

▶ **This is a direct comparison of crime** ◀
15 years *before* "Three Strikes" to
15 years *after* "Three Strikes"!

15 YEARS OF
"THREE STRIKES"
1994 TO 2008
AND STILL WORKING!

- ▶ **\$54 Billion in savings (from reduced crime)**
- ▶ **3 Million fewer victims of crime**
- ▶ **Reduced growth in prison construction**
- ▶ **Nearly 10,000 fewer murders**

New studies confirm effectiveness of "Three Strikes"!
Prison growth is far less than projections
... due to "Three Strikes" !
State population is up, yet *crime is down!*

Access studies information at: threestrikes.org

In spite of the fact California's population is 50% larger... crime is 50% less.

Criminologists will tell you, "a state that grows over 50% in population should, by all logic and prior experience, see an increase in crime and prisons proportionate to the number of additional overall population - in this case, over 14 million. In other words... **"more people *should* equal more crime!"**

YEAR	Total CA Population	Prison Population	Total Violent Crime	Total Property Crime
1980	23,782,000	24,569	209,903	781,394
1981	24,278,000	29,202	208,165	702,076
1982	24,805,000	34,640	201,433	663,998
1983	25,337,000	39,373	194,489	619,300
1984	25,816,000	43,328	195,650	604,965
1985	26,403,000	50,111	202,066	626,395
1986	27,052,000	59,484	248,352	663,345
1987	27,717,000	66,975	254,137	649,877
1988	28,393,000	76,171	261,990	673,530
1989	29,142,000	87,297	284,015	708,540
1990	29,828,000	97,309	311,923	705,742
1991	30,459,000	101,800	330,916	742,697
1992	30,987,000	109,496	345,508	747,324
1993	31,314,000	119,951	336,100	732,896

▲ ABOVE TOTALS ARE BEFORE "THREE STRIKES" WAS IMPLIMENTED ▲

YEAR	Total CA Population	Prison Population	Total Violent Crime	Total Property Crime
1994	31,524,000	125,605	318,946	692,717
1995	31,712,000	135,133	304,998	634,134
1996	31,963,000	145,565	274,675	553,974
1997	32,453,000	155,276	257,409	527,422
1998	32,863,000	159,563	229,786	464,249
1999	33,419,000	160,681	207,874	392,293
2000	34,095,000	160,655	210,492	403,296
2001	34,767,000	157,142	210,510	430,996
2002	35,361,000	159,695	207,988	459,225
2003	35,944,000	161,785	204,591	481,503
2004	36,454,000	163,939	197,432	496,661
2005	36,899,000	168,035	189,593	506,561
2006	37,298,000	172,528	194,128	489,141
2007	37,713,000	171,444	191,493	457,885

▲ ABOVE TOTALS ARE AFTER "THREE STRIKES" WAS IMPLIMENTED ▲

14 MILLION MORE CITIZENS, W/ 50% LESS CRIME THAN 28 YRS. AGO

OVERALL CRIME COMPARISON - over a 28 year period (1980 -2007)

Rates per 100,000 residents (shown below) are used most often for comparisons, due to the fact that it levels population differentials and is a more accurate side by side comparison.

YEAR	VIOLENT CRIMES (rate per 100,000)					PROPERTY CRIMES (rate per 100,000)		
	TOTAL	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	TOTAL	BURGLARY	AUTO THEFT
1980	886.9	14.4	57.7	381.4	433.3	3,035.3	2,297.8	737.5
1981	866.0	13.1	56.3	389.5	407.0	2,920.6	2,245.6	675.0
1982	820.6	11.3	51.0	374.7	383.5	2,705.1	2,034.8	670.3
1983	775.6	10.5	48.2	342.3	374.6	3,166.1	1,836.1	633.7
1984	764.6	10.6	45.7	328.3	379.9	3,085.4	1,733.8	630.6
1985	773.8	10.7	43.8	331.1	388.2	3,175.4	1,719.7	679.1
1986	928.7	11.3	45.3	346.0	526.1	3,250.4	1,711.7	768.8
1987	927.9	10.7	44.2	304.4	568.6	3,155.4	1,534.2	838.7
1988	933.7	10.5	41.9	307.2	574.0	3,228.0	1,452.4	947.9
1989	987.2	11.0	41.6	335.1	599.5	3,332.4	1,425.6	1,037.1
1990	1,055.3	12.1	43.0	380.5	619.8	3,246.5	1,361.8	1,025.8
1991	1,079.8	12.6	42.2	408.2	616.7	3,284.1	1,390.3	1,033.2
1992	1,103.9	12.5	40.7	418.1	632.5	3,208.3	1,365.2	1,022.4
1993	1,058.8	12.9	37.0	398.0	610.9	3,106.5	1,303.2	1,005.7

▲ ABOVE TOTALS ARE BEFORE "THREE STRIKES" WAS IMPLIMENTED ▲

YEAR	TOTAL	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	TOTAL	BURGLARY	AUTO THEFT
1994	992.4	11.5	34.1	348.9	297.8	2,946.1	1,196.1	959.3
1995	951.2	11.0	32.9	326.2	581.2	2,733.6	1,103.5	874.3
1996	848.2	9.0	31.6	290.7	516.9	2,377.4	962.8	747.9
1997	781.0	7.8	30.9	247.0	495.3	2,216.0	906.9	693.4
1998	686.0	6.5	29.2	205.3	445.1	1,943.9	802.7	583.4
1999	610.7	5.9	27.7	176.4	400.7	1,649.8	657.6	495.0
2000	610.5	6.0	28.4	174.7	401.4	1,677.2	644.6	525.1
2001	605.6	6.3	28.4	182.1	388.8	1,801.1	661.5	578.5
2002	589.2	6.8	28.8	183.6	370.0	1,891.1	672.6	628.3
2003	569.4	6.7	27.6	177.0	358.1	1,928.9	669.9	370.1
2004	539.6	6.5	26.2	168.3	338.5	1,946.4	669.3	688.0
2005	512.3	6.8	25.3	171.4	308.9	1,952.0	674.4	694.5
2006	518.4	6.6	24.6	189.5	297.7	1,889.8	658.2	648.1
2007	507.0	6.0	24.0	187.2	289.9	1,803.6	629.5	582.8

▲ ABOVE TOTALS ARE AFTER "THREE STRIKES" WAS IMPLIMENTED ▲

Today, most of California's crime is at the same rate as 1968, a 40 year rollback!
The exception is "home burglary" which is now at the same rate it was in 1953, a half century reduction.

CRIMES COMMITTED DURING A 28 YEAR PERIOD (1980-2007)

YEAR	VIOLENT CRIMES (Actual numbers)					PROPERTY CRIMES (Actual numbers)		
	TOTAL	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	TOTAL	BURGLARY	AUTO THEFT
1980	209,903	3,405	13,661	90,262	102,555	718,394	543,846	174,548
1981	208,165	3,140	13,545	96,638	97,842	702,076	539,809	162,267
1982	210,433	2,778	12,529	91,988	94,138	663,998	499,468	164,530
1983	194,489	2,640	12,092	85,824	93,933	619,300	460,401	158,899
1984	195,650	2,724	11,702	84,015	97,209	604,965	443,624	161,341
1985	202,066	2,781	11,442	86,464	101,379	626,395	449,065	177,330
1986	248,352	3,030	12,118	92,513	140,691	663,345	457,743	205,602
1987	245,137	2,929	12,114	83,373	155,721	649,877	420,182	229,695
1988	261,990	2,947	11,771	86,190	161,082	673,530	407,555	265,975
1989	284,015	3,159	11,956	96,424	172,476	708,540	410,148	298,392
1990	311,923	3,562	12,716	112,460	183,185	705,742	402,533	303,209
1991	330,916	3,876	12,942	125,105	188,993	742,697	426,066	316,631
1992	345,508	3,920	12,751	130,867	197,970	747,324	427,305	320,019
1993	336,100	4,095	11,754	126,347	193,904	732,896	413,671	319,225
TOTAL	3,584,647	44,986	173,093	1,388,470	1,981,078	9,559,079	6,301,416	3,257,663

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YEAR	TOTAL	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	TOTAL	BURGLARY	AUTO THEFT
1994	318,946	3,699	10,960	112,149	192,138	693,717	384,414	308,303
1995	304,998	3,530	10,550	104,581	186,337	634,134	353,817	280,317
1996	274,675	2,910	10,238	94,137	167,390	553,974	353,817	242,196
1997	257,409	2,579	10,182	81,413	163,235	527,422	298,882	228,540
1998	229,786	2,170	9,777	68,752	149,067	464,249	268,847	195,402
1999	207,874	2,006	9,443	60,027	136,398	392,293	223,828	168,465
2000	210,492	2,074	9,785	60,243	138,390	403,296	222,247	181,049
2001	210,510	2,201	9,882	63,299	135,128	430,996	229,922	201,074
2002	207,988	2,392	10,176	64,805	130,615	459,225	237,445	221,780
2003	204,591	2,402	9,918	63,597	128,674	481,503	240,705	240,798
2004	197,432	2,394	9,598	61,573	123,867	496,661	244,914	251,747
2005	189,593	2,503	9,345	63,424	114,321	506,561	249,563	256,998
2006	194,128	2,483	9,213	70,961	111,471	489,141	246,449	242,692
2007	191,493	2,258	9,047	70,702	109,486	457,885	237,759	220,126
TOTAL	3,199,915	35,601	138,114	1,039,663	1,986,517	6,990,057	3,750,570	3,239,487

▲ ABOVE TOTALS ARE AFTER "THREE STRIKES" WAS IMPLIMENTED ▲

The historic drops in crime, after "Three Strikes", occurred within 3 years of its passage. We have gone on to roll back crime rates to the 1968 era, a "40 year reduction". The exception, residential burglary, is at the same rate as 1953, a rate that hasn't been seen in over one-half a century. While there has been some modest rate changes - both up and down - the overall 15 year period after "Three Strikes" has cut crime nearly in half. These are sustained crime reductions California has never previously experienced.

14 YEAR DIFFERENCES 14 YEARS BEFORE "THREE STRIKES" AND 14 YEARS AFTER IT BECAME LAW

2008 Crime statistics unavailable at the time of this 14 year comparison report

	MURDERS	RAPE	ROBBERIES	ASSAULTS	BURGLARIES
BEFORE	44,986	173,093	1,388,470	1,981,078	6,301,416
AFTER	35,601	138,114	1,039,663	1,986,517	3,750,570
DIFFERENCE	9,385	34,979	348,807	- 5,439	2,550,846

DOLLAR COSTS APPLIED - SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS

	Fewer Crimes in last 15 years than prior to "Three Strikes"	Combined Monetary Costs Per Crime	Overall Savings to Taxpayers
MURDERS	9,385	\$3,885,185	\$36,462,461,225
RAPE	34,979	\$ 114,308	\$ 3,998,379,532
ROBBERIES	349,807	\$ 25,108	\$ 8,757,846,156
ASSAULT	-5,439	\$ 12,356	\$ - 67,204,284
BURGLARIES	2,550,846	\$ 1,850	\$ 4,719,065,100
TOTAL SAVINGS			\$ 53,870,547,729

\$54 BILLION IN SAVINGS

Costs per crime established by US Department of Justice Report
January 1996 - adjusted for inflation to represent 2007 dollars.

National Institute of Justice

Jeremy Travis, Director

Research Preview

January 1996

The Extent and Costs of Crime Victimization: A new Look

U.S. Department of Justice

Per Crime	Tangible Costs	Intangible Costs	Total Costs
Per Murder	\$ 1,030,000	\$ 1,910,000	\$ 2,940,000
Per Rape/Sexual Assault	5,100	\$ 81,400	86,500
Per Robbery / Attempt With Injury	5,200	13,800	19,000
Per Assault or Attempt	1,550	7,800	9,350
Per Burglary or Attempt	1,100	300	1,400

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\$54 Billion Dollars in Savings!

Costs per crime established by US Department of Justice Report
January 1996 - adjusted for inflation to represent 2007 dollars.

Intervention vs. Deterrence

Most of those who believe in intervention have assigned some program that reinstates inner values, or has caused former offenders to reconsider the harm that their previous act had done, and what harm their current act will do.

Deterrents are the consideration an offender thinks over before re-offending. Considerations like: "Will I get caught?" "Will I be convicted?" "Will I actually go to jail or prison?" and... "If I do go to prison, for how long?"

While intervention programs are seen as a "velvet glove" approach, the "Three Strikes" law is perceived as the "brass knuckles" technique, or deterrence.

The real question is... "What really works?"

Intervention and rehabilitation programs should be monitored and audited for effectiveness. These are very costly to taxpayers and we must have programs that have proven track records ... or they need to be eliminated.

The California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation has been unable to provide accurate tracking of its inmates, due to an obsolete state computer system.

There are, however, three studies on California's "Three Strikes" offenders that show the likelihood of felons with one or two strikes having a dramatically less chance of returning with a new conviction than felons without prior "strike" convictions. These studies also show an extraordinary exodus from California of paroled felons.

On our website you will find:

- [An FBI study](#)
- [The Chicago study](#)
- [The Harvard study](#)

There is a clear and effective deterrence side to the "Three Strikes" law.

As to terminology of deterrence or intervention... if an offender has been deterred from committing a new crime, then you have intervened. The results are the same... and it is the results that count. For every offender that actually is sent to prison under "Three Strikes", countless others have given up a life of crime, or have left California.

Measuring the effectiveness of a law

1. Does the condition improve after its passage?
2. Is it cost effective?
3. Is it fair?

These are simple rules to be guidelines for judging the success, or failure, of laws.

1) Does the condition improve after its passage?

The drop in overall crime, that came after the passage of "Three Strikes", speaks for itself.

Historic drops in crime occurred within 3 years of the passage of "Three Strikes". We have since gone on to roll back crime rates to the 1968 era... **"a 40 year reduction"**. The exception is, **residential burglary**, which is at the same rate as 1953, a rate that hasn't been seen in over one-half a century. While there has been some modest rate changes - both up and down - the overall 15 year period, after "Three Strikes", has cut crime nearly in half. These are sustained crime reductions California has never previously experienced.

Anybody, with any level of objectivity, would have to believe "Three Strikes" is playing a major role in California's record crime reduction.

2) Is it cost effective?

Is letting criminals out of prison cheaper than keeping them in?

While there are those who argue great savings by releasing repeat offenders, one must consider, by definition, that a repeat offender is in-and-out of prison on a repetitive basis. The real question; is there any savings by letting repeat offenders out for short amounts of time? Is the cost of catching and reconvicting them worth the small amount of time they are out? Do the crimes they commit, while they are free, outweigh the costs of incarceration?

Cost projections were that "Three Strikes" would add 20 new prisons and increase inmate populations to 250,000, in just 5 years. Financial estimates were over \$4 billion per year. What was not understood is when crime is cut-in-half that translates into not only fewer victims, but also fewer criminals that would have needed police investigations, court services for prosecution, and more prisons to house them.

5 years prior to "Three Strikes", California funded and built 19 new prisons. Only **one** new prison has been funded and built in the last 15 years, since "Three Strikes", and that is Delano 2. Today, California's prison population is 170,000. This represents only a 10,000 inmate growth in the last 9 years. Prior to "Three Strikes", prisons could see that much growth in a single year. Keep in mind, California saw its overall population increase by over 6.5 million people, since 1994, when the "Three Strikes" law was put into effect.

continued next page ...

Continued -

This represents an extraordinarily modest growth in prison population when considering such a large increase in new California residents. Everyone's attention is focused on California's 170,000 inmates. **Few people know that nearly 125,000 are paroled each year.**

Yes, California paroles nearly 125,000 inmates each year. 71% are back in and locked up within 18 months. The key to this equation is best seen in 3 million fewer victims and \$54 billion dollars saved by reduced crime. This is a combination that saves lives and money.

3) Is it fair?

Are people getting life sentences for minor offenses?

There are 3 kinds of crimes: Infractions, misdemeanors and felonies.

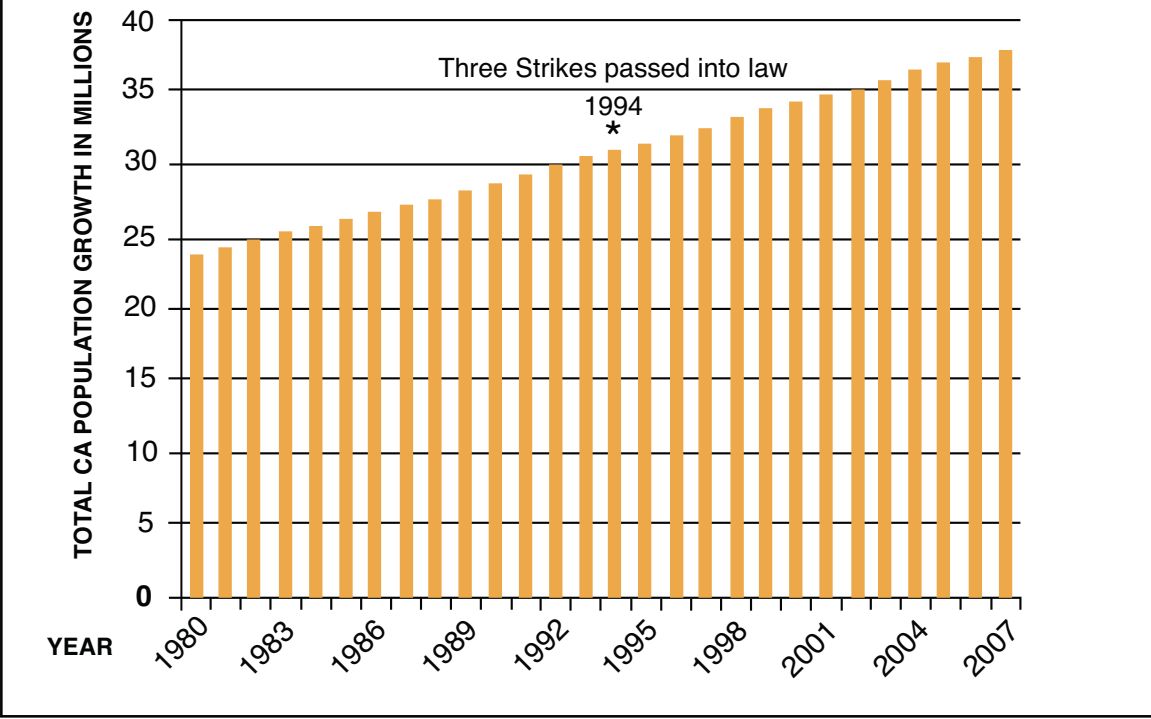
The most serious of these are **felonies**. "Three Strikes" requires the first two (2) convictions to be not just felonies, but serious or violent felonies, that are the "worst of the worst" crimes. The third strike still requires a felony conviction in order to hand down a "25 to Life" sentence. Keep in mind, "Three Strikes" does not decide what is, or is not, a crime or what should be a serious or violent felony, or a misdemeanor. Our state legislature decides what crimes should be felonies, and what should be serious or violent felonies. In raising crime to the high threshold of a felony, be assured "minor" is not a part of a felony crime.

What is sometimes mistaken (or misunderstood) is the level of violence and brutality, as compared to the value of something rather minor. My daughter, Kimber, was murdered over a "minor" purse snatching. In fact, most murders are over little or "minor value" issues. Keep in mind, every "Three Strikes" case is closely reviewed by prosecutors who must prove the prior convictions in court. In the event that the defendant is found guilty of the current felony offense, the judge can, and does, review the merits of the case to decide whether or not to apply the full "25 to Life", or reduce the case to a second strike.

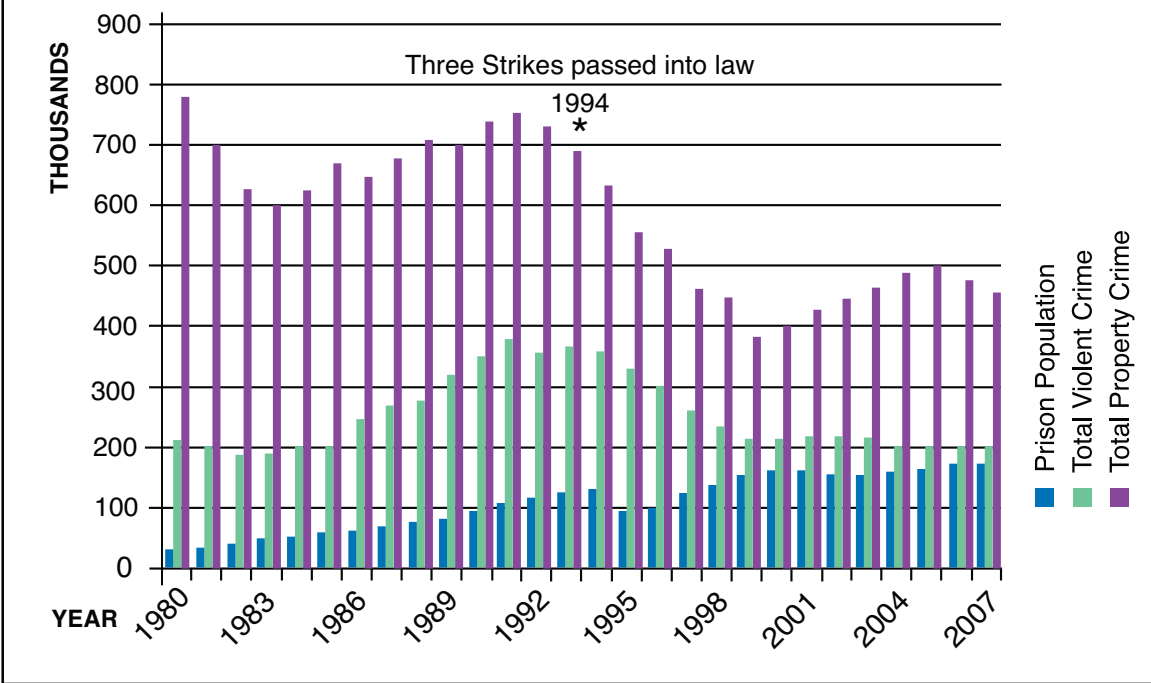
On average, only (1) out of every (9) eligible third strikers gets a "25 to Life" sentence.

The average third striker has (5) prior serious or violent felony convictions.

California Population Growth (1980-2007)



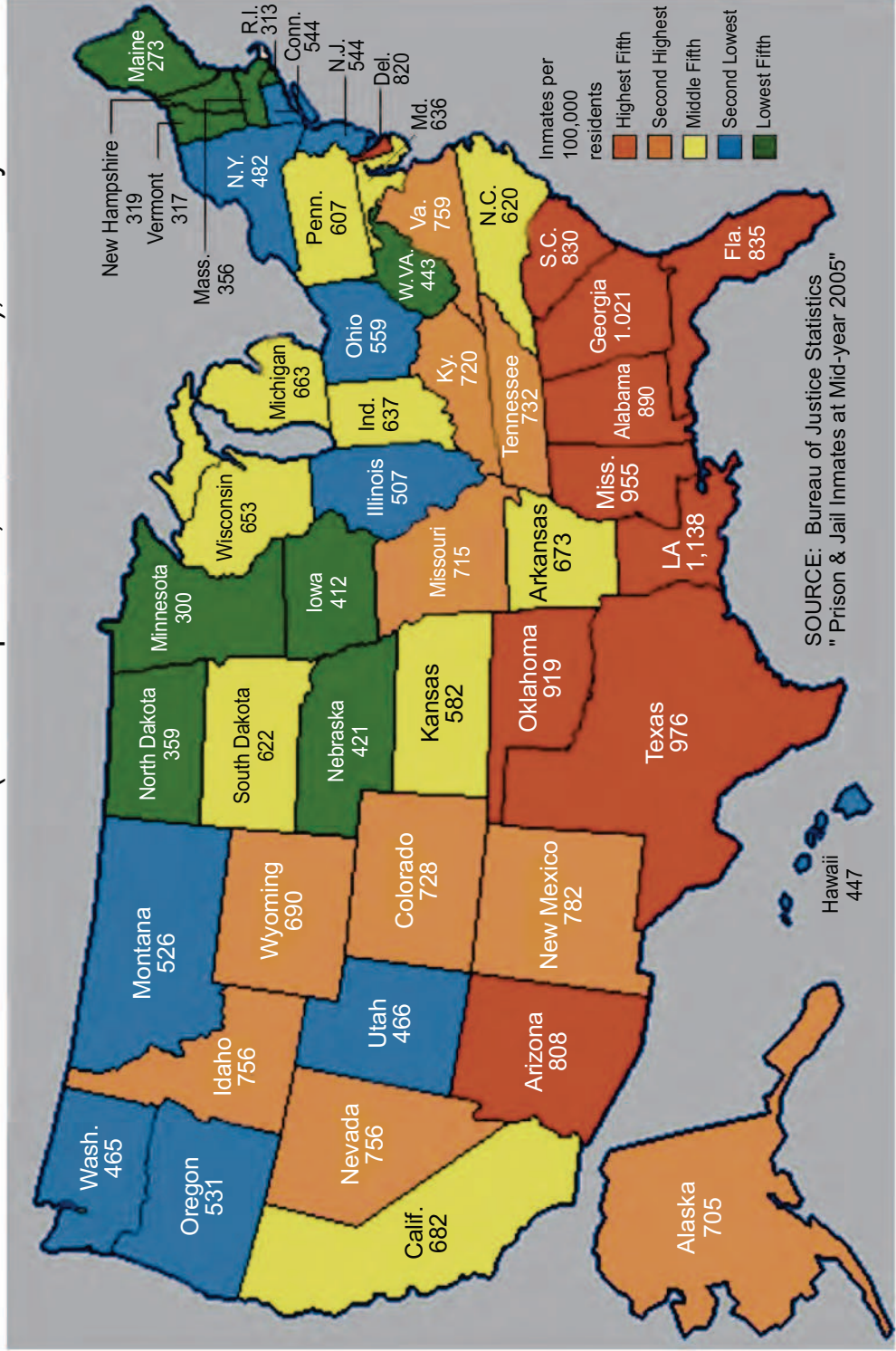
California Prison Population Growth (1980-2007)



Who Is In Our State Prisons?

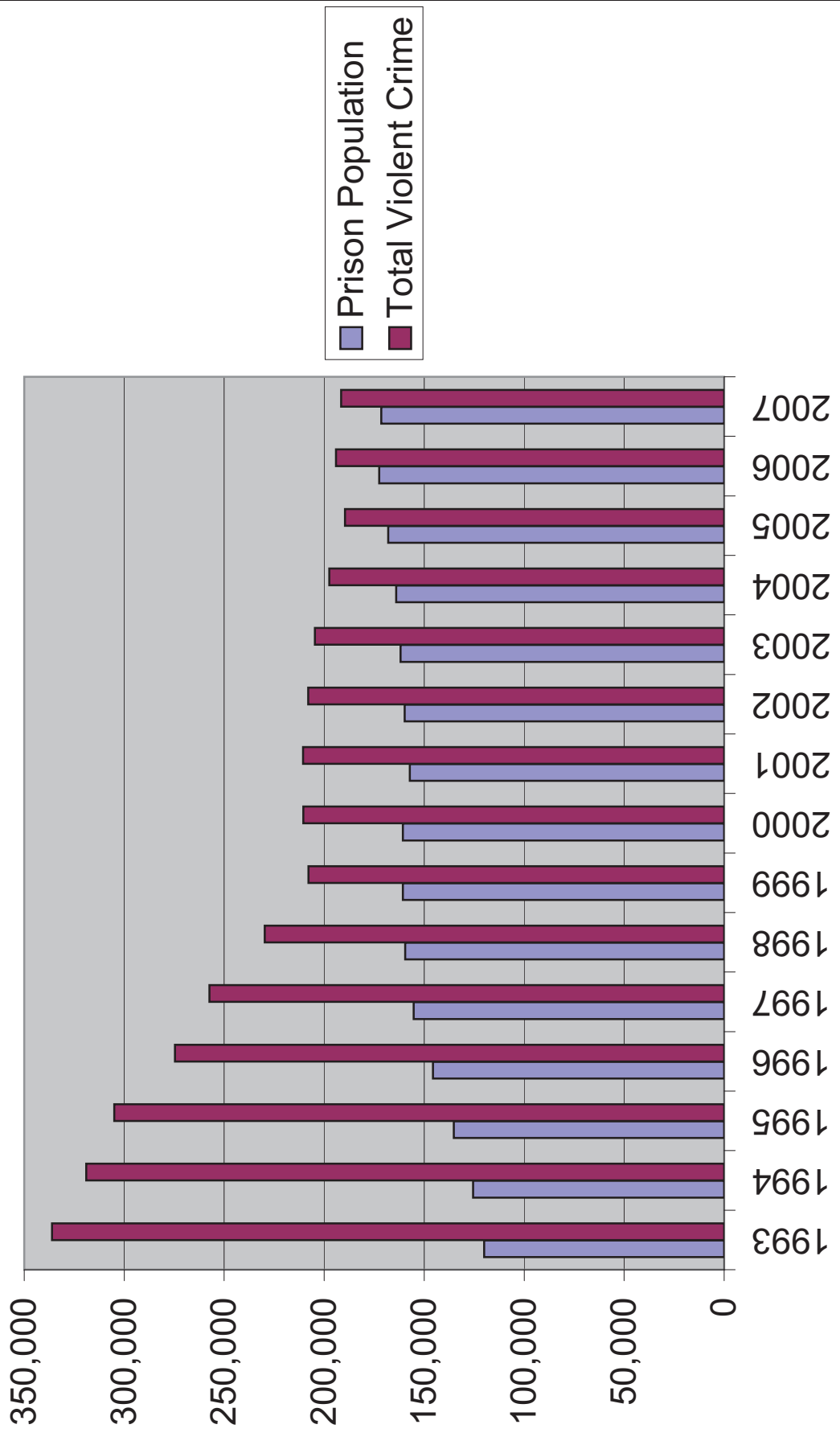
On almost a daily basis, Californians read that our state prison system is too big, too expensive, growing at an explosive pace, and incarcerating tens of thousands of low level offenders who could be effectively treated and returned to our streets as productive citizens. More often than not, tough penalties under laws like "Three Strikes" are identified as the cause of alleged unfairness in sentencing and relentless growth within our correctional system. Seldom are the facts allowed to intrude into the analysis. Instead, the issues of cost, size of the prison system, and the profile of the inmate population are, through ignorance or design, scrambled and distorted so that the public is misled and confused. The facts, however, are available. Example shown below.

STATE INCARCERATION RATES (Inmates per 100,000 residents), 2005 by Quintile



SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics
"Prison & Jail Inmates at Mid-year 2005"

CA Prison Population Vs. Violent Crime, 1993-2007



ARE YOU SURE IT'S THREE STRIKES?

When you can't argue with the numbers (in this case, the reduction of crime after the passage of Three Strikes), then question the cause.

How do you know it's Three Strikes causing the reduction?

Criminologists have universally assigned crime trends to demographics that relate to population and the age groups contained within that population. Certain age groups have more frequent criminal behavior.

The other factor, that is often cited as a major influence, is the economy. A bad economy translates into fewer jobs and more of the unemployed turn to crime.

California's population expansion has been well documented in this study. This, over 50% increase in residents over the last 28 years, showcases every age bracket with larger populations, including those in the crime prone years. Yet crime is down.

Over the last 15 years of Three Strikes we have seen our economy go up and down, yet perhaps never as far down as it is today. Unemployment hits a new high every month. Using the economic model before us today, we should see run away crime trends. With the exception of the "once in a while" front page act of violence, the actual number of crimes has held steady and approximately one-half the rate prior to Three Strikes.

Poor education is also often referenced as a cause of crime. California's dropout rates have never been higher. With fewer students finishing high school we should find more of them turning to crime... but we're not.

Cause and effect have always been difficult to prove.

A classic case in point is the association of cigarette smoke and lung cancer. It took over 40 years before conclusive proof was accepted, resulting in widespread public recognition of the definitive risk to smokers.

Another public health risk is crime. Crime is responsible for killing over 2,000 Californians every year. Many more are injured, maimed, and left in shattered shells of their former lives.

What is the cause of this crime?

If crime cannot be blamed on the poor economy, or an increase in population, or lack of education, then what can possibly be the cause of crime?

Just maybe the leading cause of crime is "**criminals.**"

Studies have shown that an extraordinarily high portion of our crime is committed by a rather small percentage of our criminals. They are by definition, "repeat offenders."

This is exactly the targeted groups that Three Strikes has impacted - the smallest number of criminals that are responsible for the largest number of crimes.

In review: Possible causes that could be responsible for crime reduction.

- 1) Population is more, not less, thus it is eliminated.
- 2) The economy is down, yet so is crime.
- 3) Lack of education, higher dropout rates, but lower crime rates.

When you have eliminated everything but the obvious, then it is most likely the obvious - laws that are tougher on criminals "work" and Three Strikes has led the way.

Impact of "Three Strikes"

Full reports on our website, www.threestrikes.org

- **State Senator George Runner's report**
([Who is in our State Prisons?](#))
- **California District Attorneys Association**
([Prosecutors perspective on California's "Three Strikes" law](#))
- **The Journal of the Institute for the Advancement of Criminal Justice**
([Debunking the myths attacking California's "Three Strikes" law and demonstrating its effectiveness in protecting the people of California](#))
- **California Legislative Analyst Office**
(["Three Strikes" - The Impact after More than a Decade](#))

Virtually all predictions in 1994 prior to the passage of "Three Strikes" warned that California's prison population would explode forcing the construction of 20 new prisons, in just 5 years.

Looking back at the official projected increase in inmate population, which was made prior to and without consideration of "Three Strikes", as well as the anticipated increases that "Three Strikes" would bring, both estimates were well over what has actually transpired.

The question is why?

Criminologists have nearly always predicted that tougher laws lock up more people for longer times, thus increasing the inmate population as the end result.

The one factor that was not considered is that California's crime was cut nearly in half in almost every category. Fewer crimes not only translate into fewer victims, but also fewer criminals. Fewer criminals, in turn, are reflected in fewer arrests, prosecutions and incarcerations.

Fact: California funded and built 19 new prisons, 5 years prior to "Three Strikes".

Fact: California funded and built only 1 new prison in the last 15 years - after "Three Strikes".

Fact: Within 3 years of the passage of "Three Strikes" California crime rates rolled back to the same rates as the late 1960s.

Fact: Before "Three Strikes" passed, California had the 4th highest crime rates (by FBI Crime Index 1993) in the United States. Within 5 years California dropped to a ranking of 29th.

Fact: For the people of California, regardless of their support or opposition to "Three Strikes", they can enjoy their lives knowing that they have only one-half the chance of being a victim of violence as they did prior to 1994.

Fact: Home burglary is often cited as the most unfair part of "Three Strikes".

Residential burglary is currently at the same rate as it was in 1953 - over a 1/2 century rollback.

Fact: Over **3 million fewer** serious or violent crimes have been committed in the last 15 years of "Three Strikes", compared to the 15 years prior to "Three Strikes".

Fact: California's overall population increased by 14 million people, yet saw 3 million fewer crimes. Criminologists have historically equated crime to population - more people equals more crime. California has cut its crime nearly in half while the state population increased by more than 50%.

Fact: California saved \$54 billion in its reduction of over 3 million serious or violent crimes according to the U. S. Department of Justice Report on the Cost of Crime.

(Breakdown and spreadsheet available on this report).