

California Probation in the Era of Reform

September 12, 2017

Viet Nguyen, Ryken Grattet, Mia Bird

Supported with funding from the National Institute of Justice



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

California has enacted major corrections reforms

- California saw a sharp rise in the prison population from the 1970s to 2006
 - Overcrowding became severe, leading to lawsuits
 - In 2009, a federal court ordered the state to reduce the prison population, triggering several reforms
- Reforms have reduced the state's reliance on incarceration:
 - Senate Bill 678 (2009)
 - Public Safety Realignment (2011)
 - Proposition 47 (2014)

Probation plays a big role in our criminal justice system

- Parolees are released from prison and supervised by the state
- Probation provides community-based supervision of individuals convicted of felonies or misdemeanors
 - Historically, probation has been granted by county court judges as an alternative to custody in state prison or county jail
- County probation departments are responsible for supervising the largest share (about 60%) of the corrections population
 - 390,000 individuals under probation supervision in 2015

Reforms have changed probation

- Reforms shifted probation caseloads toward more serious offenders
- Racial disparities in probation are most evident for African Americans
- Jail bookings are common among the probation population, especially for realigned offenders

The Multi-County Study draws data from 12 counties



Twelve California counties



**BOARD OF STATE AND
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Engagement:

- California State Association of Counties
- County Administrative Officers Association of California
- California State Sheriff's Association
- Chief Probation Officers of California
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Department of Justice

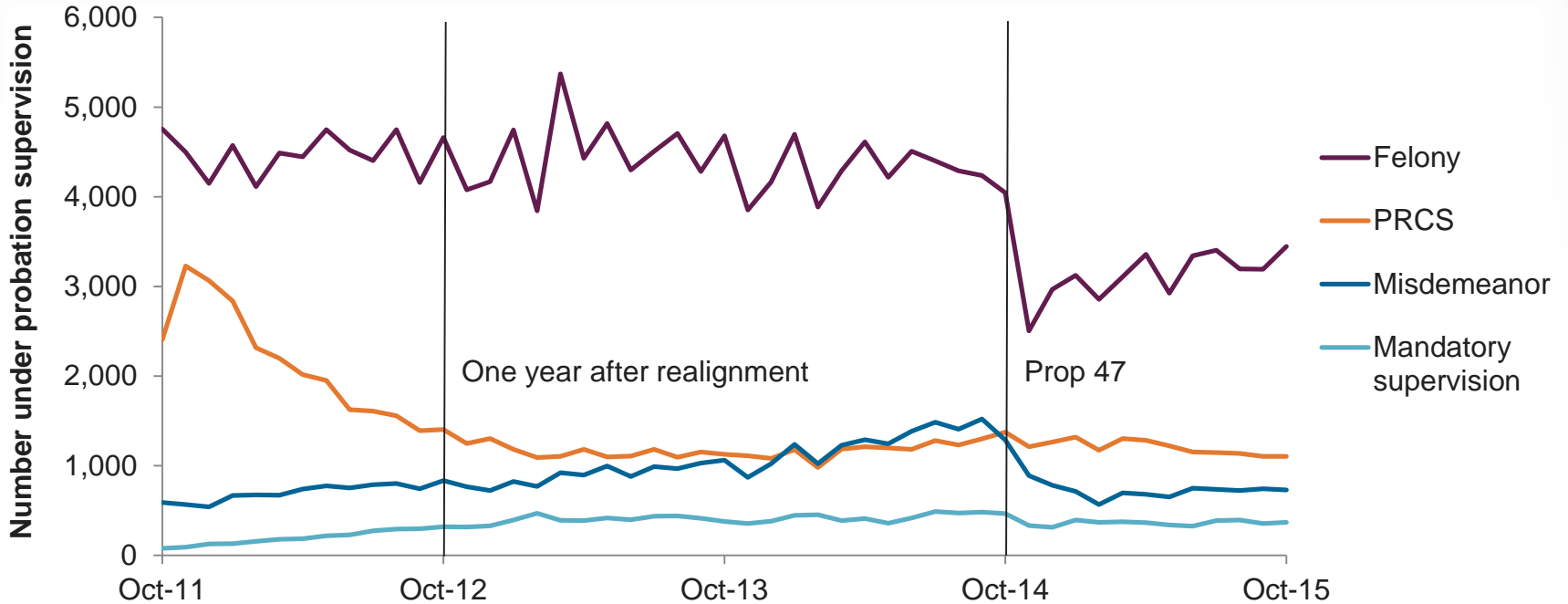
Overview

- How did reforms affect probation?
- How did changes in probation affect California's jails?
- Consequences and next steps

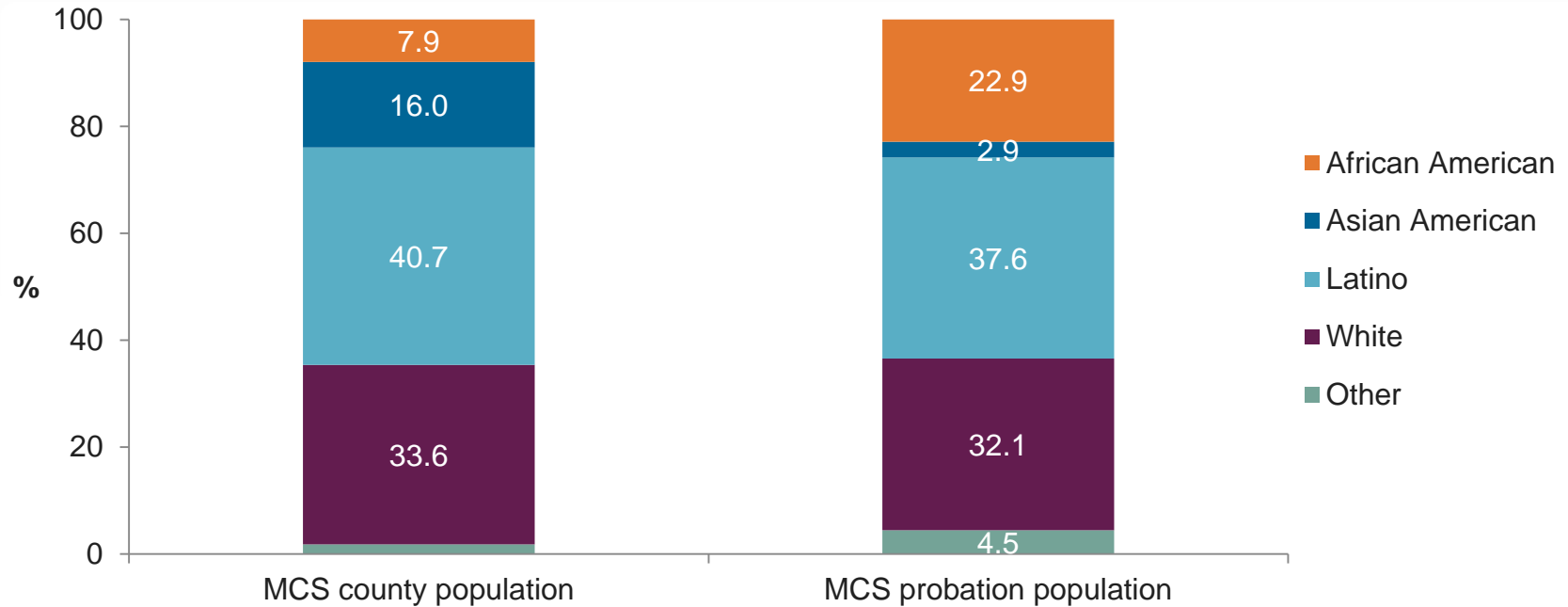
Realignment added two groups of offenders to probation supervision

- Post-release community supervision (PRCS)
 - Released from prison
 - Committed on non-violent, non-serious, non-sexual offense
- Mandatory supervision
 - Serve a portion of their sentence in jail
 - Committed on a felony eligible for sentencing under PC 1170(h)
 - No prior violent, serious, or sexual offense requiring registration

Reforms affected probation caseloads



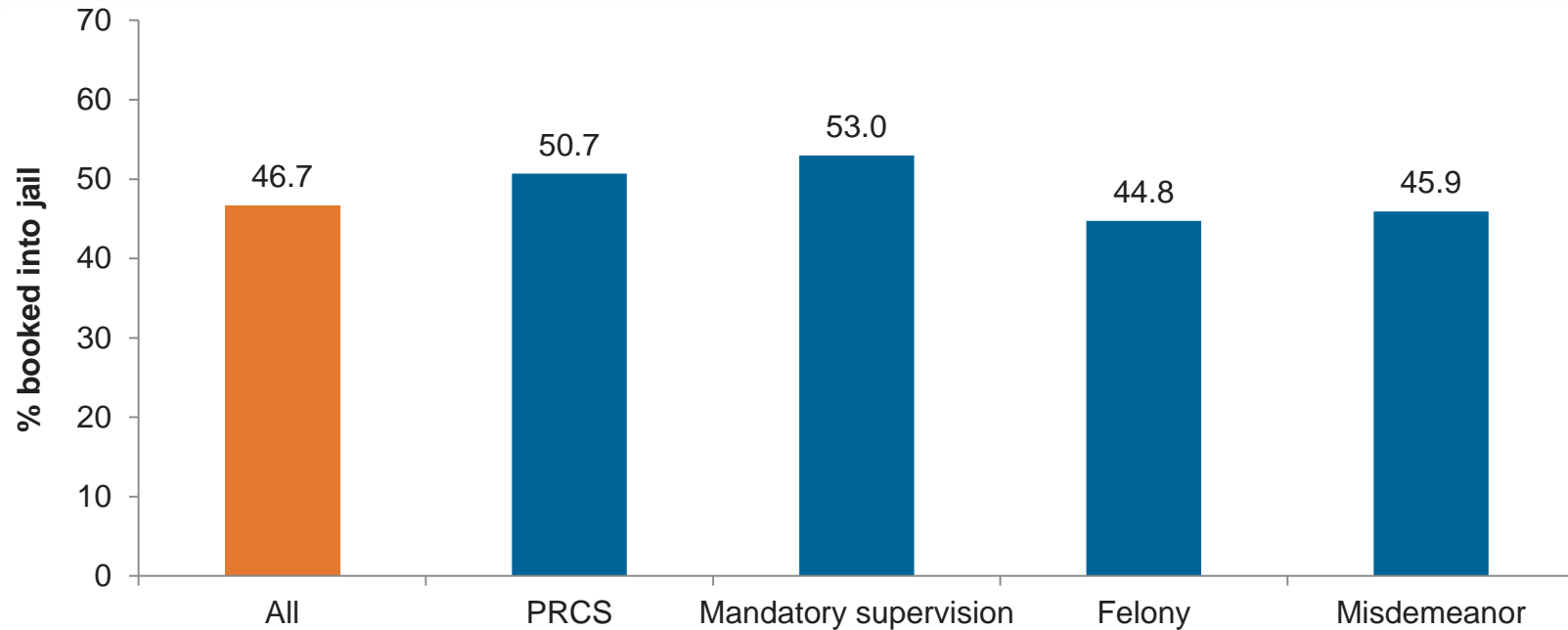
African Americans are overrepresented in probation



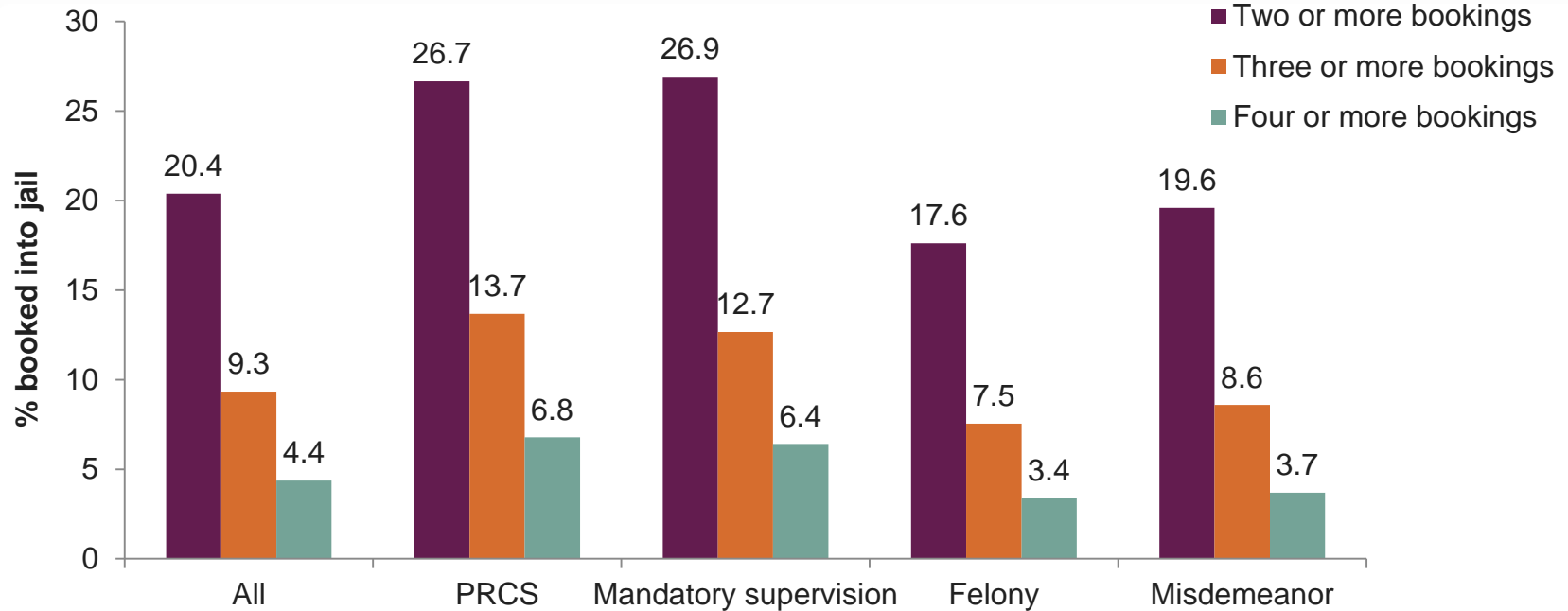
Overview

- How did reforms affect probation?
- How did changes in probation affect California's jails?
- Consequences and next steps

People under probation supervision often enter jail



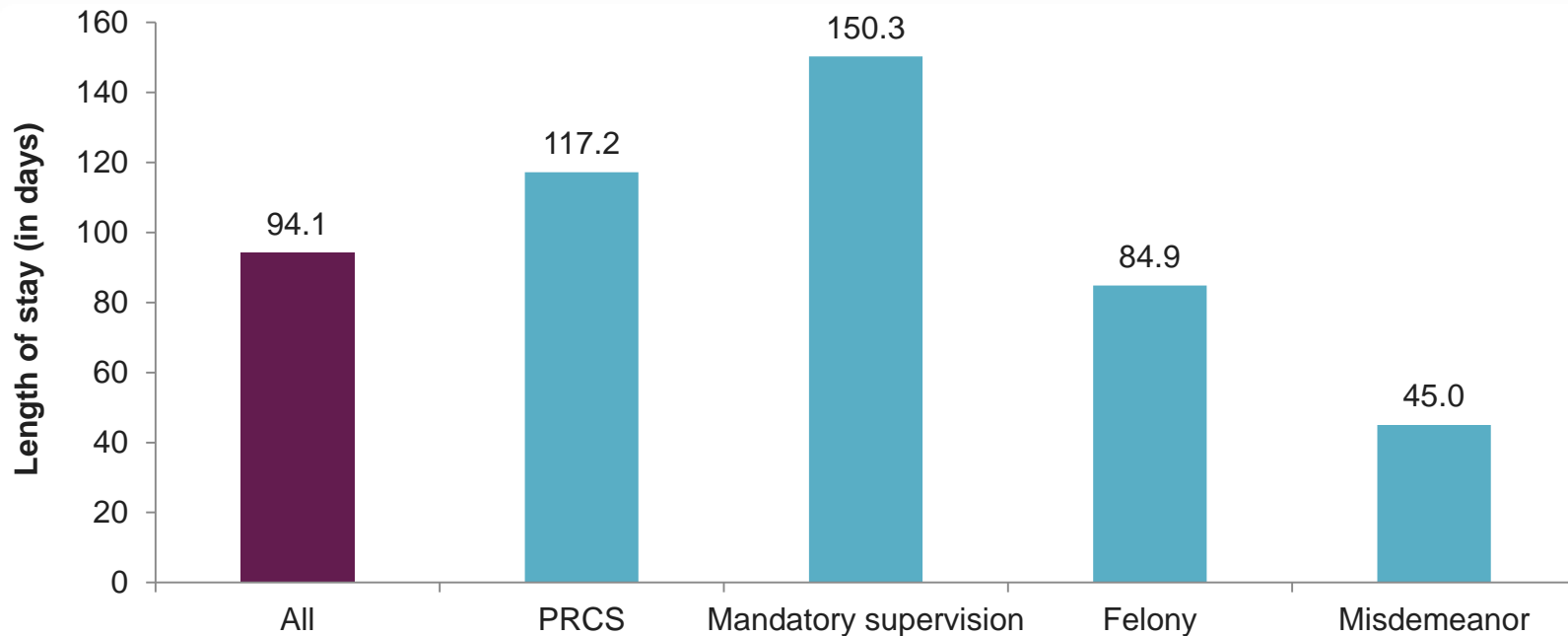
Realigned offenders are booked into jail more often



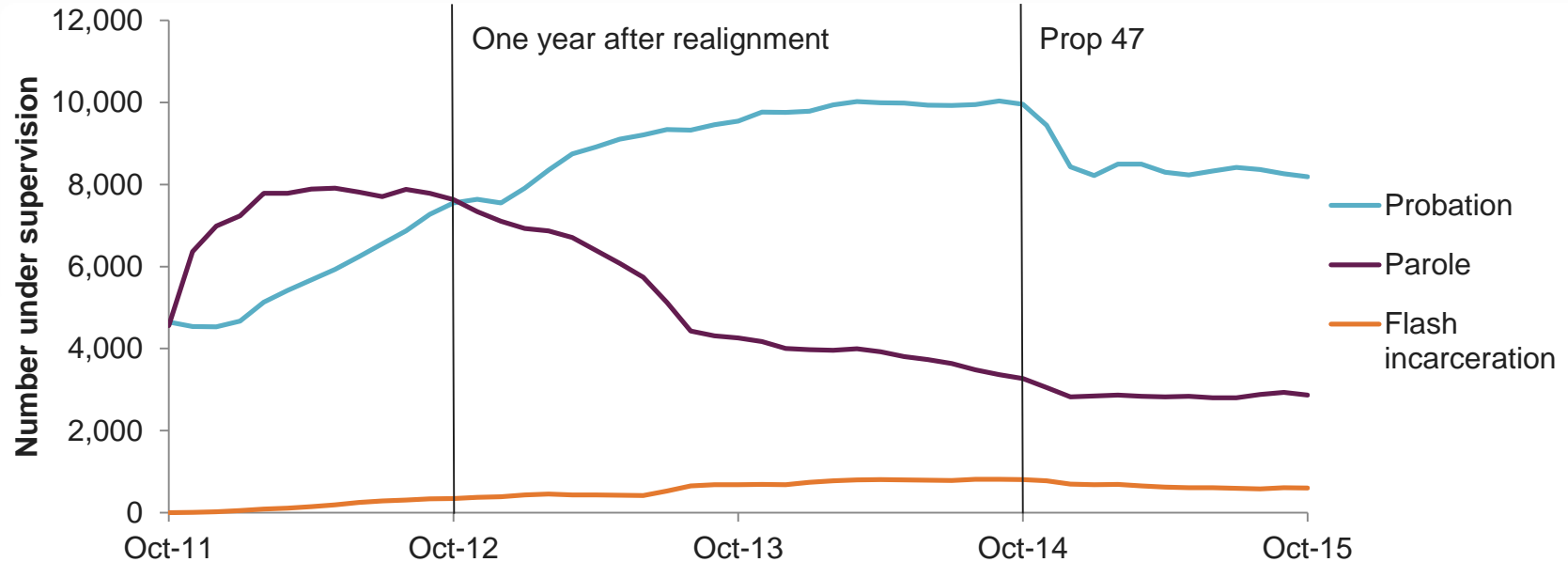
Felony bookings are common

- Overall, 27.5% of those under probation supervision were booked for a felony offense
 - Those under mandatory supervision (42%) and felony probationers (32.8%) were more likely to be booked for a felony
- Those under PRCS had lower rates of felony booking (14.1%)
 - But the PRCS population had high rates of supervision violations (13.1%) and flash incarcerations (13.7%), compared to other individuals

Individuals under mandatory supervision and PRCS stay in custody longer



One in four people in jail come from community supervision



Overview

- How did reforms affect probation?
- How did changes in probation affect California's jails?
- Consequences and next steps

Probation departments are now managing a more challenging population

- Realignment added two more types of offenders
- Individuals under mandatory supervision and PRCS have more jail contact than traditional felony caseloads
- People under probation supervision account for a larger share of the jail population

Trends in probation are part of broader changes in corrections

- County jail populations have shifted toward more serious drug and property offenders
- Reduced reliance on incarceration and pretrial reform
- How are counties responding to these trends?
 - Risk assessment tools and evidence-based practices
 - Reentry opportunities (e.g., day reporting centers)

Next steps

- Recidivism for individuals under PRCS and mandatory supervision
- Split sentencing
- Flash incarceration
- Reentry services

California Probation in the Era of Reform

September 12, 2017

Viet Nguyen, Ryken Grattet, Mia Bird

Supported with funding from the National Institute of Justice



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

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:

Viet Nguyen (nguyen@ppic.org; 415-291-4478)

Ryken Grattet (grattet@ppic.org; 916-440-1123)

Mia Bird (bird@ppic.org; 415-291-4471)

Thank you for your interest in this work.