**ANNOTATION:**

**DESIGN:** Semi-structured interviews were held with seven offenders [ages 15 through 24] who participated in the Victim-Offender Conferencing program in Washington County, Minnesota. Additional interviews were held with four sets of parents of the participants.

**REASONS:** Reasons offenders chose to meet included to impress the court, to clarify matters with the victims, to apologize, and to connect their actions to the actual victim. Two participants felt pressured by the court to participate. All parents interviewed were positive about their offspring's involvement and hoped it would help them.

Offenders felt as well prepared as possible for the encounters. Most sessions were reported to be fairly business-like and straightforward, though one was "highly emotional."

Offender reactions to the sessions fell into two major themes: closure and a sense of relief, and the shame and remorse offenders felt as they described their crimes and listened to victim responses.

**SATISFACTION AND FAIRNESS:** Offenders felt the outcomes were fair and all but one reported being satisfied. Clarification, closure and changes in thinking were the most important gains offenders reported experiencing from the process.

**RECIDIVISM:** Six of the seven offenders had been in no further trouble since their participation; the status of the seventh was unclear at the time of the interview.

**VOM**
**JUVENILE AND ADULT**
**MIXED CRIME TYPES**
**REASONS, SATISFACTION, FAIRNESS, RECIDIVISM**
**OFFENDER DATA**
**SURVEY**
**US**