Victim-Offender Mediation

**Criteria for Inclusion of Evaluation Studies**

The objective was to determine the efficiency of the victim-offender mediation (VOM) in reducing recidivism. The methodology for conducting the evaluation involved getting information of possible victim offender mediation programs that have taken place. The methodology involved sampling offenders that had gone through the VOM process ranging from 18 years to 30 years. Altogether, six consistent VOM programs over the last 10 years were used and 2013 offenders participated in the evaluation. The quantitative part of the evaluation included the chosen sample being asked specific questions regarding VOM and the effect on them. Many of the questions were open ended which involved lengthy conversations.

**Search Strategies**

In order to locate the right studies regarding our evaluation, three search strategies were employed:

1. Searches of electronic bibliographic databases which included:

* About Victim Offender Mediation and Victim Offender Dialogue - VOMA
* Victim-offender mediation and recidivism
* Extended Victim Offender Mediation Manual
* Victim-Offender Mediation and Violent Crimes reduction
* Victim Offender Mediation Programs
* Participation in Victim-Offender Mediation Reduces Recidivism

2. Searches of literature reviews on the effects of victim offender mediation in relation to recidivism.

Two new reviews were identified and assessed were Umbreit, M. S. (1994) and **William et al. (1999).**

3. Searches of bibliographies of evaluation reports on effects of victim offender mediation on recidivism.

The databases that had been were used in the initial systematic review were not used and instead, two new electronic databases were searched**:** Google Scholar and EBSCO. The following terms were used to search the databases listed above: VOM, recidivism, lighting, victim, and offender. Where it was applicable, “effects of” was then added to each of these terms (e.g., effects of VOM) so as to narrow down the search parameters. These search strategies did not result in the collection of one new evaluation of VOM on recidivism that met the inclusion criteria. Those which did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded. The results reported are based on the evaluations included in the criteria.

**References**

Umbreit, M. S. (1994). Victim meets offender: The impact of restorative justice and mediation. Monsey, NY: Criminal Justice Press

Wright, M., and B. Galaway. (1989) Mediation and Criminal Justice. London, England: Sage Publications

William R. Nugent, M. S. (1999). Participation in Victim-Offender Mediation Reduces Recidivism