



## Parole Services

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

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will have a significant impact on California's parole system. It will divert many parolees who commit non-violent, drug-related violations into supervised treatment programs instead of returning them to prison. Currently, 46 percent of all parole violations resulting in incarceration involve non-violent drug violations. Processing such violators can leave parole agents with less time and fewer resources to monitor the violent criminals who are a real threat to public safety.

California's parole system is now widely known as the "back door" into the state prison system, as an ever increasing number of parole violators are filling up prison beds. While nearly half of them are non-violent drug offenders, the pre-release and post-release programs that would help them break the cycle of substance abuse and addiction are often not available.

Funding provided by the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will fill the need for drug treatment and other services for parolees. This will have a long-term positive effect on the state prison population by reversing costly re-incarceration. It would also put an end to the recycling of non-violent drug offenders through the parole system, thereby streamlining the vital role of our state's 1,200 parole agents. In fact, the California Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that this initiative would result in a net case load reduction of 9,500 parolees and a net savings of about \$20 million annually in parole operations alone.

**The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will result in a parole case-load decrease of 9,500, while saving the system \$20 million annually.**

— Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, California Legislative Analyst's Office, '99

**Currently, only 12 percent of the overall parole system budget is spent reintegrating parolees back into society.**

— Reforming California's Adult Parole System, LAO Analysis of the '98 - '99 Budget Bill, '00

All research references are available upon request.

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