

Gavazzi, Stephen M., Wasserman, Deborah, Partridge, Charles, and Sheridan, Sarah. (2000). The growing up FAST Diversion Program: An example of juvenile justice program development for outcome evaluation. Aggression and Violent Behavior, 5(2), 159-175.

Purpose:

- Demonstrates the use of a logic model.
- Identifies theoretical basis of a family-based diversion program.

Literature Review: Use of a logic model (Julian and United) which helped researchers in understanding development and implementation of the program entitled “Growing Up FAST: Families and Adolescents Surviving and Thriving Diversion Program.” Adolescent literature (Steinberg, 1996) and programming literature (Blumankrantz, Gavazzi, and Gavazzi) were used in this study to determine the two outcomes, which were intermediate and initial outcomes.

Methods:

- Sample: Families referred by Juvenile Court Intake Officers
- Variables: Intermediate Outcome and Initial Outcome
- Procedure:
  - Intermediate: the prevention-remediation continuum-finding ways to crack down on youth offenders, rehabilitative program-studied 443 offenders in rehabilitation facilities, and diversion programs. Find ways to reduce offenders having contact with court system. First looked at only individuals and then at a whole group of offenders, followed by the families of offenders.
  - Initial: risk factor/protection factor ratio-gathered from family members of offenders — a family definition with personal and family resources —family’s definition of successful adulthood, decision-making skills — researcher and offender meeting one on one and doing activities. An external resource map. Family is making sure they are meeting their definitions and following up to the action plan. If first goal is met, family has a choice of reaching another goal.

Results/Conclusion:

- “Without a logical model, the initial outcomes of most programs initial outcomes would appear inconsequential (Gavazzi, Wasserman, Partridge, and Sheridan, 2000).”
- With programs that help juveniles stray away from crimes and help them to reduce much contact with the court system, the crime rate will go down.
- Crime rates are gradually going down and will continue to go down with society’s help.