



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEAL BEACH PD RELEASES ANNUAL CRIME STATS REPORT AND ANNOUNCES TRANSITION TO NIBRS

Seal Beach, CA – The Seal Beach Police Department has released its annual crime statistics report for the year 2023.

Transition to NIBRS

The Seal Beach Police Department has completed its transition to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standard. This change, initiated on January 1st, 2022, aligns Seal Beach PD with state and federal data standards and supports the national transition to NIBRS.

As the new national data collection standard, NIBRS captures details on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, property, and drugs involved in crimes for up to 10 offenses within an incident, representing a substantial shift in the way Seal Beach PD reports crime. The additional detailed crime incident data will provide greater analytic capability and makes NIBRS a superior crime-reporting standard to the previously utilized UCR standard.

The Seal Beach Police Department began reporting NIBRS-compliant crime data to California, for submission to the FBI, on January 1st, 2022. Transitioning to NIBRS enabled Seal Beach PD to give context to specific public safety issues. With this change, law enforcement agencies will be able to provide the community with in-depth information about victimization and offending. NIBRS collects information on nearly every major criminal justice issue facing law enforcement, including weapons offenses,

drug offenses and drug involvement in all offenses, gangs, domestic violence, child, and elder abuse, hate crimes, white collar crime, and terrorism.

The transition to NIBRS reporting enhances accuracy, transparency, and the ability to adapt to evolving crime trends. This move strengthens community safety by providing comprehensive and detailed data to law enforcement and stakeholders. The Seal Beach Police Department's proactive approach in adopting NIBRS demonstrates its commitment to leveraging modern technology and best practices to serve and protect the community effectively.

For more information about the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), please visit the Bureau of Justice Statistics website at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/national-incident-based-reporting-system-nibrs>.

Comparison of 2022 and 2023 Crime Stats

The crime statistics for Seal Beach in 2022 and 2023 present a nuanced view of law enforcement challenges and successes during these periods. While the overall reported crimes decreased by 4% as compared to 2023 from 2022, indicating a positive trend, specific categories witnessed notable shifts.

Assault offenses saw a modest decrease of 6%. Burglary and motor vehicle theft showed decreases of 11% and 16%, respectively, indicating progress in reducing property-related crimes. Drug offenses saw a significant decline of 40%, signaling potential shifts in drug-related laws and penalties. Weapons laws offenses also saw a drastic decrease of 69%.

Certainly, the significant increase in larceny and theft, particularly encompassing organized retail theft, reflects a notable trend in Seal Beach's crime statistics from 2022 to 2023. The 16% rise in these offenses underscores the challenges posed by organized retail crime and highlights the need for targeted enforcement and preventive measures.

Organized retail crime, characterized by coordinated theft activities targeting retail establishments, has become a pervasive issue not just in the City of Seal Beach but across California and the nation. These crimes often involve sophisticated tactics such

as pushouts, return scams, and grab-and-runs, resulting in substantial financial losses for retailers and consumers.

The surge in larceny and theft offenses can be attributed to various factors, including economic conditions, societal factors, and evolving criminal strategies. Economic downturns or uncertainties can contribute to an increase in theft-related crimes as individuals may resort to illegal means to meet financial needs.

Addressing the increase in larceny and theft requires a multifaceted approach that combines proactive law enforcement strategies, community engagement, public awareness campaigns, and collaboration with retail partners. The Seal Beach Police Department's Directed Enforcement Operations targeting retail theft during the holiday season exemplify this approach, aiming to disrupt organized theft rings and recover stolen property.

The Importance of Reporting Crimes

The Seal Beach Police Department emphasizes the importance of reporting all crimes, regardless of the likelihood of prosecution. Reporting crimes is crucial for identifying trends, allocating police resources effectively, and developing targeted enforcement strategies. It fosters community cooperation, prevents further criminal activity, supports victims, and ensures justice. Additionally, a high rate of crime reporting deters potential offenders by increasing their perceived risk of being caught. Accurate and timely crime reports help the police be proactive, maintain public safety, and strengthen trust between the community and law enforcement.

How to Report Crimes:

- **Emergency Situations:** Dial 911 for immediate police assistance in emergencies or if a crime is in progress.
- **Non-Emergency Situations:** Contact the Seal Beach Police Department's non-emergency line 562-594-7232 for incidents that do not require immediate intervention.

The Seal Beach Police Department encourages all residents to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activities or crimes. Your cooperation is vital in creating a safer and more secure community for everyone.

Commitment to Community Safety and Collaborative Partnerships

The Seal Beach Police Department is committed to providing professional and responsive law enforcement services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Seal Beach. Through community partnerships and proactive initiatives, the department strives to create a safe and secure environment for all.

Category	2022	2023	% Change
Animal Cruelty	0	7	100%
Arson	4	2	-50%
Assault Offenses	136	128	-6%
Burglary - B/E	122	109	-11%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	45	33	-27%
Drug Offenses	242	146	-40%
Embezzlement	2	4	100%
Fraud Offenses	90	103	14%
Group B Offenses	192	186	-3%
Homicide Offenses	0	1	100%
Kidnapping/Abduction	1	3	200%
Larceny and Theft	437	508	16%
Motor Vehicle Theft	58	49	-16%
Non-Consensual Sex Offense	12	8	-33%
Obscene Material, Pornography	0	3	100%
Robbery	10	13	30%
Stolen Property Offenses	60	54	-10%
Vandalism, Destruction of Property	107	117	9%
Weapons Laws	29	9	-69%
Total	1547	1483	-4%

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