**ANNOTATION:**

**DESIGN:** This study examines factors associated with re-offending in a juvenile conferencing program. The study sample included 200 juvenile offenders [ages 10 to 16] who completed conferencing between 1997 and 1999. Offenses included property crimes (67%), violent crimes (30%) and drug charges (3% were drug-only; an additional 8% were drug in combination with another category). Data was collected in 2002 on any new official “incident” (rather than the number of charges) post conference, giving a range of three to five years post-conference. The overall re-offense rate for the cohort was 56%.

Factors examined included offender characteristics (age at first offense, age at conference, gender, previous offense record) and conference characteristics (case flow time, conference outcome and offender satisfaction ratings). No conference characteristics were predictive of reoffense rates.

**SATISFACTION:** Offender satisfaction ratings were very high overall:
- Preparation: 90% felt they had a good idea what the conference would be like before they came
- Satisfaction: on a series of items tapping overall satisfaction, offender ratings ranged from 98% to 100%
- Fairness: 100% agreed with the statement “Overall, I thought that the conference was fair.”

**RECIDIVISM:** The variables associated with reoffending included:
- Gender: females were less likely than males to re-offend (p < .001)
- Pre-conference offending: youths who had prior offenses were more likely to re-offend, (r = .35, p < .001)
- Age: there was no association between age at the time of the conference and rate of re-offending. Youth who were younger at the time of their first offense were more likely to re-offend than youths who were older.
- Interaction between age at first offense and conferencing: Survival analysis grouped by age at first offense demonstrated that if conferencing is the first intervention in the 10-12 year old age group, the offenders are less likely to re-offend than if the response is court referral or cautioning.

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