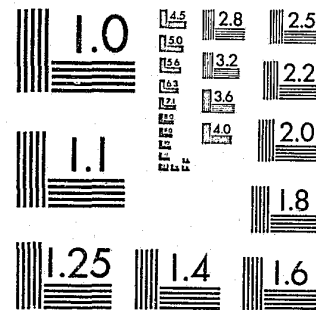


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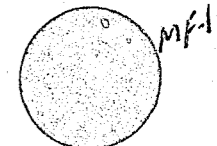
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OMB APPROVAL NO. 43-R0523

 <b>U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION		<b>CATEGORICAL GRANT</b> <b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>	
GRANTEE	LEAA GRANT NO.	DATE OF REPORT	REPORT NO.
County of Ventura	78-JS-AX-0100	February 16, 1982	13
IMPLEMENTING SUBGRANTEE	TYPE OF REPORT		
Corrections Services Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL REQUEST <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL REPORT		
SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT	GRANT AMOUNT		
Juvenile Restitution Project	\$859,181.00		
REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PERIOD October 1, 1981 THROUGH December 31, 1981			
SIGNATURE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR		TYPED NAME & TITLE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR	
<i>Philip Settle</i>		Philip Settle Manager - Corrections Facility	
COMMENCE REPORT HERE (Add continuation pages as required.)			
<p>This report will include information from the entire grant period October 1, 1978 thru December 31, 1981.</p> <p><u>MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES:</u></p> <p>A second preliminary report has been received from the Institute of Policy Analysis regarding restitution compliance and in-program reoffense rates. The report noted that restitution orders were remarkably similar between the control and experimental groups. However, the experimental group consistently out performed the control group in payment of restitution both in terms of actual dollars paid and the percentage of the original order paid. The in-program reoffense rates covered 2 years 3 months or 429 referrals. Restitution youth were less likely to reoffend during the period of supervision than youths ordered on probation. The report concluded that "placement into a restitution group results in a higher level of compliance with restitution orders and lower reoffense probability than comparable youths placed on probation." A copy of this report is attached for review.</p> <p>During the quarter ending December 31, 1981, there were a number of personnel changes. In November a Community Worker III (Nellie Godina) and an Intermediate Typist Clerk (Debbie Turner) were reassigned to other positions within the Corrections Services Agency. These positions were not refilled. The Project's Administrative Assistant, Cathy Carlson, resigned on December 4, 1981 for employment in the private sector. Efforts to replace her commenced immediately. During the interim, the existing Intermediate Typist Clerk (Elizabeth Bettis) was temporarily promoted to Senior Typist Clerk and an extra help clerk (Ruth Arnette) was appointed. Both of these appointments occurred during December 1981.</p>			
NOTE: No further monies or other benefits may be paid out under this program unless this report is completed and filed as required by existing law and regulations (FMC 74-71 Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1976).			
RECEIVED BY GRANTEE STATE PLANNING AGENCY (Official):			DATE:

57950

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National Institute of Justice

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SERVICE DELIVERY:

During the quarter ending December 31, 1981, there was an increase in the number of cases entering the Project from the previous quarter. The field component received 64 cases or 4 more than the projected 60 cases. The Deputy Probation Officers in the field component had caseloads averaging approximately 70 cases each during this period. The Work Release Center received 33 cases - essentially as projected. There were 68 job referrals. Victim contacts increased substantially from 187 the previous quarter to 279.

During the entire 3 year project the revised projections for the field component were 635 cases. The actual number that entered the project was 673. The Work Release Center was projected to receive 275 but 254 cases were actually received. This shortfall may be attributed to the intense evaluation aspect of the project which insured that very strict criteria was followed in screening potential cases. Total job referrals were projected at 515, however, the actual number was 579. Victim contacts were projected at 2700 and the actual number was 2945.

Restitution collected during the quarter ending December 31, 1981 totaled \$10,727 (October \$4,612, November \$3,090 & December \$3,025). This amount is a decrease from the previous quarter due in part to a previously reported seasonal decrease in new cases. Total restitution collected as of December 31, 1981: \$111,645. A review of uncollectable restitution accounts was completed during this quarter. The period reviewed was from February 1, 1979 to June 30, 1981. Total restitution ordered was \$102,172 of which \$84,350 was collected. The amount uncollectable was determined to be \$17,822. These figures indicate 82.6% compliance rate for the Project. This compares very favorably to the calendar year 1977 when \$11,768 was ordered and \$4,463 was collected or 37.9%.

Juveniles in the Project completed 3,374 hours of community service work during the quarter ending December 31, 1981. Project total for community service work is 19,074 hours.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES:

There were 4 presentations in the community regarding the Project. The projected number for the entire Project was 37 but the actual number was 47. The majority of these presentations were to local service groups involved in government.

SUMMARY:

The public is becoming more aware of the substantial costs involved in operating the Criminal Justice System. This awareness has resulted in

greater demand for more effective offender programs. Further, there is an increasing expectation that offenders be made more accountable to their victims as part of any disposition.

The restitution approach to corrections appears to have been validated by Ventura County's Juvenile Restitution Project. Preliminary reports from the Institute of Policy Analysis indicate the merit of having restitution to victims as a primary emphasis of probation supervision. In addition, that orders for restitution coupled with a short term non-secure placement are generally more effective than other traditional dispositions.

Ventura County has funded the Juvenile Restitution Project for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1982. The success of the Project indicates that funding for a program which emphasizes restitution should continue even in the current period of limited fiscal resources.

CLIENT SUMMARY

Grant # 8-1886-9-CA-JJ

PROJECT: JUVENILE RESTITUTION PROJECT

Start Date: 10-1-78 Third Grant Year

PROJECTED AND ACTUAL NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED

	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		Fifth Quarter		Sixth Quarter		Seventh Quarter		Eighth Quarter	
	Proj.	Act.	Proj.	Act.	Proj.	Act.	Proj.	Act.	Proj.	Act.	Proj.	Act.	Proj.	Act.	Proj.	Act.
Juveniles Entering Field Suprv. Comp.	60	44	60	53	60	90	60	59	60	64						
Juveniles Entering W.R.C.	32	24	32	34	32	34	32	25	32	33						
Job Referrals	50	58	50	61	50	42	50	45	50	68						
Victim Contacts	250	286	250	271	250	196	250	187	250	279						
Community Presentations	3	3	3	4	3	6	3	7	3	4						

Total cases supervised at end of third year: 635 Actual 673

Total placement at Work Release Center at end of third year: 275 Actual 254

Total victim contacts at end of third year: 2700 Actual 2945

RESTITUTION COMPLIANCE AND IN-PROGRAM REOFFENSE RATES:  
A COMPARISON OF EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL  
GROUP PERFORMANCE IN VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Michael J. Wilson  
Evaluation Coordinator

This report is presently under review and does not  
constitute an official IPA research report.

INTRODUCTION

This report constitutes the second in a series of preliminary comparisons of experimental and control group performance in Ventura County, California.<sup>1</sup> Two topics bearing upon the effectiveness of the federally funded Juvenile Restitution Project will be examined. These are: 1) the relative compliance of experimental and control groups vis a vis restitution orders; and 2) the in-program reoffense rates for the larger experimental and control groups.

One of the major goals of the federal initiative was to encourage the ordering of restitution as an alternative to more traditional dispositions. (See Restitution by Juvenile Offenders: An Alternative to Incarceration, 1978.) The Ventura County judiciary, however, often ordered restitution prior to the establishment of the federally funded restitution project and such orders have continued to be a common feature of dispositions for both experimental and control groups throughout the period of data collection. Therefore, a comparison of groups will not reveal differences in restitution versus nonrestitution programs. Rather, such a comparison will indirectly (and in a preliminary manner) address the effectiveness of differing administrative structures in promoting compliance with restitution orders.

The second issue bearing upon the evaluation of the initiative and program performance discussed in this report is whether youths ordered into the restitution project (rather than more traditional administrative structures) reoffend at an unacceptably high rate. Besides providing a vehicle

for victim compensation, a primary purpose of restitution programs is to increase the juvenile offender's sense of accountability for delinquent acts. (See Remington, et. al., 1979:48.) It is hypothesized that a restitution project, by stressing tangible culpability, will increase a youth's sense of responsibility for his or her actions and thereby decrease the likelihood of future delinquent behavior.<sup>2</sup> The examination of in-program reoffense rates for experimental and control youths will provide provisional evidence as to the accuracy of this hypothesis.

It should be emphasized that the present analyses of compliance and recidivism do not constitute sufficient grounds for assessing overall program impact and performance. Rather, these comparisons constitute two of several measures which should each be analyzed on their own merits.<sup>3</sup> Because of this the present report must be considered as an indicator of impact -- not complete and compelling evidence. While no effort is made to argue that compliance and in-program reoffense information should supplant more textured and detailed studies, such comparisons do provide useful information. For example, the evidence presented in this report suggests that the Juvenile Restitution Project (JRP) is more successful in promoting restitution order compliance than Probation. In addition, both the expected reoffense rates and critical at-risk periods for each of these groups are identified on the basis of empirical distributions.

#### DATA AND INDICATORS

Ventura County's Juvenile Restitution Program (JRP) began accepting referrals in January of 1979 while the Work Release Center (WRC) did not receive its first referral until September, 1979. This report covers referrals in both experimental groups (JRP, WRC) as well as their respective control groups (Probation and Incarceration) from the start-up dates through March of 1981 when random assignment ended.<sup>4</sup> The data used are taken from Management Information System (MIS) forms completed on each randomly assigned youth both at the time of referral and upon their release from supervision for the referral offense. Information on the restitution order is obtained from the Intake form and compliance and in-program reoffense data is taken from the Closure form.

The findings section reports on compliance and reoffenses in that order. Compliance as a topic notes the types and amounts of restitution ordered each group as well as their subsequent compliance. This information is reported in tabular form and generally consists of the frequency and percentage of youths in a particular category or a measure of central tendency for each group. While the tables are relatively straightforward, a few words regarding their construction and interpretation are in order.

This report tracks 581 youths referred during the experiment. However, none of the tables presented reflect information on all of the cases. There are three reasons which, either singly or in combination, account for this fact. Some cases were missing MIS information necessary for assignment.

For example, 9.1% of the Intake forms lacked an accounting of the type of restitution ordered (Table I). Secondly, some cases are not applicable to a particular table. This circumstance is illustrated by Table II where average monetary restitution orders are displayed. In actuality, only 455 of the 581 youths were given monetary orders. An adjusted missing case percentage for this table would then be 2% ( $1-445/455 \times 100$ ). Finally, Tables V, VI and VII utilize information contained on Closure forms. Not all youths referred during the experiment had been terminated from supervision by the end of data collection and therefore those cases are considered missing.

The size of the groups themselves and the dispersion about the measures of central tendency reported pose problems for interpretation in some cases. The fact that the WRC began receiving referrals after the JRP combined with its relatively lower referral rate contributes to the small size of this experimental (and its control) group. Inference from such small groups is risky due to the instability of estimates. A related concern is the dispersion about central tendency estimates for all groups. The dispersion (in terms of standard deviation units) is reported for all such measures in order to temper possible conclusions that a \$22 difference in the average JRP and Probation order is significant. In fact, such a conclusion is unwarranted given the instability of these estimates. In actuality, the orders ranged from \$3 to \$3,084; \$8 to \$2,883 with modal orders of \$100 and \$50 for the JRP and probation groups respectively.<sup>5</sup> In general, JRP and Probation group figures should be interpreted in light of the stability of estimates and substantive significance while the WRC/Incarceration figures should be viewed as impressionistic owing to the combination of dispersion plus small group size.

The section on in-program recidivism uses three measures of reoffense rates. The first is a total group reoffense percentage. For the computation of this measure the total number of youths reoffending in each group is divided by the total number of closed cases in that group and then scaled by 100. The resulting percentages (Table VIII) provide easily interpreted reoffense information for each group.

While potentially useful, this measure should be only used with caution. Two factors contribute to this necessary caveat. First, all cases have not closed in either group. To the degree that unclosed cases ultimately reoffend at a rate differing from presently closed cases, this measure is in error. The existence or extent of such an error margin cannot be determined at this time. The second problem with this measure is that it does not take "at risk" time into consideration. Reoffense rates calculated in this manner can generally be expected to increase from one month to the next as a function of the cumulative person-days at risk. For these reasons the total group reoffense percentages should only be interpreted in the context of more finely textured indicators.

The other two measures of reoffense rates presented in this report are indicators taken from the methodology of "survival cohort," analysis.<sup>6</sup> Each has the characteristic of expressing the rate of reoffense as a function of risk time. Tables IX and X display these measures while Tables XI through XIV provide the data needed for their computation. The first measure, the probability of reoffending during each month of program participation ( $P_m$ ) is shown in the fourth column. It is calculated by dividing the number of offenses committed by the number of youths at risk during each time lag.

$$P_m = \frac{K_m}{N_m} \quad \text{Where: } P_m = \text{Probability of reoffending during the time unit } \underline{m} \text{ (such as month one or six)}$$

$K_m$  = Number of offenses committed during the time period  $\underline{m}$

$N_m$  = Number of youths at risk during the time period  $\underline{m}$

The third indicator used is the cumulative proportion of juveniles reoffending at any particular time lag ( $P_t$ ). This measure shows the total proportion of juveniles who have reoffended at any particular time lag. It also represents the probability of reoffending for any particular youth if his or her case remains open for that period of time. This estimated probability is calculated as follows:

$$P_t = \sum_i^m P_{mi} \quad \text{Where: } P_t = \text{The estimated probability of reoffending if at risk for 0 to } t \text{ amounts of time (such as one month, two months, twelve months, etc.)}$$

$P_{mi}$  = The estimated probability of reoffending in one month, two months, twelve months, etc.

## FINDINGS

### Compliance

As noted in the introduction, restitution has been a continuous feature of both experimental and control group dispositions in Ventura County. Table I provides a baseline for assessing the performance of these groups. With some minor exceptions, the most salient feature is the remarkable similarity in the types of restitution ordered youths in comparable experimental and control groups. Even when all groups are considered simultaneously, the similarity remains. Monetary only restitution is the most common order and when combined with monetary and community service restitution (MCS) between 3/4 and 9/10 of the orders are accounted for. Interestingly, victim service either as a sole sanction or combined with other dispositional requirements is the least frequent order. However, this ordering of victim service in approximately 1% of the cases is in line with the national trend observed by IPA. (See Schneider, et. al., 1980.)

Differences between groups do exist nonetheless. For example, youths in the Probation group are more likely to receive community service only orders and less likely to receive monetary only or MCS orders than JRP youths. Additionally, Incarceration youths are proportionately ordered more monetary and less combined MCS orders than WRC youths. Even in light of these differences, though, the overall impression is one of broad similarity across groups.



TABLE I  
TYPE OF RESTITUTION ORDERED

	EVALUATION GROUP				ROW TOTAL
	JRP	WRC	PROBATION	INCARCERATION	
\$ only	132 45.8% **	38 50.7%	52 39.4%	22 66.7%	244 46.2%
CS only	26 9.0%	3 4.0%	23 17.4%	1 3.0%	53 10.0%
VS only	1 0.3%	0 0.0%	1 0.8%	0 0.0%	2 0.4%
\$ & CS	121 42.0%	31 41.3%	48 36.4%	8 24.2%	208 39.4%
\$ and VS	0 0.0%	1 1.3%	0 0.0%	1 3.0%	2 0.4%
\$, CS and VS	1 0.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.2%
Court Costs	7 2.4%	2 2.7%	8 6.1%	1 3.0%	18 3.4%
COLUMN TOTAL	288 54.5%	75 14.2%	132 25.0%	33 6.3%	528 100.0%

Missing Cases = 53 or 9.1% (581 valid cases)

\* \$ = monetary restitution  
 CS = community service restitution  
 VS = victim service restitution

\*\* Percentage entries are column percents with the exception of the COLUMN TOTAL row which reports row percentages - TABLE VII is formatted in the same manner

\* TYPE OF RESTITUTION

Clearly, comparisons between groups cannot be of the dimension restitution versus nonrestitution. Before proceeding to an investigation of compliance, however, it must be determined whether significant differences exist in the magnitude of orders given to the groups. Tables II, III and IV provide information as to the average size of monetary and community service orders and the relation between victim loss and monetary order. These tables again display a relative equality between groups but some patterned impressions do begin to emerge. It could be noted that the JRP group received a higher average monetary and lower average community service order than the Probation group. From this one might be tempted to infer this is a reflection of the greater percentage of probation community service only orders but such inference would be ill advised. An examination of the dispersion about these averages is too great to admit the differences as statistically significant. In fact, the standard deviations about all the estimates reported in these tables are large enough to make the reported differences statistically insignificant.

Even with this necessary caveat in mind, certain impressions do emerge from an examination of these tables. Perhaps most clearly, it seems that the WRC/Incarceration grouping receives more severe sanctions than the JRP/Probation grouping. Such a pattern has face validity as these youths are generally convicted of more serious offenses and have a greater number of priors. The exception to this pattern is the incarceration group ratio in Table IV. In fact, the behavior of this group across all tables is one of fluctuation and instability. It is suspected that the small size of this group and the existence of a large proportion of crossovers contributes to these anomalous findings.<sup>7</sup>

TABLE II  
MONETARY RESTITUTION ORDERED

Evaluation Group	Average Order	Standard Deviation	N
JRP	\$261	392	252
WRC	\$293	335	69
Probation	\$239	350	97
Incarceration	\$372	612	28
TOTAL	\$268	393	446

Missing Cases = 135 or 23.2% (581 valid cases)

TABLE III  
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS ORDERED

Evaluation Group	Average Order	Standard Deviation	N
JRP	62	26	147
WRC	98	14	34
Probation	64	27	71
Incarceration	82	19	9
TOTAL	68	27	26

Missing Cases = 320 or 55.1% (581 valid cases)

TABLE IV  
RATIO OF MONETARY RESTITUTION ORDERED TO VICTIM LOSS

Evaluation Group	Ratio	Standard Deviation	N
JRP	.52	.41	222
WRC	.69	1.38	42
Probation	.45	.58	83
Incarceration	.39	.43	17
TOTAL	.52	.64	364

Missing cases = 111 or 23.4% (475 valid cases)

To this point a remarkable similarity has been found to exist between comparable groups. The WRC/Incarceration grouping appears to receive greater sanctions as might be expected, but this inference is clouded by the erratic behavior of the Incarceration group. Attention must now turn to the payment of restitution and compliance with the original order. Tables V, VI and VII address these issues.

Table V is difficult to interpret as in all cases the standard deviation is larger than the estimated average. However, when this table's figures are viewed in light of Table VI certain results begin to make sense (from this point forward discussion of the Incarceration group will be discontinued due to the number of cases involved and the confounding introduced by cross-overs). Referring back to Table III, it can be noted that the probation group is ordered about \$20 less on the average, pays about \$50 less on the average and paid 26% less of their order than the JRP group. A related configuration of circumstances exists in the comparison of JRP and WRC groups. The JRP group is ordered about \$30 less, pays nearly \$30 more and completes 5% more of their orders than the WRC group.

All of the inferential cautions mentioned earlier must remain in force but what is being perceived are patterns containing substantive, if not statistical, significance. It is appearing that the groups begin at disposition with relatively similar orders, but during the course of supervision they begin to distinguish themselves in restitution compliance. The JRP as a group tends toward a higher percentage payment than the Probation group. When Table VII is consulted this impression is reinforced. Compliance (either with the original or adjusted order) was 77.8% for the JRP as opposed to 58.2% for probation. A possible explanation for this tentative result might reside in the administrative structure of the respective groups. The JRP was established for an explicit purpose -- the facilitation and administration of juvenile restitution - while historically this form of monitoring has not been the case in probation departments.

When viewing the two restitution groups, a similar form of reflective pattern recognition and theorizing is possible. While the WRC group is ordered larger restitution amounts, less is paid as a percentage of the original order. This observation is given depth when Table VII enters the picture. WRC youths are less likely to comply with the original order and more likely to noncomply than JRP youths. An important facet of this observation, however, is that WRC youths are more likely than those in any other group to comply with adjusted orders. Considering total and partial compliance (with the original order) 63.1% of the WRC group meaningfully attempts restitution versus the higher figures for JRP and those lower for Probation. Again, it is reasonable to recall the greater number of average priors per youth and more serious offense for an explanation of JRP/WRC differences and administrative structure when considering WRC/Probation differences. While statistical significance at this level of analysis cannot validate all the inferential steps, referral to the restitution project (either JRP or WRC) appears to substantially increase the probability of compliance with the restitution order sanctioned at disposition.

TABLE V  
AMOUNT OF MONETARY RESTITUTION PAID

Evaluation Group	Average Amount	Standard Deviation	N
JRP	\$183	312	208
WRC	\$154	168	54
Probation	\$132	160	71
Incarceration	\$210	310	12
TOTAL	\$169	268	345

Missing cases = 128 or 27.1% (473 valid cases)

TABLE VI  
% OF ORIGINAL MONETARY ORDER THAT WAS PAID

Evaluation Group	% Paid	Standard Deviation	N
JRP	91%	35	210
WRC	86%	35	40
Probation	65%	45	77
Incarceration	84%	36	11
TOTAL	84%	39	338

Missing cases = 137 or 28.8% (475 valid cases)

TABLE VII  
RESTITUTION ORDER COMPLIANCE

	EVALUATION GROUP				ROW TOTAL
	JRP	WRC	PROBATION	INCARCERATION	
Full compliance with orig. order	164 65.1%	25 38.5%	46 58.2%	7 36.8%	242 58.3%
Compliance with adjusted order	32 12.7%	16 24.6%	0 0.0%	3 15.8%	51 12.3%
Noncompliance	56 22.2%	24 36.9%	33 41.8%	9 47.4%	122 29.4%
COLUMN TOTAL	252 60.7%	65 15.7%	79 19.0%	19 4.6%	415 100.0%

Missing cases = 58 or 14.0% (473 valid cases)

In-Program Reoffense Rates

Given the small number of youths referred to both the WRC and Incarceration groups, it was decided that for this report attention would be restricted to the JRP and Probation groups for in-program reoffense analysis.<sup>8</sup> As will be seen, even this attenuation leaves problems of outliers, which complicates inference. Also, to reiterate, the comparisons made here relate less to restitution versus nonrestitution programs as alternative administrative structures. While the previous analysis concentrated upon restitution compliance and this analysis will focus on in-program reoffense rates, two points must be kept in mind. First, the function of probation as supervision has not historically focused on restitution payment. Second, in-program reoffense analysis is no substitute for longer term recidivism studies. IPA is currently in the process of investigating each of these topics in greater detail.

Three basic indicators are used here to speak to the issue of whether the JRP has impacted upon the expected frequency of in-program reoffenses. Overall, it appears that youths referred to the JRP have a much lower reoffense record than those in the Probation group. In terms of total group reoffense percentage (Table VIII), JRP youth are approximately half as likely to reoffend (26.8% vs 50.5%) as Probation referrals. In the section on data and indicators it was noted that this measure should be cautiously used. At-risk time and unclosed cases were noted as possible confounding factors. However, when the monthly and cumulative reoffense rates are consulted (Tables IX and X) this finding of lower JRP rates is reinforced.

TABLE VIII

TOTAL GROUP REOFFENSE PERCENTAGES

	JRP	PROBATION
N*	297	132
Open Cases**	43	29
Nonrecidivists	186	52
Recidivists	68	52
Reoffense %	$100 \times \frac{68}{254} = 26.8\%$	$100 \times \frac{52}{103} = 50.5\%$

\*N = Total number of referrals from 1/79 through 3/81

\*\*Open Cases = For probation group number of referred cases still open as of 5/81 - For JRP group number of cases open as of 11/81

TABLE IX

JRP - MONTHLY REOFFENSE RATES AND  
CUMULATIVE PROBABILITY OF REOFFENDING

Months Beyond Referral (t)	Number of Cases at Risk in t	Number of Offenses Committed in t	Reoffense Rate for t ( $P_m$ )	Cumulative Probability of Reoffending ( $P_t$ )
0 - 1	297	9	3.03	3.03
1 - 2	263	12	4.56	7.59
2 - 3	240	12	5.00	12.59
3 - 4	209	6	2.87	15.46
4 - 5	176	6	3.41	18.87
5 - 6	150	7	4.67	23.54
6 - 7	125	7	5.60	29.14
7 - 8	104	6	5.77	34.91
8 - 9	94	1	1.06	35.97
9 - 10	74	1	1.35	37.32
10 - 11	55	1	1.82	39.14
11 - 12	40	0	0.00	39.14
12 - 13	33	0	0.00	39.14

TABLE X

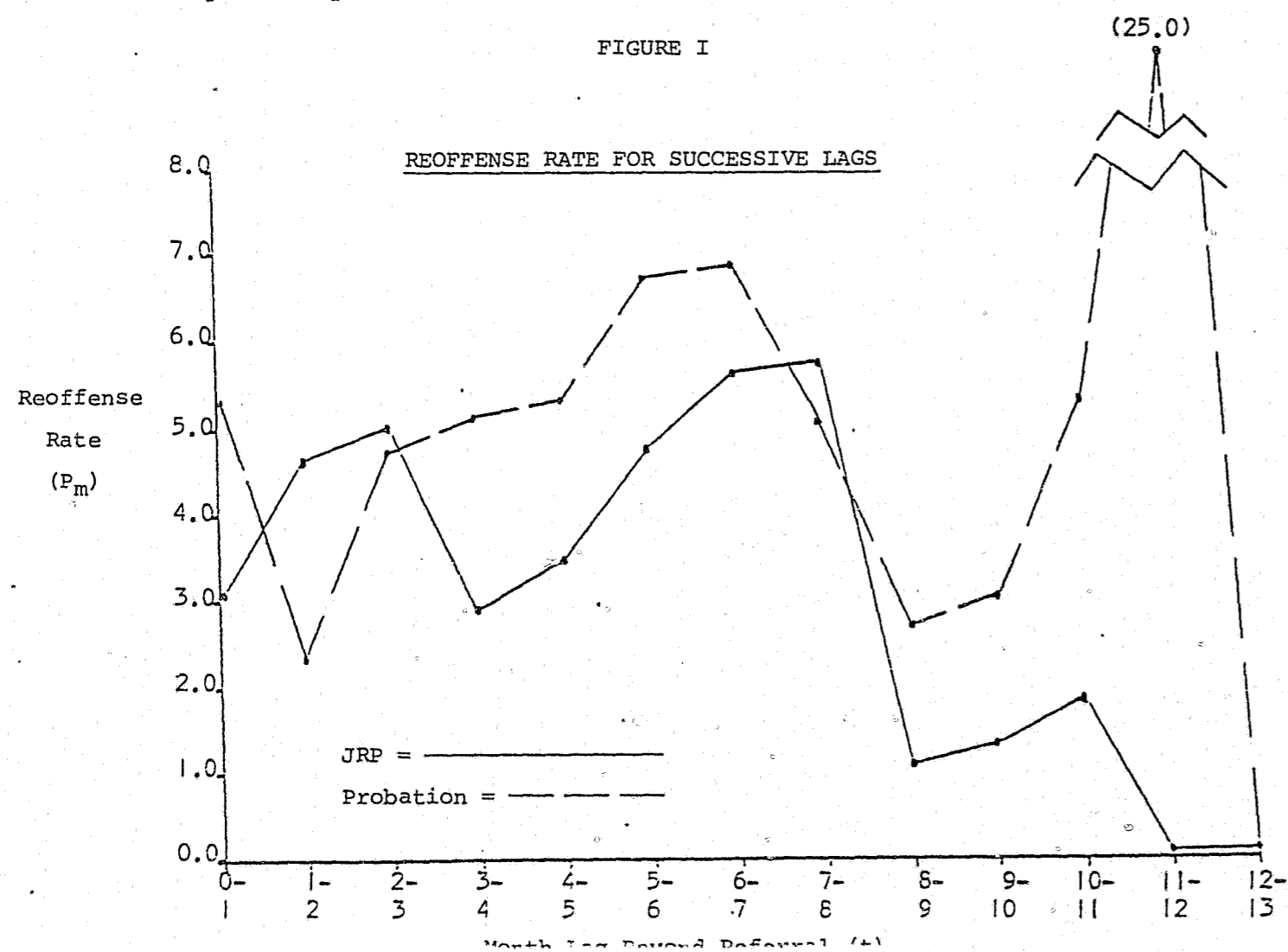
PROBATION - MONTHLY REOFFENSE RATES  
AND CUMULATIVE PROBABILITY OF REOFFENDING

Months Beyond Referral (t)	Number of Cases at Risk in t	Number of Offenses Committed in t	Reoffense Rate for t ( $P_m$ )	Cumulative Probability of Reoffending ( $P_t$ )
0 - 1	132	7	5.30	5.30
1 - 2	130	3	2.31	7.61
2 - 3	126	6	4.76	12.37
3 - 4	118	6	5.09	17.46
4 - 5	113	6	5.31	22.77
5 - 6	104	7	6.73	29.50
6 - 7	88	6	6.82	36.32
7 - 8	81	4	4.94	41.26
8 - 9	73	2	2.74	44.00
9 - 10	65	2	3.01	47.01
10 - 11	19	1	5.26	52.27
11 - 12	8	2	25.00*	77.27*
12 - 13	3	0	0.00	77.27

\* Given the small number of cases at risk in this period care should be exercised in the interpretation of both the reoffense rate and cumulative probability of reoffending.

It must be noted that the twelve-month comparison tables constructed (as well as Figure I) cannot be used for reasonable inference during or past the eleventh month. In this month we find 25% of the remaining Probation youths reoffending. As the total number involved is eight, the utility of this figure is questionable. Considering this 25% reoffense rate as an inflation due to small group size and therefore unusable, interpretation and comparisons is still possible up to the eleventh month.

The ten-month cumulative probability of reoffending is 39% for JRP versus 52% for Probation youth. Taking the total group reoffense and cumulative probability figures into account, the total impact of the JRP is to lower the probability of reoffense. While the total impact is clear, consideration of individual monthly reoffense rates reveals a somewhat more complicated picture.



The examination of monthly reoffense rates shows that the JRP group does not have rates lower than Probation at every lag. Figure I plots the monthly reoffense rates for both groups over all lags. Some differences do exist in the reoffense probabilities. JRP youths are only about 60% as likely as probation youths to reoffend in the first month of program participation. In the second and third months the ranking reverses and JRP youths exhibit higher reoffense rates. In the fourth through seventh months the JRP rates again are less than those for Probation.

Excepting the first three months, the two patterns of reoffense rates are roughly similar with the JRP values generally being lower. The reoffense rates rise to a peak (seventh month and eighth month for Probation and JRP respectively), decline sharply and then show an upturn. It seems for both groups that the six through eighth month constitutes a critical period of supervision. After this time the probability of youths still in the program reoffending declines.

When viewing the first three months each group has a distinctive pattern. The first month for the Probation group is very critical and has a reoffense rate only exceeded by the peak months in the middle of the year. After the first month the reoffense rate is more than halved then begins to rise again. The second and third months for JRP youths constitute the early critical time. In the fourth month the rate is nearly halved and then begins to rise much as for the Probation group.

The examination of monthly reoffense rates has strengthened and given detail to the earlier observation of overall reoffense difference. It can be seen that in only three months the JRP rate exceeds that of Probation. Two

of these months draw attention to the differing characteristics of early risk periods between the two groups. The third point where the JRP rate is greater demonstrates the later peaking of reoffense behavior for this group.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report has evaluated the evidence bearing upon restitution compliance and the empirical distributions of in-program reoffenses for experimental and control groups in Ventura County. The first conclusion reached in the section on compliance was that the groups are remarkably similar as to the types and magnitudes of restitution ordered. However, the groups begin to distinguish themselves when the payment of the order is considered. Several hindrances to unambiguous inference were noted (one of which necessitated the exclusion of the Incarceration group from the analysis), but the indications are that the experimental groups consistently outperform the control group in the payment of restitution. It was further seen that this outperformance was in terms of actual dollars paid and the percentage of the original order paid.

The examination of in-program reoffense rates covered two years three months or 429 referrals. The two indicators of total reoffense showed that restitution youths are less likely to reoffend during the period of supervision than youths under probation. When monthly reoffense rates are considered the picture becomes somewhat more detailed. Each group displays different reoffense dynamics in the first three months of supervision. For the Probation group the first month is the most critical whereas for the JRP group the second and third months are high reoffense probability periods. After this first quarter both groups have very similar reoffense dynamics with the JRP generally having a lower rate than Probation.<sup>9</sup>

The broad conclusion reached by this report is that placement into a restitution group results in a higher level of compliance with restitution orders and lower reoffense probability than comparable youths placed on probation.

TABLE XI

JRP - NUMBER OF CASES REMAINING  
 OPEN 0 TO 12 MONTHS BEYOND REFERRAL

MONTHS BEYOND REFERRAL	YEAR AND MONTH OF REFERRAL																								TOTAL CASES TRACKED			
	1979												1980													1981		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		1	2	3
0	11	9	13	14	11	15	5	13	11	13	23	11	17	16	9	16	10	15	11	5	11	7	5	4	11	2	9	297
1	8	9	12	13	10	14	4	13	10	13	22	10	13	15	6	16	6	14	8	4	9	6	3	4	11	2	8	263
2	8	9	12	12	10	12	4	13	10	9	19	9	13	15	5	15	4	11	7	3	8	6	3	3	10	2	8	240
3	7	9	12	12	7	11	4	13	6	7	18	5	12	12	5	12	4	10	6	3	8	3	3	2	8	2	8	209
4	7	8	12	12	7	10	4	5	4	6	13	5	9	10	3	11	4	8	5	3	6	3	3	2	6	2	8	176
5	5	8	10	10	7	9	4	4	4	5	10	5	8	8	3	7	3	6	5	3	5	2	2	1	6	2	8	150
6	5	8	9	9	4	6	3	3	3	5	7	5	2	6	3	5	3	6	5	3	5	2	1	1	6	2	8	125
7	4	6	7	6	3	3	3	3	2	3	7	4	2	4	1	4	3	6	5	3	5	2	1	1	6	2	8	104
8	3	6	6	5	1	3	3	2	2	3	6	4	2	4	1	4	2	6	5	2	5	1	1	1	6	2	8	94
9	3	5	6	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	1	2	2	6	5	2	4	1	1	1	6	2	74	
10	3	5	1	3	1	2	3	0	1	3	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	5	5	2	4	1	1	1	6	0	55	
11	2	2	1	2	0	2	3	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	5	2	4	1	1	1	0	0	40	
12	0	1	1	2	0	2	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	5	5	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	33	









FOOTNOTES

1. The random assignment procedure used in the Ventura County experiment yielded a total of four (two experimental, two control) groups. Prior to and as a condition of random assignment, a youth's cases was reviewed by the Probation Department's Investigation Unit. This review resulted in a recommendation for disposition based upon, but not restricted to, considerations such as the seriousness of the referral offense and the number of priors. Eligible recommendations were of two types: 1) home placement while on probation and 2) incarceration. Recommendations which made a case ineligible for the experiment included out-of-home placement in a medical facility and drug abuse counseling (no probation) among others. If a youth was recommended probation, random assignment was made into either the Juvenile Restitution Project (experimental) or Probation (control) group. Cases recommended for incarceration were randomly distributed into either the Work Release Center (experimental) or Incarceration (control) group.

Obviously, the viability of such a field experiment depended in large measure upon the cooperation of judges in following the random assignment recommendations at disposition. See footnote seven for a summary of the integrity of random assignment.

The previous report in this series (Wilson, 1981) dealt only with in-program reoffense rates.

2. See Schneider and Schneider (1978; 19-34) for a more comprehensive treatment of the issues involved.

3. This report only investigates two facets of the multi-purpose national restitution evaluation. Analysis of data from both experimental and non-experimental sites will provide comprehensive information on a wide range of issues. Schneider and Schneider (1979) specifically address the designs in force in the experimental sites and the research objectives.

4. While the respective experimental and control groups had the same referral periods, a difference exists as to the period of follow-up beyond the termination of random assignment. This is due to the fact that control Closure forms were filled out by on-site IPA personnel and experimental Closure forms were completed by restitution personnel. IPA was able to obtain information on experimental youths beyond the termination date of on-site IPA personnel, hence the longer follow-up period for these youths.

5. A discussion of the foundations of valid statistical inference is beyond the scope of this paper. The interested reader is directed to any good social science statistical text for an elaboration of the interrelationship between measures of central tendency, dispersion, and statistical inference. However, it must be noted that the conclusions drawn in this report rely more on substantive than statistical significance and validity. That is, rather than submitting the evidence wholly to decision rules based upon statistical validity, a greater emphasis is placed in finding results which meaningfully bear upon the substantive concerns of restitution practitioners. Such a focus underscores the preliminary nature of the analysis undertaken here.

6. See Berecochea, Himelson, and Miller (1972) and Schmidt and Witte (1979). For a discussion directly related to this report see Schneider, Schneider,

and Bazemore (1980).

7. Crossovers as used in this report refers to the case of a youth randomly assigned to one group but actually being placed (usually at disposition) in another. Such "crossing over" weakens and confounds inference as a case is analyzed here according to random assignment, not actual treatment received. The table below demonstrates that the Incarceration group had the greatest problem with crossovers. Only 57.5% of the cases in this group were correctly assigned. This fact combined with the group's small size leads to great complications.

ACTUAL TREATMENT

	JRP	WRC	PROB	INCAR	OTHER	ROW TOTAL
JRP	268	4	8	10	7	297
RANDOMLY	90.2%*	1.3%	2.7%	3.4%	2.3%	53.7%
WRC	13	61	0	6	3	83
ASSIGNED	15.7%	73.5%	0.0%	7.2%	3.6%	15.0%
PROB	0	1	125	4	3	133
TREATMENT	0.0%	0.8%	94.0%	3.0%	2.3%	24.1%
INCAR	1	5	10	23	1	40
	2.5%	12.5%	25.0%	57.5%	2.5%	7.2%
COLUMN TOTAL	282	71	143	43	14	553
	51.0%	12.8%	25.9%	7.8%	2.5%	100.0%

Missing cases = 28 or 4.8% (581 valid cases)

\* Percentage entries are row percents with the exception of the ROW TOTAL column which reports column percentages

8. A previous report (Wilson, 1981) lumped both experimental groups together as well as both control groups. For this reason the two reports are not directly comparable.

9. The product-moment correlation,  $r$ , between the experimental and control group reoffense rates for the fourth through tenth months is .77.

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**END**