

# **FACTS About California's 3-Strikes Law**

**25**

The minimum number of years a person who is sentenced under the 3-Strikes law for a third strike will have to serve (2<sup>nd</sup> strikers receive double their current sentence).

**56,775**

The number of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> strikers in the California Department of Corrections as of Mar. 31, 2001.

**3,350**

The approximate number of 3<sup>rd</sup> strikers who have received at least a 25 years-to-life sentence for nonviolent and non-serious offenses.

**23,511 to 162,000**

The change in California's prison population from 1980 to 1999 (almost a seven-fold increase).

**217**

California's prison population percentage as compared to the prison design capacity.

**332, 154, 634 and 380**

The number of persons who received at least a 25 years-to-life sentence for petty-theft, receiving stolen property, drug possession and weapons possession from the implementation of the law in 1994 through March 31, 2001.

**44 and 26**

The percentage of African-Americans and Hispanics receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> strike sentences based on the total number of people receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> strike sentences.

**39**

The percentage of California African-American men in their 20s in prisons, on probation or parole.

**17 times**

The number of African-Americans charged under the 3-Strikes law as opposed to whites in Los Angeles County.

**6.1**

The billions of dollars Californians spend on their prisons and jails.

**25,000**

The estimated operating costs in dollars per year to house a 3-striker in a maximum security prison (does not include medical costs which have been estimated to be in excess of \$50,000 per year for prisoners over the age of 55).

**113,187**

The cost in dollars to build a maximum security prison per prison bed (design capacity).

**5.4 million, 20.4 million, 78.3 million,  
198.7 million, 728 million and 4.5 billion**

The annual budgets for the California Department of Corrections for 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985 and 1998.

**21 and 1**

The number of prisons and colleges/universities built in California since 1984.

**1.5 and 2.0**

The millions of dollars the prison guard union gave Gov. Wilson's and Davis' election campaigns.

**128,000 and 3,000**

The estimated number of inmates in prison suffering from substance abuse and the number receiving substantial treatment.

**15 times**

The amount of crime the Rand Corporation estimates would be reduced if money were spent on treatment programs rather than prisons.

**41st**

California's rank among the 50 states for the amount of educational funding spent per student.

**3 to 4 times**

The amount of crime the Rand Corporation estimates would be reduced if money were spent on college graduation incentives for high-risk youth rather than prisons.

**84**

The percent of judges that were white appointed by Governor Pete Wilson.

**85**

The percentage of people polled in San Diego who would have preferred the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike to be for only violent or serious felonies.

**41.4**

The percentage of California inmates that have hepatitis C (the leading cause of liver failure and liver cancer).

**3**

The longest prison sentence in years given to those guilty of the \$1.64 billion bankruptcy of Orange County.

**6**

The number of police officers killed directly by people who were trying to escape a possible 3-Strikes sentence.

**30.4 and 21.1**

The percentage decrease in crime rates in San Francisco County and Kern County since implementation of the 3-Strikes law. San Francisco County does not prosecute non-violent and non-serious offenders under the 3-Strikes law and Kern County prosecutes all possible 3-Strikers vigorously.