**Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking**
An International Resource Center in Support of Restorative Justice Dialogue, Research and Training


**SUMMARY REPORTS PUBLISHED IN:**


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**ANNOTATION:**

**DESIGN:** The data-collection period covered 10 months of program activity, from January through October 2002. Forty-one of the 146 adult victims in the referral pool were interviewed. Of these 41 victims, 18 met in conference with their offenders, and 23 of them did not. Half of the victims who met with offenders during the study period participated in the study compared with 21 percent of those who did not meet with their offenders. In addition to victim interviews, six probation officers responsible for intake and referral and nine mediators/facilitators were interviewed.

**REASONS**

Victims who chose not to participate: 1. Not worth the time and trouble (15); 2. The matter was already taken care of (9); 3. Too much time had elapsed (6); 4. Just wanted my money back (5); 5. The system just wanted to slap the offender on the wrist (4); 6. I thought the meeting wouldn't be safe (3); 7. (tie) Didn't want to help the offender (2); 7. (tie) Family or friends said I shouldn't do it (2).

Victims who chose to participate: 1. Hoped offender would be helped by meeting with me (17); 2. (tie) Wanted to hear why offender did this to me (16); 2. (tie) Wanted offender to know how his/her actions affected me (16) 4. (tie) Wanted to be able to ask my own questions (14); 4. (tie) Conferencing sounded like an interesting process (14); 6. Wanted to be sure offender wouldn't come back and do it again (13); 7. Wanted a say in how and when offender paid back or made things right (10); 8. (tie) Thought it might help me/my family (8); 8. (tie) Wanted to make sure offender didn't just get a slap on the wrist (8).

**SATISFACTION:** One of the most significant findings of the study was that nearly 90 percent of the victims who met with offenders reported that the meeting had been helpful, and just over 85 percent of these victims did not wish that the justice system had offered them more options or services. On the other hand, nearly half of the victims who did not meet with their offenders wished that the justice system had offered more. Some implications of these findings are discussed.

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