
ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: The effectiveness of two restitution programs as measured by restitution completion and recidivism. A VORP program in Elkhart, Indiana brought victim and offender together face-to-face to work out a restitution agreement. In a Kalamazoo County, Michigan court based program, restitution was imposed by the court without involving face-to-face mediation. Data were gathered for the same time period from January 1987 through December 1988. A fifty percent sample was randomly drawn from each program site. Sample youth were followed through the end of 1990 for recidivism follow-up.

Two hundred and eighteen youth were tracked through the two programs. The typical youth was white, between 15 and 17 years old, and was attending school. Over half in each sample (Elkhart 65% and Kalamazoo 51%) were referred for committing felonies. Fifty-six percent of the Elkhart sample were repeat offenders compared to 49% of those comprising the Kalamazoo sample.

RESTITUTION: Seventy-six percent of the Elkhart sample and 78% of the Kalamazoo sample successfully completed their restitution contracts.

RECIDIVISM: 29% of the Elkhart [VORP] youth re-offended during the follow-up period, compared to 27% of the Kalamazoo [court-imposed restitution] youth did likewise. Repeat offenders, in both samples, repeated at a higher rate: 42%.

The author concludes that there was no difference in terms of effectiveness between the two contrasting types of restitution programs.

VOM
JUVENILE
MIXED CRIME TYPE
RESTITUTION
OFFENDER DATA
RECORD DATA, COMPARISON GROUP
US