Realignment is a major corrections reform

- Prompted by federal court order to reduce overcrowding
- Shifted responsibilities and funding from state to counties
  - Lower-level felons now go to county jails
  - Technical parole violators no longer sent back to state prison
  - Counties now supervise lower-level felons released from prison
- Led to large decreases in prison population
  - About 27,000 (17%) in first year
County jail population has increased substantially

![Graph showing the increase in average daily population (ADP) from January 2010 to September 2012. The population has generally trended upwards, with some fluctuations. The number of Jail Inmates ranges from 62,000 to 82,000.](image-url)
Jails face increased capacity challenges

- 18 counties now operate facilities under court-ordered population caps
- 16 counties operate above rated capacity
  - Up from 11 the previous year
  - Systemwide, jails operating above 100 percent of rated capacity since February 2012
- 35 counties reported releasing inmates due to capacity constraints
  - Up from 27 the previous year
- 1,155 inmates serving sentences of five-plus years
- Four counties sued or threatened with a lawsuit
Fewer offenders are incarcerated as a result of realignment...

- Total incarceration decreased
  - County incarceration rates more equal

- Incarceration responses differ across counties and are partly related to capacity constraints
  - Increased capacity constrained releases, especially in counties facing court caps
  - Some counties are using new sentencing tools, others are not

- Planned jail expansions will alleviate pressure, provide upgraded facilities and infrastructure
...And supervision of released offenders has shifted significantly

- State parole population declined from 127,000 to about 73,000 in first year
- Current post-release community supervision population stands at about 34,000
  - Additional 3,300 on mandatory supervision
- Many realigned felons now in jail will be released without any supervision
Realignmment represents both challenges and opportunities

- Shift from costly state incarceration to local approaches stressing evidence-based practices
- Care must be taken to prevent overcrowding problem from moving to counties
- Impact on public safety raises issues
  - Less incarceration = more “street time”
    - Need to effectively identify and release only low-risk offenders
  - Need to identify and provide effective services and treatment to reduce reoffending
- Effects of required further prison population reduction unknown
Corrections Realignment in California

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Notes on the use of these slides

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.