
ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: This study reports data on a large VORP program operating in Orange County, California from 1989 to 1995. Over a thousand cases were handled during that time period. Thirty-five percent of these involved graffiti/tagging, 24% serious personal crimes, and 16% serious property offenses. All offenders were juveniles.

PARTICIPATION RATES AND REASONS: Most victims and offenders chose to meet in face-to-face mediation. Victims not willing to meet typically reported that it did not merit their participation. A third of those offenders choosing not to meet reported that their parents did not want them to participate.

RESTITUTION: Of all the cases referred to VORP, 48% resulted in written agreements. Nearly all the cases reaching a joint meeting resulted in agreements. About half the agreements contained community service; half also included monetary compensation. Average number of community service hours was 93. Monetary restitution averaged $234. Only 3% of the agreements were not fulfilled.

RECIDIVISM: Recidivism results were mixed. A sub-sample of 131 youth who went through mediation were matched with 150 youth who were referred but did not participate in VORP. The mediation group had a slightly higher rate of reoffending: 28% compared to 23%. The authors note that the non-mediation group was less stable and may have moved out of the catchment area before reoffending.

COST: Cost per case was reduced dramatically as the program went from being a fledgling to being a viable option. Estimated cost per case for 1995 was $250.

KEYWORDS:
VOM
JUVENILE
MIXED CRIME TYPE
PARTICIPATION RATES, REASONS, RESTITUTION, RECIDIVISM, COST
VICTIM DATA, OFFENDER DATA
SURVEY, RECORD DATA, COMPARISON GROUP
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