



Restorative Policing *References*

Alarid, K. F. & Montemayor, C. D. (2012). Implementing restorative justice in police departments. *Police Practice and Research, 13*(5), 450-463. Doi: [10.1080/15614263.2011.607654](https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2011.607654)

Abstract:

Police are first responders to community calls for service, yet traditional responses tend to diminish victim roles significantly. Research has shown that victims and communities can benefit from the use of restorative justice techniques. This study examines how restorative justice can be integrated into some police practices when responding to calls for service involving individuals who are mentally ill and in domestic violence situations. The authors also discuss how police officers can use restorative practices involving family group conferencing and community reparation boards. Organizational impediments to change are identified and ways in which police departments can overcome these barriers are discussed.

Bazemore, G. & Griffiths, C. (2003) Police reform, restorative justice and restorative policing, *Police Practice and Research, 4*:4, 335-346, DOI: [10.1080/15614260310001631244](https://doi.org/10.1080/15614260310001631244)

Abstract:

Restorative policing appears to represent the next logical step in community policing and police reform generally. The restorative justice model offers both new tools and new principles of intervention that assist police in the tasks of engaging community, forming meaningful partnerships, and building community capacity.

Although there have been many success stories in the short history of restorative policing, challenges to implementation abound. Effective, principled implementation of restorative policing depends on a holistic, systemic vision that seeks to incorporate restorative justice principles in all aspects of policing. Goals for this systemic vision include developing restorative resolutions to crime and harm to the greatest extent possible, and to promote community ownership of crime and conflict.

As case studies generalizable to other efforts to implement community policing, the papers in this issue move us closer to effective strategies for implementation of restorative policing. They also provide practical examples of the promises and challenges presented by these promising approaches.

Broschunk, B. (2020). *An examination of police culture and its effects on patrol officers attitudes towards restorative justice*. [Masters Thesis, The University of Winnipeg]. Doi: 10.36939/ir.202012141250

Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to examine the relationship between restorative justice and police culture, and the level to which this culture acts as barrier to the successful implementation and use of restorative justice by frontline police officers. Using a multi-level work group framework, frontline officer's attitudes and understanding of restorative justice and police culture beliefs are examined, and then their impact on frontline police work is assessed. This study employs an explanatory sequential mixed methods design and is conducted in two phases. The initial quantitative phase involved distributing a Likert-style survey to frontline officers to measure their attitudes and understanding of restorative justice and police culture variables. After analysis of the initial quantitative findings, semi-structured interview questions were developed building on these findings to provide for a more in-depth qualitative analysis. Results indicate that police culture variables such as solidarity, teamwork, crime fighting and tough on crime attitudes are still persistent in policing, but frontline officers are generally accepting of restorative justice, and believe that it has a place in their frontline work as a dispositional tool. Findings indicate, however, that officers perceive restorative justice as another option only for less serious crimes and low risk offenders, and not as a new method of managing offender activity. Restorative justice is not being used to its fullest potential. To increase use of RJ diversion more thorough training, specialist designations and supervisory and middle management direction is recommended.

Clamp, K. (2018). *Restorative policing for the 21st century: Historical lessons for future practice*. Routledge International Handbook of Restorative Justice. [Link to full text](#).

Abstract:

Restorative policing has experienced somewhat of a tumultuous journey within the international criminal justice landscape. The practice first emerged in Wagga Wagga, Australia in the early 1990s where its architects drew inspiration from both the New Zealand conferencing system and John Braithwaite's theory of reintegrative shaming. This chapter argues that the inspiring results of that pilot project have not been replicated elsewhere and proceeds to interrogate the reasons for this. The chapter contributes to the Handbook's objectives by making two key arguments. The first is that the operationalisation of restorative justice within contemporary policing environments, with the pressures of austerity and public accountability, naturally lends itself to quantity over quality resolutions. The second is that both the champions and evaluators of contemporary restorative policing schemes have prioritised learning from failure over success. If we return to the origins of the restorative policing model, we learn that good practice takes time, investment and community-police partnerships. Only once these internal resources are secured can true restorative policing that benefits the community take place. Limits to that realisation come from surprising quarters and raise some uncomfortable questions about the state of the field, if restorative policing was 'allowed' to work.

Clamp, K. & O'Mahony, D. (2018). *Restorative policing provision across England and Wales in 2018*. University of Nottingham. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

The primary purpose of this research project was to provide an updated national overview of restorative justice within policing within England and Wales. Thirty-four forces (79%) participated in the survey and this was supplemented with in-depth interviews with 15 (44%) of those participating forces. Data was collected on:

- Context of provision;
- Training;
- Delivery;
- Evaluation; and
- Plans and future provision.

Clamp, K. & Paterson, C. (2013). Collective efficacy: Interdisciplinary perspectives on international leadership. *Advances in Educational Administration*, 20, 293-307. Copyright by Emerald Group Publishing Limited. doi:10.1108/S1479-3660(2013)0000020016

Abstract:

This chapter explores the role of leadership in restorative policing in England and Wales and the impact of the external criminal justice policy environment on attempts to embed restorative approaches into police practice. It is clear that certain aspects of restorative justice chime with long-standing values in police culture, not least the emphasis on commonsense decision-making and the removal of unnecessary bureaucracy advocated by a focus on informal resolution. Yet, we argue that restorative policing cannot work where these ideas are placed solely in individual programmes. Instead, a clear vision needs to be articulated by police leaders with subsequent programmes being built around this overarching philosophy of 'restorative policing' that encourages leadership to 'bubble up' from below.

Edwards, R., Terrace, G. Ruzinski, A. M., and Smith, T. (2019, Summer) Behind the badge: A growing sense of the need in law enforcement to cope with trauma. *Marquette Lawyer: In search of better outcomes*. [Link to full text](#).

Abstract:

Marquette Law School's Restorative Justice Initiative conference, on November 9, 2018, was titled "The Power of Restorative Justice in Healing Trauma in Our Community" and was introduced by an original, one-hour film featuring law enforcement and community members discussing trauma in their lives and their efforts to overcome or address it. One of the panels then examined an issue that traditionally has received little attention: the impact on law enforcement officers of dealing with a nearly constant stream of severe and painful human episodes and needs and the growing efforts to help officers who develop signs of trauma as a result of dealing with many other people's traumas.

Flemming, P. S. (2015). *Teen empowerment's youth/police dialogues: The bridge to improving police and youth relations*. [Masters Thesis, Rochester Institute of Technology]. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

Negative youth-police relations are an issue that has plagued the Rochester, NY community for decades. Teen Empowerment is committed to helping change the relational negativity, and build positive partnerships between these two groups. The organization believes that youth-police dialogues are the bridge to improving youth-police relations, which will in turn build stronger communities. The information in this thesis tests whether youth-police dialogues are essential to improving the youth-police relationship. The Methodology for my evaluation included a pre and post survey for Teen Empowerment's youth organizers and participating police officers. Surveys were completed for the Phase I and Phase II dialogue sessions of the implemented program. Analysis of survey results focus group outcomes, and interview outcomes all point to positive consequences from the Youth-Police Dialogues. There were evident shifts in some measures on the surveys showing that participants gained empathy, understanding, and respect. Focus groups revealed some tangible changes in behavior among both officers and youth that indicate they gained new perspectives as well as new skills for how to work together effectively. The policy implications for this research for contemporary youth-police relations include the need for more dialogue sessions, integrating non-dialogue activities, such as sports, or volunteer opportunities, to help the group bond. It would also be beneficial to have youth and officers who are considered to be a problem to each respective group (i.e. bad cops, bad youth).

Gonzales, R., Duda, M., Dawe, J., and Saeid, A. (2017). *Restorative justice and Canadian policing: A study of the attitudes of the Humber community toward the utilization of the British restorative justice techniques in everyday policing*. *International Journal of Arts & Sciences*, 10(1), 247-255. [Link to Full Article](#).

Abstract:

This paper examines the attitudes of Canadian college students' towards the utilization of British restorative justice techniques in everyday policing. In-depth interviews were conducted with two academics from Humber College as well as two professionals in the criminal justice field in the United Kingdom. A sample of 188 students from justice and policing related programs in Humber College were selected to explore students' attitudes towards the British module of restorative justice. Overall students showed positive attitude towards restorative justice ($x=18.09/25$; $SD = 2.80$). The study also shows a significant difference between programs ($f = 7.93$, $p = .000$) in their views towards the utilization of British restorative justice techniques in policing. The Community Justice students scored the highest on the scale while the Police Foundations students scored the lowest.

Hoyle, C. (2013). Policing and restorative justice. In Johnstone, G. & Van Ness, D. W., *Handbook of Restorative Justice* (pp. 292-311). Willan Publishing.

Abstract:

This chapter will describe the rise of police-led restorative practices and examine shifting perceptions about police involvement in the process. It will consider the arguments for and against the police acting as restorative conference facilitators, looking critically at generalizations made about the relationship between police values and restorative

values based on stereotypical ideas of ‘the police’, and conclude with a brief consideration of safeguards required if the police are to be involved in restorative justice.

International Association of Chiefs of Police (2021). *Law Enforcement and the Communities they Serve: Collective Healing in the Wake of Harm*. Pathways Toward Collective Healing. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

A high-profile incident involving law enforcement can erode community trust and have long-term implications for agencies, officers, and communities. Police can help initiate recovery after a traumatic event, but tensions between police and community members can create barriers to healing. The barriers can be particularly persistent for community members who have had negative experiences with police, including those stemming from institutional discrimination and marginalization based on race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, and other characteristics. Traumatic events that affect the community also often harm police officers who themselves are both community members and public servants. Communities that have built trust and transparency, and agencies that have trained officers to provide a trauma-informed response and acknowledge and address officer needs, are better able to constructively respond to the trauma of a high-profile incident and prevent others.

Katz, J. & Bonham, G. (2009). Effective alternatives to incarcerations: Police collaborations with corrections and communities. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

The criminal justice system in the United States is primarily charged with protecting the public from crime, thus ensuring that residents have a safe place to live and work. This has traditionally been accomplished in part by incarcerating offenders considered to be the most harmful to society. In recent decades, however, proportionately more offenders—representing a continuum of crimes from serious to relatively minor—have been incarcerated, resulting in a meteoric rise in the U.S. prison and jail population.... The astronomical expansion in the number of adults incarcerated—and to a lesser extent the number of juveniles detained and confined—brings with it tremendous financial and human costs. But viable community-based alternatives to incarceration are available today

Marder, I. D. (2020): *Institutionalising restorative justice in the police: key findings from a study of two English police forces*. Contemporary Justice Review. DOI: 10.1080/10282580.2020.1755847

Abstract:

This paper reports the findings of an empirical research project, exploring ongoing attempts to mainstream restorative justice within two English police forces and examining how the police understood and used restorative justice in practice. The findings suggest that two institutional priorities – to satisfy victims and manage the demand on the police’s time – strongly influenced the interpretation and practice of restorative justice. This created tensions as police officers who facilitated restorative justice processes used their discretion to determine, on a case-by-case

basis, how best to balance these institutional goals with the restorative goal of stakeholder empowerment. These findings illustrate how the police can implement abstract concepts in a selective, discretionary manner, and enhances the limited empirical literature that explains how existing priorities and embedded ways of working within criminal justice agencies, shape their understanding and use of restorative justice in practice. Such knowledge is crucial, if we are to help maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of restorative justice and restorative policing. The article also introduces the concept of ‘managed empowerment’ to help explain how the tensions between restorative and institutional goals manifest themselves.

McCold, P. & Wachtel, B. (1998). Restorative policing experiment: The Bethlehem Pennsylvania police family group conferencing project. Community Service Foundation. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

This is a report on the Bethlehem Pennsylvania Police Family Group Conferencing Project. First-time moderately serious juvenile offenders were randomly assigned either to formal adjudication or to a diversionary “restorative policing” process called family group conferencing. Police-based family group conferencing employs trained police officers to facilitate a meeting attended by juvenile offenders, their victims, and their respective family and friends, to discuss the harm caused by the offender’s actions and to develop an agreement to repair the harm. Victim and offender participation is voluntary. The effect of the program was measured through surveys of victims, offenders, offender’s parents and police officers and by examining outcomes of conferences and formal adjudication. Results are related to six questions about restorative policing. Findings include: 42% participation rate, 100% of conferences (n=67) reaching an agreement, 94% of offenders (n=80) fully complying with agreements, and participant satisfaction and sense of fairness exceeding 96%. Results suggest that recidivism was more a function of offenders’ choice to participate than the effects of the conferencing, per se. Violent offenders participating in conferences had lower rearrest rates than violent offenders declining to participate, but this was not true for property offenders.

Miller, S. & Blackler, J. (2005). *Ethical issues in policing*. Taylor & Francis Group. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315256108>.

Abstract:

Police Studies constitute an important area of academic inquiry and policing raises a large number of ethical questions, yet to date there has been a paucity of research on the subject. This significant volume provides an integrated mix of ethico-philosophical analysis combined with practitioner knowledge and experience to examine and address the large number of difficult ethical questions involved in modern-day policing. Key features: Outlines a distinctive philosophical theory of policing which promotes the human rights dimension of police work. Analyzes the phenomenon of noble cause corruption and ways to combat it. Examines the role of restorative justice. Discusses the related notions of police authority and police discretion. Assesses the use of coercive and deadly force. Provides a detailed discussion of recent issues such as privacy and confidentiality in the context of new communication and information technologies, and entrapment. Philosophical in approach and written in an accessible style, the book will be a valuable guide for all those with an interest or involvement in Police Studies, Criminology, Philosophy and Ethics.

Nicholl, C. (1999). Toolbox for implementing restorative justice and advancing community policing. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

Restorative justice offers the hope of transforming the way the crime problem is addressed by encompassing community problem solving and citizen engagement. It affords citizens and communities opportunities to understand their role in controlling and reducing the incidence of crime. In addition, restorative justice is a means of promoting a healthy balance between formal and informal measures to address the causes and consequences of crime. This toolbox aims to provide a practical guide to police departments interested in starting a new restorative justice program. It is not a definitive account of everything that restorative justice has to offer. Nor is it a training manual for facilitators of restorative justice processes. Facilitation requires specialized training and the supervision of those taking on this role. Starting up a program requires more than a few trained staff members. However, many issues need attention before a program can go live.

O'Mahony, D. and Doak, J. (2004) 'Restorative justice - is more better? The experience of police-led restorative cautioning pilots in Northern Ireland. *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*, 43(5), 484-505.

Abstract:

In recent years there has been a considerable growth in the use of restorative justice schemes, particularly for young offenders. This article describes how two police-led restorative cautioning pilots for juveniles operated in Northern Ireland. The pilots were found to offer a number of distinct advantages over the traditional cautioning practice and helped secure some of the values of restorative justice. However, they were not without fault and the research found evidence of 'net-widening', whereby some offenders appeared to have been drawn into the schemes unnecessarily. It was also evident that the schemes required significant resources in order to involve participants (particularly victims) and to operate effectively. In light of the government's intention to greatly expand restorative practice in Northern Ireland generally, this article argues for the need to do so with care, if the quality of restorative justice is not to be compromised.

Paterson, C. & Clamp, K. (2012). Exploring recent developments in restorative policing in England and Wales. *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, 12(5), 593-611. DOI: 10.1177/1748895812441933

Abstract:

The evolution of the policing role over the last decade has led to 33 police forces in England and Wales integrating restorative justice practices, in one form or another, into their responses to minor crime committed for the first time by both youths and adults. Most recently, this reform dynamic has been used in response to more serious offences committed by persistent offenders and expanded to include all stages of the criminal justice process. Despite the significant positive rhetoric that surrounds the adoption and use of restorative justice, there are a number of procedural and cultural challenges that pose a threat to the extent to which restorative justice may become embedded within the policing response. This article explores these developments and highlights where potential problems for implementation may arise as well as some strategies to overcome them.

Randall, M. & Haskell, L. (2013). Trauma-informed approaches to law: Why restorative justice must understand trauma and psychological coping. *Dalhousie Law Journal*, 36(2), 501-533.

Abstract:

Becoming trauma informed entails becoming more astutely aware of the ways in which people who are traumatized have their life trajectories shaped by the experience and its effects, and developing policies and practices which reflect this understanding. The idea that law and, in particular the criminal justice system, should be trauma informed is novel, and, as a result, quite underdeveloped. In this paper we advance the general argument that more effective, fair, intelligent, and just legal responses must work from a perspective which is trauma informed.

We specifically apply this argument to legal work being carried out and developed under the rubric of restorative justice as this way of thinking about law focuses on acknowledging and repairing the harms to individuals and relationships which result from conflict, crime or other wrongdoing

Restorative Justice Council (2014). Restorative justice and policing information pack. restorativejustice.org.uk/. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

The Restorative Justice Council (RJC) has developed an information pack to assist police forces in their provision of high quality restorative justice.

Building confidence in justice and meeting the needs of victims are central to the role of the police. Restorative justice can help to deliver this. The information pack is suitable for all forces, from those hoping to introduce restorative justice to those who have extensive experience and wish to ensure that their use of restorative justice is carried out to the highest standards.

The pack provides an overview of key aspects of restorative justice in relation to policing, including useful facts, questions and answers, and accounts of restorative justice in action. There are also articles on implementing restorative justice in a police force, training and restorative justice on the ground.

Williams, R. & Crifasi, C. (2020). *Evaluating the impact of Baltimore community mediation center's youth-police dialogue circle program*. Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2020-savir.94>

Abstract:

The U.S. Department of Justice identified Baltimore Police Department officers as having applied unnecessary and excessive force in their interactions with youth, failing to uphold legal and professional obligations to be sensitive to their vulnerable age and developmental status. The Youth-Police Dialogue Circle (YPDC) Program of Baltimore Community Mediation Center (BCMC) offers unique insight into police-youth interactions and plays an important role in city efforts to reduce violence, increase police legitimacy, and build community trust. This study evaluated the effect of the YPDC program on youth and police attitudes and perceptions of one another.

Umbreit, M. & Fercello, C. (1997). Woodbury police department's restorative justice community conferencing program: An initial assessment of client services. Center for Restorative Justice & Mediation. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

In May of 1995, the Woodbury Minnesota Police Department initiated their Restorative Justice Community Conferencing Program for juvenile offenders and those affected by the crime. This represented one of only a handful of police-based initiatives anywhere in the country to apply restorative justice principles and the family group conferencing process that was beginning to receive an increasing amount of attention throughout Minnesota and the country. From the beginning, the Woodbury Police Department collected client satisfaction data. The Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation at the University of Minnesota was asked to assist with an initial assessment of the Restorative Justice Community Conferencing Program by compiling and analyzing participant satisfaction data which the Woodbury Police Department had gathered. The purpose of this report is to describe the Restorative Justice Community Conferencing Program and to report the initial findings of client satisfaction with the process. The report is broken down into six sections: overview of restorative justice and family group conferencing, background on the Woodbury Police initiative, program description, methodology, findings and conclusions.

Winfrey, T. (2004). New Zealand police and restorative justice philosophy. *Crime & Delinquency*, 40(2), 189-213. DOI: 10.1177/0011128703252411

Abstract:

In New Zealand, selected sworn police officers called youth aid officers participate in discussions and deliberations concerning the actions required to restore the sense of community balance upset by the actions of juvenile offenders. The author explores a representative sample of all sworn police officers serving in the New Zealand Police, including a subsample of youth aid officers, looking at the nature of support for the philosophical underpinnings of restorative justice and the likely impact of such work and values on officer attitudes toward the workplace. A 1996 management survey of all branches of the New Zealand national policing organization contained a number of specific questions that tap dimensions of both restorative justice philosophy and workplace orientations. This study represents a descriptive examination of these self-reported perspectives for all sworn officers, including breakdowns by selected personal-biographical variables. Implications for the implementation of restorative justice practices within a policing organization are discussed.

YWCA Boston. (N.d.) Youth/police dialogues: Program Overview. [Link to Full Text](#).

Abstract:

Broken trust between police and residents decreases community safety and can have devastating consequences for both groups. Despite a shared goal of safer neighborhoods, improving police-community relations remains challenging, particularly for communities of color that have suffered the consequences of this mistrust for generations. YWCA Boston's Youth/Police Dialogues provides a safe, structured way for young people from these communities and police officers to come together, speak openly, and rebuild trust.
