



The California Correctional System

and the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act
A California Voter Initiative — November 2000

According to the State Legislative Analyst's Office, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will divert approximately 25,000 non-violent drug possession offenders per year into drug treatment instead of prison. This includes both offenders sentenced by the courts and parole violators subject to re-incarceration. With a reduced number of offenders entering prison custody, the measure will also result in as many as 9,500 fewer individuals in the state parole system per year. Finally, an additional 12,000 offenders will be diverted out of county jails and into community treatment programs annually.

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will save the state millions of dollars in incarceration costs. The reduction of the number of offenders in the state correctional system will result in operating costs being reduced by between \$200 and \$250 million within several years. And by reducing the need for prison beds so dramatically, the state will also be able to delay the construction of an additional prison, avoiding a one-time capital outlay of between \$475 and \$575 million.

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will result in a reduction in dangerous prison over-crowding and improve working conditions for state correctional officers. By lowering the ratio of inmates to prison guards, facility and staff safety will increase.

**Approximately
37,000 offenders
will be diverted
from the
California
correctional
system into
community-
based treatment
programs.**

— *Fiscal Effect of "The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000," California Legislative Analyst's Office, '99*

**As of June 1999,
the California
state prison
system held a
record 19,743
offenders, 12.2
percent of the
entire prison
population, for a
simple drug
possession
conviction.**

— *Offender Information, California Department of Corrections Data Analysis Unit, '99*

All research references are available upon request.

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