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Ginger Ruddell
Portland State University

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Evaluating the Educational Impact of Ballot Measure 11 Workshops & Youths' Perceptions of Justice

Ginger Ruddell, Portland State University

Introduction

Oregon's Ballot Measure 11 (BM11), passed in 1994, allows Oregon prosecutors to potentially try juveniles aged 15 and older in adult court, which if convicted would yield an adult criminal conviction. An important question is to what degree are youth aware of this Oregon law, particularly youth in at risk high schools and communities with higher rates of violence and disadvantages.

Project Partners

Portland State University's Graduate Student Ginger Ruddell has partnered with Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) for this project. POIC is a non-profit educational management organization that was established in 1968 in North Portland, Oregon. POIC works alongside Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS), an alternative high school, and several other organizations to reconnect at risk youth effected by poverty, family instability, and homelessness.



The Workshop

POIC has created a workshop called *Measure 11 Pathway to Prevention*. This workshop is designed to educate youth about BM11, and focuses on what youth can do with their community to reform policies surrounding BM11. These workshops are important for youth to participate in, because the workshop intends to raise awareness and educate youth about BM11 and it serves as an educational platform to allow youth to prevent contact with the criminal justice system. Overall, these workshops are designed to empower youth to get involved and someday lead reform efforts, either in conjunction with other organizations, or together as youth.

Research Question

This project aims to answer the following research question regarding participation in these BM11 workshops:

For the youth who participate, what impact do these workshops have on juvenile justice education? Specifically, do these workshops change a youth's perception of justice?

Methodology

POIC has asked for a quantitative analysis in order to conduct a program evaluation of the effectiveness of their BM11 workshops. The sample for this analysis will be composed of survey data collected from these BM11 workshops. These surveys are collected from various high schools in Multnomah County, Oregon. After the surveys have been coded, a total will be collected for each question. The collected totals will be counted for both pre and post surveys, and an analysis using a t-test will be conducted for both pre and post questions to test for significance. This testing is key to my evaluation of POIC's programing, because if there is significance to the knowledge gained, we will know that these workshops impact youth's education and perceptions of justice.



Data

Survey Question Number Three:
What is the earliest age a person can be convicted of a Measure 11 crime?
Grant High School Portland, Oregon 2018

Survey Results	f	%
Pre Survey A (18)	23	8.8%
Pre Survey B (15)	72	27.8%
Pre Survey C (21)	155	60.0%
Pre Survey A (11)	9	3.4%
Total Survey's Answered (Pre)	259	
Post Survey A (18)	62	24.5%
Post Survey B (15)	122	48.2%
Post Survey C (21)	63	24.9%
Post Survey D (11)	6	2.4%
Total Survey's Answered (Post)	253	

*10 suveys were removed from this analysis due to being retured blank.

The correct answer to the question above is age 15. As indicated above, only 72 (27.8%) of youth knew the correct answer *before* participating in the workshops. However, *after* participating in these workshops 122 (48.2%) of youth answered correctly. It is noteworthy to notice that 155 (60.0%) of youth answered incorrectly before the workshop thinking that age was 21, but after participating in the workshops the number of students who supplied the correct answer went up 20.0%.

Preliminary Findings

The analysis shown above was repeated for all ten of the survey questions collected from the students in the workshops. Preliminary results showed a similar pattern with the findings of each survey question, which indicates that students are increasing their knowledge of Ballot Measure 11 from these workshops. This indicates that these workshops may be having an educational impact on students, and youth's perception of justice, may be challenged after participating in these workshops.

Contact

Ginger Ruddell, Graduate Student
Dept. of Criminology and Criminal Justice
ginger@pdx.edu

