

Is realignment working?



Preliminary CA realignment data

::REALIGNMENT UPDATE::

New tools provide insight into effectiveness of realignment

Several tools have emerged this month providing necessary insight into the progress of realignment both statewide and locally. CJCJ released its [second realignment update](#) showing that the **state prison population has reduced by 39%** within the first nine months of realignment, but that the decline appears to be slowing. Senior Research Fellow, Mike Males, notes a new increase in felon admissions for drug offenses that warrants further examination.

Read the full report: http://www.cjcj.org/files/Realignment_update_Aug_15_2012.pdf

In addition, the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) released their [First Look at Statewide Data Trends and Impacts](#) that looks at county level trends regarding the realigned population. The report notes a mixed county level experience, with central valley counties receiving the majority of the returning non-non-non population.

Finally, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released two publications examining realignment that consolidate information at both the state and county level. [Corrections Realignment: One Year Later](#) discusses local capacity pressures, probation arrangement, and crime rates. [Evaluating the Effects of California's Corrections Realignment on Public Safety](#), addresses issues of recidivism, sentencing, and costs.

::IN THE NEWS::

Media coverage focuses on California sentencing disparities

Summarized by [Brian Heller de Leon's blog](#) this month, media coverage of realignment has been prolific. Local newspapers are reporting on county trends in [Shasta](#), [Solano](#), [Alameda](#), [Los Angeles](#), and [Butte](#).

In addition, [Valley Public Radio broadcast](#) an in-depth discussion of the unique challenges that central valley counties are facing, with interviews from CJCJ's Mike Males and San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi.

Also on the radio, KQED's The Forum focused on [Prison Realignment: One Year Later](#), providing a thoughtful examination of the current state of California's criminal justice system through the lens of historical reform efforts and current county challenges. Co-panelists include CDCR's Matthew Cate, ACLU's Allen Hopper, CJCJ's Daniel Macallair, and KQED's Michael Montgomery.

[Prison Break](#), the new special coverage series by KQED and the Center on Investigative Reporting, delves into county disparities and practices. The extensive series provides explanatory information, clear and accurate infographics, and on-camera interviews with key criminal justice stakeholders. Including close examination of San Francisco and Fresno county systems, and with interviews of LA District Attorney Steve Cooley and SF District Attorney George Gascon. This is a must watch!

If you have not already, tune in here:

<http://www.californiareport.org/specialcoverage/prisons/>

::LEGISLATIVE UPDATE::

Criminal and juvenile justice bills continue through the legislature this month and reach the Governor's desk for signing or veto by September 30.

SB 9 (Yee) - SUPPORT

[Senate Bill 9, the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act](#), has passed the California Assembly and Senate. Under this Act, youth sentenced to life without parole could petition a court to review his or her case after serving between 10 to 25 years in prison, and requires a statement of remorse and rehabilitation. **Call Gov. Brown and tell him "Please sign SB 9" at (916) 445-2841.** Alternatively, if you want to send in a letter visit: <http://www.fairsentencingforyouth.org/take-action/>

AB 2031 (Fuentes) - OPPOSE

Assembly Bill 2031 aims to expand the membership of county Community Corrections Partnerships (CCPs) to include additional rank and file officers. This bill is [opposed](#) by the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and the California State Sheriff's Association, as well as numerous policy advocates and grassroots community-based organizations. It is now on Governor Brown's desk where he will make a decision whether to sign or veto this bill.

CJCJ's blogs take a closer look at San Francisco's practices:

~ **Kate McCracken** discusses the [newly formed SF Sentencing Commission](#), established by the District Attorney's Office.

~ **Selena Teji** discusses the problems with [SF Police Department's data collection system](#) and why good data matters.

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