

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

EMPIRICAL REPORTS ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN
THE CONTEXT OF THE US CRIMINAL LEGAL
SYSTEM.

2023

Prepared by the
National Center on
Restorative Justice



OVERVIEW

This resource includes an annotated bibliography of empirical studies on restorative justice (RJ) in the context of the U.S. criminal legal system, published in English in the years 2000 - 2023. Empirical studies are those that include direct observations or measurement of RJ practices and programs. This list includes peer-reviewed sources, such as scholarly research publications, as well as non-peer reviewed or grey literature sources such as program evaluations, agency reports, and summaries from grant-funded RJ activities.

There are 70 references (e.g., research studies and program evaluations or program reports) from both the juvenile and adult US criminal legal systems included in this annotated bibliography. References are listed in alphabetical order. For each reference, we provide a brief summary and link when the reference is publicly available. We recognize that this list is not comprehensive and that other relevant resources exist. It is important to note that these references have been collected for your information only and the quality of the studies has not been evaluated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Sheila McMahon and Sejung Yang for their contributions and leadership in the development of this annotated bibliography.

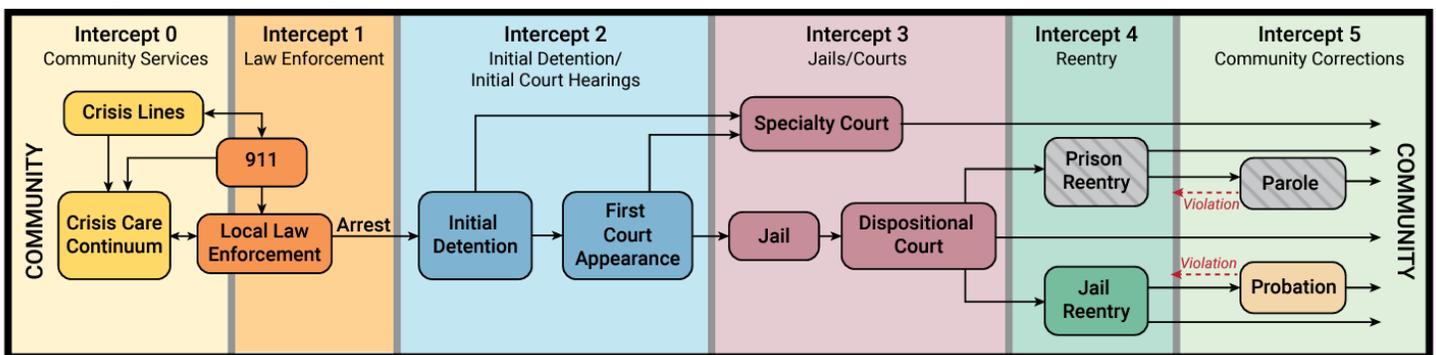
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METHODS

To locate these empirical sources, the project team used the following search strategies: 1) searches of academic databases such as Google Scholar 2) resources shared by experts 3) searches of websites hosted by key agencies (e.g., Impact Justice, Vera Institute, and Common Justice) 4) data-mining of systematic reviews, scoping reviews, and meta-analyses for original source materials, and 5) a general Google search of the terms “restorative justice” + “U.S. criminal justice”. Variations on these terms were also added and searched: "restorative justice" + "criminal justice" + "U.S." / "restorative justice" + "juvenile justice" + "U.S." / "criminal legal system" + "restorative justice" + "racial justice" and results were included in our findings. Notably, many of the artifacts in this bibliography share data sources (a good example is the Bethlehem Police study, data which was examined by multiple authors).

Once the sources were identified, the project team categorized each study according to where it falls along the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)*. The SIM is a widely used framework for thinking about how an individual moves through the criminal legal system. The project team modified the SIM slightly, to reflect five intercepts including 0:community, 1:law enforcement, 2:courts and diversion, 3:jails and prisons, 4:re-entry, probation, and parole. Categorizing resources along the SIM helps to demonstrate opportunities for restorative processes to support off-ramps for individuals who have contact with the U.S. criminal legal system.

The Sequential Intercept Model



Developed by Policy Research Associates

* Mark R. Munetz and Patricia A. Griffin, "Use of the Sequential Intercept Model as an approach to decriminalization of people with serious mental illness," *Psychiatric Services*, 2006 Apr;57(4):544-9.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1

Abrams, L. S., Umbreit, M., & Gordon, A. (2006). Young offenders speak about meeting their victims: Implications for future programs. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 9(3), 243–256. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580600827835>

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This qualitative study focused on a group of juvenile offenders (n = 7; age 15-24) and four sets of their parents who participated in a VOM program in Minnesota. Among the findings, the responsible parties' experiences with empathy-building, seeing the victim and themselves in a new way suggest possible pathways to change and to avoid future crimes. Authors note that while youth of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal legal system (CLS), this sample of volunteer participants was predominantly white.

2

Armour M. & Sliva, S. (2018). How does it work? Mechanisms of action in an in-prison restorative justice program. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62(3), 759–784. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X16669143>

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This mixed methods study examined the Bridges to Life (BTL) program in Texas, a 12-week manualized, faith-based restorative justice intervention for individuals who are incarcerated (wherein 30% of participants identified as belonging to faith traditions other than Christian). The program was designed to support shifts in internal schemas. Qualitative data include participant observation and interviews, and field notes to identify the key components of the program that impacted shifts in offenders' self-concept, social identity, and motivation to change harmful behaviors. Quantitative data analysis was conducted to understand change in group cohesion and criminal attitudes in congruent directions. The sample includes 12 responsible parties, 4 victim-survivors, and 2 RJ facilitators (n = 18). The study measured changes in the individual and the group; results suggest that the positive norms in the group, support for accountability, and sense of cohesion provided support for individuals' positive internal shifts in empathy, accountability, and self-concept. Such internal shifts in turn support reduced recidivism rates.

3

Armour, M., & Umbreit, M. S. (2018). *Violence, restorative justice, and forgiveness: Dyadic forgiveness and energy shifts in restorative justice dialogue*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

INTERCEPTS **3: JAILS AND PRISONS**

This book provides an in-depth qualitative analysis of victim participants (n = 20) who lost loved ones through vehicular homicide and murder; and one direct shooting. They voluntarily participated in victim-offender dialogues (VODs) with the person responsible for the crime. The researchers analyzed the cases based on the following: crime and its aftermath; preparation; and dialogue. In all cases, victim participants were in agreement that the decision to meet with the offender was a positive one.

4

Baffour, T. D. (2003). *The impact of family group conferencing on competency development and recidivism: A comparative analysis of ethnicity and gender among juvenile offenders* (Publication No.3114644) [Doctoral dissertation, Howard University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.
<https://www.proquest.com/docview/305328410/abstract/C165E9D06984999PQ/1> (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS **2: COURTS AND DIVERSION**

This quantitative dissertation includes a multivariate analysis of youth offenders who participated in family group conferencing (FGC) vs. those who did not with the former experiencing lower re-arrest rates. This secondary quantitative data analysis of the Bethlehem Police Family Group Conferencing program analyzed data from the years 1993-1997. Using a quasi-experimental design, 140 property crimes and 75 violent crimes were randomly selected and included in the analysis. Additionally, while ethnicity did not impact rearrest, females were less likely to recidivate than males. Youth aged thirteen and younger were more likely to seek to repair harm through emotional and material restitution and to participate in community service activities than youth aged 14-18. The author concludes that FGC is an important alternative to vulnerable youth populations who would otherwise have a criminal record.

5

Baffour, T. D. (2006). Ethnic and gender differences in offending patterns: Examining family group conferencing interventions among at-risk adolescents. *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, (5/6), 557–578. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-006-0075-4>

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This article is a publication based on the dissertation by Baffour, 2003. This is a quantitative secondary quantitative data analysis of data collected by the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Police Department and the Community Service Foundation between 1993 and 1997 about a family group conferencing program for juveniles. In total, 140 property crimes and 75 violent crimes were randomly selected and included in the analysis. The FGC has efficacy for juvenile offenders as (1) a cost-effective method to intervene with offenders in their own communities (2) provides alternatives to formal adjudication for vulnerable populations—females and people of color” (p. 560).

6

baliga, s., Henry, S., & Valentine, G. (2017). *Restorative community conferencing: A study of community works west’s restorative justice youth diversion program in Alameda county*. *Community Works West, Impact Justice*. https://impactjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/CWW_RJreport.pdf (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

Findings from this program evaluation of Community Works West’s Restorative Community Conferencing program found that the program diverts 100+ youth from the juvenile legal system annually. Youth instead experience a Restorative Community Conference (RCC) (similar to family group conferencing). This report reviews the program’s effectiveness based on data from January 2012 through December 2014. Of the 102 youth who completed the RCC program, after 12 months only 18.4% of these youth were seen by the court to have committed another delinquent act (vs. 32% in the control group of youth who went through the traditional juvenile legal process). Over 90% of victim-survivors reported that they would participate in an RCC again. Finally, due to the lower rates of reoffending and the low cost of the RCC intervention (\$4,500 vs. \$23,000 for traditional probation), the RCC program has significant cost-saving potential.

7

Beckman, K. J., Jewett, P. I., Gaçad, A., & Borowsky, I. W. (2023). Reducing re-arrest through community-led, police-Initiated restorative justice diversion tailored for youth. *Crime & Delinquency*, 001112872311585. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287231158569>

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

In this quantitative study, the researchers evaluated 1,908 misdemeanor cases of youth (aged 11 to 17) that were reviewed for RJ diversion eligibility in Minneapolis between September 2014 and December 2018. Every youth misdemeanor arrest or citation, with the exceptions of firearm possession and domestic violence cases, were reviewed by the MPD sergeant for RJ diversion eligibility. To be eligible, youth had to be a resident of Minneapolis without prior arrest by participating police departments, no previous felony adjudication and no more than one prior misdemeanor. Ineligible cases were sent to the local county attorney's office for prosecution. While the majority of the youth were identified as Black (76%), it is notable that the proportion of these youth who were offered RJ diversion was lower than the proportion of those who were not offered diversion or were unsuccessfully diverted. Youth who participated in restorative justice diversion after arrest were less likely to experience re-arrest in the following year compared to those who experienced the traditional juvenile criminal legal process. The agencies leading the RJ processes included a range of practices, including circles, community conferencing, and family group conferencing. Diversion success rates varied significantly across agencies, which was largely attributed to lack or loss of contact between the agency and the youth participant.

8

Beckmann, S. E. (2010). *Treatment approaches for juvenile delinquents: An evaluation of recidivism in Greene County's victim-offender mediation and panel programs* [Master's thesis, Missouri State University]. MSU Graduate Theses. <https://bearworks.missouristate.edu/theses/2519/> (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This quantitative study examined a victim-offender mediation (VOM) program for juveniles in Missouri county (n=149). This is a program for juvenile offenders who were either given treatment as usual (n=54), a VOM (n=59), or participated in a victim impact panel (n=36). The study did not find a significant difference in recidivism rates among the participants in any of the groups.

9

Behtz, S. A. (2004). *Justice for all?: Victim satisfaction with restorative justice conferences* (UMI No. 1424621) [Master's thesis, East Tennessee State University]. Electronic Theses and Dissertations. <https://dc.etsu.edu/etd/974> (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This thesis is a secondary quantitative data analysis of the Bethlehem Police Department study from 1995, which took place in the juvenile legal system and included VOM and FGC. The focus is on victim satisfaction; secondary data analysis demonstrated that victims who participated in restorative justice conferences were much more satisfied (~96.2%) than those who declined or whose cases went through the traditional criminal legal process.

10

Bergseth, K. J., & Bouffard, J. A. (2007). The long-term impact of restorative justice programming for juvenile offenders. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 35(4), 433–451. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2007.05.006>

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This quantitative study used an intention-to-treat analysis to examine outcomes for youth (n = 203) referred to RJ processes in a mostly rural midwestern U.S. county compared to youth who were referred to a traditional criminal legal process. Youth who experienced RJ had fewer subsequent contact with the police, less serious behavior, and fewer long-term points of contact with police compared to their peers. These differences remained even when controlling for factors such as race, age at referral, and seriousness of the current offense.

11

Bergseth, K. J., & Bouffard, J. A. (2013). Examining the Effectiveness of a Restorative Justice Program for Various Types of Juvenile Offenders. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 57(9), 1054–1075. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X12453551>

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This quantitative study included a sample of youth in the juvenile legal system who were referred to an RJ program (n = 284) compared to a control group who went through the traditional juvenile legal system (n = 267)(see Bergseth & Bouffard, 2007 for initial study findings). Across all categories, juvenile offenders who participated in an RJ process had higher survival rates (the time from the documented offense to recidivism) than youth who received the traditional court processes. Because of the range of offenses included, the authors point out that RJ may be appropriate for youth offenders who have committed more serious offenses.

12

Blankley, K. M., & Jimenez, A. C. (2019). Restorative justice and youth offenders in Nebraska. *Nebraska Law Review*, 98(1), 1–55.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nlr/vol98/iss1/2/>

INTERCEPTS

0: COMMUNITY

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

This descriptive case study (in a law journal) outlines the Victim Youth Conferencing (VYC) program in the state of Nebraska. The evaluation they conducted of this pilot program included 93 youth referred to VYCs (mostly white and male) between 2015-2016. 114 victims were served by the program during this same time period. 93% of participants completed a reparations plan and the vast majority felt that the program met their needs. As well, only 16% of juvenile participants recidivated in the year following their participation in the program. The program received funding to expand statewide and in the subsequent year, approximately 580 individuals were served by the program, which includes the use of surrogate victims when actual victims are unable to participate in a VYC.

13

Blevins, J. (2016). *Juvenile victim-offender conferencing pilot program: A year in review*. St. Paul, MN: Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking, University of Minnesota, School of Social Work.

https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/Programs/mediation/CW_JJ/nebraska_juvenile_voc_evaluation_report_11.15.16.pdf (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

3: JAILS AND PRISONS

4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

This program evaluation of the Juvenile Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC) Pilot in Nebraska from March 2015 to July 2016. The program included 44 completed VOCs; in 29 of these cases, there were surrogate victims. At the time of the evaluation, 85% of these cases had reached agreements that had been fulfilled. 100% of victims and 97% of juveniles and families agreed that they would recommend the program to others. After a meeting with key stakeholders, the program that was evaluated had broadened in scope to include diversion through probation.

14

Bohmert, M. N., Duwe, G., & Hipple, N. K. (2018). Evaluating restorative justice circles of support and accountability: Can social support overcome structural barriers?. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62(3), 739-758. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X16652627>

INTERCEPTS 4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

This qualitative case study used in-depth interviews to explore the experiences of 18 individuals who committed sex offenses and 77 CoSA (circle of support and accountability) volunteers in two cities in Minnesota. The focus of the study was to explore the types and impact of social support on CoSA participants. They found that RP's received three times as much expressive support (e.g. moral and emotional support) as they did instrumental support (e.g. finding a job or housing). The authors suggest that RP's may benefit from increased amounts of instrumental support.

15

Bouffard, J., Cooper, M., & Bergseth, K. (2017). The effectiveness of various restorative justice interventions on recidivism outcomes among juvenile offenders. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 15(4), 465-480. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1541204016647428>

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This is a quantitative data analysis of the 2007 study by Bergseth and Bouffard. In this iteration of the data analysis, they examined youth referred to RJ only (n= 284) and youth referred to the traditional criminal legal process (n= 267). The comparison groups included direct mediation (conferencing), indirect mediation (conferencing without contact), community panels, and minimal/no RJ contact. Youth who participated in any RJ option and reoffended took significantly longer to reoffend than those who experienced the traditional criminal legal system process. It is important to note that community panels had a more positive impact than no RJ, but these did not reach statistical significance in the way that direct mediation or indirect mediation did. Based on the patterns of reoffending rates observed in their analysis, the authors suggest that it would be possible to screen cases for the minimum level of intervention needed, such as indirect mediation by the RJ facilitator, potentially allowing a larger number of cases to be handled restoratively.

16

Brooks, A. (2013). *Moving forward: Two approaches to repairing the harm through restorative justice* (Publication No.3597003) [Doctoral dissertation, American University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This quantitative dissertation examines program evaluation data from two restorative justice programs: the Community Conferencing Center (“CC”) in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Ohio Victim Offender Dialogue program that operates within the Office of Victim Services in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, a restorative program for victims of severe violence. Propensity score analysis was used to measure the CC program’s effectiveness at reducing rates of recidivism. The Ohio study included the collection of satisfaction data from victims and RP’s using semi-structured interviews. For the CC program evaluation, the study found that participation in an RJ process did not significantly reduce the likelihood of reoffending. In fact, for RP’s in both RJ and traditional criminal legal processes, recidivism rates were very low. For the Ohio study, RP’s who completed a dialogue process with victims reported greater satisfaction and that they saw the process as fairer to them. Those RP’s who participated in a dialogue were also more empathic toward the victims. Victims expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the dialogues, as the dialogues were an important component of their healing journeys.

17

Buchanan, A. G. (2019). Seventeen years of restorative justice circles: The yellow medicine county experience. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 23(4), 319–336. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2019.1700375> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This informal, qualitative study shared experiences with restorative justice circle practice in the Yellow Medicine County’s (YMC) Restorative Justice Program in Minnesota. The program was implemented in 2001 as a juvenile justice reform to address juvenile recidivism rates and rapidly increasing costs for out-of-home placement. Program outcomes were documented through unpublished data and case studies compiled by Yellow Medicine County Restorative Justice Office staff. Data from the program included the following results: 0% recidivism within 1 year of program completion; 100% of restitution owed was paid to victims; and the dollars spent on out-of-home placements have decreased between \$200,000 and \$268,000 per year since beginning the Circle programs. When surveyed, 83% of parents, 85% of youth, and 100% of community members surveyed felt that Circle was a positive experience.

18

Buchholz, M. M. (2014). *Effectiveness of restorative justice programs in the prevention of juvenile crime* (Publication No.1556137) [Master's thesis, North Dakota State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS **2: COURTS AND DIVERSION**

This quantitative master's thesis sought to understand the profiles of youth who reoffended after completing a restorative justice program (there were three - youth court, victim empathy seminars, and accountability conferences) offered by the LSS (Lutheran Social Services) program; compare these recidivism rates with youth who were released with a warning but no RJ process; and to compare recidivism rates among juveniles who participated in a face-to-face accountability meeting with victims versus those who did not. (This final goal was not achieved due to the small sample size.) The study found that while participants in the RJ processes had higher rates of recidivism than those individuals who were released with just a warning, the RJ participants had a longer survival rate (i.e. they took longer to recidivate) than their peers who did not receive an RJ process.

19

Burke, K. S. (2013). *An inventory and examination of restorative justice practices for youth in Illinois*. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. https://archive.icjia-api.cloud/files/icjia/pdf/ResearchReports/InventoryandExaminationofRestorativeJusticePracticesforYouthIllinois_042013.pdf (Report - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

1: LAW ENFORCEMENT

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

3: JAILS AND PRISONS

4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

This descriptive quantitative report examined the extent to which counties in Illinois implemented RJ practices in response to youth delinquency or misconduct. 95 organizations responded to an inventory of RJ practices: 40% used peer juries; 17% used RJ circles; 16% used family group conferencing; and 23% used VOM. These restorative approaches were most commonly used with low-level, first-time offenses. The organizations reported that they were least likely to involve the community or attend to victim-offender relationships, while they did incorporate separately the experiences and involvement of victims and offenders.

Cannon, J. B. (2002). *A case study of a restorative community justice initiative for juveniles in the southeastern United States* [Doctoral dissertation, The Florida State University]. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing. (Not Peer-Reviewed)

INTERCEPTS
1: LAW ENFORCEMENT

This mixed methods dissertation examined the implementation of a community sanctioning panel that was intended to be a restorative community justice initiative, the Piney Ridge Project, (PRP) located in the southeastern United States. The dissertation included multiple forms of data collection, including official reports, participant observations, surveys, interviews, and focus groups. The author found that of 63 cases referred to PRP, 59 youth completed the program. However, there was no statistically significant difference in recidivism rates between those youth who completed the PRP RJ program and those who did not. While youth and parents expressed support for restorative principles, these were not fully realized in the program due to factors such as high staff turnover, which resulted in inconsistencies and confusion, as well as the exclusion of victims from participation. Sanctions sometimes reflected restorative principles.

Carr, C., & Nelson, P. (2000). Chapter 3: The VORP in Los Angeles County. In A. Evje & R. C. Cushman (Eds.), *A summary of the evaluations of six California victim offender reconciliation programs* (pp. 33-43). San Francisco: The Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, the Children, & the Courts. (Not Peer-Reviewed)

INTERCEPTS
2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This report summarizes the efficacy of six Victim Offender Reconciliation (VORP) programs across six different counties in California (Los Angeles County; Mendocino County; Orange County; Santa Barbara County; Santa Clara County; and Sonoma County.) The programs were designed for youth to go through a restorative process with the victims and the help of program volunteers. Youth who participated in VORPs were less likely to reoffend, paid more restitution, and were more satisfied with the program than their peers in the comparison group. Victims who participated in VORPs were also more satisfied than those who did not participate. Of the referrals to probation departments across the six counties, subsequent referrals to VORPs ranged from 1.6% to 5.9% of the total number of referrals.

22

Choi, J. J. (2008). *Opening the “black box”: A naturalistic case study of restorative justice* (Publication No.3336548) [Doctoral dissertation, University of Kansas]. University of Kansas ProQuest Dissertations Publishing. (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This dissertation included qualitative interviews with 37 individuals (youth responsible for harm and their parents; victims; and service providers) in a U.S. Midwestern city to explore their experiences with participation in a Victim Offender Mediation (VOM). The study looked at the RJ processes - preparation, VOM, reflection afterwards - to get a sense of what each part of the process entailed. They found that when processes followed RJ principles more closely, participants were more satisfied. As well, some victims expressed concern about lack of sensitivity toward them in the processes in which they participated. Having sensitive, responsive facilitators of the VOM was also an important aspect of positive outcomes.

23

Choi, J. J. Green, D, L, & Gilbert, M.J. (2011). Putting a human face on crimes: A qualitative study on restorative justice process for youths. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 28, 335-355. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-011-0238-9> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This naturalistic case study included VOM (Victim Offender Mediation) participants (n = 37) in a Midwestern, U.S. city (original study summarized in Choi & Severson, 2009). This data analysis found that meeting victims helped youth responsible for harm to understand the unseen impact of their crimes. Interviewees in this group included victims, youth responsible for harm and their families, and service providers. The research question was, “What are the youths’ perceptions on their experiences in a restorative justice context?” Sample included “typical” cases such as petty theft and vandalism, as well as “critical” (i.e. atypical) cases such as violent felony charges. Holding youth offenders responsible in a respectful way may have heightened their empathy toward victims and a better understanding of the impact of their behaviors.

24

Choi, J. J., Green, D. L., & Kapp, S. A. (2010). A qualitative study of victim offender mediation: Implications for social work. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 20, 857–874. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2010.494918> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

In their naturalistic case study of 37 individuals who participated in a VOM (Victim Offender Mediation) process, the authors examined the process of participating in a VOM, from prior to the VOM, preparation and participation in the VOM, and benefits of participation after the VOM. Participants including the youth responsible for crimes, their parents, and victims all agreed that participation, restitution, and apologies were important aspects of the VOM to ensure accountability. While victim-survivors experienced a sense of empowerment as a result of participation in the VOM, some also expressed concern about how they were treated in the process. Some victims also expressed concerns that the apologies they received were not sincere. Attending to victims' non-verbal and verbal expressions of distress were identified as critical aspects of the work for facilitators.

25

Choi, J. J., & Severson, M. (2009). “What! What kind of apology is this?”: The nature of apology in victim offender mediation. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 31(7), 813–820. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2009.03.003> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

In their naturalistic case study of 37 individuals who participated in a VOM (Victim Offender Mediation) process in a Midwestern U.S. city, the authors conducted a qualitative analysis of the apology process and found that they were variable across VOMs. The authors describe the complex nature of communication and suggest ways to improve support for victims in the process.

26

Cosden, M., Casas, M., & Wolfe, M. (2000). Chapter 6: The VORP in Santa Barbara County. In A. Evje & R. C. Cushman (Eds.), *A summary of the evaluations of six California victim offender reconciliation programs* (pp. 65–74). San Francisco: The Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, the Children, & the Courts. (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This chapter explores the Restorative Justice Program (RJP) victim-offender mediation program, referred to as a VORP, in Santa Barbara, CA. The program evaluation data were collected between 1997–1999. This was a program for juveniles who committed offenses. A total of 54 mediations were held between responsible parties and victims; 21 participants responded to the quantitative and qualitative questions in the program evaluation. 95% of both victims and RPs would consider using mediation services in the future.

27

Davis, R. C. (2009). The Brooklyn mediation field test. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 5(1), 25–39. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11292-008-9067-z> (Peer reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This secondary quantitative data analysis examined the effects of the mediation process for felony arrest cases (n = 465) in Kings County, New York; the study is based on data originally collected by the Vera Institute of Justice in an unpublished study using experimental design, conducted with the Brooklyn Dispute Center. The cases were randomly sent to the Brooklyn Dispute Center for the mediation process (n =259) or filed in court and prosecuted (n =206). Overall, complainants perceived the mediation process more positively than prosecution. While most complainants (94%) who had participated in the mediation reported that the mediator had heard their version of the incident, 65% of complainants who had attended court reported that the judge had heard their side of the incident. While 62% of mediation complainants who still saw the defendant reported improvement in the defendant’s behavior toward them; 40% of control group complainants who had maintained contact with the defendant saw a change for the better in their behavior. For recidivism, there were only small and statistically non-significant differences between mediation and control group. Importantly, while mediation did not significantly reduce recidivism rates, it also did not make victims feel less safe.

28

de Beus, K. & Rodriguez, N. (2007). Restorative justice practice: an examination of program completion and recidivism. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 35(3), 337–347. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2007.03.009> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This quantitative study examined how offense type (i.e., property, person, status, and public order), program type (i.e. Community Justice Committees [CJC] or the standard cite-in diversion program), and poverty at the community-level influenced program completion and recidivism among youths using 1999–2001 diversion data (n = 9,255) from the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department in Arizona. Program completion rates did not differ between two groups. Overall, the recidivism rates of youths in the CJC were lower than those of youths in the comparison group. Youths with status and property crime in the CJC were less likely to recidivate than their counterparts in the comparison group. Poverty level at the community-level had a negative impact on both program completion and recidivism. Program completion was related to recidivism.

29

Do, T. C. (2006). *Impact of crime on victims: An evaluation study of a victim awareness class based on a balanced and restorative justice model* (Publication No. 3220437) [Doctoral dissertation, Alliant International University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (Dissertation - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

Using a mixed-method approach, this dissertation examined the effects of a Victim Awareness Class (VAC) in Santa Clara County, California. Using quasi-experimental design, pre-post levels of empathy of youth offenders in the VAC group (n= 26; age 13-18) and those of comparison groups (n =19; age 15-18) were compared. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with offenders (n = 14), Victim Speakers (n = 5), and facilitators (n = 11). For the levels of empathy assessed by Interpersonal Reactivity Index, the scores of the youths in the VAC group were lower than those of youth in the comparison group. Nonetheless, there was an increase in the youth offenders' willingness to apologize to their victims in the treatment group. Victim Speakers and facilitators reported that the youth offenders seemed to have learned about the impact of their behaviors on victims and the community.

30

Drake, E. K. (2022). *Restorative justice dialogues in the criminal justice setting: A grounded approach to building an evidence-based practice* (Publication No.28966795) [Doctoral dissertation, Washington State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.(Dissertation - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This dissertation explored the Restorative Justice Facilitated Dialogue (RJFD) pilot for drug court participants in Thurston County, Washington. This qualitative study aimed to understand 1) whether stakeholders' perspectives and RJFD operations align with the research evidence on the ways in which RJ dialogues work; 2) whether RJFD operates as intended; 3) whether stakeholders' perceptions on RJFD are similar to one another. Using grounded theory methodology, interviews with 11 stakeholders (e.g., facilitators), document analysis, and field observations were conducted. Overall, stakeholders had an adhesive understanding of the values and principles of RJ dialogues. The RJFD operations aligned with the literature on best RJ dialogues; RJFD appeared to operate as it was intended in terms of its dialogue process and format. Nonetheless, it was discovered that stakeholders had different perspectives about the participants intended for the program. Additionally, external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic were found to affect the referral process.

31

Duwe, G. (2013). Can Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) Work in the United States? Preliminary Results From a Randomized Experiment in Minnesota. *Sexual Abuse, 25*(2), 143–165. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1079063212453942> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

Using a randomized controlled trial, this study examined the effectiveness of Minnesota Circles of Support and Accountability (MnCOSA). MnCOSA is a sex offender reentry program implemented by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. This study compared recidivism and cost–benefit outcomes among the MnCOSA participants (n= 31) and control groups (n= 31) in 2008. MnCOSA participants were rearrested for 26 offenses while individuals in the control group were rearrested for 59 total offenses. The cost–benefit analysis indicates that MnCOSA has produced an estimated \$363,211 avoided to the state compared to the control group.

32

Evje, A. & Cushman, R. (2000). *A summary of the evaluations of six California victim offender reconciliation programs* [Report to the California legislature]. The Judicial Council of California. (Report - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This report summarizes Victim Offender Reconciliation Programs (VORPs) in six California counties. Youths who participated in the VORP (n= 153) were compared with youths in the comparison group (n= 81). Comparison group youths were referred to the program but did not participate in the program because the victim declined to participate. Restitution, recidivism, program participation, and victim and offender satisfaction were assessed. For the average amount of restitution collected, more money was collected from the juvenile offenders in the VORP group relative to their counterparts. The recidivism rates were lower for the participants in five of the six VORPs than those of the participants in the comparison groups. Depending on the site, between 10 and 32 percent of the victims declined to participate and between 6 and 39 percent of the offenders who were referred to the program declined to participate. High levels of satisfaction were identified among victims and offenders as well as among other participants including parents, mediators, probation officers, and other justice system participants in the process.

33

Forgays, D. K. (2008). Three years of teen court offender outcomes. *Adolescence*, 43(171), 473–484. (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This study extended the study of Is teen court effective for repeat offenders? a test of the restorative justice approach (Forgays & DeMilio, 2005). This study used a larger three year sample including youth offenders (n = 84) in Whatcom County Teen Court in Washington. The recidivism rates were lower among youths in the Teen Court (14-25%) compared to those of the youths of first-time Court Diversion offenders (31-80%). The sentence completion rates appeared similar for two groups.

34

Forgays, D. K. & DeMilio, L. (2005). Is teen court effective for repeat offenders? a test of the restorative justice approach. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 49(1), 107–118. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X04269411> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This study aimed to determine whether the Teen Court experience would be effective for second-time offenders. A sample included youth offenders (n =26; age 12-17) sentenced in Whatcom County Teen Court in Washington. The recidivism and sentence completion outcomes were compared between second-time Teen Court sentenced youth offenders to those of first-time Court Diversion offenders. The recidivism was lower and the sentence completion rate was higher for youths in the Teen Court compared to their counterparts.

35

Fox, K. J. (2013). *Circles of Support & Accountability: Final report prepared for the State of Vermont department of corrections*. University of Vermont, Department of Sociology. https://doc.vermont.gov/sites/correct/files/documents/Restorative_Justice/CJC/COSA%20EVALUATION%20FINAL%20REPORT%202013.pdf (Report - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

This qualitative study conducted interviews with core members who participated in Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA; n = 21), and volunteers (n = 59), and reentry coordinators (n = 9) to examine how and why CoSA in Vermont works. The findings indicate that CoSAs bridge the gap between programming inside prison and compliance and supervision in the community by probation and parole. Lack of support from family or friends as well as lack of relationship and life skills, and institutionalized sense of self after a long period in prison are the major barriers for CoSA participants' reentry. CoSA clearly supports them to overcome these barriers. Most core members shared that they would have been returned to jail without the CoSA.

36

Han, S., Valdovinos Olson, M., & Davis, R. C. (2021). Reducing recidivism through restorative justice: An evaluation of Bridges to Life in Dallas. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 60*(7), 444–463. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2021.1966156> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

This study used a quasi-experimental design to examine data from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Using propensity score matching, the researchers matched a sample of 296 participants from the Bridges to Life restorative justice program with a comparison group of 296 persons on parole. The study found that BTL participants had lower rates of incarceration for overall crime and for violent crime.

37

Helfgott, J. B., Lovell, M. L., Lawrence, C. F., & Parsonage, W. H. (2000). Results from the pilot study of the citizens, victims, and offenders restoring justice program at the Washington state reformatory. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, 16*(1), 5–31. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1043986200016001002>. (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This quantitative study examined the effectiveness of the Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice Program, a prison-based program from 1997 to 1998. Offenders (n= 27; age 22-57), victims (n =18; age 22-78), and community members (n= 15; age 21-62) participated in the Program at the Washington state reformatory. Using one-sample t-tests, pre-post differences for four program goals were examined by group. The four programs goals include: 1) Oasis, support, remorse, and accountability; 2) meaningful justice through constructive communication; 3) creating ways of thinking about justice and dealing with crime; 4) hope through a balancing of citizen, victim, and offender interests. Overall, the findings indicate that the four goals were achieved in that the program provided a safe space for offenders to begin making amends for their crimes and facilitated constructive communication between groups. The finding that participants reported less hope at the end of the seminar requires further exploration.

Hill-Clark, L. E. (2014). *The effectiveness of restorative justice practices* (UMI No. 3623020) [Doctoral dissertation, The University of the Rockies]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This quantitative study examined the effectiveness of a RESPECT Victim-Offender Dialogue Program (VOD) in Clay County, Missouri. A matched participant-control group design was used. Participants in the VOD process (n= 133) were matched on key factors (i.e., the risk level, seriousness of initial offense, offense history, gender, and age) to youths in a control group (n= 133). Along with recidivism, the time to re-offense and the seriousness of latter offenses were also evaluated. Youths were tracked for two to four years. Paired t-test and survival analysis were conducted. Overall, the recidivism rates of youths in the VOD group were lower than those of the youths in the control group. The time before committing a new offense of the VOD group youths was significantly longer than that of the control group youth. The recidivism rates of the VOD youths were lower for all crime types, except property damage crimes. VOD appears to be effective with both genders and across different ethnicities. For age, 11 and 12 year-olds tended to benefit the most from participating in the program.

Hobbs, A., Cienfuegos-Silvera, A., & Wylie, L. E. (2022). Variations in victim presence in restorative youth conferencing programs: the use of surrogate victims increases reparation completion. *Victims & Offenders, 17*(7), 994-1008.
<https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/criminaljusticefacpub/87> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study conducted in a large Midwestern State examined whether victims' presence in restorative youth conferencing programs was related to higher reparation completion. Also, it examined how surrogate characteristics are related with reparation outcomes. The final sample consisted of pre-adjudicated juveniles who participated in victim-youth conferencing (n = 205). conducted through one of four mediation centers between September 2018 and March 2020. Regression modeling was used for the analyses. Conferences with surrogates were more likely to have higher completion rates compared to those with victims. The findings suggest that involving trained surrogates in restorative justice processes is a promising strategy when victim participation is not possible.

Jeong, S. (2010). *Long-term effects of restorative justice conferencing on future criminality: The Indianapolis experiment* (UMI No. 3440032) [Doctoral dissertation, Michigan State University]. ProQuest. (Dissertation - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This doctoral dissertation aimed to extend the original study of Family Group Conferencing and Re-Offending Among First-Time Juvenile Offenders: The Indianapolis Experiment (McGarrell & Hipple, 2007). This study examined the long-term effects of FGC in preventing re-offending among youthful offenders (n=782) in Indiana. The main research question is whether FGC mediates recidivism among participants (n=400), compared to participants in other diversion programs (n=382) followed up for 12 years. First, using survival analysis, the time to recidivate was examined. FGC is more effective in buffering the risk of recidivism than other court-ordered diversion programs; the median lifetime to recidivate is between 18 and 24 months for the control group individuals, while it is between 24 and 30 months for the FGC group. However, based on the findings of longitudinal multilevel modeling analysis used for exploration of trajectories of change over time, the youthful offenders in FGC did not experience less risk of recidivism than their counterparts. The study also examined whether the relationship between participation in FGCs and recidivism vary by individual, family, and community characteristics. No statistically significant relationships were found among demographic characteristics, the type of intervention, and rate of change in recidivism. Nonetheless, unexpectedly, abuse/neglect history, community economic disadvantage, and community immigrant concentration among youthful offenders in FGC are related with a slower rate of change in recidivism than those abused offenders in the other diversion program.

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Jeong, S., McGarrell, E. F., & Hipple, N. K. (2012). Long-term impact of family group conferences on re-offending: The Indianapolis Restorative Justice Experiment. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 8(4), 369–385. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-012-9158-8> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

The study examined the long-term impact of FGCs on recidivism and time to first re-offense for first-time youthful offenders (n = 782) in Indiana. The participants were followed up for 12 years. Using logistic regression, prevalence of re-offending was analyzed based on whether the youth was re-arrested during the follow-up period. Next, using Cox Proportional-Hazards Regression, time until the first re-offense was examined. There were no significant differences in hazard ratios for recidivism over the 12-year follow up period. The findings indicate that there were no statistically significant differences between participants in the FGC and control groups in recidivism or time to re-offense when extended to a 12-year follow-up period. Interaction terms were examined to identify whether the relationship between experimental condition and recidivism varied by other factors (i.e., race, gender, crime type). However, no statistically significant interaction patterns were found.

42

Kennedy, J. L., Tuliao, A. P., Flower, K. L. N., Tibbs, J. J., & McChargue, D. E. (2018). Long-term effectiveness of a brief restorative justice intervention. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 63(1), 3–17. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624x18779202> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This mixed method study examined the impact of a brief Restorative Justice Intervention (RJI) assessing individuals assigned to probation of a Plains state in the United States. Recidivism defined as re-arrest of probationers who attended a RJI (n = 383) was examined compared to that of probationers receiving treatment as usual (n = 130) over a 2- to 6-year follow-up period. A Cox regression survival analysis was performed to evaluate the effectiveness of the RJI on recidivism. The proportion of individuals who recidivated in the control group was higher relative to that of those who recidivated in the RJI condition. Four major themes emerged from the narratives of the RJI probationers: 1) Empathy: “I understand the damage to my victims and community”; 2) Emotion: “I can identify, process, and express my feelings”; 3) Restorative Justice: “I understand what I need to do next”; and 4) Complaints about the class, program, and presenter.

Koss, M. P. (2014). The RESTORE program of restorative justice for sex crimes: Vision, process, and outcomes. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 29*(9), 1623–1660. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260513511537>. (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

3: JAILS AND PRISONS

The study examines RESTORE, a restorative justice conferencing program adapted to misdemeanor and felony sexual assault in Arizona March, 2003, to August, 2007. Prosecutor-referred and consented cases (n = 22) were analyzed. Outcome evaluations were conducted to assess 1) reasons for choosing RESTORE, 2) preparation and conference experiences, 3) overall program and justice satisfaction, and 4) program completion rates. The reason why more than 90% of the victims chose RESTORE at intake was to make the responsible person accountable. All responsible persons agreed with the idea of taking responsibility for making things right. More than 90% of participants were satisfied with their preparation and conference, and would recommend RESTORE to others. Similarly, more than 90% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe, listened to, supported, treated fairly, treated with respect, and not expected to do more than they anticipated. From the 20 conferences that were held, 16 responsible persons completed RESTORE (80%).

Labriola, M., Reich, W. A., Davis, R. C., Hunt, P., Rempel, M., & Cherney, S. (2018). *Prosecutor-led pretrial diversion: Case studies in eleven jurisdictions* (Document No. 251664). Center for Court Innovation. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/251664.pdf>

INTERCEPTS

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This qualitative report, led by the Center for Court Innovation, examined the goals, history, policies, and practices of prosecutor-led pretrial diversion programs in eleven jurisdictions. (A second phase of the same study (Rempel et al. 2018) includes quasi-experimental impact and cost evaluations of programs.) Three methods were used: 1) case studies of 15 diversion programs in ten jurisdictions; 2) focus groups with diversion participants; and 3) examining lessons learned from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office regarding their change of leadership which resulted in renovating diversion programs. Five diversion programs used RJ models where some participants attended sessions with community members and/or victims and were asked to take responsibility for their behavior. In particular, for San Francisco's Neighborhood Courts diversion program and Los Angeles' Neighborhood Justice Initiative, RJ represented a key organizing principle of the model. Overall, the most common goals include 1) administrative efficiency/cost savings and 2) reducing convictions and methods for defendants. Prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the court were likely to work collaboratively to plan the program model and identify appropriate diversion cases. Focus group participants mostly believed that the diversion program was fair, relative to the traditional criminal justice system and diversion as better than jail. RJ goals include restitution (for property offenses:); restoring community and individual victims; having the defendants gain insight into the harm they caused; helping participants become better members of society.

45

Lee, S. (2000 May). Chapter 7: The VORP in Santa Clara County. In A. Evje & R. C. Cushman (Eds.), *A summary of the evaluations of six California victim offender reconciliation programs* (pp. 75-90). San Francisco: The Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, the Children, & the Courts.

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study examined six California victim offender reconciliation programs (VORPs). In each evaluation, a group of juveniles who had participated in the VORP program was compared with two control groups of juveniles who had not. The first was made up of 13 cases randomly selected by the probation department from the large group of juveniles who were not referred to the VORP. The second was made up of 13 cases randomly selected from 30 that were deemed eligible for VORP but, for a variety of reasons, including the reluctance of the victim or of the offender to participate, did not proceed to VORP. Evaluation outcomes include the amount of restitution, perceptions of restitution, recidivism, number of participants, participants' satisfaction. The study found that compared to juveniles in the control groups, juveniles in VORPs paid more restitution and were less likely to reoffend. Overall, VORP participants (both victims and offenders) were satisfied with the program.

46

McCold, P., & Wachtel, B. (2012). *Restorative policing experiment: The Bethlehem Pennsylvania police family group conferencing project*. Wipf and Stock Publishers. (Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 1: LAW ENFORCEMENT

This study evaluated the implementation of a police-based conferencing in Bethlehem Pennsylvania. Victims, offenders (n =292), and offenders; parents were asked about the effect of the program. Six study findings were : 1) Following the training, average levels for overall compliance with protocol improved from 80% to 89%; 2) No statistically significant changes were identified in police attitudes, organizational culture, and role perceptions; 3) 12-month rearrest rates were 20% for the program participants vs. 35% for the control group offenders; 4) Victims, offenders, and parents of offenders were satisfied with the process and thought the outcomes as fair; 5) No change was found in arrest patterns during the experimental period.; 6) Relative to the standard court system, victims and parents tended to feel that their opinions were adequately considered. Compared to VOM programs, program participation rates (42%) were higher than any of the four reported VOM programs (28-40%). Cost comparisons indicate that police-based conferencing is no more expensive than VOMs.

47

McGarrell, E. F. & Hipple, N. K. (2007). Family group conferencing and re-offending among first-time juvenile offenders: The Indianapolis experiment. *Justice Quarterly*, 24(2), 221–246. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418820701294789> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

The randomized experimental study was conducted to examine the effects of a FGC in Indianapolis, Indiana. First-time-offending youths were randomly assigned to either a FGC or standard court-ordered diversion programs. Nearly 800 youths participated in the experiment, and the cases were followed for 24 months from their initial arrest. Survival analysis was used to compare prevalence patterns of re-offending among the treatment and control groups. The results indicated a significant difference between the two groups with the FGC group experiencing lower rates of recidivism.

48

McMahon, S. M., & Pederson, S. (2020). “Love and compassion not found elsewhere”: A photovoice exploration of restorative justice and nonviolent communication in a community-based Juvenile Justice Diversion Program. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 117, 105306. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105306> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

Using photovoice methodology, this study examined the impact of a trauma-responsive restorative justice program for youth involved with the juvenile justice system in Florida. Restorative circle practice and training in nonviolent communication aimed to build relationships among youth (ages 11–18) to reduce recidivism and to promote individual and community well-being. Participants used smartphones to capture and share images about the program. The youth participants are predominantly youth of color from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Through a focus group circle dialogue and written quotes, participants described how the program has helped them to grow in empathy and confidence, resolve interpersonal conflicts, and strengthen relationships.

49

Miller, S. L., & Iovanni, L. (2013). Using restorative justice for gendered violence: Success with a postconviction model. *Feminist Criminology*, 8(4), 247–268. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1557085113490781> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This case study explored a RJ post-conviction model for a severe case of intimate partner violence (n = 2). Open-ended interviews with participants were conducted. In addition to the interview data, information was collected from multiple sites of inquiry such as case files which contained notes from participants’ 6 month preparation in biweekly meetings with the facilitator. The findings show potential benefits of post-conviction RJ process primarily due to the ample amount of time between the incident and the RJ proceeding in that victims are ready to participate and offenders have had time to accept responsibility.

50

Mills, L. G., Barocas, B., Butters, R. P., & Ariel, B. (2019). A randomized controlled trial of restorative justice-informed treatment for domestic violence crimes. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 3(12), 1284–1294. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-019-0724-1> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This randomized controlled trial compared a typical batterer intervention program (BIP) with one that included a restorative justice model, called circles of peace (CP) in Utah. Sample included 222 offenders mandated to domestic violence treatment (96 assigned to BIP, 126 assigned to hybrid BIP+ CP). The findings reveal that the BIP-plus-CP resulted in statistically significant reductions in both new arrests (53%) and crime severity scores (52%) for all offenses, including domestic violence, over a 24-month period.

51

Mills, L. G., Barocas, B., & Ariel, B. (2013). The next generation of court-mandated domestic violence treatment: A comparison study of batterer intervention and restorative justice programs. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 9, 65-90. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-012-9164-x> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

Using a randomized controlled trial, this study compared a Circles of Peace (CP) program with a group-based Batterer Intervention Program to address domestic violence in Arizona. Domestic violence offenders (n = 152) randomly assigned at sentencing to either Batterer Intervention Program or CP. The recidivism rates of CP participants were lower than those of Batterer Intervention Program participants during four all follow-up periods (6, 12, 18, and 24 months). However, no statistically significant differences were found for the domestic violence re-arrests. Statistically significant differences were identified only for the 6-month and the 12-month follow-up comparisons for non-domestic violence re-arrests.

52

Muñoz, E. A., Owen, R. Y., Próspero, M., & Adkins, D. E. (2022). Diversion and restorative justice: Salt Lake Peer Court disrupting disproportionate minority contact? *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 8(2), 284–300. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492221078860> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study analyzed Salt Lake Peer Court data (2010-2016) to examine the relationship between legal and extralegal factors and the participation in and completion of the diversionary program, Salt Lake Peer Court, for first-time youth offenders (N=1,348). Using multivariate logistic regression, the relationships between various legal and extralegal variables and the probability of participating in and completion of the peer court program were examined. Individual-level extralegal factors include gender, race, and age, and the community-level variable is school socioeconomic status. The extent to which the significance of extralegal variables on outcomes is attenuated or strengthened by the inclusion of legal variables (i.e., offense count and severity) was examined in the models. The findings show that legal factors are crucial in determining who participates in and who graduates from the court. Nonetheless, the authors state that extralegal factors are also important and help provide a nuanced understanding of diversion and disproportionate minority contact. In particular, Utah state and Salt Lake county data showed youth of color were disproportionately underrepresented in diversion programs, yet they were disproportionately overrepresented as Salt Lake Peer Court referrals.

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Poulson, B., & Elton, K. (2002). Participants' Attitudes in the Utah Juvenile Victim-Offender Mediation Program. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 53(1), 37–45. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1755-6988.2002.tb00054.x>. (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This study evaluated the Juvenile Court Victim-Offender Mediation Program (VOMP) of the Utah State Courts in Salt Lake City. Utah VOMP participants were asked their attitudes towards and experiences of VOMP between 1997 and 2001. The data collected by the two versions of the participant survey indicate high levels of satisfaction among the participants. Victims (n = 147) and offenders (n = 330) reported their attitudes towards their experiences in VOMP. While victims were more satisfied than offenders for some outcomes, both groups reported relatively high satisfaction. Most victims and offenders rated overall VOMP experience positively (94% and 88%, respectively); believed that the mediator was fair or impartial (91% and 92%), understood the issues (93% and 90%), listened to their concerns (95% and 94%), communicated clearly (96% and 93%), provided explanations (96% and 96%), helped find alternatives (95% and 93%), reached closure (91% and 88%), showed courtesy (95% and 96%), and was effective overall (92% and 96%).

Rempel, M., Labriola, M., Hunt, P., Davis, R. C., & Cherney, S. (2018 April). *NIJ's multisite evaluation of prosecutor-led diversion programs: Strategies, impacts, and cost-effectiveness* (Document No. 251665). Center for Court Innovation. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/251665.pdf>. (Report - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study evaluated prosecutor-led diversion programs across the country. Of 15 programs in the study, eight were post-filing, three were pre-filing, and four programs enrolled participants either prior to or after filing charges with the court depending on case specifics. Several programs made RJ a crucial or even integral priority; seven programs included RJ as a program goal and five programs employed variations of RJ conferences. Quasi-experimental impact evaluations were conducted for five programs including two programs which incorporated RJ as a program goal. All five programs participating in evaluations (two in Cook County, IL, two in Milwaukee, WI, and one in Chittenden County, VT) found that they reduced the risk of conviction and a jail sentence. Four of five programs reduced the likelihood of re-arrest at two years from program enrollment. Four programs, including three programs whose goals included RJ, participated in quasi-experimental cost evaluations. Investment costs were examined for two programs in Cook County and one each in Chittenden County VT and San Francisco, CA. Sizable cost and resource savings were found. Output costs results for three programs (except for the San Francisco site) indicate present savings mainly resulting from less use of probation and jail sentences. Savings were greatest in the two pre-filing programs, which do not involve any court processing for those who complete the program.

Riggs, J. W. (2007). *Face-to-face: Victims, offenders and the community coming together in Cass County* (UMI No.1449561) [Master's thesis, University of Central Missouri]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (Thesis - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study evaluated the effectiveness of the face-to-face initiative in Cass County, Missouri using a mixed-method approach. This study seeks to examine the effectiveness of the program in meeting three goals: 1) public safety, 2) accountability and 3) competency development. The study also explored the level of stakeholder satisfaction in the program. Public safety was assessed by examining recidivism. A slightly lower recidivism rate among the face-to-face group (n = 167) was found compared to the control group (n = 203). Accountability was measured with victim impact statements, victim input sanctions/services, victim-offender meeting, victim-empathy class, harm survey by youth, apology, restitution, community service, and other reparation to victim. Significant correlations related to accountability, especially the victim-centered variables were found. Competency development was measured with the variables for programs, prime time families, smart anger management, alcohol and drug education, shoplifting impact class, assessment/counseling, horse therapy, life-skills training, essay/report, school monitoring, and volunteer mentoring. For the area of competency, no notable differences were found between the groups. Satisfaction was assessed among victims, offenders, parents, and community volunteers. Overall, the stakeholders rated their experiences in the face-to-face program highly satisfactory.

Rodriguez, N. (2005). Restorative justice, communities, and delinquency: whom do we reintegrate? *Criminology & Public Policy*, 4(1), 103–130. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9133.2005.00010.x> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study aimed to examine how individual- and community-level characteristics are related to the selection of offenders to a restorative justice program. This study used official juvenile data (n = 7,264) from an urban, metropolitan county in Arizona and Census data (n = 110). Individual characteristics include race/ethnicity and community-level characteristics include unemployment rate, racial/ethnic heterogeneity, proportion of Spanish-speaking households. The findings reveal that both individual and community characteristics influence the decisions of restorative justice program placement made by juvenile court officials. Additionally, offenders who took part in the restorative justice program were significantly less likely to reoffend compared to offenders in the comparison group. All offenders in the restorative justice program across communities were less likely to reoffend regardless of their community's characteristics.

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Rodriguez, N. (2007). Restorative Justice at Work: Examining the Impact of Restorative Justice Resolutions on Juvenile Recidivism. *Crime & Delinquency*, 53(3), 355–379. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001128705285983> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study examined the influence that the Community Justice Committees (CJCs) have on delinquency using data from the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department from 1999 to 2001. To evaluate the extent to which CJCs program participation are related to future offending, the effect of CJCs on the filing of a new juvenile court petition was examined among those offenders who completed their disposition. Logistic regression was used for the analysis. The effects of legal factors (i.e., the most serious offense referral type and the number of prior offenses) and extralegal factors (i.e., gender, race or ethnicity, and age) on the relationship between CJCs participation and recidivism were also examined. Overall, the recidivism rate of those who participated in CJCs (n = 1,708) were less than that of those in a comparison group (n = 3,262). Also, the findings illustrate the greater impact the restorative justice program has on girls than boys. The findings also show that participants in the restorative justice program with zero or one prior offense had lower probabilities of reoffending than those with the same number of offenses in the comparison group.

58

Shem-Tov, Y., Raphael, S., & Skog, A. (2021). *Can restorative justice conferencing reduce recidivism? Evidence from the make-it-right program* (No. w29150). National Bureau of Economic Research. (Report - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This randomized controlled trial study examined the effect of a restorative justice intervention targeted at youth ages 13 to 17 facing felony charges of medium severity in San Francisco. Eligible youths were assigned to participate in the Make-it-Right (MIR) restorative justice program (n = 99) or a control group (n = 44) where they faced felony prosecution. 95 percent of the youth who participated in the MIR completed the MIR program. The youths assigned to MIR showed a 44 percent reduction of a rearrest compared to the control group within six months. The reduction in recidivism continued four years after randomization.

59

Silvera, A. C., Hobbs, A., & Wylie, L. (2020). *Restorative justice conferencing programs 2015–2020*. Juvenile Justice Institute, University of Nebraska Omaha.
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59511c45c534a573ac245515/t/5fb417c1ab9eaa035108cd6e/1605638083961/Restorative+Justice+Conferencing+Programs+2015-2020_web.pdf

INTERCEPTS **0:COMMUNITY** **1:LAW ENFORCEMENT** **2:COURTS AND DIVERSION**

This statewide program evaluation examined data about RJ programs (multiple forms of conferencing) across six counties in Nebraska (668 youth enrolled; not all completed). Schools and diversion programs have been the main referral sources, and adult surrogate victims were the most common forms of conferences. They found lower rates of system involvement among youth who participated in RJ and the most successful (measured by higher rates of completion of tasks in agreements) were those who participated in more highly structured RJ processes. For those with surrogate victims, the surrogate's similarity to the actual victim (including identity markers) contributed to the positive impact of those conferences on RPs.

60

Stone, K. J. (2011). *An evaluation of recidivism rates for resolutions northwest's victim-offender mediation program* [Master's thesis, Portland State University]. PDXScholar.
https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/open_access_etds/2291/ (Thesis - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS **2:COURTS AND DIVERSION**

This study analyzed the recidivism rates for juvenile offenders (n = 251) who went through Resolutions Northwest's VOM program relative to offenders who went through the traditional justice system (n = 4,442) in Portland, Oregon. While 20.3% of the Resolutions Northwest group reoffended within a year of their VOM program completion, 41.6% of the control group, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative group, reoffended within one year of their initial arrest.

61

Tregle, Brandon. (2022). *Officer and arrestee perspectives of police facilitated restorative justice* [Doctoral dissertation, University of Nebraska at Omaha]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (Dissertation - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This mixed-method study examined the impact of City of Omaha’s Restorative Justice Diversion Program. Twenty-two arrestees and 17 arresting officers participated in restorative justice processes. Using a mixed-method approach, survey and interview data were analyzed. Outcomes included perceptions of police officers, perceptions of procedural justice, and legitimacy among arrestees and officer perceptions of restorative justice processes. Using thematic analysis, this study explored officer perceptions of restorative justice classes post participation. Participants reported their views of police officers, procedural justice, and legitimacy prior to and after participation in the program. The participants’ narratives indicate that arrestees did not experience improvements in their perceptions of officers, procedural justice, or legitimacy. Nonetheless, officers reported overwhelmingly positive experiences in the classes.

62

Turner, S., Schroeder, A. N., Fain, T., Lane, J., & Petersilia, J. R. (2002). *Evaluation of the South Oxnard challenge project 1997-2001*. LAND Corporation. https://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1520.html (Report - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

Using a randomized experiment, this study evaluated the effectiveness of the South Oxnard Challenge Project (SOCP) conducted in California. The primary mission of the SOCP was “to reduce juvenile crime in South Oxnard/Port Hueneme by bringing together the juvenile justice system, offenders and their families, human services, victims and the community, as partners in the strategies needed to make change.” A variety of community justice-related activities including victim-offender (and parent-child) mediations were performed in SOCP. A sample included youths between 12 and 18 years old who had a citation or violation of probation, and scored at least 12 points on a local risk assessment instrument (n= 539). Half of eligible youth (n =264) were randomly assigned in the program; half (n= 275) were assigned to routine probation supervision. Information on participants’ characteristics, services received, and outcomes during the intervention period and an 18-month follow-up were collected. Approximately, 68% were on informal probation and 32% were on formal probation at the time of random assignment. Overall, the findings indicate similar outcomes for both SOCP and comparison youth on a wide variety of outcomes, including alcohol and drug use, restitution payments, community service, and school performance. Regarding recidivism outcomes including referrals/arrests and sustained petitions/convictions, SOCP and comparison youth were similar during the intervention and follow-up periods

63

Umbreit, M. S., & Vos, B. (2000). Homicide survivors meet the offender prior to execution: Restorative justice through dialogue. *Homicide Studies*, 4(1), 63–87. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1088767900004001004> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This qualitative study conducted in Texas presents two case studies of capital murder cases. A surviving family member and the death row inmate facing execution participated in victim offender mediation/dialogue sessions. The five participants (three surviving family members and two offenders) stated that this intervention had a powerful impact on their lives. All reported significant progress on their healing journeys, and were grateful for the opportunity.

64

Umbreit, M. S., Coates, R. B., & Vos, B. (2001). *Juvenile victim offender mediation in six Oregon counties*. National Organization for Victim Assistance. <https://www.aboutrsi.org/library/juvenile-victim-offender-mediation-in-six-oregon-counties> (Report - Not peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

The mixed method study evaluated six juvenile victim-offender programs in Oregon. Outcomes examined include satisfaction with the outcome of the program, satisfaction with the justice system, and recidivism rates. For satisfaction, the sample was 104 victims and 93 offenders. 89% of victims and 76% of offenders were satisfied with the outcome. 93% of victims and 87% of offenders felt the agreement was fair to the offender, while 86% of offenders and 88% of victims felt it was fair to the victim. 82% of both victims and offenders were satisfied with the justice system. For recidivism, 28 to 251 juveniles who participated in mediation were tracked in each of the four counties. Recidivism rates showed a decrease of 64.6% - 76.6% in three counties when the number of offenses during the year after mediation was compared to those during the year prior to mediation. A cross-county comparison showed a recidivism rate more than 20% lower than in the non-program county (unfortunately, comparison groups were not well matched).

65

Umbreit, M. S., Vos, B., Coates, R. B., & Armour, M. P. (2006). Victims of severe violence in mediated dialogue with offenders: The impact of the first multi-site study in the US. *International Review of Victimology*, 13(1), 27–48. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/026975800601300102> (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

3: JAILS AND PRISONS

4: RE-ENTRY, PROBATION, AND PAROLE

This qualitative study explored mediated dialogue among victims and offenders in cases of violent and serious crime in Texas and Ohio. The authors conducted review of program materials and documents as well as interviews with victims/family members (n = 40) and offenders (n = 39). All but one of the participants reported that they were satisfied with their participation. 85% of victims and 97% of offenders indicated that they would recommend mediated dialogue to others in similar situations.

66

Umbreit, M. S., & Armour, M. P. (2010). Family survivors of homicide meet the offender: The impact of restorative dialogue. *The Journal of Community Corrections*, 19, 25–34. (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

3: JAILS AND PRISONS

This article focuses on the subset of VOM cases in which family survivors of murder, manslaughter, or vehicular homicide met the offender in Texas and Ohio. Full results have been reported (e.g., Umbreit et al., 2006; Umbreit et al., 2003). Participants (n = 79) were asked about their motivations to seek a VOM, their experiences of going through the process, and concerns. The average time lapse between the crime and the dialogue meeting was nine years (range: two to 23 years). Family members of murder/manlaughter victims sought information and/or answers to questions (e.g., what happened and why, their loved one's last minutes). While murder/manlaughter family members were more interested in holding the offender accountable, vehicular homicide family members expressed more interest in whether the offender felt remorseful. In describing the reasons they agreed to meet with their victims, most of the offenders focused first on benefits to victims.

67

Urban, L., & Burge, S. (2006). Victim/offender mediation in St. Louis: An assessment. *Justice Research and Policy*, 8(2), 89-113. (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS

2: COURTS AND DIVERSION

This study evaluated the VOM in St. Louis, Missouri, and assessed whether those juveniles who participate in the program have fewer subsequent referrals to the court. Subsequent court referrals were compared among those who completed the VOM (n = 118), eligible juveniles who did not participate in VOM (n = 434), and eligible juveniles who began but did not complete VOM (n = 491). Results indicate that juveniles who participated in VOM reoffended at a lower rate than juveniles who had no contact with the program.

68

Williams, R., & Crifasi, C. (2020). Evaluating the impact of Baltimore community mediation center's youth-police dialogue circle program. *Injury Prevention, 26*(Suppl 1), A38. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2020-savir.94> (Not Peer-Reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 0:COMMUNITY

This evaluation study using a mixed methods approach examined the effectiveness of the Youth-Police Dialogue Circle program implemented in Baltimore (n = N/A). How the program impacted participants' attitudes, perceptions, and concerns regarding each other (i.e., police and youth) was assessed at pre-, post-, and one month following program participation. Open-ended responses were asked and analyzed qualitatively to identify key themes and important context. The findings suggest that the program offered opportunities for police and youth to engage in positive interactions and the participants had a chance to challenge misperceptions regarding each other.

69

Winder, C., & Nunes, A. P. (2020). *Colorado juvenile diversion evaluation report 2020*. OMNI.https://www.dropbox.com/s/y3g9qqn3vkuexkk/2020%20Juvenile%20Diversion%20Evaluation%20Report_Final.pdf?dl=0 (Report - Not Peer-Reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2:COURTS AND DIVERSION

The Juvenile Diversion Grant program, funded by Colorado state statute and administered through the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), diverts youth who have committed offenses from further involvement in the juvenile justice system. DCJ has primarily funded services for youth who are pre-file or pre-adjudicated and who have committed a first time district-level offense. Around 10,000 youth were served in the 9 years and 85% successfully completed diversion. For recidivism, 83.5% of all youth served by diversion programs did not commit an offense that resulted in a filing during diversion or in the one year after diversion. In particular, youth who received RJ services had a higher probability of successful program completion. RJ services appear to be particularly associated with positive outcomes for youth in diversion.

70

Wood, W. R. (2013). Victims as stakeholders: Research from a juvenile court on the changing roles of victims in restorative justice. *Western Criminology Review, 14*(1), 6-24. (Peer-reviewed)

INTERCEPTS 2:COURTS AND DIVERSION

This qualitative study aimed to examine changes made by a juvenile court between 1999 and 2005 toward the inclusion of victims as key stakeholders within restorative justice practices (e.g., VOMs and other victim services) in Washington State. This study analyzed various sources of data including interviews, observations, court meeting minutes, diversion form agreements, and changes in court protocols and practices. Overall, the court altered diversion and probation practices in order to provide crucial services to victims, and increase victims' decision-making capacity. In this process, the court amended the ways in which offenders fulfilled their diversion or probation requirements at the court, particularly in relation to its use of VOMs.