

# **Vera Institute of Justice**

## **Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights**

**<https://www.vera.org/publications/adolescent-violence-state-processes-and-the-local-context-of-moral-panic>**

## **Policy Issue Resources**

### Publication

The authors argue that recent societal reactions to youth violence can be characterized as a moral panic. They argue that the current moral panic over youth violence both arises from and has been contributing to a restructuring of the role of the state. This takes the form of reductions in public investment in social welfare and education and a concomitant transfer of resources to a more repressive apparatus of social control through policing and incarceration.

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