Smart On Crime is a consortium of Santa Cruz elected and criminal justice system officials, leaders of community-based organizations, and UCSC faculty and students who have come together to support and further develop community alternatives to incarceration in response to Prison Realignment (AB109).

This project has three purposes: conduct public policy forums on criminal justice policies and alternatives to incarceration; convene community engagement workshops to encourage community involvement in and support for community programs that provide alternatives to incarceration and other key services; and conduct research on how these alternatives are being used to reduce strain on the County Jail.

Smart on Crime’s research methods consist of public policy forums, community engagement workshops, constructing ethnographic organizational portraits of the community-based programs that serve as alternatives to incarceration, conducting in-depth interviews with the first 10 people to go through the Santa Cruz County criminal justice system under AB109, and preparing a countywide data collection system for purposes of following up both those who serve their sentences in Santa Cruz County Jail under AB 109 and those who have been diverted from jail into the community alternatives to make room for AB 109 offenders.

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