

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/publications/how-new-york-city-reduced-mass-incarceration-a-model-for-change>**

## Policy Issue Resources

### Publication

Over the past two decades, New York became one of the first states to significantly reduce its entire correctional population. A report co-authored by Vera President and Director Michael Jacobson contends that a shift in New York City's policing practices in the 1990s away from felony arrests and towards arrests for low-level offenses was largely responsible for the state's reduction in incarceration. Demonstrating how local policies can have a dramatic impact on state correctional systems, the findings also counter the argument that lowering prison and jail populations will trigger increases in crime rates.

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

Vera Institute of Justice. All rights reserved.