Proposition 47’s Impact on Racial Disparity in Criminal Justice Outcomes

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Prop 47 is one of several recent criminal justice reforms in California

- **Senate Bill 678** provided financial incentives to counties to reduce the number of felony offenders sent to state prison for probation failures.
- **Assembly Bill 109** (realignment) shifted responsibility over lower-level felons from state prison and parole to county jail and probation systems.
- **Prop 47** reduced the penalties associated with certain lower-level drug and property offenses.
- **Prop 57** increased parole and good behavior opportunities for felons convicted of nonviolent crimes.

Non-revocable parole, authorized in **Senate Bill 18**, removed some lower-level offenders from active parole supervision.

**Prop 36** revised the “three strikes” law (1994) to impose a life sentence only when the new, third-strike felony conviction is serious or violent.

**Court-ordered population reduction measures** included increased credit earning and early parole for certain non-violent inmates.
Felony bookings for drug offenses dropped dramatically after Prop 47 passed.
African American arrests for felony drug and property offenses dropped sharply
Bookings fell most sharply among African Americans, largely due to a drop in felony bookings.
Decreases in African American bookings for drug and property felonies are striking.
Incarceration levels for African Americans in California are now close to levels in the rest of the US.
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.