

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/research/graduation-instead-of-incarceration>**

## Policy Issue Resources

The Choice is Yours (TCY) is a felony diversion program in Philadelphia that channels young people arrested for drug possession with intent to distribute away from jail and into education and job training services. Derek Riker, former ADA in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, and Byron Cotter, from the Defender Association of Philadelphia, discuss how poverty and systemic oppression play a role in someone's justice system involvement and how TCY works to build success for its participants.

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Every year, thousands of American children are shuffled through the justice system for misbehaviors like skipping school and running away referred to as status offenses when their families, schools, and communities don't know how else to help them. While it may seem like the best option, research shows that the juvenile system just isn't equipped ...

A look at how bail, fines, and fees in the criminal justice system impact poor communities in New Orleans

The New Orleans criminal justice system, like many other local systems across the country, operates significantly on funding generated from the people cycling through it from bail and associated fees before trial, to fines and fees levied after conviction. These practices come with hidden costs to defendants the majority of whom are poor and black ...

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