



CALIFORNIA BUDGET BASICS

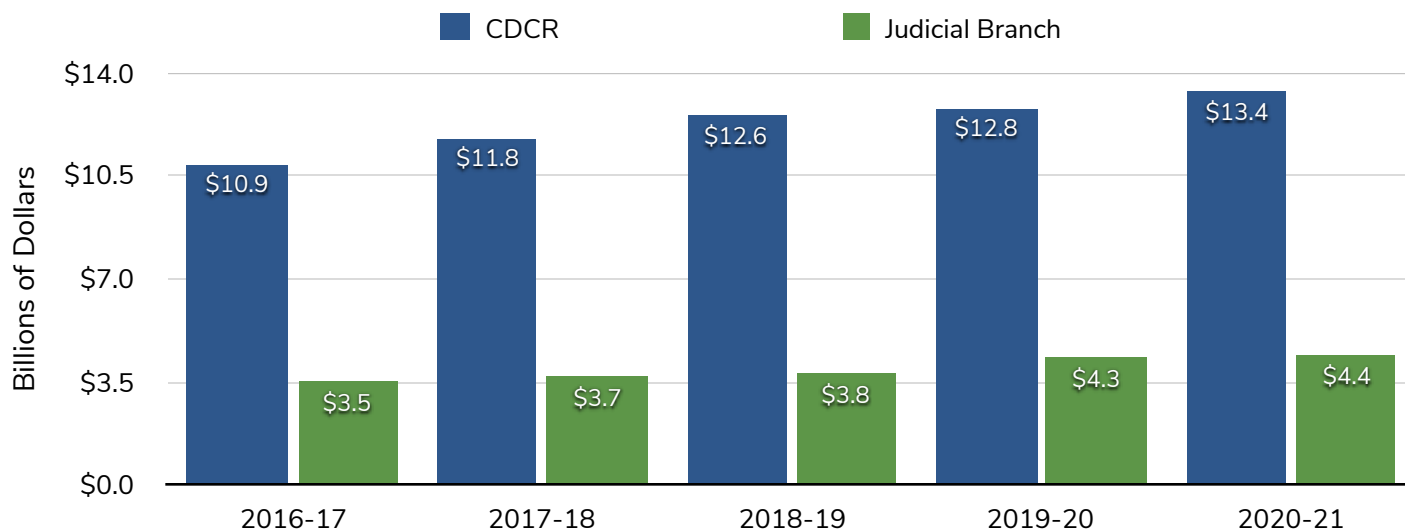
Criminal Justice



The state's criminal justice system includes the **California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)** and **the judicial branch**. CDCR also supervises those released on parole and provides rehabilitation programs—such as education, career training, counseling, and substance abuse treatment—to help former inmates reintegrate into the community. The judicial branch consists of the state Supreme Court, courts of appeal, trial courts, and the Judicial Council (the rule-making arm of the California court system).

The enacted 2020-21 budget includes total funding of \$13.4 billion (\$13.1 billion General Fund and \$311 million other funds) for CDCR, up from \$12.8 billion (+4.7%) in total funding in 2019-20. The average daily inmate population is projected to be 122,356 (a decrease of 1,180 from the January budget) and average daily parolee population of 56,966 (increase of 1,884 from January budget).

Criminal Justice Total Funding



Data from the California Department of Finance

After more than a decade, CDCR terminated its final remaining contract to house inmates out-of-state in June 2019. In addition, CDCR terminated its final remaining contract with a private in-state prison for male inmates in May 2020. Based on current population trends, the Administration plans to close the remaining three male, public in-state contracted (i.e. not state-owned and operated) correctional facilities in 2020-21.

WHAT'S IN THE 2020-21 BUDGET

The enacted budget also reflects the administration's plan to phase out two of the remaining three male, public in-state contract correctional facilities by 2021 and the third by July 2022. The May Revision also plans to close one state-operated prison beginning in 2021-22 and a second facility starting in 2022-23—a year earlier than proposed in January. These closures are estimated to result in savings of \$100 million in 2021-22, \$300 million in 2022-23, and \$400 million ongoing once finally implemented.

The final budget also makes changes to “good conduct credits” that provide greater incentive for individuals to engage in good conduct, such as participating in work and other assignments. While the changes are still being developed, the preliminary estimate is that these changes will save \$2.7 million General Fund in 2020-21.

Lastly, the final budget will cap supervision for certain parolees to 24 months in an effort to align community supervision terms with evidence that most recidivism occurs earlier after release, to create incentives for positive behavior change, and to more effectively use limited state resources. The estimated savings are expected to be \$23.2 million General Fund in 2020-21, increasing to \$64.6 million ongoing General Fund in 2023-24.

COVID Response: As a result of the pandemic, CDCR also initiated the release of inmates who were within 60 days of release at the beginning of April 2020 and who were not serving a current term for domestic violence, a violent felony, or required to register as a sex offender. As of June 17, 2020, the adult inmate population was 114,643—compared to 122,941 as of March 25, 2020—a reduction of 8,387 inmates. CDCR estimates that approx. 3,500 inmates will be held in county jails as a result of the suspension of intake for 60 days—once intake resumes, those inmates will be transferred to CDCR over a period of approximately 28 days. CDCR is also testing any incarcerated person before they are either released or transferred to another institution.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE KEY FACTS

- ➔ **Population Decline:** The adult inmate population across the state's 35 prisons and 42 conservation camps has been decreasing since a peak of 173,600 in 2007
 - ▶ Between June 2011-2019, the inmate population declined by 23% and the parolee population by 44%
- ➔ **Employment:** CDCR employs approximately 57,000 people—about half of whom serve as correctional officers
- ➔ **Recidivism:** The recidivism rate (rate of those released from state prison who are subsequently convicted a new crime within 3 years of release) in California is 46.5%
 - ▶ Of the 39,205 inmates released in 2014-15, 53.5% had no convictions within 3 years of release
 - ▶ Misdemeanor drug/alcohol crimes comprised the largest majority of all post-release convictions (21.7%)
 - ▶ Parolees with substance abuse treatment needs who completed the in-prison Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SDUT) saw a reduced 3-year conviction rate—18.5%, compared to 50.1% for those that did not complete treatment
- ➔ **Increased Rehabilitation:** The total capacity for all in-prison rehabilitative programs was 123,000 slots as of June 2019, 13% more than in June 2017
 - ▶ Most in-prison program slots are education-related, while most post-release slots are for substance abuse treatment
 - ▶ There were approximately 21,000 additional slots for post-release programs, roughly unchanged from June 2017

*Data from the 2020-21 enacted budget, LAO, [CDCR](#), and the [California Rehabilitation Oversight Board \(C-ROB\)](#).