

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/research/bruce-western-leaving-prison-as-a-poverty-transition-preliminary-results-from-the-boston-reentry-study>**

## Policy Issue Resources

More than 700,000 people leave U.S. prisons each year, mostly returning to poor communities in urban areas. In this podcast, Bruce Western discusses early findings from his *Boston Reentry Study* that show prison precipitates a transition to severe poverty for a fragile population with often-traumatic histories of childhood exposure to violence.

[Bruce Western](#) is professor of sociology and director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Western's recent work has focused on the link between social inequality and the growth of prison and jail population in the United States.

This podcast is part of the [Neil A. Weiner Research Speaker Series](#).

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On September 26, thousands of people held in Alabama state prisons went on strike. The Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) has been under federal investigation since 2016, and conditions inside the state prisons are among the deadliest in the nation. Strikers say the horrific conditions include overcrowding, neglect, abuse, and a drug epidemic ...

As we approach the first midterm election since the January 6 Capitol Hill riot, the integrity of our elections is under more scrutiny than ever. Fearmongering around the myth of voter fraud is a deliberate tactic at the local, state, and federal level, and mass incarceration is central to that strategy. This summer, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis ...

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 ...

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

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