
**NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE**

**ANNOTATION:**

**DESIGN:** Evaluation of the victim-offender mediation program operating in Pima County, Arizona. The study period is FY 96 through FY 97. Fifty-three offenders were interviewed by telephone approximately two weeks after mediation. A number of victims were also interviewed. The typical offender was male, 14.4 years old, Caucasian, and had committed a property offense.

**PARTICIPTION RATES:** During that time period 483 cases were referred to the program. Of those cases, 196 reached mediation resulting in 189 agreements.

**RESTITUTION:** Restitution agreed upon in FY 96 was $7,827; for FY 97, $47,949 was agreed upon.

**SATISFACTION:** Seventy-three percent of the victims felt that the offender was held accountable for the crime. Nearly nine out of ten participants felt it was helpful to meet the other party. About 20% of the offenders and 30% of the victims expressed some surprise concerning the mediation. One victim stated: "I was surprised about how candid and honest everyone was." And another said, "I didn't realize how upset I was." An offender commented on being surprised by "how nice that guy (victim) was."

**FAIRNESS:** Nearly all victims and offenders believed the mediators were fair, not only to themselves, but also to the other party. Nine out of ten youth felt it was important to apologize to the victim. One offender said, "I was so happy I was able to say I'm sorry." Victims reported "feeling closure." One indicated that it "gave me satisfaction that the kid had to face up to what he had done."

**RECIDIVISM:** Seventy-nine percent of the youth in the sample did not recidivate within the first year after mediation.