

Superior Court of the State of Washington for the County of King

King County Superior Court
Partnership for Youth Justice
www.kingcounty.gov/courts/juvenilecourt/Diversion
1401 E. Jefferson, Suite 506
Seattle, WA 98122

Matthew J. David
Area Manager
Matthew.David@KingCounty.gov
206-296-1136 (voice)
206-296-1493 (fax)

June 18, 2009

Ms. Caroline Kochman
Executive Director
National Association for Shoplifting Prevention
380 North Broadway, Suite 306
Jericho, NY 11753

Dear Ms. Kochman,

For the last 6 years, King County Superior Court's Partnership for Youth Justice (PYJ) diversion program has been working in conjunction with NASP to provide our juveniles caught shoplifting with the Youth Educational Shoplifting Program (Y.E.S. Program).

We have recently concluded a recidivism study to determine the level of effectiveness of the Y.E.S. Program in preventing future offenses. We are pleased to share with you that the study revealed an exceptionally low rate of recidivism for the offenders who completed this program.

This study, which was based on 1,040 juvenile shoplifting offenders who enrolled in the Y.E.S. Program between January 2004 and December 2007, identified that after completing the program **94.7% of juveniles were not re-arrested for shoplifting (5.3% recidivism rate).**

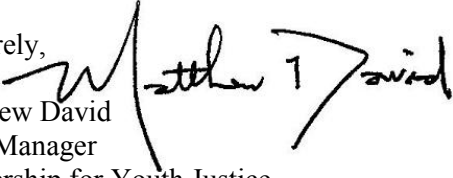
Further study of the data which also measured juveniles' subsequent involvement in other criminal activity identified that after successful completion of the program **92.6% of juveniles were not re-arrested for shoplifting or any other criminal offense (7.4% recidivism rate).**

This was one of the largest and most comprehensive studies we have conducted. A recent program evaluation conducted by an external consulting group determined that our program's overall recidivism rate was almost 30% over a 2 year time period. The fact that the recidivism rate for youth who complete the Y.E.S. program is a fraction of our program's average is impressive, especially considering that the follow-up period was twice as long.

PYJ values its partnership with NASP and the valuable service it provides to reduce shoplifting in King County. I have encouraged other jurisdictions to work with NASP and am happy to serve as a reference to any jurisdiction or organization considering implementing the Y.E.S. Program.

The results of this recidivism study confirm what we have long believed: NASP's Y.E.S. Program is an extraordinarily effective intervention for reducing shoplifting in our community as well as reducing criminal behavior in general. We look forward to continuing our joint success in effectively addressing juvenile shoplifting in King County.

Sincerely,


Matthew David
Area Manager
Partnership for Youth Justice
King County Superior Court

Juvenile Shoplifting Recidivism Study King County, WA

Introduction

In partnership with the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention (NASP), the King County Partnership for Youth Justice (PYJ) conducted a recidivism study of juveniles caught shoplifting across King County who participated in the Youth Educational Shoplifting Program (Y.E.S. Program).

The study reviewed 1,040 juveniles, all of whom completed the Y.E.S. Program between January 2004 and December 2007.

The study measured the juveniles' future involvement in shoplifting, as well as any subsequent involvement in other criminal activity.

- The juveniles studied included both first and repeat misdemeanor shoplifting offenders (up to \$250 of merchandise stolen) as well as those charged with a class C felony shoplifting offense (\$250 - \$1500 worth of merchandise stolen).
- The juveniles studied were between the ages of 11-18.
- The juveniles studied represented a diverse population from various socioeconomic classes.

Results

- Of the 1,040 juveniles studied, 985 (94.7%) were not rearrested for shoplifting.
Recidivism Rate of 5.3%.
- Of the 1,040 juveniles studied, 963 (92.6%) were not rearrested for shoplifting or any other criminal offense.
Recidivism Rate of 7.4%.

A recent program evaluation conducted by an external consulting group reported PYJ's overall program recidivism rate as almost 30% over a 2 year time period.

A specific comparison of the juvenile shoplifting offenders who completed the Y.E.S. Program to those who were given a different form of sanction was not possible due to limitations of the court's current computer system.

Conclusion

This study confirms earlier research findings that the approach and content within the Y.E.S. Program is highly effective in preventing future shoplifting offenses as well as other types of crimes committed by juveniles.

Earlier studies, which reveal similar or more favorable results have postulated that principles gained by juveniles who complete the Y.E.S. Program increase their realizations of reality and reduce their desire to continue shoplifting or committing other crimes.