



Criminal justice decision points need deeper reforms

::PUBLICATIONS::

Study shows recent urban crime increases are not linked to Realignment

Since Realignment was implemented in October 2011, critics have charged that the policy, which keeps low-level felons under county supervision instead of sending them to prison, is leading to crime increases across the state. However, these assertions are based on anecdote rather than evidence.

A new [CJCJ report](#), released on January 24, has analyzed the first full crime figures published since Realignment went into effect, and found **no correlation between Realignment and crime trends**.

Crime rates remain among the lowest recorded in more than 40 years. A more detailed review of why California cities showed increases in crime in early 2012, and the wide variance in county implementation of Realignment is warranted.

Read [California's Urban Crime Increase in 2012: Is "Realignment" to Blame?](#)

::IN THE NEWS::

California must consider additional sentencing reforms to reduce the prison population

This month, California Governor Brown declared the end of the prison crisis despite unmet looming Supreme Court mandates. Although Realignment has decreased the prison population, the reduction is not enough to meet its 2017 goal.

However, other possible reforms could continue to reduce the prison population while still achieving the goals of public safety. CJCJ's Lizzie Buchen [outlines](#) sentencing enhancements that contribute to prison overcrowding by extending lengths of stay well beyond national averages. These sentencing laws should be re-examined as they do not result in less crime, but do confer a significant cost on taxpayers and burden on the prison system.

Read the [full op-ed](#), featured in the *California Progress Report* on January 25, 2013.

::ADVOCACY::

SFPD and Police Commission hear testimony on racially disparate arrest trends, and request more information

On January 23, 2013, CJCJ's Selena Teji presented evidence of a [40+ year history of racially disparate arrest practices](#) to the San Francisco Police Commission. Since 1995, San Francisco's rate of drug felony arrests of African Americans increased dramatically; an increase that did not occur elsewhere in the state, nor for other racial categories in San Francisco. This trend has not been explained despite multiple community efforts to highlight the subject.

The Commissioners and Chief of Police engaged in a discussion on the subject, and ultimately agreed to work with CJCJ to conduct a follow up examination of these trends, using upgraded and more recent data.

Listen to the [full hearing](#), or read a [blog recap](#).

Researchers examine use of prosecutorial discretion:

~ **Selena Teji** explores a new Vera Institute study on prosecutorial decision making in [Prosecutorial consistency in process](#).

~ **Brian Goldstein** discusses a recent NCCD panel discussion on the changing role of the modern prosecutor in [District Attorneys and criminal justice reform: A necessary partnership](#).

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about promoting humane and effective juvenile and criminal justice practices by visiting www.cjcj.org

IT'S UP TO YOU TO KEEP THE MESSAGE MOVING

1. Forward this email to your friends and colleagues
2. Subscribe to this monthly update by sending a message to cjcjmedia@cjcj.org with "subscribe to listserv" in the subject line
3. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
4. Read our blog at www.cjcj.org/blog

PLEASE ACT NOW

Go to our [Contribute](#) page to give someone else the opportunity to hope.

Copyright © 2013 Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in at our website www.cjcj.org

Our mailing address is:

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
40 Boardman Place
San Francisco, CA 94103