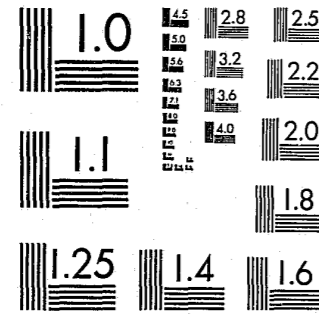


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JUVENILE RESTITUTION PROJECT



An Evaluation

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JUVENILE RESTITUTION PROJECT
 AN EVALUATION
 February, 1981

U.S. Department of Justice
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QUESTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

The problem of crime and its victims is not a new one. For years the juvenile justice system has been primarily concerned with the juvenile offender. Focus has been placed on rehabilitating the youth. Treatment of the serious offender has taken place in institutions and, more recently, in community-based programs.

Current criminal justice philosophy attempts to more closely link the sanctions with the offense. This, coupled with a renewed interest in the victims of crime, has led to the increased use of restitution as a dispositional alternative.

In keeping with this philosophy, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) established 41 juvenile restitution initiatives. The grant for the Juvenile Restitution Project in Jefferson County was awarded in October, 1978. The project director was hired in December and the line staff began employment in February, 1979. The project started receiving referrals in March, 1979.

The overall goal of the Jefferson County Juvenile Restitution Project is to involve 400 youth per year in the program. The program provides partial redress for victims of juvenile crime, enhancing the image of the juvenile justice system and reducing the number of youth committed to juvenile institutions.

Youth adjudicated for property offenses and some non-property offenses (those in which medical expenses are incurred) are referred to the Restitution Project from the Juvenile Session of District Court. If the court orders monetary restitution, the project locates work for

the youth and monitors his progress on the job. Three-fourths of the youth's wages are sent to the victim weekly while the youth keeps the remaining one-fourth. In those cases where money or property has been recovered, the judge can order the youth to perform symbolic restitution. This symbolic restitution can take the form of volunteer work or victim service hours.

As a result of a July, 1979 review by LEAA, it was recommended that program goals be modified due to a lower number of referrals than previously estimated. The basic goals remain the same with only the numbers having been reduced. For example, the original project goal was to involve 700 youth per year in the program. This was reduced to 400 per year.

The program contracted with Jefferson County Parks and Recreation, Jefferson County Works Department and Voluntary Action of United Way for employment and volunteer placements. The Voluntary Action contract was cancelled in September, 1979 due to the low number of referrals for voluntary service hours. The contract with the Jefferson County Works Department was cancelled in May, 1980. Few youth lived near the work site and many of the temporary positions within the department were filled with summer CETA workers. Currently, the Project's Job Developer processes and monitors voluntary service referrals as well as assists youth in obtaining employment utilizing the job resources found by the program.

Requirements for youth eligibility were also modified. Previously, youth between 14-18 years of age and adjudicated for a property offense were eligible only if involved in no other court program. Youth are now allowed to be involved in other court programs. Youth charged with

non-property offenses, such as robbery and assault, are now eligible for the program if medical expenses are involved.

These modifications, which were approved by LEAA in August, 1979, were designed to increase referrals to the Juvenile Restitution Project during the second project year.

METHODOLOGY

A preliminary evaluation of the first seven months of the Juvenile Restitution Project was published in December, 1979. The primary methodology of this evaluation involves an update of the preliminary evaluation to include those youth admitted to the project from October 1, 1979 through October 31, 1980.

The first section of this report examines the extent to which the goals and objectives of the project have been achieved. The second section describes the population characteristics of youth who were admitted during the first and second project years. Problem areas are investigated in the third section.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this section is to examine the extent to which the objectives stated in the grant application have been met, particularly in the period since the completion of the preliminary evaluation:

I. The first group of objectives deals with "compensation for loss."

A. One objective is "to provide monetary compensation for 150 victims by enrolling youth in a subsidized work program and requiring restitution."

During the second project year, 121 victims have received or are receiving compensation through the subsidized work program. This figure represents 80.7 percent of the objective. Although this objective was not met, it is an improvement over the first project year during which 64.0 percent of the objective was met.

B. Another objective is "to provide monetary compensation for 200 victims by requiring restitution from youth currently employed or having resources of their own."

The program has provided 47 victims with compensation from youth with their own resources during the second project year. The objective was not achieved as 47 victims represents 23.5 percent of the objective. This was an increase over the first project year in which only 11.5 percent of objective was met.

C. The last objective concerning compensation for loss is "to provide symbolic restitution for 50 victims by enrolling the youth in community service programs."

In the second project year, 26 victims have received or are receiving compensation through symbolic restitution. This objective was not reached as 26 victims fulfill only 52.0 percent of the objective. This was a slight improvement over the first project year in which only 46.0 percent of the objective was met.

II. The second group of objectives deals with the "feasibility of restitution."

A. The first objective is "to demonstrate the feasibility of using restitution as a dispositional alternative for eight percent of all youth handled formally by Juvenile Court."

Approximately 5,000 youth are handled formally per year. The program's goal is to involve 400 youth per year in the Restitution Project. During the second project year, 195 youth were admitted to the program which meets 48.8 percent of the objective. This is an improvement over the first project year in which 30.3 percent of the objective was met. Although the Juvenile Restitution Project did not reach its revised goal of 400, the number of youth admitted to the program has increased.

B. The second objective is "to demonstrate that restitution agreements be adhered to by 75 percent of youth involved."

Through October 31, 1980, a total of 220 cases have been closed. Of these, 200 were closed in compliance with the restitution order while 20 were not. Therefore, the project is experiencing an in-program success rate of 90.9 percent.

III. The third group of objectives deals with an "increased sense of responsibility in youth involved."

A. The first objective is "to provide pre and post testing for 25 percent of all youth completing the restitution order using the self-reliability, personal worth, and social standards scales of the California Test of Personality."

Of the 276 youth admitted to the program thus far, 72 (26.1%) have been pre tested. Forty-seven of these youth have successfully completed the program. Thirty-four of 47 youth were post tested while the other 13 were unable to be tested as they failed to appear for the test or were released prior to testing.

B. The second objective is "to demonstrate a one standard deviation change in the three scales of the California Test of Personality or 50 percent of all youth completing the program."

Louis Thorpe, Willis Clark and Ernest Tiegs, authors of the California Test of Personality, define self-reliance as when an individual's "overt actions indicate that he can do things independently of others, depend upon himself in various situations, and direct his own activities. The self-reliant person is also characteristically stable emotionally, and responsible in his behavior."¹

¹Louis Thorpe, Willis Clark, and Ernest Tiegs, California Test of Personality Manual, (Monterey, Calif.: CTB/McGraw-Hill, 1953), p.3.

On the Self-Reliance Scale (of those 34 pre and post tested) eight (23.5%) showed a standard deviation change. Six of the youth showed a positive change while the other two showed a negative change. The average amount of change between pre and post test scores of the entire group was 5.74. This is a negligible change and it would appear that the youth's feelings of self-reliance are not substantially increased by his participation in the program.

Personal worth is defined as when an individual "feels he is well regarded by others, when he feels that others have faith in his future success, and when he believes that he has average or better than average ability. To feel worthy means to feel capable and reasonably attractive."²

On the Personal Worth Scale, 16 (47.1%) showed a standard deviation change. Fourteen of the youth showed a positive change while two showed a negative change. The average change for the sample group was 13.59. Although this change is not statistically significant, it is a substantial change and may indicate a positive relationship between a youth's feelings of personal worth and his participation in the program.

The Social Standards Scale measures the extent to which an individual "recognizes desirable social standards and has come to understand the rights of others and appreciates the necessity of subordinating certain desires to the needs of

²Ibid. p. 3.

the group. Such an individual understands what is regarded as being right or wrong."³

On the Social Standards Scale, 12 (35.3%) showed change of one standard deviation. Of the 12 youth, six showed a positive change and six showed a negative change. The average change for the entire group was 1.24. As this change is insignificant, it would appear that there is no relationship between a youth's participation in the program and an increased recognition of desirable social standards.

In general, the results from the three scales of the California Test of Personality would indicate that while the youth's sense of personal worth increased, he was unable to translate this change into a social context.

The Jesness Inventory was administered to the same youth who took the California Test of Personality. This test is used to detect those attitudes and feelings expressed by the youth which have been known to represent the attitudes and feelings expressed by youth who have been prone to commit acts of delinquency. In particular, the Asocial Index, of the Jesness, "is most closely related to, and most predictive of, delinquent behavior."⁴

Of the 34 youth pre and post tested, 10 (29.4%) showed a standard deviation change on the Asocial Index. Test results on six of the youth showed a full standard deviation increase

³Ibid. p. 3.

⁴Carl F. Jesness, The Jesness Inventory Manual, (Palo Alto, Calif.: Consulting Psychologists Press, 1972), p. 16.

in those attitudes and feelings common to delinquent youth. Whereas, test results on four of the youth indicated a significant decrease in the same attitudes and feelings.

Overall, the average change between the pre and post test scores for the entire group was 1.76. This change is negligible and does not indicate a substantial change between the youth's delinquent attitudes and feelings (as measured by the Asocial Index) and his participation in the program.

In reviewing these results it should be noted that only 34 (72.3%) of the 47 pre tested youth who successfully completed the program were post tested. Youth who were post tested spent an average of 103 days in the program.

IV. The fourth group of objectives is concerned with the "increased confidence in the Juvenile Justice System."

A. The first objective is "to develop a baseline confidence level using the instruments selected by the Research Analyst."

A five question survey was developed to determine the confidence victims have in the Juvenile Justice System. The survey was administered to a random sample of victims who were not involved in the Restitution Project. Of the 42 non-program victims surveyed by mail, 23 (54.8%) responded. (Survey results can be found in Appendix A-1.)

B. The second objective is "to demonstrate a significant change (one standard deviation) in the level of confidence by the end of the first project year."

Surveys were sent to a one-fourth sample of victims in the program and a random sample of victims not in the program. Seventy-two victims in the program received the survey by mail. Fifty-seven (79.2%) of the victims responded. (Results can be found in Appendix A-2.) Twenty-three (54.8%) of the 42 non-program victims surveyed responded.

The mean score of the program victims was 3.65 while the mean for the non-program victims was 2.00. The standard deviation was 1.52. Therefore, there was a significant change in the level of confidence victims involved in the Restitution Program have in the Juvenile Justice System. A comparison of program and non-program victim responses can be found in Appendix A-3.

C. The third objective is "to conduct an intensive public education effort within 90 days of grant award and a six month follow-up effort."

An intensive public education effort was undertaken by the Project Director in February, 1979. The Louisville Times, a metropolitan area paper, carried two articles explaining the purpose and functions of the program. A small local paper also contained an article. Public service announcements were run on all of the local radio and television stations along with one radio interview. Letters describing the program were sent to 120 community service groups which resulted in 20 speaking engagements by the Project Director. A follow-up effort was conducted in October and November, 1979. Several articles

were published in the local newspapers. In addition, the Project Director spoke to three community groups and was interviewed on a local radio station. This objective was met although the follow-up effort was a few months late due to a modification of program goals during August, 1979.

V. The fifth group of objectives concerns the "reduction of commitments."

A. The objective is "to demonstrate an overall decrease in the number of commitments by 50 during the first project year as compared to 1977."

In 1977, there were 283 youth committed to institutions as compared to 279 youth committed during 1979. The decrease in commitments by four represents only eight percent of the objective.

VI. The last group of objectives concerns the "reduction of recidivism."

A. The first objective is "to have the youth remain arrest-free during the restitution order in 75 percent of all cases."

Of the 220 youth whose cases have been closed thus far, 203 (92.3%) have remained arrest-free during their involvement in the Restitution Project.

B. The second objective is "to have the youth remain arrest-free for six months after completion of the restitution order in 50 percent of all cases."

One hundred and seventeen youth have been out of the program for six months. Of these, 50 (66.7%) have remained

arrest-free while 25 (33.3%) have been arrested. It should be noted that this does not include 14 youth who did not comply with the restitution order nor 28 youth who have turned 18 years old and whose court record is unavailable.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The intent of this section is to present the characteristics of the youth served by the Juvenile Restitution Project. For comparison purposes, tables differentiate between project years. The first project year includes those youth admitted to the program from March through October, 1979, while the second project year is comprised of referrals from November, 1979 through October, 1980.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 provide age, race and sex characteristics. One-third of the youth were 17 years old. The average age was just under sixteen. Approximately sixty percent of the youth were white while over ninety percent were male.

The type of offender and the reason referred are indicated in Tables 4 and 5. Two-thirds of the youth were first or second offenders, although there was an increase in the number of multiple offenders admitted to the program during the second year. Property offenses accounted for over ninety percent of the reasons referred. The most common offense was Burglary.

Family income data is presented in Table 6. All income levels were represented. Sixty percent of the youth served by the program came from families whose income was less than \$10,000.

Table 7 indicates the area of Louisville and Jefferson County in which the youth resides. The County is divided into 15 planning service communities (PSC). Youth referred to the program were from all sections of the city and county. Nearly one-third of the youth were from PSC's 02, 06 and 09, which are located in the western section of the county.

School data is contained in Table 8. Nearly 75 percent of the youth were attending school while in the program. One youth had graduated from high school.

Tables 9 and 10 pertain to type of closure and length of time spent in the program. At case closure, ninety percent of the youth complied with their original or adjusted restitution order. Three-fourths of the youth spent four months or less in the program. The amount of restitution a youth is ordered to pay and whether or not he attends school, affect the length of time he spends in the program.

Table 11 indicates the amount of restitution ordered by the Court. Sixty percent of the youth were ordered to pay less than \$200 while thirteen percent were ordered to pay the maximum amount, which is \$500. The average amount of restitution ordered was \$204. The number of community service hours ordered ranged from eight to the maximum, which is 120 hours. The most frequently assigned number of hours was 40.

The amount of restitution paid is presented in Table 12. Thus far, nearly 80 percent of the restitution paid through the program has been from subsidized funds.

Table 1. Juvenile Restitution Population by Age and Project Year

A G E	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14	14	17.3	27	13.8	41	14.9
15	13	16.0	49	25.1	62	22.5
16	28	34.6	53	27.2	81	29.3
17	26	32.1	66	33.8	92	33.3
T O T A L	81	100.0	195	99.9	276	100.0
Mean	15.8		15.8		15.8	

Table 2. Juvenile Restitution Population by Race and Project Year

R A C E	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	48	59.3	120	61.5	168	60.9
Black	33	40.7	75	38.5	108	39.1
T O T A L	81	100.0	195	100.0	276	100.0

Table 3. Juvenile Restitution Population by Sex and Project Year

S E X	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	78	96.3	180	92.3	258	93.5
Female	3	3.7	15	7.7	18	6.5
T O T A L	81	100.0	195	100.0	276	100.0

Table 4. Juvenile Restitution Population by Type of Offender and Project Year

OFFENDERS	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
First	43	53.1	78	40.0	121	43.8
Second	22	27.2	42	21.5	64	23.2
Third	10	12.3	41	21.0	51	18.5
Fourth	4	4.9	14	7.2	18	6.5
Fifth & Over	2	2.5	20	10.3	22	8.0
T O T A L	81	100.0	195	100.0	276	100.0

Table 5. Juvenile Restitution Population by Reason Referred and Project Year

REASON REFERRED	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Burglary	33	40.7	58	29.7	91	33.0
Theft	11	13.6	42	21.5	53	19.2
Criminal Trespass	12	14.8	20	10.3	32	11.6
Criminal Mischief	9	11.1	27	13.8	36	13.0
Receiving Stolen Property	10	12.3	15	7.7	25	9.1
Unauthorized Use of Auto	5	6.2	7	3.6	12	4.3
Forgery	1	1.2	2	1.0	3	1.1
Arson	0	-	4	2.1	4	1.4
Assault	0	-	12	6.2	12	4.3
Robbery	0	-	7	3.6	7	2.5
Other	0	-	1	0.5	1	0.4
T O T A L	81	99.9	195	100.0	276	99.9

Table 6. Juvenile Restitution Population by Family Income and Project Year

FAMILY INCOME	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980		No. %	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
\$ 0-\$ 4,999	21	26.6	59	30.3	80	29.2
5,000- 9,999	25	31.6	58	29.7	83	30.3
10,000- 14,999	9	11.4	34	17.4	43	15.7
15,000- 19,999	13	16.5	17	8.7	30	10.9
20,000- 24,999	3	3.8	10	5.1	13	4.7
25,000 & Over	8	10.1	17	8.7	25	9.1
Unknown	2	-*	0	-*	2	-*
T O T A L	81	100.0	195	99.9	276	99.9

*Not included in percentages.

Table 7. Juvenile Restitution Population by Planning Service Community of Residence and Project Year

PLANNING SERVICE COMMUNITY	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980		No. %	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
01	7	8.7	16	8.2	23	8.3
02	9	11.1	18	9.2	27	9.8
03	1	1.2	3	1.5	4	1.5
04	6	7.4	9	4.6	15	5.4
05	3	3.7	16	8.2	19	6.9
06	9	11.1	20	10.3	29	10.5
07	0	-	2	1.0	2	0.7
08	1	1.2	3	1.5	4	1.5
09	8	9.9	19	9.7	27	9.8
10	6	7.4	13	6.7	19	6.9
11	7	8.7	16	8.2	23	8.3
12	6	7.4	12	6.2	18	6.5
13	6	7.4	26	13.3	32	11.6
14	1	1.2	4	2.1	5	1.8
15	9	11.1	12	6.2	21	7.6
Out of Co.	2	2.5	6	3.1	8	2.9
T O T A L	81	100.0	195	100.0	276	100.0

Table 8. Juvenile Restitution Population by School Status and Project Year

SCHOOL STATUS	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980		No. %	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Attending	62	76.5	138	70.8	200	72.5
Withdrew	19	23.5	56	28.7	75	27.2
Graduated	0	-	1	0.5	1	0.4
T O T A L	81	100.0	195	100.0	276	100.1

Table 9. Juvenile Restitution Population by Type of Closure and Project Year

CLOSURES	1979		Nov. 1979 to		T O T A L	
	Mar.-Oct.		Oct. 1980		No. %	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Compliance	53	91.4	147	90.7	200	90.9
Non-Compliance	5	8.6	15	9.3	20	9.1
T O T A L	58	100.0	162	100.0	220	100.0

Table 10. Juvenile Restitution Population by Number of Days Spent in Program and Project Year

D A Y S	1979 Mar.-Oct.		Nov. 1979 to Oct. 1980		T O T A L	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-10	0	-	2	1.2	2	0.9
11-19	0	-	0	-	0	-
20-29	4	6.9	10	6.2	14	6.4
30-39	3	5.2	4	2.5	7	3.2
40-49	6	10.3	6	3.7	12	5.5
50-59	4	6.9	15	9.3	19	8.6
60-69	5	8.6	8	4.9	13	5.9
70-79	9	15.5	18	11.1	27	12.3
80-89	6	10.3	10	6.2	16	7.3
90-99	2	3.5	13	8.0	15	6.8
100-109	5	8.6	13	8.0	18	8.2
110-119	4	6.9	17	10.5	21	9.5
120-129	3	5.2	5	3.1	8	3.6
130-139	1	1.7	6	3.7	7	3.2
140-149	2	3.5	8	4.9	10	4.5
150 & Up	4	6.9	27	16.7	31	14.1
T O T A L	58	100.0	162	100.0	220	100.0
Mean	82.0		100.5		95.6	

Table 11. Juvenile Restitution Population by Amount of Restitution Ordered and Project Year

AMOUNTS	1979 Mar.-Oct.		Nov. 1979 to Oct. 1980		T O T A L	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
\$500 (Limit)	10	13.0	23	13.5	33	13.3
400-\$499	1	1.3	8	4.7	9	3.6
300-399	3	3.9	18	10.5	21	8.5
200-299	10	13.0	29	17.0	39	15.7
100-199	28	36.4	45	26.3	73	29.4
1-99	25	32.5	48	28.1	73	29.4
T O T A L	77	100.1	171	100.1	248*	99.9
Population	(\$14,133.29)		(\$36,383.84)		(\$50,517.13)	
Amount	\$184		\$213		\$204	
Mean						
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS	1979 Mar.-Oct.		Nov. 1979 to Oct. 1980		T O T A L	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
120	5	55.6	2	6.3	7	17.1
106	0	-	3	9.4	3	7.3
91	1	11.1	0	-	1	2.4
80	0	-	4	12.4	4	9.8
70	0	-	2	6.3	2	4.9
60	0	-	1	3.1	1	2.4
40	1	11.1	14	43.8	15	36.6
30	1	11.1	2	6.3	3	7.3
20	1	11.1	0	-	1	2.4
15	0	-	1	3.1	1	2.4
8	0	-	3	9.4	3	7.3
T O T A L	9	100.0	32	100.1	41*	99.9
Population	781		1,737		2,518	
Hours						

*Thirteen youth are enrolled in both monetary and symbolic phases.

Table 12. Juvenile Restitution Population by Type of Restitution Provided and Project Year

TYPE OF RESTITUTION	RESTITUTION AMOUNT		T O T A L	
	1979 Mar.-Oct.	Nov. 1979 to Oct. 1980	Amount	%
Subsidized	\$6,642.86	\$19,746.94	\$26,389.80	78.5
Private	1,312.16	5,927.07	7,239.23	21.5
T O T A L	\$7,955.02	\$25,674.01	\$33,629.03	100.0
VOLUNTEER HOURS	641	913.8	1,554.8	

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the conclusion of the second project year it would appear that the Juvenile Restitution Project has been successful in obtaining positive results with victims and offenders. Part of the overall goal was to provide partial redress for the victims and to enhance the image of the Juvenile Justice System.

Since the program's inception in 1979, 288 victims have received or are receiving compensation from youth in the program. Thus far, 90.9 percent of the youth have paid back all the money ordered by the court. In a survey administered to a one-fourth sample of youth in the program, 94.1 percent said they felt good about having a job. Approximately ninety-one percent felt restitution was a fair punishment for what they did. These attitudes may account for the high success rate of program completions. (Youth survey results are provided in Appendix B-1.)

Results from a survey given to victims involved in the program indicate an enhanced image of the Juvenile Justice System. Nearly seventy-four percent said that the court was more fair and just than they previously thought while only 10.5 percent felt they did not get a fair deal in court. Of the non-program victims surveyed, 39.1 percent felt that the court was more fair and just than they previously believed while over half (52.2%) said that they did not get a fair deal in court.

In addition to indicating an enhanced image of the Juvenile Justice System, victims in the program who were surveyed supported

the Restitution Program and its concept. One hundred percent of the respondents felt that the Juvenile Restitution Program should continue. Approximately ninety-five percent said restitution was probably a better treatment than the more conventional rehabilitation methods.

Two problem areas were cited in the Preliminary Evaluation. The first problem area concerned the low number of referrals received by the Restitution Program. The number of referrals increased during the second project year; however, it represented only 50 percent of the objective. A reason for this increase may be that the youth are allowed to be involved in other court programs. For the third project year the number of youth expected to be served by the project has been decreased from 400 to 260. Referrals for the first two months have met or exceeded the rate necessary to meet the revised objective.

The second problem area concerned whether or not the Restitution Program was causing an attitudinal or value change in the offender. Test results indicate that the youth's sense of personal worth increased; however, he was unable to generalize this change into a social context.

An average of three months in a program may not be a sufficient length of time for any internal change to take effect. It is reasonable that a youth would feel better about himself and feel more self-reliant when he is employed and earning extra spending money. One possible reason for the lack of internalizing the values may be that the youth is ordered by the court to be in the Restitution Program. It is against his will that he participates. In the attitude survey given to the youth (see Page 32.), 94.1 percent said they felt good

about having a job and yet nearly two-thirds (64.7%) said they would be "very happy" when the Restitution Program was over.

It was suggested in the Preliminary Evaluation that youth in the program be assigned Volunteer Probation Officers. The personal relationship fostered by the VPO might help the youth internalize more positive values over a longer period of time.

Seven of the 34 youth who were post tested were on probation during their stay in the program. Test results between the two groups indicate that although involvement with a probation officer would tend to increase a youth's feelings of personal worth, it would have no effect on the internalizing of positive social values as defined by the Social Standards Scale of the California Test of Personality. The slight increase in the number of youth showing a significant change in personal worth may not justify the time and effort required of a VPO. This is especially true if it would not have any appreciable effect on the internalizing of positive social values by the youth.

An additional problem area was discovered during the present evaluation. It concerns the reduction in the number of youth committed to juvenile institutions. The objective specifically requires a reduction in the number of commitments by 50 during the first project year, as compared to 1977. The 1977 figure of 283 commitments was reduced by four during 1979.

The project is not serving enough of the serious offenders who risk incarceration. In the first project year, 53 percent of the youth admitted to the program were first offenders. This was reduced to 40 percent during the second project year. Although there was a decrease in the percentage of first offenders admitted into the program during

the second project year, this percentage needs to be further reduced.

An explanation for the high percentage of first offenders in the program may be due to the fact that the original grant guidelines excluded youth who were involved in other court programs. The judges and referring workers were hesitant to refer the more serious offender to the project when they felt the youth needed additional support such as counseling. The modifications approved by LEAA in August, 1979 changed this guideline. This should have an impact on the number of commitments in 1980. Even so, the restitution staff should continue to familiarize the judges and other court personnel with the program's achievements.

The project has requested several modifications for the third year that should affect the problem areas. The first modification calls for a reduction in the number of youth served by the project from its present rate of 400 to 260 per year. A second modification allows for a decrease, from 50 to 25, in the objective regarding incarceration. Third year funding was received from LEAA in October, 1980. With these modifications, the Juvenile Restitution Project should be able to achieve its goals during the third project year.

Overall, the project has been successful in providing partial redress for victims and enhancing the image of the Juvenile Justice System. Nevertheless, several problem areas do exist. First of all, the project has not received the established number of referrals necessary to meet its goal. Secondly, the program may not be helping the youth to internalize positive social values. Thirdly, the project appears to have little or no impact on the number of youth incarcerated.

SUMMARY

• For the population admitted to the Juvenile Restitution Program from its inception in 1979 through the end of October, 1980:

- ✓ Two hundred and forty-seven victims received monetary compensation through the Restitution Program.
- ✓ The program has provided 41 victims with symbolic restitution.
- ✓ According to a survey, 100 percent of the victims responding felt the Restitution Program should continue.
- ✓ Nearly 88 percent of the program victims surveyed felt that they were adequately informed about the progress of their case while only 52.2 percent of the non-program victims surveyed agreed.
- ✓ Two-thirds (65.2%) of the non-program victims surveyed felt that the local court was more concerned with the offender's rights than with the victim's rights. Only 29.8 percent of the program victims agreed.
- ✓ Three-fourths (73.7%) of the program victims surveyed found the local court more fair and just than they previously thought as compared to 39.1% of the non-program victims.
- ✓ Over half (52.2%) of the non-program victims surveyed felt that they did not receive a fair deal in court while only 10.5 percent of the victims involved in the program agreed.
- ✓ Two hundred and seventy-six youth have been involved in the Restitution Program.
- ✓ Two hundred youth or 90.9% of those finishing the program have done so successfully.
- ✓ The average length of stay in the program was three months.
- ✓ The average age of the youth was 15.9 years.
- ✓ Almost ninety-four percent of the youth were male.

- ✓ Forty percent of the youth were first offenders.
- ✓ Nearly sixty percent of the youth were white while 40.7 percent were black.
- ✓ The most common offense was Burglary.
- ✓ Almost sixty percent of the youth were from families with an income of under \$10,000/year.
- ✓ The total amount of restitution ordered was \$50,517.
- ✓ The average amount of restitution ordered was \$204.
- ✓ Total restitution paid was \$33,629 and 1,555 hours of volunteer service.

APPENDIX A-1.

NON-PROGRAM VICTIM ATTITUDE SURVEY-RESULTS	True		False		No Response	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. I do not feel I got a fair deal in court.	12	52.2	9	39.1	2	8.7
2. I was adequately informed about the progress of my case.	12	52.2	11	47.8	0	-
3. The local court is more fair and just than I previously thought.	9	39.1	12	52.2	2	8.7
4. I feel as though I had some influence in the outcome of my case.	11	47.8	11	47.8	1	4.3
5. The local court is really more concerned with the offender's rights than with the victim's rights.	15	65.2	5	21.7	3	13.0

APPENDIX A-2.

VICTIM ATTITUDE SURVEY - RESULTS	True		False		No Response	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. I feel the Juvenile Restitution Program is too harsh on the youth.	0	-	56	98.2	1	1.8
2. I was adequately informed about the progress of my case.	50	87.7	7	12.3	0	-
3. The local court is more fair and just than I previously thought.	42	73.7	13	22.8	2	3.5
4. The youth should have a more harsh punishment than the Restitution Program.	16	28.1	39	68.4	2	3.5
5. When the court ordered the youth to pay, I did not think I would really get compensation for my losses.	35	61.4	21	36.8	1	1.8
6. The Juvenile Restitution Program should continue.	57	100.0	0	-	0	-
7. I feel as though I had some influence in the outcome of my case.	33	57.9	22	38.6	2	3.5
8. I do not feel I got a fair deal in court.	6	10.5	49	86.0	2	3.5
9. Making offenders pay restitution is probably a better treatment method than other court programs like Probation or Counseling.	54	94.7	2	3.5	1	1.8
10. The local court is really more concerned with the offender's rights than with the victim's rights.	17	29.8	35	61.4	5	8.8

APPENDIX A-3.

COMPARISON RESULTS VICTIM ATTITUDE SURVEYS	PERCENTAGE AGREEING TO STATEMENT	
	Program Victims	Non-Program Victims
1. I do not feel I got a fair deal in court.	10.5	52.2
2. I was adequately informed about the progress of my case.	87.7	52.2
3. The local court is more fair and just than I previously thought.	73.7	39.1
4. I feel as though I had some influence in the outcome of my case.	57.9	47.8
5. The local court is really more concerned with the offender's rights than with the victim's rights.	29.8	65.2

APPENDIX B-1.

YOUTH ATTITUDE SURVEY - RESULTS	True		False	
	No.	%	No.	%
1. I look forward to going to work each day.	59	86.8	9	13.2
2. I should be allowed to keep more money out of my paycheck.	38	55.9	30	44.1
3. It is only right I pay for the wrong I've done.	58	85.3	10	14.7
4. The Restitution Program is a waste of my time.	4	5.9	64	94.1
5. I've gotten off pretty easily for what I've done.	44	64.7	24	35.3
6. I feel good about having a job.	64	94.1	4	5.9
7. I'll be very happy when the Restitution Program is over.	44	64.7	24	35.3
8. The Restitution Program is a fair punishment for what I did.	62	91.2	6	8.8
9. I don't like the work site where I've been assigned.	12	17.6	56	82.4
10. I feel I owe my victim for what I did to him/her.	47	69.1	21	30.9

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