

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSES
TO
2023-2024 GRAND JURY REPORTS

CANNABIS IN SAN DIEGO – HOW IS IT GOING?
DOG BITES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2023-24 GRAND JURY
REPORT

“Cannabis in San Diego – How is it Going?”
Published May 30, 2024

FINDINGS

Findings F1 and F2 apply to the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, therefore responses shall be submitted by the Sheriff’s Department directed to the Presiding Judge with an informational copy sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Finding F4: The County does not report the non-financial costs (e.g., health and law enforcement impacts) of legalized cannabis, leaving citizens unaware of the full non-fiscal impacts of cannabis legalization.

Response: The County of San Diego disagrees partially with this finding. The County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) currently reports on many non-financial impacts of cannabis; this content is typically focused on public health impacts. For example, the County publishes data on cannabis related deaths, emergency department discharges, and hospitalizations. These data are publicly available through online dashboards published by the Community Health Statistics Unit within the HHSA Public Health Services and are intended to keep the public informed and aware of various health data in our county. Additionally, the San Diego County Cannabis Public Health Initiative, overseen by HHSA Behavioral Health Services, aims to increase public awareness on adverse effects resulting from cannabis misuse through media efforts and development of other educational resources.

The County Department of Planning & Development Services (PDS), through its Code Compliance Division, collaborates with the Sheriff’s Department and other County departments to address illicit cannabis operations. As part of regular performance metrics reporting, PDS reports on Code Compliance case data through the publicly available PDS website. In 2023 these efforts resulted in the closure of 23 cannabis cases.

Finding F5: Legalized cannabis has had significant health impacts on school-aged children and senior citizens.

Response: The County of San Diego disagrees partially with this finding. The County has reviewed data regarding this issue but a more comprehensive analysis assessing the

health impacts on school-aged children and senior citizens is needed to validate this claim. The County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services has reviewed syndromic surveillance data for cannabis related emergency department visits and observed that since 2019, youth and young adults (15-24 age group) have had the highest number of cannabis related visits compared to all other age groups. However, overall, there is a downward trend in cannabis related emergency department visits. Additionally, local survey data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System conducted in San Diego Unified School District show a declining trend in both the percentage of youth who ever used marijuana as well as the percentage who tried marijuana for the first time before 13 years of age. For older adults, studies from local academic institutions have indicated they may experience health impacts related to cannabis misuse. However, this needs to be further assessed with local data and additional literature review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation R1 applies to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, therefore responses shall be submitted by the Sheriff's Department directed to the Presiding Judge with an informational copy sent to the Board of Supervisors.

The 2023-2024 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

Recommendation R4: Direct the county staff to develop reports that document the health and law enforcement impacts of cannabis legalization.

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's (HHSA) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) department, in collaboration with other County departments, will identify current reports that document impacts of cannabis legalization, as well as establish additional opportunities for reporting on impacts. The County will conduct this environmental scan of resources in the next 90 days, at which time additional analyses (and potential report development) will be completed within 120 days thereafter. Analyses will be based on available data and will examine associations between cannabis legalization and impacts.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2023-24 GRAND JURY REPORT

"Dog Bites in San Diego County"
Published June 10, 2024

FINDINGS

Finding F2: Public information concerning fines for violations of dog control ordinances is not available for all interviewed jurisdictions.

Response: The County of San Diego disagrees wholly with this finding for itself but cannot comment for other jurisdictions. The County's dog control ordinances are found in Chapter 4, Section 6 of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances and public information for fines and violations is available in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 2024 Misdemeanor and Infraction Bail Schedule (Bail Schedule). The Bail Schedule is publicly available as a downloadable PDF on the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego's website ([Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego](#)). Fines for violations of 24 San Diego County ordinances are contained within this public-facing document.

Finding F3: Providing the authorization to animal control officers to issue citations and fines would provide a method, short of a Dangerous Dog hearing, to incentivize owners to better control their dog's behavior.

Response: The County of San Diego disagrees wholly with this finding for itself but cannot comment for other jurisdictions. Per Section 62.669.1(a)(1) of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances it is unlawful for a dog to bite a person engaged in a lawful act. Individuals who violate this section may be arrested or cited under section 62.662 and are subject to bail payments imposed by the court pursuant to the Bail Schedule ([Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego](#)). The amount for a dog bite is \$150 and a subsequent offense is \$300. The Department believes that this current citation process provides sufficient incentive to comply with the Code.

Finding F4: Public information about the presence of Dangerous Dogs in a neighborhood, particularly near public schools, is not readily available in San Diego County.

Response: The County of San Diego agrees with this finding for itself but cannot comment for other jurisdictions. Currently, there is no known single source of information that would allow the public to be aware of where declared Dangerous Dogs reside.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation R2: Interviewed cities and the County of San Diego should publicly post the fines associated with violations of ordinances concerning dogs.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented by the County of San Diego. The County cannot comment for other jurisdictions. Fines for violations of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances concerning dogs are found in the Bail Schedule which is available to the public as a downloadable PDF on the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego's website ([Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego](#)). The County of San Diego will analyze additional ways to post fines associated with violations of ordinances concerning dogs.

Recommendation R3: Interviewed cities and the County of San Diego should develop regulations for a citation and fine process for the violation of animal control ordinances including when a dog bite is reported.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because regulations for a citation and fine process already exist. The County cannot comment for other jurisdictions. Regulations for a citation and fine process for violations of animal control ordinances, including dog bite incidents, are found in Chapter 4, Section 6 of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances. The regulation of dog bites is found in Section 62.669.1(a)(1). Individuals who violate this section may be arrested or cited under section 62.662 and are subject to bail payments imposed by the court pursuant to the Bail Schedule ([Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego](#)). The Department believes that this current citation process provides sufficient incentive to comply with the Code.

Recommendation R4: The San Diego County Board of Supervisors direct the County Animal Control Division to develop a plan for collecting information about the location of a declared Dangerous Dog within the County and posting this information, so it is readily available to the public.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis by the County of San Diego. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors may direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a plan for collecting information about the location of a declared Dangerous Dog within the county and posting this information, so it is readily available to the public. If the Board of Supervisors makes this recommendation, a legal, policy, and cost analysis will be conducted to determine legality and which County departments would be responsible for the aggregation and posting of this information. These analyses would be ready for further discussion within six months.