

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/research/reimagining-prison-video>

## Policy Issue Resources

Launched as part of Prison Visiting Week for Veras Reimagining Prison initiative, this explainer video focuses on alternative approaches to incarceration in use by countries such as Germany. Comparatively, tough on crime practices in the U.S. have been ineffective. We spend \$80 billion on incarceration per year, yet more than half the people who leave prison return within five years. There has to be a better way. It's time to #ReimaginePrison.

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### Developing Quality Postsecondary Education Programs in Prison

With its July 2015 announcement of the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program, the U.S. Department of Education ushered in what could be a new era of expanded opportunities for postsecondary education in our nations prisons. The Second Chance Pell Pilot makes students incarcerated in state and federal prisons eligible for need-based financial aid in a l ...

### Common Misconceptions and Emerging Safe Alternatives

While the precise number of people held on any given day in whats commonly called solitary confinement though also known as segregated or restricted housing is not known with any certainty, estimates run between 80,000 to 100,000 in state and federal prisons. However, evidence mounts that the practice produces many unwanted and harmful outcomes fo ...

Lifting a nearly 30-year ban on Pell Grants for people who are incarcerated, Congress passed the FAFSA Simplification Act, which restores their Pell Grant eligibility starting in 2023, allowing them to affordably pursue postsecondary education in prison. The Second Chance Pell (SCP) Experiment has highlighted the success of prison education program ...

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