
**ANNOTATION:**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The Healing/Sentencing Circles Program in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory is for both juveniles and adults; felons and sex offenders are not accepted. The original purpose of the program was to develop and unify the community by involving community members in the process of working with individuals in trouble with the law in their own community. The healing circle process includes an application step. Once the applicant has pled guilty, he or she meets with a Justice Coordinator while the victim meets with a Victim Coordinator. All parties then meet and develop a "wellness plan" that may include restitution, community work, treatment, or education. The Council meets to monitor the offender's progress, and after 6 to 8 weeks a "circle court date" is set. The sentencing process occurs in a circle with the judge presiding. Program duration is six to eight weeks plus sentence which often is a probation term from 6 months to 2 years.

**SATISFACTION:** Victim satisfaction is very high.

**RECIDIVISM:** "The program has been evaluated. Outcome data were collected for the two-year pilot project. The project served 65 clients with about 20 prior offenders. Tracking indicated 80% decrease in recidivism. Additionally, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, has seen a decline since 1995 in the number of offenses. This is attributable directly to the program, since there has been no other substantial criminal justice system or demographic changes in the area. The evaluation was an internal self-evaluation using an outside paid consultant."

**CIRCLES**
ALL AGES
MIXED CRIME TYPE
SATISFACTION, RECIDIVISM
VICTIM, OFFENDER
SURVEY, RECORD DATA
CANADA