

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEGAL FOUNDATION**

**Public Safety Realignment and  
Post-Release Community Supervision**

*Offenders, Offenses, and Arrests in Sacramento County  
from 2011-2015*

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*Marissa Cohen  
Public Policy Director  
Criminal Justice Legal Foundation*

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### **Brief History of AB109**

Assembly Bill (AB) 109, also known as Public Safety Realignment, was signed into law by California Gov. Jerry Brown in April 2011 and went into effect statewide on October 1, 2011. It was adopted in response to a federal court order requiring the state to reduce the number of inmates in its 33 prisons to 137.5 percent of the original design capacity. In addition to the bill's objective of easing prison overcrowding, it was also promoted as a way to reduce incarceration costs and rehabilitate "low level" offenders.

In order for the state to accomplish these objectives, convictions for most property felonies (which used to carry a state prison sentence) were designated as "non-violent" offenses eligible only for incarceration in a county jail. Most property felons released from prison, which were previously supervised on state parole, were placed on county probation under the new name of Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS). On paper, Realignment initially appeared to be working as intended: The state prison population declined as did state incarceration costs. With the state no longer supervising or tracking most of the offenders released to counties, state reports showed reduced rates of recidivism. Prison overcrowding, state incarceration costs, and high rate of recidivism appeared to be solved. But this "success" was achieved at the expense of county jails and local police agencies which had neither the capacity, resources, or the training to adequately manage the influx of criminals that

were no longer eligible for prison. Consequently, as the county jail population in the state reached unmanageable levels, counties were forced to release thousands of criminals back into California communities.

Nearly five years later, Public Safety Realignment has proven to be anything but safe. While reports from the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation have shown that California's prison population has been reduced, the state's prison costs have increased and Realignment has backfired in other major ways. County jails are overrun with serious and violent felons, law enforcement agencies are overburdened, and criminals are being released by the thousands into the streets to commit more crimes.

This report will detail the key findings from statistics obtained from the Sacramento County Probation Department's database of AB 109 offenders, with the main focus on offenders released on PRCS that went on to commit violent crimes between 2011 and 2015.

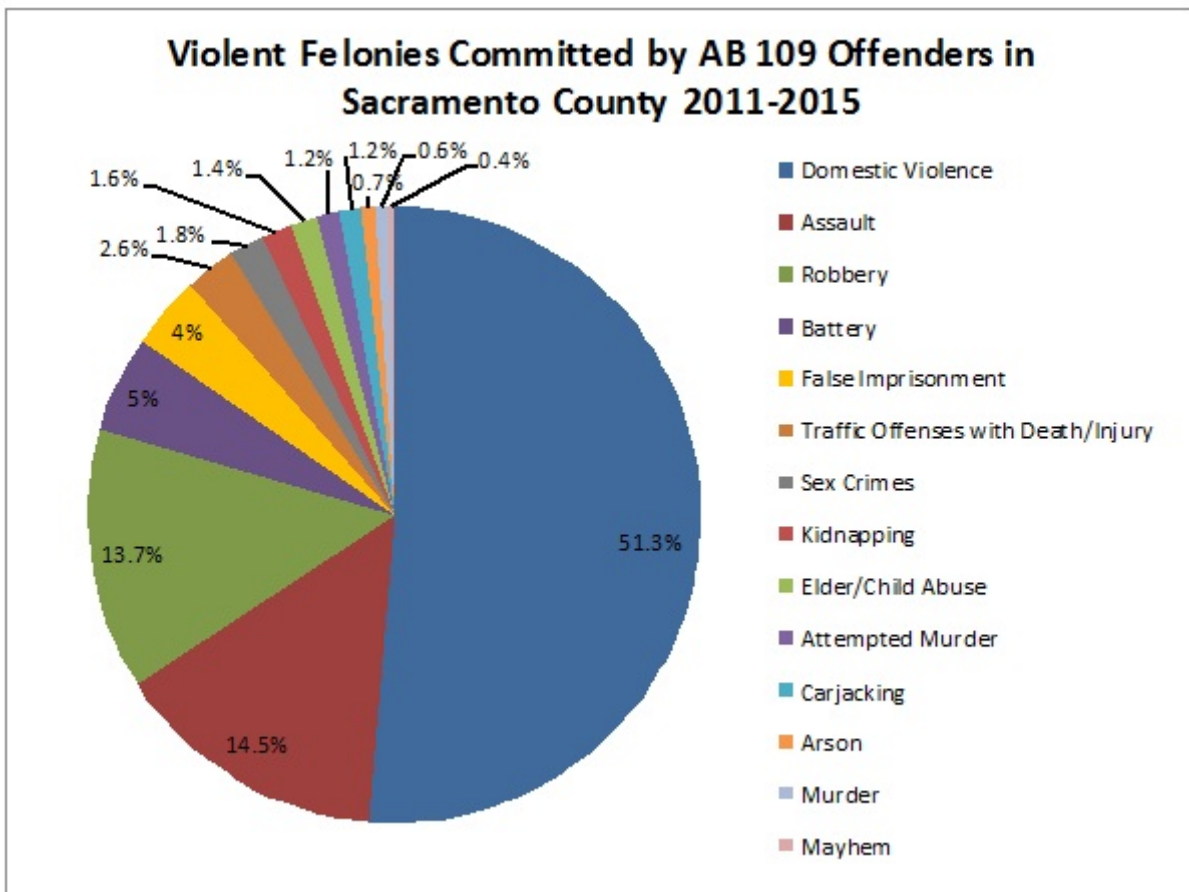
### **Data Provided by Sacramento County Probation Department**

- I. Number of offenders placed on PRCS each year from 2011 to 2015
- II. Number of PRCS offenders arrested for new felony or misdemeanors each year since 2011
- III. Number of PRCS offenders arrested more than once in a given year for a new felony or misdemeanor
- IV. Types of offenses PRCS offenders were arrested for
- V. Number of PRCS offenders convicted of one or more felonies or misdemeanors each year since 2011

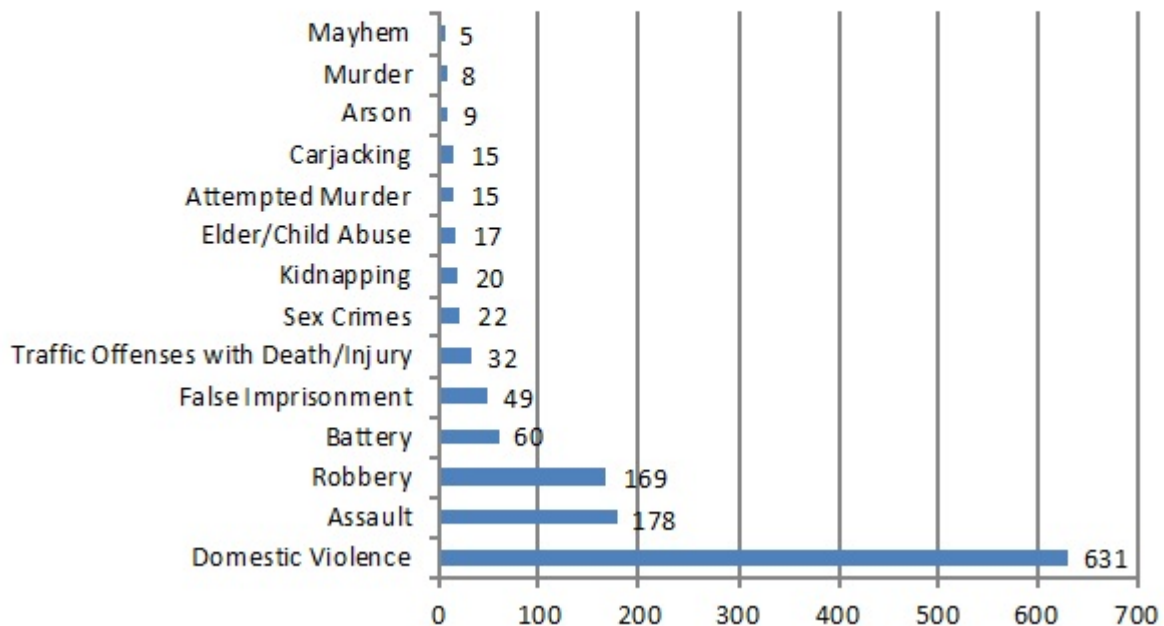
## Key Findings

Based on the data provided by the Sacramento County Probation Department:

- Of the 12,466 crimes committed by offenders placed or released on PRCS into Sacramento County, 7,578 were felonies (61%) and 4,888 misdemeanors (39%).
- Of the total number of offenses, about 1% (78 offenses) were gang-related and 25.8% (1,956) were drug-related.
- Out of 7,578 felony offenses, 16.2% were violent and/or caused physical harm/death.\*



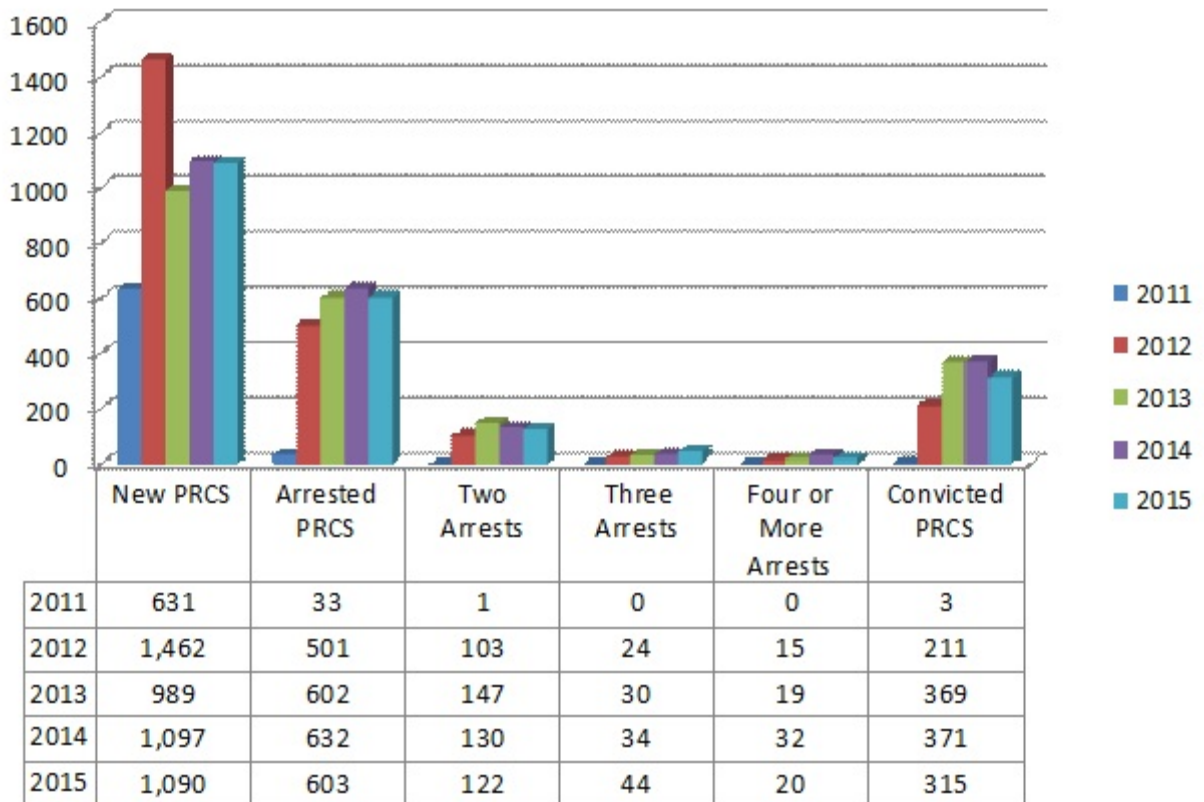
## Total Number of Violent Felonies Committed by AB 109 Offenders in Sacramento County 2011-2015



\*Of note:

- Domestic violence includes corporal injury to a spouse/cohabitant
- Assault consists of all types of assault, including attempted assault
- Robbery includes all types of robbery, including conspiracy and attempted robbery
- Traffic offenses with death/injury include DUI, hit and run, and evading an officer
- Sex crimes include all types of sexual assault, from rape to indecent exposure
- Carjacking includes attempted carjacking
- Mayhem includes torture

## Post-Release Community Supervision Sacramento County 2011-2015



From 2011 to 2015, there were:

- 5,269 new PRCS offenders.
- 2,371 PRCS offenders arrested for a new felony or misdemeanor while on supervision.
- 503 PRCS offenders rearrested twice for a new felony or misdemeanor while on supervision.
- 132 PRCS offenders rearrested three times for a new felony or misdemeanor while on supervision.
- 86 PRCS offenders rearrested four or more times for a new felony or misdemeanor while on supervision.

- 1,269 convictions of persons free on PRCS.

When factoring all of the above data together there were approximately 4,117 new arrests of 2,688 individual offenders who committed one or more crimes while free on PRCS.