
NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE

ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: Eighteen local professionals were interviewed as were nineteen victims, twenty-two offenders, sixteen parents, and six community workers.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Grand Prairie, Alberta experience is one of the first victim offender programs to be studied and reported on. Over a two year period, from September of 1981 through August of 1983, fifty-three youth were referred to the program, four of whom did not participate. Those referred represented about thirty percent of all youth in the jurisdiction charged with offenses. The typical offender was fifteen years of age, male, and charged with one offense, typically theft. Sixty-four percent of the victims were business persons. Volunteers were used to bring offenders and victims together to work out restitution agreements.

RESTITUTION: All youth reached agreement. Fifty-three percent of the cases resulted in service to the victim, 51% in service to the community, 39% in apologies, and 20% in cash reimbursement. Ninety-four percent of offenders completed their agreements.

FAIRNESS: Nearly all believed the reconciliation process was working extremely well and that the agreements were fair and reasonable. Only two respondents did not agree with the diversion of the cases. The impact on the offender of meeting with the victim was reported as very meaningful. Offenders thought that making restitution to victim or the community was fair. Most of those interviewed felt that their perceptions of the overall juvenile justice system were improved by participating in the program.

COST: In an initial comparison of costs with other diversionary programs, the Grande Prairie Project was more costly per offender.

KEYWORDS:
VOM
JUVENILE
PROPERTY
FAIRNESS, RESTITUTION, COST
VICTIM DATA, OFFENDER DATA, COMMUNITY DATA
SURVEY, RECORD DATA
CANADA