

Do Local Realignment Policies Affect Recidivism in California?

Mia Bird and Ryken Grattet

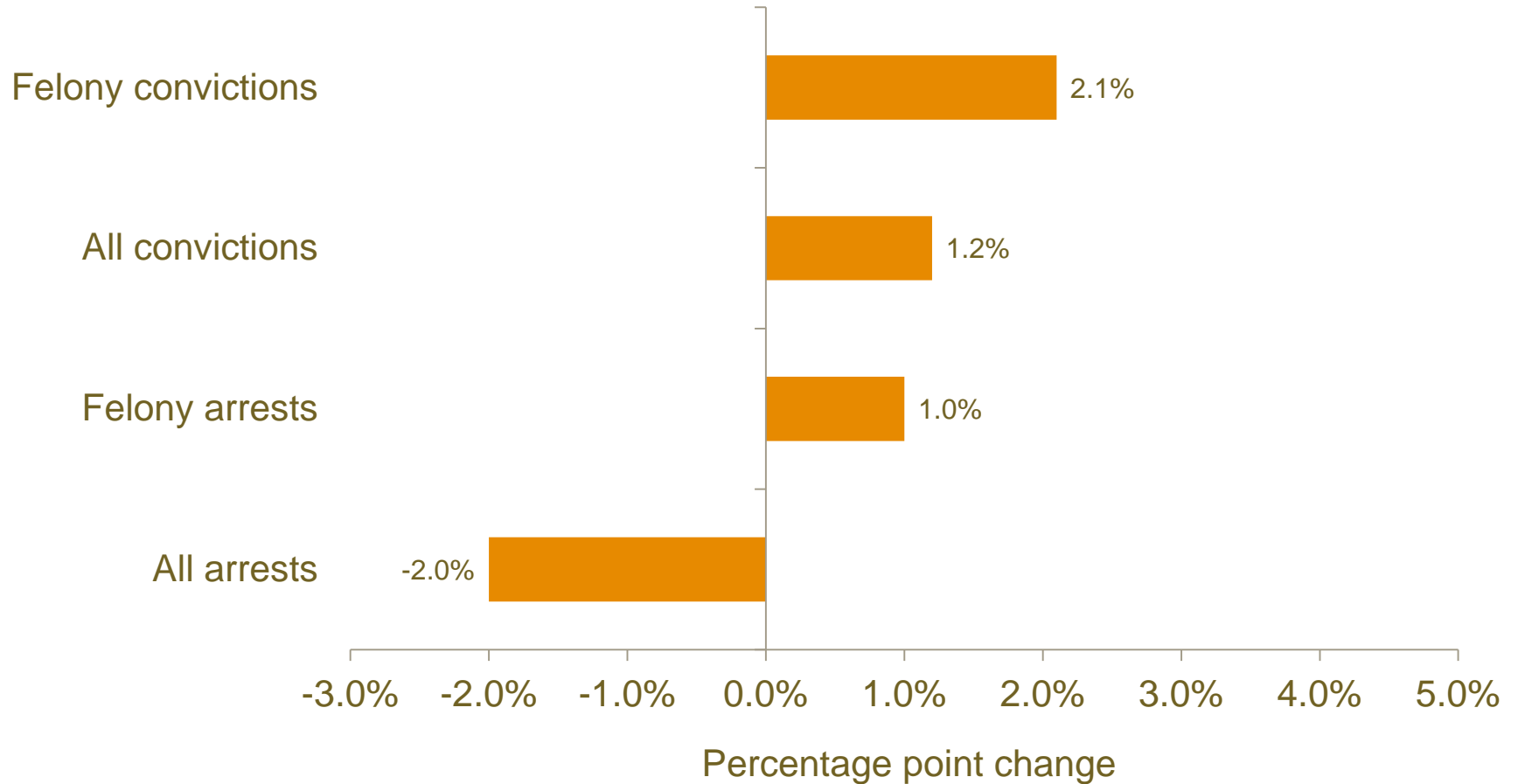


Realignment brought sweeping changes to California corrections

- 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

- 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?

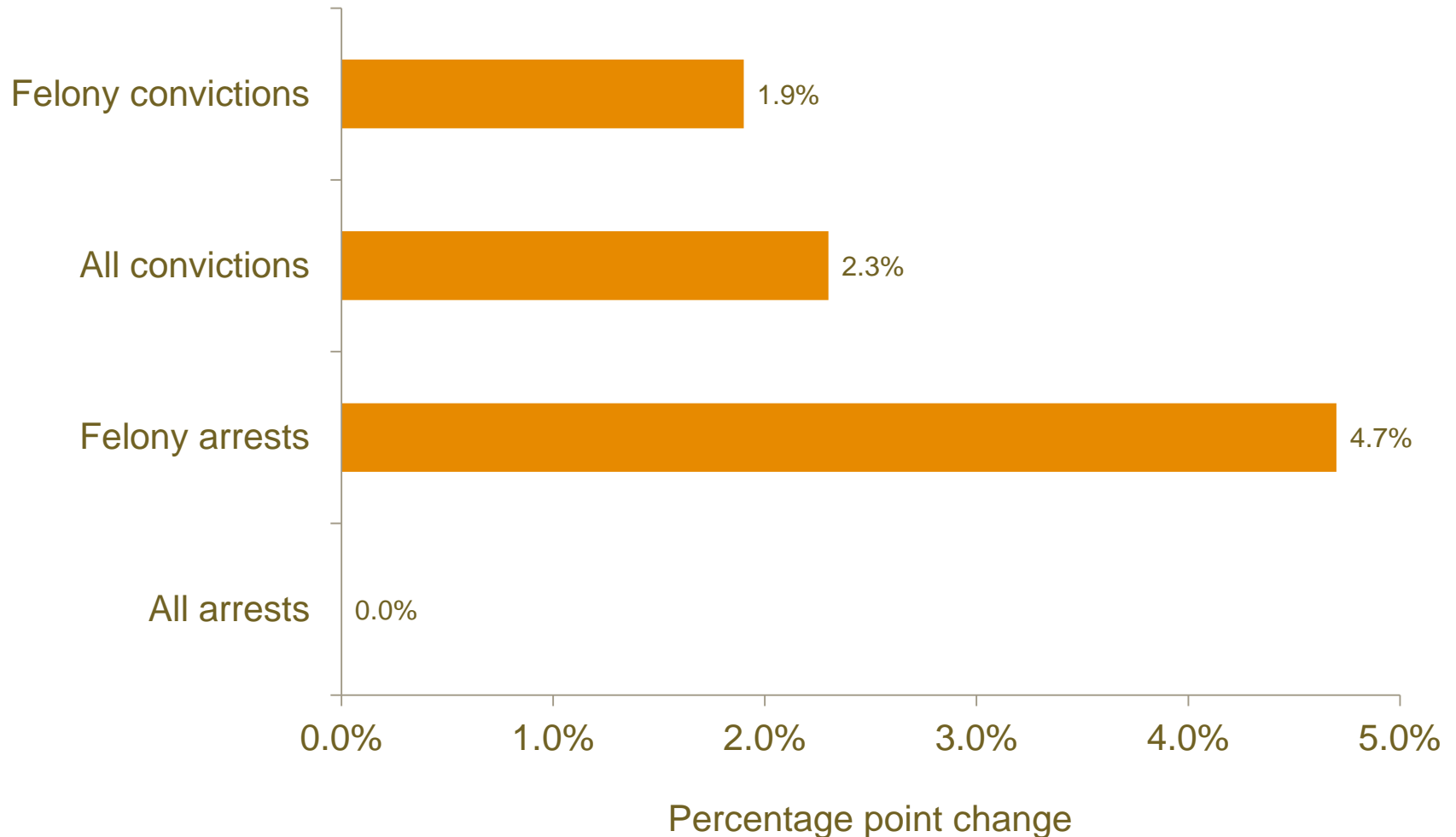


Outline

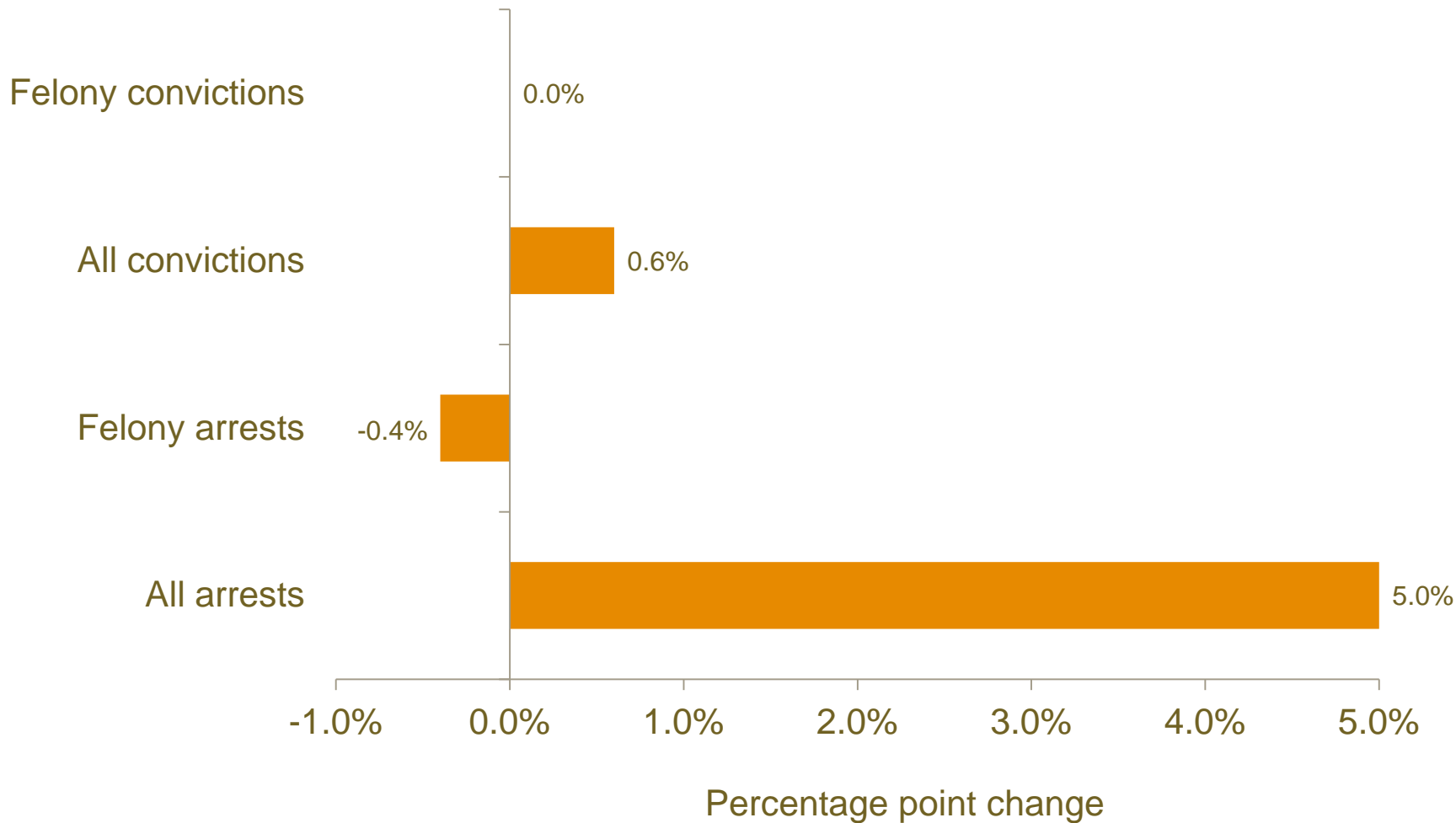
- **Changes in recidivism**
- County approaches to realignment
- Conclusions



Felony arrests and convictions of all types increased after realignment



Before realignment, changes in recidivism were uneven



Outline

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

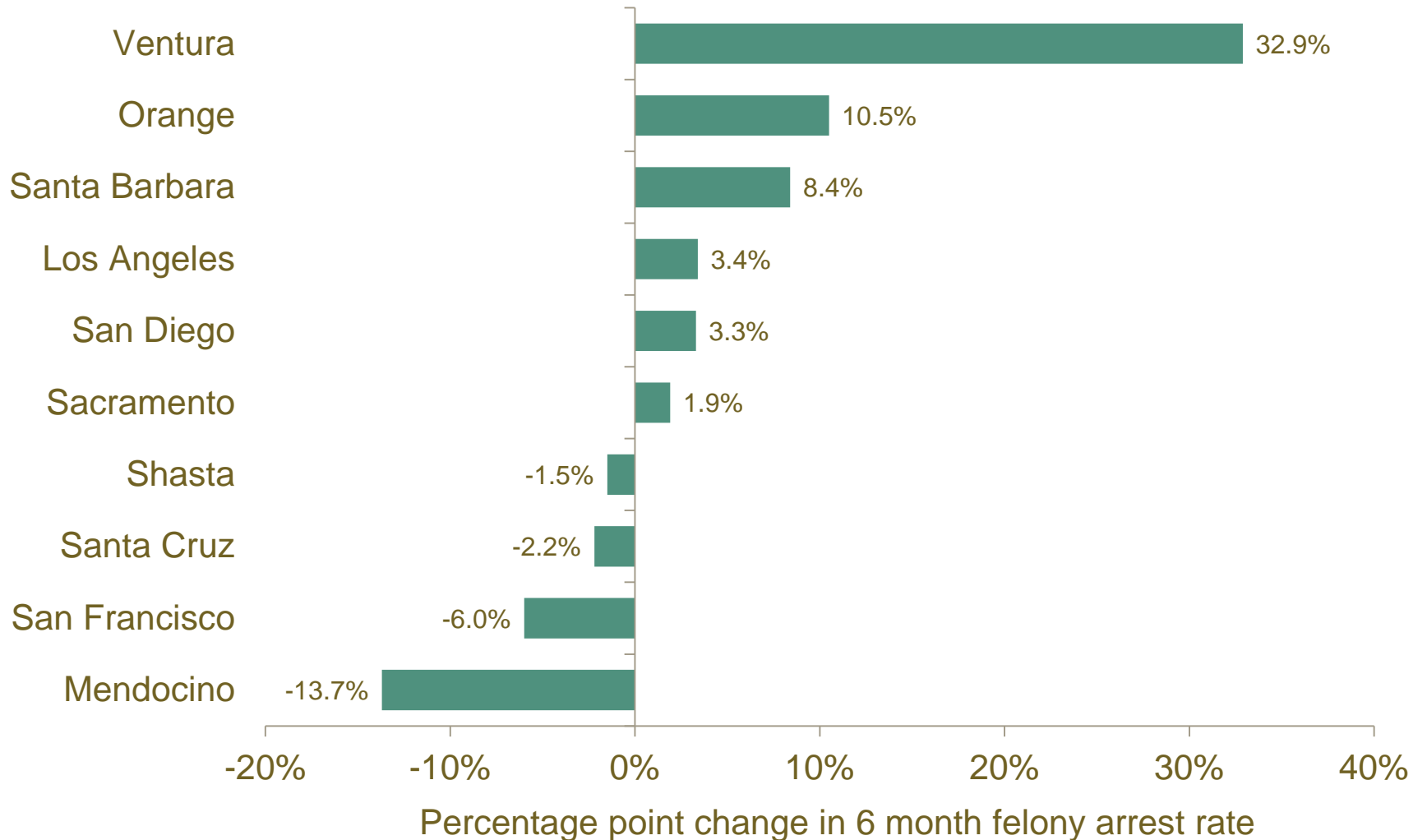


Realignment gave new responsibilities to counties

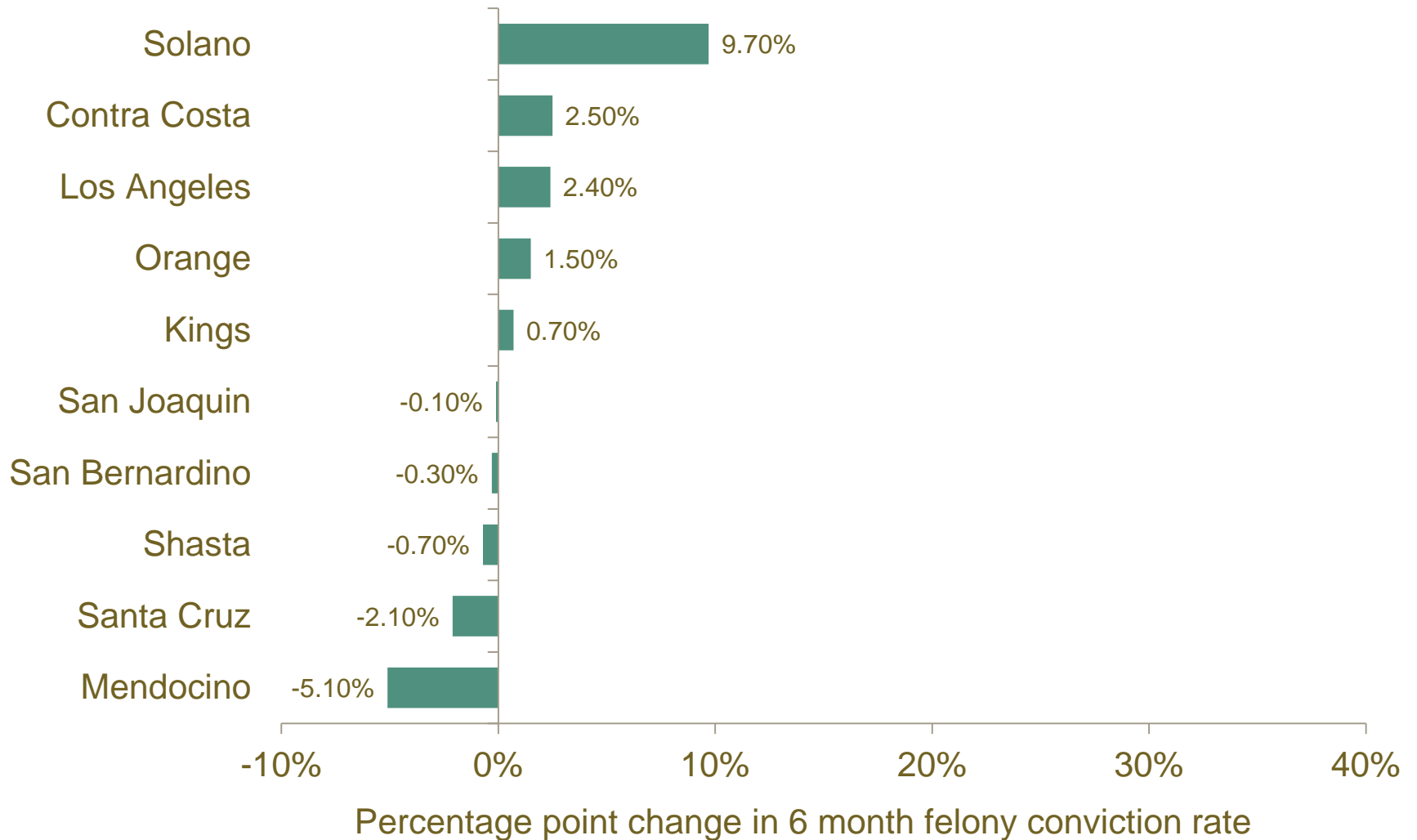
- Provided funds and overarching goals to reduce recidivism
- Encouraged evidence-based practices
- Required counties to submit plans for state funding



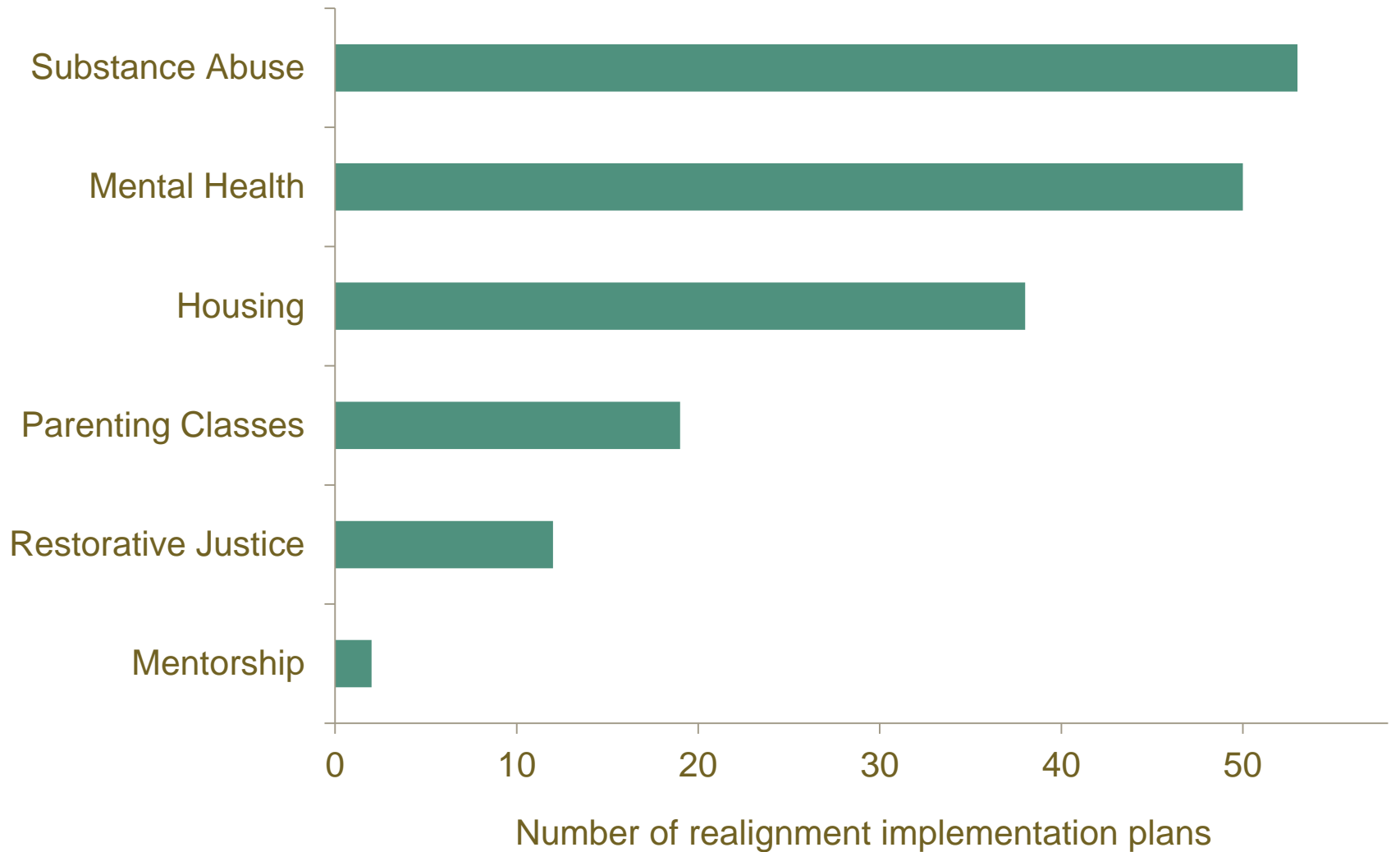
Changes in felony arrest rates varied across counties ...



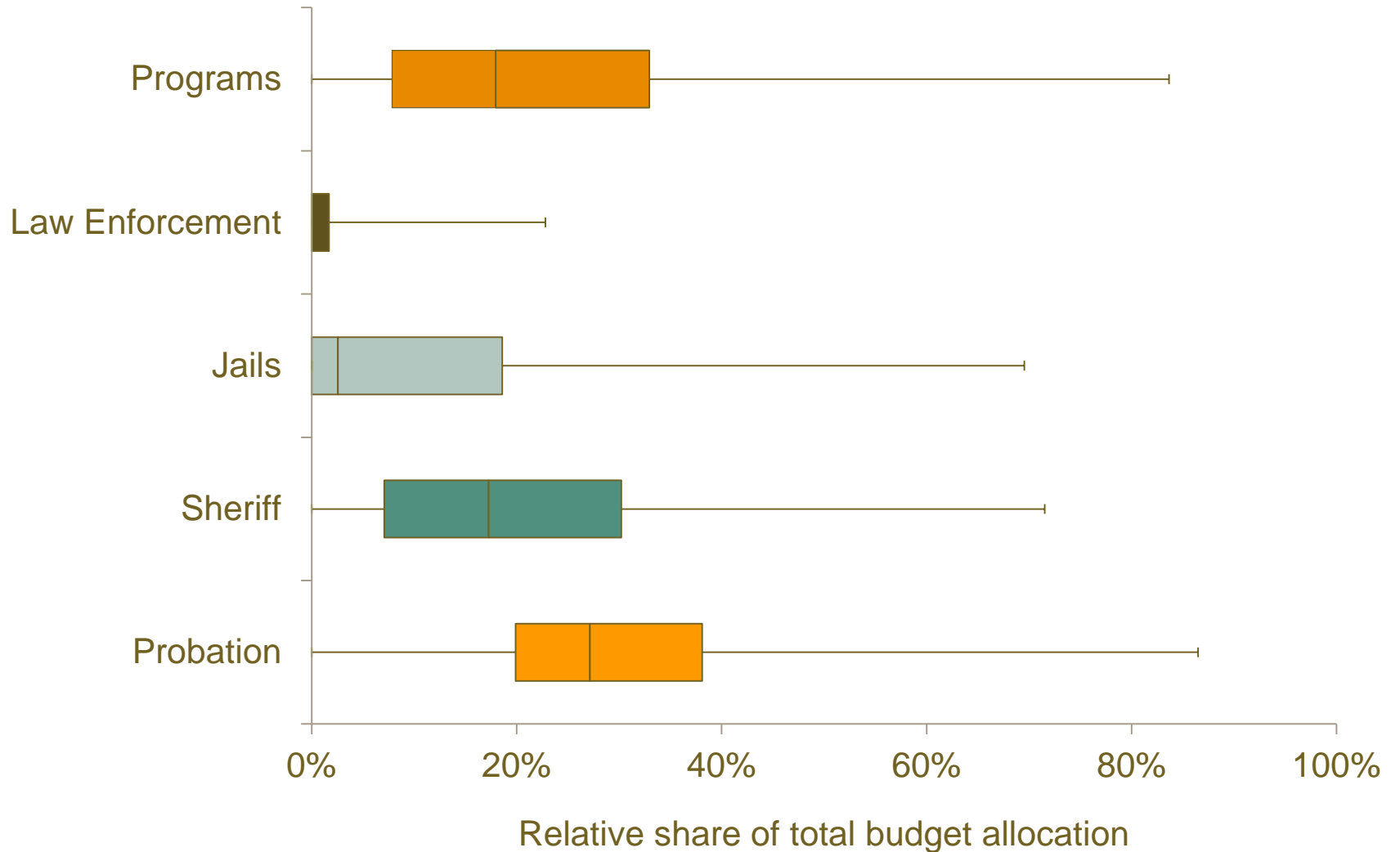
... as did changes in felony conviction rates



Realignment implementation plans differ in emphasis



Resource allocations differ, too

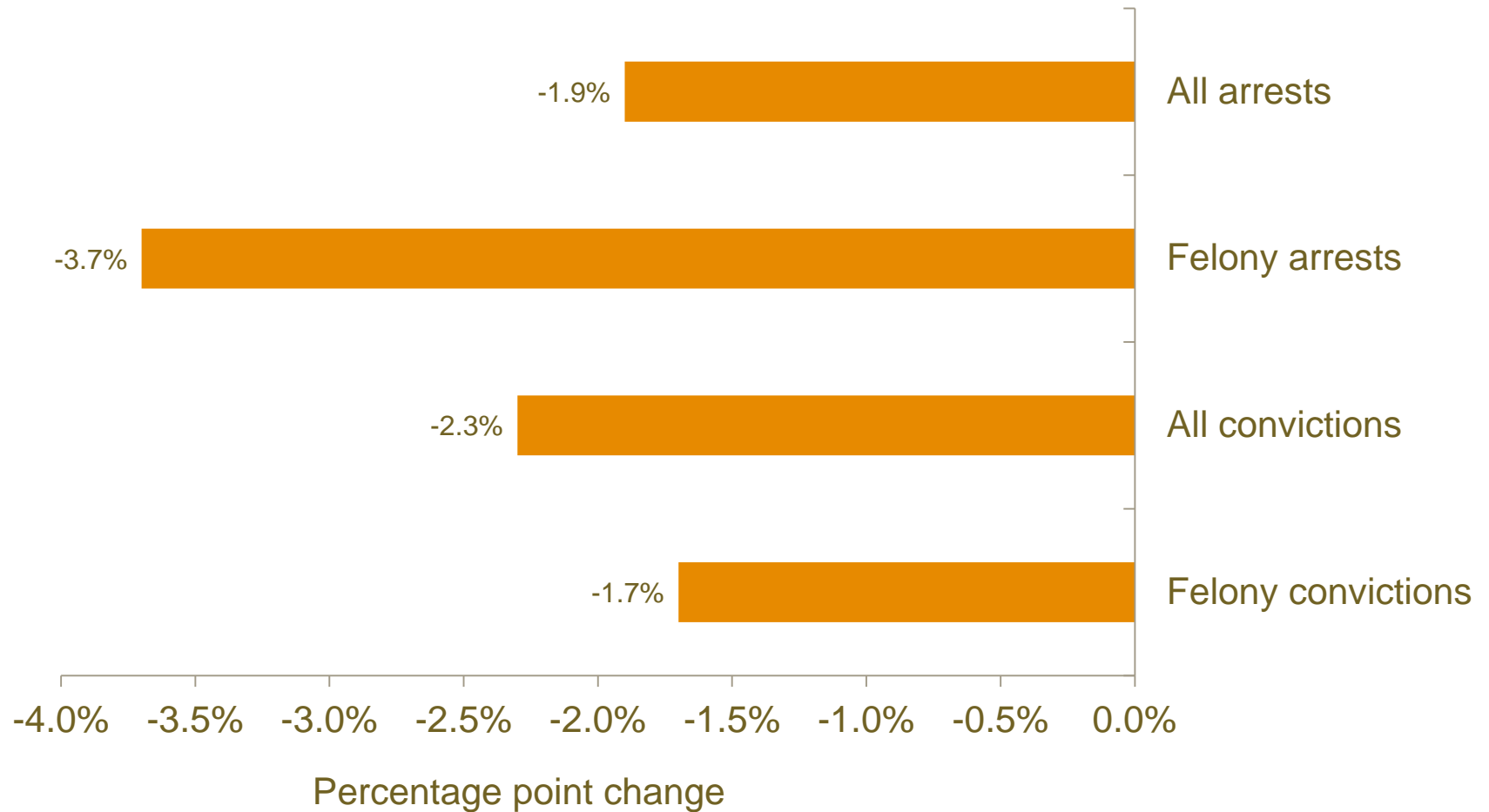


Plans cluster into two groups

- 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

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



Recidivism patterns have not changed dramatically

- 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

- 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

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.

