

Select Realignment Clips

This summary is in not exhaustive or representative of all the coverage. Instead, we wanted to share a few clips that illustrate the narrative we've in the media over the past few months.

While there are more positive stories about Realignment too (ranging from how counties are doing well/better and specific examples of innovative uses of the funding, new programs, etc.), these are isolated and too specific in nature to reverse the negative trend that is growing.

Counties struggle with new jail populations

There a whole set of fairly straightforward stories about implementation and subsequent increases, adjustments and challenges in counties.

New York Times, August 6, 2012

Several local papers and outlets throughout California had begun similar stories, but this one puts the state in the national spotlight as Realignment progresses.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/06/us/in-california-prison-overhaul-county-jails-face-bigger-load.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

KQED-FM and *California Watch*, August 23, 2012

Part of a series on Realignment, this piece shows the growing criticism from sheriffs and others in counties (Fresno in this case) that are experiencing the most problems.

<http://californiawatch.org/public-safety/state-prisons-see-populations-drop-under-realignment-17717>

Realignment blamed for crime increases

There are more and more of these across the state.

Riverside Press-Enterprise blog, September 25, 2012

"Realignment...created new challenges for local law enforcement agencies, Garcia said, since there is no additional funding to supervise those who are released. 'This taxes law enforcement resources, which are already stretched to the limits and jeopardizes the safety of our communities,' [police chief] Garcia said in a news release."

<http://blog.pe.com/redlands/2012/09/25/redlands-police-chief-hosts-town-hall-meeting-wednesday/>

NBC 3 TV, Humboldt County, September 6, 2012

Headline: "Crime Significantly Higher in Humboldt County: Realignment a Direct Effect."

"Arcata Police Detective Sergeant Todd Dokweiler says Arcata Police have seen a 20 percent increase in property crime in the last year. He says its directly related to Realignment. 'I've never seen it this bad,' says Eureka Police Chief Murl Harpham."

<http://kiem-tv.com/node/3890>

Common critical voices

Some law enforcement are blaming Realignment, and below are two examples, as well as a victims' group:

Fresno Bee, August 26, 2012

"Inmates are coming out of custody unprepared, and they're going to be more likely to reoffend," Fresno Sheriff Margaret Mims said. "This defeats the whole purpose of realignment."
<http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/08/26/2964997/states-prison-overhaul-isnt-hitting.html#storylink=cpy>

KQED (and then NPR) story on mental health aspects of Realignment, September 21, 2012
"L.A. County District Attorney Steve Cooley is not a fan of realignment. He says Gov. Jerry Brown misled the state about the real intent. 'It wasn't about public safety. It was not about rehabilitation. It was about money, so this is blood money, because there will be blood as a result of individuals who should be in prison not being in prison."
<http://www.kqed.org/news/story/2012/09/21/108181/in-calif-some-exinmates-get-help-in-new-ways?source=npr&category=u.s.>

Dr. Phil's blog, September 25, 2012

Lynne-Richard Brown is the owner of Crime Prevention Consultants in Sacramento and now head of the Advocates for Public Safety nonprofit, which aims to repeal or amend AB 109. "It is my personal mission to educate Californians on the truth behind AB109, the impact it is having on law enforcement, victims rights and the safety of many families in this state. It is also paramount to hold accountable those that said no to public safety and yes to the release of thousands of serious, dangerous offenders. I am working with Assemblyman Jim Nielsen, thousands of law enforcement officers across the state, victims rights groups and citizens who've had enough to bring AB109 truth to California."
<http://community.drphil.com/profile.blog/publicsafety/>

Elected officials under pressure

Note in the CBS story that Lynne's group is taking their case to Sacramento this month.

Los Angeles Times, September 17, 2012

Because the state is behind schedule and fearing the growing linkage of individual crime with Realignment, they are addressing both through positions like the one covered in this article.
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/california-politics/2012/09/california-calls-prison-release-plan-unsafe.html>

CBS 47 TV, Fresno, September 19, 2012

"So far this year in Fresno, nearly a quarter of the city's 39 murders have been committed by people on post release community supervision. In a recent case, 25-year-old Michael Crockell allegedly stabbed 46-year-old Lisa Gillvray to death, stabbing her at least 14 times, stabbed her roommate 15 times, and stabbed a Fresno police officer who answered their call for help."
"Opponents of prison realignment plan to gather in Sacramento next month and they want lawmakers who approved realignment to take another look and make it harder for those with violence in their past to get a free pass out of prison."
<http://www.cbs47.tv/news/local/story/Pushing-for-prison-realignment-change/UxgLExxan0GakUM5Kf5oZg.csp>

One-year anniversary coverage

Stories about the one-year mark for Realignment covered challenges and successes, and the legislation/change was framed negatively or positively depending on where the coverage came from, how vocal critics were in some pieces, and how copywriters at newspapers summarized

the story in a headline. For example, some headlines suggested that Realignment was failing, although the article only acknowledged challenges, not outright failure.

North County Times, October 1, 2012

“Crime up and jails full” is the headline of this piece, shares varied perspectives on results so far, including criticism by the district attorney.

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/crime-one-year-after-state-realignment-crime-up-and-jails/article_ed1aee4-fbe4-5bd4-96d3-68d9ba3aad33.html?comment_form=true

San Francisco Examiner, September 30, 2012

In a county experiencing fewer problems, this piece is able to talk about what has made a difference.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/2012/09/san-francisco-boasts-prison-realignment-successes>

Voices begin to refute critics, distortions

San Francisco Chronicle, September 30, 2012

Shares the mixed reviews Realignment is receiving, depending on who you ask, but you’ll also see at the end how voices like UC Berkeley’s Barry Krisberg are questioning the criticism this early of Realignment.

<http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Prison-reforms-results-mixed-after-year-3907655.php>

Los Angeles Times, October 2, 2012

Editorial writer Robert Greene provided this strong piece calling out what he sees are misleading distortions of Realignment, how it works and its measureable impact so far.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-california-criminal-justice-system-realignment20121002,0,5558227.story>