

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/blog/cost-benefit-analysis-of-justice-programs-seeing-the-forest-and-the-trees>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

Vera's [Cost-Benefit Knowledge Bank for Criminal Justice](#) (CBKB) project has two main audiences for its work. One is a technical audience, including legislative, policy, budget and fiscal analysts, researchers, evaluators, criminologists, and others in similar or related professions. For these readers, the forest is important, but the trees are more their thing. The other audience is interested in the big picture and the policy ramifications at hand, with readers who would usually prefer to leave the minutiae or at least the calculations to someone else. This group includes elected officials and their staff; policymakers; corrections, community corrections, court, and law enforcement personnel; service providers; and journalists. These two audiences are typically looking for different types of information regarding cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of justice programs and policies. When Vera convened a working group of respected policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to discuss cost-benefit methods, members of the group easily reached consensus about the need for two distinct resources: one for CBA practitioners to specifically address methodological issues, and another for a broader policy audience. With input and guidance from the cost-benefit methods working group, CBKB recently published two white papers:

We are grateful to the methods working-group members, who contributed their time and ideas generously and diligently:

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

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