
**NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE**

**ANNOTATION:**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** Using a variation of the family group conferencing model, the Woodbury Police Department diverts selected youth from the traditional system. Cases are screened according to seriousness of offense, past record, and offender's and the parent's attitude. The juvenile must also admit to the offense. The program conferences “many repeat offenders and many felony level cases.” Conferencing typically results in agreements among victims, offenders, family members and affected community members as to how the youth will repair the harm and what strategies may be employed to deal with the causes of the offender’s behavior.

**DESIGN:** This recidivism study compared all conferencing cases from 1995 to November 1999 with juvenile cases from 1993, the last full year without a conferencing option. The conferencing cases are only those resulting in formal conferences conducted by qualified police and community facilitators. Follow-up period was one year for 1993 cases. Time period for conferencing youth is not stated.

There were 281 conferencing cases of which 52.7% were first time offenders. For those youth with prior offenses the average number of priors was 3.8. In the 1993 non-conferencing group there were 494 cases.

**RECIDIVISM:**

33.1% of the conferenced youth reoffended, compared to 72.2% of the youth processed in 1993. 16.2% of first time offenders who went through conferences re-offended, compared with 51.8% of repeat offenders who participated in conferences.

Author notes that the average time of reoffending for the 1993 youth "was just under three weeks" and new offenses "tended to be of equal or greater seriousness than the last." In contrast, for reoffending conferenced youth the average elapsed time was three months before the next offense and that offense "was most often less serious than the offense for which they were conferenced."

**GROUP CONFERENCING**

**JUVENILE**

**MIXED CRIME TYPES**

**RECIDIVISM**

**OFFENDER**

**RECORD DATA, COMPARISON GROUP**

**US**