AB 280 Briefing:
Restrictive Confinement in California State Prisons

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About 3,300 people in restrictive confinement, 3.5% of all incarcerated at any given time

Total restrictive confinement across all categories
All CA prisons, Jan 2008 - Nov 2022 monthly

(a) Total number of people confined
(b) Rate confined per 100 incarcerated

Note: Data scraped from prior 13-month COMPSTAT PDF reports obtained via FOIA. Author: Konrad Franco
Total restrictive confinement down 2012-2016

Percent change in rate of restrictive confinement by type
All CA prisons, 2012-2022

(a) Total across all categories

(b) SHU and Non-SHU categories

Note: Data scraped from prior 13-month COMPSTAT PDF reports obtained via FOIA. Author: Konrad Franco
... but mostly stable/unchanged since 2017

Percent change in rate of restrictive confinement by type
All CA prisons, 2012-2022

(a) Total across all categories

(b) SHU and Non-SHU categories

Note: Data scraped from prior 13-month COMPSTAT PDF reports obtained via FOIA. Author: Konrad Franco
CDCR uses many different names for segregation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU)</th>
<th>Security Housing Unit (SHU)</th>
<th>Short Term Restrictive Housing (STRH)</th>
<th>Long Term Restrictive Housing (LTRH)</th>
<th>Restrictive Custody General Pop (RCGP)</th>
<th>Behavioral Management Unit (BMU)</th>
<th>Psychiatric Inpatient Program (PIP)</th>
<th>Psychiatric Services Unit (PSU)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6,979</td>
<td>3,899</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,302</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6,579</td>
<td>3,887</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,866</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5,974</td>
<td>3,834</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,218</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4,359</td>
<td>3,038</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,826</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,790</td>
<td>1,195</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>2,941</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>215</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3,154</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>2,824</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>146</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2,101</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About 2,000 people in ASU at any given time for spells of about 75 days

Use of the Administrative Segregation (ASU) restrictive confinement category
All CA adult prisons

(a) Total number of people confined in ASU
Jan 2008 - Nov 2022 monthly

(b) Average number days confined in ASU
Jan 2008 - May 2017 monthly

Note: Data scraped from prior 13-month COMPSTAT PDF reports obtained via FOIA. Author: Konrad Franco
Ashker settlement did not change average duration of ASU spells

Note: Regression with Newey-West standard errors - lag(0). Author: Konrad Franco.
Homicides & suicides have changed little since 2012 while restrictive confinement is down over 60%
Restrictive confinement does not reduce violence between incarcerated people

Correlation between cumulative change in total restrictive confinement vs incidents of assault/battery

Assaults, prisoner-prisoner (percent change 2012-2019)

Batteries, prisoner-prisoner (percent change 2012-2019)

Note: Data scraped from prior 13-month COMPSTAT PDF reports obtained via FOIA. Author: Konrad Franco
Additionally, restrictive confinement does not reduce violence against prison staff.

Correlation between cumulative change in total restrictive confinement vs incidents of assault/battery

Note: Data scraped from prior 13-month COMPSTAT PDF reports obtained via FOIA. Author: Konrad Franco
What does the evidence say?

• Restrictive segregation is harmful to people’s health and makes rehabilitation significantly harder
• No evidence that segregating people for long periods of time makes prisons safer
• Segregated confinement costs a lot (between $360-455 million per year, see recent State Library report)
• Reducing the use of restrictive confinement by just 50% could save between $27-35 million per year
Conclusion

• Far too many people still segregated in prison every day
• Institutional change after Ashker settlement shows progress possible
• But .... accountability and transparency needed to make real reform

The time for change is now.

Thank you for your immense advocacy efforts.
Data source and follow-up contact

• The data presented above from COMPSTAT reports ever published by CDCR obtained via California Public Records Act (CPRA)

• The data represents the entire universe of California prisons that held adult prisoners and operated at any point between Jan 2006 and Nov 2022

• CDCR released the data in PDF format (10k pages) which was then scraped and converted into a machine-readable, flat datafiles

• The author then conducted rigorous cleaning and data quality validation

• The cleaned, validated data in CSV format is not yet available publicly
  • Release scheduled for late Summer 2023

• Questions? Email Konrad Franco at klfranco@ucdavis.edu