

COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-AGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION ACT (JJCPA)
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER BLOCK GRANT (YOBG)

2022
CONSOLIDATED
ANNUAL PLAN





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View Online

<https://www.sbprobation.org>

The FY 2022-2023 Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile
Justice Plan may also be viewed online



JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members

- **William Brown**, Sheriff-Coroner
County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office
- **Gabriela Ferreira**, Chair
Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDPC)
- **Gregg Hart**, 2nd District Supervisor
County of Santa Barbara
- **Tanja Heitman**, Chief Probation Officer (Chair)
County of Santa Barbara Probation Department
- **La Mer Kyle-Griffiths**, Assistant Public Defender
County of Santa Barbara Office of the Public Defender
- **Mona Miyasato**, County Executive Officer
County of Santa Barbara Executive Office
- **Toni Navarro**, Director
County of Santa Barbara Department of Behavioral Wellness
- **Bob Nelson**, 4th District Supervisor
County of Santa Barbara
- **Mag Nicola**, Chief Deputy District Attorney
County of Santa Barbara Office of the District Attorney
- **Amy Krueger**, Deputy Director
County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services
- **Darrel Parker**, Court Executive Officer
County of Santa Barbara Superior Court
- **Susan Salcido**, Ed.D., Superintendent
Santa Barbara County Education Office

Two-Year Members

- **Michael Cash**, Police Chief
Guadalupe Police Department
- **Michelle Kerwood**, Director of Child & Adolescent Treatment Programs
Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- **Kenneth Kushner**, Commander
Santa Barbara Police Department
- **Brittany Nelson**, Program Manager
Casa Pacifica
- **Marc Schneider**, Police Chief
Santa Maria Police Department
- **Saul Serrano**, Coordinator
South Coast Youth Safety Partnership/CommUnify
- **Jill Sharkey**, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research and Outreach
Gervitz Graduate School of Education
- **Dawnette Smith**, Programs Director,
Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back
- **Katherine Wallace**, Coordinator, Education Services
Lompoc Unified School District
- **Victor Vega**, Community Member
- **Brian Zimmerman**, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Santa Maria Bonita School District



JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL WORKGROUP

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) appointed a workgroup tasked with collaborating on the development of the CMJJP, as well as identifying priorities and strategies for the local juvenile justice system. This has included discussion of the local Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan, strategic discussion of RJJ initiatives, and REEI data review and development. In FY 2020-2021, the Workgroup met a total of eight (8) times. In FY 2021-2022 the Workgroup will meet thirteen (13) times. The JJCC workgroup voting member are listed below:

- **Ethan Bertrand**, 2nd District Representative
Supervisor Hart's Office
- **Amy Krueger**, Deputy Director, Adult & Children Services
Department of Social Services
- **La Mer Kyle-Griffiths**, Assistant Public Defender
Office of the Public Defender
- **Sol Linver**, Undersheriff
Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office
- **Josh Morton**, Lieutenant
Santa Barbara Police Department
- **Mag Nicola**, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Office of the District Attorney
- **Kim Shean**, Deputy Chief Probation Officer (Chair)
Probation Department
- **Frann Wageneck**, Assistant Superintendent
Santa Barbara Unified School District
- **Alana Walczak**, President and CEO
CALM-Child Abuse Listening Mediation
- **Alison Wales**, Associate Director
North County Rape Crisis and Child Prevention Center
- **John Winckler**, MFT, Division Chief, Clinical Operations
Department of Behavioral Wellness



OVERVIEW

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was enacted in 2000 (AB 1913) and provides counties with a reliable funding source for local programs and services aimed at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency as codified in Government Code Section 30061. It mandates a local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) whose multidisciplinary membership collaborates on identifying local needs, supports the development of relevant programs, and considers budget priorities.

Additionally, it requires the development of a Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and submission to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), the State agency that oversees the JJCPA. The CMJJP addresses local delinquency issues, identifies service needs and gaps, sets goals and priorities, and reports on local juvenile efforts and initiatives. Changes to this year’s Plan include: updated demographics and population trends; analysis of existing services; updates to funded services; updated goals and objectives; and updated juvenile justice strategies.



What Guides Us

The Annie E. Casey Foundation
 “Elevating Care for Youth in Custody”

In Santa Barbara County, the CMJJP incorporates aspects of the JJCPA and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) requirements in order to illustrate a complete picture of how funded programs, services, and strategies serve youth and families in our County to serve youth who are not adjudicated of a serious of violent offense as described in section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code. These services are also utilized for youth adjudicated of these offenses who are not participants in the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) secure detention program outlined below.

- ✓ Lead with values that promote equity and well-being
- ✓ Maintain an uplifting and safe environment
- ✓ Develop staff to build positive and supportive relationships
- ✓ Provide varied, useful, and evidence based programming
- ✓ Ground practice and culture in knowledge of adolescent development
- ✓ Treat family members as partners
- ✓ Encourage community connections
- ✓ Incorporate continuous quality control



The County uses JJCPA funding for four (4) strategic priorities: Probation supervision resources; behavioral health assessments; diversion; and community-based treatment interventions. Probation officers in all area offices provide strength-based risk-needs-responsivity interventions and case management to approximately 150 youth identified as high or medium-risk for reoffending. Behavioral health clinicians conduct comprehensive assessments that identify the needs and assets of clients to inform case planning and referrals. Community-based interventions are carried out by contracted private organizations providing a wide range of evidence-based services. These include diversion away from the juvenile justice system, as well as individual/group targeted interventions to respond to youth behaviors and address risk/needs factors.

YOBG funding additionally supports: risk and needs assessment; intensive community supervision; community-based services, including mentoring, marijuana education classes, and targeted intervention programs; juvenile facility programming; the collection and analysis of data related to youth outcomes and program performance; and behavioral supports to youth in custody.

Senate Bill 823 took effect July 1, 2021. This entailed the closure of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to new commitments and the allocation of funding to local counties to implement programming within local facilities to house youth serving long term commitments for adjudicated violent/serious offenses outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 707(b) that would have previously been served at DJJ. Utilizing the *8 Guiding Principles Elevating Care for Youth in Custody*, the Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan was created to outline plans for the youth detained in the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), for changes to the facility needed to accommodate youth serving long term commitments, and recognizing this will include youth be housed to age 25, and the differing needs this will bring. From this, the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) program was created. This program begins with a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) working together to review the youth and family's areas of critical need and identified supports to develop a treatment plan within 30 days to include a variety of evidence-based programs, mental health services, and educational needs. These teams will continue to convene throughout the youth's commitment, as well as engage Child Family Team (CFT) to aide in reentry planning. Together with existing community supports and services, and the efforts of many youth-serving community-based and county organizations, JJCPA and YOBG allow the County to provide a continuum of services, supervision and supports for youth and families countywide.



GOAL 1

Maintain public safety by reducing recidivism¹.

Maintaining public safety is a primary focus of the JJC and Santa Barbara County’s juvenile justice efforts. Strategies for affecting the drivers of criminal behavior require the use of evidence-based programs delivered to model fidelity.

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
Utilize evidence-based approaches with youth adjudicated of a crime to decrease the offender’s risk of committing future offenses.	95% of Probation youth will have no new sustained petition or conviction for a felony offense within one year of successful completion of supervision.
	80% of Probation youth will have no new sustained petition for a felony offense during their term of Probation supervision.
	To assess quality and monitor program fidelity ² ensure no less than 90% of funded evidence-based programs have completed curriculum specific fidelity reviews.
Expand the use of best practices for evidence-based supervision that utilizes a youth’s specific risk-needs, and responsivity measures.	Launch a restorative justice diversion pilot program to promote youth accountability, community healing and decrease risk of committing future offenses.
Support professional training to advance system-wide knowledge of evidence-based practices in the criminal justice field	Ensure no less than 50% of staff certified in Motivational Interviewing (MI) attend advanced training in applied MI ³ : MI is an evidence-based practice that has been demonstrated to change behavior. When used by a skilled officer, MI can increase a youth’s motivation to comply with supervision requirements, participate in treatment, and address criminogenic needs thereby reducing their failure rate on community supervision.
	Recognizing that many system-involved youth have experienced abuse/neglect, gang violence, sexual abuse and or violence in their homes, ensure 100% of eligible staff working with justice-involved youth attend Trauma Informed Care training.

¹ Measured as: 1) Youth without a new sustained petition or conviction for a felony offense within one year of successfully completing Probation; 2) Youth without a new sustained petition for a felony offense while on Probation

² Fidelity review assess how closely a program adheres to its research-based design



GOAL 2

Enhance the use of diversion for appropriate youth.

The JJCC is committed to reduce the reliance on detention through the utilization of evidence-based alternatives and diversion options for appropriate youth, utilizing confinement only when necessary for the safety of victims, the community and youth.

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
Expand the diversion of appropriate youth from the juvenile justice system.	75% of youth referred for diversion to Youth Empowerment Services (YES) ³ will enroll in the program.
	Reduce the number of technical Probation violations filed from 13% to 10%.
	Increase the percentage of youth supervised on non-ward supervision (654 WIC, 654.2 WIC, 725(a) WIC, 790 WIC) in lieu of wardship from 11% to 15%.
Enhance partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) to offer diversion alternatives for youth who are at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system.	Identify and partner with no less than one (1) additional organization within the community to offer diversion alternatives for youth who are at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system.

³ YES is a partnership of the Santa Barbara County Probation Department, schools, and the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) to provide school-based, pre-adjudication diversion to youth ages 10 to 17



GOAL 3

Coordinate efforts and improve system collaboration to support connection of youth and families to the community.

Working collaboratively, the JJCC is able to address emerging issues, support justice-involved youth, and promote community safety. These efforts include increased community and family engagement and strategies to engage youth and families with needed resources and services to support the whole family.

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
<p>Collaborate with justice and community partners for information sharing and coordination of efforts and best practices.</p>	<p>Launch Reentry Navigator position for the Juvenile Facilities to provide supportive services and assist coordination of reentry services for youth returning to the community following long-term commitments.</p>
	<p>In partnership with 2-1-1, increase Probation staff knowledge of available services for youth and families such as housing, food, transportation, healthcare, mental wellness and substance abuse treatment as well as 2-1-1 access points through bi-annual presentations.</p>
	<p>100% of youth received at the JJC or assessed at intake are screened for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and referred to appropriate community interventions/resources as needed.</p>
<p>Solicit input from justice-involved youth and families on the challenges faced and opportunities to improve system delivery.</p>	<p>Amplify family and stakeholder voices by providing annual virtual Listening Community Forum.</p>
<p>Collaborate with justice partners and coordinate efforts to promote accountability and youth and family wellness.</p>	<p>Provide quarterly “Safe at Home” community wellness operations for youth and their families to assess living environments, determine needs of the youth and/or family members, and provide information on community resources.</p>



GOAL 4

Support a systemic approach to studying and addressing disparities in the juvenile justice system including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

The JJCC is committed to understanding the extent to which disparities exist within the criminal justice system, and addressing and implementing processes to assist in reducing disproportionality.

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
<p>Utilizing data on disparities to inform decision-making, partner with local justice partners to educate staff and stakeholders and strategize approaches to address disparities in the local justice system.</p>	<p>Participation in at least one (1) implicit bias training for staff working with youth at the Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office and Public Defender’s Office.</p>
	<p>Embed language into juvenile Probation service contracts to prioritize the selection of culturally proficient bilingual and bi-cultural staff with the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes and beliefs to work well with, respond effectively to, and be supportive of people in cross cultural settings and persons from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.</p>
	<p>In partnership with Ceres Policy Research, create a framework to collect data on youth’s Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGIE) to inform strategies to allow agencies to engage authentically with lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming and transgender (LGBQ/GNCT) youth and improve services to this population.</p>
<p>Partner with CBOs serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming and transgender (LGBQ/GNCT) and/or indigenous youth populations to improve services.</p>	<p>Develop a framework to capture individual-level data of indigenous youth population served to create a baseline measure of trends in booking, detention, court disposition, and other probation outcomes.</p>
	<p>Create an inventory of existing community programs serving LGBTQ/GNCT and/or indigenous youth populations to assess gaps in services, identify potential community partnerships and training opportunities.</p>
	<p>Complete Whole Youth Initiative SOGIE Training for Trainers and have all juvenile and facilities staff trained in approaches to collecting SOGIE information.</p>
<p>Launch SOGIE questionnaire for all youth at JJC intake or at Juvenile Field Services intake and investigations.</p>	



DEMOGRAPHIC & POPULATION TRENDS



Crime Trends

A report published September 9, 2021 by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) found that, “California’s overall crime rate fell by 6 percent in 2020 from the year prior, reaching its lowest level since the state began compiling these statistics more than 50 years ago.” ⁴(Attachment 1) Despite major criminal justice reforms, statewide property crime fell 32% and violent crime rate declined 29 percent since 2000. Between 2019 and 2020, the state’s Part 1 offense rate declined 7% from 2,737.3 offenses per 100,000 population in 2019 to 2,551.5 in 2020. However, locally Santa Barbara County’s Part 1 offense rate increased 21% over the same time period from 1954.6 offenses per 100,000 population in 2019 to 2,359.9 in 2020.

Juvenile arrests (by number of youth) are declining both at the county and state level over the last decade (Figure 2 and 3) with the county’s total juvenile arrests declining at a greater rate than that of the state between 2019 and 2020-50% vs. 41% respectively.

Although total arrests have declined between 2019 and 2020 at both the county and state level, felony offenses make up a greater proportion of total arrests-increasing from 27 to 31% of total arrests at the county level and 42 to 49% at the state level.

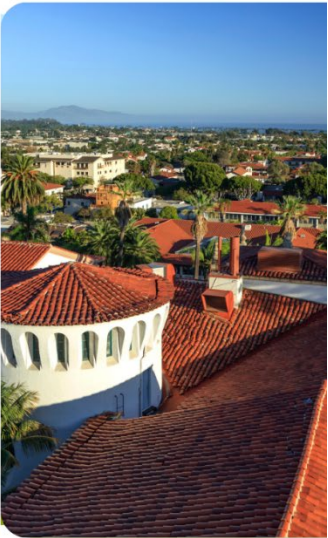
Figure 1

		
Arrests trends from 2019 to 2020	Locally , the overall number of juvenile misdemeanor and felony arrests <i>decreased</i> 50% from 2019 to 2020. Misdemeanor arrests declined 53% and felony arrests by 41%.	Statewide , the overall number of juvenile misdemeanor and felony arrests <i>decreased</i> 41% from 2019 to 2020. Misdemeanor arrests declined 48% and felony arrests by 30%.
Violent	45% of felony arrests locally were for violent offenses (down from 46% in 2019).	Statewide, 42% of felony arrests were for violent offenses (down from 44% in 2019).
Property	31% of felony arrests locally were for property offenses (up from 21% in 2019).	26% of felony arrests statewide were for property offenses (up from 25% in 2019).
Drug	4% of felony arrests locally were for drug offenses (down from 5% in 2019).	3% of felony arrests statewide were for drug offenses (same as year prior).
Sex	0.6% of felony arrests locally were for sex offenses (down from 3.4% in 2019).	3% of felony arrests statewide were for sex offenses (same as year prior).
All Other	20% of felony arrests locally were for all other offenses (down from 25% in 2019).	27% of felony arrests statewide were for all other offenses (up from 26% in 2019).

⁴ http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/ca_crime_rate_falls_to_record_low_in_2020.pdf



Santa Barbara County total juvenile arrests declined 50% between 2019 and 2020 as compared to 41% statewide. The percentage of felony arrests for violent crimes⁵ decreased from 46% to 45% locally and from 44% to 42% statewide. The percentage of juvenile felony arrests for property crimes-such as burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft increased from 21 to 31% locally and 25% to 26% statewide. Felony arrests related to the sale of controlled substances declined locally from 5% in 2019 to 4% in 2020 while remaining at 3% statewide. Of the 31% of felony arrests locally in 2020, less than 1% were sex offenses, down from 10 felony sex offenses in 2019 to 1 in 2020. Statewide, juvenile arrests for sex offenses remained at 3%. Finally, all other offenses-such as simple assault, loitering, disorderly conduct, or driving under the influence decreased at the local level from 25% of all juvenile felony arrests in 2019 to 20% in 2020 and increased from 26% to 27% at the state level over the same time. See Figure 1 for a summary of arrest trends.



⁵ Violent crimes are crimes committed against people including homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

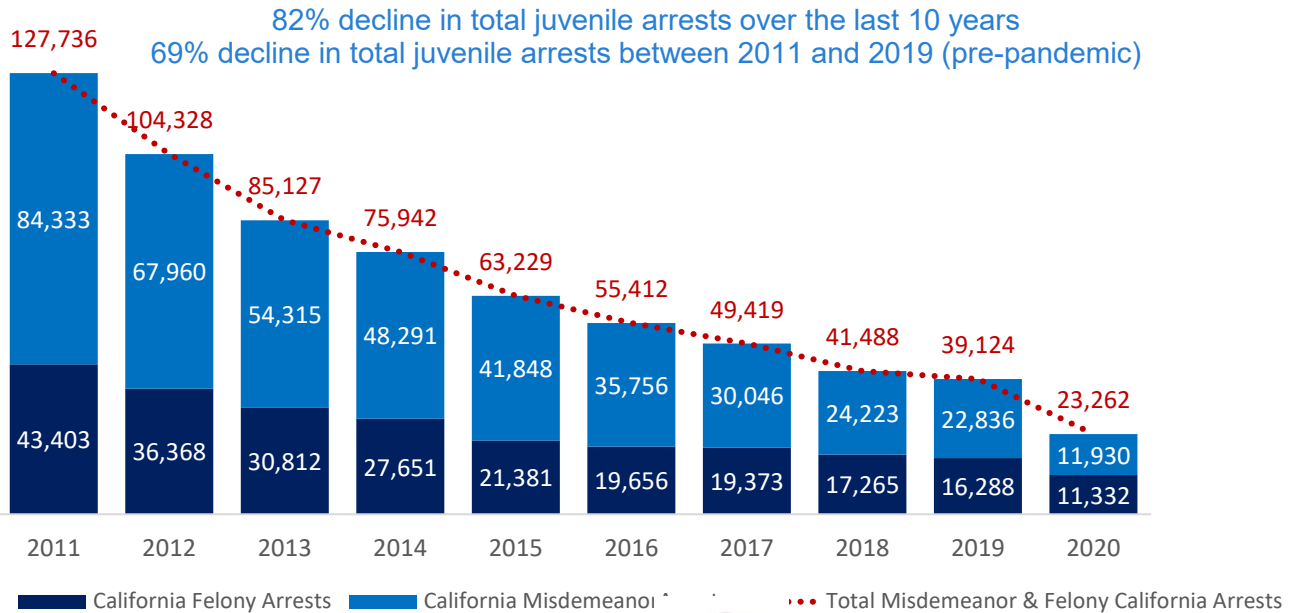


Juvenile Crime

California Total Arrests

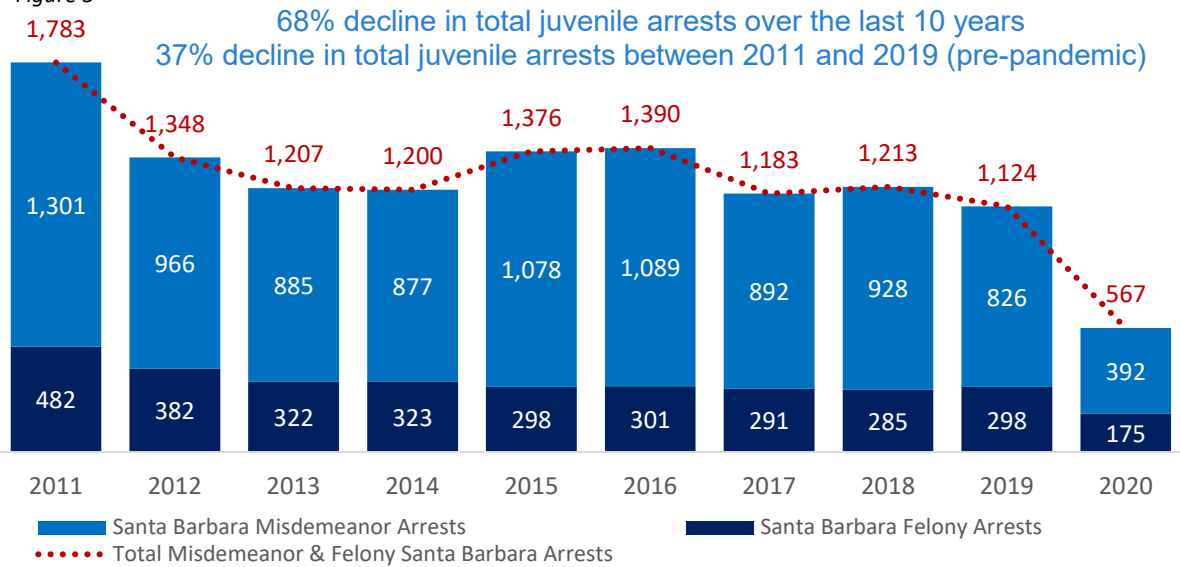


Figure 2



Santa Barbara County Total Arrests

Figure 3











II. Demographics

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, the County of Santa Barbara has a total population of 444,829 people with 22%, or 99,184, under the age of 18. The County is diverse not only in its geography but also in the profile and needs within each of its communities. Nearly, 81% of the Santa Barbara County population over the age of 25 is a high school graduate or higher. Figure 4 displays how the County as a whole compares with the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Lompoc. Differences between the cities and the County are also evident when comparing the profile of those foreign born; language other than English spoken at home, as well as various economic characteristics. The 2019 median income of the County was just over \$74,000. Figure 4 also displays the percentage of households below that median as well as the households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or food stamps, as well as the percentage of people below the federal poverty level, or \$25,750 per year for a family of four in 2019.

Figure 4

	County of Santa Barbara	City of Santa Barbara	City of Santa Maria	City of Lompoc
 Population (age 25+) high school graduate or higher	80.9%	85.9%	60.2%	76.3%
 Foreign Born	23.0%	22.2%	34.9%	24.4%
 Language other than English spoken at home	40.3%	34.6%	65.6%	43.3%
 % of households below County median income of \$74,624	-	49.0%	59.0%	63.8%
 % of households receiving food stamp/SNAP benefits in past 12 months	8.0%	5.3%	13.5%	19.1%
 % of people whose income in last 12 months is below poverty level ~\$25,750 per year for a family of four	13.5%	12.5%	14.5%	17.3%

Source: 2019 American Community Survey



Figure 5

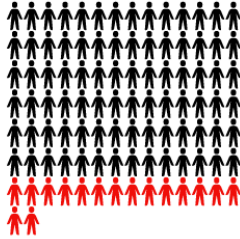
Demographics of the Supervised Population

Snapshot on October 1, 2021

84%

Male

Probation youth are predominantly male. In comparison, males represent 50% of the overall youth population in the County.



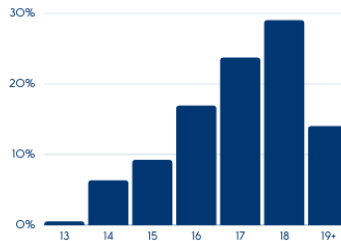
Hispanic

87% of supervised Probation youth are Hispanic. In comparison 62% of youth age 10-17 in the County overall are Hispanic.



Between 16 and 18 Years Old

The majority of Probation youth are between 16 and 18 years of age.



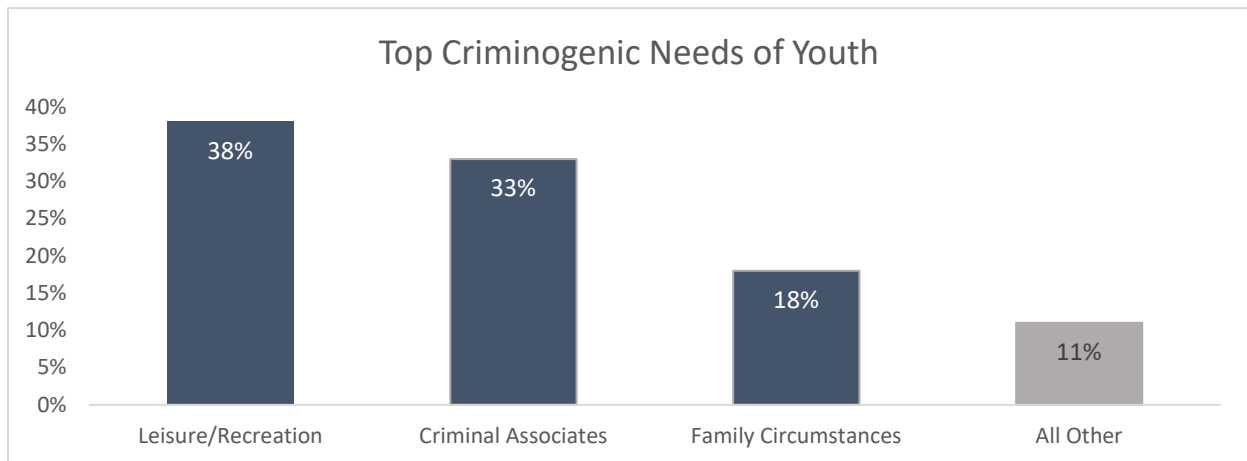
Supervised Population Trends

In Santa Barbara County, the supervised population is primarily male (84%), between 16 and 18 years of age and Hispanic (87%) (Figure 5). Hispanic youth are represented at a higher percentage in the juvenile justice system than in the County youth population overall.

Youth under supervision of the Probation Department are assessed with a comprehensive evidence-based tool, the Positive Achievement change Tool or PACT, to assist in individualizing the approach with each youth. The PACT allows the Department to identify the youth's risk to re-offend and criminogenic needs. With this information, officers tailor interventions and responses to each youth and family.

A March 9, 2022 snapshot (see Figure 6) reveals the top needs⁶ of assessed youth as 1) Leisure & Recreation (38%) 2) Criminal Associates (33%) and 3) Family Circumstances (18%). The juvenile supervision caseloads are designed to allow officers to have sufficient time and resources to be proactive in their case management of those youth that pose the

Figure 6



⁶ Data for assessments completed between 7/1/2021 and 3/9/2022. Data displays the frequency that different need areas are selected as the top need for all youth in the system. Data includes the most recent completed assessment for each youth, only indicates need areas. This is a point in time report, as new assessments are performed, this data will change.

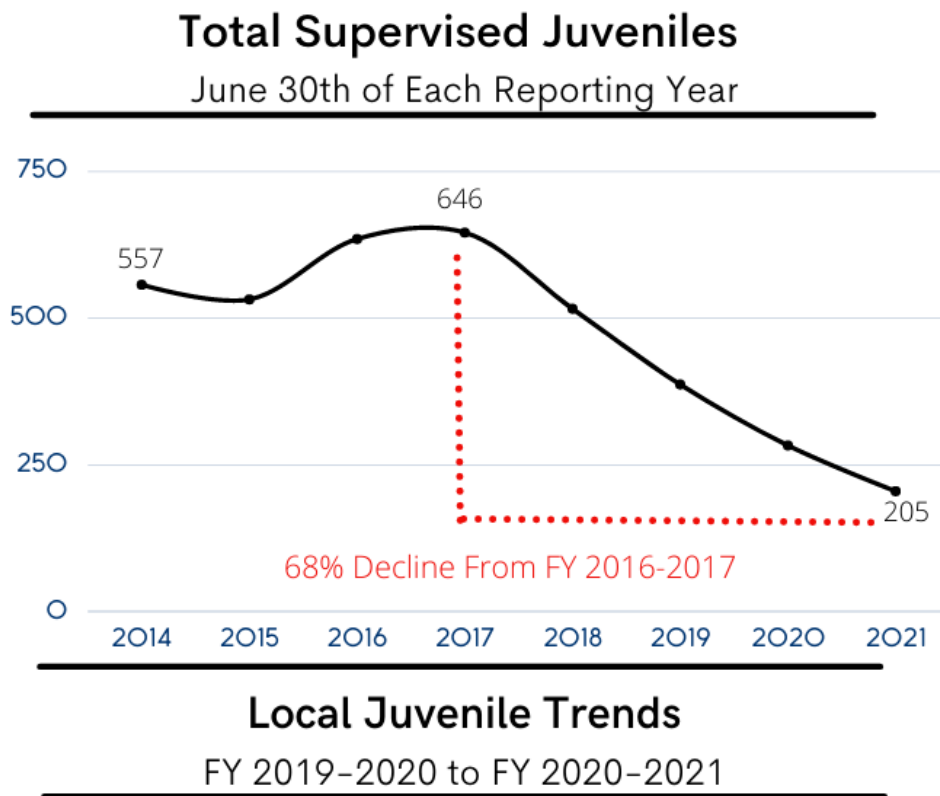


greatest degree of risk to the community and have the highest need.

In the last fiscal year, the Department experienced a 70% decrease in misdemeanor referrals and a 47% decrease in felony referrals. Of the total number of youth supervised on June 30, 2021, 11% were on some type of non-ward diversionary supervision (654, 654.2, 725(a), 725(b), 790 WIC). However, this does not include what is often referred to as “true diversion” or pre-adjudication diversion such as the YES, program implemented in 2020 in partnership with CADA. This is a direct diversion by referral from law enforcement, schools, and Probation for youth with specific low-level offenses and education code violations. As of December 2021, 311 youth had been referred to the program.

Overall, the number of juveniles supervised by the Santa Barbara County Probation Department has decreased 28% from the previous fiscal year and 68% since its peak in FY 2016-2017 (Figure 7). As of March 2022, the number of juveniles supervised by the Probation Department had decreased to 194 youth. Approximately 75% of youth are supervised on a high-risk caseload.

Figure 7



- Supervised juveniles decreased 28%
- 70% decrease in misdemeanor referrals
- 47% Decrease in felony referrals
- 35% decrease in supervised 602 misdemeanants—an 82% decrease from FY 2016-2017
- 11% of youth on some type of non-ward supervision (654, 654.2, 725(a),790)



ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SERVICES

I. Youth Service Gaps

The CMJJP annually identifies areas where gaps exist in the local juvenile justice system as well as any challenges that can impede progress toward goals and objectives, and in carrying out the operations of the local juvenile justice system locally. Ongoing service gaps have been identified in the following areas:

- Countywide violence prevention programs and interventions which are culturally responsive; data indicates a disproportionate number of youth of color who are justice-involved and have some level of gang involvement
- Mental health treatment for youth prior to juvenile justice involvement
- Substance abuse treatment options, on a continuum from community intervention to inpatient treatment
- Intervention and treatment for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and those at risk of CSEC, as well as gender-responsive interventions for these youth
- Community-based, pre-juvenile-justice prevention services and interventions for youth
- Limited voice of “lived experience” involved in service provisions to youth and families.

Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion (REEI)

Santa Barbara County seeks to improve its outcomes in the area of racial and ethnic equality in child-serving systems, including juvenile justice. This includes the assessment of local services to determine where disparities exist. Probation has shared REEI data with the JJCC, the Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) cohort, and community partners via the JJCC WG. Probation staff are also participating in REEI training regularly to support their awareness and opportunities to address disparities.

Relative Rate Index

Areas of data examined to assess where disparities exist within the juvenile justice system include the calculation of a Relative Rate Index or RRI. The RRI is an established framework and used by a variety of agencies including the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to measure over or under representation at specific decision points within a system.

Figure 8

		RRI Youth of Color FY 2019/2020			
Decision Point	Decision Maker	White Youth Population (age 10-17)	Youth of Color Population (age 10-17)	RRI	What Would Equity Look Like
Referrals	Law Enforcement	14,111	29,678	2.6 times MORE likely to be referred	353 youths
Juvenile Hall Bookings	Law Enforcement & Probation	14,111	29,678	2.4 times MORE likely to be booked into SMJH	108 youths
In-Custody Holds for Detention Hearings	District Attorney & Court & Probation	14,111	29,678	EQUALLY likely to be held at SMJH for a detention hearing	89 youths
Cases Petitioned (Charges Filed)	District Attorney	14,111	29,678	1.7 times MORE likely to have a petition filed	173 youths
Petitions Sustained	District Attorney & Court	14,111	29,678	1.4 times MORE likely to have a petition sustained	163 youths
Secure Detention	Court	14,111	29,678	1.5 times MORE likely to be committed to detention	50 youths



The RRI calculates the rate of youth at various decision points in the justice system -- based either on the total population of that group in the county *or* the population of that group actually at risk of experiencing a particular event⁷. The RRI also reveals how disparities accumulate as youth move further into the system⁸.

A value of 1 indicates that the race or ethnic group is represented at the same rate as Whites. Values greater than 1 indicate a greater representation than Whites and values less than 1 indicate representation less than Whites.

For a racial group to be included in the rate calculation they must account for at least 1% of the county's total population. At the time of the analysis, Black and Hispanic youth represented 63% of Santa Barbara County's total youth population.

As seen in Figure 8, the data indicate the point of referral contributed the most to the overall disparity between youth of color and White youth in the juvenile justice system in FY 2019-2020. Referral is the first point of entry into the juvenile justice system that and is where a youth has been cited by a law enforcement agency and referred to Probation. Additionally, in comparison to White youth, youth of color were more likely to be booked, charged, found guilty- known as a sustained petition- and committed to secure detention.

To help conceptualize the data, Figure 8 also displays what equity would look like at each decision point if youth of color were represented at a similar rate to White youth.

II. Current Service Challenges

Through the efforts of county and community agencies, gaps in services have been addressed and mitigated by implementation of specific services. However, our youth continue to experience challenges, which require further assessment and evaluation:

- **COVID-19:** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the ability of public and private agencies to effectively deliver services and provide programming because of health concerns and attendant government restrictions. Even as restrictions have lifted to some degree, there are lasting impacts from COVID-19, many of which are not fully known yet, that relate to noted challenges in social engagement, increased mental health concerns, and continued challenges in engagement, whether virtual or in person.

⁷ At the first decision point-the point of referral-the population used as the denominator is the total population of each group in the county because the opportunity of entering the justice system exists for all youth. However, while using general population - makes sense when assessing for disparity at the first point of entry (e.g. referral) it's not as useful and can actually mask disparities when examining points deeper in the justice system because doing so would include a large number of individuals who never entered the system and therefore don't have the same opportunity for the next event. Using general population for all decision points after referral results in adding together the disparities present from all prior decisions making it difficult to determine at which points disparities exist in order to target them for intervention. As such, for all decision points after referral, the denominator used is the number of youth at risk of experiencing a particular event (e.g. for youth booked, the denominator used is referred into the system because a youth cannot be booked into the JJC unless first referred).

⁸ There are a variety of interrelated factors that influence racial inequities in the criminal justice system. The RRI does not consider other factors that may influence the likelihood of criminal justice involvement, such as the severity of offense, prior offense history, or socioeconomic status.



- **Information Sharing:** The ability of agencies and organizations to move information easily between parties to a youth’s case is often limited by Federal and State laws that control the circumstances under which confidential information can be shared. Local efforts continue to explore ways to create opportunities to make information sharing less complicated and reliant on releases while remaining consistent with controlling laws.
- **Engagement and Retention in Programming:** Engagement in programming continues to be a challenge, even as some COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Youth and families have been affected in ways still being investigated and evaluated that has affected social interaction. Further, as Probation continues to supervise only the highest of risk youth, they present with significant barriers that impact often negatively impact engagement and retention.

III. Existing Community Resources

Many public and private agencies and organizations throughout the County provide both direct and indirect interventions that seek to positively impact youth involved in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. All areas of the County benefit from such programs. Probation has formal agreements with providers for family therapy, evidence-based individual and group counseling to promote coping skills in the face of trauma, mentoring, and interventions for Probation-supervised youth. Most of these programs are also provided in our juvenile facilities.

Probation utilizes diversionary programs whenever possible, including formal agreements with the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) to provide community-based diversion interventions through the grant-funded Youth Reinvestment Grant - Youth Empowerment Services program (reference page 22 for additional detail), and legally required cannabis education classes for youth cited for marijuana possession through Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley.

Youth may also be referred to various community-based programs outside of any agreement with Probation. Some of these providers offer interventions that support academic achievement, vocational skill development and employment preparedness, counseling that addresses trauma and abuse, substance abuse interventions, and support activities. Some agencies that provide these services include the State Department of Rehabilitation, Goodwill Industries, Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM), Daniel Bryant Youth and Family Center, Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center, Cal-SOAP (tutoring), and Santa Barbara Mental Wellness Center.

Additionally, local school districts support their student population and families in a variety of ways, both in terms of academics and engagement. For example, Santa Barbara Unified has an after-school program and conducts youth outreach activities. The district also has a triage system for determining mental health needs. In addition, the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) program is a partnership between the Santa Barbara County Education Office and Behavioral Wellness (BeWell), to collaborate with school districts throughout the county under a four year grant funded program that began in 2020. The partnership is piloting first in the North county, with plans to expand to other districts throughout the county. YouthWell, a mental health linkage resource working with BWell, is a partner in this endeavor to connect mental health services from referred youth at identified schools, while supporting outreach, engagement, education and support for both youth and parents as they access mental health services.



The Community Engagement Team of the South Coast Youth Safety Partnership (SCYSP) seeks to meet the needs of youth and families through collaboration and partnering across various disciplines and service areas. The group meets regularly and identifies avenues to helping youth and families overcome barriers and achieve success. Probation is represented on this team as well as in the broader Partnership. In addition, YouthWell provides linkage to mental health services outside of the MHSSA for both youth and parents, as well as workshops that focus on mental health. They also provide a place for providers to come together to share resources and Probation collaborates with this program as well.

In Lompoc, in addition to some of the services available in other regions, CADA has been awarded a Federal grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to operate the Lompoc Youth Resiliency Project, a school based initiative to work with youth exposed to gang violence who attend three (3) elementary and middle schools located in areas with increased gang activity.

In addition, the Lompoc Unified School District created the Lompoc Youth Violence Prevention Project in the first part of 2021 as part of another federal grant that went to effect October 1, 2019. This effort seeks to address disruptive on campus behaviors that impact student achievement and safety. The Coalition is currently meeting monthly and receiving technical assistance from the New Jersey non-profit organization Community Based Public Safety Collective which has shown success in addressing school violence. It also regularly seeks community input and is continually working to expand counseling services on campuses. Behavioral Wellness also established “Your Home” in Lompoc to address opioid addiction in transitional age youth.

BeWell offers a number of programs throughout the county, including services for transitional age youth, prevention services, children’s mobile crisis services, and school-based mental health programs. In addition, they offer resiliency services for youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Their network of licensed mental health professionals provides short-term outpatient individual, family and group therapy for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with specialty mental health needs. They additionally provide JJCPA and YOBG-funded services for justice-involved youth, outlined later in this Plan. The CalAim Initiative increases the opportunity for access for youth to services through BeWell. Under this initiative, many barriers to services have been reduced; youth are no longer required to have a mental health diagnosis before they can be treated, and BeWell is able to provide services while an assessment and treatment plan are being completed.

Social Services/Child Welfare offers prevention and intervention programs and assistance to families, including food and cash aid, job services, and health coverage. They administer child welfare services countywide, including adoptions, resource families, foster care placement, Independent Living Skills (ILP), and community networks such as Kids Network to improve communication among child-serving agencies. In 2021, Probation began working with Child Welfare Services to create the next five-year System Improvement Plan (SIP) for youth in foster care, looking to improve outcomes through a peer review process, stakeholders’ meetings, focus groups, and adding identified supports for youth in foster care.

Santa Barbara County uses JJCPA funding for four (4) strategic priorities: Probation supervision resources; behavioral health assessments; diversion; and community-based treatment interventions.



Probation officers in all area offices provide strength-based risk-needs-responsivity interventions and case management to approximately 150 youth identified as high or medium risk for reoffending. Probation uses data of youth on supervision to allocate staff and program resources to areas of the County noted to be more impacted by juvenile crime.

Behavioral health clinicians conduct comprehensive assessments that identify the needs and assets of clients to inform case planning and referrals. Community-based interventions are carried out by contracted private organizations providing a wide range of evidence-based services. These include diversion away from the juvenile justice system, as well as individual/group targeted interventions to respond to youth behaviors and address risk/needs factors.

YOBG funding additionally supports: risk and needs assessment; intensive community supervision; community-based services, including mentoring, marijuana education classes, and targeted intervention programs; the collection and analysis of data related to youth outcomes and program performance; and behavioral supports to youth in custody. Together, JJCPA and YOBG allow the County to provide a continuum of services and supports for youth and families countywide.

IV. Amplifying Youth & Family Voice

In an effort to incorporate input from stakeholders, a Youth Voice survey was provided in September 2021 to 44 youth that were currently or had recently been in custody at JJC. In addition, feedback from parents was collected through the administration of a Family Voice survey, which received a total of 15 responses. Both surveys were available in English and Spanish and provided for electronic submission or handwritten responses. Responses varied widely to the Youth Voice survey, suggesting that youth have unique needs and preferences and a range of programming options would be most beneficial. The survey solicited feedback in a variety of areas such as preferred programs and services, outdoor activities, daily scheduling, support from Probation, and improvements to counseling rooms and common spaces. Similarly, responses on the Parent Survey varied but a few main themes emerged including interest in increased communication between parents and Probation staff, need for additional resources and support to parents, and their desire that youth have access to sports and religious supports.

Community Voice

In addition to the surveys, the Probation Department sought feedback from the larger community at two (2) virtually held public events. Public input was received at an event hosted by the KIDS Network on September 1, 2021, and a Virtual Listening Community Forum hosted by Probation staff on September 24, 2021. Both events drew a total of 84 attendees who shared their thoughts on how best to support youth in secure custody. Common themes that emerged included the need to develop staff to build relationships with youth that are positive and supportive, increase officer awareness of racial disparities and injustices, foster a safe and uplifting environment, and provide programming that is varied and evidence-based. Input also highlighted the importance of recognizing family members as partners, incorporating data and research opportunities that could aid in the Probation Department's understanding of the larger picture of supporting youth from an early age while keeping in mind the root causes of crime, and creating a more effective continuum of care for youth by increasing



connections with community groups. Additional feedback emphasized the need to build stronger partnerships with community groups, need for increased training for staff, providing support to families while their children are housed in the facility for long term commitments, including multi-family group therapy, and the importance of involvement of formerly justice-involved individuals that have experience in the juvenile justice system. The Probation Department has utilized this feedback to inform design and available programming and will continue to make modifications and process and program enhancements.

In early 2022, the Probation Department sent a survey to stakeholders including members of JJCC, the JJCC Workgroup, the Kids' Network, First 5, the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission, and the South Coast Partnership on Youth Safety. The survey included the questions on priority focus areas, gaps in services for youth and families, resources and partnerships to address service gaps, to identify what is currently working well for youth and families, and offered an option to share additional perspectives. In terms of priority focus areas, decreased recidivism, gang intervention programming, an interconnected module with youth, families, and the greater community, restorative justice, positive youth and family experiences, and increased diversion options were selected. Twenty-eight responses were received. In response to gaps in services, in-home counseling supports, increased educational resources to include tutoring and mentoring, improved trauma informed approaches, and additional mental health supports were identified. To address these gaps, respondents highlighted the need for preventative measures to be put into place in elementary schools, stronger re-entry connections for high school aged youth, and additional linkage and support for youth enrollment and education through community colleges and trade schools. In terms of highlighting what is currently working well, youth and families working together through mentoring, counseling, and support for increased structure at home, general collaboration, and job training opportunities were selected. Lastly additional perspective was shared, again highlighting the need for prevention interventions in elementary schools, Adverse Childhood Experiences Screenings (ACES) for all youth on probation, and the importance of mentoring were highlighted. This feedback is incorporated into the goals listed (see page 5-8).

IDENTIFYING & PRIORITIZING FOCUS AREAS

Santa Barbara County's goals and objectives were developed based upon the current population and needs of youth in the county, and reviewed by the JJCC Workgroup and the JJCC. The goals underpinning the County's juvenile justice framework have remained dynamic to address changing landscapes, and serve to highlight the importance of a strong foundation of assessment, data-driven decision making, individualized case planning, collaboration, community and family engagement, and a range of services to provide a wide variety of responses to youth behaviors. The RJJ cohort (whose work is described in more detail later in this document) was instrumental in identifying gaps in services throughout the County in late 2019, as well as strategic and inter-agency collaborative opportunities to enhance youth-focused services. Work on the RJJ initiative was slowed or halted by the coronavirus pandemic while resources were diverted to more urgent issues; several RJJ-related objectives were carried over to 2020, and still remain appropriate focus areas.



JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGIES

Risk and Needs Assessment Tool

Standardized risk and needs assessments provide structure and consistency to the decision-making process and allow the juvenile justice system to focus on higher-risk youth. The Probation Department has incorporated the PACT into its operations. The use of a risk and needs assessment, such as the PACT, is one (1) of the eight (8) evidence-based practices that together have been shown to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. The tool identifies criminogenic needs—those needs that research has shown are associated with criminal behavior, but which a person can change—that should be targeted with appropriate interventions to reduce further offending. A March 9, 2022 snapshot (see figure 6) reveals the top three (3) criminogenic needs identified by the PACT are: (1) leisure/recreation (38%), (2) criminal associates (33%) and (3) family circumstances (18%). By assessing and targeting these needs, we can reduce the probability of recidivism.



Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model

This model guides decision-making about supervision level and treatment interventions based on a youth’s assessed likelihood for reoffending (risk), their identified highest criminogenic factors (need), and matching youth with the most appropriate interventions based on their characteristics and learning style (responsivity). Probation continues to provide ongoing training and support for officers to determine the appropriate dosage of evidence based programming while encouraging identified supports to provide for effective case planning and referrals for interventions created with the youth and family.

Evidence-Based Interventions

The use of interventions proven to be effective with juveniles are prioritized to achieve the greatest benefit with youth. This includes working with providers to support delivery of curriculum to ensure programs are provided in accordance with the research-based models. In FY 2020-2021, the Probation Department implemented various monitoring efforts including self, peer and onsite assessments of a program session completed either by an individual within the organization providing the service, a peer organization delivering the same program or Probation Department staff. The assessments rate various aspects of the sessions, in addition to allowing for open-ended comments to the session facilitator(s). Additionally, beginning in FY 2020-2021, local providers were asked to provide quarterly data on performance measures related to those services including pre- and post-surveys administered to youth to assess changes in thought patterns before and after a program or intervention was delivered. In FY 2021-2022, Probation continued to administer fidelity assessments to ensure services are in keeping with the evidence-based models on which they are based, providing feedback to providers to allow for immediate adjustments to programming to improve fidelity and to highlight areas of success.



Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) Strategic Initiatives

In 2019, system partners participated in the RJJ initiative in a multi-session format spanning several months. This initiative, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) and delivered by School and Main Institute (SMI), provided an opportunity for Probation to bring together professionals from a broad cross-section of child serving agencies, including law enforcement and community partners. This cohort considered current research on adolescent brain science, positive youth development, racial and ethnic equity and inclusion, and the power of collaborative efforts to serve youth. Ultimately, the objective was for the cohort to recommend new strategies for delivering juvenile justice programs and interventions locally through formal collaboration and partnerships.

Through reflection and analysis activities, guided discussions, a youth panel, and other exercises led by Probation, the cohort of participants from public and private organizations collaborated on identifying strategies and goals focused on improving the local juvenile justice system and youth involvement in it. Key focus areas of the initiative include:

- The need for youth voice in all aspects of the work performed by child-serving agencies with the idea that a youth in the system is a partner in achieving positive change and is not simply the subject of interventions.
- The importance of cultural competence and responsiveness, and concerted efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities in all child-serving agencies and systems.
- The benefit of increased information sharing between agencies and the removal of barriers to access the important information about a youth for those working to meet the youth's and family's needs.
- An emphasis on family engagement and providing more resources to families before they become system-involved.
- Cross-systems and multi-agency collaboration as a way to share information and resources, eliminate silos, and merge duplicative efforts throughout the county.

In December 2019, the RJJ cohort presented over 30 specific strategies and recommendations to the JJCC in the key focus areas. The JJCC prioritized these strategies and referred them to the JJCC workgroup, which further outlined which initiatives could be implemented immediately, and a timeline for the remaining strategies. Several strategies appeared as objectives in both the previous and the current CMJJP.

Diversion

The BSCC awarded the Probation Department a Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) to undertake a reform-minded approach to addressing the needs of youth involved in the local juvenile justice system. Youth Empowerment Services (YES) is a multiyear initiative to support community-based programming and services through a local private organization (CADA) for youth contacted by law enforcement for minor offenses. Key elements of the YRG program include:

- Minimal involvement with justice-involved youth and the juvenile justice system, to decrease the likelihood that a youth will be drawn deeper into the system.
- Referrals for diversion services will go directly from law enforcement agencies, schools, and Probation to the provider, and will be handled outside of the juvenile justice system entirely, without Probation intervention. As of December 2021, 110 youth have successfully completed the program.



Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

Santa Barbara County has a local task force to address human trafficking through education, enforcement, interventions, and programs and services that strive to meet the unique needs of survivors. The Juvenile Court also holds a special calendar for youth victimized through trafficking. This includes collaborative multidisciplinary discussions about cases before the Court. Further, Probation staff receive annual training to aide in assisting survivors they may supervise, including a training provided by the task force to all Juvenile Field Officers in 2021. All youth who enter the JJC are screened for CSEC risk factors, and all youth going through intake and investigation outside of the JJC will also be screened as we work to implement an appropriate screener for these youth.

Marijuana Education & Cessation Classes

The Probation Department partners with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley to provide education classes and community service work opportunities for youth cited for the possession of marijuana, as required by law. The classes include an evidence-based curriculum designed for youth and modules for initial and subsequent referrals. As of December 2021, 29 youth successfully completed the program.



Targeted Interventions/Alternative Sanctions

The Probation Department is also partnering with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley to provide interventions to youth on probation who are in violation of their probation grant for minor reasons and do not require a formal response. Programming addresses goals and objectives set forth in youth case plans, provides targeted interventions and alternative sanctions in the community setting, incentives for meeting goals, and encourages prosocial involvement in school, family, employment, and other life domains.

South Coast Youth Safety Partnership (SCYSP)

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department is a member of the SCYSP, its Strategy Team, and its Community Engagement Team. The Probation Department works in tandem with the Partnership to advance community safety and collaborates on several goals within the SCYSP strategic plan, including:

- Coordination of youth reentry strategies, particularly as youth transition from camp to the community
- Strengthening educational and job readiness programs for young adults, juvenile detainees, and probation camp youth
- Data sharing with the SCYSP



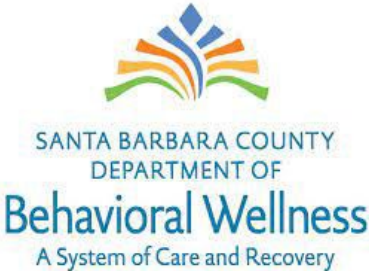


FUNDED PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Department of Behavioral Wellness - Assessment & Aftercare

Two (2) mental health practitioners provide services for youth and families based on referrals from Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) for youth pending adjudication with the Court, under supervision, or in the institutions and entering the reentry phase. Many of these services are funded both through JJCPA and YOBG. Clinical activities include the following:

- **Assessments:** Practitioners conduct Brief Mental Health Assessments and JJCPA Service Needs Assessments. As the name implies, the former is a brief assessment that generally entails a file review and clinical interview of the youth; this is more suitable for youth who present with mild behavioral health difficulties. The later form of assessment is more in-depth and reserved for youth who have not previously been assessed or treated or whom appear to experience a greater degree of symptoms and impairment. The practitioners provide reports of these assessments to the referring DPOs. In addition, youth will be assessed to determine medical necessity and suitability for treatment at BeWell clinics or through community providers.
- **Engagement and Linkage:** Since justice-involved youth tend to not perceive themselves as experiencing behavioral health problems, they are less likely to pursue treatment on their own. It is often necessary to engage them in a gradual, non-threatening manner to help them identify problems and understand how they might benefit from treatment. Practitioners achieve this in institutional settings, where they get can develop a rapport and a level of trust, and this is conducive to linkage activities with the youth post-release. They work closely with the youth, their families, their BeWell clinic counterparts and community service providers to facilitate follow-through on treatment referrals.
- **Treatment:** Practitioners provide short-term treatment, sometimes starting when the youth are still at the JJC and Camp to provide a bridge until the youth can connect with a longer-term care provider in a BeWell clinic or other community program. For some youth, the short-term treatment is sufficient but others will require longer-term treatment, which can include individual and/or family psychotherapy. They may also provide this short-term treatment and linkage to youth under supervision in the community.
- **Child and Family Teams (CFT):** Practitioners are invited to attend CFT meetings to participate in the discussions about treatment goals and objectives. Practitioners complete the Child Adolescent Needs Survey (CANS) and may use this tool to assist the youth, family and Probation officers in charting a course of treatment, as well as offering guidance about the presumptive transfer of specialty mental health services (SMHS) for youth in foster care.





Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Community Supervision Model

Following the deployment of an RNR model in FY 2019-2020, supervision caseloads were restructured to incorporate a differentiated approach as informed by the new risk and needs instrument. Resources are now concentrated on the youth that present with the highest need and risk to reoffend, with a smaller ratio of officer to youth for those caseloads. Additionally, youth presenting as a low- or medium-risk/need are assigned to less intensive supervision, with a focus on the utilization of diversion, addressing unmet needs, and an increased reliance on one-time intervention referrals and/or sanctions.

RNR principles are significantly amplified by practitioners skilled in techniques proven to influence youth to change behavior. MI is an evidence-based program designed to enhance intrinsic motivation. To realize the full benefit of MI, the Probation Department has committed to a program that incorporates and emphasizes the consistent use of MI techniques through adequate officer training, fidelity, and quality assurance.

Evidence-Based Treatment Interventions

Since 2018, a number of evidence-based treatment interventions have been implemented. These interventions either have demonstrated outcomes in reducing risk factors and addressing criminogenic needs, or they will be evaluated using performance measures to determine how effective they are with local youth:

- **Family Focused Interventions** such as Strengthening Families, Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and Family Behavioral Therapy, which have been found to reduce depression, increase parents' "satisfaction" with adolescents, reduce adult alcohol use, and reduce illicit drug use for both adolescents and adults, will be provided. Both are funded through JJCPA.
- **Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment (CBT) Programs** for teaching the cognitive skills, social skills and values such as "Seeking Safety", an intervention for youth with a history of trauma and substance abuse. The program is designed to help youth improve posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, interpersonal skills and coping strategies, and is funded through JJCPA.
- **El Joven Noble**, a trauma-informed culturally sensitive program that aids in comprehensive character development that supports and guides youth through their "rites of passage" process while focusing on violence prevention and intervention. This intervention is funded through YOBG.
- **Mentoring, also funded through YOBG**, is for high-risk youth through a community-based organization to provide support and increase resiliency has demonstrated a positive effect in the reduction of alcohol and drug use, academic failure, teenage pregnancy, and gang violence.
- **Youth Support Funds through YOBG are used** for additional educational or vocational needs and to incentive reaching case plan milestones. Youth returning to the community from DJJ receive priority for these resources.
- **Sex Offender Treatment** to provide outpatient treatment for those youth assessed as appropriate to remain in or returning to their homes and under community supervision. YOBG supports some of these programs.
- **Marijuana Education Classes** for youth identified as habitual users of marijuana, or who require additional education for diversion, and is funded by YOBG.
- **Alternative Sanctions/Targeted Interventions** for youth to provide evidence-based, risk-level-appropriate interventions for youth on probation, and is also funded by YOBG.



Program Evaluation and Analysis

As part of the ongoing work to create and support evidence-based programming, Probation has developed individualized program performance measures for providers, which are tailored to the program’s stated objectives and desired outcomes for youth. In some cases, with new and promising programs, measures are developed in partnership with the provider to ensure measurement of key aspects of the program. A Department Business Specialist (DBS) monitors these measures and conducts fidelity checks to ensure programs and services are delivered according to the program guidelines.

Diversion

YES, a Youth Reinvestment Grant-funded opportunity in partnership with the CADA, ensures low-level youthful offenders are given appropriate cognitive change classes and services, in order to prevent further involvement with juvenile justice. The JJCPA provides the required matching funds for this grant. YES program evaluation is being conducted under contract with University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).

Institutions Behavioral Aid

Youth detained at the JJC often struggle with a variety of challenges, including separation from the stability of their friends and family, school, and mental health issues. Behavioral Aids can assist these youth by spending quality time with them, engaging them in positive, pro-social activities and games, and working with staff to address any case goals or objectives for their treatment.

Whole Youth Project (WYP)

In 2020, the Probation Department launched WYP, a two-year initiative in partnership with Ceres Research Policy designed to help agencies collect data on every young person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression and help departments more effectively affirm young people’s many identities. Additional technical assistance will be provided around the development of anti-discrimination and data sharing policies, analyzing compiled information to develop data-driven plans to improve services, community outreach, and coaching to develop a continuum of care that affirms lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming and transgender (LGBQ/GNCT) youth. In 2021-22, identified staff will participate in a training for trainers program to forward this initiative to include training for all staff in the Juvenile and Institutions Divisions.



Youth Support Funds

A portion of YOBS funds are set aside to meet a variety of needs for youth who are transitioning from a custody environment to the community setting, or who may need support in achieving a prosocial goal (such as school activities, clothing for sports activities, etc.) or maintaining stability (such as bedding, clothing, and certain housing costs). Funds target needs that are not readily supported through other programs, are generally short-term, and which are consistent with case plan goals.



ON THE HORIZON

Reentry Navigator

The Reentry Navigator will provide culturally competent case management and related recovery and re-entry services for detained and/or previously detained youth in Santa Barbara County. Case management services will address and target criminogenic needs in a manner that is both flexible and customizable, based upon individual risk, responsivity, and programmatic needs and provides skills to enable youth to react more appropriately to situations that trigger their criminal behavior. Criminogenic risk factors are defined as characteristics, traits, problems, or issues of an individual that directly relate to the individual's likelihood to reoffend (commit another crime), including the following: Understanding Criminogenic Responsivity; Social Values; Responsible Thinking; Self-Control; Peer Relationships; Family Ties; Substance Abuse; Seeking Employment; Leisure/Recreation.

The Reentry Navigator will support and guide youth through the reentry process, celebrating achievements, promoting goal-setting and leadership development, taking strategic steps that empower them with a hopeful view of their future. At graduation from the program, clients will have increased mentorship, job skills, socio-emotional improvement, and a stronger sense of belonging. Participants will gain the necessary skills, confidence, and direction to overcome life's obstacles, and thrive in our local Santa Barbara County community.

Restorative Justice Diversion

Probation, in partnership with the Tara Haaland-Ford Restorative Justice Program is piloting a diversion program. The program offers opportunities for youth not eligible for other diversion opportunities due to the nature of the offense, to participate in the restorative justice process. The youth and family will work with facilitators to help make survivors whole, while completing Restorative Action Plans that also address the needs of youth and families who participate through a network of referrals and mentoring.

Community Engagement

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department will be contracting with a consultant to assist in the development of an ongoing community engagement process for public safety-related discussions and decision-making. The seven-month engagement is anticipated to include planning sessions, in-person and virtual meetings with community members and other key stakeholders and conclude with the development of a local plan for ongoing community engagement including strategies for growth and sustainability and phased implementation of the plan.





REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

At times, throughout the State, counties may be required to consolidate or leverage resources to address gaps in services or limitations with available funding. Currently, in Santa Barbara County there are no regional treatment agreements with any other jurisdictions. However, the Department does have mutual aid agreements with Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties (the Tri-Counties Region), for assistance in times of disaster (including housing of detained youth) and for the joint training of our staff. In addition, to serve the realigned juvenile population, the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), has established a statewide collaborative consortium to assist counties in filling gaps that cannot otherwise be addressed in the short term. The purpose of the consortium is to ensure that there is a high quality, secure youth treatment program available for any youth in the state.

INFORMATION SHARING & DATA COLLECTION

Locally, data is used to assess program performance, explore the drivers of Santa Barbara County trends, assist in decision-making and inform our collective practice. The data is nearly exclusively contained in the Probation Department’s case management system. For youth in foster care, data is also entered in the State database utilized by Child Welfare Services. Data is used internally for a variety of purposes including research, resource management, trend analysis and also for a variety of external purposes by the Probation Department and other organizations. These include informing committees such as the JJCC or the Board of Supervisors (BOS) about current supervision trends, population demographics, programming and recidivism outcomes. Information is also shared with our community-based organizations to respond to grant requirements or support their mission.

Data is shared with stakeholders through presentations and written reports to prompt conversation about how to improve our practice including the services we provide to our youth and to improve success on supervision. The department has also partnered with Ceres Research Policy, as noted in the Funded Strategies section of this Plan, to better collect SOGIE data on our youth, and use this data to better understand and serve these youth. The Probation Department continues to examine and reassess over time areas of the system performing well, in addition to those in need of improvement.



CLOSING

The last CMJJP noted many challenges faced due to the global pandemic, including delays to the implementation of initiatives from RJJ, which has just concluded shortly before the pandemic took hold of the nation. As we are coming out of the pandemic, this year brings a much smaller juvenile probation population, possibly in part due to the pandemic, but also reflective of state-wide trends that continue to reflect a decrease in juvenile crime. In addition, Santa Barbara County has greatly increased its diversionary efforts. As a result, Probation has been consistently averaging 200 youth on probation each month, and the majority of these youth are moderate and high-risk youth. These youth in turn are also the highest need, making collaboration and partnerships more important than ever before. With the challenges these youth bring in terms of meeting their needs while at the same time assuring community safety, this also represents a chance to turn these challenges into opportunities, opportunities for family and youth voice to be incorporated at decision making points, and opportunities to offer enhance current partnerships and to seek new partnerships to mentor and strengthen youth and families, building on their own challenges and successes. There are further opportunities to increase diversion efforts further, utilizing programs that choose holistic approaches and that value the importance of supports and relationship remaining after diversion programs are



complete and without Probation involvement. Lastly, there are opportunities to inclusively support populations who have historically lacked attention and services at all levels by providing strong partnerships and links to services that meet their needs, and again, continue to support these populations outside of Probation involvement.

Finally, the pandemic has taught us all many lessons. Those that appear to be universal include the importance of relationships, the unique and varied needs of our communities, but also in the uncertainty in how to ask, access, and receive support. The importance of collaboration has been further emphasized to ensure those who need support receive it, and that it is delivered in individualized and sustainable ways.

“ —
| Do the best you
| can until you
| know better. Then
| when you know
| better, do better! |
— ”

MAYA ANGELOU

CALIFORNIA'S CRIME RATE FALLS TO A RECORD LOW IN 2020; COUNTIES WITH HIGH INCARCERATION RATES HAVE MORE CRIME AND WORSE TRENDS



Mike Males, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

September 2021

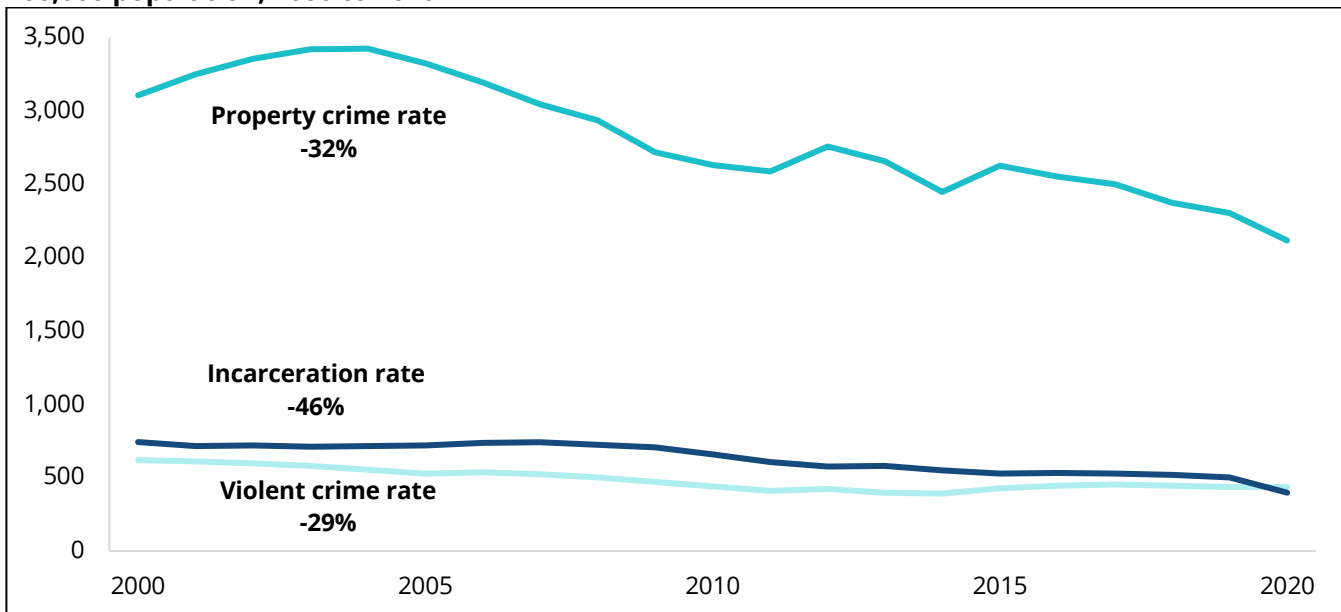
Fact Sheet

In the weeks leading up to the recall election of California Governor Gavin Newsom, crime has become a hot-button issue (David Binder Research, 2021; Gutierrez, 2021). Unfortunately, rather than rationally analyzing crime, the press and some candidates and interest groups publicize anecdote-based claims featured in headlines such as, “California is seeing a crime surge,” or “San Francisco’s shoplifting surge” (Fuller, 2021; Walters, 2020). While some press outlets have helped to correct such deceptive stories, fact checking typically comes after the damage is done (e.g., Neilson, 2021). The real trends in California crime contain reasons for both calm and concern (DOJ, 2021).

- **California’s overall crime rate fell 6 percent in 2020, reaching its lowest level ever recorded.**

Of the eight Part I felonies¹ in the FBI’s index of crime, four increased from 2019 to 2020 and four declined (Table 1). Overall, the Part I crime index has fallen steadily over the last 20 years (including a 6 percent decline in 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic), with all eight index offenses showing declines during that period. The state’s index crime rate in 2020 was the lowest ever recorded since the index was created in 1969.

Figure 1. California incarceration (jail and prison), violent offense, and property offense rates per 100,000 population, 2000 to 2020



Sources: CDCR (2021); DOF (2021); DOJ (2021). Note: the violent crime rate includes the pre-2014 definition of rape to allow for comparison across years.

- **Homicide rates rose 31 percent in 2020 but remain below levels seen from 1968 through 2008.**

California, then, is not experiencing an overall “crime surge.” The state did, however, suffer a 31 percent increase in both homicide deaths and reported homicides in 2020 compared to 2019. However, rates remain well below

¹ The eight Part 1 felonies include four violent offenses (aggravated assault, homicide, rape, and robbery) and four property offenses (arson, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft).

levels for the entire 40-year period from 1968 through 2008, during the state’s “tough-on-crime” era. Homicide, though a rare crime, profoundly affects communities’ sense of safety.

Table 1. Trends and rates of Part I offenses in California per 100,000 population, 2000, 2010, 2019, 2020

Year	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Vehicle theft	Larceny	Arson	Total index
2000	6.1	*	177.2	407.0	653.7	532.5	1,916.3	42.4	3,763.9
2010	4.8	*	155.5	256.2	612.0	408.1	1,606.7	21.0	3,086.5
2019	4.2	34.7	130.9	263.5	381.3	353.9	1,566.5	20.8	2,758.1
2020	5.5	33.8	112.3	285.4	365.4	422.4	1,326.6	29.6	2,581.0
Change, rate in 2020 vs. rate in:									
2000	-9%	*	-37%	-30%	-44%	-21%	-31%	-30%	-31%
2010	+14%	*	-28%	+11%	-40%	+4%	-17%	+40%	-16%
2019	+31%	-8%	-14%	+8%	-4%	+19%	-15%	+43%	-6%

Source: DOF (2021); DOJ (2021). *Definition of rape expanded in 2014, distorting comparison with previous years. “Total index” rates include the pre-2014 definition of rape to allow for comparison across years.

- **Low-incarceration counties have half as many homicides per capita as high-incarceration counties.**

An examination of jail (BSCC, 2021), prison (CDCR, 2021), and crime data shows that counties with the lowest rates of incarceration also have lower rates of homicide and shoplifting—two offenses that have garnered the most media attention. This counters an assumption by recall proponents, too often echoed uncritically in the press, that counties with progressive district attorneys have pursued policies they label “lenient” and “no-consequence” that are responsible for more crime (see Arango, 2021; Levenson, 2021; Stringini, 2021; Wallace-Wells, 2021).

Table 2 compares California’s 29 counties with the highest jail and prison incarceration rates in 2020 with its 29 counties with the lowest rates. The differences are substantial: the high-incarceration counties lock up 1.75 times more people per capita than low-incarceration counties, and their decrease in incarceration from 2019 to 2020 was much slower than for the low-incarceration group.

Table 2. Rates of incarceration (jail and prison), homicide, and shoplifting, per 100,000 population, plus changes in counties with highest vs. lowest incarceration rates, 2020 vs. 2019

Rate per 100,000 population	Incarceration rate		Homicide rate			Shoplifting rate		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2020 vs. 2019	2019	2020	2020 vs. 2019
High incarceration	597.1	481.4	5.3	7.1	+35%	235.4	162.6	-31%
Low incarceration	362.0	274.5	2.9	3.5	+21%	216.8	159.3	-26%

Sources: BSCC (2021); CDCR (2021); DOF (2021); DOJ (2021).

Contrary to claims by recall advocates and repeated in many press accounts, the low-incarceration counties actually have half as many homicides per capita as high-incarceration counties (3.5 vs. 7.1 homicides per 100,000 population), and their increase in homicide from 2019 to 2020 was less than for high-incarceration counties. Similarly, rates of shoplifting—another crime sensationalized in the press even as it was declining—are slightly lower in low-incarceration counties (159.3 vs. 162.6 shoplifting offenses per 100,000 population), though high-incarceration counties had a larger decrease in 2020. In San Francisco, where substantial media attention has been trained on shoplifting, the tourism industry is about three times larger per capita than the state average, affording more opportunities for criminal activity (Visit California, 2021). Yet, the county’s shoplifting rate in 2020 (169.5 per 100,000 population, a 35 percent decline from 2019’s rate of 260.9) was only slightly above the state average (227.1 in 2019; 161.1 in 2020).

Overall, high-incarceration counties have considerably higher rates of violent crime (513.7 per 100,000 population in 2020 vs. 340.6 in low-incarceration counties), slightly lower rates of property offenses (2,108.5 vs. 2,121.9), higher rates of Part I felonies overall (2,622.2 vs. 2,462.5), and worse trends in 2020 (Part I offense rates down 6 percent from 2019 to 2020, compared to down 8 percent in low-incarceration counties).

- **High-incarceration counties impose a \$3.2 billion burden on state taxpayers.**

Many local factors such as poverty, visitor volume, and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic influence homicide and crime rates, as shown in the greatly varying rates by county (Appendix). One important factor—the extent to which local law enforcement agencies prioritize incarceration—appears not to reduce crime rates. However, these practices are placing a considerable burden on local and state budgets. At an average annual cost of \$100,000 per person in prison (Governor’s Budget, 2021), state taxpayers spend \$3.2 billion more every year for high-incarceration counties’ reliance on prisons than if these counties were to adopt the imprisonment rates of low-incarceration counties.

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Appendix. Rates of incarceration (jail and prison), homicide, and Part I offenses per 100,000 population by county, 2019 and 2020

County	Incarceration rate			Homicide rate			All Part I offenses rate		
	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change
Alameda	354.4	292.0	-18%	5.8	8.6	49%	4,581.6	4,063.6	-11%
Alpine	178.1	0.0	-100%	0.0	0.0	NA	4,007.1	2,959.6	-26%
Amador	652.1	516.3	-21%	2.7	5.3	101%	2,067.6	1,964.0	-5%
Butte	696.4	559.2	-20%	3.3	5.8	78%	2,958.1	2,623.5	-11%
Calaveras	403.1	295.8	-27%	2.3	0.0	-100%	2,213.8	2,086.4	-6%
Colusa	612.4	453.0	-26%	0.0	4.5	NA	1,837.2	1,775.8	-3%
Contra Costa	258.6	203.6	-21%	4.7	3.8	-19%	2,849.6	2,397.6	-16%
Del Norte	922.6	742.8	-19%	7.4	7.4	0%	3,355.8	3,074.3	-8%
El Dorado	413.6	343.7	-17%	2.6	0.0	-100%	1,526.3	1,527.5	0%
Fresno	690.2	517.5	-25%	5.4	9.2	70%	2,742.6	2,976.3	9%
Glenn	629.5	464.3	-26%	6.9	6.8	-1%	2,122.3	2,026.6	-5%
Humboldt	626.2	439.3	-30%	4.5	6.8	51%	3,401.6	3,085.0	-9%
Imperial	421.8	236.1	-44%	3.7	3.7	0%	2,151.2	2,108.6	-2%
Inyo	449.5	428.7	-5%	5.4	5.4	0%	2,637.7	2,431.0	-8%
Kern	654.8	552.9	-16%	9.2	12.7	38%	3,866.2	3,735.7	-3%
Kings	1,112.5	915.1	-18%	2.6	7.1	173%	2,099.4	2,121.6	1%
Lake	859.9	611.6	-29%	7.8	1.6	-80%	2,457.9	2,378.8	-3%
Lassen	890.5	446.8	-50%	0.0	0.0	NA	2,392.0	1,953.4	-18%
Los Angeles	560.7	450.3	-20%	5.0	6.7	34%	2,748.1	2,634.6	-4%
Madera	750.9	555.4	-26%	1.9	5.7	198%	2,234.2	1,706.6	-24%
Marin	203.9	143.3	-30%	0.4	0.4	1%	2,283.4	2,276.8	0%
Mariposa	605.3	444.4	-27%	0.0	0.0	NA	1,462.8	1,468.1	0%
Mendocino	721.7	324.6	-55%	3.4	6.9	101%	1,805.4	2,037.9	13%
Merced	552.6	456.2	-17%	4.3	8.4	98%	2,989.4	2,672.8	-11%
Modoc	750.7	647.8	-14%	0.0	10.6	NA	1,152.5	1,221.3	6%
Mono	338.6	230.5	-32%	0.0	14.9	NA	1,869.7	1,509.6	-19%
Monterey	561.3	487.2	-13%	3.4	3.2	-6%	2,067.7	2,086.6	1%
Napa	393.9	323.0	-18%	0.7	0.7	1%	2,084.0	2,051.0	-2%
Nevada	322.1	266.8	-17%	3.1	5.1	67%	1,461.0	1,289.0	-12%
Orange	349.3	266.3	-24%	1.8	1.8	4%	2,065.1	2,143.8	4%
Placer	343.6	271.7	-21%	1.8	1.8	-1%	1,706.7	1,630.1	-4%
Plumas	617.9	389.1	-37%	5.4	5.5	1%	2,395.7	2,482.7	4%
Riverside	545.1	438.1	-20%	4.9	6.3	29%	2,697.1	2,450.9	-9%
Sacramento	654.5	541.6	-17%	5.0	6.4	27%	2,775.7	2,569.1	-7%
San Benito	398.1	278.7	-30%	1.6	4.8	196%	997.6	1,173.8	18%
San Bernardino	589.3	480.6	-18%	6.8	8.3	23%	2,740.4	2,396.0	-13%
San Diego	424.7	318.6	-25%	2.6	3.4	32%	1,991.1	1,819.4	-9%
San Francisco	217.9	145.4	-33%	4.5	5.4	22%	6,253.8	4,925.6	-21%
San Joaquin	536.1	462.7	-14%	6.5	10.8	66%	3,562.9	3,005.1	-16%
San Luis Obispo	432.1	344.4	-20%	1.8	2.5	41%	2,073.4	1,964.9	-5%
San Mateo	277.3	197.3	-29%	1.3	2.1	60%	2,333.6	2,239.4	-4%
Santa Barbara	457.7	358.7	-22%	3.8	1.8	-53%	1,954.6	2,359.9	21%
Santa Clara	370.2	275.2	-26%	2.3	2.7	18%	2,752.1	2,539.5	-8%
Santa Cruz	340.6	277.0	-19%	2.2	4.4	102%	2,980.0	2,638.2	-11%
Shasta	947.5	755.2	-20%	3.4	6.8	100%	1,709.3	2,480.1	45%
Sierra	255.8	160.4	-37%	0.0	0.0	NA	1,023.3	673.7	-34%

County	Incarceration rate			Homicide rate			All Part I offenses rate		
	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change
Siskiyou	754.5	580.0	-23%	13.6	4.6	-67%	1,856.8	2,027.8	9%
Solano	376.8	300.3	-20%	4.8	9.1	90%	3,471.7	2,962.1	-15%
Sonoma	372.1	266.5	-28%	1.8	2.0	12%	1,772.7	1,755.9	-1%
Stanislaus	530.5	429.4	-19%	4.5	5.9	32%	3,100.3	2,458.1	-21%
Sutter	552.5	388.5	-30%	3.9	4.9	27%	2,689.5	2,704.6	1%
Tehama	908.5	668.0	-26%	4.6	10.7	133%	2,883.5	2,514.3	-13%
Trinity	994.5	752.4	-24%	15.0	15.0	1%	2,228.2	2,106.7	-5%
Tulare	770.9	648.7	-16%	4.2	6.0	44%	2,578.2	2,308.5	-10%
Tuolumne	856.2	615.1	-28%	3.8	1.9	-50%	2,414.5	2,313.1	-4%
Ventura	386.9	315.1	-19%	2.8	2.4	-16%	1,713.3	1,755.2	2%
Yolo	441.7	309.0	-30%	2.7	2.7	0%	3,298.7	3,178.4	-4%
Yuba	1,000.5	684.0	-32%	9.0	2.5	-72%	2,779.9	2,838.6	2%
Total	492.9	389.8	-21%	4.2	5.5	31%	2,737.3	2,551.5	-7%

Sources: BSCC (2021); CDCR (2021); DOF (2021); DOJ (2021).

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