

Current practices and new approaches for reducing incarceration in California

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CALIFORNIANS
FOR **SAFETY** AND **JUSTICE**

SAFEANDJUST.ORG

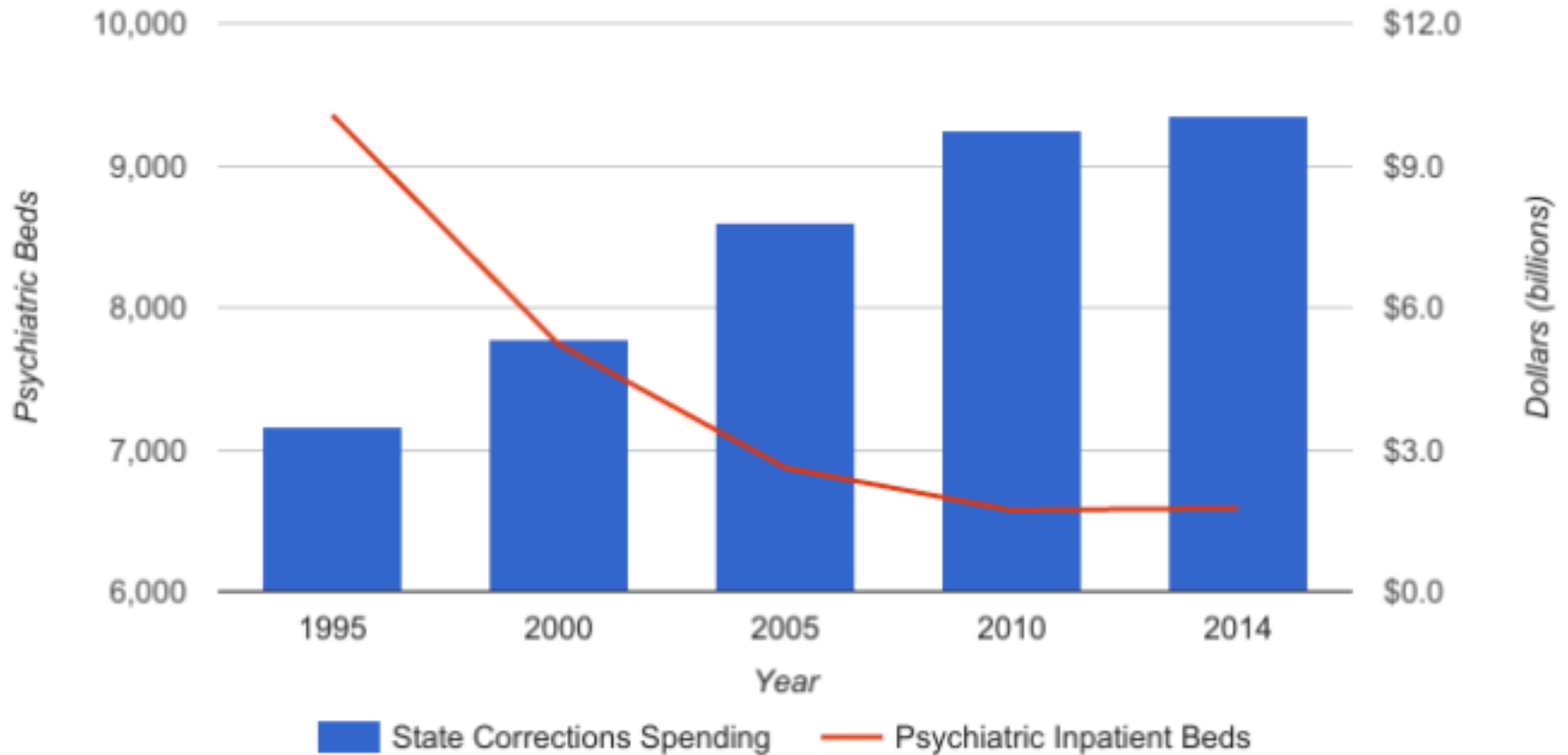
Costs of Over-Incarceration

Between 1981-2011 in California:

- 1500% increase in spending (22X faster growth than education spending)
- 65% return to prison within 3 years
- Individuals cycle in and out for low-level offenses
- Inadequate community-based infrastructure for mental health & drug addiction services

Costs of Over-Incarceration

Prison spending grew as psychiatric hospitals were closed



Source: California Hospital Association, California's Acute Psychiatric Bed Loss (October 2016); California State Budget.

Why Criminal Justice Reform?

- US Supreme Court population mandate
- The same people cycling in and out of prisons and jails for low-level offenses
- Not enough attention paid to public health issues
- Collateral consequences of felony convictions

Intent of Criminal Justice Reforms

- Reduce the use of incarceration for low-level nonviolent offenses and reduce state spending on incarceration
- Focus law enforcement resources on serious and violent crime
- Reduce lifetime consequences of felony convictions for nonviolent offenses
- Reallocate savings to crime prevention programs (Prop. 47)

Proposition 47

- Reclassify from Felony to Misdemeanor:
 - Simple Drug Possession
 - Petty Theft/Shoplifting Under \$950
- Retroactive/Resentencing
 - Only after judicial review
- Reallocate Savings To:
 - 65% Mental Health/Substance Use Treatment
 - 25% K-12 Truancy and Dropout Prevention
 - 10% Victim Services

Impacts so far

Budget Reallocation

- \$68M total overall state savings in first year

Incarceration and CJ System Impacts, 2014 vs. 2015

- 15,000 fewer incarcerated in CA prisons & jails
- 119,000 fewer felony arrests in the first year
- 55,000 fewer felony convictions in the first year
- As much as 33% fewer felony cases in county courthouses

Second Chances

Record Change

- 1 million eligible Californians
- 280,000 P47 petitions filed

County Practices and Community Leadership

- > 75 community & labor groups engaged in P47 implementation
- > 150 community Record Change events in the last two years
- Tens of millions in local resources invested in outreach
- > 10 local jurisdictions with P47 task forces
- 59% of drug courts in CA have changed or expanded their eligibility criteria in response to P47

CRIME RATES

- Crime and crime rates fluctuate year-to-year.
- In California, crime rates have increased recently but are still at historically low levels.
- Research has not causally linked crime increases or decreases to recent criminal justice policy changes, like Realignment or Prop. 47 (except motor vehicle theft).

PEW Charitable Trust Study 2015

Study of 30 states that have raised felony theft thresholds since 2001 found:

- Raising felony theft threshold has no impact on property crime
- No property crime differences between states that raised thresholds and those that did not
- Felony theft thresholds is not related to statewide property crime

What Next?

Changing Approaches
.....▶ **TO SAFETY**

A Blueprint for Shared Safety



BLUEPRINT FOR
SHARED SAFETY

Working together to build safety for all



A Blueprint for Shared Safety



5 BLUEPRINT PRINCIPLES

These guiding principles are the foundation for Shared Safety. By implementing practices that are grounded in these principles, local governments can build a strong safety infrastructure for whole communities.



SHIFTING TO A
Public Health Frame



Wellbeing
IS SAFETY



Crime Survivors
AT THE CENTER



Breaking the Cycle
OF HARM



MAKING THE
System Work



A Blueprint for Shared Safety

BLUEPRINT OVERVIEW



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**Wellbeing
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**MAKING THE
System Work**

1 ENVISION

**Adopt safety as a public
health issue**

**Define Well-Being For
Your Community**

**Recognize Who is Most
Vulnerable to Crime**

**Embrace Risk+Harm+Need
Decision-Making**

**Build Community Trust &
System Legitimacy**

2 PLAN

**Align Health & Safety
Delivery Systems**

**Identify Gaps in
Community Well-Being**

**Create a Healing Agenda
for Crime Survivors**

**Develop Problem-Solving
Models to Deter Crime**

**Establish Collaborative
Partnerships**

3 INVEST

**Prioritize Preventive
Health**

**Scale Up to Meet the
Greatest Needs**

**Ensure Access to
Restorative Justice &
Trauma Recovery**

**Maximize Diversion and
Community Corrections**

**Leverage Diverse Funding
Streams**

4 RESTORE

**Generate Shared Health &
Safety Data Systems**

**Measure Safety Through
Well-Being Indicators**

**Engage Crime Survivors to
Improve Outcomes**

**Abandon Harmful
Practices, Reduce
Recidivism**

**Commit to Transparency &
Continuous Improvement**

5 STRENGTHEN

**Harness Media to Promote
a Public Health Frame**

**Cultivate Sanctuary
Spaces for All**

**Shed Stigma & Foster
Awareness**

**Eliminate Barriers to
Second Chances**

**Support Community
Organizing to Improve
Accountability**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Californians for Safety and Justice website: www.safeandjust.org
- Blueprint for Shared Safety website: www.sharedsafety.us
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