

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

[\*\*https://www.vera.org/research/new-orleans-pretrial-services\*\*](https://www.vera.org/research/new-orleans-pretrial-services)

## Policy Issue Resources

Watch to learn how New Orleans Pretrial Services helps judges decide who stays in jail and who can be safely released to await trial, reducing the jail population and saving the city money. Interviewed: Ginny Lee, former Director, New Orleans Pretrial Services; Former Criminal Court Judge Calvin Johnson; Michael Cowan, Chair, New Orleans Crime Coalition; Pastor Antoine Barriere, Household of Faith Family Worship Church; Dolfinette Martin, former New Orleans Pretrial Services Staff.

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### 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 comprehensive ...

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 available ...

When COVID-19 struck, many jails and prisons were poorly equipped to provide even basic medical care. Yet, the onset of the pandemic found the country's mass incarceration system shamefully well-equipped with punitive solitary confinement cells. As it became clear that incarcerated people were in grave danger, public health experts recommended dec ...

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