



Riverside All of US or NONE
Peace & Justice
Community Summit

April 20, 2022

Briefing Packet

Summit Intent

The intent of this Summit was to allow community members who have been released from prisons and/or jails to talk about the challenges they face while integrating or reintegrating into society.

Elected officials, Department heads, and other key decision-makers will be in attendance at this event so they can better start to address the policy and systems changes necessary to assist these individuals and foster successful reentry.

The Summit serves as an innovative way to strengthen our families and communities in this region.

**ALL OF US OR NONE
(AOUON)**

General Information about AOUON

Riverside All of US or NONE is part of a national organizing initiative of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, our families, friends, and allies that work to end the discrimination faced by people with criminal convictions. The goal of All of Us or None is to center the voices of people most affected by the mass incarceration of indigenous, black, and brown people, and all others that have been impacted by the penal system and the collateral consequences of incarceration and conviction.

As members of All of Us or None, we pledge:

- **To demand the right to speak in our own voices;**
- **To treat each other with respect and not allow differences to divide us;**
- **To accept responsibility for any acts that may have caused harm to our families, our communities, or ourselves;**
- **To fight all forms of discrimination;**
- **To help build the economic stability of formerly-incarcerated people;**
- **To claim and take care of our own children and our families;**
- **To support community struggles to stop using prisons as the answer to social problems; and**
- **To play an active role in making our communities safe for everyone.**

ALL OF US OR NONE!

Racial Equity

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-179: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE DECLARING RACISM AND INEQUITY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Link:<https://rivco.org/sites/default/files/News%20Articles/Documents/Resolution%20declaring%20racism%20public%20health%20crisis.pdf>

The Equality Act 2010 says you must not be discriminated against because of your race. In the Equality Act, race can mean your color, or your nationality (including your citizenship). It can also mean your ethnic or national origins, which may not be the same as your current nationality.

Confirmed inequalities and inequities imbedded in policies and practices relating to housing, education, employment, and public safety offer proof that a racial equity lens must be applied at the structural and systemic level when creating policies that impact the public. Riverside county has taken a bold step, by adopting Resolution No. 2020-179 which declared racism and inequality a Public Health Crisis. But we must continue, we must not be complacent with words on paper, we must work to manifest a community, a county, a region that builds upon the prolific words to co-build a community that supports “belonging” over “othering”, “hope” over “despair” and “opportunity” over “adversity”.

Black and brown people are disproportionately affected by the racial inequities in Riverside County. Once an individual becomes system impacted these inequities and inequalities deepen, to the point of creating generational trauma.

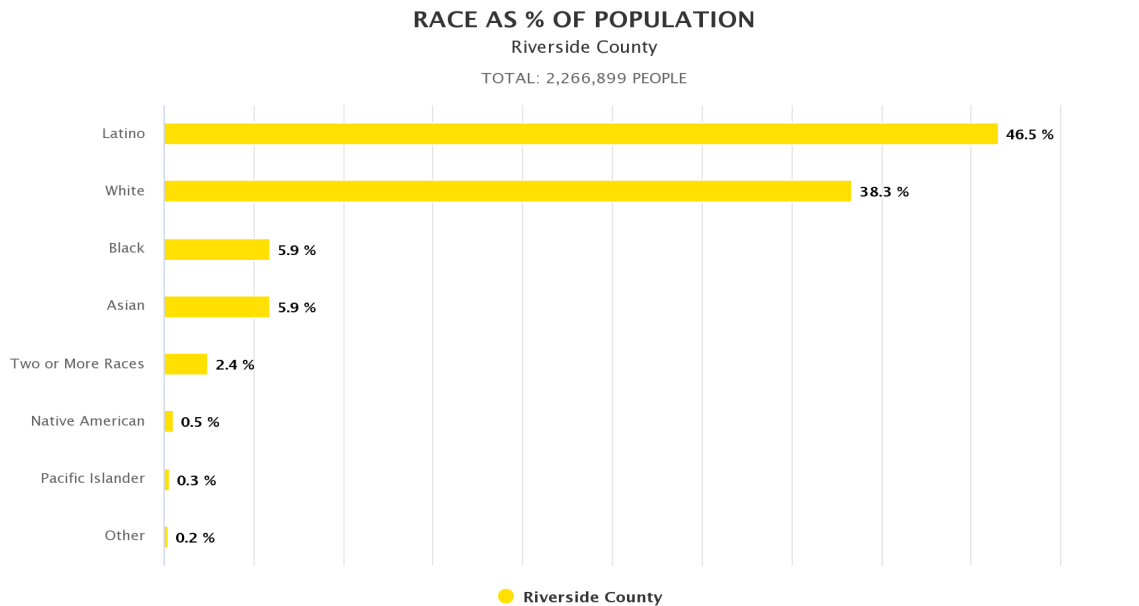
Black and brown people are unarguably disproportionately wrongfully convicted and over sentenced. The incarceration data in Riverside County is often much worse than it is in every other county in the State. Black, brown, and indigenous people are overrepresented by the carceral system and have the greatest experience of living with life long collateral consequences of incarceration. This suffering has become a by-product of that now-unacceptable assembly-line justice. Assembly line justice refers to a system of justice where the process

remains rigid and makes no considerations on a case-by-case basis. In such a system, the cases lack individuality, and cases brought before the court are handled in the most penal way possible, and this is even more pronounced when the defendants are black or in close proximity to blackness.

The assembly line justice system in Riverside County is causing irreparable harm to black, indigenous, and brown communities. We aim to reduce this type of community harm by collaborating with County Entities to reduce wrongful convictions, over-criminalizing, state violence, and hyper-surveillance of our communities, and growing public safety budgets at the expense of safety net services and community based alternatives to incarceration.

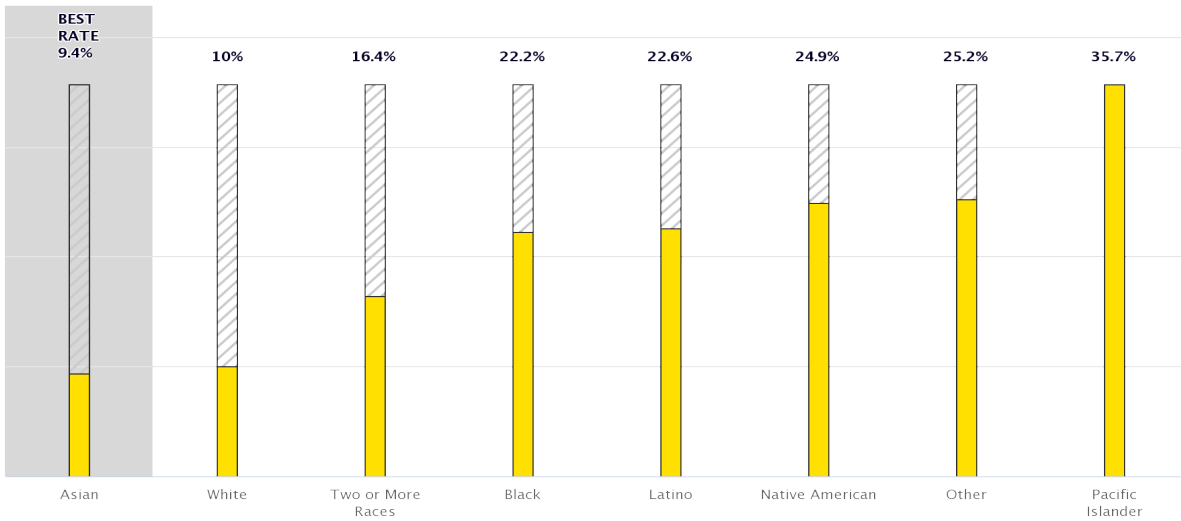
QuickFacts

Riverside County, California



© Advancement Project California; RACE COUNTS, racecounts.org, 2021
<https://www.racecounts.org/county/riverside/> (accessed October 5, 2021)
Data Source: American Community Survey Table DP05 (2010-2014)
Our Partners: California Calls, USC Dornsife, PICO California

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
Individuals Below Poverty (%)
Riverside County



© Advancement Project California, RACE COUNTS, racecounts.org, 2021
<https://www.racecounts.org/county/riverside/> (accessed October 5, 2021)
 Data Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701 (2010-2014)
 Our Partners: California Calls, USC Dornsife, PICO California

- Crime & Justice:** High disparity, low performance, stuck and unequal
- Democracy:** High disparity, low performance, stuck and unequal
- Economic Opportunity:** Low disparity, low performance, struggling to prosper
- Health Access:** High disparity, low performance, stuck and unequal
- Healthy Built Environment:** Low disparity, low performance, struggling to prosper
- Housing:** Low disparity, low performance, struggling to prosper
- Education:** Low disparity, low performance, struggling to prosper

Racial Equity demands change to every system that creates, fosters, or fails to address the racial disparities that plague our communities. Housing, infant mortality rates, economic mobility, disease, access to medical treatment, access to capital, employment, child welfare, and the list could go on. It is this type of critical analysis that we must undergo if we are to truly address what is so blatantly clear. Racism Kills. We must join together to stop it.

Relevant Statewide Bills in Current 2022 Legislative Cycle:

- [ACA 3](#) (Kamlager): A California Constitutional Amendment, that if passed, would mstrike the “exception clause” from Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution, which currently makes involuntary servitude — forced labor with abominably low pay — legal in California prisons.

Housing

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides oversight and funds for housing programs, temporary housing at motels and hotels, and some congregate sheltered housing. They also provide guidelines, oversight, and direction to local housing authorities. Local housing authorities have agency to follow the direction of the the Federal HUD or make their requirements more or less stringent.

Locally because of specific policies related to criminal background histories, zero-tolerance and crime free housing policies these same entities also contribute to experiences with housing insecurity and homelessness and to the separation of families as they do not dare to challenge the discrimination, and often act to reinforce housing discrimination.

Family members may not be able to dwell in the same unit as their family if they have been convicted, or sometimes even arrested for low level misdemeanors. Finally, the barriers exacerbate the disparate impacts of racial bias and discrimination faced by Riverside County Residents

Lack of adequate housing is a result of many barriers for individuals living with criminal convictions, those barriers range from background checks when it pertains to rental and public housing applications, denials of constitutional due process, eviction, exclusion for assistance eligibility because of status, and housing forfeiture, as well as denial of rental or sale.

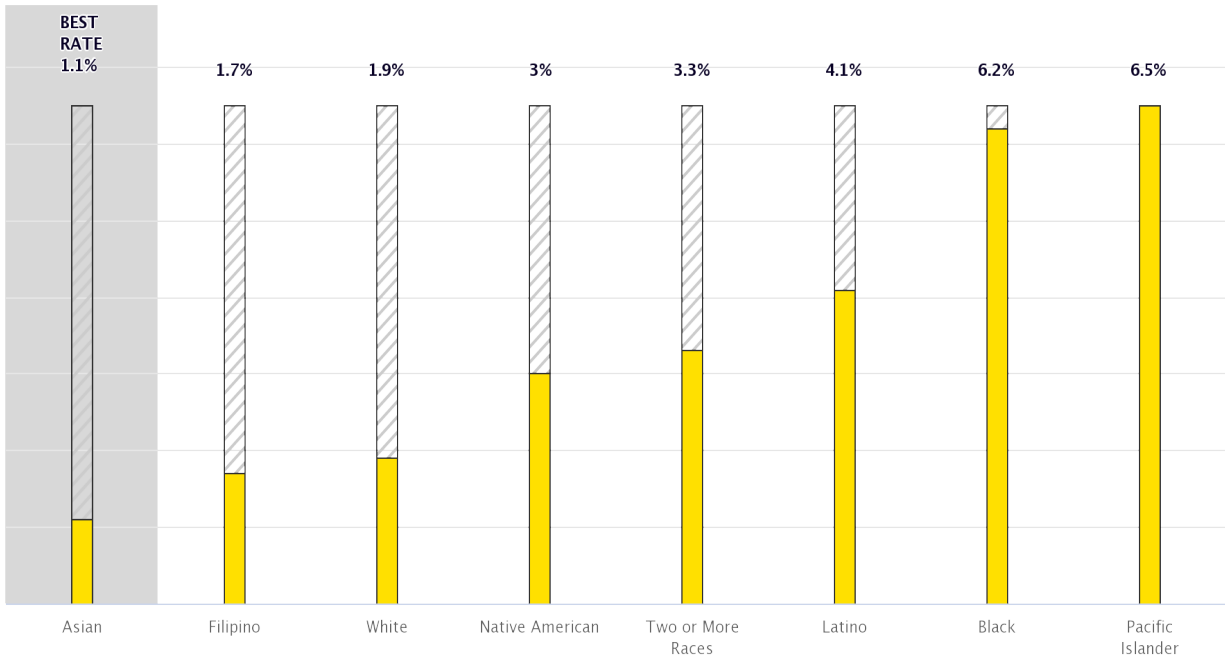
Access to stable housing becomes pivotal in a returning resident's rehabilitation, with overwhelming student homelessness, residents lack a fair chance at successful reintegration.

These barriers can affect a range of housing types, including rental housing, student campus housing, and federal and public housing.

This briefing is based on housing access and policies of exclusion, but just as important are clear pathways to homeownership and community based development. At some point we must reexamine whether or not housing discrimination has actually been addressed or if we are now using criminal conviction histories as a way to further perpetuate housing discrimination without using the word "race". It begs the question as we continue to rely upon criminal

backgrounds as a way to legally discriminate against the very people who have historically been discriminated against, to the point that they have become protected classes.

HOUSING
Student Homelessness (%)
Riverside County



© Advancement Project California; RACE COUNTS, racecounts.org, 2021
<https://www.racecounts.org/county/riverside/> (accessed October 5, 2021)
Data Source: California Department of Education (2018-19)
Our Partners: California Calls, USC Dornsife, PICO California

Relevant Statewide Bills in Current 2022 Legislative Cycle:

- [AB 1816](#) (Bryan): AB 1816 would create a competitive Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Grant Program to fund evidence-based housing, support services, and workforce development programs for people who were formerly incarcerated in state prisons and who are currently experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- [AB 2050](#) (Lee): AB 2050 seeks to stop speculator evictions by requiring five years of ownership before the Ellis Act can be invoked in any jurisdiction with rent control.
- [AB 2383](#) (Jones-Sawyer): AB 2383 aims to create requirements landlords must follow when considering an applicant for rental housing who has a criminal record. AB 2383 still permits landlords to run background checks without requiring a conditional offer to be

given. AB 2383 also only gives applicants three days to gather any evidence of rehabilitation or prove inaccuracies on their background check report.

- [AB 2710](#) (Kalra): Assembly Bill 2710 will give tenants and eligible entities, including local public agencies and mission-driven nonprofits, the first opportunity to purchase rental housing when the owner decides to sell the property. This bill will keep tenants in their homes and will preserve these properties as permanently affordable.
- [AB 2713](#) (Wicks): This bill will close loopholes in the no-fault just cause eviction protections in the Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (AB 1482, Chiu, Chapter 597, Statutes of 2019) that some landlords have used to evict tenants in ways that are inconsistent with the intent of the law.
- [SB 513](#) (Hertzberg): Senate Bill 513 builds on the success of the Pet Assistance and Support (PAS) Program of 2019 by creating a permanent grant program for homeless shelters providing shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets of the homeless.
- [SB 1017](#) (Eggman): SB 1017, the Keeping Survivors Housed Act, will support survivors of violence, including domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, elder or dependent adult abuse, and other forms of crime by keeping them housed.
- [SB 1143](#) (Roth): SB 1143 would establish the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Revolving Loan Fund. The Fund would serve to provide zero-interest loans to assist in financing acute care psychiatric hospital projects repayable over a 30-year period.

Employment

California Fair Chance Act (AB 1008)

Repeal the prohibition on a state or local agency from asking an applicant for employment to disclose information regarding a criminal conviction, as described above. The bill would, instead, provide it is an unlawful employment practice under FEHA for an employer with 5 or more employees to include on any application for employment any question that seeks the disclosure of an applicant's conviction history, to inquire into or consider the conviction history of an applicant until that applicant has received a conditional offer, and, when conducting a conviction history background check, to consider, distribute, or disseminate information related to specified prior arrests, diversions, and convictions.

This bill would also require an employer who intends to deny an applicant a position of employment solely or in part because of the applicant's conviction history to make an individualized assessment of whether the applicant's conviction history has a direct and adverse relationship with the specific duties of the job and to consider certain topics when making that assessment. The bill would require an employer who makes a preliminary decision to deny employment based on that individualized assessment to provide the applicant written notification of the decision. The bill would require the notification to contain specified information. The bill would grant an applicant 5 business days to respond to that notification before the employer may make a final decision. If the applicant notifies the employer in writing that he or she disputes the accuracy of the conviction history and is obtaining evidence to support that assertion, the bill would grant the applicant an additional 5 business days to respond to the notice. The bill would require an employer to consider information submitted by the applicant before making a final decision. The bill would require an employer who has made a final decision to deny employment to the applicant to notify the applicant in writing of specified topics. The bill would exempt specified positions of employment from the provisions of the bill.

Having a criminal record can make it difficult, or even impossible, for an individual to work in a given field, especially one that requires an

occupational license. In 2014, employment barriers faced by people with felony convictions—including occupational licensing and other challenges, such as lower levels of education and job skills—were associated with a reduction in the overall employment rate.

Relevant Statewide Bills in Current 2022 Legislative Cycle:

- [AB 1720](#) (Holden): This bill requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to improve its responsiveness and efficiency in processing applicants with inconsequential criminal convictions and remove the unfair candor trap during the application process. AB 1720 will streamline the licensure process for those that have been convicted of a minor and old crime to ensure that an unrelated prior conviction does not prohibit a qualified, rehabilitated person from securing employment.

Family Reunification

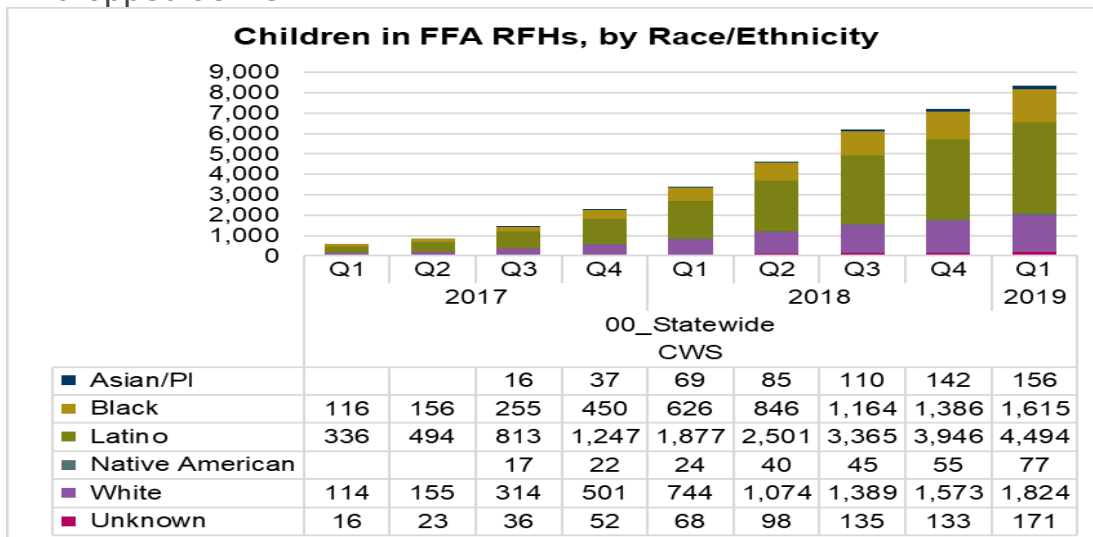
BARRIERS TO REUNIFICATION

Criminal conviction barriers not only affect family stability and economic security in the short term but they may also damage a child’s long-term well-being and outcomes.

A significant number of children who enter the child welfare system have already experienced trauma that is often times exacerbated by foster care and closed adoptions. This level of trauma can have profound and lasting negative effects. In fact, there is mounting evidence that chronic, adverse conditions in a child’s background can lead to ongoing issues with social, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral well-being.

Riverside County Key Findings for 2019

- 41,234 child allegations were investigated.
- 4,708 (11.4%) were substantiated.
- Most of these children were victims of general neglect (84.6%), with physical abuse (5.6%) and sexual abuse (4.3%).
- Infants under age 1 experienced the highest rate of victimization (27.4 per 1,000 children).
- Professionals were the reporters in most (73%) of the child allegations, with the largest number of reports coming from education personnel (33.7%), law enforcement (14.7%), counselor/therapist (14.4%) and medical (10.2%).
- Infants under age 1 have the highest rates of entry (13.6 per 1,000).
- African American children enter care at three times the rate of White and Latino children. The rate of African American children entering care declined by 32% from 2011 to 2019, but the magnitude of the racial disparity remained constant as the rate for White and Latino children dropped as well.



Relevant Statewide Bills in Current 2022 Legislative Cycle:

- [AB 1686](#) (Bryan): AB 1686 reduces barriers to family reunification for children who are in the foster care system. The practice of requiring parents to pay for their child's stay in foster care is counter to the broader goals of family reunification and child wellbeing. AB 1686 requires Child Welfare Agencies to presume that payment of foster care costs unnecessarily extends children's time in foster care. This policy clarification will reform child welfare practice in California by making it consistent with state and federal child welfare policy goals.
- [AB 2159](#) (Bryan): This bill would prohibit the denial of reunification services for parents and guardians who are in custody before conviction and sentencing, as specified. To the extent that the bill would impose additional duties on local entities and social workers, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
- [AB 2180](#) (Wicks): AB 2180 establishes the Task Force on the Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP Task Force). The COIP Task Force will bring together impacted individuals who currently have or have had a parent incarcerated during childhood and other pivotal stakeholders to provide recommendations that mitigate the risk of harm to children. The council will work collaboratively to identify the challenges faced by children of incarcerated parents and caregivers and provide policy and fiscal recommendations in a report to address the needs and service priorities of this population.
- [SB 1055](#) (Kamlager): SB 1055 will address the issue of aggressive child support arrears mandates with a twofold approach. The state laws outlining this issue can be found in Family Code section 17520. Specifically, this bill will add a requirement that disallows the Department of Child Support Services suspending the license of those in child support arrears that make at or below the federal poverty line. Also, this bill will extend the current Department of Child Support Services' practice of DMV notifications after 30 days of overdue child support payments to no more than 6 months.
- [SB 1200](#) (Skinner): This bill will reduce the punishing interest rate forced on low-income parents struggling to pay child support owed to the government. Reducing the interest rate on government-owed child support arrears from 10 percent to 3 percent would tremendously help low-income parents struggling to support their children.
- Kin-GAP budget request (Stone): This is a budget request to expand the state Kin-GAP program to cover all juvenile court guardianships. Right now, a portion of relative guardianships ordered by the juvenile court are not eligible for Kin-GAP because they do not meet the requirement that the child has lived in the relative's home for six consecutive months. This budget request would close this gap and allocate up to \$5.8 million annually to the state Kin-GAP program to cover all newly eligible children.

Public Safety

Traditionally “Public Safety” is the phrase public officials use when referring to the physical protection of citizens. When the physical welfare of citizens becomes the only concern for public safety, officers tend to narrow their scope and begin to see incarceration as the only solution to public safety. Incarceration has not proven effective when attempting to solve community issues and problems. When people outside of government think about public safety, they think in terms of sustainability, not incarceration. To the public, sustainability means health, employment, and family safety. When the focus remains on incarceration, the institution receives consideration, maintenance, and funding. The institution becomes more important than the people that the institution is meant to serve. The question is how do we achieve public safety that places the people before the institution. Reimagining Public safety to form a new mental picture followed by specific investments into evidence based programs and services with successful outcomes are key to creating sustainable public safety.



Relevant Statewide Bills in Current 2022 Legislative Cycle:

- [AB 1782](#) (Jones-Sawyer): This bill would rename counties' "Inmate Welfare Funds" to "Incarcerated Peoples' Welfare Funds," as well as ensure that money deposited in the funds be expended by the sheriff solely for the benefit, education, and welfare of the incarcerated peoples confined in the jail.
- [AB 1924](#) (Gipson): AB 1924 by Assemblymember Gipson will reduce barriers to employment for those facing formal probation by streamlining the application process for a certificate of rehabilitation. One tool to provide better opportunities for people living with old records, is the ability to apply for a certificate of rehabilitation. Rather than keeping us safe, long-lasting post-conviction restrictions make it harder for those that have paid their dues to society to get back to work, find housing, and support their families.
- [AB 2195](#) (Jones-Sawyer): AB 2195 creates an alternative plea for those charged with certain drug offenses, that maintains the same exposure to criminal penalties while avoiding some of the most severe collateral consequences.
- [AB 2435](#) (Lee): AB 2435 would restore the ability of defendants to request jury instruction on lesser-related offenses, which they could between 1984-1998. This change will help ensure that defendants are not convicted of more serious offenses (which a prosecutor charged), when a lesser offense better fits the facts of the case.
- [AB 2706](#) (Levine): This bill will create a pilot program whereby three counties will establish innocence commissions to review credible claims of wrongful conviction on behalf of the district attorney. The innocence commission is an outside advisory board whose members are appointed by the district attorney and serve as volunteers. These innocence commissions will investigate cases where a convicted person asserts that they have been wrongly convicted. After evaluating all of the available evidence and conducting any necessary reinvestigation, the innocence commission will provide a recommendation to the district attorney about whether to seek relief for the applicant.
- [AB 2746](#) (Friedman): AB 2746 will reduce racial and wealth-based disparities in enforcement of minor traffic laws while maintaining road safety by making the following policy changes: 1) Eliminate license suspensions based on failure to appear in court; and 2) Make the first two offenses an infraction for driving without a license.
- [AB 2761](#) (McCarty): This bill would require the death certificate to reflect when a person died through use of force by an officer, while in custody of an officer, or while in the

custody of state or local law enforcement, including a city or county jail or state prison. It would require a state or local correctional facility to post specified information on its internet website within 10 days after a death occurs while the person was in custody.

- [AB 2790](#) (Wicks): This bill would center survivor safety and health by eliminating mandatory requirements for healthcare providers to notify law enforcement of a broad range of injuries related to domestic and sexual violence. The bill will mandate that victims of domestic and sexual violence get referred to community-based and national domestic and sexual violence advocacy services and ensure victims have agency when deciding when to engage law enforcement.
- [AB 2830](#) (Bloom): AB 2830 seeks to establish the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court, is a new framework to get people with mental health and substance use disorders the support and care they need. CARE Court is aimed at helping the thousands of Californians who are suffering from untreated mental health and substance use disorders leading to homelessness, incarceration or worse. It does not guarantee housing as a solution to address homelessness, and evidence shows that adequately-resourced intensive voluntary outpatient treatment is more effective than court-ordered treatment. This plan will perpetuate institutional racism and worsen health disparities.
- [SB 300](#) (Cortese): SB 300, by Senator Dave Cortese, the Sentencing Reform Act of 2021, which will increase fairness in the justice system by reforming California's unjust "felony murder special circumstance" law by ensuring that the death penalty or life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) will not be imposed on a person who did not kill or intend that a person die during the commission of a felony, such as robbery or burglary. The bill will also address the injustice of mandatory life without parole sentences by restoring to judges the discretion to impose a parole eligible sentence should they deem that it best serves the interest of justice.
- [SB 993](#) (Skinner): This bill improves access to financial resources available to survivors and exonerees and increase the amount they can receive from the California Victim Compensation Board (VCB). This bill would also remove barriers that prevent many crime survivors from receiving assistance, and lessen racial disparities that have impacted access to services.
- [SB 1139](#) (Kamlager): SB 1139 mandates that CDCR: 1) Remove all fees for incarcerated people requesting medical records, 2) Provide certain medical forms and to update them at the incarcerated person's annual review, 3) Notify those listed on certain medical release forms of their incarcerated contact within 24 hours of the person experiencing a medical emergency, 4) Make emergency in-person contact visits and video calls available whenever an incarcerated person is hospitalized, and the incarcerated person is in a critical medical condition, and more.

- [SB 1178](#) (Bradford): SB 1178 would eliminate the November 2022 time limitation for retrospective cases in which a person convicted of a qualifying felony may petition the court to have the sentence reduced to a misdemeanor and avoid a more time and resource-intensive process if otherwise qualified individuals are required to show good cause. By amending current law and eliminating the deadline altogether, all Californians who otherwise qualify for record redress for old felonies will have equitable access to the intended benefits provided by Prop. 47, regardless of their access to resources.
- [SB 1304](#) (Kamlager): Existing law requires a person, upon release from a California prison, to be paid a sum of \$200, as specified. This bill would increase this payment to \$2,589. The bill would also require this amount to be adjusted annually for inflation.

Education

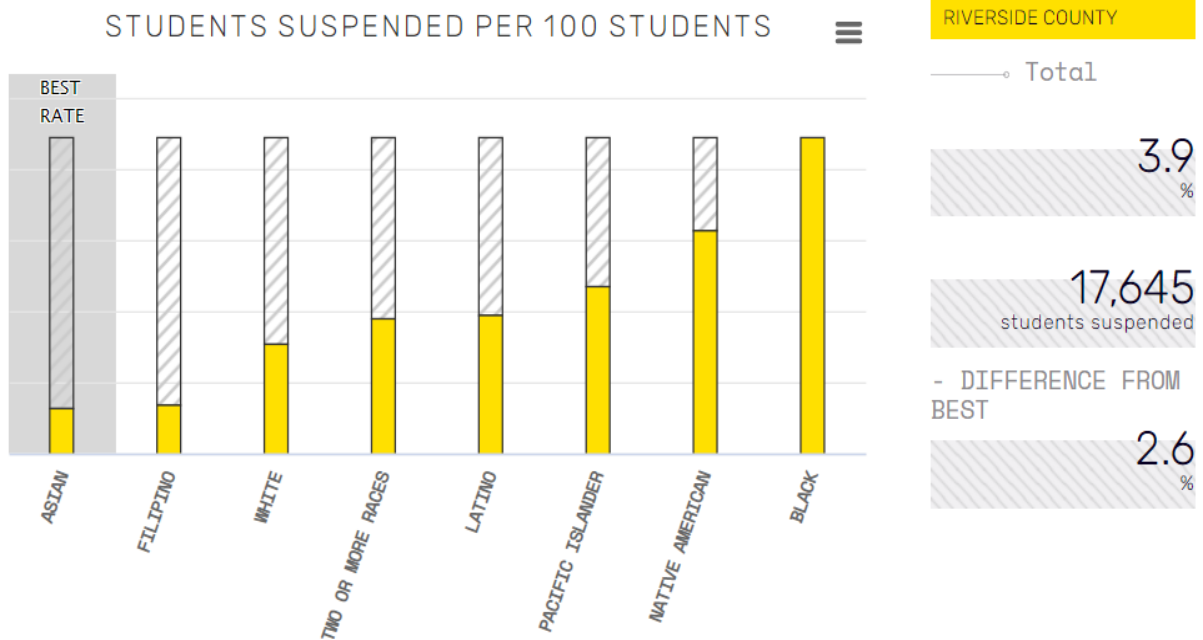
In the state of California, there are 650,000 people incarcerated, on parole, or probation. Out of that 650,000, less than 20,000 are enrolled in higher education.

Education dramatically improves chances of self-sustainable employment while reducing recidivism. Opportunities for higher education also create stronger community ties and improves the local economy.

According to postprisonedu.org two years of postsecondary education reduces recidivism by more than 50%. As a community, if we are going to take a serious approach to racial equity and public safety, we must take a closer look at secondary education. Parole and probation officers must have the vision to create long-lasting positive outcomes by supporting those who want to pursue higher education. Those positive outcomes often begin with education and access to education, regardless of criminal conviction histories.

In California, the landscape of self-sustainable employment is ever-changing. Most labor jobs offer little chance at economic security. As leaders and innovators, we must remove barriers to education that exist for returning residents. Programs must be created and promoted amongst the reentry population as we work to create prison to higher education pipelines, and reverse the school to prison pipelines.

As we recognize the value of education on the road to equity, recidivism reduction, and the truest sense of public safety, we increase access to education and work to address the professional licensing barriers. The common issues of race and class factor into educational disparities both at the k-12 level as well as in institutions of higher learning. As education opportunities increase, the looming concern becomes professional licensing and certifications.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (2018-19)

Relevant Statewide Bills in Current 2022 Legislative Cycle:

- [SB 1273](#) (Bradford): This bill will eliminate some of the overreaching statutory mandates that require school staff to notify law enforcement about common school-related behavior. The changes made by SB 1273 will protect students from unnecessary contact with the justice system and help keep students in school.

References

[RACE COUNTS - Riverside](#)

www.postprisonedu.org

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>

**This *Briefing Packet* was prepared by members of Riverside All of Us or None
The Peace & Justice Community Summits are organized by
All of Us or None (an organizing initiative of formerly incarcerated people)**

This Summit was planned in collaboration with

Starting Over Inc.

Riverside Community Action Partnership

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