

## 2018 California Probation Summary

### WHAT IS PROBATION?

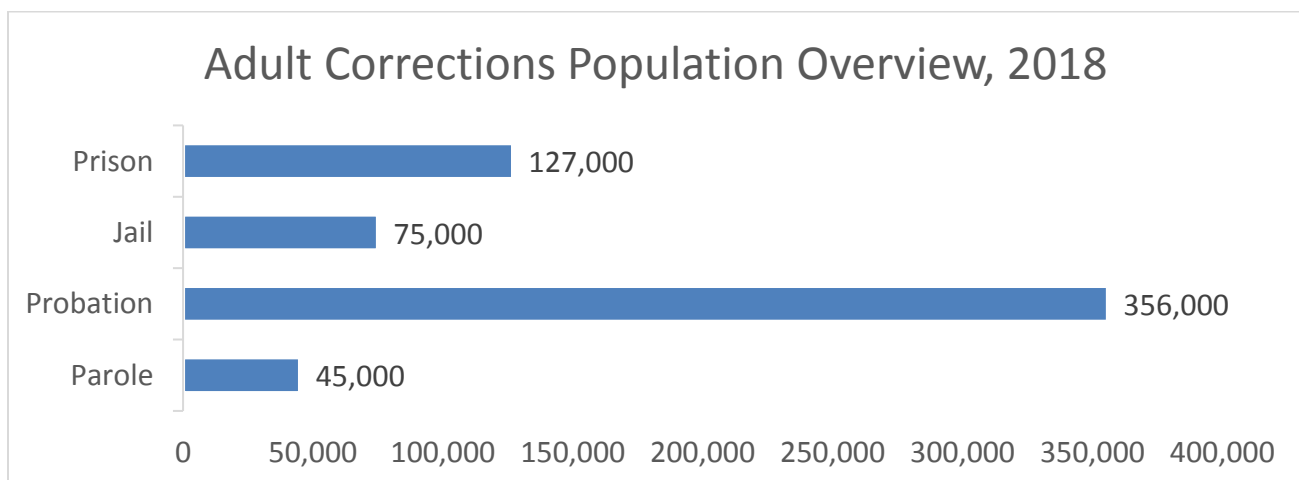
As a criminal justice sanction, probation is a tool that holds people convicted of crimes accountable and helps oversee their rehabilitation using evidence-based rehabilitation strategies. Evidence-based practices are supported by scientific research to reduce recidivism.

The goal of Probation is to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims and promote healthy families and communities by doing the following:

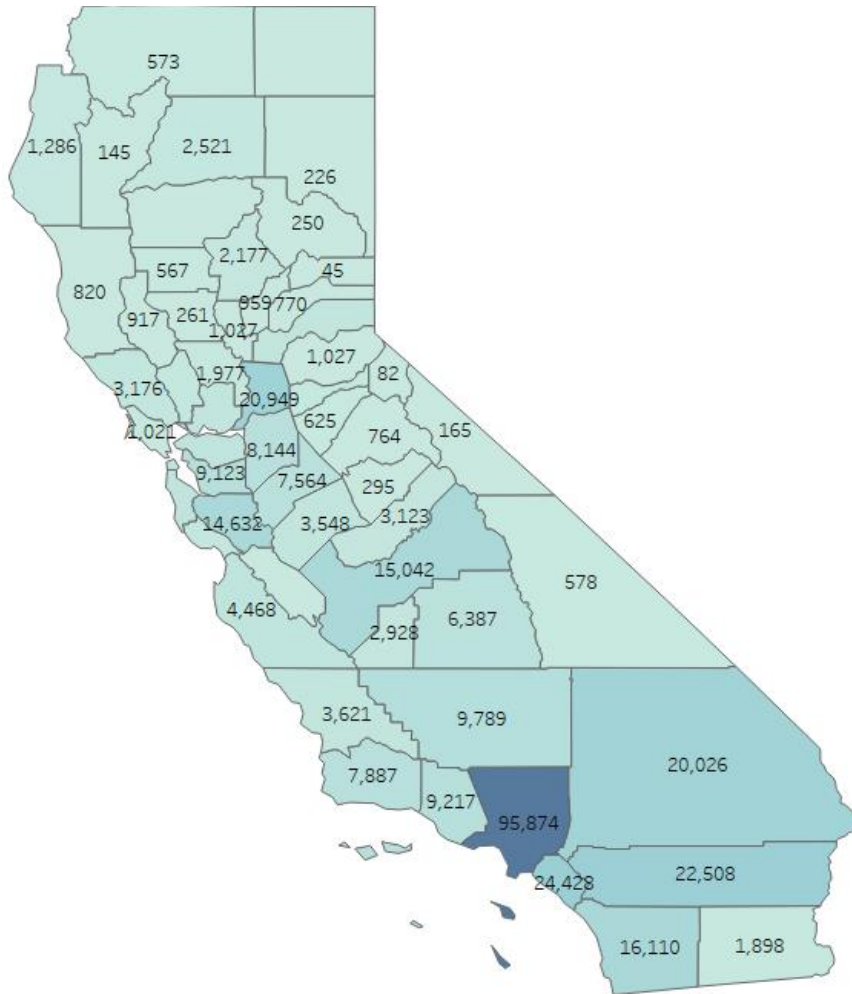
- Administering research-based juvenile and adult probation programs.
- Making recommendations to the courts and enforcing its orders in communities by providing supervision and treatment for juveniles and adults.
- Overseeing the management, operation, programming, and administration of juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities that promote positive behavior change.

### Adult Probation

Probation Departments are responsible for providing community-based supervision of adults convicted of felonies or misdemeanors either in lieu of incarceration or as a condition of release following incarceration. As a field of law enforcement, Probation in California is distinguished by its commitment to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. Since 2011, Probation has the responsibility of supervising many offenders from the state prison and parole systems, categorized as individuals either on post-release community supervision (PRCS) or on Mandatory Supervision as part of their split sentences. Currently, felony probation accounts for about 85% of those on probation, 11% on PRCS and 4% on mandatory supervision. Overall, Probation is responsible for nearly 60% of people involved in the California corrections system.



1: Adult Supervised Population, June 2018



As a criminal justice sanction, adult probation is a tool that holds people convicted of crimes accountable and helps oversee their rehabilitation using evidence-based rehabilitation strategies that are proven to enhance public safety. The goal of probation is to prevent crime, reduce recidivism, restore victims and promote healthy families and communities. With large policy shifts such as SB 678 and the 2011 Public Safety Realignment, county probation departments have expanded their role in protecting public safety while simultaneously expanding key strategies such as risk/needs assessments, graduated rewards and sanctions, and development of evidence-based programming.

### Adult Supervised Population

As of June 30, 2018, there were **356,952** adults with supervision cases with California’s county probation departments, most of whom were on formal probation, as opposed to realigned populations

Population (as of June 30)	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total-All Populations</b>	<b>367,515</b>	<b>355,666</b>	<b>356,952</b>

such as Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) and Mandatory Supervision.<sup>1</sup> Since the sweeping changes of Realignment

legislation in 2011, formal probationers continue to make up over 85 percent of the adult supervised population. On June 30, 2018, 85 percent of adults on supervision were on a formal probation grant, 12

<sup>1</sup> CPOC uses a hierarchy of PRCS→Mandatory Supervision→Felony Probation→Misdemeanor Probation to count people with multiple grants of supervision. This is different than other counting rules so may result in slightly different totals than collection under SB678 or Department of Justice.

percent were on PRCS, and three percent were on Mandatory Supervision (MS).<sup>2</sup> The adult supervised population had a 1% decrease between 2017 and 2018.

*Who is being supervised?*

Adult Supervision are broken out into four different types:

- Post release community supervision (PRCS): People under the supervision of probation after release from state prison
- Mandatory supervision (MS): People serving the supervision part of split sentence for a crime under PC 1170h.
- Felony probation: People on a grant of probation where the most serious case is a felony
- Misdemeanor probation: People on a grant of probation where the most serious case is a misdemeanor.

*Formal Probation*

Statewide, as of June 30, 2018, probation departments supervised over four times more felony than misdemeanor cases on formal supervision. The number of adults on probation has declined by 10% since 2016. This change comes from a combination of fewer people being sentenced to formal probation, as well as an increase in the number of people with cases closed.

Population (as of June 30)	2016	2017	2018
<b>Felony</b>	268,071	255,836	254,947
<b>Misdemeanors</b>	47,305	47,294	46,789
<b>Total-Probation</b>	<b>315,376</b>	<b>303,130</b>	<b>301,736</b>

*Post Release Community Supervision*

The PRCS population remained relatively largely unchanged from 2015 to 2017 but increased by 5% in 2018. The combination of full implementation of realignment as well as the number of second-strike releases from prison have caused the PRCS population total to remain stable despite current year increase.

Population (as of June 30)	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total-PRCS</b>	<b>40,120</b>	<b>40,017</b>	<b>43,038</b>

*Mandatory Supervision*

The Mandatory Supervision population has grown slightly since 2015. The continuing increase in Mandatory Supervision cases reflects counties’ growing awareness of the efficacy of split sentencing and its value in ensuring offenders receive services and supervision upon reentry into the community from a jail sentence.

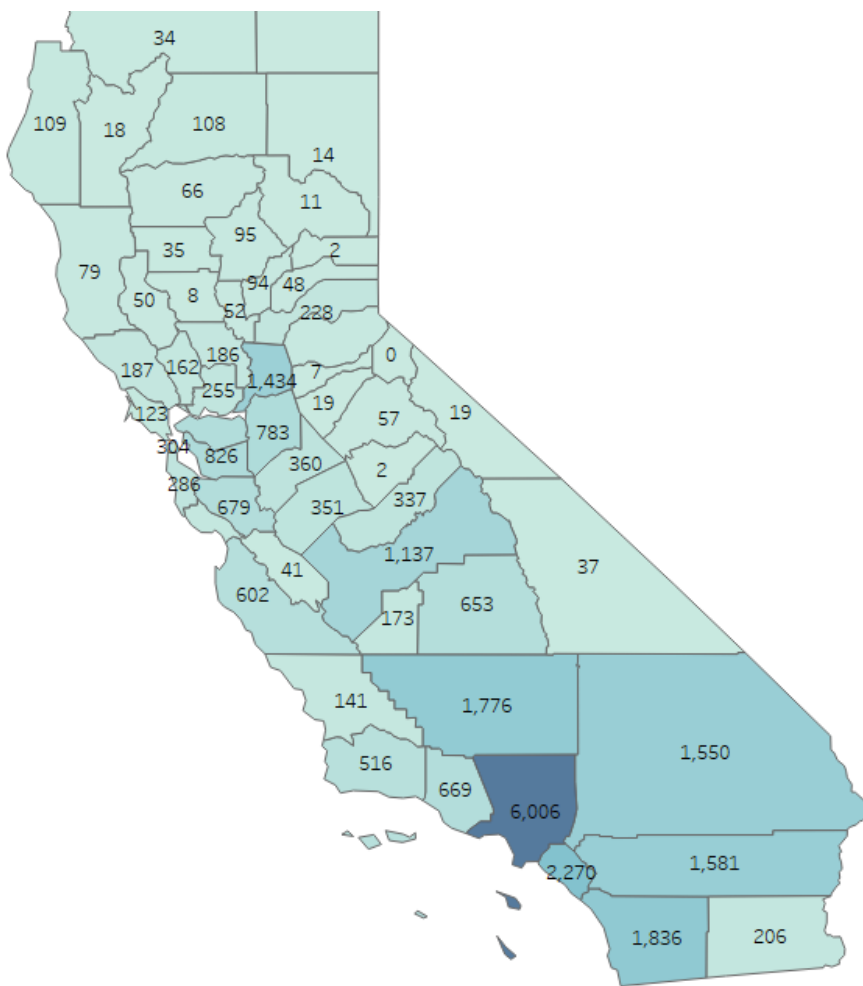
Population (as of June 30)	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total-Mandatory Supervision</b>	<b>12,019</b>	<b>12,519</b>	<b>12,178</b>

<sup>2</sup> Chief Probation Officers of California, Issue Brief: Public Safety Realignment, <http://www.cpoc.org/assets/Realignment/public%20safety%20realignment%20brief%201.pdf>

## Juvenile Services and Facilities

Over the last decade, California has seen tremendous change and success with how it approaches youth in the juvenile justice system. The passage of Juvenile Justice Realignment in 2007 gave Probation Departments the resources necessary to expand investments into local rehabilitation services for youth and greatly enhanced evidence-based practices. This had a significant impact and led to a precipitous decline in juvenile detention rates and juvenile arrest rates. It also gave Probation the opportunity to decrease reliance on institutions and greatly enhance assessments to determine who requires detention and who can be safely treated in the community. Now, over 90% of youth in our justice system are safely treated in the community.

2: Juvenile Supervised Population, June 2018



Youth are referred to Probation Departments in California for a variety of reasons and severity of risk factors. However, their initial referral is because they are alleged to have committed an offense. It is probation's duty to assess the youth's needs and make recommendations to the court. Probation may recommend to the court the youth be allowed to return home, placement in a foster care setting, or the youth be referred to a local or state commitment facility. Probation is involved with all youth going through juvenile delinquency court and by statute, is required to be present at all hearings. Often youth on probation are dealing with multiple challenges. Probation's role is to prevent entry into the adult

system by reducing juvenile recidivism; to heal and reconnect families; and to respond to youth behavior with interventions that reduce re-offense and teach youth healthy and positive tools for dealing with adversity.

## Juvenile Probation Population

As of June 2018, there were 27,477 youth at varying levels of the county probation system, down from 53,000 in 2013, or a decrease of 42 percent. This can be attributed to a stronger focus on prevention, intervention and diversion by probation that helps keep at-risk youth out of the juvenile justice system.

Population (as of June 30, 2015)	2016	2017	2018
<i>Total-All Populations</i>	<b>35,101</b>	<b>30,659</b>	<b>27,570</b>

Juvenile probation referrals decreased by 20 percent from 2016 to 2018, with each type of referral experiencing decreases for felonies (-8%), misdemeanors(-28%), violations (-16%), and infractions (-22%).

## Supervision Types

Of the youth on probation, the majority are under court ordered supervision, with the rest under varying types of informal supervision. These types can be grouped as:

- *Wardship / Court Ordered Supervision under W&I 602 or 601*
  - *W&I 725(b)wardship probation;*
- *Non-wardship / Court Ordered Supervision under W&I 602 or 601*
  - *W&I 790- Deferred entry of judgement;*
  - *W&I 654.2- Court places minor on informal probation (probation without wardship or voluntary probation);*
  - *W&I 725(a)- 6 months non-wardship probation;*
- *Non-Court Ordered Supervision*
  - *W&I 654- diversion*
  - *W&I 450- Non-minor dependent or adults that qualify to get foster care reimbursement;*

Wards under W&I 602 for felony and misdemeanor offenses have consistently been the largest proportion of those on juvenile supervision. On June 30, 2018, there were 20,571 wards under W&I 602 on formal probation, representing 63 percent of all supervised youth. The decline in wardship and non-wardship probation have been consistent over the last few years.

## Juvenile Facilities

Consistent with the declining population numbers across all probation populations, the average daily population in juvenile facilities and the number of new juvenile hall bookings have also decreased. In fiscal year 2017-2018, there were an average of 3,850 youth in juvenile halls and camps. With 2,536 held in juvenile halls, this represents 65 percent of the combined facility usage in FY 2017-2018, similar to its usage a year before. The number of bookings into juvenile hall has decreased 20 percent since 2015, from 46,723 in 2015 to 36,289 in 2018.