

The "Three Strikes" Law in California (Sequel): The Impact

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LET'S TAKE A TRIP!
(Buckle Up)

START HERE

Introduction & Background

**Topic #1
Cost Effectiveness**

**Crossing the Bridge
Proposition 36**

**Topic #2
Racial Disparities**

Goal

Proposition 36

These strikes have an intended deterrent that remains the most important for repeat offenders, usually after the second offense. There have been occasional extraordinary sentencing guidelines, such as the death penalty, but at that sentence there are already two life sentences and the possibility of parole. The law

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**Road Block #1
Lack of Cost Effectiveness**
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**Road Block #2
STOP**

**Road Block #1 cont.
Lack of Cost Effectiveness**

- Sources**
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Thank You!



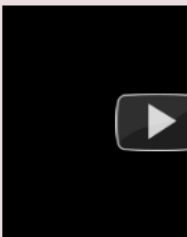
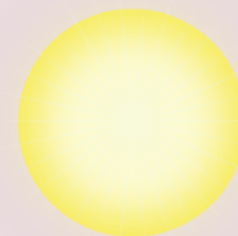
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Introduction

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Background



Defintion

Three strikes laws are criminal statutes that mandate increased sentences for repeat offenders, usually after three serious crimes. These laws provide strict mandatory sentencing guidelines once an offender is convicted. After a third serious offense an offender can be sentenced up to 25 years to life in prison without the possibility of parole. (The Free Dictionary, 2014)

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Birth of Three Strikes Laws



- In 1993 12 year old Polly Klass and 18 year old Kimber Reynolds were brutally murdered by habitual violent offenders.
- Polly Klass was a 12 year old girl kidnapped from a slumber party, ultimately being raped and murdered by a recidivist violent offender.
- In Reynolds case her murderer was an addict to methamphetamine. He tried to steal Reynolds purse, when she refused the man shot her in the ear with a .357 magnum gun at point blank range. He was recently released from prison two months prior Reynolds murder. (Skelton, 1993)

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- To my left is Mike Reynolds, Kimber's father. He became an advocate in proposing to state legislature and the nation to create laws that would place habitual violent offenders behind bars for the rest of their lives.
- According to Mailcoat, often times society reacts to certain historical events and demand action be taken immediately on new laws and policies becoming implemented. Without realizing the reciprocal effects these new laws and policies could have on society politically and economically. (Mailcoat, 2014)

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- *In 1993 Three Strikes Laws became enacted in America by the State of Washington, subsequently California followed in 1994. Currently there are 25 states who enforce three strikes laws, but none with more strict enforcement than California.*
- *In California's case they passed Proposition 184 in 1994, which basically states an offender on their third offense receives a "third strike and you're out."*
- *During this time society wanted more get tough on crime policies in order to combat with the increase of crimes being committed, which ranged from drug related crimes to more serious crimes.*
- *The philosophy behind three strikes laws was to place the most serious offenders of serious crimes in prison. These crimes can include murder, assault with a deadly weapon, sexual assault etc.*



Topic #1

Cost Effectivvness

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Road Block #1

Lack of Cost Effectiveness



- With laws that extend an offenders sentence in prison, more funding will be necessary to the criminal justice system in order to provide justice to it's citizens. The criminal justice system is already a multi-billion dollar organizational structure, which places a burden on taxpayers and also the economy.
- Three Strikes Laws alone cost the U.S. \$500 million dollars a year to implement. According to the department of public safety, in N.C. the cost to house an inmate in prison is 27,747 per inmate. (North Carolina Department of Public Safety, 2011)

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