
**ANNOTATION:**

**DESIGN:** Data are reported on client evaluation of family group conferencing at twelve sites between May, 1997 and September, 1998. All juvenile cases referred to FGC which had at least one victim and one offender were eligible. This yielded 193 eligible cases. Initially pre-conference interviews were planned, but this part of the design failed to meet expectations. Post-conference telephone interviews were conducted with those participants willing to take part in the study. One hundred and five victims were interviewed as were 103 juvenile offenders, and 130 support persons (of this latter group, 30 were victim support persons and 100 were offender support persons). 69% of victims had been previously victimized, likely reflecting the high number of shoplifting offenders (62%).

**SATISFACTION**

93% of victims and 94% of offenders were satisfied with how their cases were handled.
94% of the support people indicated that they were satisfied with the outcome.
90% of the victims felt that the offender was held adequately accountable.
98% of the victims, 95% of support persons, and 94% of offenders would recommend the program to others.

**FAIRNESS**

Seventy-nine percent of victims, 92% of offenders, and 91% of support persons indicated that an agreement was negotiated. Ninety-five percent of victims and 89% of offenders thought the agreement to be fair.

**MOST AND LEAST HELPFUL ASPECTS:** Most helpful aspects for victims were “talking to offender and explaining effect of crime on them” and “hearing offender’s explanation;” for offenders—“meeting face-to-face,” “telling own story,” and apologizing;” for support persons—“all parties had opportunity to meet” and “restitution agreement.” Least helpful aspect of the FGC for victims was “negative attitude of some parents;” for offenders—“having their friends attend the conference;” for support persons—“too long, too time consuming.”

**GROUP CONFERENCING**

**JUVENILE**

**MIXED CRIME TYPES**

**SATISFACTION, FAIRNESS**

**VICTIM, OFFENDER**

**SURVEY**

**US**