Proposition 36 Implementation

CSAC 2025, Administration of Justice Committee

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Results

Background

Quick Stats

Observations

- Felony vs. Drug Filings
- County Variation
- Justice Partners Collaboration

Looking Ahead

Background

- Proposition 36, "The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act," went into effect on December 18, 2024.
- Two Judicial Council surveys:
 - Filings data (data through April 30) Theft + Drug
 - Report to the Legislature October 1, 2025 (data through June 2025).
 Drug cases only
 - https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/lr-2025-preliminaryproposition-36-court-data.pdf
- State funding provided to the courts, CDCR, DHCS (\$50 mil. for County Behavioral Health)
- No state funding provided to other justice system partners including Probation, Prosecutors & Defense

Quick Stats

- Estimated 25,000-30,000 Proposition 36 related filings statewide annually.
 - Early survey suggests 15% filed as Misdemeanors
 - Approximately 9,000 drug cases filed through June 30.
- Felony filings: about 55% were drug-related and 45% were theft-related.
- Large variation between counties.

Observations: Felony vs. Drug Filings (April 30 Survey)

- Most courts with Prop. 36 filings have had both theft and drug filings, including PC 666.1(a)(1) (retail theft) filings and HS 11395(b)(1) (hard drug possession) filings.
- Statewide, 45% of filings are theft related, while 55% are drug filings.
- Some counties have significantly more of one type than another.
 - Large Bay Area county: 236 retail theft filings & 4 drug possession filings
 - Large Southern California County: 12 retail theft filings & 260 drug possession filings.

Looking Ahead

- Report due to Legislature on March 1, 2026.
 - Will provide theft & drug charges
- Data limitations: Requirements on Court and County Behavioral Health per Budget Act of 2025 (SB 101, AB 102)
- Courts express concerns about treatment and supervision availability with inadequate funding; length of time/workload associated with TMF (defendants can opt in at anytime along the process

