

A Quick Look: Who Is in Our Jails and Under Probation Supervision Since Realignment

Of the funds allocated each year for public safety in San Diego County, around one in four dollars goes for corrections and probation supervision. As such, it is important to understand how these public safety systems operate and how the number and characteristics of individuals under Probation's supervision change over time. With the implementation of AB 109, or Public Safety Realignment, three new populations, broadly, have come under jurisdiction of county departments: those sentenced to serve time in local facilities instead of state prison (1170(h) or revocations), and those supervised in the community by Probation after serving time in prison (Post-Community Supervision or PRCS offenders) or locally after being sentenced per PC 1170 (h)(5)(B) (Mandatory Supervision or MS offenders).

While realignment has definitely contributed to the state's goal of reducing the number of those in institutional custody (down 22% from 170,283 in 2008 to 132,768 in 2012) and under parole supervision (down 52%, from 122,134 in 2008 to 58,059 in 2012), it has created significant shifts in the number and types of offenders under local supervision, as expected. Some highlights of these changes, which are described in more detail in a recently released CJ Bulletin,¹ include the following.

- While there were fewer bookings into jail in 2012, compared to five years earlier, the adult inmate population at Sheriff's detention facilities was at 113 percent capacity (up from 102% one year earlier). These increases reflect the addition of realigned offenders, which now make up 35 percent of the jail population.
- The number of individuals requiring protective custody or administrative segregation has increased over the past five years, from 10 percent of the average daily population in 2008 to 20 percent in 2012. This increase significantly affects the management capacity of Sheriff's detention staff tasked with maintaining the safety of both inmates and deputies.
- While inmates could only be housed in local jails for up to one year before realignment, at the time of this report, the longest full sentence for a realigned offender was 16 years; and the longest split sentence was for 18 years, with 12 years to be served in local custody and the remaining six years to be served under mandatory supervision.
- While only around one-third of the traditional population supervised by probation is assessed as being at high-risk of recidivating, around two-thirds of realigned offenders are assessed as such, demonstrating the greater challenges faced in rehabilitating this population.

To manage these increased responsibilities, both the Sheriff's and Probation Departments have undertaken a number of initiatives in close coordination with other Community Corrections Partnership entities, including the District Attorney, Public Defender, Health and Human Services, and the Courts. These efforts, which are also described in more detail in the bulletin, include a new Reentry Services Division, Residential Reentry Center, County Parole and Alternative Custody Unit, Community Transition Center, MS Court, and formal partnerships with local law enforcement agencies. To access the bulletin, please visit www.sandag.org/cj.

¹ Burke, C. (2014, February). *Adult offenders in local custody and under community supervision in San Diego County: 2008, 2011, and 2012*. San Diego, CA: San Diego Association of Governments.