

What Do We Know about Realignment's Impact So Far?

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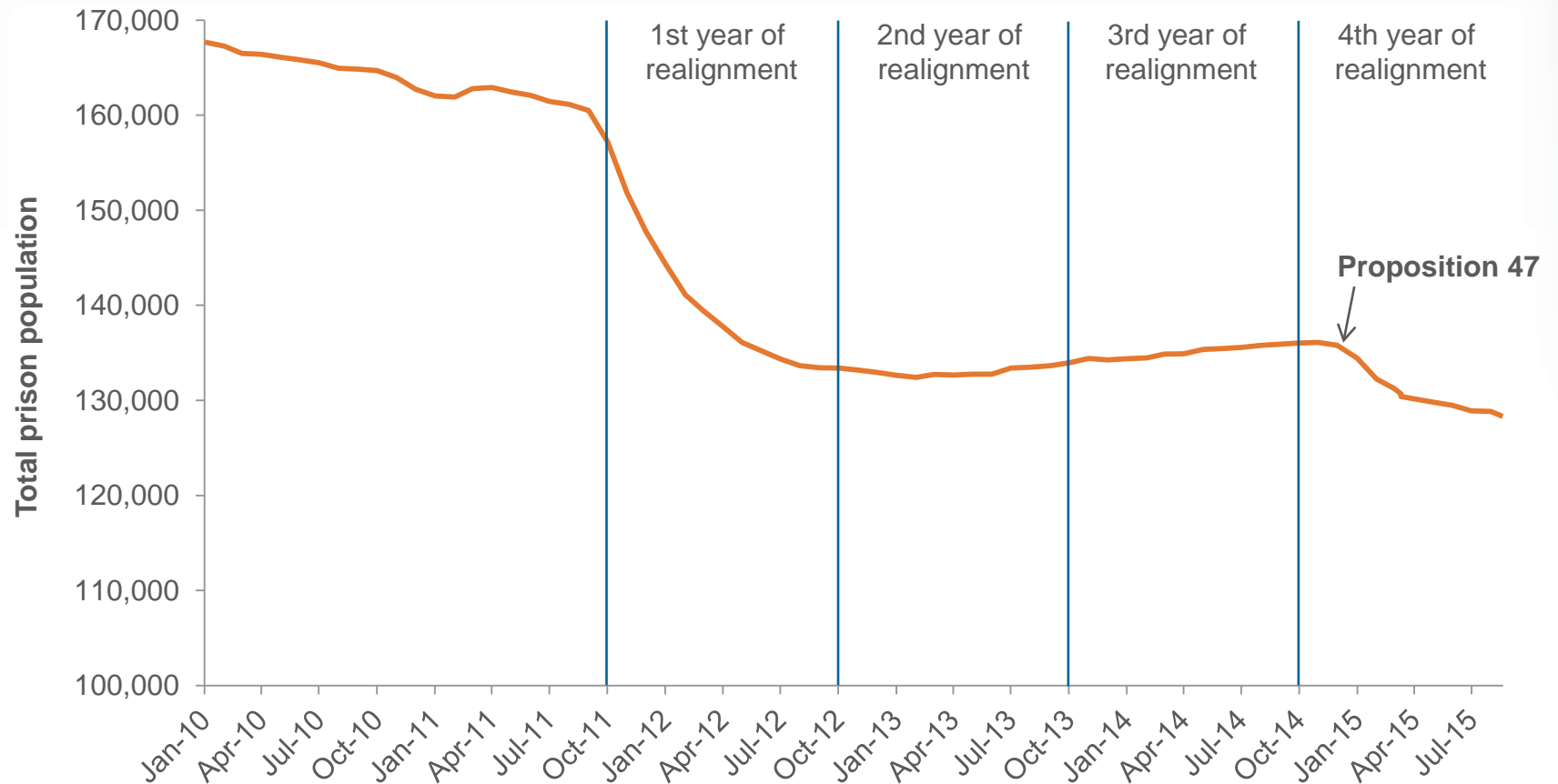
Realignment is a historic reform

- Prompted by federal court order to reduce overcrowding
- Shifted responsibilities and funding from state to counties
 - Parole violators no longer returned to state prison
 - Most lower-level felons serve sentence in county jail
 - Counties now supervise lower-level felons released from prison

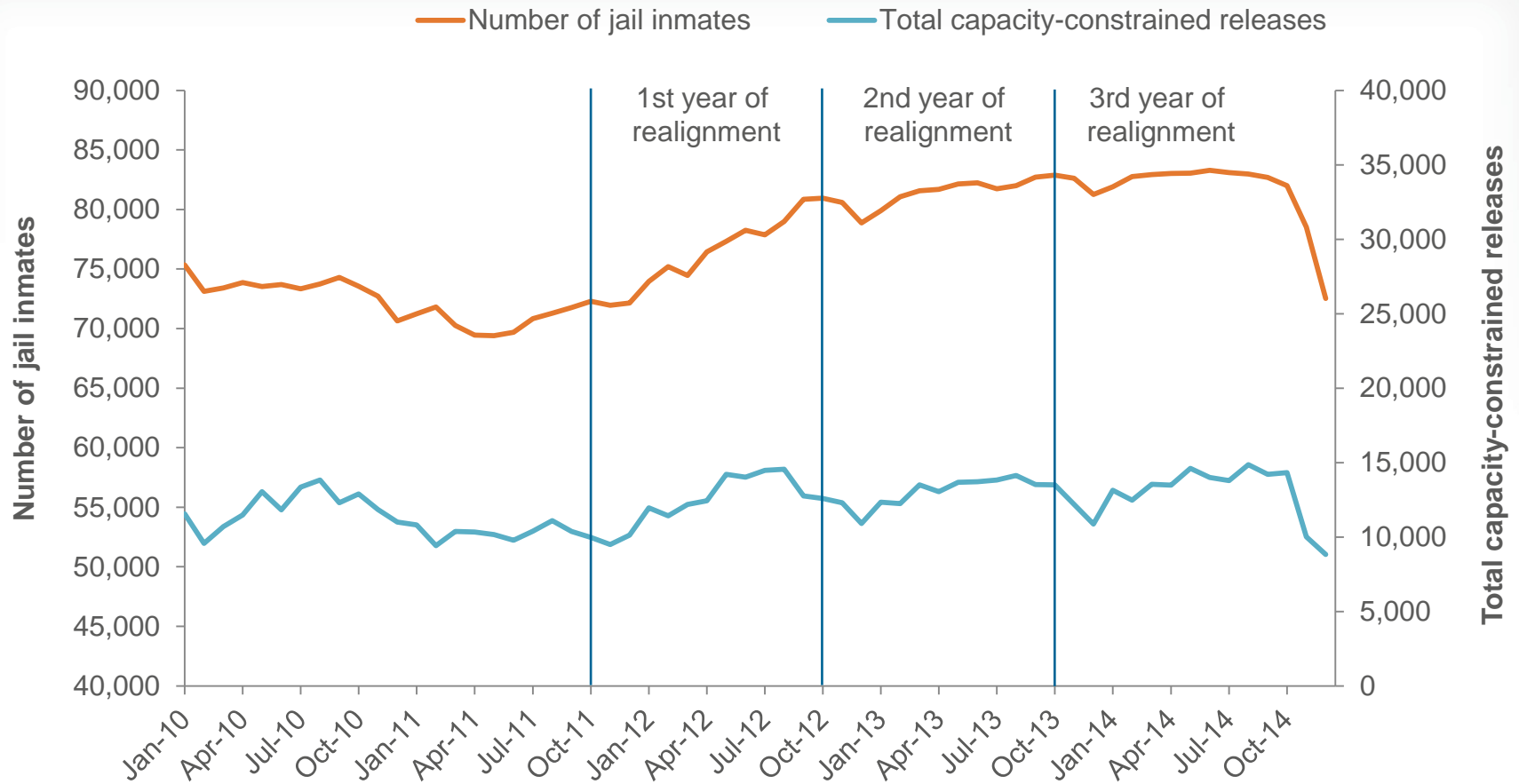
Premised on idea locals can do a better job using evidence-based practices

- Anticipated outcomes
 - Reduce prison population to court-mandated target
 - Reduce overall reliance on incarceration
 - Improve recidivism rates
 - Save corrections costs
- Critics predicted crime would rise

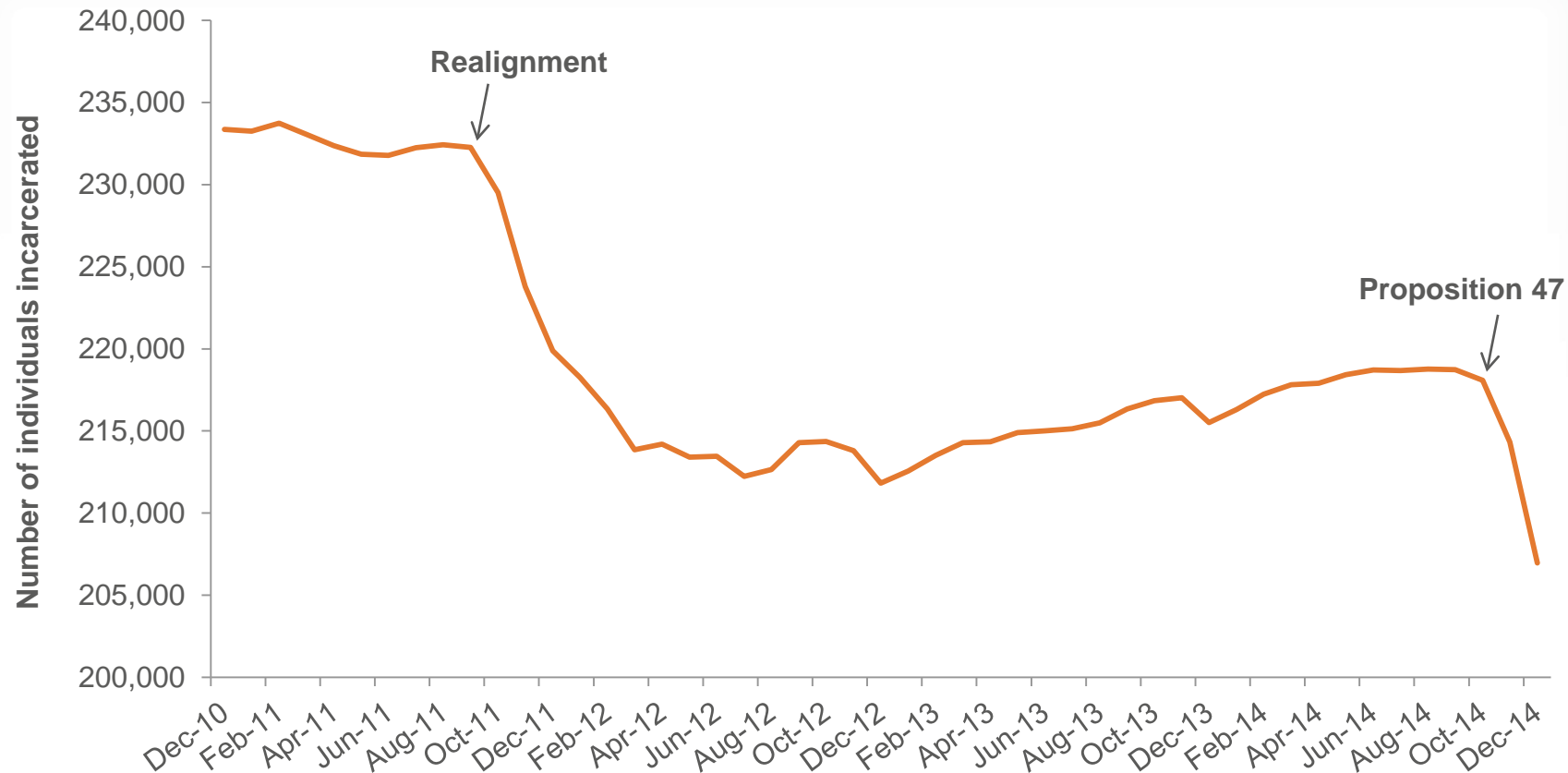
Mandated target not reached until Proposition 47 passage



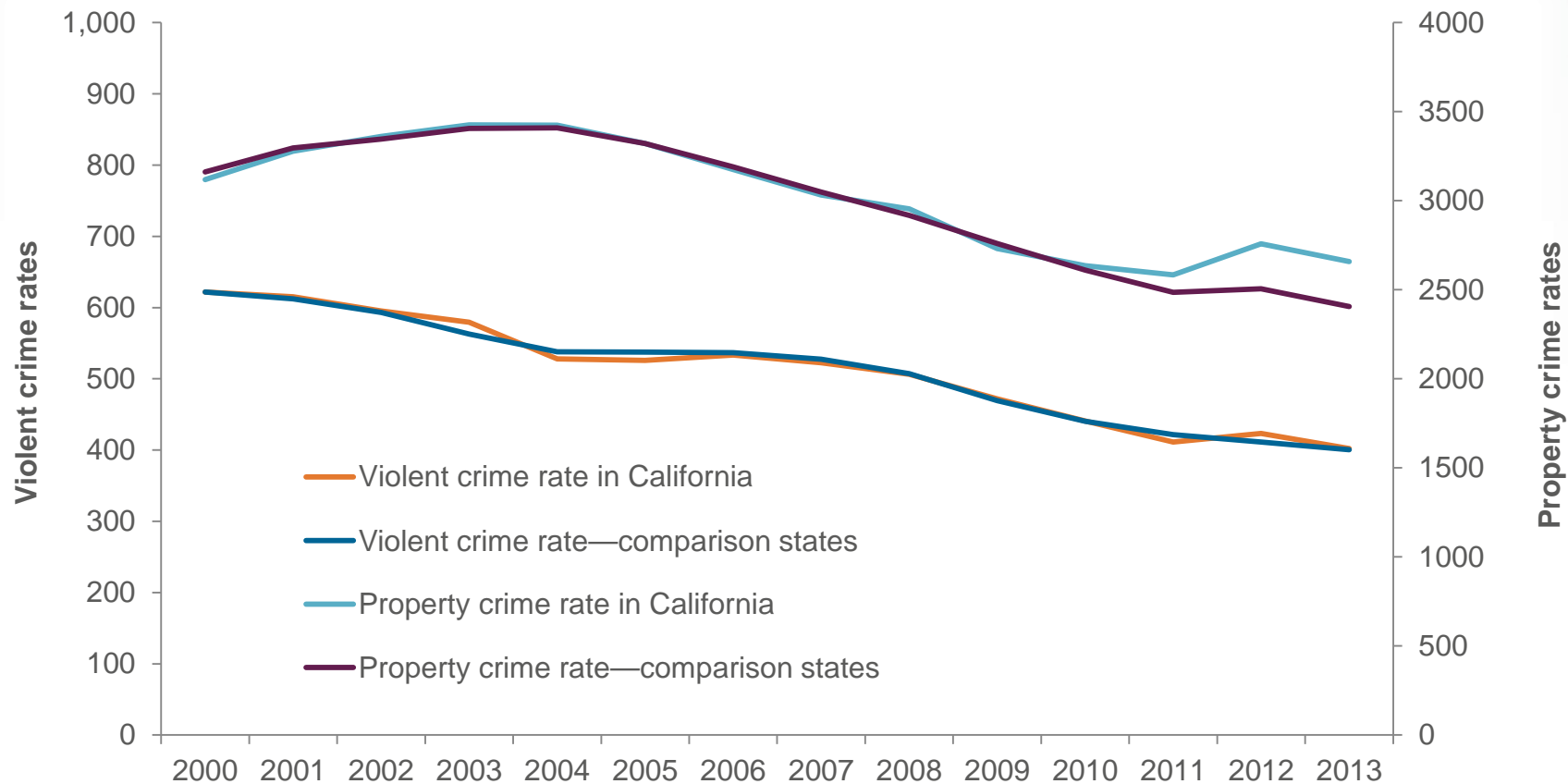
Jail populations and capacity-constraint releases increased, then dropped after Prop 47



Realignment and Prop 47 have reduced California's reliance on incarceration



Realignment did not increase violent crime, but property crime rose, driven by auto thefts



Recidivism rates are largely unchanged

- The reform reduced the one-year prison return rate from about 41 percent to 8 percent
- But the one-year rearrest rate fell only 2 percentage points and the reconviction rate rose 1.2 percentage points
- Increased conviction rate may reflect parole violations processed through courts rather than the Board of Parole Hearings (PBH)
- No noticeable drop in recidivism so far does not mean failure

Corrections spending is at an all time high

- Currently \$10.07 billion in general funds spending
- Higher than pre-realignment spending, roughly same level as 2007-2008
 - Despite 40,000 fewer inmates and 80,000 fewer parolees
- An additional \$1 billion to counties to fund realignment
- Spending might have been greater if state had expanded prisons to meet court mandate
- Expenditures could drop in the future

Conclusions

- Realignment has largely succeeded
 - Significantly reduced the prison population and reliance on incarceration
 - No impact on violent crime
 - Halted use of costly prison beds to hold parole violators
- Still, state and county correctional systems face challenges
 - Recidivism rates and corrections spending remain high
 - Prison health care still not under state control
 - Low crime rates need continued vigilance
 - Effective strategies still must be identified and implemented

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Notes on the use of these slides

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Thank you for your interest in this work.