

LASD Budget Reimagined



Annual budgets are key to constituting and governing imagined futures.



County Priorities

- Alternatives to Incarceration
- Closure of Men's Central Jail
- Justice, Care & Opportunities Department (JCOD)

Budget Priorities

- AB 109
- Public Relations
- Electronic Monitoring

AB109 - CA Realignment Funding

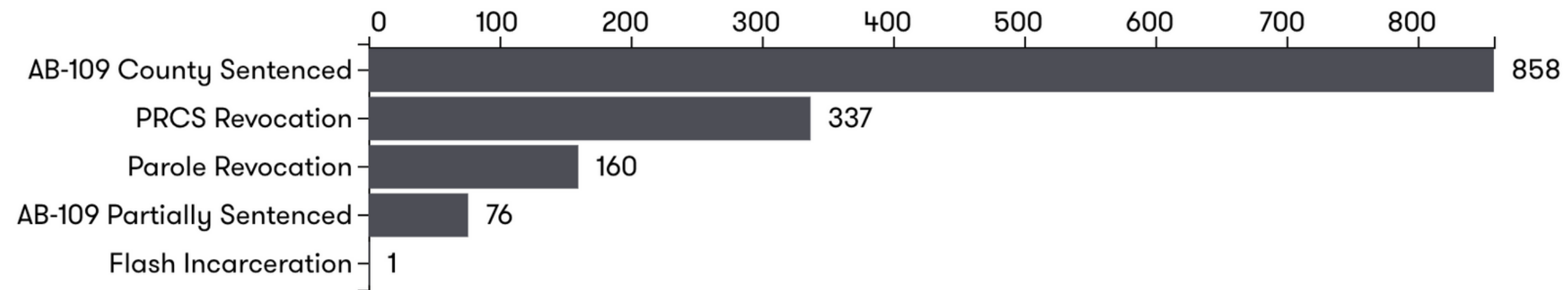
After the passage of a 2011 California law, often referred to as AB 109 or 'realignment,' some people convicted of low-level felonies serve sentences under community supervision or in county jail instead of prison.

AB109 - CA Realignment Funding

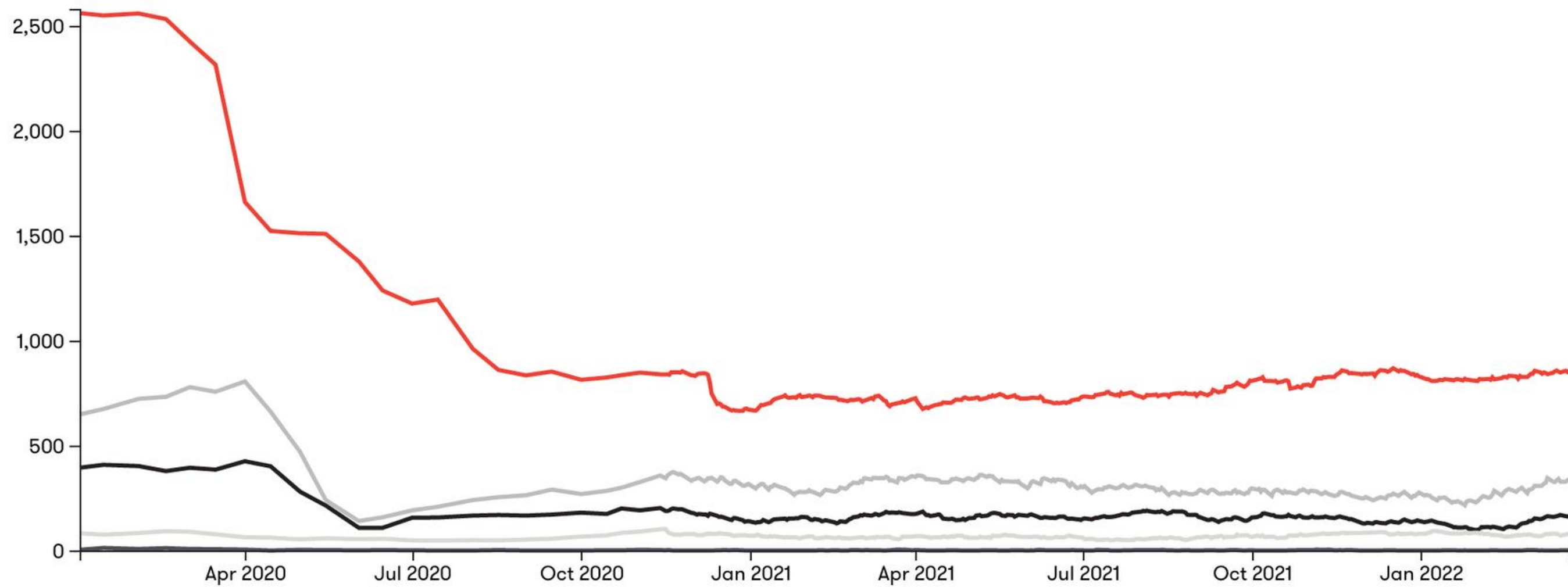
Since 2011, Los Angeles County has received over \$3 billion dollars in resources (AB 109 funding) intended to help counties develop and implement alternatives to incarceration, like innovations in re-entry, community-based services and affordable housing. The intent of AB 109—expressed by both the statutory language and the preliminary finding calculations provided by the California Department of Finance—was for counties to focus on non-incarceration alternatives that have a proven track-record of reducing recidivism.

AB 109 Population In LAC Jails

AB 109 Population
1,432



AB 109 Population Over Time



- AB-109 county sentenced
- Supervision violation - post-release community supervision (PRCS) revocation
- Supervision violation - parole revocation
- AB-109 partially sentenced
- Supervision violation - flash incarceration

AB109 in Los Angeles County

- A 2020 state audit suggested Los Angeles County may have over \$1 million just in unused surplus AB 109 funding. Traditionally, most Los Angeles County AB 109 funding has gone to the Sheriff's Department.
- Despite dramatic reductions in the AB 109 jail population, and the Public safety Realignment Team's 2021 recommendations for significant budget shifting, the Sheriff's AB 109 funding continues to increase.
- Los Angeles County's Men's Central Jail Closure Workgroup identified people incarcerated for non-serious, nonviolent felonies as a potential group to target for diversion to community-based care, which would help reduce the jail population.

Cost of LASD Public Relations

BY MAYA LAU
AUG. 30, 2020

"...unlike victims of police shootings, law enforcers have public funding at their disposal to generate favorable narratives about themselves."

Cost of LASD Public Relations

- In 2020, The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had 42 people in its information bureau, at an annual cost of about \$4.8 million.

- In 2019 salaries:

Strategic communications director

\$200,000

Bureau Captain \$218,000

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Cost of LASD Public Relations

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"The idea that police spend money to manipulate the narrative about the work they're doing is not the best use of public funds"

- Priscilla Ocen, Loyola Law School professor & former member of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission in Los Angeles County

San Francisco



On March 22nd, Supervisor Dean Preston called for a "first of its kind" hearing examining the City's use of taxpayer-funded communications to grow policing budgets and undermine efforts for police accountability and reform.

Alarming Rise in Electronic Monitoring

JUSTICELA

UCLA School of Law
Criminal Justice Program

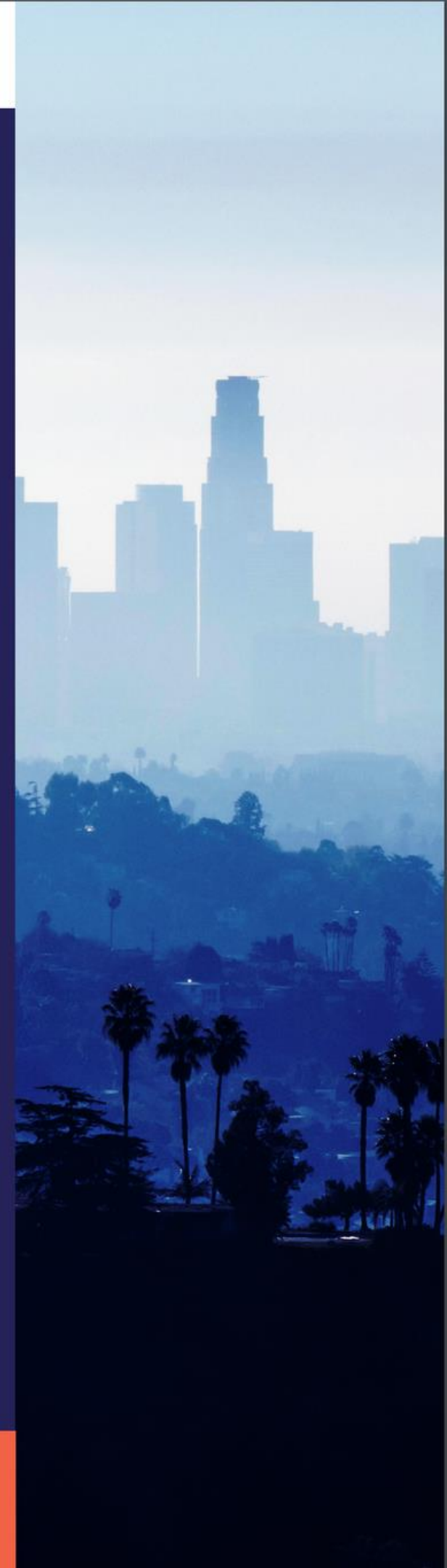


Pretrial Electronic Monitoring

in Los Angeles County

2015 through 2021

By Alicia Virani¹



Key findings:

- In 2015, 24 people were on pretrial EM in Los Angeles County, whereas in 2021, 1,284 people were on pretrial EM, an increase of 5,250%.
- In 2021, 5 times as many people were placed on EM pretrial than people placed on EM post-sentence.
- In 2021, 31% of people placed on pretrial EM were Black, 53% were Latinx, 12% were white, and 4% were in the “other” category.
- Only 45% of people placed on EM via the Supervised Release Program successfully completed the program in 2020.
- 94% of people who were terminated from the Electronic Monitoring Program were terminated for “non-compliance”, essentially a technical rules violation, as opposed to termination for a new arrest or an abscond.
- At the Lancaster Courthouse, judges are choosing EM 92% of the time when someone is referred to the Supervised Release Program, despite the fact that they have a standard monitoring option that would not require EM.
- The majority of people on pretrial EM are spending a median of at least 65 to 71 days on EM while awaiting their trial, with one-third of people spending at least over 6 months on EM.

Case Studies on EM Expansion

- Cook County Illinois and Harris County Texas expanded the number of people under some form of pretrial carceral control & the number of people incarcerated pretrial has increased.
- Harris County: the number of people on EM went from 27 people in 2019 to over 4,000 people in 2021, and pretrial incarceration has risen to preCOVID levels.
- This indicates that EM is not being used as an alternative to pretrial incarceration.

Expansion of EM through LASD

Current pretrial jail population: 5,939

LASD's pretrial release model will place all individuals released on EM, rather than looking to alternative ways to decrease the pretrial population without restrictive conditions, per the ATI recommendations.

Recommendations:

- LA County should adopt the PSRT's AB 109 2021-2022 Budget Recommendations
- LA County should examine and reduce LASD's Public Relation's Budget
- LASD should not expand the use of EM in it's pretrial release model