

ANNOTATION:

This study examines a juvenile restorative justice initiative. State funds that would have been spent on incarceration of referred youth were used by Deschutes County (Oregon) to provide alternative services, including some incarceration locally and a range of restorative programs. The report compares a two year cohort of program youth with similar youth from the state custody program. Outcome data is given for the program as a whole and does not track VOM as a separate intervention.

COST For the entire cohort as compared to the state custody program, the total cost per case was less [$48,396 vs. $65,866],

RECIDIVISM: one year recidivism rates were virtually equal [59% vs. 53%],

RESTITUTION: community service hours were higher [211 vs. 4], and restitution was completed by more youth [52% vs. 18%].

SATISFACTION: Victims were interviewed in a subset of cases and were more satisfied with the program than victims whose offenders were in the state program [percentages not given].

The audit concludes that neither program is "clearly superior" because in spite of the positive differences for the Deschutes county program, the youth spent more days in the community and so posed more risk to community residents, given the high recidivism rates overall.