

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/research/bridging-the-divide-between-police-and-community>

Policy Issue Resources

Increased national attention on policing in America, as well as national calls for police reform, have pushed many law enforcement agencies to examine current police practices, and assess how effectively those practices contribute to ensuring public safety, officer safety, and building public trust in local police agencies.

Vera's [PEACE Initiative](#) is designed to help police agencies work collaboratively with the communities they serve, to enhance or repair police-community relations, and cultivate trust between all stakeholders. In Asheville, North Carolina Vera worked with local law enforcement and community groups to develop new use of force and de-escalation policies, and is working with other jurisdictions to facilitate police-community engagement and enhance public safety.

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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 ...

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

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