
NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE

ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: Reports on four experimental studies focusing on restitution programs. One of the sites, Washington D.C., implemented a victim offender mediation project as their restitution program. Results reported here pertain to that site. Youth had to have had at least one felony conviction in order to be eligible. Those eligible were randomly assigned to the VOM restitution program or to probation.

PARTICIPATION RATES: The factor of voluntary participation played an important role in this project as over 40% of referred offenders refused to participate, mostly on the advice of lawyers. Thus three groups were formed: those referred and participating in VOM (143), those referred but refusing to participate (131), and those who were assigned directly to probation (137). The typical youth in the study was a full time student, black, male, repeat offender, referred for a felony, and 15.5 years old.

RECIDIVISM: Fewer youth referred to VOM had a subsequent offense (53%) resulting in referral to adult or juvenile court during a 31 or 32 month follow-up period than youth in the probation group (63%), a statistically significant difference. Given random assignment, these differences could not be explained by background. Lower recidivism rates were also found for youth participating in VOM compared with those on probation. Participants did better than those referred who chose not to participate. These numbers however, were only marginally significant.

VOM
JUVENILE
FELONY
PARTICIPATION RATES, RECIDIVISM,
OFFENDER DATA
RECORD DATA, CONTROL GROUP
US