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ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: For this report of the impact of Hollow Water’s Community Holistic Circle Healing Process [CHCH], interviews were conducted over a six-week period with participants including community and band members, CHCH staff, educators, RCMP and justice system staff and others. Researchers also participated in and observed various talking circles, pipe ceremonies and one-on-one healing ceremonies. Community and band members collaborated in shaping and carrying out the study.

SAMPLE: Over a ten-year period, six victimizers voluntarily entered treatment. Seven adult males came from other reserves. Ninety-four, including 68 adult males, 7 adult females, and 19 youth, were from the four communities making up Hollow Water. Forty-one of this latter group had assault charges and thirty-seven were charged with sexual assault. Excluding those who participated voluntarily, one hundred and one participants would have been at risk of being removed from the community and treated in provincial or federal justice systems. It is this group that provides the basis for cost comparisons.

RECIDIVISM: Only 2 clients (2%) reoffended during the ten year period of study.

COST: It is estimated that 60% of the CHCH staff time is spent on victimizer treatment with 30% direct at the victims or families and 10% devoted to community development. The authors compare costs of CHCH services with those that would have likely been incurred if victimizers and victims had gone to the traditional provincial and federal services. The estimated cost for funding CHCH over ten year period is $3,000,000. It is estimated that without CHCH the total costs to provincial and federal governments would range from $6,212,732 to $15,901,885. These estimates include pre-incarceration, incarceration, and parole costs. The authors cite general Canadian research indicating that typically “recidivism rates for sex offenses is approximately 13% and for any form of recidivism the figure rises to approximately 36%.” The authors conclude, “given that CHCH has a very low recidivism rate, only 2 clients re-offended during the past 10 years (approximately 2%), it is appropriate to state that the value of services to both the government and community has been significantly understated.”

CIRCLES
ADULT
ASSAULT
RECIDIVISM, COST
VICTIM, OFFENDER, STAFF, COMMUNITY
SURVEY, RECORD DATA
CANADA