

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/research/new-orleans-tricentennial>

Policy Issue Resources

What should justice look like in New Orleans for the next three hundred years?

The criminal justice system in New Orleans absorbs the lions share of the city's operating budget. With new and renewed leadership in this important year in our city's history, it is time to dig deep into what it means to build a system that delivers on the promise of fairness, justice, and safety for all New Orleansians.

At the tricentennial we are asking: How will our city envision criminal justice reform in this historic moment? In these short videos, New Orleans community leaders discuss key findings from Vera's research and share their visions for the future.

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Examining the Costs and Consequences of Charging for Justice in New Orleans

In 2015, government agencies in New Orleans collected \$4.5 million in the form of bail, fines and fees from people involved in the criminal justice system and, by extension, from their families. Another \$4.7 million was transferred from the pockets of residents to for-profit bail bond agents. These costs have become the subject of considerable publ ...

A First Look

New York's recent bail reform law, which was passed in April 2019 and amended on July 2, 2020, was expected to reduce the footprint of jail incarceration by limiting the use of money bail. The new law mandated pretrial release for the vast majority of nonviolent charges and required that judges consider a person's ability to pay bail. A comprehensi ...

A correctional officer watches as people sit for lunch at the Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility in Mineville, New York. Photo by AP Photo/Mike Groll. Last month, New York closed six upstate prisons, each of which had been operating well under capacity. Collectively, the now-closed facilities filled just 43.7 percent of their availabl ...

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