

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/research/besiki-kutateladze-is-america-really-so-punitive-exploring-a-continuum-of-u-s-state-criminal-justice-policies>

Policy Issue Resources

Besiki Kutateladze, associate research director of the Prosecution and Racial Justice Program at the Vera Institute of Justice, discusses his book "Is America Really So Punitive?: Exploring a Continuum of U.S. State Criminal Justice Policies," published in December 2009.

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A laundry list of minor traffic violations can lead to tickets and even jail time. In the worst cases, police stops for trivial infractions turn deadly. But stops for those offenses tinted windows, a missing inspection sticker, an air freshener dangling from the rearview mirror don't make us safer. They do, however, drive racial disparities: study ...

Restorative justice is a framework that views crime, conflict, and wrongdoing as harm to relationships and not merely violation of the law by focusing on people who have been harmed and their needs, while also holding people who have caused harm directly accountable for those needs. Restorative justice successes include reduced recidivism, high sat ...

Language access means ensuring that people who have limited or no English language proficiency or are Deaf or hard of hearing are able to access information, programs, and services at a level equal to English-proficient hearing people. Providing language access to incarcerated victims of sexual abuse honors their humanity and worth in the wake of a ...

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