

Living Safely



Overview:

Live Well San Diego is an overarching strategy to achieve the County's vision of safe, healthy and thriving communities. In 2010, the County launched the first phase of *Live Well San Diego* with a health strategy called *Building Better Health*. It provides a framework for how the County will integrate services and, in some cases, change the way services are delivered over the next 10 years to achieve a healthy San Diego County.

The second phase, *Living Safely*, addresses both the community's perception of overall safety in San Diego as well as the actual incidence of crime, injury and abuse. This plan is intended to facilitate cooperation and collaboration with public agencies and private sector partners as they develop and align regional policies and programs. *Living Safely* also communicates a shared policy approach to making communities safer, to ensure that we are traveling in the same direction, in a coordinated approach, toward the same vision.

Key Components:

- Who We Serve – Individuals, Families, Communities
- Focus Areas – Preparedness, Prevention, Protection, Accountability, and Rehabilitation
- Timeline – Ten-year effort to develop new ways to enhance our safety strategies
- Where – Throughout San Diego County, working collaboratively with law enforcement, public agencies and community partners
- How We Will Achieve Our Goals – By building upon the key themes for *Live Well, San Diego!*: Building A Better Service-Delivery System, Supporting Positive Choices for Safety, Pursuing Policy and Environmental Changes, and Improving the Culture Within

Outcomes:

This strategy is focused on achieving three key outcomes to keep San Diego County one of the safest communities in the nation. To this end, we are committed to a San Diego region where:



Residents are
protected
from crime or abuse



Neighborhoods are
safe
to work, live and
play



Communities are
resilient
to disasters and
emergencies

How We Will Achieve These Outcomes:

Residents are *protected* from crime or abuse

At heart of reducing crime and abuse is the goal of reducing victimization. Criminal justice and social service agencies within San Diego are committed to a coordinated, collaborative approach to create a region where residents are protected from crime and abuse. Agencies within this County have already made an unprecedented commitment to working together to develop and implement strategies that improve public safety. Locally, our strategy has advanced a balanced-approach model that reduces crime by holding offenders accountable while providing them access to rehabilitation. We will work towards stronger coordination between County services to better identify and target those at risk of victimization, abuse and neglect, and enhance response and support services for this population.

Neighborhoods are *safe* to work, live and play

Tackling safety issues in our region requires wide-ranging efforts. Serious injuries and preventable deaths continue to be a major concern in San Diego. Disabling injuries or injury-related deaths devastate families and individuals, and this emotional toll is often compounded by related economic burdens, such as loss of income or the cost of healthcare. Likewise, abuse and other traumatic events cause serious and lasting harm; exposure to abuse and traumatic events exacts a heavy toll, and can shorten life-spans. The *Living Safely* strategy aims to improve outcomes for residents by facilitating stronger social ties within neighborhoods to reduce isolation, supporting community design that promotes safety, promoting safety in the home and workplace, and empowering individuals to lead safer lives. Reducing workplace accidents and maintaining a healthy workforce will improve the quality of life in San Diego County, and our efforts include addressing safety in our own County employee wellness initiatives.

Communities are *resilient* to disasters and emergencies

Along with San Diego's idyllic location and weather comes the significant risk of natural and man-made disasters. Within the past decade, San Diego has endured two major firestorms that have resulted in significant losses. Topography and geographic location make the San Diego region highly susceptible to wildfires, earthquakes, environmental and public health threats. *Living Safely* recognizes that disaster preparedness, at both the community and personal level, is critical to the overall safety and resiliency of the region. Resiliency requires implementation of effective preparedness programs and incident management. But it also requires public engagement and leadership from our public agencies, well before incidents occur. Public engagement is not new and has been an integral part of our strategy in this region, but this initiative emphasizes a commitment to strengthening resiliency through civil and community preparedness.

How can you get involved?

- Share this strategy with your members.
- Identify goals in this strategy that you have already accomplished or would like to attempt.
- Report your accomplishments annually to the County of San Diego for presentations to the Board of Supervisors, city councils, and community partners.
- Help the County achieve its goal of a safe San Diego for everyone!