

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/research/alex-stevens-does-drug-policy-matter>**

## Policy Issue Resources

The Vera Institute of Justice's Neil A. Weiner Research Speaker Series features Alex Stevens, professor of criminal justice at the University of Kent, England. In this podcast, Professor Stevens discusses his research comparing drug policies of five countries: the Netherlands; Portugal; Sweden; the United Kingdom; and the United States to determine whether drug policy affects drug use. His findings suggest that a penal response to drug use has no discernible correlation to lower drug-use rates. Rather, a greater commitment to treatment and harm-reduction policies--such as distributing clean needles--correlates with less drug use; countries with the lowest levels of welfare support have the highest levels of injectable drug use.

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For Daniel Prude, Patrick Warren Sr., and Ricardo Muoz, 911 calls led to tragedy. They are three of at least 97 people killed just last year after police responded to reports of someone behaving erratically or having a mental health crisis, according to Mapping Police Violence. A person experiencing a mental health crisis is more likely to have co ...

### A Review of the Literature

As a movement across the country has begun demanding changes to policing and public safety, the need to revisit 911 call-taking and dispatching methods has become urgent. The scope of 911 has expanded and technological infrastructure has evolved, but there have been few advances in the call-taking and dispatching aspects of the system over the last ...

Documents reveal that the Federal Bureau of Prisons system plans to give its initial supply of vaccines to its staff. Some state leaders say they will exclude incarcerated people from their vaccine priority groups, in violation of CDC recommendations that people who live and work in congregate settings ought to be vaccinated first. These irrational ...

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