

# **Vera Institute of Justice**

## **Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights**

**<https://www.vera.org/publications/evaluation-of-the-bronx-sentencing-project>**

## **Policy Issue Resources**

### **Publication**

This 1973 evaluation of Vera's Bronx Sentencing Project compared the disposition and recidivism rates of an experimental group of defendants referred for supervision to Argus Community with a control group. The Argus referral resulted in a marked, although not statistically significant reduction of prison sentences without a concurrent increase in recidivism. It observes that if the Bronx Sentencing-Argus referral system were restricted to defendants with good rehabilitative prospects, Argus might not only reduce prison dispositions but also reduce recidivism. To adequately test this prediction, a repetition of the experiment with certain modifications is recommended.

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