LARRP May 2024 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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LARRP Committee Meetings* Policy Updates * LARRP News * * Featured Jobs and Opportunities * LARRP Steering Comm Updates* Partner Events * Featured Reports * In the News *

This newsletter is packed with information. When you get to the place where it says "Message clipped" make sure to click "View entire message"

LARRP Meetings

Education Committee
May 2, 2024
3:30pm - 4:30pm

Register Education

Community Safety Committee
May 8, 2024,
1:00-2:00 pm

Register Community Safety

LARRP GENERAL MEETING
May 16, 2024,
10:00 - 11:30 am

Register General Meeting

Employment Committee

Housing Committee
May 24, 2024
10:00am-11am

Register Housing

The LARRP Antelope Valley
May 21, 2024
11:00-12:00 pm

Join Meeting - AV LARRP

Integrated Health Committee
June 3, 2024,

Joint meeting with the Education Committee

June 26, 2024,
2:00pm-3:30pm

Register Employment

2:00 pm

Register Integrated Health

May Spotlight - Policy



It's May….and things are active in Sacramento as the legislative session is in full swing. We are excited to share our huge list of ***2024 LARRP State Legislative Priorities,*** which encompasses all of the state legislation LARRP is prioritizing in 2024, the bills we are sponsoring, supporting, or opposing. LARRP's policy work seeks to be a resource to inform and mobilize the reentry community around critical reentry policy issues and leverage the expertise of practitioners and impacted people into the policy making process. The Policy Team develops and advocates for the passage and implementation of legislative and administrative policies that improve opportunities for formerly incarcerated or convicted people, their families and communities, and the community-based agencies that serve them. We also give special consideration to bills brought to us by LARRP members and other community partners in our network.

Due to the ongoing state deficit being faced and the need to cut spending across the state, a number of higher profile policy and reform bills were curtailed from last year's dockets. This year the strategy was to focus on legislation that improves conditions for all incarcerated people, links impacted people to service systems, and upgrades reentry systems and services. In addition to our main co-sponsor bill this year on ***Menstrual Equity, AB 1810 (Bryan)***, for access to menstrual products in carceral settings, LARRP is supporting twelve great bills and opposing three of the worst.

For example, SB 950 (Skinner) and SB 1254 (Becker), collectively require CDCR and County Jails to assist eligible incarcerated people to enroll in Medicaid/Medi-Cal, SSI, CalFresh and other programs prior to the



AB 1810 (Bryan) Update:

LARRP's co-sponsored ***AB 1810 (Bryan)***, which requires more reliable and consistent access to menstrual products in jails and prisons in California, is still awaiting a final fiscal impact analysis to clarify the fiscal implications (cost of the services) before it is heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

We are expecting the committee hearing to be on Thursday, May 16th. While the meeting will be held in person in Sacramento, there are 2 major ways you can help us support this bill.

If you work for an organization or nonprofit, you can submit a letter of support through the state ***legislative advocacy portal***. A template letter ***can be found here*** with information focused on the impact of the bill and why it is so crucial for it to be voted into law. You can copy the text of the support letter into a new document with your letterhead, remembering to replace any highlighted sections with the updated and relevant information from your organization, and submit it online. The deadline for these submissions is Thursday, May 9, one week before the hearing date.

If you are not part of an organization, or do not have the ability to get your organization to support the bill officially, you can go through the ***Assembly Appropriations website*** to find the members of the committee, and call their offices to voice your support for the bill. Provide your name, that you're calling on behalf of LARRP, and that you support AB 1810 by Isaac Bryan to help ensure fair and reliable access to menstrual products for our state's incarcerated community.

Ever wonder how LARRP determines which bills to focus on in Sacramento?

Between January and March every year, LARRP's Public Policy and Community Engagement Manager, Charles Vignola, reads through hundreds of new bills introduced in Sacramento in order to identify the most relevant

person's release into the community; and SB 1035 (Ashby) caps Restitution Fee annual interest rates to no more than 1%; and AB 2160, Pregnancy Sentencing Deferral (McKinnor), would require that pregnant people should by default avoid incarceration and allow pregnant and postpartum people to request a temporary delay of the court's sentencing. And LARRP is opposing an anti-homeless bill aimed to criminalize the unhoused even further, Encampment Ban SB 1011 (Jones), which prohibits a person from sitting, lying, sleeping, or placing personal property upon a street or sidewalk.

You can find the full list for the ***2024 LARRP State Legislative Priorities here***, with links to each bill's language, and as many fact sheets as are available at this time. Note that this document will be updated as more background materials become available, or bills advance or die in the legislature. We have endeavored to provide basic, understandable language for each bill, but we also recognize that some bills are built on pre-existing legislation which can make understanding the new impacts more difficult as a result. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to LARRP's Policy and Community Engagement Manager, Charles Vignola, at charles@lareentry.org.

legislation for the reentry sector, and to understand the broader legislative context for the year. The selection of bills is guided and prioritized by 3 questions: 1) Will it have a direct impact on the lives of impacted people? 2) Does it address reentry systems or services? 3) Does it reduce racial discrimination in the criminal legal system? Once a list of all the reentry and justice-related bills is assembled, it then gets narrowed down based on the relevance of the bill to LARRP's work, what organizations are already working on it, and how likely the bill is to succeed and get signed into law.

Once there is a "short list", a package is put together with bill summaries, links to the bill language, fact sheets, and support letters, which is then provided to LARRP's Steering Committee, who takes a final vote to approve the Legislative Priorities for that year. This process can be difficult, as many bills die in their first few weeks of the legislative year, so we generally pick out many bills to follow in order to ensure we are able to support as many bills as possible without falling behind as amendments and votes are cast. These bills compromise our annual work to continually support high impact legislation aiming to increase the conditions of the incarcerated and justice-involved populations statewide.

LARRP News

DOORS Resource Fair and Legal Clinic



As part of April 2024 Second Chance Month, LARRP along with partners, A New Way of Life and All of Us or None co-hosted a In-Person Reentry Legal Clinic and Resource Fair at DOORS on April 17th ***D.O.O.R.S. Community Reentry Cente***r If you would like to collaborate or be a guest at future events, please reach out to Evelyn at ***evelyn@lareentry.org***

LARRP enjoyed attending multiple resource fairs during Second Chance Month. Thank you to Saint John's Community Health Center and West Los Angeles College for hosting and having us at their fantastic resource fair. If you met us or got connected at a Second Chance Month

Meet the LARRP LEADERS - Cohort #3

Leading, Engaging, Advocating, Demonstrating, Enhancing and Expanding Reentry Systems



The LEADERS Training Academy, is a project funded by CCJBH; Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health. Its' purpose is to provide capacity to the formerly incarcerated, the people who have been closest to the problem but the furthest away from the solutions.

We provide leadership development, conflict resolution, and mentoring services to Los Angeles participants. Mentoring services will include weekly to monthly group and one-on-one mentoring support and conflict resolution training to equip participants with conflict management skills and applied experience as community mediators.

LARRP is proud to have on board these amazing individuals, members of our third cohort, divided into three

you met us or got connected at a Second Chance Month Resource Fair, drop a comment in our *IG*

teams: Integrated Health, Education, and Employment

Featured Jobs and Opportunities



JCOD is hiring! We currently have four positions open. We encourage you to share these listings with prospective candidates. Please see full information with links below:

- ***Justice Program Associate***
- ***Justice Program Analyst***
- ***Justice Program Senior Analyst***
- ***Justice Program Director***

CLOSING FILING DATE: May 7, 2024 before 5:00 p.m. (PT)

For more information

Vital Strategies

Vital Strategies Overdose Prevention Program is hiring two communication positions

- **Job posting #1:** ***Harm Reduction Communications Lead***
- **Job posting #2:** ***Harm Reduction Communications Specialist***



Production Assistant Training For Those On Probation In Los Angeles!

Begins First week of May

TEXT 310.988.8819 ASAP to be considered. Email your name, email address, phone



Care First Budget Survey

Imagine a budget for L.A. County that's crafted by our communities, for our communities.
Instead of investing public money in systems that harm Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, L.A. County can redirect investments towards resources that uplift, equip, and empower our marginalized communities.
Make your voice heard,

Take the SURVEY



CHIPS Fellowship Program

This is the first pilot for the CHIPS Fellows program at the

University of Southern California. This fellowship focuses on upskilling workers to become semiconductor technicians. No prior experience is necessary, and the fellowship is paid.

More Info
Please complete the ***interest form*** by May 7th

number to: ***Info@codegamedia.net***

LARRP Steering Committee Member Updates

Celebrate these huge milestones with us

One of the main focuses of our work is to bring much needed resources to our CBO Partners as they work so tirelessly to meet the needs of the Justice Involved populations in their communities. How amazing to realize these dreams with them! Take a moment to enjoy!

POWR House Opening in the San Fernando Valley



LARRP Steering Committee member and Employment Committee Chair, Maria "Alex" Alexander, talks about the new home for women at *Center for Living and Learning.*

Our Healing Space - New Wellness Center in Opens in Antelope Valley



LARRP Steering Committee Janie Hodge, Director of *Paving the Way Foundation,* opened a new wellness Center in Antelope Valley.

Please See the *DHCS Press Release* for mor details about this much needed new center.

Partner Events





Webinar: Can Parole be Rehabilitated?

May 8, 2024, 11:00 am

Please join The Sentencing Project for a national dialogue. Inspired by Ben Austen’s new book, ***Correction: Parole, Prison and the Possibility of Change***, panelists will discuss the history and intent of parole and how it has evolved over the decades based on research and personal experiences

Fair Chance Corporate Cohort

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 10 am PT

Increase your talent pool with workers who know how to do the job, can do the job, and want to do the job. Attend our upcoming virtual info session and learn how Jobs for the Future's ***Fair Chance Corporate Cohort*** has helped more than 30 companies build a diverse workforce and a stronger organization.

Register



Los Angeles Mission Cinco De Mayo Fiesta Fair

Contact Us For More Information: Simonne Brewster (213) 629-1227 x 423 or ***Sbrewster@lamission.net***



More Info and Register



UNITE-LA Partner Open House

Wed May 15, 2024, 12pm – 1pm

The Open House is designed specifically for UNITE-LA's current and future partners serving L.A.'s youth and young adults who are looking to learn and expand their workforce development, career pathway, college access, and job/internship offerings, while working together to guide L.A.'s youth on pathways to success.

Join Zoom Meeting

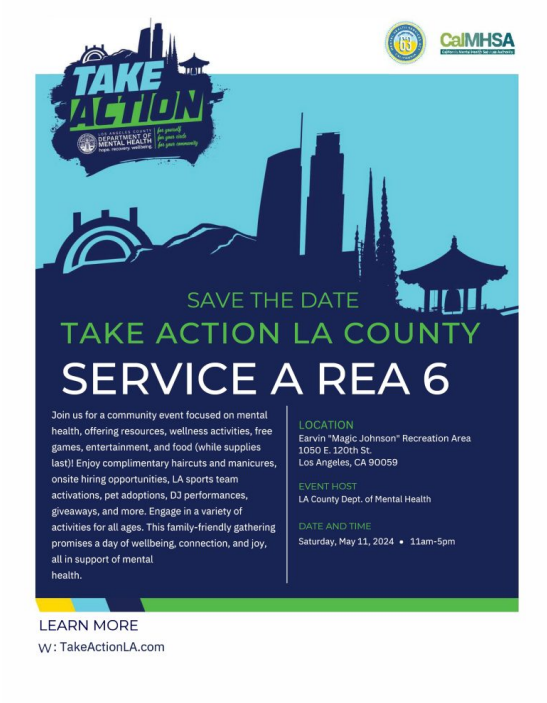




Re-Entry Resource Fair

May 8, 2024, 10am - 2pm
400 West Washington Boulevard LATTC Campus
Cafeteria Los Angeles, CA 90015

Register



Community Mental Health Event

Saturday May 11, 2024
Magic Johnson Recreation Area
1050 E. 120th St. LA, 2024

Family- friendly gathering in support of wellbeing and connection.

Full Calendar of Events: ***TakeActionLA.com***



2nd Chance Job Fair & Resource Expo

May 16, 2024, 9:30-12:30
Hacienda LaPuente Adult Education
14101 E. Nelson Ave, La Puente, CA, 91746

Join us for the 2024 2nd Chance Job Fair and Resource Expo. We will have more then 30 - 2nd chance employers and resource vendors that assist with removing barriers to employment. We will have on-site barbers, expungement, and food bank.

Register

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell's 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration & Resource Fair

Friday, June 21, 2024, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm





In the News - April 2024



DCHS Celebrates Ribbon Cuttings For Crisis Care Centers

DHCS News Release, April 29, 2024

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) celebrated the addition of two new facilities that will provide lifesaving treatment for Californians with mental health and substance use disorders (SUD). This week saw two ribbon-cutting ceremonies that are bringing new prevention, treatment, and recovery facilities to Los Angeles and Sonoma counties, adding new capacity for much-needed drug and alcohol treatment programs, mental health wellness services, and recovery support. These are the first of many community treatment sites that are under construction now in 49 counties, and even more sites will be funded and built, thanks to recently approved Proposition 1 bonds, in 2025 and 2026.

Read More

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sdrj24 image

Restorative justice conference sparks synodal dialogue in San Diego

Black Catholic Messenger, Nate Tinner-Williams, April 27, 2024

Over 100 practitioners, formerly incarcerated persons, bishops, and other ministers gathered to promote themes of healing and mercy in criminal justice.

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State Board Allows Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall To Remain Open Despite Concerns From Advocates, Families

The LAist, By Robert Garrova, Apr 11, 2024

“L.A. appears to have remedied the outstanding items of non-compliance,” said Linda Penner, chair of the state board. “I also feel a need to point out that the problems in L.A. are long-standing and serious and this recommendation was not easy to formulate.”

Read More



Prosecutors put men on death row. This California D.A. wants to take them off



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"



4 L.A. County probation officers placed on leave due to continued violence at juvenile facility

KTLA5, by Travis Schlepp, Apr 26, 2024
The suspensions relate to multiple incidents of “youth-on-youth violence” at the embattled juvenile detainment facility in Downey, officials said. Probation Department Chief Guillermo Viera Rosa said these suspensions are part of a concerted effort to “root out” staff that he says are responsible for perpetuating a “culture of violence, drugs, or abuse” at the county’s juvenile institutions.

Read More



California to expand re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals. Here’s how they work

CALMATTERS, By Levi Sumagaysay, April 24, 2024

LA Times, By Anita Chabria, April 4, 2024

Capital punishment in California exists in law, but in practicality ended in 2019 when Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered death row to be dismantled.
Still, 625 men and 20 women remain incarcerated with death sentences, facing the unlikely but possible prospect that under a different governor, they could be executed. About one-third of the condemned are Black.
In recent months, Santa Clara County Dist. Atty. Jeff Rosen, once a prosecutor who believed in capital punishment and one who rejects association with the progressive prosecutor movement, has been quietly preparing to ask courts to change the penalties of 14 men from his county who are waiting for that ultimate sentence to be carried out.

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Criminal justice reform is alive. Thank conservatives

LA Times, By The Times Editorial Board, April 3, 2024
The Safer Supervision Act is a bipartisan bill that would shorten post-prison supervision upon a showing that public safety would not be negatively affected.
Criminal justice reform has deep roots in political conservatism. Some of the most meaningful recent sentencing reforms have come from states like Texas, Georgia and South Carolina. The organization Right on Crime and other conservative reform groups draw on religious traditions that stress repentance and forgiveness, plus a deep concern over government expansion and waste — including in public safety and punishment.

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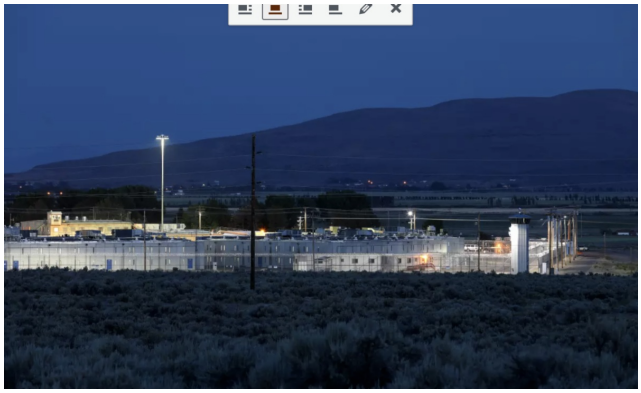
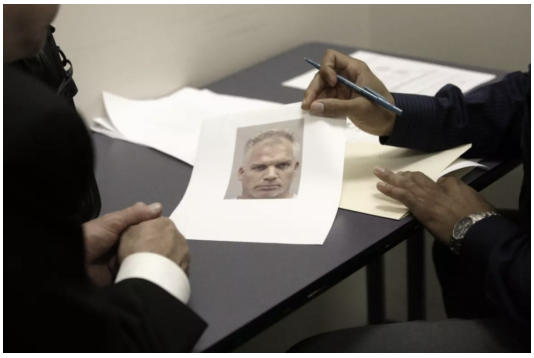


Newsom has approved three California prison

As California closes prisons and shifts its focus to rehabilitation, it is expanding programs that help formerly incarcerated people transition back into society.
The state's Corrections Department is touting its male and female community re-entry programs as among its most successful tools in helping former inmates become self-sufficient after they get out of prison.
Read More



Opinion: California law requires police to fix these bad policies. So why haven't they?

LA Times, By Todd Fries, April 24, 2024

Dozens of people across California have been wrongly convicted of crimes largely because of law enforcement officers' flawed handling of eyewitness evidence.

Read More



LA Supes Reorganize Men's Central Jail Closure Efforts

Witness LA, April 14, 2024 by Taylor Walker

On Tuesday, April 9, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to move the county's Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT) out of one

Newsom has approved three California prison closures but resists pressure to shutter more

LA Times, By Anabel Sosa, April 1, 2024

Gov. Gavin Newsom went far beyond the promise he made in his first year in office to close at least one California state prison. But now, he is resisting calls from criminal justice advocates and liberal state lawmakers to shutter five more penitentiaries.

Read More



The Invisible Labor of Women Who Love Incarcerated People

LA Progressive, Rachel Zarrow And Christopher Blackwell, Mar 25, 2024

Just as they are tasked with holding their families together before and during their loved one's imprisonment, women frequently have to take the lead in picking up the pieces when someone comes home.

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department and into another, and to "empower" JCIT to actually close the dangerously run-down Men's Central Jail, a goal the county has been working toward for more than a decade.

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California women's prison rocked by 'rape club' abuse scandals to be closed

LA Times By Richard Winton and Keri Blakinger, April 15, 2024

A women's prison in California so plagued by sexual abuse that it was known among inmates and workers as the "rape club" will be closed, the head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced Monday.

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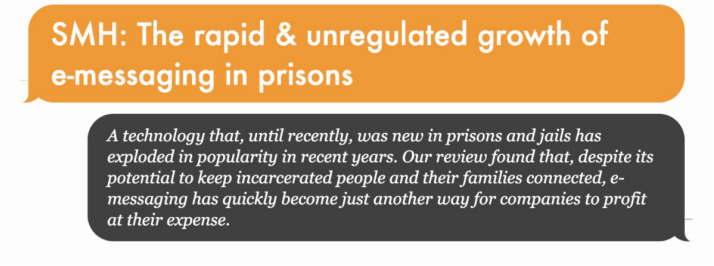
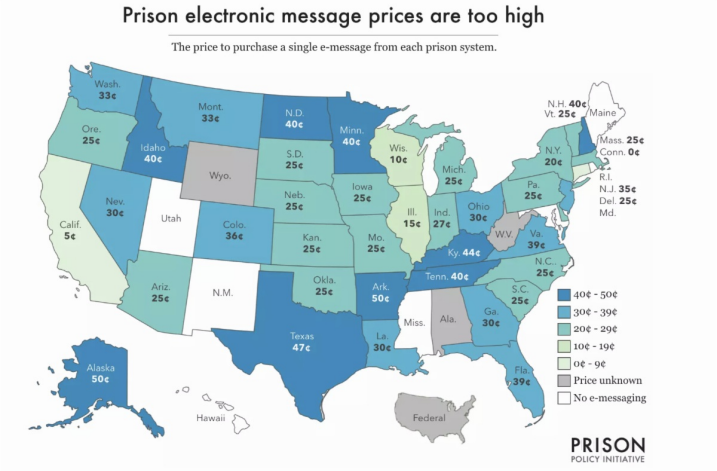
Featured Reports

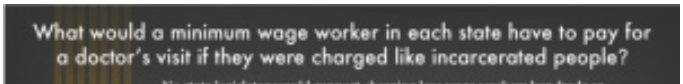


Prison Policy Initiative, By Mike Wessler, March 2023
Over the last twenty years, advocates and regulators have successfully lowered the prices of prison and jail phone rates. While these victories garnered headlines and attention, the companies behind these services quietly regrouped and refocused their efforts.

Read the Report



The steep cost of medical co-pays in prison puts health at risk

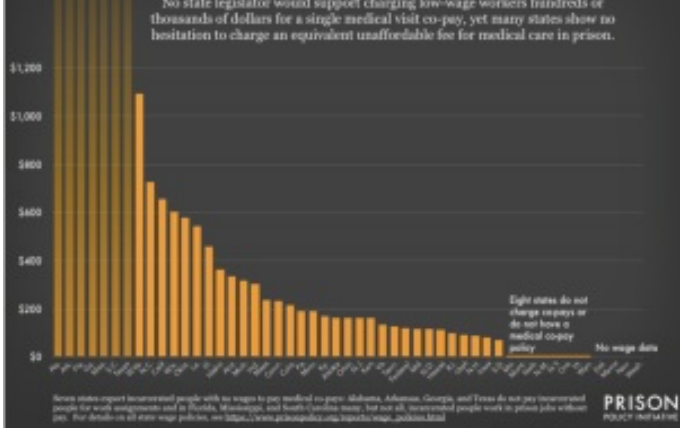


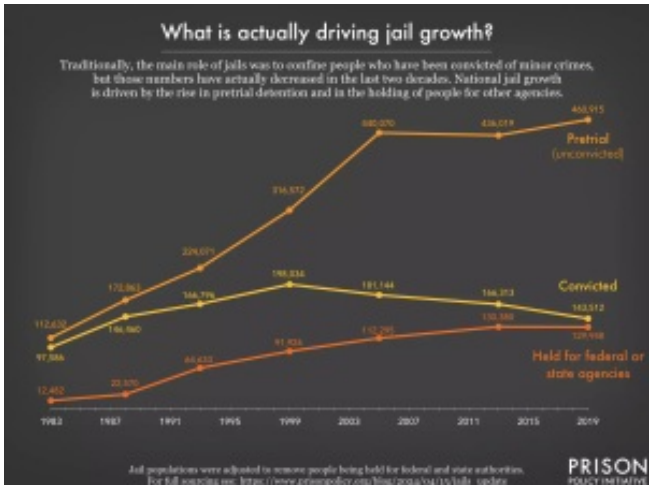
Prison Policy Initiative, by Wendy Sawyer, April 19, 2017

When we consider the relative cost of medical co-pays to incarcerated people who typically earn 14 to 62 cents per hour, it's clear they can be cost-prohibitive. Co-pays that take a large portion of your paycheck make seeking medical attention a costly choice.

In West Virginia, a single visit to the doctor would cost almost an entire month's pay for an incarcerated person who makes $6 per month.

Read more





New data and visualizations spotlight states' reliance on excessive jailing

Prison Policy Initiative, by Emily Widra, April 15, 2024

We've updated the data tables and graphics from our 2017 report to show just how little has changed in our nation's overuse of jails: too many people are locked up in jails, most detained pretrial and many of them are not even under local jurisdiction.

Pretrial policies have a warehousing effect

Renting jail space: a perverse incentive continues to fuel jail growth

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Advancing Transgender Justice Illuminating Trans Lives Behind and Beyond Bars

Vera Institute of Justice, February 20, 2024, By Kelsie Chesnut and Jennifer Peirce, Illustrated by Bea Hayward

Transgender people are especially at risk for contact with the criminal legal system and, once in detention, at risk of harassment and violence inside prison. According to a 2022 survey of LGBTQ+ people in the United States, 31 percent had been in some form of incarceration at some point in the last five years.

Read the Report



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