

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

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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).**

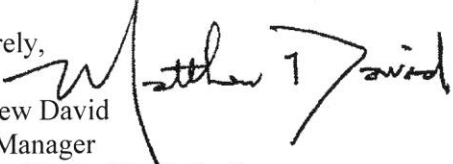
Further study of the data which also measured juveniles' subsequent involvement in other criminal activity identified that after successful completion of the program **92.6% of juveniles were not re-arrested for shoplifting or any other criminal offense (7.4% recidivism rate).**

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