

*California*  
Department of Corrections  
and Rehabilitation



# Realignment and Reform in the Division of Juvenile Justice

Michael Minor, Director

September 2015

“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.”

-Fyodor Dostoevsky

# Discussion Items

- Nationwide Reforms
- DJJ Overview/Programs
- Outcomes of Realignment
- Effective Juvenile Justice System/Programs
- Aftercare/Transition
- DJJ Major Initiatives





# Nationwide Reforms

Nationwide states are working towards the following reforms:

## **Hawaii**

- Strengthen community supervision
- Reduce secure confinement
- Focus resources on practices proven to reduce recidivism

## **Georgia**

- Reduce out-of-home placements
- Invest in evidence-based programs
- Create a new process for cases involving children in need of services
- Georgia's policies projected to save \$85 million

## **Kentucky**

- Restrict the commitment of lower-level offenders
- Cut the duration of out-of-home placements
- Strengthen evidence-based programs
- Kentucky's policies projected to save \$24 million



# DJJ Population Characteristics

☐ 19 Years

Average Age

☐ 18 Years

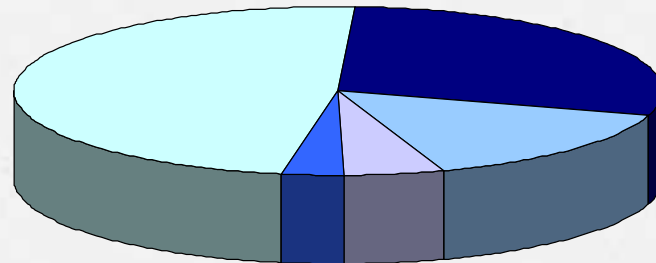
Average Commitment Age

☐ 37 Months

Average Length of Stay

➤ 58% Hispanic  
➤ 29% African American  
➤ 9% Caucasian  
➤ 2% Asian  
➤ 2% Other

☐ Hispanic  
■ African American  
☐ Caucasian  
☐ Asian  
■ Other



# Commitment Offenses

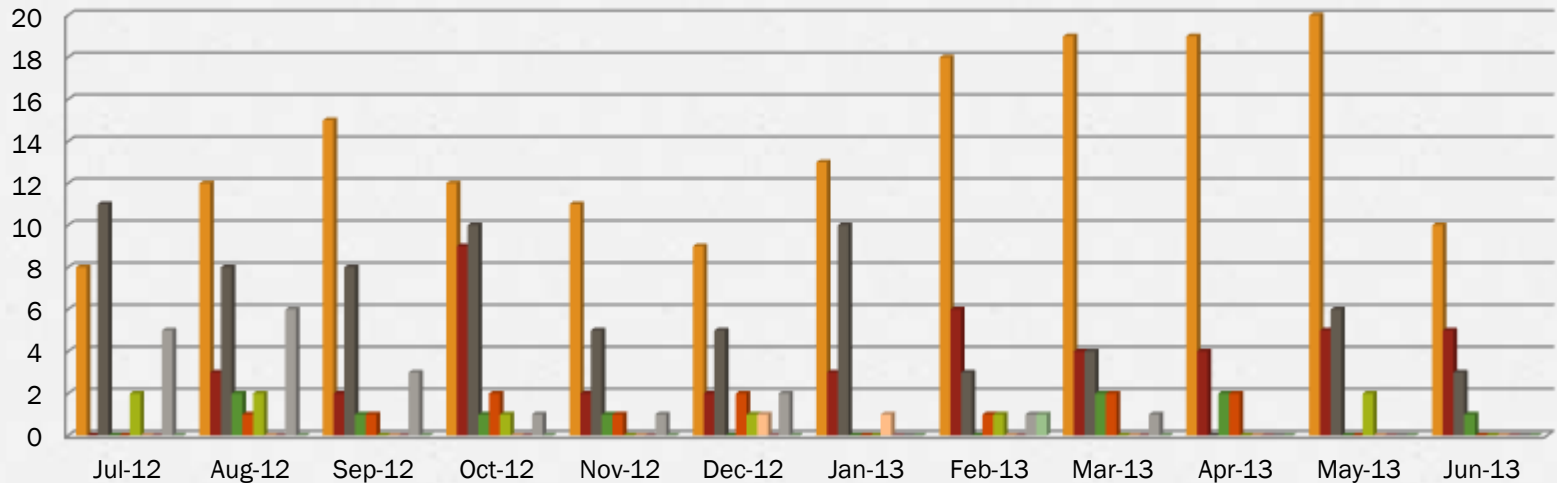


- Assault 36%
- Robbery 31%
- Homicide 12%
- Other 15%



# Juvenile Court vs. Superior Court Commitments

## FY 2012-2013

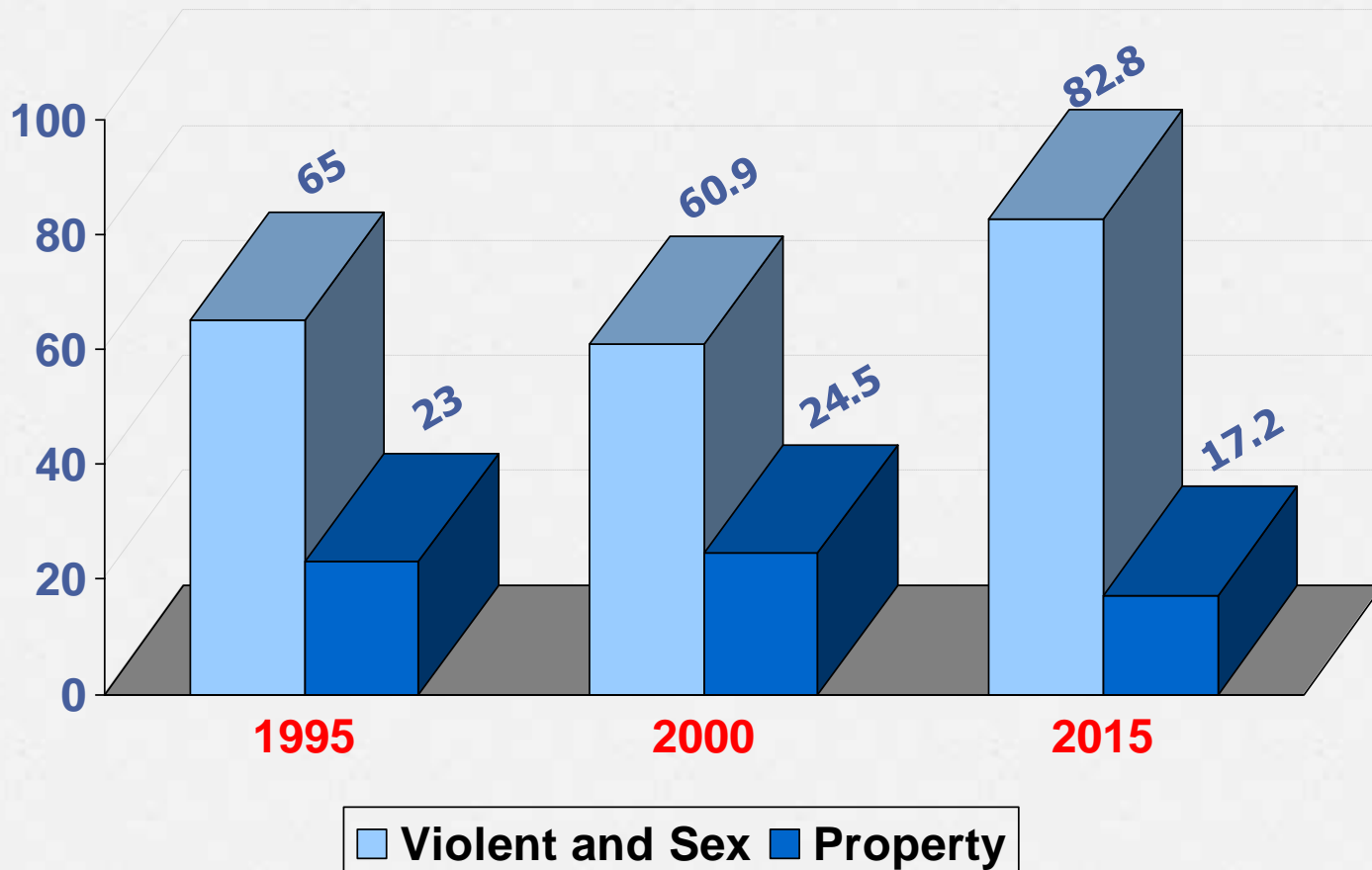


	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13
■ YA	8	12	15	12	11	9	13	18	19	19	20	10
■ E	0	3	2	9	2	2	3	6	4	4	5	5
■ M	11	8	8	10	5	5	10	3	4	0	6	3
■ P	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
■ D	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	0	0
■ C	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
■ G	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
■ J	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
■ T	5	6	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
■ BZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0





# Violent/Sex Offenses vs. Non-violent Offenses



# Outcomes of Realignment

- Smaller living units
- Increase staff to youth ratio
- Reduction in risk factors
- Increase in youth protective factors
- Reduction in isolation
- Safer facilities
- Reduction in recidivism

Integrated Behavior Treatment Model (IBTM)

Shift from a  
Punitive Correctional Model  
to a  
Behavior Health Model



Farrell vs. Beard





***Reforming the California Division of  
Juvenile Justice: Lessons Learned***

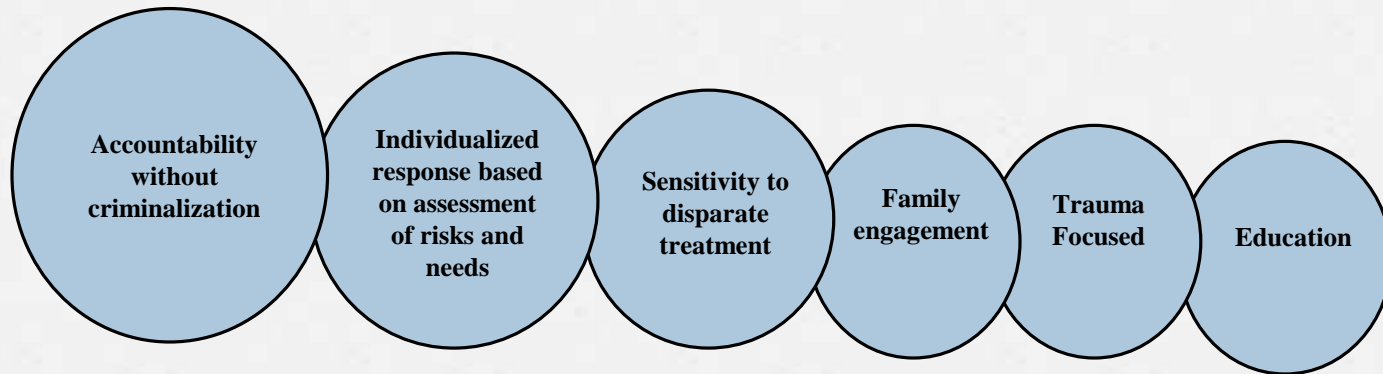
Barry Krisberg, Director of Research and Policy,  
Berkeley School of Law

Published in McGeorge Law School Review  
Volume 46 – Issue 4

# Culture Change



# Effective Juvenile Justice Systems/Programs



Effective juvenile justice programs:

- Evidence-based
- Developmentally sensitive
- Robust Behavior Management System
- Quality Assurance



# Aftercare/Transition Programs

- Is the current system working to provide positive outcomes?
- Re-entry plans prepared for youth upon departure from DJJ are not required to be followed at the county level.



# DJJ Major Initiatives

DJJ is involved in both statewide and national policy discussions.

## ❑ Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative

- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ)

## ❑ Reducing Isolation in Youth Facilities

- Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA)

## ❑ Juvenile Recidivism Study

- University of Cincinnati (UCI)

## ❑ Recidivism and Program Evaluation

- The PEW Charitable Trusts

## ❑ Alliance for a Healthier Generation

- Clinton Foundation



# Parens Patriae

“The authority to make decisions for the child as a parent would”.

Doing what is in the best interest of the child.







# Contact Information

## **DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE Executive Office**

Michael Minor, Director

P.O. Box 588501

Elk Grove, CA 95758

(916) 683-7452