

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/research/linking-evaluation-and-cost-benefit-analysis-a-practical-introduction>**

## Policy Issue Resources

Watch Elizabeth Drake, senior research associate at the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, and Valerie Levshin, a former policy analyst at the Vera Institute of Justice, discuss the role of evaluation in cost-benefit studies. Before starting a cost-benefit analysis of a criminal justice policy or program, you need to know: Does the initiative work? This training is designed for people interested in meta-analysis and/or conducting cost-benefit studies of criminal justice programs and policies.

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As of 2019, a typical New York county spent more than \$225 to keep someone behind bars for a single night. These high costs are driven largely by overstaffing. Understanding staffing levels, therefore, is key to understanding counties jail spending. Using data from the New York State Commission on Correction, Vera compared staffing levels from 201 ...

In the aftermath of George Floyd's murder in May 2020, nationwide calls for reallocation of law enforcement budgets forced elected leaders to consider the values underlying their budgetary choices. But discussions largely remained limited to policing. Few major U.S. cities took a hard look at the billions invested in their increasingly vacant jail ...

Data tool on jail and prison populations in every U.S. county

In 2014, the nationwide jail incarceration rate of 326 per 100,000 county residents exceeded the highest county rates registered in the 1970s, which rarely exceeded 300 per 100,000.

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