



Restorative Justice:

The term ‘restorative justice practices’ refers to facilitated group practices that emphasize shared understanding and repairing any harm experienced in connection with the actions of one or more individuals. Restorative justice practices may include community conferences, victim-offender dialogues, family group conferences, or restorative circles, and have been increasingly used in juvenile settings and school systems.

Some Examples of Success Nationwide:

- After the Longmont Community Justice Partnership (in Longmont, Colorado) implemented its **Community Restorative Justice Program**, recidivism rates among youth dropped to **less than 10%** in its first three years, **compared to a county-wide rate of over 50%**.¹
- Restorative Justice programs from the **Community Conferencing Center** in Baltimore, Maryland have resulted in a **60% reduction in recidivism** in young offenders compared to similar juvenile justice cases in the traditional juvenile justice system.²
- In Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, a Community Conferencing program showed a **drop in rearrest rates** among offenders with no prior conviction one year out, **from 27.6% to 8.8%**, when measured against a control group. Through the end of the next year, **the control group had reached 37.9%**, with the **Restorative Justice group remaining at 8.8%**.³
- West Philadelphia High School had been on the state’s “Persistently Dangerous Schools” list for six years. Within two years of implementing a Restorative Discipline program, incidents of assault and disorderly conduct at the school **dropped more than 65%**.⁴
- A Canadian study of a conferencing program in an Alberta First Nations community found that **for every dollar spent on restorative justice efforts**, the Canadian government would have spent somewhere **between \$2.46 and \$12.15**, and the Provincial government **would have spent \$3.75**. The report also suspects the stated savings to be “**significantly understated**”, since they do not take factors like reduced recidivism into account.⁵

¹ [http://www.lcjp.org/files/LCJP%202007-2009%20Report%20Final\(1\).pdf](http://www.lcjp.org/files/LCJP%202007-2009%20Report%20Final(1).pdf)

² <http://www.communityconferencing.org/index.php/impact/>

³ <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/04-6full.pdf>

⁴ fixschooldiscipline.org/toolkit/educators/goodnews/

⁵ <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcts/pblctns/cst-bnft-hllw-wtr/index-eng.aspx>