COVID-19 and Mass Incarceration
Key Resources
Revised August 28, 2020

FJP's COVID-19 and Mass Incarceration resources offer insights into trends and promising practices among reform-minded elected prosecutors responding to COVID-19, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. This selection of resources from around the nation features policy guidance for justice system stakeholders, with an emphasis on how to decarcerate and promote public health and safety, as well as useful documents and websites tracking policy changes, outbreak hot spots, and litigation.

Policy Guidance and Best Practices

COVID-19 and the Criminal Justice System, Prison Policy Initiative. A resource page including ways to slow the spread of the virus in facilities, best responses, a template letter to request videos and/or calls in lieu of in-person visits, and additional related articles.

COVID-19 Crisis: FFJC Policy Recommendations and Policy Tracker, Fines and Fees Justice Center. A resource document including policy recommendations and a policy tracker of federal, state, and local responses to fines and fees in light of COVID-19.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Response and Resources, The Justice Collaborative. A resource page including decarceral guidelines, fact sheets, a comprehensive list of recommendations for justice system reforms from experts and advocates across the country, and other resources.

Coronavirus Guidance for the Criminal and Immigration Legal Systems, The Vera Institute of Justice. Provides guidance for various selected stakeholders, such as immigration sectors, law enforcement, prosecutors, defenders, judges, and youth facilities as to how to take precautionary measures in light of COVID-19.

COVID-19, Justice Action Network. Provides daily updates on new reforms, statistics, and advocacy efforts throughout the country.

Resources for Correctional Institutions Regarding COVID-19, Urban Institute. A compilation of resources from all levels of government, advocacy organizations, and academic institutions containing statistics, best practices, and reform efforts in light of COVID-19.

Responding to the Coronavirus Crisis, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. Policy guidance and analysis on an array of topics including criminal justice reform and civil liberties.

[The Coronavirus Crisis and the Criminal Justice System](), Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. Recommendations and policy guidance for all levels of the criminal justice system to address the COVID-19 public health crisis.

[Police Responses to COVID-19](), Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. Policy guidance on police responses to COVID-19.

[Easing the Burden of Fees and Fines During COVID-19](), Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. Policy guidance on fines and fees during COVID-19.

[YCLJ COVID-19 Response](), Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice. Includes policy recommendations and resources regarding youth in the justice system.

Tracking Justice System Responses to COVID-19

[The Coronavirus Response: Spotlight on State and Local Governments](), The Appeal. Provides an interactive map of each state's responses to COVID-19, including newly enacted policies regarding the justice system, elections, healthcare and insurance, and paid sick leave.

[COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Response and Resources](), The Justice Collaborative. A resource page including an active map of the country outlining each state's response to the crisis.

[COVID-19 Response](), The Justice Lab. Tracks steps parole and probation agencies are taking to protect individuals from COVID-19.

[Responses to COVID-19](), Prison Policy Initiative. A central page for information and resources on how various facilities are responding to the crisis by releasing individuals from custody, reducing new admissions, and decreasing in-person contact.

[Failing Grades: States' Responses to COVID-19 in Jails & Prisons](), ACLU Smart Justice and the Prison Policy Initiative. Evaluations of each state's actions to save incarcerated people and facility staff from COVID-19.

[Response to COVID-19 by Criminal Justice Systems](), The Justice Management Institute. Compendium of criminal justice system responses to COVID-19 at the state and local levels, including changes being made by jails systems, law enforcement agencies, probation and parole systems, prosecutors, and public defenders.

[COVID-19 and Criminal Justice: City and State Spotlights](), The Vera Institute of Justice. Information on some of the nation's jail systems and tools to expedite release and track progress.

[Prosecutors Responses to Covid-19](), Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. Policy guidance for and tracking of prosecutors' responses to COVID-19.

Tracking Jail and Prison Population Reductions

[Monitoring Jail Populations During COVID-19](#), The Vera Institute of Justice. Tracks confirmed COVID-19 cases in various counties throughout the country by general population and jail population, as well as reductions in jail populations since the pandemic.

[UCLA COVID-19 Behind Bars Data Project,](#) UCLA School of Law. A centralized location for UCLA Law's various trackers including jail/prison confirmed cases and deaths, jail and prison releases, correctional population reduction requests and responses, youth correctional facilities, immigration detention facilities, and more.

[Reducing Jail and Prison Populations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. Policy guidance and information on state and local responses.

Tracking Litigation

[Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse](#), Margo Schlanger, University of Michigan Law School. Resource tracking all COVID-19 class-action and group litigation (jails, prisons, immigration detention).

Tracking Infections, Illness and Deaths Behind Bars

[COVID-19 Behind Bars Map](#), COVID-19 Behind Bars. An independent journalism project mapping cases of coronavirus in jails, prisons, detention centers, and other correctional facilities in the U.S. and internationally using news reports and potential cases reported on by people inside prison.

[COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A report conducted by the CDC on infection rates of COVID-19 in jails and prisons throughout the United States.

[COVID-19: Death by Incarceration](#), ACLU and UCLA School of Law. A constantly updated spreadsheet containing the names and other information on all incarcerated individuals who have lost their lives to COVID-19.

[A State-by-State Look at Coronavirus in Prisons](#), The Marshall Project. Updated weekly, this tracker records reported cases and deaths due to COVID-19 in state and federal prisons.

[COVID-19 in Juvenile Facilities,](#) The Sentencing Project. This tracker is updated several times a month and provides information on COVID-19 positive diagnoses among youth and staff at juvenile facilities and the number of known cases in each state.

Tracking International Responses

[COVID-19 Justice Project](), Fair Trials. A regularly updated resource on how justice institutions around the world are responding to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Narratives and Accounts from Behind Bars

[Coronavirus: A Curated Collection of Links](), The Marshall Project. A collection of articles by The Marshall Project and other news outlets related to COVID-19 and the justice system.

[Temperature Check: COVID-19 Behind Bars](), PEN America. A new series from PEN America's Prison and Justice Writing Program, featuring original reporting by incarcerated writers, accompanied by podcast interviews with criminal justice reform experts on the pandemic's impact in United States' prisons.

Resources for Families

[COVID-19 Virus: Children of Incarcerated Parents Demand Action to Protect Our Parents Behind Bars](), We Got Us Now. Resources including support for families and a list of demands to protect parents who are currently incarcerated.

[They Can't Wait: FAMM's Response to COVID-19](), FAMM. Access to information on how to apply for federal compassionate release as well as FAQs and various state and federal resources.