

California's Historic Corrections Reforms

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Magnus Lofstrom, Mia Bird, and Brandon Martin



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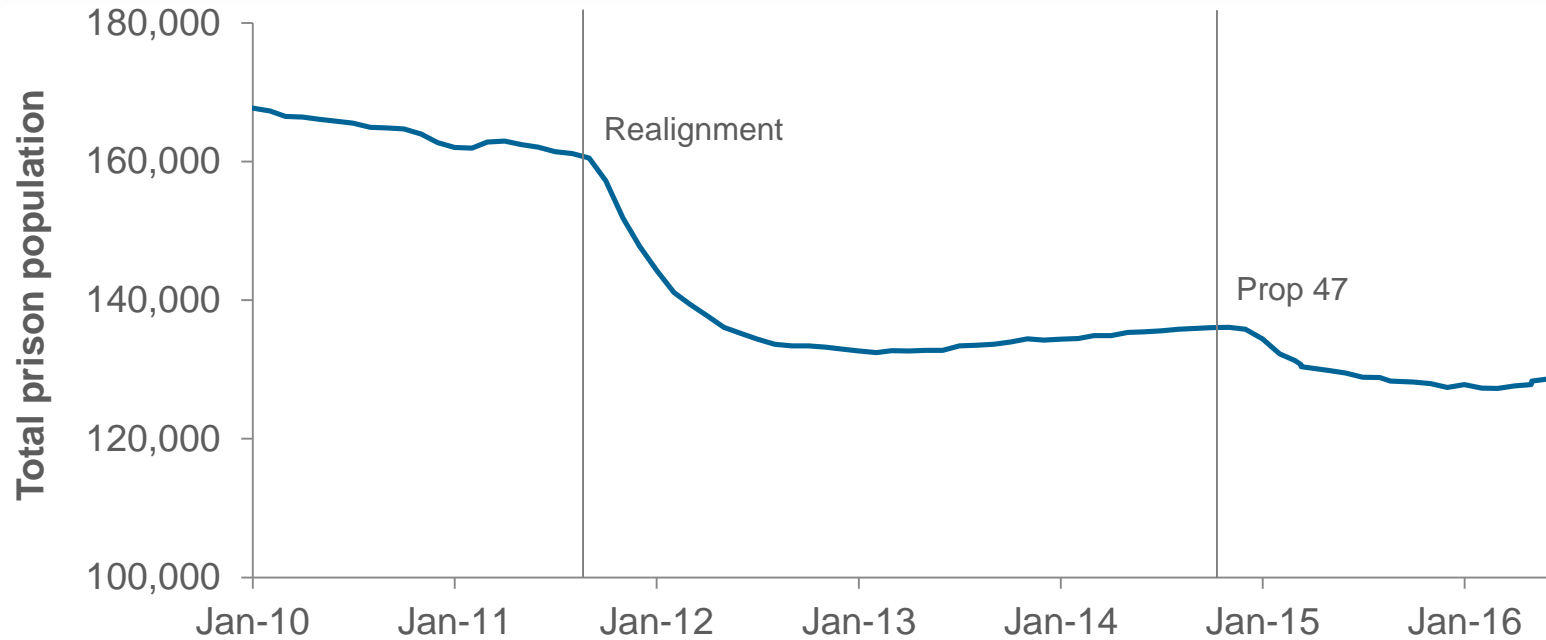
Severe overcrowding and poor prison conditions led to historic reforms

- California saw a sharp rise in the prison population from the 1970s to 2006
 - Prison population grew more than sevenfold (1980 to 2006)
 - Corrections share of the state budget tripled
- Prison population grew faster than capacity
 - Overcrowding led to lawsuits
- In 2009, a federal court ordered the state to reduce the prison population to 137.5 percent of design capacity
 - This mandate triggered several reforms

Realignment and Proposition 47 are the most significant recent reforms

- Public Safety Realignment (October 2011)
 - Shifted funding and responsibilities from state to counties
 - Parole violators are no longer sent back to state prison
 - Most lower-level felons serve their sentence in county jail
 - Counties now supervise lower-level felons released from prison (on Post-Release Community Supervision, or PRCS)
- Proposition 47 (November 2014)
 - Reclassified a number of drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors

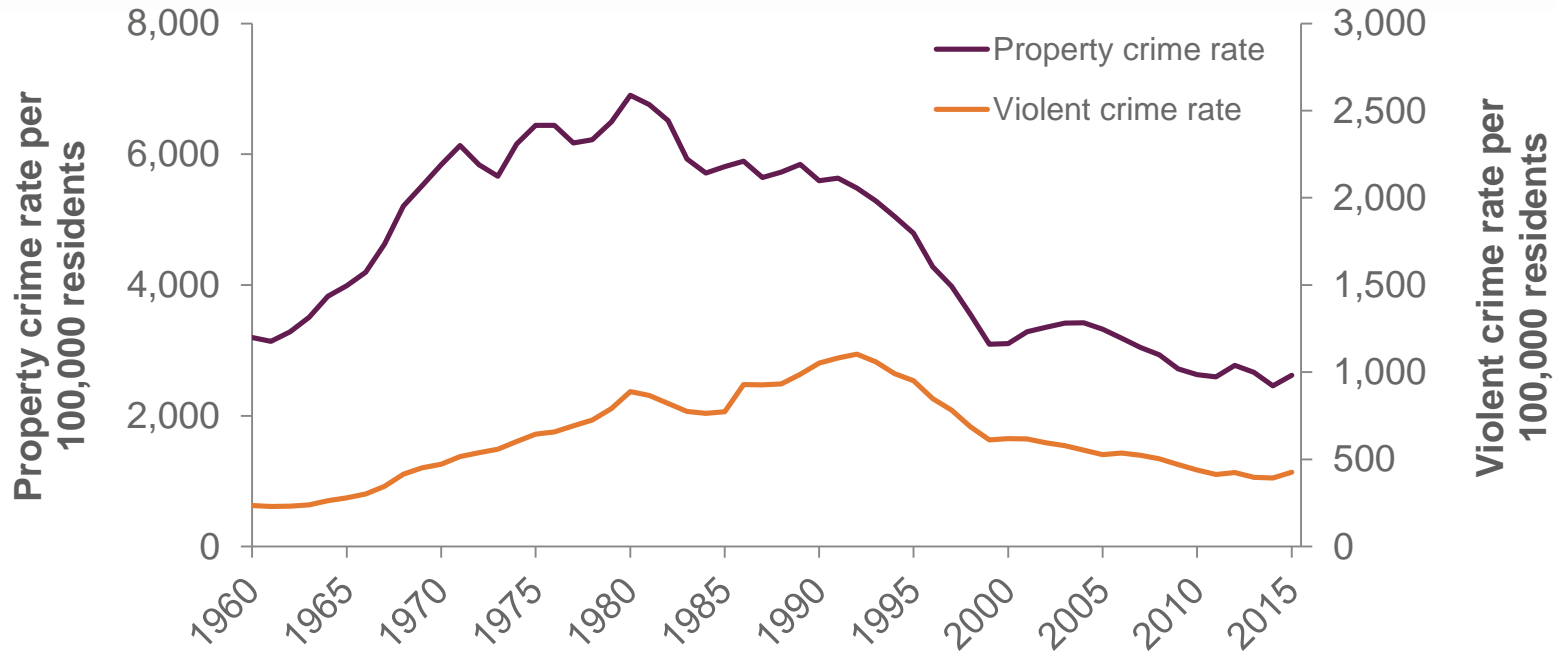
Prison population has dropped by 41,600 since 2009



Jail populations rose after realignment, but dropped dramatically after Prop 47 passed



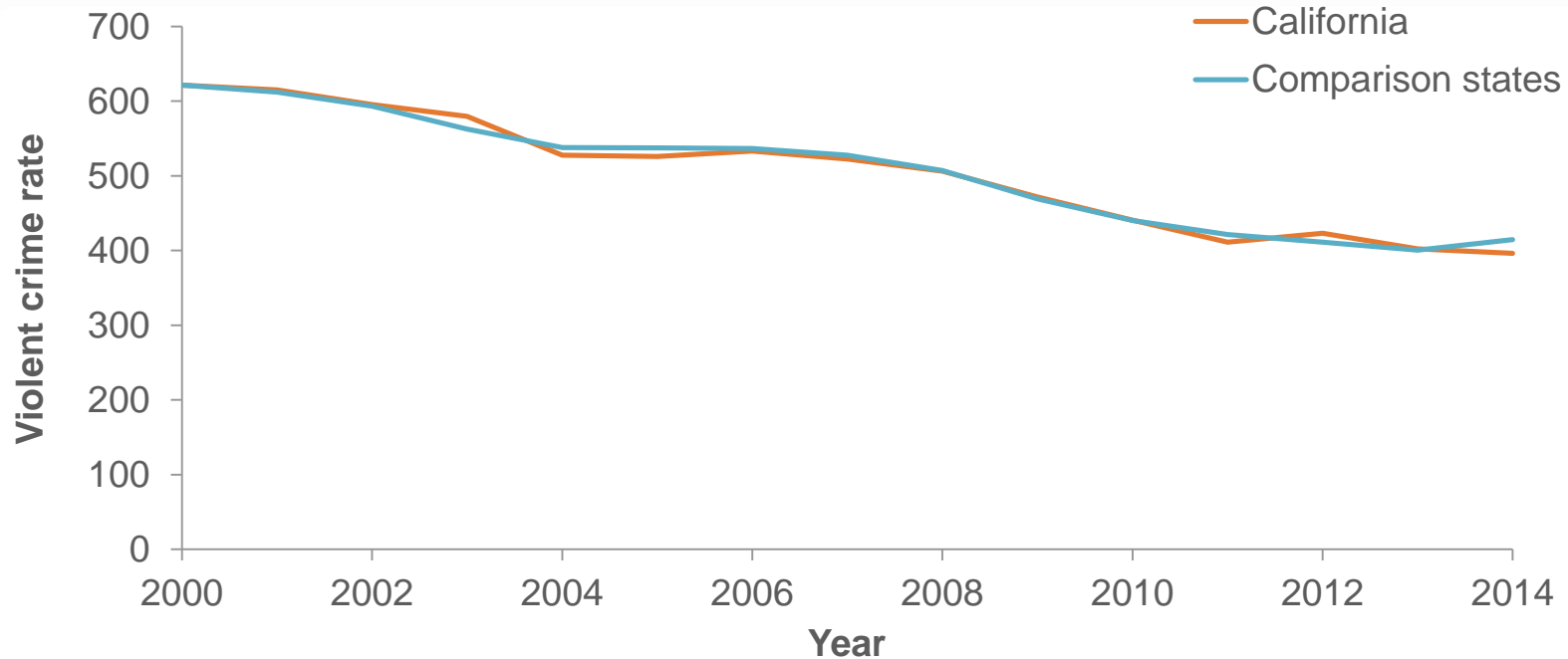
Despite upticks in 2012 and 2015, California's crime rates are at historically low levels



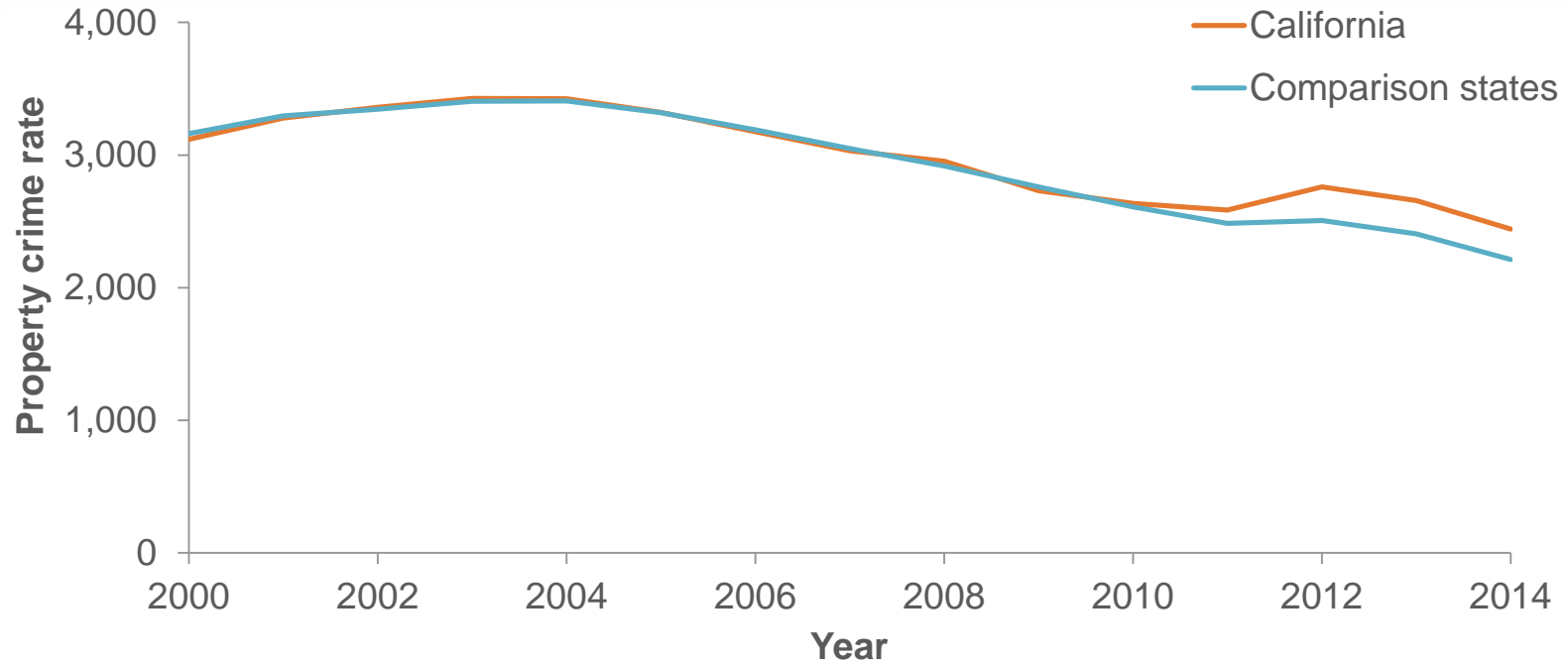
Relationship between reforms and crime is a critical concern

- What was realignment's effect on crime?
 - Reform added about 18,000 offenders on the street
 - We estimate what crime trends would have been if realignment had not been implemented
 - Most recent data for all states is from 2014
- Crime rates increased in 2015
 - Violent crime by 8.4%
 - Property crime by 6.6%
- Role of Prop 47 on crime remains to be seen

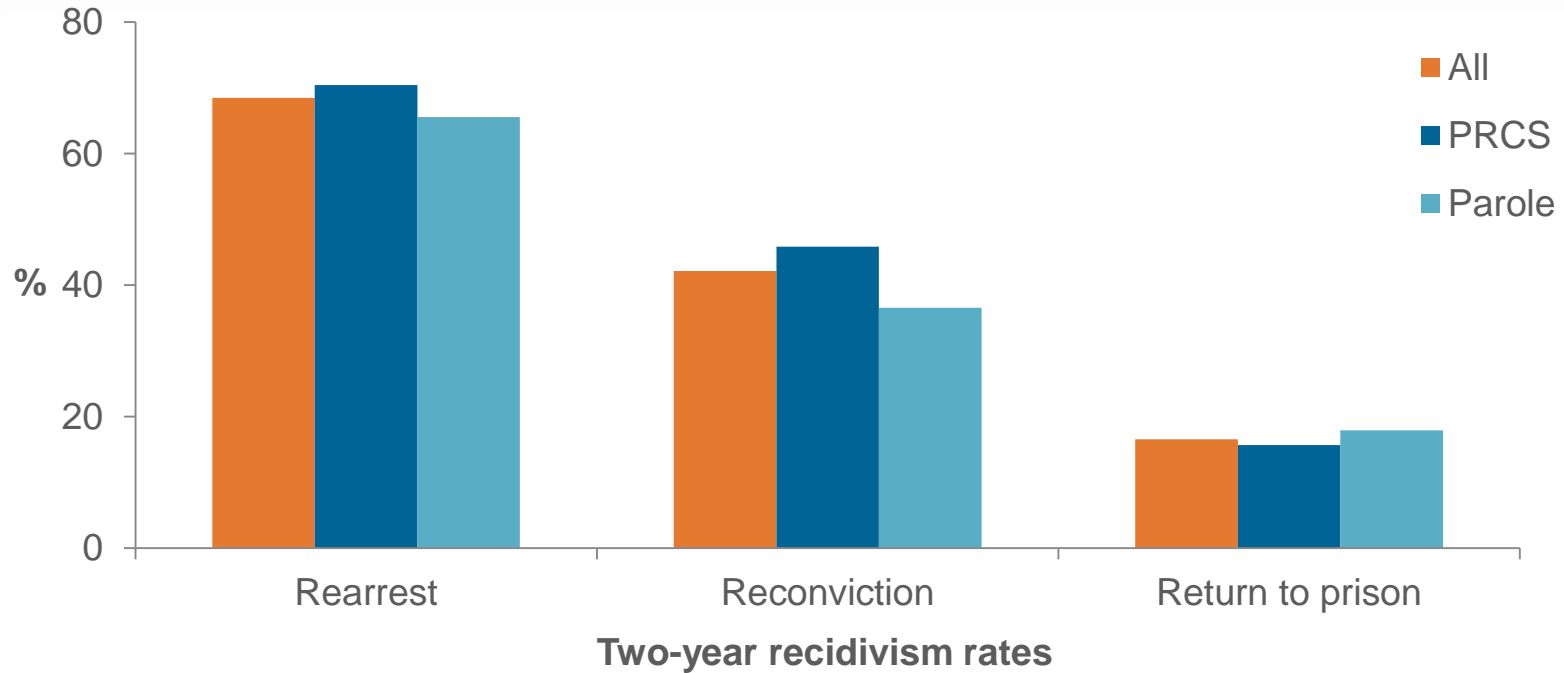
Violent crime trends in California and comparison states remain similar



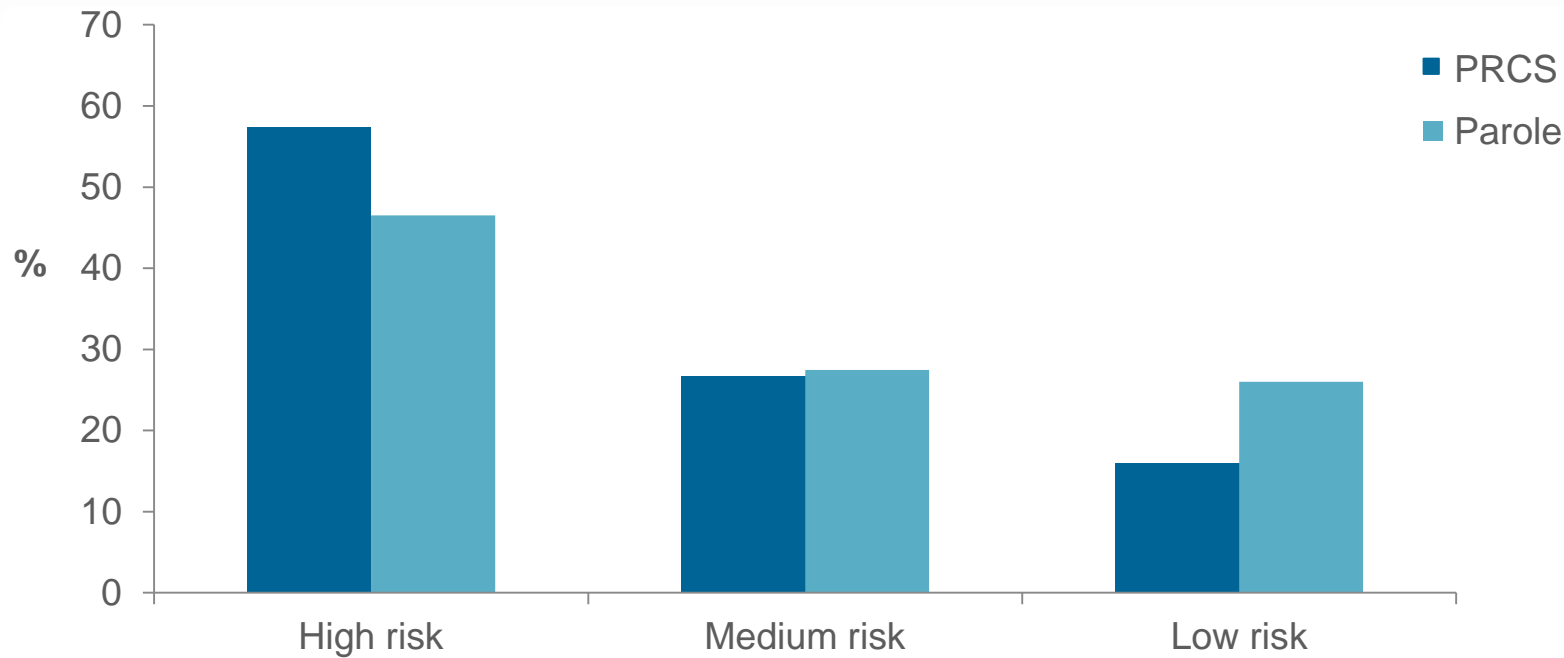
Since 2012, California has had higher rates of property crime relative to comparison states



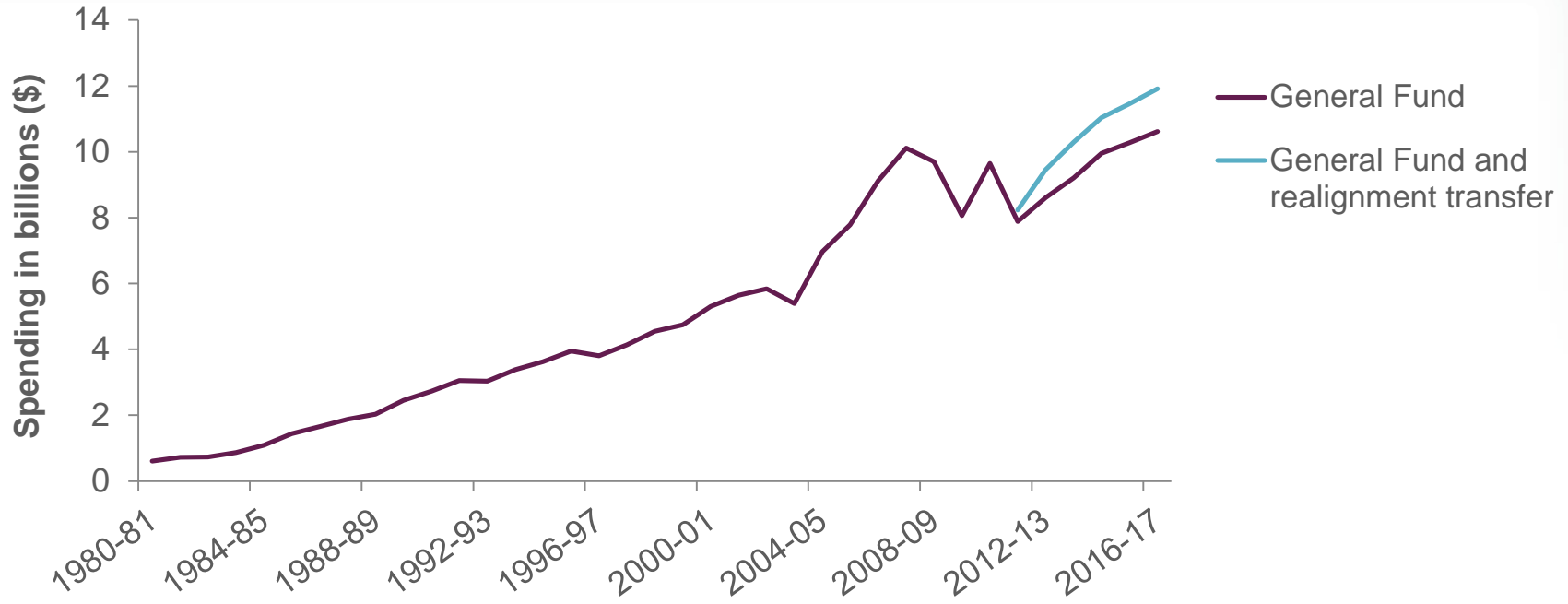
Recidivism rates remain high, but fewer offenders return to state prison



Offenders on county probation (PRCS) are at higher risk of committing another crime



Corrections spending continues to grow and is at historic highs



California has lower incarceration and low crime rates, but many challenges remain

- California still has about 200,000 inmates in jails and prisons, with state spending at nearly \$12 billion
 - Prison population must stay below the federal mandate
 - State must continue to improve health care to regain control from the federal receiver
 - Counties must adapt to changing correctional populations
- Counties and the state must identify and implement cost-effective strategies to reduce reoffending
- Effects of Prop 47 on crime rates need further study

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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:

Magnus Lofstrom (lofstrom@ppic.org; 415-291-4454)

Thank you for your interest in this work.