

# 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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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 ...

Image courtesy of the #HALTsolitary Campaign. Seventeen people have died due to New York City's abominable jails in 2022, surpassing last year's total. Erick Tavira, 28, died by suicide on October 22 while being held in a mental health observation unit on Rikers Island. Mr. Tavira's case underscores the inevitable outcome when incarceration is used ...

Lakisha Santana Sell used to bring her husband, David Sell, bags filled with mangoes, avocados, granola bars, and other healthy snacks when she visited him at Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, New York. Twice a month, she weighed out bags of food, careful not to exceed the 35-pound monthly maximum. But that tradition came to a halt this past ...

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