Rehabilitation. Its new director noted that if his fellow Californians expected only incarceration from their prisons, "then you have not gotten much for your money." Critics grumbled, however, that few actual reforms were implemented and that the state's recidivism rate remained unchanged. The director of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice expressed grave disappointment in 2006: "It was hard to imagine the state's prisons getting worse than when Schwarzenegger took office, but they have."

Leading criminologists, such as Michael Rustigan of San Francisco State University, argued that the best way to reduce the rate of violent crime was early intervention aimed at prevention. Nowhere was the preventative approach needed more than in the fight against drug abuse. Drug-related crimes accounted for more than half of all the felonies committed in California, and 80 percent of the state's prison inmates were substance abusers. In addition to crimes committed by those under the influence, drug-related offenses included crimes committed to finance the habit, crimes resulting from competition among drug dealers, and illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking. California led the nation in the number of clandestine drug labs producing methamphetamines and was the primary point of entry for cocaine from abroad. California drug gangs, centered in Los Angeles, distributed their deadly merchandise across the nation. One leading drug expert warned that California had became a "world-class" center for the manufacturing and distribution of drugs. "If California were a nation," he observed, "it would be the largest, most important polity among all the world's nations in terms of illicit drugs."

Efforts to combat the drug problem included a mix of federal and state programs, spending over a billion dollars a year. A highly successful antidrug education program in the schools and in the media contributed to a decline in drug use among young and middle-class users. There was no decline, however, among the growing underclass of Californians. The California Department of Justice reported that drug use among the state's poor was "intensifying at levels never seen before anywhere in the world." As with many other aspects of recent social history, California's pattern of drug abuse was divided along lines of social class. The outlook for the future was bleak. "The drug problem is expected to continue in rapacious severity at the poorer end of the social structure," observed the district attorney for Sacramento County. "What we're likely to see is an economic demarcation line. Those above the line will use drugs less; those below will continue as now, and may fall even farther into the chasm cut by drugs."

The New Californians

The United States Census reported that the population of California in 2005 was more than 36 million—and growing by 500,000 new residents each year.

The most striking quality of California's burgeoning population was its ethnic diversity. More than half the state's population growth in the 1980s and 1990s was from foreign immigration, primarily from Asia and Latin America. By 2005 one out of four Californians was foreign-born, a higher proportion than in any other state.

Much of the remaining growth was due to the high birthrate among those who had recently arrived. Ethnic minorities made up only one-third of the state's population in 1980, but 20 years later they constituted more than half. California also led the nation in the number of persons who identified themselves as members of more than one race—about 2 percent of the state's overall population. Among the country's top 10 cities with the highest proportion of mixed-race residents, 5 were in California (Glendale, Hayward, Stockton, Vallejo, and Sacramento). David Rieff, author of *Los Angeles: Capital of the Third World* (1992), reported that the state's largest city was home not only to more Mexicans than any other city except Mexico City but also to more Koreans than any other city except Seoul and to more Filipinos than any other city but Manila. In addition, more Iranians, Guatemalans, Armenians, and Thais lived in the city than anywhere else outside their homelands.

Los Angeles also had the distinction of being home to one of the nation's largest populations of Native Americans. Although there were no distinct Indian neighborhoods in the city, a network of social and economic institutions provided the Indian people of Los Angeles with a sense of tradition and community. The 2000 census reported that more Indians lived in California than in any other state. Projections to the year 2040 indicated that Native Americans would continue to make up between 1 and 2 percent of California's overall population.

Native people remained active in a wide range of activities to revive and preserve traditional languages and cultures. Community-based groups flourished throughout the state, matching elders who were fluent in traditional languages with younger tribal members who were eager to learn. "The only way we'll stay alive as a people," observed Nancy Richardson Riley (Karuk), "is if we practice and live our culture."

Native Americans also actively sought to have artifacts and human remains returned, or "repatriated," from museum collections. When northern California tribal leaders learned that the brain of Ishi had languished for more than 80 years in storage at the Smithsonian Institution, they requested that it be returned. Eventually, the brain was presented to Pit River elders who buried it, along with Ishi's cremated remains, near Mount Lassen in the summer of 2000.

The Native American issue that captured the greatest public attention in the late twentieth century was legalized gambling. In the early 1990s, California tribes began operating casinos that soon were generating more than $1 billion in annual revenues. Life on some (but by no means all) reservations was transformed as gaming revenues led to dramatic improvements in housing, education, and health care. Faced with opposition from Republican governor Pete Wilson, the gaming tribes placed on the November 1998 ballot an initiative, Proposition 5, that mandated state approval of tribal casinos.

The battle over Proposition 5 proved to be the most expensive initiative campaign in the nation's history. The gaming tribes spent $70 million in support of the initiative; the owners of Nevada casinos spent nearly half as much in opposition. Proposition 5 passed overwhelmingly, but within months the state supreme court ruled it unconstitutional. The gaming tribes then launched a successful campaign to win passage of a constitutional amendment containing the essence of Proposition 5. Democratic governor Gray Davis signed agreements with about half the state's tribes,