

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.

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