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.

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

Number under probation supervision

- Felony
- PRCS
- Misdemeanor
- Mandatory supervision

One year after realignment

Prop 47
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% booked into jail</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>PRCS</th>
<th>Mandatory supervision</th>
<th>Felony</th>
<th>Misdemeanor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>45.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Realigned offenders are booked into jail more often

![Graph showing % booked into jail for different categories and bookings levels.]

- **All**
  - Two or more bookings: 20.4%
  - Three or more bookings: 9.3%
  - Four or more bookings: 4.4%
- **PRCS**
  - Two or more bookings: 26.7%
  - Three or more bookings: 13.7%
  - Four or more bookings: 6.8%
- **Mandatory supervision**
  - Two or more bookings: 26.9%
  - Three or more bookings: 12.7%
  - Four or more bookings: 6.4%
- **Felony**
  - Two or more bookings: 17.6%
  - Three or more bookings: 7.5%
  - Four or more bookings: 3.4%
- **Misdemeanor**
  - Two or more bookings: 19.6%
  - Three or more bookings: 8.6%
  - Four or more bookings: 3.7%
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Length of Stay (in days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRCS</td>
<td>117.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory supervision</td>
<td>150.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felony</td>
<td>84.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One in four people in jail come from community supervision

Number under supervision


One year after realignment Prop 47

Probation
Parole
Flash incarceration
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

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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.