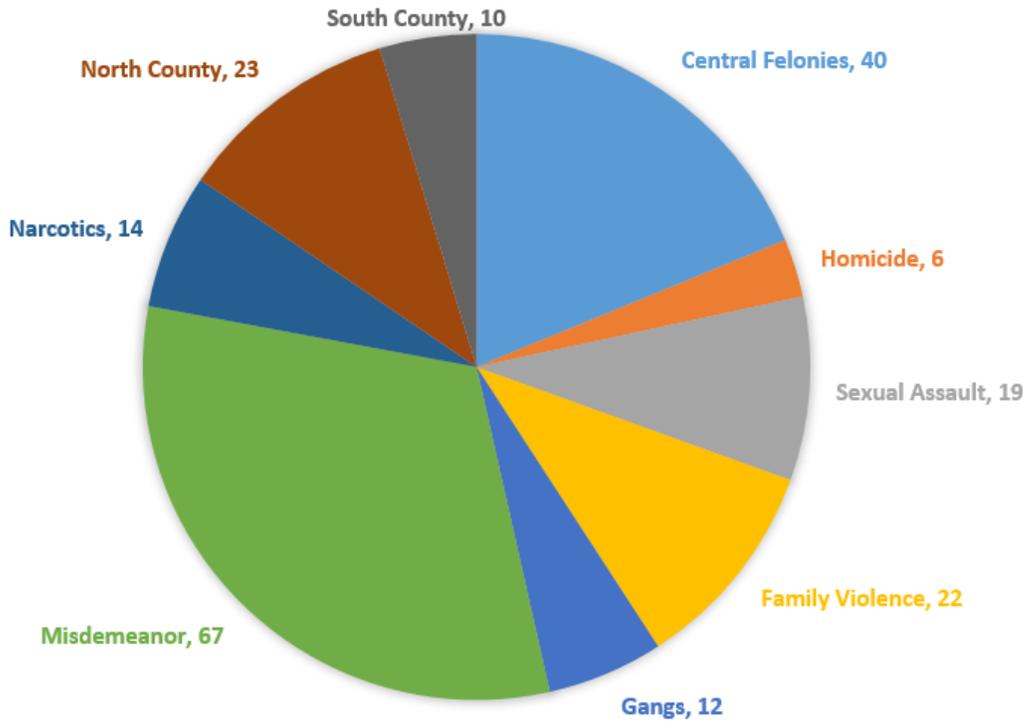
Figure 2 Judicial Council of California, 2013-2014

In the Felony Outcomes chart above, we see that the clear majority of felony cases resolve by way of a guilty plea. Trials are only conducted in 1% of felony cases. “Other Dispo” refers to cases which were consolidated, dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor.



The total number of trials in 2016 was slightly lower than prior years. That number should be taken in context as there were several trials that took months to complete in 2016, resulting in fewer courtrooms available for other cases. The total number of days a case takes to complete a trial has dramatically increased over the years as an explosion of forensic, scientific, and video evidence have increased the length and complexity of all cases. For example, in 1996, the average felony trial in Santa Clara County took 6.1 days to complete. That same year there were 21 felony trial courtrooms in Santa Clara County, and 257 felony trials. In 2015, the average felony trial in Santa Clara County took 10.27 days to complete – a 68% increase in the length of the felony trial. In 2016 there were 19 felony trial courtrooms and 119 felony trials. Longer trials and fewer courtrooms are part of the answer to why there were fewer trials in 2016 than there were twenty years ago.<sup>xvi</sup>

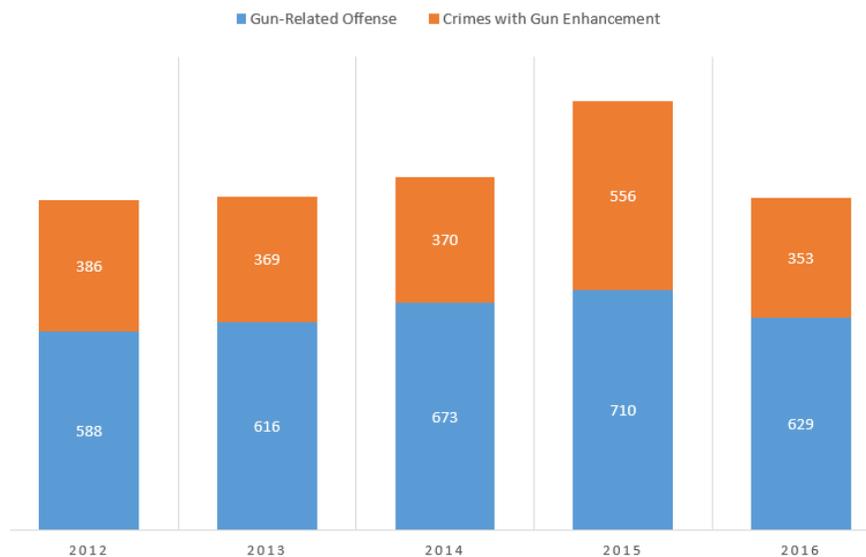
### 2016 TRIALS BY TEAM



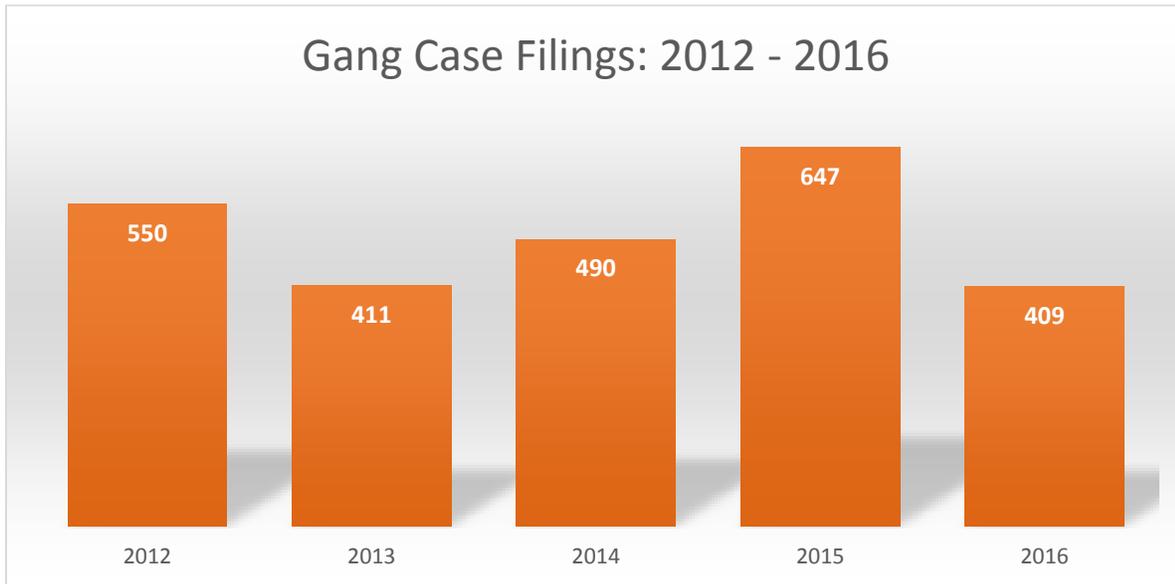
Misdemeanor trials are the most common type in Santa Clara County. This is consistent from year to year, given that misdemeanor case filings far outnumber felony cases. Misdemeanor trials tend to be shorter than felony trials and have their own dedicated trial departments in the criminal courthouse.

### Issuing Practices By Case Type:

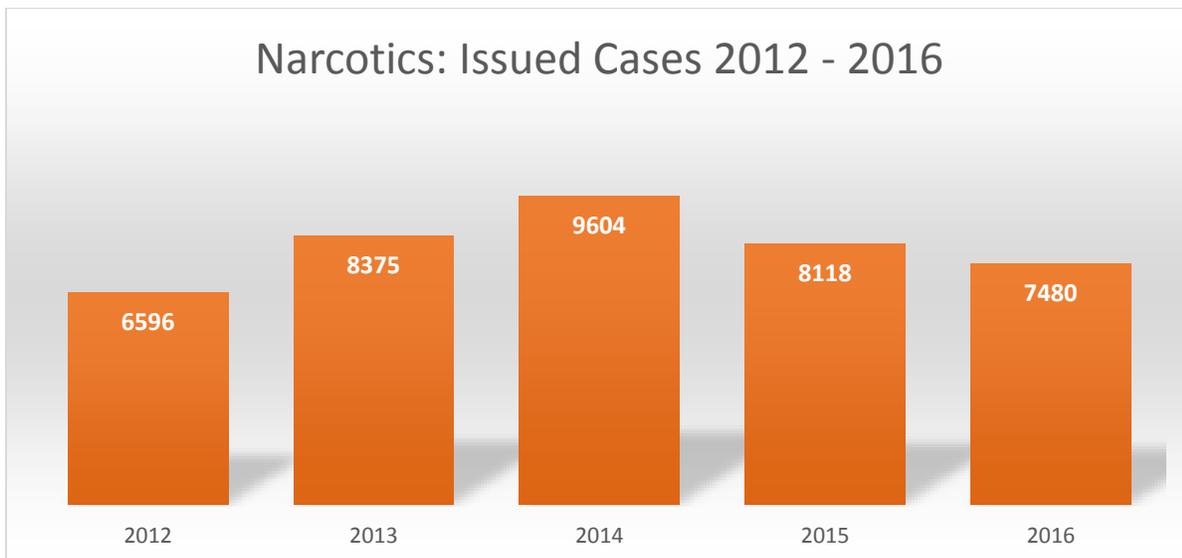
#### GUN CASES: 2012 - 2016



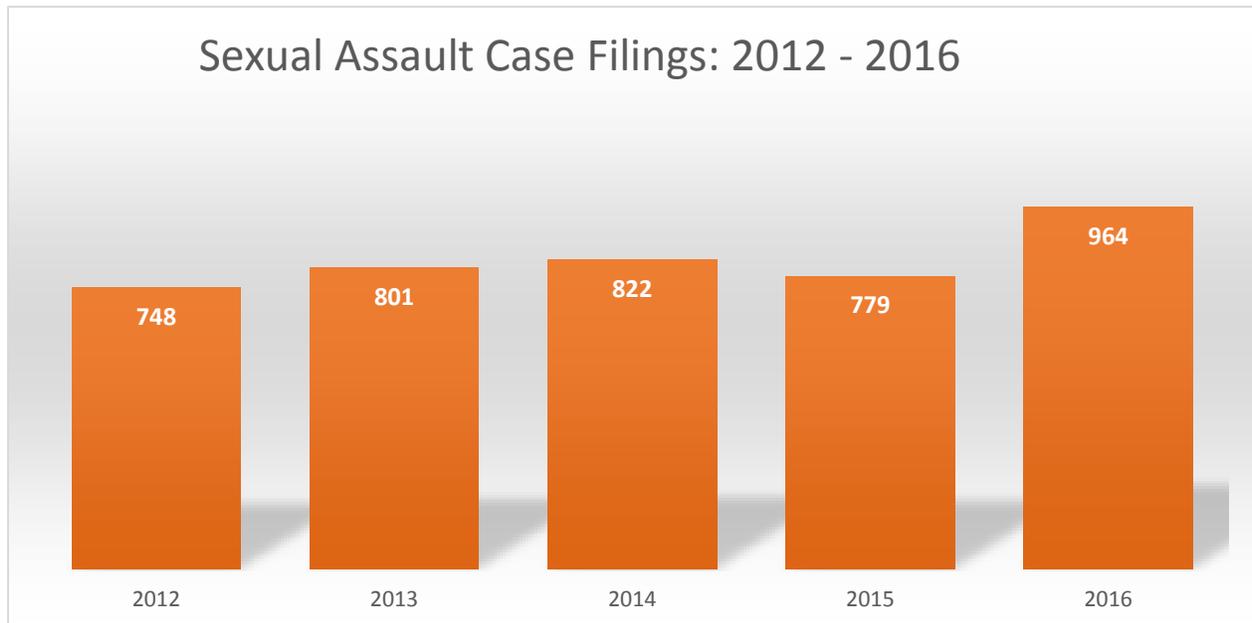
Filed gun cases were down in 2016 compared to 2015. Gun-related offenses refers to cases in which a gun was a part of the crime (assault with a firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon, brandishing a gun, etc). Gun-related offenses decreased from 710 in 2015 to 629 in 2016. Crimes with gun enhancement, where a gun was used during specified felonies, decreased even more sharply from 556 in 2015 to 353 in 2016.



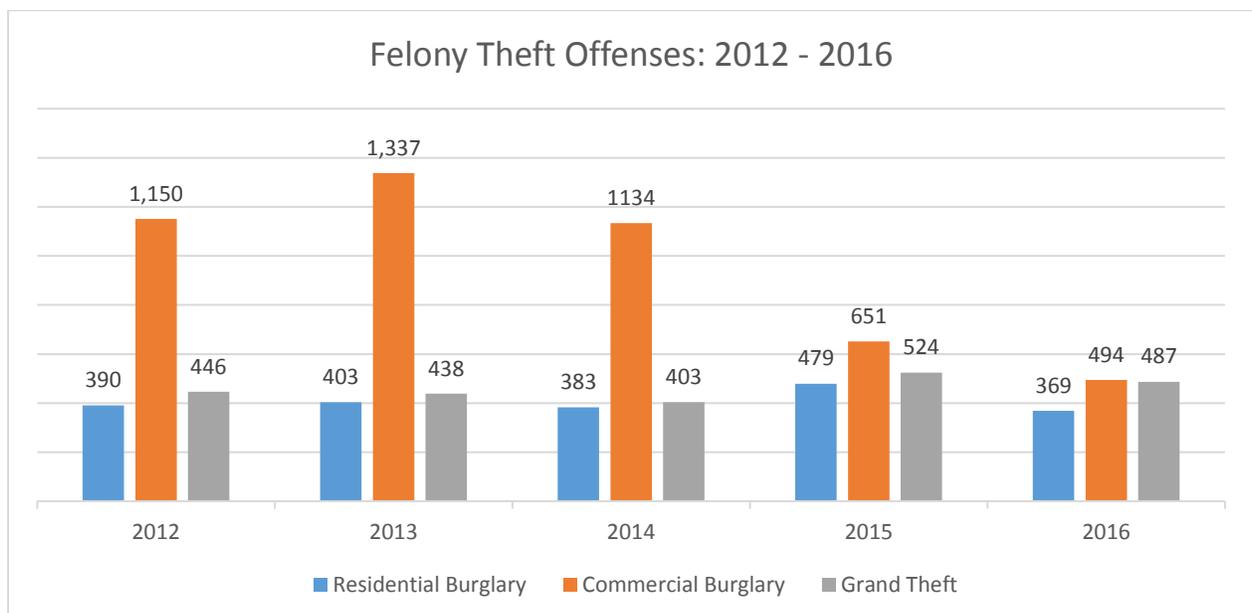
Gang Case Filings refers to the cases filed in the last five years in which a gang enhancement was charged, pursuant to Penal Code 186.22. This is not all crimes involving gang violence, as many gang crimes are not filed with the gang enhancement. From 2013 onwards, it seems gun violence trends and gang case trends match up fairly clearly. Similar to the sharp decrease in gun filings, there was a sharp drop off in gang case filings in 2016. Gang case filing is at a five-year low.



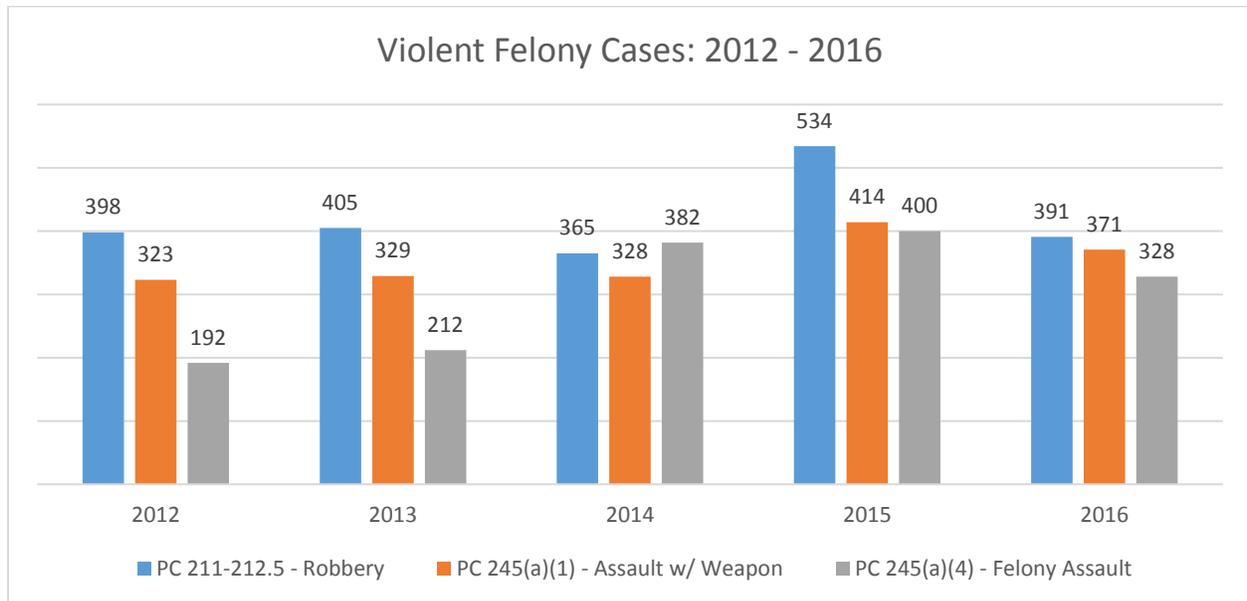
The number of Narcotics cases also continued to decrease in 2016. The level of Narcotics issued cases is at its lowest since 2012. In 2014 California's Prop 47 went into effect, redefining certain drug felonies as misdemeanors. This coincided with a decrease in overall drug case filings.



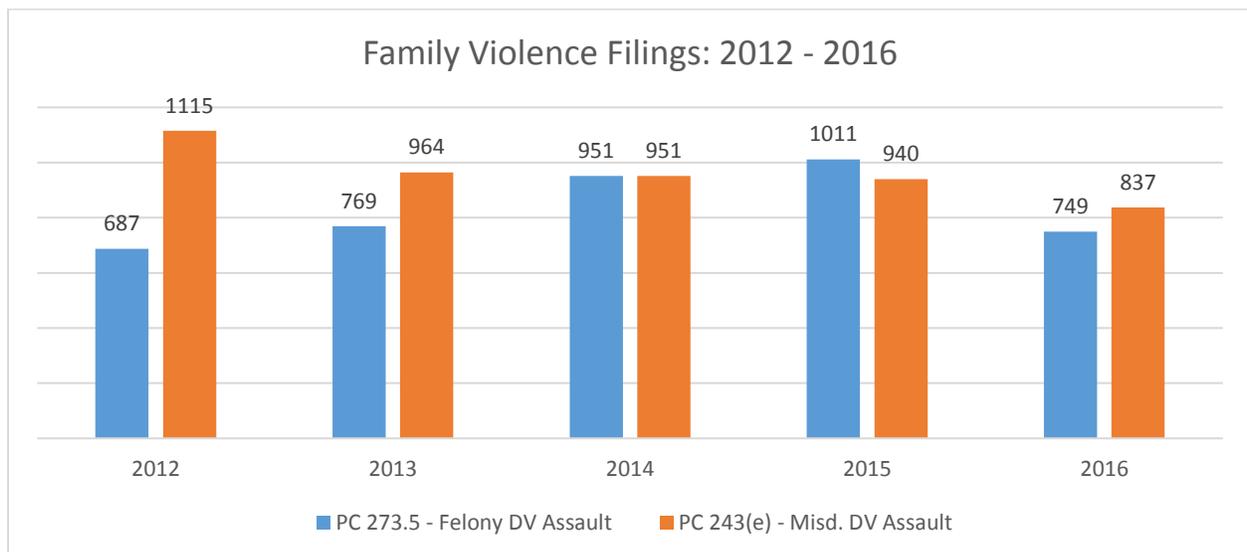
Contrary to the downward trends shown in the previous charts, sexual assault cases increased dramatically in the County in 2016. Sexual Assault cases increased from 779 in 2015 to 964 in 2016, a new 5-year high.



Commercial burglaries declined after Prop 47 in 2014. That law changed commercial burglary to mean that if you steal from a business during working hours, the crime is called “shoplifting”, a misdemeanor. However, if you steal from a business when it is closed (meaning you broke in and stole), it is still a felony. Residential burglary filings have been relatively static over the last five years.



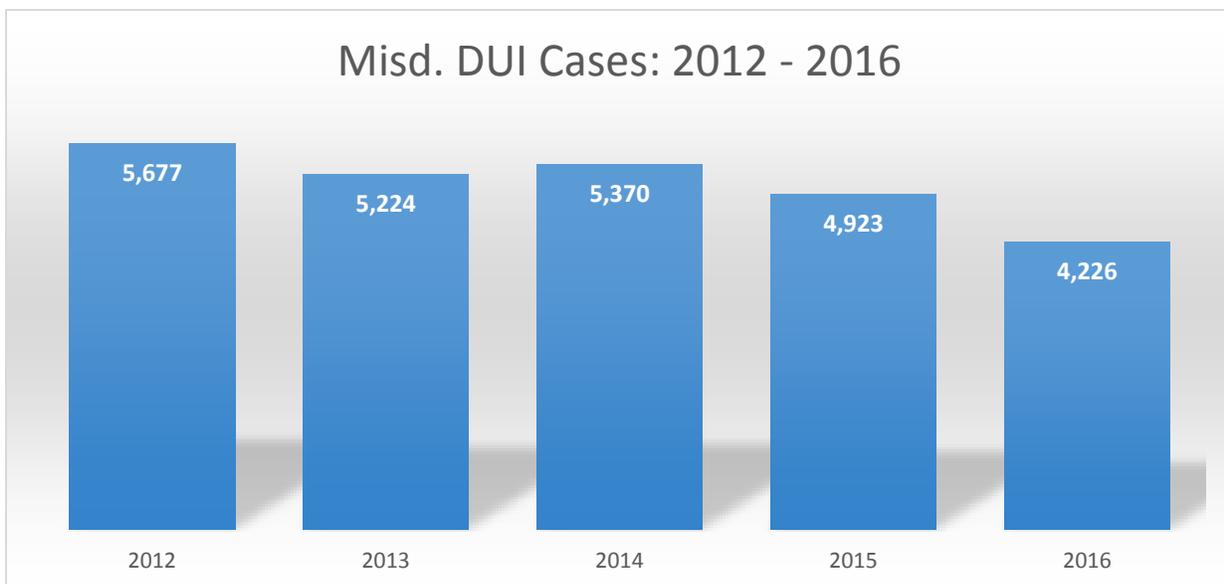
Violent felony cases are highlighted above, showing a spike in robbery filings in 2015. Felony assault also increased over the last five years.



Family violence includes assault on a spouse, family member or cohabitant. Felony assault usually involves more than a minor injury. In 2016 filings were down for felonies and misdemeanors.



In 2016 San Jose Police department provided body worn cameras to all patrol officers. In the coming years we will evaluate what impact, if any, this has on the number of resisting arrest case filings.



Driving under the influence is the most commonly filed charge in the DA's office. DUI filings were down by 700 cases in 2016 as compared to 2015. This is a steady and noticeable downward trend in filed DUI cases over the last 5 years.

## CONCLUSION

This report shows that Santa Clara County has been experiencing changes in its population, crimes and prosecutions in the last decade. With a growing, wealthy population, Santa Clara County maintains low property crime rates compared to large counties in the state. Meanwhile, more work is needed to

analyze the cause of two years of increasing violent crime levels. San Jose still compares well against its long-term crime levels, remaining well below the high-water crime mark in the 1990s.

To acknowledge and address the rising violent crime in Santa Clara County, the Crime Strategies Unit will conduct regular crime trend monitoring and intelligence analysis to assist police officers in combatting crime. To address gun violence, the Unit is working with the Crime Lab to expedite gun evidence processing and solve more gun crimes. The goal is to bring shooters to justice and keep them from further victimizing vulnerable neighborhoods. With regard to gang violence, the Unit will organize gang data and cultivate gang intelligence to stop the spread of gang violence through targeted enforcement.

In the years to come, the Crime Strategies Unit and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office will continue to report on issues impacting our county, our police and our community.

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<sup>i</sup> US Census Data, 2014

<sup>ii</sup> US Census Data, 2014

<sup>iii</sup> US Census Data, 2014

<sup>iv</sup> FBI Uniform Crime Report Data, 2014, available at: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s>

<sup>v</sup> US Census Data, 2014

<sup>vi</sup> US Census Data, 2014

<sup>vii</sup> US Census Data, 2010

<sup>viii</sup> "Population in Silicon Valley", a research brief by the Silicon Valley Research Institute (2015), available at <http://siliconvalleyindicators.org/pdf/population-brief-2015-05.pdf>.

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid.

<sup>x</sup> Michael Tonry, *Why Crime Rates Are Falling Throughout the Western World*, 43 *Crime & Just.* 1 (2014), available at [http://scholarship.law.umn.edu/faculty\\_articles/511](http://scholarship.law.umn.edu/faculty_articles/511).

<sup>xi</sup> Matt Ford, "What Caused the Great Crime Decline in the U.S.?" (April 15, 2016), *The Atlantic*.

<sup>xii</sup> All data were provided directly by records departments at the listed police agencies

<sup>xiii</sup> Crime In California, Office of the Attorney General (2015) available at <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cjsc/publications/candd/cd15/cd15.pdf>

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.sanjoseinside.com/2016/08/29/san-jose-expected-to-declare-police-staffing-emergency/>

<sup>xv</sup> <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/safety-justice/police-officers-per-capita-rates-employment-for-city-departments.html>

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<sup>xvi</sup> 2014 District Attorney's Office study of internal trial and days in trial data; 2017 Criminal Judge Assignments.