

California Prison Programs and Reentry Pathways

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Why evaluate prison programs?

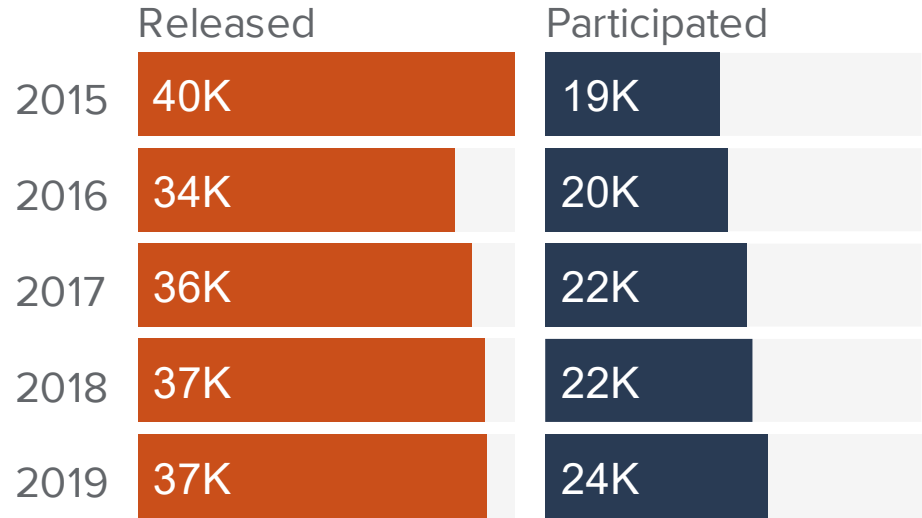
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) expanded programs in 2005
- In 2012, CDCR aimed to reach 70% of eligible people
- Other agencies raised concerns
 - People do not get the programs they need
 - Programs do not achieve aims or reduce recidivism
 - Recommended an independent evaluation

PPIC and CDCR began collaborating in 2018

- We focus on 168,500 people released between 2015 and 2019
- We examine Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) programs
- The Office of Research (OR) provides data
- The current report lays the groundwork for future research

California prisons and prison programs impact many Californians

- 1 in 1,000 Californians released from prison each year
- In 2015, 46% had participated in any program
- By 2019, 64% had participated



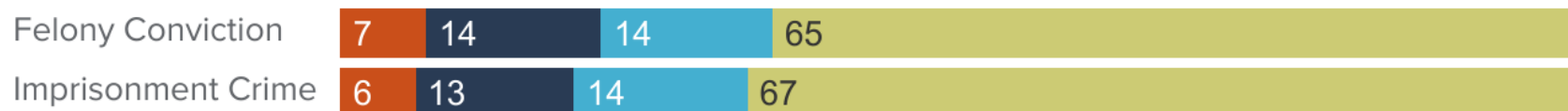
First-timers are more likely to be imprisoned for violent crime than those with prior prison

Domestic violence Assault (not DV) Violence (not assault) Non-violent

First time in prison

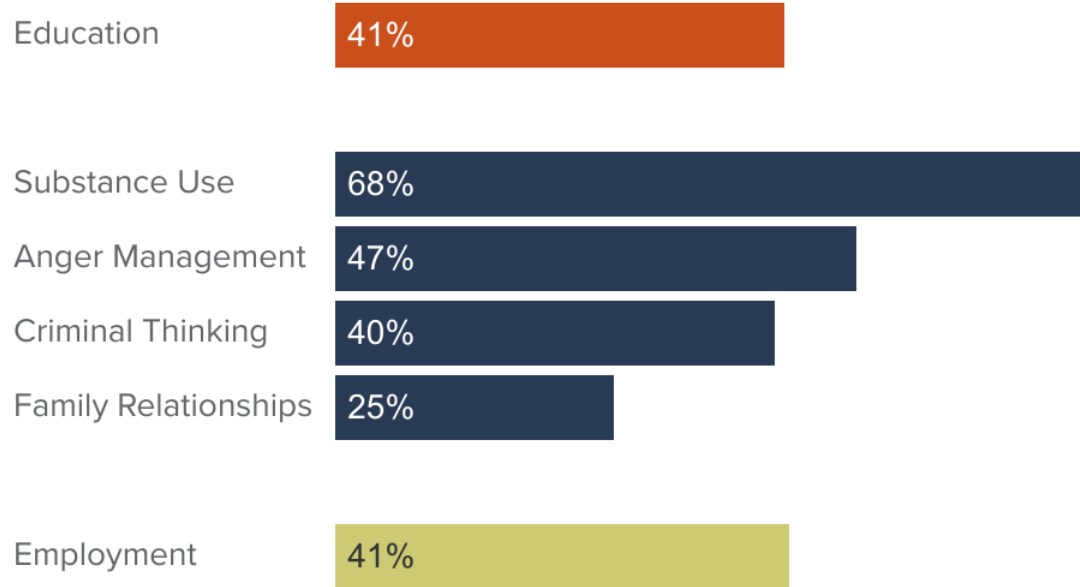


Prior prison term



People in prison have significant needs that programs aim to address

Percent with medium or high COMPAS scores



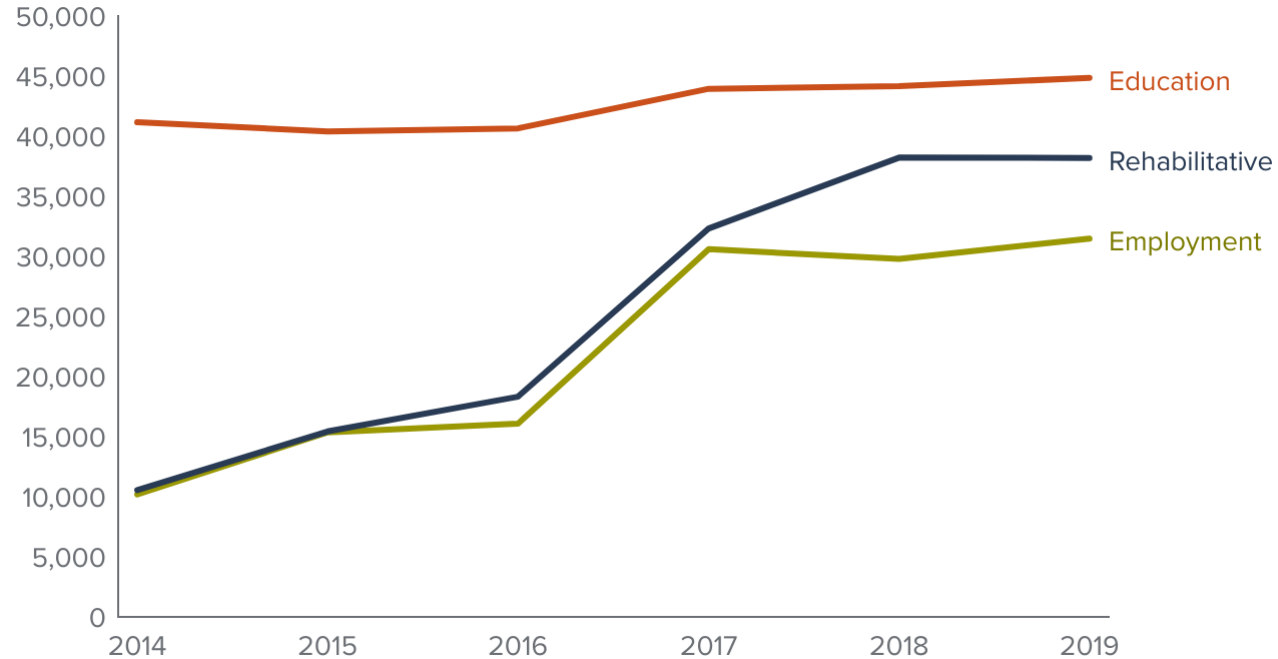
CDCR offers education, employment, and rehabilitative programs

| Education | Rehabilitative | Employment |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Adult Basic Education (ABE) | Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT) | Career Technical Education (CTE) |
| GED | Anger Management | Transitions |
| College Courses | Criminal Thinking | Cal-ID |
| | Family Relationships | |

DRP offers other programs PPIC will evaluate.

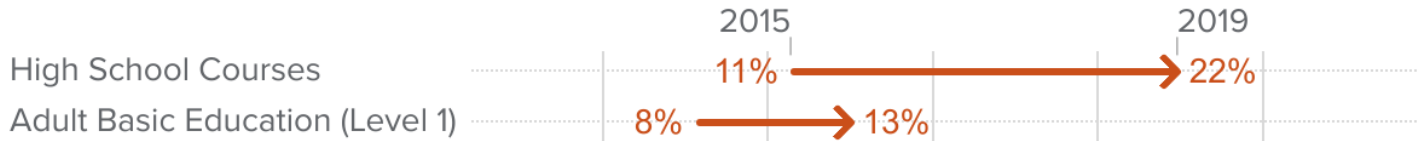
PPIC will not evaluate Prison Industry Authority, self-help, or innovative programs.

CDCR expanded programs and added slots between 2014 and 2019



Participation rates increased but stayed low

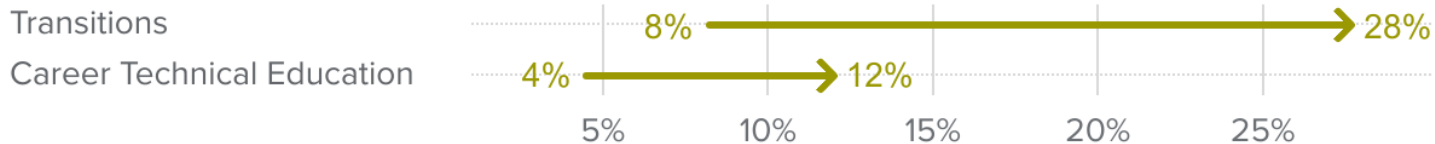
Education



Rehabilitative



Employment



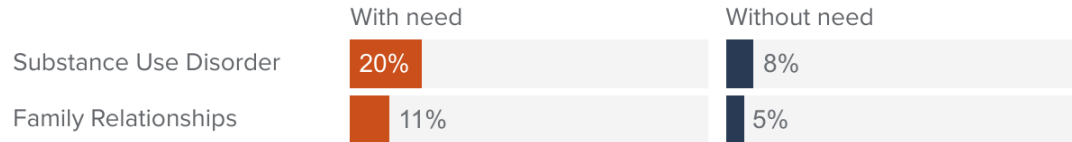
Targeting programs to people who need them remains a challenge

Participation rates for people initially assessed with and without need

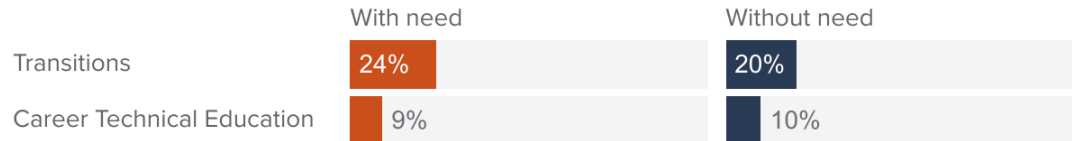
Education



Rehabilitative



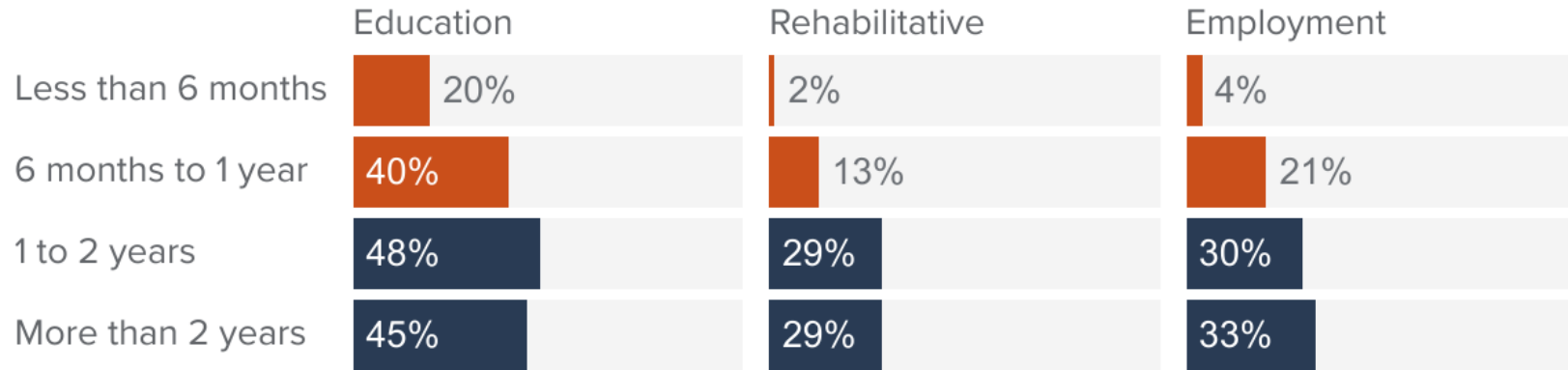
Employment



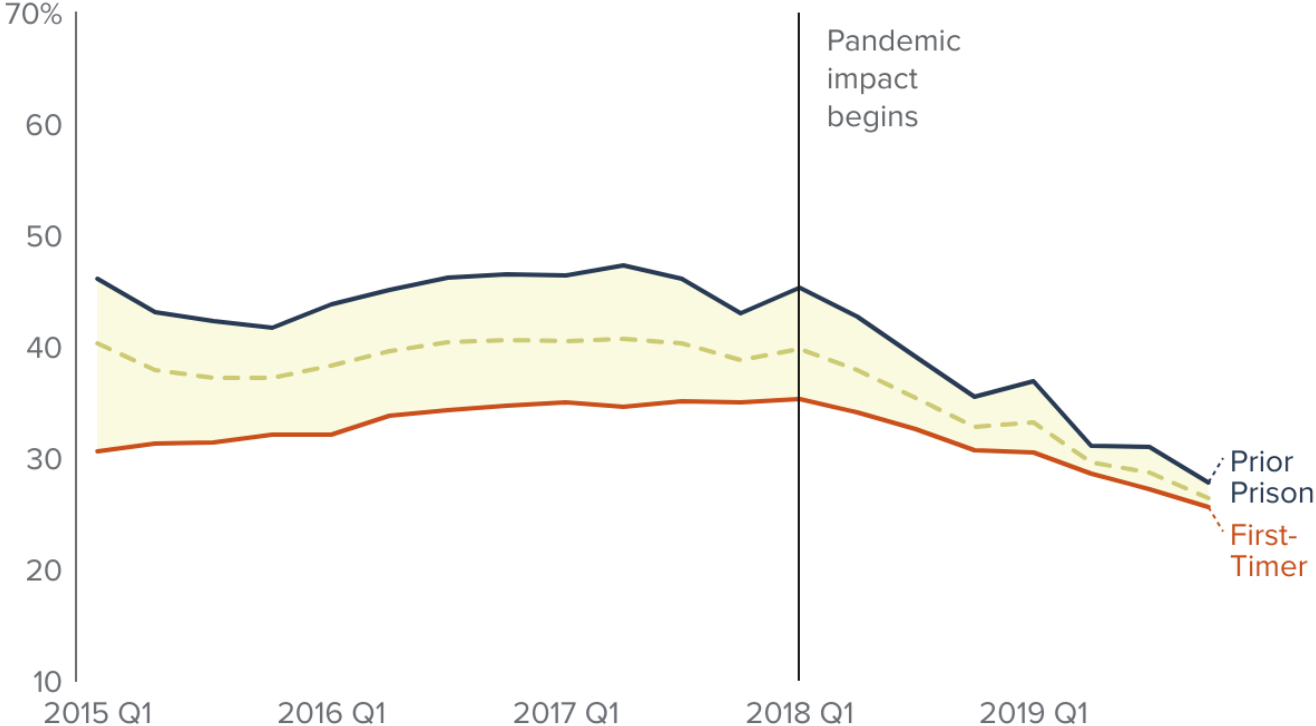
Many factors can contribute to nonparticipation

- Prisons struggle to hire teachers, which reduces available slots
- People move often, which can interrupt participation
 - About 20% of prisoners move on each day
- People do not spend enough time in prison to participate
 - People serve 60% of their sentence on average
 - 40% of prisoners serve one year or less

People who spend less than one year in prison are far less likely to participate in programs



Reconviction rates have fallen but remain high



Additional investments are needed to increase participation

- Investments increased participation but not to the 70% goal
 - 68% were assessed to need substance use treatment
 - 59% tested had math skills at or below 6th grade
 - 38% had reading skills at or below 6th grade
- Targeting programs more accurately could increase participation
 - Most people with assessed needs did not participate
 - Some people without assessed needs did

Programs to address violence and substance use could improve reentry pathways

- People who return home may bring violence with them
 - 7% of people were imprisoned on domestic violence charges
- Substance use and abuse pose the greatest threat to reentry
 - 62% of people are rearrested within two years
 - Six drug possession crimes account for 17% of rearrests

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.