

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/research/rob-smith-horatio-alger-lives-in-brooklyn-but-check-his-papers>**

## Policy Issue Resources

In this podcast, part of the 2010-2011 [Neil A. Weiner Research Speaker Series](#), Rob Smith discusses a 15-year ethnographic research project following more than 100 children of Mexican immigrants to the United States. Although he found that almost 40 percent of these individuals attended college and had other positive outcomes, undocumented children lose legal protections as they move into early adulthood and their opportunities become severely limited, prompting what Smith calls profound and serious moral and ethical questions. Smith is a professor of sociology at Baruch College and CUNY Graduate Center.

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To truly tackle the devastating impact of the criminal legal system, we need politicians who have lived experience.

When I vote, I feel free. This past spring, passersby could read these words on a billboard at 1201 Half Street Southeast in Washington, DC. The billboard was a result of a national campaign by artist-led consortium For Freedoms, in which artists, activists, and prison reform organizations responded to the question: What does justice mean to you ...

Image courtesy of the #HALTsolitary Campaign. Seventeen people have died due to New York City's abominable jails in 2022, surpassing last year's total. Erick Tavira, 28, died by suicide on October 22 while being held in a mental health observation unit on Rikers Island. Mr. Tavira's case underscores the inevitable outcome when incarceration is used ...

Lakisha Santana Sell used to bring her husband, David Sell, bags filled with mangoes, avocados, granola bars, and other healthy snacks when she visited him at Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, New York. Twice a month, she weighed out bags of food, careful not to exceed the 35-pound monthly maximum. But that tradition came to a halt this past ...

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