



**National Center for Mental
Health and Juvenile Justice**

NCMHJJ

Annotated Bibliography

Diversion

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Books and journal articles listed herein are available from your local library or through inter-library loan. Unless otherwise noted, all other materials are available from the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice.

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Resource #: 010041 (Report: 47 pages)

Citation: American Bar Association **Justice by Gender: The Lack of Appropriate Prevention, Diversion and Treatment Alternatives for Girls in the Justice System.** American Bar Association, National Bar Association, 2001.

Abstract: This is a collaborative report from the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association which looks at the issues regarding the differences between the needs of female and male offenders. Over the last two decades, there has been an increase in the number of girls involved with the juvenile justice system, yet this system seems ill prepared to handle these cases. Efforts must be made to further understand the individual needs of girls in the justice system, to develop gender-specific community based services and alternatives for girls, to develop effective intervention strategies and to reduce recidivism.

Resource #: 015451 (Journal Article: 31 pages)

Citation: Austin, J., Krisberg, B. **Wider, Stronger, and Different Nets: The Dialectics of Criminal Justice Reform.** Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency: 165-196, 1981.

Abstract: Criminal justice reformers often speak of their concern with the widening net of the criminal justice system, but they demonstrate little understanding of this phenomenon. Despite considerable reform activity during the past two decades, the reach of the justice system has remained unchanged or even has been extended. This paper examines the dialectics of reform movements and their intended or unintended consequences in widening, strengthening, or creating different nets of social control (authors).

Resource #: 010584 (Journal Article: 14 pages)

Citation: Blomberg, T. **Diversion's Disparate Results and Unresolved Questions: An Integrative Evaluation Perspective.** Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency:24-38, January 1983.

Abstract: To date, the reported findings from various evaluations of diversion programs have been mixed and fragmented. Notably absent from the literature evaluating diversion programs have been broadly-based studies concerned simultaneously with the positive and negative outcome potential of diversion programs and the program operations producing these outcomes for particular youth groups. This paper assesses the literature evaluating diversion in order to identify an evaluation orientation capable of describing and differentiating the positive and negative outcomes produced by diversion programs for specific groups of youth.

Resource #: 015474 (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Citation: Blomberg, T. **Diversion and Accelerated Social Control.** The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology 68(2): 274-282, 1977.

Abstract: A primary argument underlying this paper is that it is possible to capture a particular theory or conceptual rationale in the development of a penal program strategy. Further, it is possible to implement the program in a way that corresponds to both the program strategy and theory and then to evaluate the program to determine the adequacy of both the program strategy and the theory upon which it is based. The history of U.S. penal reform does not illustrate this potential, however. Rather, U.S. penal reforms have been implemented without evaluation and have resulted in a pattern of unintended consequences, most notably increased social control and an associated undermining of democratic rights and individual freedoms, without any corresponding decline in crime. These trends and outcomes are documented in order to draw penal program and evaluation policy implications for the U.S. and their ever expanding penal complex and the Czech Republic in their ongoing efforts to implement a penal system consistent with their newly emerging democratic society (authors).

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Resource #: 010268 (Journal Article: 23 pages)

Citation: Broner, N., Franczak, M, Dye, C., McAllister, W. **Knowledge Transfer, Policymaking and Community Empowerment: A Consensus Model Approach for Providing Public Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.** *Psychiatric Quarterly*, 72(1):79-102, 2001.

Abstract: An important problem in creating new programs and policies is how to encourage the transfer of knowledge in non-hierarchical ways so that new, relevant and specific knowledge is co-created by all interested parties. In this paper, the authors suggest that a consensus model of policymaking is one response and identify four key structural elements thought necessary for creating such a consensus infrastructure. They examine these elements in action by describing a particular problem solving and consensus building model for developing and implementing a program, resolving group differences, and evaluating the group's process and products.

Resource #: 015463 (Journal Article: 12 pages)

Citation: Bullington, B., Sprowls, J., Katkin, D., Phillips, M. **A Critique of Diversionary Juvenile Justice.** *Crime & Delinquency* January Edition: 59-71, 1978.

Abstract: The authors contend that diversion of youth from the juvenile justice system may be seen as potentially dangerous and harmful, and they present several arguments against expansion of diversionary services (authors).

Resource #: 011510 (Bulletin: 15 pages)

Citation: Butts, J., Buck, J. **Teen Courts: A Focus on Research.** Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, October 2000.

Abstract: This bulletin includes a profile of teen court characteristics and implementation challenges, derived from a national survey of teen courts conducted in the project's first phase. Phase two will consist of a multisite evaluation.

Available from: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

Resource #: 010156 (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Citation: Callahan, C.M., Logalbo, A.P. **An Evaluation of Teen Court as a Juvenile Crime Diversion Program.** *Juvenile and Family Court Journal* 1-11, Spring 2001.

Abstract: Theories of procedural justice support the American legal system's search for a fair and effective means of diverting offenders from the juvenile court system. Teen Court programs, in which juvenile offenders are tried and sentenced by a jury of peers are one of the latest developments in attempts to positively influence offenders and direct them free of crime. The present research found that participation in Teen Court increased offenders' legal knowledge and enhanced their attitudes toward some authority figures (i.e., the judge) and themselves to a greater extent than non-offending juveniles. In addition, only 12.6 percent of juvenile offenders re-offended within five months of their initial Teen Court involvement. Improved attitudes toward authority and self were associated with a lower incidence of recidivism. Overall, these results contribute to the growing literature indicating that Teen Court can be an effective juvenile crime diversion program. This article also discusses methodological issues for future program evaluations.

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Resource #: 010923 (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Citation: Collingwood, T.R., Genthner, R.W. **Skills Training as Treatment for Juvenile Delinquents.** Professional Psychology 11(4): 591-598, 1980.

Abstract: Viewing skills deficits as parameters of juvenile offender dysfunctioning and skills training as a treatment modality represents a relatively new strategy for rehabilitation. Data from a police diversion project are presented, indicating that levels of certain physical, emotional, and intellectual skills are related to rearrest recidivism for juvenile offenders. The results of providing skills training as a treatment program for both the juvenile offenders and their parents are presented, and implications for rehabilitation strategies are discussed.

Resource #: 014168 (Unpublished Paper: 34 Pages)

Citation: Cuellar, A., McReynolds, L., Wasserman, G. **A Cure for Crime: Can Mental Health Treatment Diversion Reduce Crime Among Youth?** New York, NY: Center for the Promotion of Mental Health in Juvenile Justice, 2005.

Abstract: This paper considers the policy issues around youth mental health diversion programs. In addition, it evaluates the effect of a mental health diversion program for youth that was implemented in Texas. The paper finds that mental health diversion can be used effectively to delay or prevent youth recidivism (authors).

Resource #: 010267 (Journal Article: 7 pages)

Citation: Davidson, W., Redner, R., Blakely, C., Mitchell, C., Emshoff, J. **Diversion of Juvenile Offenders: An Experimental Comparison.** Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology (55)1:68-75, 1987.

Abstract: This study presents the results of a longitudinal experiment focused on the relative efficacy of varying treatments for juvenile offenders. The nature of these findings and their relation to the field of delinquency theory and treatment are discussed.

Resource #: 015470 (Journal Article: 9 pages)

Citation: Decker, S. **A Systemic Analysis of Diversion: Net Widening and Beyond.** Journal of Criminal Justice 13: 207-216, 1985.

Abstract: This analysis focuses on the operation of a juvenile diversion program in a large metropolitan area. In particular, the impact of the program on referrals made by the police to the juvenile court is examined. Consistent with most studies of diversion, a significant amount of net widening was found to occur following the introduction of the program. A time-series design using a four-year-preprogram and four-year-program period was employed to examine the trends in processing over time. Referrals for all categories of offenses rose significantly during the program years. The implications of these results are discussed in light of both police commitment to the goals of diversion and the legal safeguards in juvenile processing (author).

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Resource #: 015464 (Journal Article: 17 pages)

Citation: Dunford, F. **Police Diversion: An Illusion?** *Criminology* 15(3): 335-352, 1977.

Abstract: Diversion is defined on the basis of five restrictions that place important limitations on what should be considered "authentic" diversion. Each of the restrictions is reviewed in light of a number of current diversion programs known to the author. It is concluded that diversion as conceptualized by its proponents is not receiving a fair test and will be rejected on the basis of programs that have been operationalized in ways inconsistent with the original intent of its early advocates (authors).

Resource #: 013238 (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Citation: Falkenbach, D., Poythress, N., Heide, K. **Psychopathic Features in a Juvenile Diversion**

Population: Reliability and Predictive Validity of Two Self-Report Measures. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law* 21(6): 787-805, 2003.

Abstract: In this study, the reliability and predictive validity of two experimental self-report versions of two measures of psychopathic features in youth, the Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD) and a modified version of the Child Psychopathy Scale (CPD), were examined in a sample of arrested youth referred to a juvenile diversion program. Parents or legal guardians completed parent-rating versions of the same measures. Although further research is needed prior to the clinical use of these measures, these results signal the potential of such measures to inform clinical judgments regarding treatment compliance and risk with justice-involved youth. (authors)

Resource #: 011293 (Report: 21 pages)

Citation: Faruqee, M. **Rethinking Juvenile Detention in New York City.** New York, NY: Correctional Association of New York, March 2002.

Abstract: The decision to jail a young person is an extremely costly one - for the City of New York as well as for the individual youngsters. This report analyzes the factors leading to the increased use of juvenile detention in New York and presents recommendations to reduce the number of youth in secure detention, while simultaneously enhancing public safety and saving tax dollars. (authors)

Resource #: 012301 (Report: 19 pages)

Citation: Feldman, L., Kubrin, C. **Evaluation Findings: The Detention Diversion Advocacy Program - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** Washington, DC: Center for Excellence in Municipal Management, 2002.

Abstract: This report considers the assumption that community-based programs can reliably be shown to produce improved outcomes over more invasive efforts at less cost and in a more humane, less stigmatizing manner, while also reducing recidivism and disproportionate minority confinement. It determines the efficacy and potential of the Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) in Philadelphia to supervise pre-adjudicated juveniles in a community setting. First, the authors provide an historical overview of juvenile justice practices and trends in the city to provide context. Second, they present findings from a quantitative study of client demographics and program outcomes, and a qualitative study of the perceptions of participating DDAP and criminal justice officials.

Resource #: 015475 (Journal Article: 19 pages)

Citation: Frazier, C., Cochran, J. **Official Intervention, Diversion from the Juvenile Justice System, and Dynamics of Human Services Work: Effects of a Reform Goal Based on Labeling Theory.**

Crime & Delinquency 32(2): 157-176, 1986.

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between the degree of official intervention in the lives of juveniles charged with delinquent offenses and their diversion status. We draw upon official justice

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system data, data from a large diversion project that operated in eight counties, and data collected through field observations of the diversion program under study. Our findings show that the official intervention process is as intrusive for youth diverted out of the juvenile justice system for services as it is for those youth who are not diverted. Some part of the failure of one program on this reform goal may be explained by a general resistance to change among juvenile court officials, but it is clear from field observation data that the practices and professional ideologies of human services workers also contribute substantially to the failure (authors).

Resource #: 015476 (Book Chapter: 18 pages)

Citation: Gensheimer, L., Mayer, J., Gottschalk, R., Davidson, W. **Diverting Youth from the Juvenile Justice System: A Meta-Analysis of Intervention Efficacy.** In Apter & Goldstein, Youth Violence: Programs & Prospects, Elmsford, NY: Pergamon, 1986.

Abstract: This chapter will assess the efficacy of diversion practices with juvenile delinquents through a meta-analysis of the research literature. Prior to proceeding with the actual analysis, a brief discussion of the history of the juvenile justice system will be presented, focusing on events leading up to the diversion reform movement. Next, the concept of diversion will be clarified and the current status of diversion practices will be discussed. A rationale for the present literature review will be provided followed by a description of the meta-analysis methods used, based upon the works of Hunter, Schmidt, and Jackson (1982) and Glass, McGraw, and Smith (1981)/ Finally, results of the meta-analysis will be presented and implications for diversion interventions with juvenile offenders will be drawn (authors).

Resource #: 011496 (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Citation: Hassett-Walker, C. **Juvenile Conference Committees Issues in Assessing a Diversionary Court Program.** Journal of Criminal Justice 30:107-119, 2002.

Abstract: In 1988, the Journal of Criminal Justice published the results of David Twain's 1983-1984 process evaluation of Newark, NJ, Juvenile Conference Committees (JCCs) - a volunteer led, diversionary court program for youth misdemeanor offenders. The authors describe conspicuous inadequacies in the JCCs' process; in particular, the lack of follow-up with juveniles about future recidivist behavior. To date, there has never been a published systematic, statewide assessment of conference committees' impact on youth attitudes, behaviors, and norms. The essay proposes ways to measure JCC effectiveness in changing young people's illegal behavior.

Resource #: 013024 (Report: 5 pages)

Citation: Herman, M. **Juvenile Justice Trends in 2002: Teen Courts - A Juvenile Justice Diversion Program.** Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 2002.

Abstract: This report examines teen courts, also known as youth or peer courts, which are considered one of the fastest growing juvenile prevention and intervention programs in the country. They are gaining popularity as an alternative to juvenile justice and are considered a primary diversion option for young offenders in the juvenile justice system. Teen courts offer an adjudicatory venue in which nonviolent and first-time juvenile offenders are sentenced by their peers. (author)

Resource #: 014131 (Journal Article: 17 pages)

Citation: Hogan, M., Campbell, J. **Contrasting Juvenile and Program-Level Impacts on Diversion Service Provision.** Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice 3(1): 41-58. 2005.

Abstract: This study examined juvenile risk and program characteristics/relative impact on the number of services provided to juveniles who exited Colorado diversion programs in the 1998-1999 fiscal year.

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Multivariate hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) analysis indicated program characteristics were generally stronger predictors of service provision than juvenile risk factors. However, some risk factors interacted with program characteristics to significantly predict service provision. Further examination of interaction effects revealed suggestions for successfully implementing modern rehabilitation models as well as for future evaluations of correctional programs. In particular, juvenile community corrections programs should enhance the breadth and depth of data collected from program evaluation and state audit purposes if administrators plan to demonstrate program efficacy (authors).

Resource #: 015457 (Journal Article: 12 pages)

Citation: Lemert, E.M. **What Hath Been Wrought.** *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*: 34-46, 1981.

Abstract: The origins of diversion in juvenile justice are discussed, as are the meaning of and various rationales for diversion. Judicious nonintervention is clarified. The Diversion movement has to a large extent been preempted or coopted by law enforcement agencies, in part by police because of their dominant, narrowly conceived social control function. More particularly, diversion has offered police a solution to the dilemma posed by pressures for control and the decarceration of status offenders. Questions are raised about the future of diversion in the juvenile justice system, drawing on English and Scottish experiences (authors).

Resource #: 011571 (Book Chapter: 20 pages)

Citation: McCord, J. **Interventions: Punishment, Diversion, and Alternative Routes to Crime Prevention.** In Hess, A. and Weiner, I. (eds.), *Handbook of Forensic Psychology*, 1999.

Abstract: This review considers evidence about the effectiveness of punishment as a deterrent to crime. It then considers evidence about diversion as a deterrent. Finally, the review turns to evidence about effects of social manipulations and cognitive approaches. Preschool programs, educational and skills-training programs, and at least one post-incarceration program seem to offer promising strategies for diverting the path leading from early misbehavior to crime.

Resource #: 011568 (Book Chapter: 9 pages)

Citation: McCord, J., Widom, C., Crowell, N. **Diversion.** In McCord, J., Widom, C., and Crowell, N. (eds.), *Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Justice*, Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2001.

Abstract: This chapter excerpt includes a definition of the term "diversion," and discusses various alternatives to incarceration. It cites diversion studies and the outcomes of different interventions.

Resource #: 015721 (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Citation: McNiel, D., Binder, R. **Effectiveness of a Mental Health Court in Reducing Criminal Recidivism and Violence.** *American Journal of Psychiatry* 164(9): 1395-1403, 2007.

Abstract: In response to the large-scale involvement of people with mental disorders in the criminal justice system, many communities have created specialized mental health courts in recent years. However, little research has been done to evaluate the criminal justice outcomes of such courts. This study evaluated whether a mental health court can reduce the risk of recidivism and violence by people with mental disorders who have been arrested. A retrospective observational design was used to compare the occurrence of new criminal charges for 170 people who entered a mental health court after arrest and 8,067 other adults with mental disorders who were booked into an urban county jail after arrest during the same interval. A matching strategy based on propensity scores was used to adjust analyses for nonrandom selection into mental health court. Propensity-weighted Cox regression analysis, controlling for other

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potential confounding variables (demographic characteristics, clinical variables, and criminal history), showed that participation in the mental health court program was associated with longer time without any new criminal charges or new charges for violent crimes. Successful completion of the mental health court program was associated with maintenance of reductions in recidivism and violence after graduates were no longer under supervision of the mental health court. The results indicate that a mental health court can reduce recidivism and violence by people with mental disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system (authors).

Resource #: 005835 (Manual: 131 pages)

Citation: McPhail, M.W., Wiest, B.M. **Combining Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Treatment With Diversion for Juveniles in the Justice System.** Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.

Abstract: This Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) spells out a strategy for diverting youth with substance abuse problems from further penetration into the juvenile justice system. Discussion on the following topics are included: Goals of Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment focused diversion programs; collaborating on a diversion program; planning juvenile diversion to AOD abuse treatment; and program implementation issues. AVAILABLE FROM: National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, (800) 729-6686.

Resource #: 003538 (Journal Article: 12 pages)

Citation: Miller, R.D. **Economic Factors Leading to Diversion of the Mentally Disordered from the Civil to the Criminal Commitment Systems.** International Journal of Law and Psychiatry 15: 1-12, 1992.

Abstract: A body of literature has emerged since the early 1970s concerning the criminalization of persons with serious mental illnesses. The term has evolved to have two principal meanings: (1) the application of criminal justice system procedures to persons facing involuntary civil commitment; and (2) programmatic funding shifts have led to an increased demand for hospital and treatment services within the criminal justice system. Because of these shifts, jails and prisons are now being forced to offer a wider range of services to their inmates with mental illnesses. In this article the author examines the effects of changes in funding streams on the location of persons with serious mental illnesses within the public system, using data from three states.

Resource #: 011406 (Journal Article: 5 pages)

Citation: Moak, S. **Statewide Recommendations for Improving Juvenile Justice: The Louisiana Experience.** Juvenile and Family Court Journal 53(1) :59-64, 2002.

Abstract: The results contained in this paper reflect a statewide process of bringing together practitioners and citizens from all aspects of the juvenile justice system in the State of Louisiana to identify issues and recommendations to improve the lives of Louisiana's children. The results of the process indicate that participants are more interested in prevention and early intervention than incarceration and control methods of overcoming delinquency. The four main areas of concern are: a fragmented juvenile justice system; education; family; and youth empowerment. These results were presented statewide to policy makers through conference presentations. The results of the Think Tank indicate that participants favor expanding services, better use of available resources, and focusing on prevention. Participants hope that the results of this event will serve as a catalyst for change in Louisiana.

Resource #: 015716 (Report: 100 Pages)

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Citation: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. **Diversion Project Matrix: A Report from Four Sites Examining the Court's Role in Diverting Families from Traditional Child Welfare Services into Community-based Programs.** Reno NV: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1998.

Abstract: This publication describes four such jurisdictions selected by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to examine the role of the courts in diverting families from traditional child welfare services into community-based programs (authors).

Available from: JJ Division Bookshelf

Resource #: 015459 (Journal Article: 17 pages)

Citation: Nejjelski, P. **Diversion: The Promise and the Danger** *Crime & Delinquency* 22(4): 393-410, 1976.

Abstract: Diversion is inherent in the juvenile justice and necessary to keep it from collapsing. It is defined as "the channeling of cases to noncourt institutions, in instances where these cases would ordinarily have received an adjudicatory (or fact-finding) hearing by a court." It should be distinguished from preventative efforts which contain no possibility that the juvenile's behavior would result in a court hearing. A good test of diversion, therefore, is whether the number of juvenile court adjudications is reduced as a result of a new program. Four diversion projects are described, and their common characteristics are noted-the use of paraprofessionals from the community, a reliance on crisis intervention, the central role of arbitrators and administrators rather than judges, the trend to avoid stigma, an concentration on status offenses and minor delinquency, and a lack of evaluation (authors).

Resource #: 015438 (Journal Article: 13 pages)

Citation: Osgood, D.W. **Offense History and Juvenile Diversion.** *Evaluation Review* 7(6): 793-806, 1983.

Abstract: For juvenile diversion programs to reach their goals of reducing labeling, social control, and costs, they must serve a population that is diverted from processing in the justice system. Some evaluations imply that these goals conflict with the goal of reducing recidivism because diversion programs are most effective with youths who have the least serious offense histories. The present study examines the issue using data for a broad range of outcomes from three programs that randomly assigned youths to treatment and control groups. Data analysis indicated no relationship between program effectiveness and the seriousness of clients' offense histories (authors).

Resource #: 015437 (Journal Article: 20 pages)

Citation: Palmer, T., Lewis, R. **A Differentiated Approach to Juvenile Diversion.** *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 17 (2): 209-229, 1980.

Abstract: This article reports on evaluations of several California diversion projects, conducted by means of quasi-experimental designs. The delinquent behavior of diversion clients was reduced relative to that of a matched comparison group. Modest financial savings resulted for justice system referrals. No single type of program voluntary or otherwise- and no single program setting were found to be optimal for all or even most youths deemed appropriate for diversion; however, a series of programs and settings are recommended for specific groups of youths. The recommendations are designed to strike a balance between five valid but often conflicting goals of diversion: avoidance of negative labeling, reduction of unnecessary social control, reduction of recidivism, provision of service, and reduction of justice system costs. Using this balanced-goals approach, the researchers also focus on the question of when intervention in a youth's career might be most desirable (authors).

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Resource #: 010262 (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Citation: Panzer, C. **Reducing Juvenile Recidivism Through Pre-Trial Diversion Programs: A Community's Involvement.** *Journal of Juvenile Law* (18):186-207, 1997.

Abstract: Pre-trial diversionary programs have been shown to be effective and potentially low cost alternatives to the traditional juvenile justice system in reducing juvenile recidivism. The ultimate goal of any juvenile justice system is to ensure that juvenile offenders become responsible, law-abiding adult citizens. The more immediate objective of the alternative programs is to remove as many juveniles as possible from the "revolving door" syndrome, thus reducing recidivism.

Resource #: 015440 (Journal Article: 19 pages)

Citation: Pogrebin, M., Poole, E., Regoli, R. **Constructing and Implementing a Model Juvenile Diversion Program.** *Youth & Society* 15(3): 305-324, 1984.

Abstract: Because traditional strategies for handling offenders have failed, there is increasing support for alternatives to system processing. One approach that has received widespread attention is diversion, which is the process of diverting youths away from formal or official contact with the juvenile justice system. Unfortunately, research on diversion suggests that it may be merely an extension of an ineffective system. The process of formally diverting young offenders from the court system has proliferated since the early 1970's. Further, diversion's popularity has often resulted in the implementation of programs that did not originate as formal efforts to divert juveniles but, rather, developed through ambiguities in the law or through discretionary practices of criminal justice officials. Criticisms of diversion programs are varied. In an attempt to address critics made about diversion programs, this article reports on a project designed to demonstrate that, given certain conditions, diversion may be a positive extension of the existing juvenile justice system (authors).

Resource #: 010266 (Journal Article: 19 pages)

Citation: Pogrebin, M., Poole, E., Regoli, R. **Constructing and Implementing a Model Juvenile Diversion Program.** *Youth and Society*, 15(1):305-324, 1984.

Abstract: Because traditional strategies for handling juvenile offenders have not been successful, there is increasing support for alternatives to system processing. One approach that has received widespread attention is diversion, which is the process of diverting youth away from formal or official contact with the juvenile justice system. This article reports on a project designed to demonstrate that, given certain conditions, diversion may be a positive extension of the existing juvenile justice system.

Resource #: 015466 (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Citation: Polk, K. **Juvenile Diversion: A Look at the Record.** *Crime & Delinquency* 30(4): 648-659, 1984.

Abstract: A recent article by Binder and Geis observed that the negative response to diversion on the part of sociologists is at variance with the actual record of juvenile diversion, and concluded that this response results from disciplinary narrowness, distrust of police, and over identification with the underdog. An alternative explanation is that sociologists are, in fact, responding precisely to the empirical record available regarding diversion. That record suggests that although some research reports positive effects of diversion, it is difficult to ignore the data which show that diversion programs may either have no effect or may possibly even be harmful. That record indicates, that diversion may not be achieving its stated goal of diverting offenders away from the juvenile justice system, but instead may be a device for expanding both the size of the juvenile justice system and the forms of behavior that come under its control. An argument can be made grounded in data which suggests that diversion programs may be taken

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on particular functions with respect to girls, and this may be leading to unanticipated forms of hidden sexism. In gathering data and in making these arguments, sociologists may not be engaged as much in some antidiversionist frenzy as they are expressing their concern for the drift of an important policy away from its intended course (authors).

Resource #: 014207 (Journal Article: 16 pages)

Citation: Potter, R., Kakar, S. **The Diversion Decision-Making Process From the Juvenile Court Practitioners' Perspective.** *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 18(1): 20-36, 2002.

Abstract: This research examined the reported effect of legal and nonlegal factors on those who actually make decisions about juvenile diversion. This research attempts to fill in gaps left by earlier research between how the process is supposed to work in legislation and previously observed differences with regard to the effect of legal and extralegal factors on recorded outcomes. It is suggested that process-related factors should be examined to strengthen the understanding of how diversion decision making is achieved. These results are particularly significant in a time of increasing calls for get-tough and zero-tolerance policies with regard to even minor juvenile infractions (authors).

Resource #: 015436 (Journal Article: 19 pages)

Citation: Quay, H., Love, C. **The Effect of a Juvenile Diversion Program on Rearrests.** *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 4(4): 377-396, 1977.

Abstract: Four hundred thirty-six participants, ages 12 to 16, in a pretrial intervention project were compared to an equivalent group of 132 cases who were treated by whatever other means were available to the juvenile justice system. The experimental group incurred significantly fewer rearrests over an average exposure period of 311 days. Differential results were obtained for subgroups of the experimental, and certain factors were also found to be predictive of outcome (authors).

Resource #: 010797 (Journal Article: 16 pages)

Citation: Rausch, S. **Court Processing Versus Diversion of Status Offenders: A Test of Deterrence and Labeling Theories.** *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*: 39-54, January 1983.

Abstract: Two theoretical perspectives, labeling and deterrence, lie at the heart of the current controversy regarding status offenders. These perspectives predict discrepant effects from juvenile court and community-based processing on subsequent behavior. Using data collected during an LEAA-funded evaluation of Connecticut's Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Project, this paper compares the effects of diversion programs with those of juvenile court processing on subsequent delinquency. The results indicate that it makes no difference, with respect to official recidivism, whether status offenders experience juvenile court processing or a diversion program. Thus, there is no support for one program over the other on the basis of either deterrent or negative labeling effects.

Resource #: 010793 (Journal Article: 18 pages)

Citation: Regoli, R., Wilderman, E., Progrebin, M. **Using an Alternative Evaluation Measure for Assessing Juvenile Diversion Programs.** *Children and Youth Services Review* 7: 21-38, 1985.

Abstract: This paper describes the effectiveness of six juvenile diversion programs in the metropolitan area of Denver, Colorado. Program success was measured by recidivism reduction. However, by using a one-for-one statistical client-baseline matching method and a variable definition of recidivism, we managed to overcome drawbacks that often occur when using recidivism as an outcome indicator. Together, program participants showed a 26% reduction in recidivism rate over that of a matched baseline sample. Although four of the six programs studied accounted for the overall success rate, we explain why

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two of the programs showed no significant reductions in recidivism rates.

Resource #: 015453 (Journal Article: 23 pages)

Citation: Rojek, D., Erickson, M. **Reforming the Juvenile Justice System: The Diversion of Status Offenders.** *Law & Society Review* 16(2): 241-264, 1981-82.

Abstract: Diversion has emerged as one of the most popular reform tactics in the juvenile justice system. An analysis of a two-year diversion program for status offenders revealed significant conceptual and operational ambiguity. The notion of a progression of a delinquent career from status to criminal offenses was not supported. The utilization of community-based programs in place of the juvenile court resulted in agency competition for clients and lengthy treatment programs for status offenders. Finally, the impact of specialized treatment for status offenders on behavioral and attitudinal measures was not significant. It was concluded that diversion programs developed exclusively for status offenders may be predicated on faulty assumptions (authors).

Resource #: 015439 (Journal Article: 23 pages)

Citation: Schneider, A.L. **Divesting Status Offenses from Juvenile Court Jurisdiction.** *Crime & Delinquency* 30(3): 347-370, 1984.

Abstract: Most states and locales that have sought to deinstitutionalize status offenders have restricted or prohibited secure confinement, but have permitted the juvenile court to maintain jurisdiction over status offenses. This article examines Washington state's experiences with a different deinstitutionalization strategy. The results indicate that divestiture is successful in eliminating coercive control over status offenses but that relabeling and discretion permits approximately half of the status offenders to be referred to court. In one area, the probability that a runaway would have delinquency charges filed and sanctions applied increased under the divestiture law. Delinquents who had a history of running away were given more severe sentences than were "pure" delinquents in both the pre-and post reform systems (authors).

Resource #: 011190 (Report: 10 pages)

Citation: Sell, R. **Final Evaluation Report on the PINS Adjustment Services Act of 1985.** Rochester, NY: Center for Governmental Research, Inc., January 1991.

Abstract: The results of this independent evaluation conclude that the 1985 New York State revisions to chapter 813 of the Family Court Act concerned with the comprehensive assessment and diversion from court of persons in need of supervision - the PINS Adjustment Services legislation - was successful in promoting system level changes in implementing counties which in turn accomplished the law's intended purpose in a cost-effective fashion. Specifically, the PINS legislation: lessened the burden on family court; more expeditiously connected PINS youth and their families with services likely to decrease the need for out-of-home placements; and provided overall savings to New York State taxpayers.

Resource #: 015452 (Journal Article: 21 Pages)

Citation: Severy, L.J., Whitaker, J.M. **Juvenile Diversion: An Experimental Analysis of Effectiveness.** *Evaluation Review* 6(6): 753-774, 1982.

Abstract: The desirability of combining tests of theory with evaluations of treatment modalities is argued in an investigation of the effectiveness of a juvenile diversion program. Using a true experimental design (with randomization), recidivism analyses dependent on court record data failed to demonstrate the relative superiority of any of three treatment approaches (authors).

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Resource #: 010106 (Journal Article: 14 pages)

Citation: Seyfrit, C., Reichel, P., Stutts, B. **Peer Juries as a Juvenile Justice Diversion Technique.** Youth and Society, 18(3): 302-316, March 1987.

Abstract: Peer juries are programs in which same-age peers make recommendations relating to the disposition of adjudicated youths who have volunteered to go before the jury. The peer jury chosen for examination in this article is in Columbia County, Georgia.

Available from: Sage Publications, Inc.

Resource #: 011573 (Bulletin: 15 pages)

Citation: Sheldon, R. **Detention Diversion Advocacy: an Evaluation.** Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1999.

Abstract: This bulletin offers an overview of diversion programs and evaluation findings from the Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (DDAP), a disposition case advocacy program operated in San Francisco, CA, and sponsored by the Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ).

Available from: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

Resource #: 012931 (Unpublished Paper: 22 pages)

Citation: Silverthorn, B. **Juvenile Assessment Centers.** Atlanta, GA: Southern Juvenile Defender Center.

Abstract: This paper traces the history of Juvenile Assessment Centers (JAC) and provides an overview of the services they provide to youth in contact with the juvenile justice system. Several models for legislation are included from Florida, Kansas, Minnesota and North Carolina. The JAC in Miami-Dade, FL is given an example of a model JAC.

Available from: Southern Juvenile Defender Center, Emory University School of Law, 1301 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30322, www.juveniledefender.org

Resource #: 010922 (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Citation: Sorensen, J.L. **Outcome Evaluation of a Referral System for Juvenile Offenders.** American Journal of Community Psychology 6(4): 381-388, 1978.

Abstract: Referral systems, among the most recent delinquency prevention programs, have not been evaluated on outcome measures. This paper describes the effectiveness of a referral system for young offenders. The subjects were 239 referred and nonreferred juveniles who were apprehended by the police. Program effectiveness was measured in two areas; diverting youths from court and preventing youths from having further police contact (preventing recidivism). Results indicated that the program served multiple offenders more frequently than it did first offenders, and first offenders who received the greatest amount of service had a higher incidence of recidivism than did low-service clients. Suggestions are made for more effective development and evaluation of referral systems.

Resource #: 010791 (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Citation: Sturges, J.E. **Westmoreland County Youth Commissions: A Diversionary Program Based on Balanced and Restorative Justice.** Juvenile and Family Court Journal: 1-10, Summer 2001.

Abstract: The Westmoreland County Youth Commission is a diversionary program based on Balanced and Restorative Justice. The purpose of the program is to reduce caseload and lower costs of the juvenile court as well as provide youths with a rehabilitation program with close supervision. This study was exploratory in nature to describe what has been happening with youths diverted to the Youth Commissions. Data was collected from the 19 Youth Commissions, and a total of 559 cases were reviewed. Outcome data reveals that young offenders were assessed individually, and sanctions were imposed to hold them accountable, cultivate competency, and have them become cognizant of their part

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in community protection/public safety. Overall, 91% of the Youths completed the program. Thus, this program appears to be a viable alternative to juvenile court processing.

Resource #: 015472 (Journal Article: 21 pages)

Citation: Ward, D., Tittle, C. **Deterrence or Labeling: The Effects of Informal Sanctions.** *An Interdisciplinary Journal* 14: 43-64, 1993.

Abstract: A Structural model incorporating the effects on subsequent deviance of reactions to previous deviance suggested by both the labeling and specific deterrence arguments, along with other logical effects necessary for correct specification, is formulated and estimated using data concerning peer reactions to classroom cheating. The results are consistent with the traditional labeling argument and contrary to the model of specific deterrence. However, the data suggest that subsequent deviance can also result from the direct effects of initial deviance and from the severity of others' reactions independently of labeling. At best, one can conclude only that labeling is one among a number of processes by which sanctions influence recidivism (authors).

Resource #: 011262 (Journal Article: 6 pages)

Citation: Whitaker, J., Severy, L., Morton, D. **A Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Diversion Program.** *Child Welfare* 63(2):175-181, 1984.

Abstract: The authors describe a community-based program to divert youth from the juvenile justice system. The program's special features are: data collection that permits evaluation and accountability, and liaison with justice personnel, service agencies, and the community.

Resource #: 010799 (Journal Article: 28 pages)

Citation: Whitaker, J.M., Severy, L.J. **Service Accountability and Recidivism for Diverted Youth: A Client- and Service-Comparison Analysis.** *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 11(1): 47-74, 1984.

Abstract: An empirical analysis of 1100 youth attempts to identify youth characteristics and service delivery program attributes associated with diversion success. Youth needs, type of agency, and percentage of proposed service cycle actually delivered all seem to have dramatic effects on the nature of the service experience by youth, and, in turn, are related to recidivism patterns.

Resource #: 010263 (Book Chapter: 19 pages)

Citation: Whitehead, J., Lab, S. **Diversion.** In Whitehead, J., Lab, S: *Juvenile Justice: An Introduction.* 267-286.

Abstract: This book chapter defines the term "diversion" and discusses the history and rationale behind it. Several examples of effective diversion programming and research are cited, as well as a wide range of issues associated with diversion.

Resource #: 010265 (Journal Article: 18 pages)

Citation: Zimring, F. **The Common Thread: Diversion in Juvenile Justice.** *California Law Review* 88:2477-2495, 2000.

Abstract: A central objective of those who created the juvenile court was to protect young delinquents from the destructive punishments of the criminal justice system. This promotion of juvenile court as a diversion from criminal justice is distinct from more ambitious programs of "child saving" interventions because avoiding harm can be achieved even if no effective crime prevention treatments are available. This essay shows diversion has been an important motive in juvenile justice from the beginning. The past

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thirty years have been the juvenile court's finest hour as a diversion project: the rate of juvenile incarceration has been stable, while incarceration of young adults has soared.