
ANNOTATION:

This study explores public opinion about what types of offenses and offenders should be referred to VOM and examines other factors associated with whether or not respondents themselves would wish to participate in VOM.

DESIGN: Sample: 112 respondents: 38% from initial email sent to Princeton University staff [excluding faculty], 62% from snowball of referrals from initial respondents.

Method: The web-based survey opened with an introduction describing victim offender mediation as an alternative to court referral in situations after an offender has been arrested and admitted guilt. The survey then gave a series of case scenarios and asked a series of questions about whether a judge would refer ["send"] the offender to VOM, whether they themselves would like to see the offender go to VOM if they were the victim, and how willing as victim they would be to attend VOLM if the offender wanted to go.

Findings: Perception of offender remorse was positively associated with sending the offender to VOM; presence of a criminal record, increased severity of offense, and the perception of the offender as a violent person were negatively associated with sending the offender to VOM. Participants were slightly less likely to send the offender to VOM when asked what they would do as a victim than as a judge, and slightly more willing to say they would attend as a victim if they knew the offender wanted to participate.