

# EVALUATION RESULTS

## SONOMA COUNTY PROBATION

September 2019

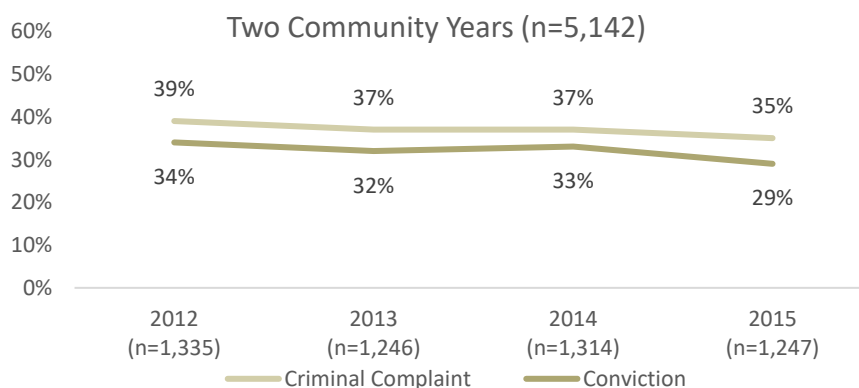
### AB 109 EVALUATION: RECIDIVISM ANALYSIS

In 2016, the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) contracted with Resource Development Associates (RDA) to conduct an evaluation of the implementation, effectiveness and costs associated with AB 109 realignment. The evaluation includes an analysis of recidivism since the start of AB 109 implementation for four populations: Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), Mandatory Supervision (MS), Formal Probation, and 1170(h) Jail Only. The evaluation examined:

1. The likelihood of recidivating within one and two years following supervision (or release from custody for the 1170(h) jail only population), including the average amount of time until a recidivating event;
2. Changes in recidivism over time since AB 109 implementation;
3. Differences in recidivism outcomes by population and risk level; and
4. Individual characteristics associated with differences in recidivism outcomes.

#### Key Findings:

- **Recidivism rates have remained relatively stable** since the start of AB 109 implementation. Approximately 20-25% of individuals recidivated within one community year and 30-40% recidivated within two community years.



- Overall, **criminal complaint and conviction recidivism rates showed similar trends**, with arrests resulting in criminal complaints slightly higher, by approximately five percentage points, than arrests resulting in

### Definitions

**Recidivism** outcomes were measured in two ways: (1) an arrest for an offense that results in a **criminal complaint**, and (2) an arrest for an offense that results in a **conviction**.

**Mandatory Supervision (MS):** The period of time under community supervision by Probation for an 1170(h) sentence.

**Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS):** eligible offenders who would have previously been under state parole supervision and are now supervised by county probation after release from prison.

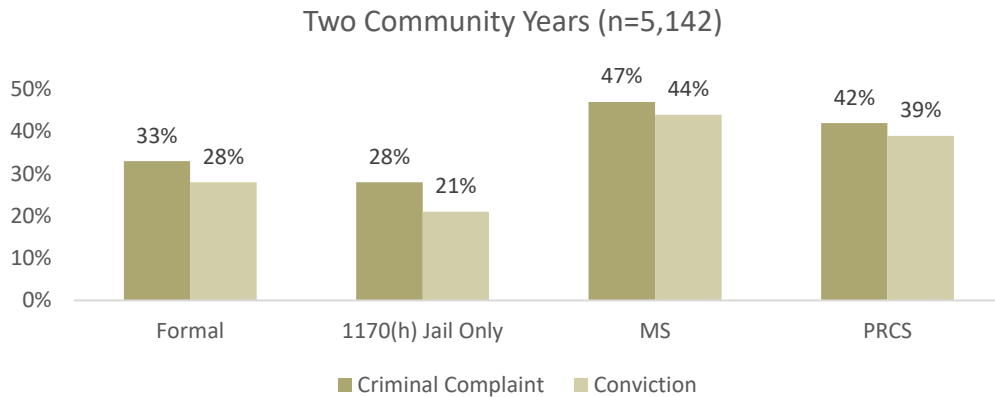
**1170(h) Jail Only:** A small population of offenders sentenced under PC 1170 to the county jail only, without a period of community supervision to follow.

A **community year** is considered the start of community supervision to the end of the one year period, not counting any days spent in custody.

**Static Risk Assessment (SRA)** is an instrument used to predict an individual's risk to reoffend (high, moderate, low) and informs the level of supervision and intervention an offender will receive.

convictions. Approximately 75% of recidivism offenses were for misdemeanors and offenses categorized as drug or other offenses.

- The average time to recidivism was approximately 5 months for the one community year analysis and 9.5 months for the two community year analysis. The **highest rates of recidivism occurred in the first 90 days**, then gradually declined over time.
- **The MS and PRCS populations experienced the highest recidivism rates** with approximately 30% recidivating within one community year and 40-50% recidivating within two community years.



- **Recidivism rates for individuals starting probation supervision each year have slightly declined since 2014**; however, recidivism trends for the 1170(h) Jail Only population, while only a small proportion of individuals, have fluctuated substantially and generally increased.
- Overall, **Static Risk Assessment (SRA) risk level was a strong predictor** of recidivism outcomes. Age was the only demographic measure significantly associated with recidivism outcomes when controlling for SRA risk level.

Comparing Sonoma County recidivism rates to rates in other counties and states is challenging for a number of reasons, including: differences in how recidivism and the population is defined, variation in application of 1170(h) offenses across counties, and differences in the analysis approach. While comparisons should be made with caution, one- and three-year reconviction rates for the AB 109 population in Sonoma County do appear to fall within a range reported in four other studies in California.

RDA's evaluation report included a series of recommendations and areas for future inquiry. View the full report on Probation's website: <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Probation/Planning-Implementation-and-Evaluation/Research-and-Reports/Recidivism-Analysis-Report-20190628-ADA-STC/>