

# Do Local Realignment Policies Affect Recidivism in California?

Mia Bird and Ryken Grattet



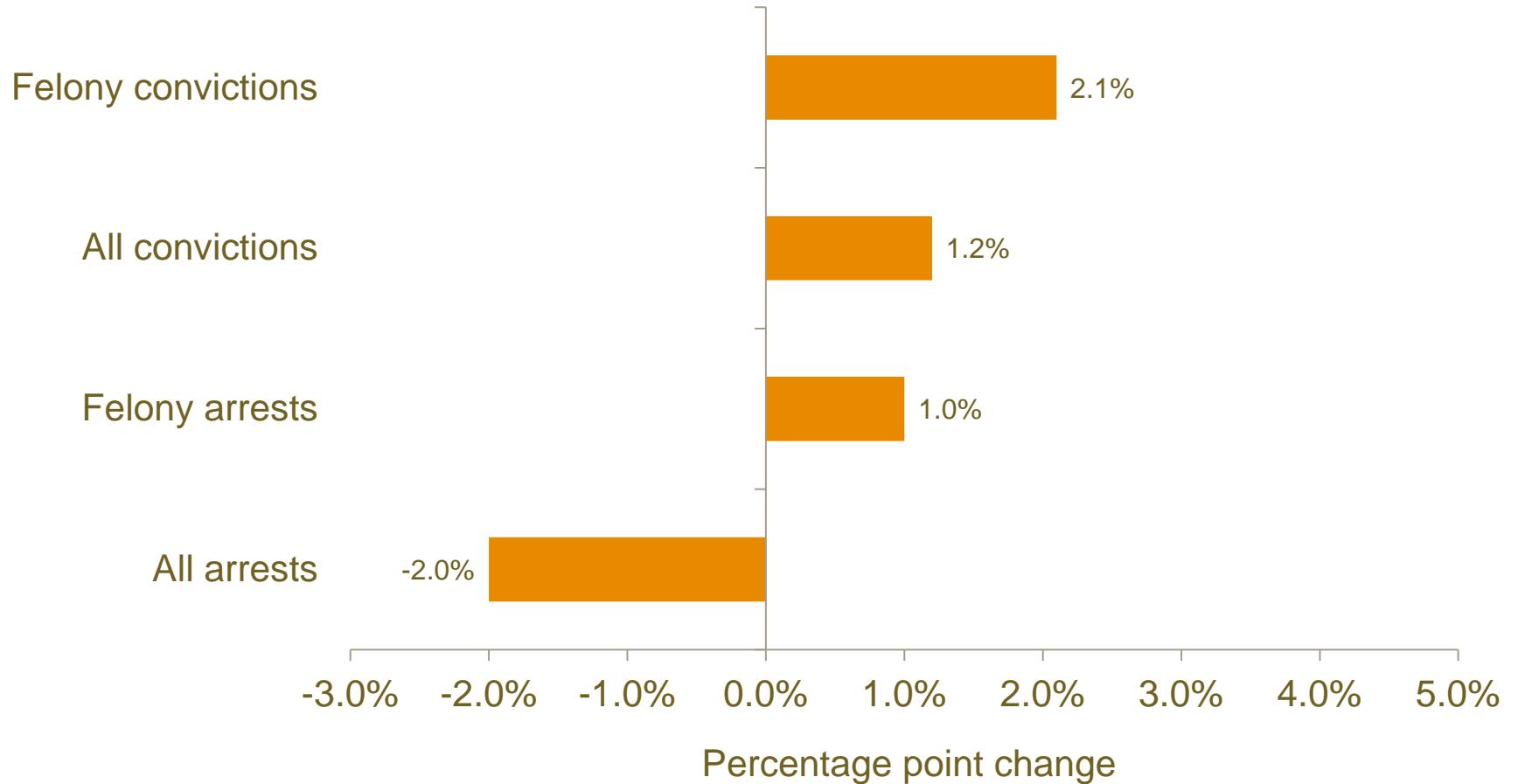
# Realignment brought sweeping changes to California corrections

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- Sent many released prisoners to counties for supervision and sanctioning
- Kept some felony offenders in counties who were previously eligible to be sent to prison
- Sent supervision violators into county jails
- State provided funds
  - “Locals can do it better”
  - Freedom to experiment



# After realignment, changes in recidivism have been modest



SOURCE: Lofstrom, Raphael, and Grattet. 2014. *Is Public Safety Realignment Reducing Recidivism in California?* PPIC.



# Central questions for this study

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- Has realignment reduced recidivism among a particular group of offenders?
  - Post-release community supervision (PRCS)
  - Previously supervised by state parole, now supervised by the counties
- Did county approaches impact recidivism in the first year of realignment?



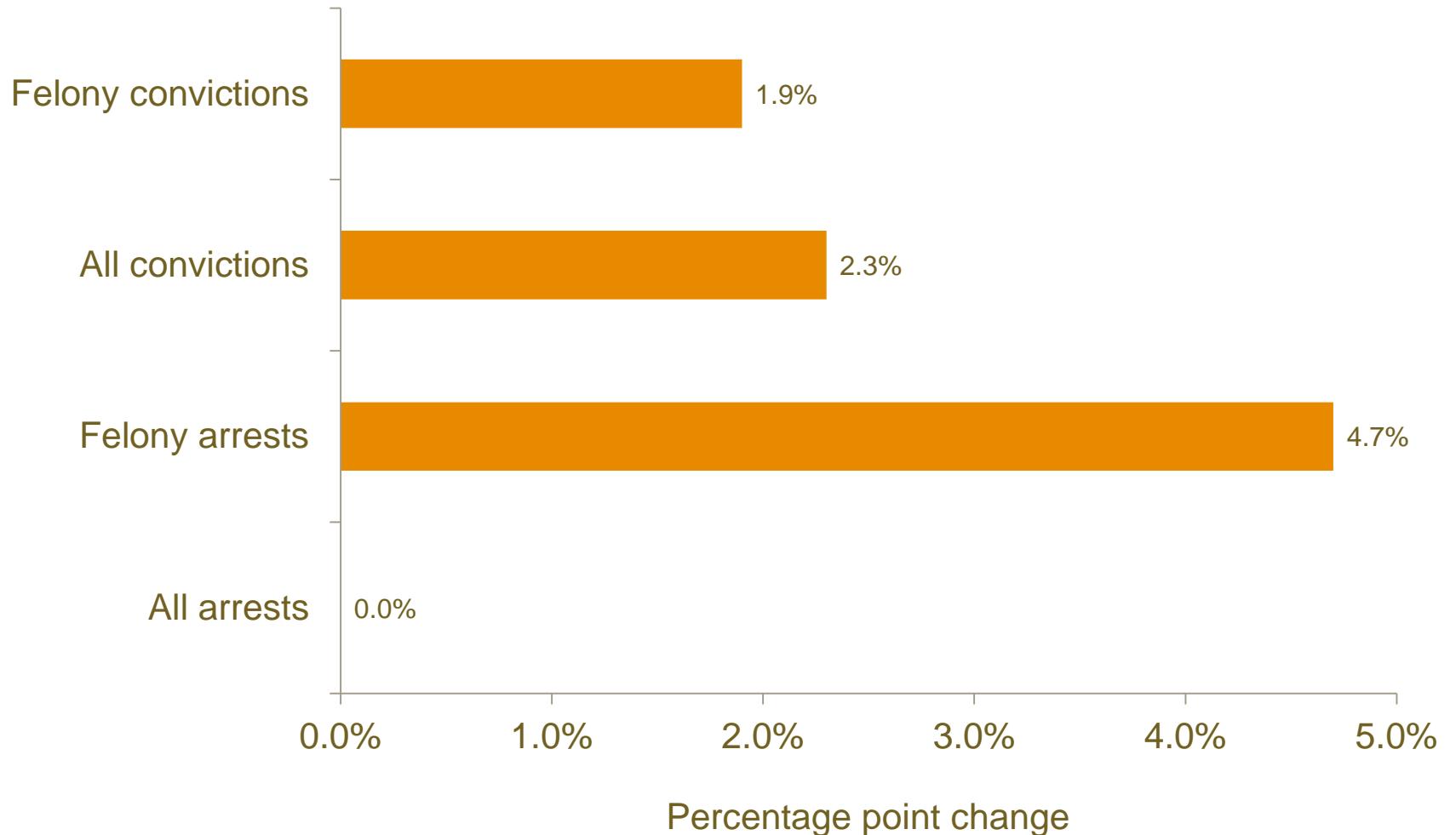
# Outline

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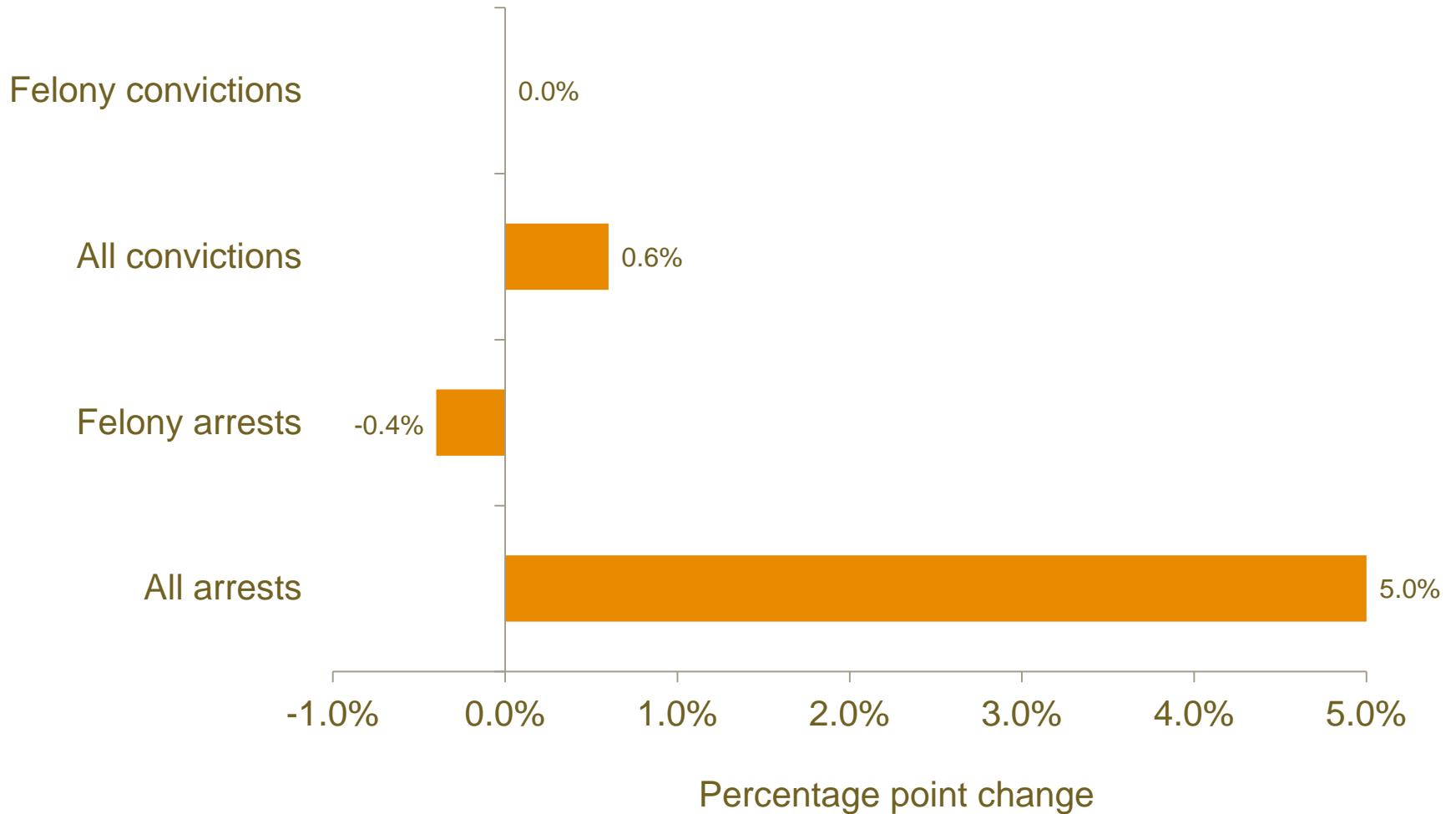
- **Changes in recidivism**
- County approaches to realignment
- Conclusions



# Felony arrests and convictions of all types increased after realignment



# Before realignment, changes in recidivism were uneven



# Outline

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- Changes in recidivism
- **County approaches to realignment**
- Conclusions



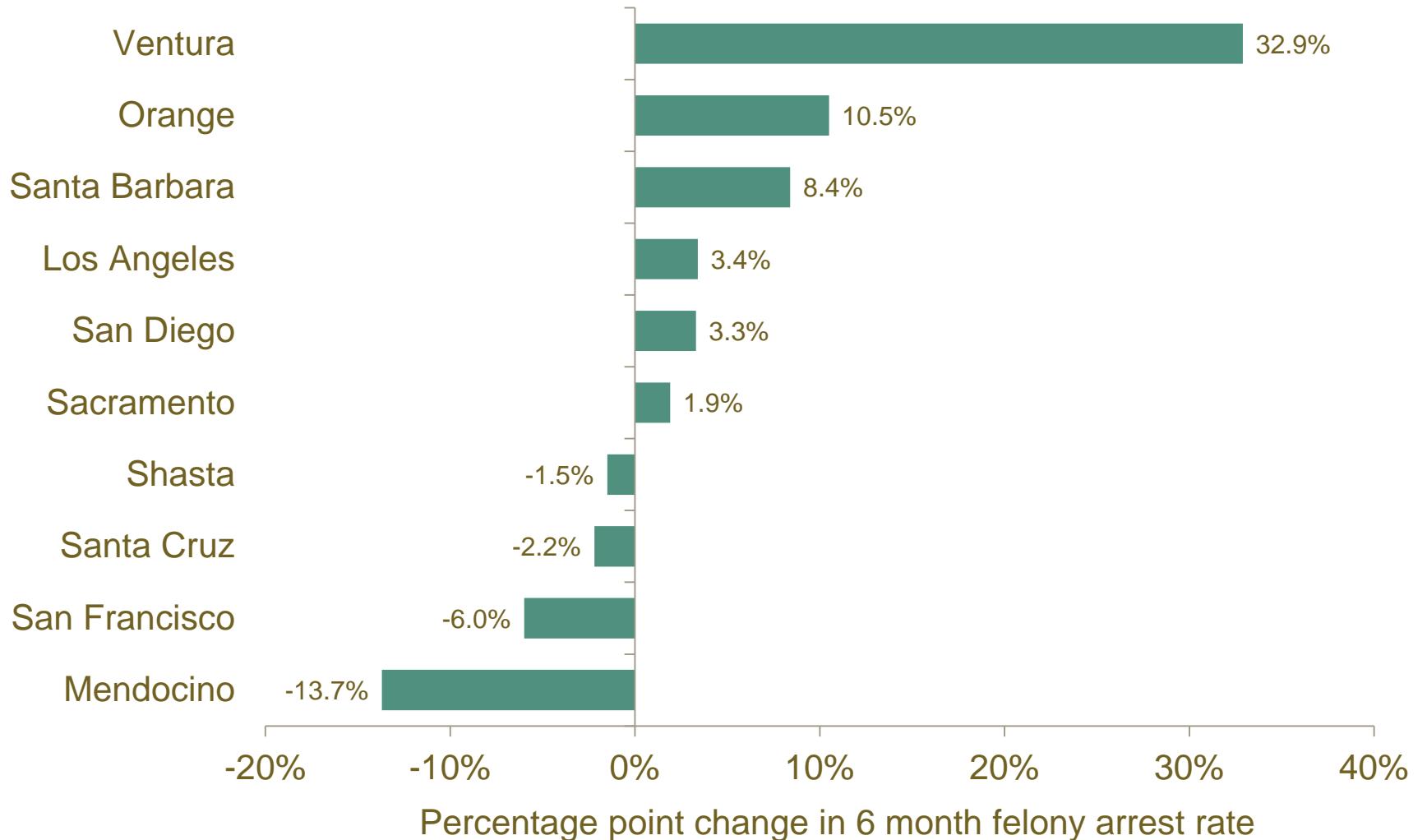
# Realignment gave new responsibilities to counties

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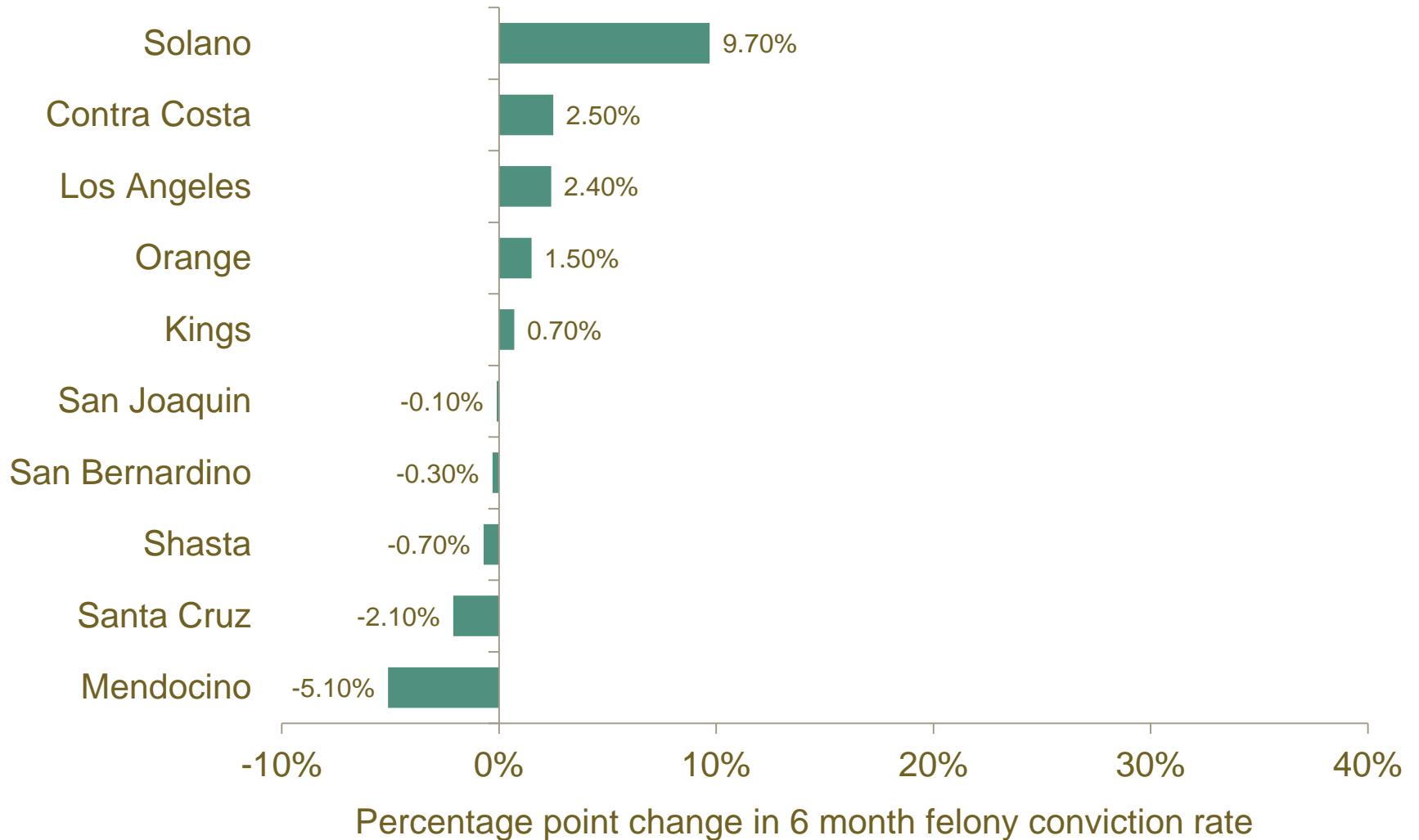
- Provided funds and overarching goals to reduce recidivism
- Encouraged evidence-based practices
- Required counties to submit plans for state funding



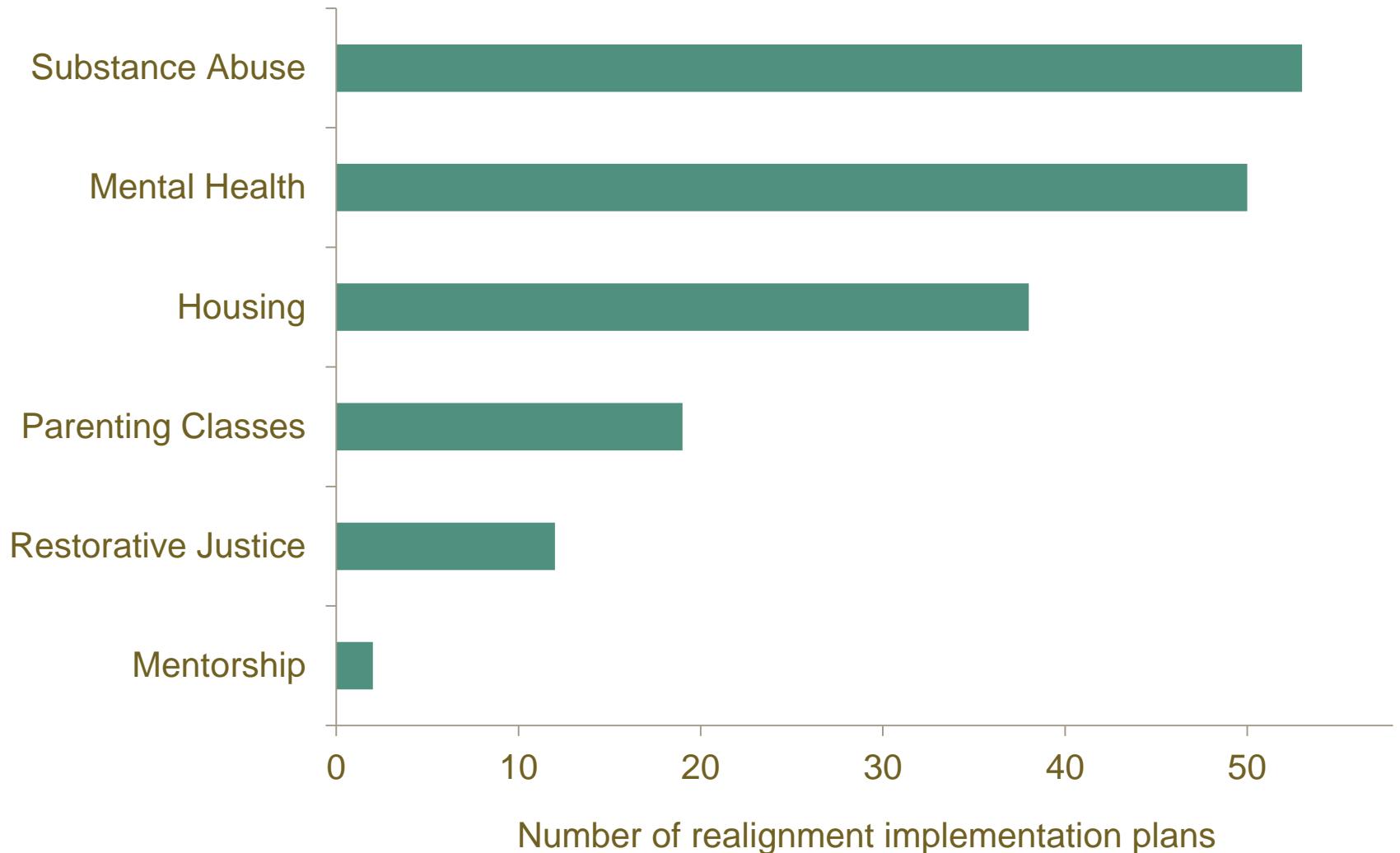
# Changes in felony arrest rates varied across counties ...



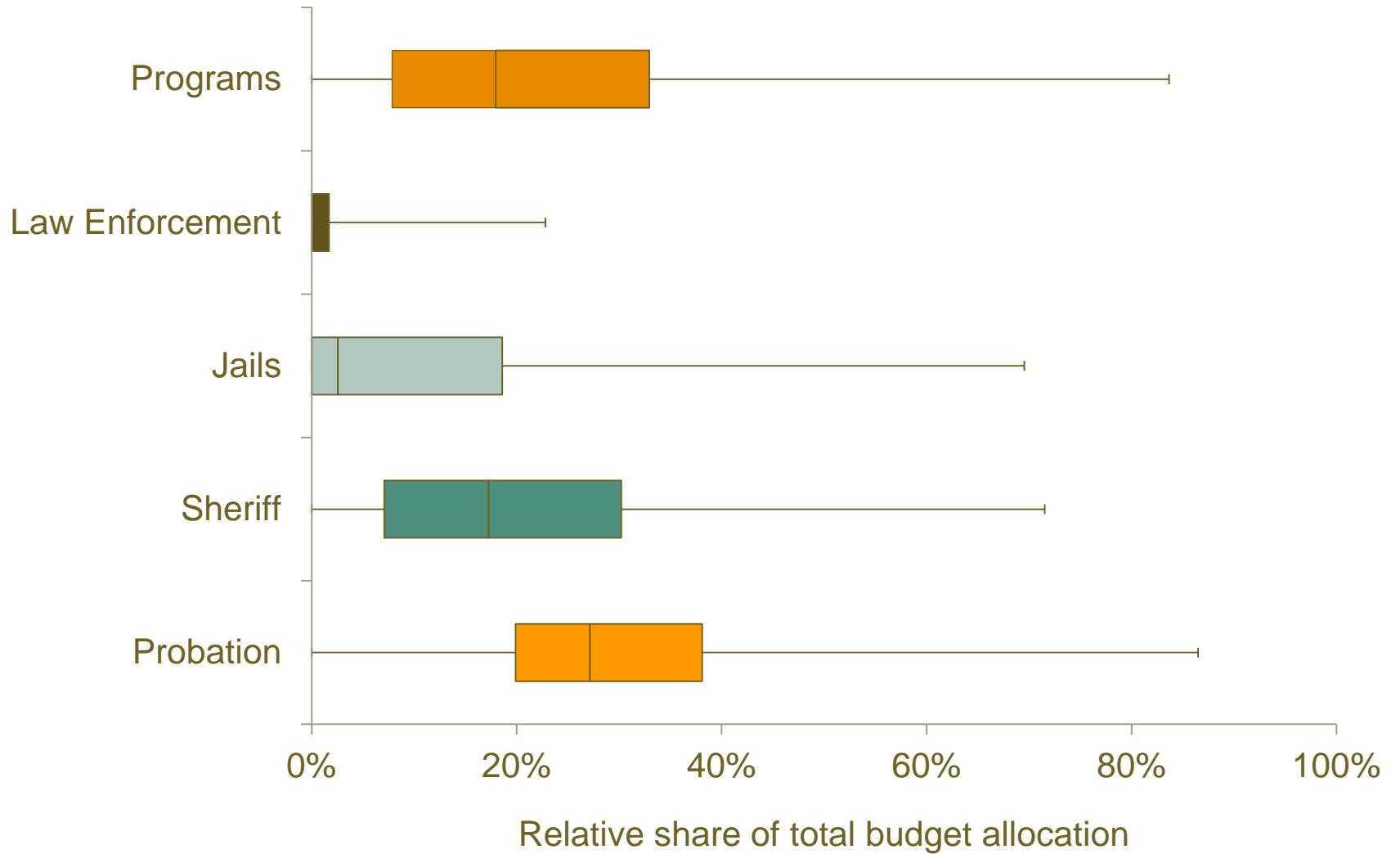
# ... as did changes in felony conviction rates



# Realignment implementation plans differ in emphasis



# Resource allocations differ, too



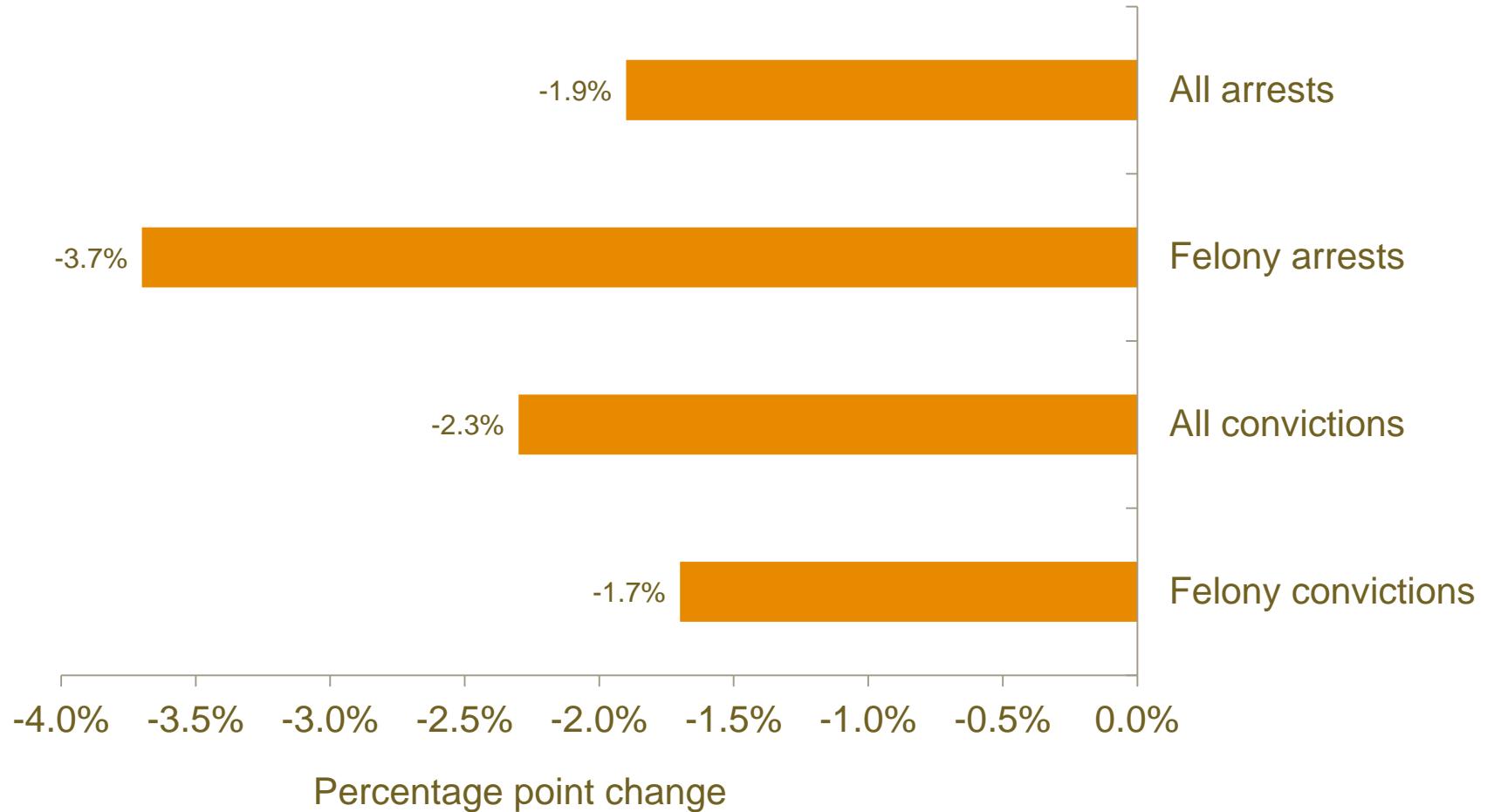
# Plans cluster into two groups

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- Re-entry focused
  - Programs and services received more than two times greater budget share
  - A somewhat wider range of re-entry services indicated
- Enforcement focused
  - Sheriff, jails, and law enforcement received more than three times greater budget share
  - A narrower range of re-entry services indicated



# Reductions in recidivism were greater in counties emphasizing re-entry services



# Outline

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- Changes in recidivism
- County approaches to realignment
- **Conclusions**



# Recidivism patterns have not changed dramatically

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- Recidivism did increase modestly among PRCS population
  - Indications that rates for some types of arrest were going up before realignment
  - Increases in felony arrest and felony conviction rates are most attributable to realignment
- Emphasis on local approach has not yet produced reductions in recidivism



# County approaches matter

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- Greater declines in recidivism among county plans emphasizing re-entry services
  - Emphasizing this approach at highest levels may help to improve recidivism outcomes
- Tracking new programs and strategies is essential



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# Notes on the use of these slides

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These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

