
**NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE**

**ANNOTATION**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** This was the most substantial early piece of research on the use of circles in the justice process. It was conducted in Manitoba with the Hollow Water First Nation where "healing circles" were used to work with sex abuse victims and their victimizers as well as victimizers with other offenses, their respective families and the community at large. Circles were held with victimizers and their families, with victims and their families, and for sentencing (these circles included community members as well as the families and representatives of the formal justice system), and review of sentence compliance. Numerous other treatment/support healing circles were also available for specific groups, e.g. victims, victimizers, men, women, children. The relative isolation and homogeneity of the Hollow Water First Nation community both enhanced and impaired the work of circles.

**SATISFACTION:** Results from this effort to develop a partnership whereby communities would take on a much larger role in the justice process than usual were mixed. Some participants reported benefiting immensely from the circle process. Having a voice and stake in justice outcomes, being understood, experiencing strengthened commitment to change and healing, mutual respect, and renewed community/cultural pride were cited as benefits of participation. Lack of privacy, difficulty of working with family and close friends, embarrassment, unprofessionalism, and religious conflict were cited by others as negative aspects of the circle process.

**CIRCLES**
ADULT
ASSAULT
**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, SATISFACTION**
VICTIM, OFFENDER
SURVEY
CANADA