

# The Impact of Proposition 47 on Crime and Recidivism

June 21, 2018

Mia Bird, Magnus Lofstrom, Brandon Martin, Steven Raphael, and Viet Nguyen

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with research support from Justin Goss



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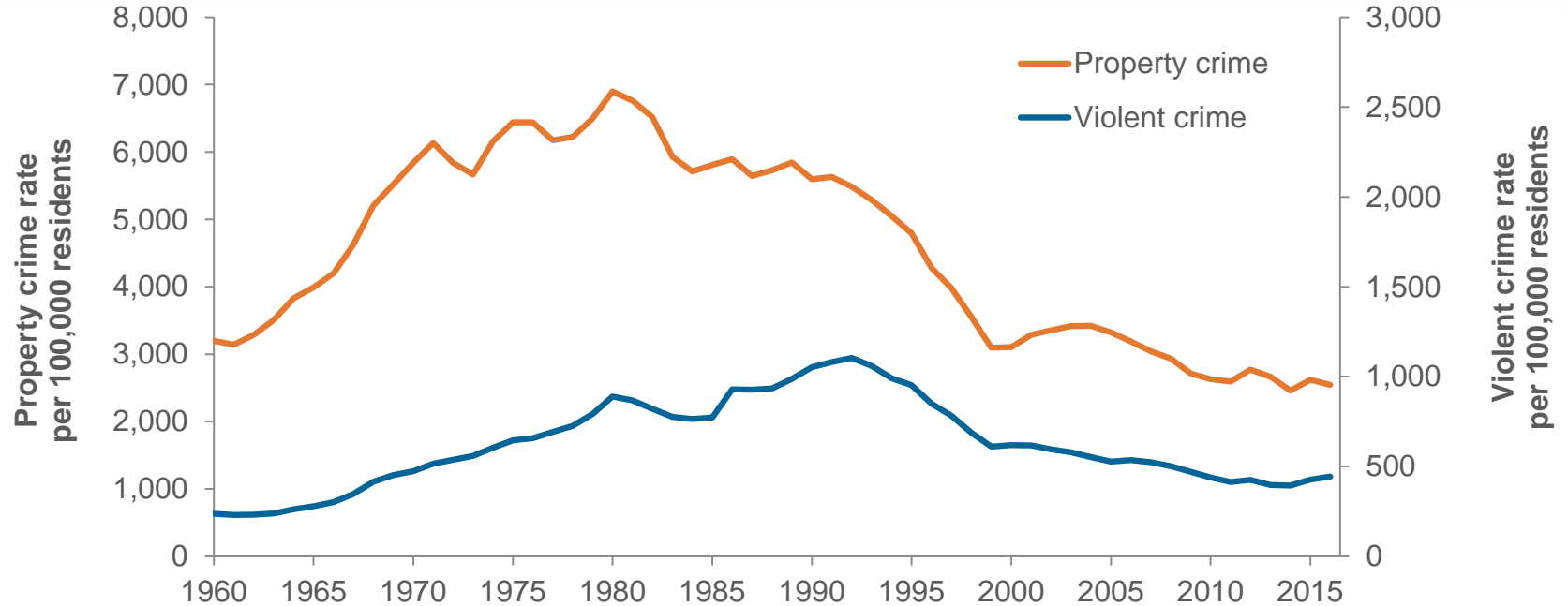
# Prop 47 led to major criminal justice changes

- Reduced penalties for lower-level offenses like drug possession, thefts, shoplifting, and others
- Succeeded in reducing prison and jail populations
  - Incarceration rate is now at levels not seen since the early 1990s
- Remains controversial
  - Supporters hoped to limit lower-level offenders' involvement with the criminal justice system and redirect funds to treatment
  - Opponents were concerned about burdening local jails and communities and potential increases in crime

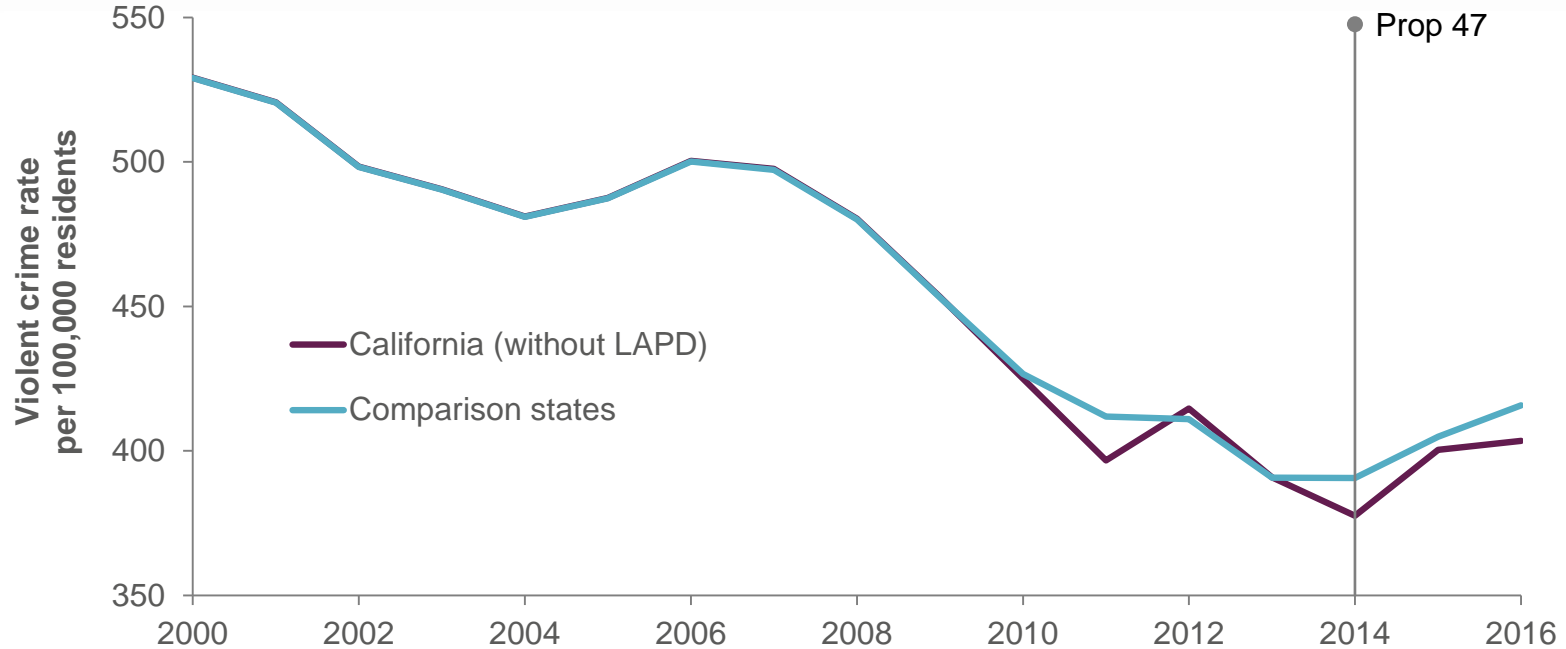
# Did Prop 47 affect crime and recidivism?

- We examine changes in crime rates over time within California and in comparison to other states
  - Data from the FBI and the California Department of Justice
- We assess changes in jail bookings and recidivism
  - Data from the BSCC–PPIC Multi-County Study, a collaborative effort among the Board of State and Community Corrections, PPIC, and counties
  - The 12 participating counties are representative of the state

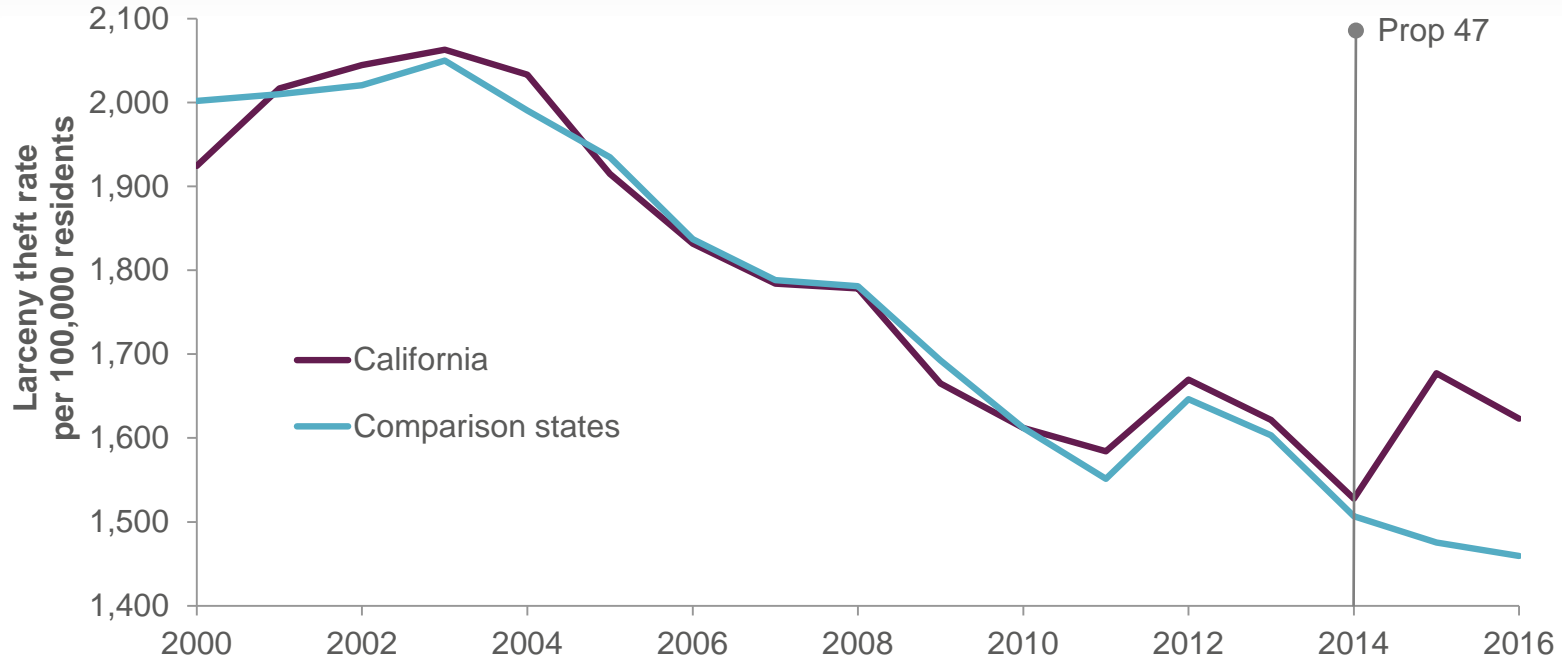
# California's crime rates are still at historic lows



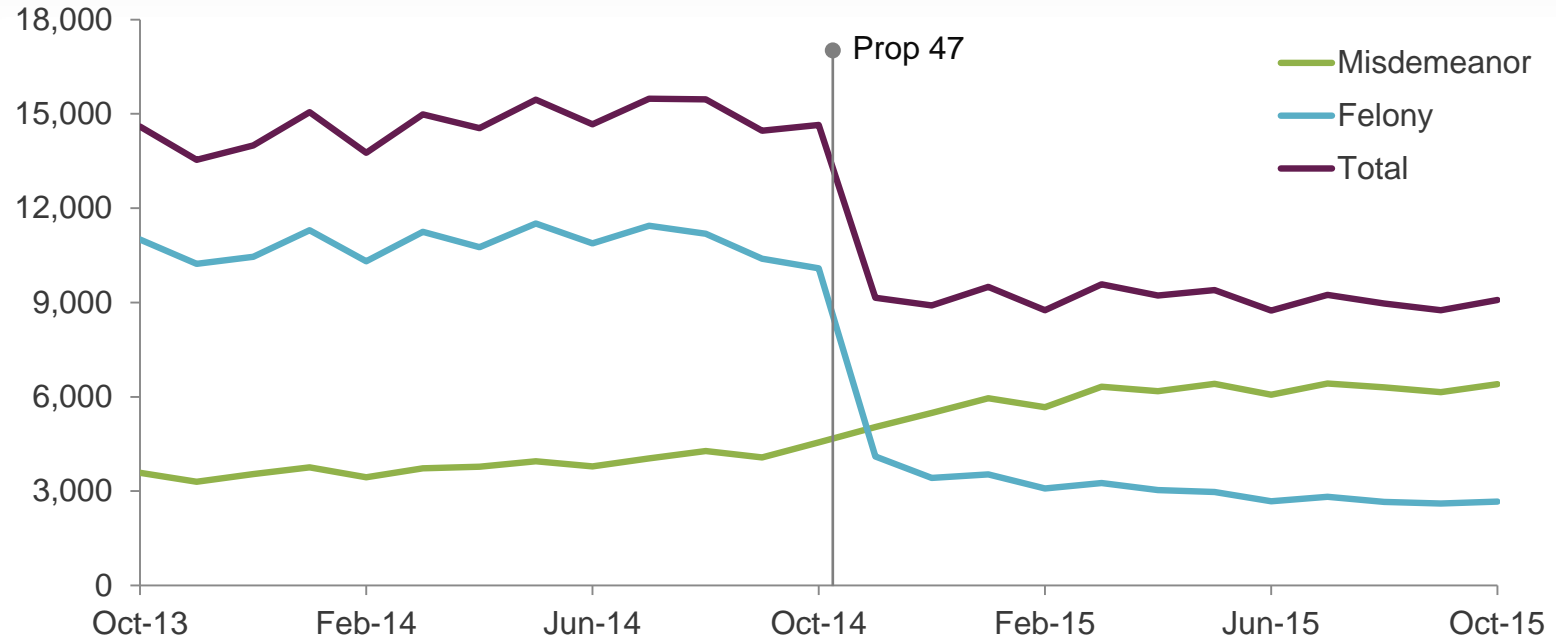
# Changes in violent crime were similar to other states



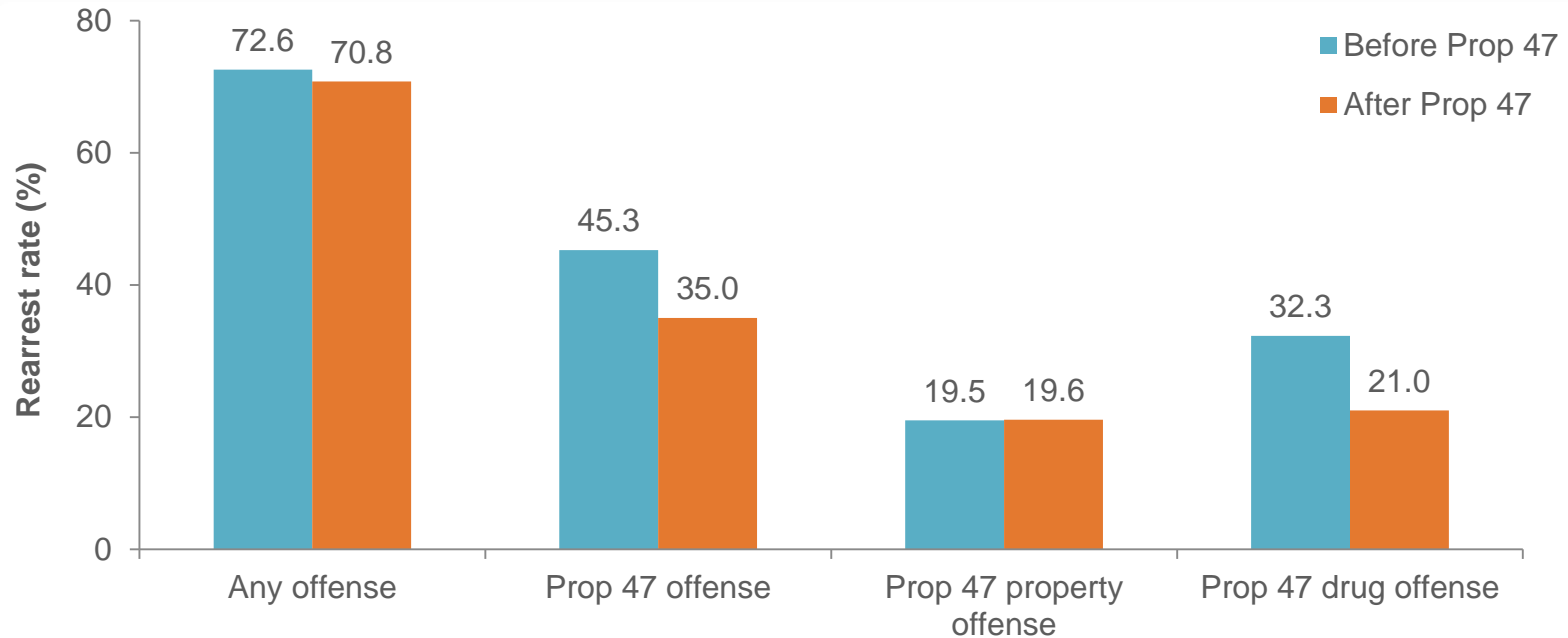
# California's larceny theft rate deviated from other states



# Jail bookings for Prop 47 offenses declined dramatically

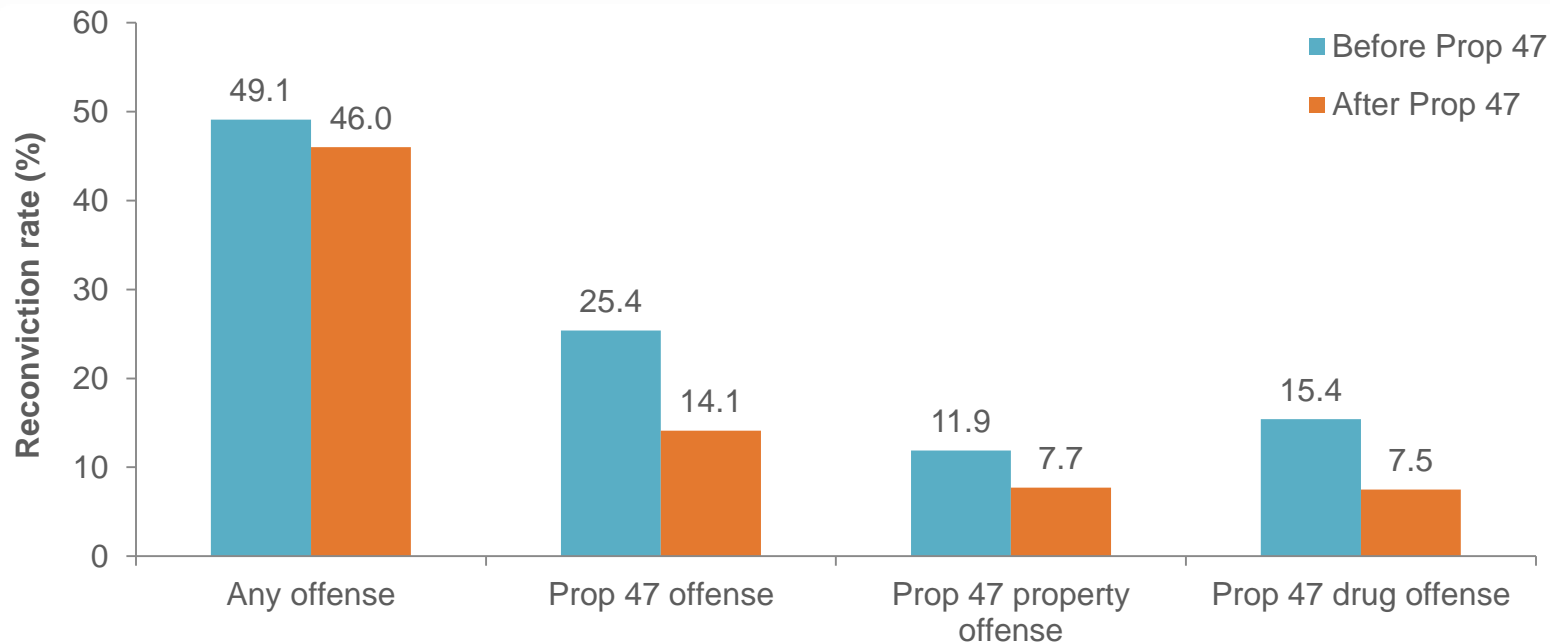


# Two-year rearrest rates declined after Prop 47, driven by reductions in lower-level drug offenses





# Two-year reconviction rates declined after Prop 47 for both lower-level property and drug offenses



# Prop 47 increased funding for behavioral health programs

- Prop 47 redirected 65% of state correctional savings toward mental health and substance-use treatment programs
- BSCC oversees the allocation of behavioral health funding
- BSCC provided grants to public agencies, with \$104 million available from 2017–2020
  - However, it is too early to tell whether this funding played a role in reducing recidivism

# Understanding the impact of Prop 47 is critical

- Our study finds:
  - Prop 47 did not affect violent crime but may have increased property crimes, particularly larcenies
  - It reduced both overall jail bookings and the number of individuals entering the jail system
  - Prop 47 offenders have lower two-year rearrest and reconviction rates when compared with their pre-reform counterparts
- Policymakers are continuing to pursue criminal justice reforms
  - Should work with practitioners to identify programs and policies that will reduce recidivism and maintain public safety

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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.