

LONGMONT COMMUNITY JUSTICE  
PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**The Effectiveness of the  
Community Restorative Justice  
Model in Longmont, CO**

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- LCJP is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that was founded in 1994 and has been collecting detailed individual-level criminal data since July, 2006. Over the roughly thirteen year timeframe between the initial date of recorded data and mid-October 2019, the program provided assistance to 2,428 individuals who had pending charges for Petty, Misdemeanor and Felony level offenses.
- The technical paper entitled “The Effectiveness of the Community Restorative Justice Model in Longmont, CO,” evaluates the short-term effectiveness of Longmont Community Justice Partnership (LCJP) by analyzing crime data from the city’s Division of Public Safety (LDPS). We quantitatively assess the impact of the program on recidivism in arrests and legal charges. We also identify the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics that might account for any potential effects LCJP might be generating.
- The 2,428 individuals who were serviced through LCJP since July 2006 were, on average, 18 years old and more than 62 percent of participants were male. Roughly 64 percent of this sample were Caucasian, 32 percent Hispanic, 2 percent were African American, 1.6 percent were Asian, while the remaining 1.4 percent reported their race as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Multiracial or Other. 89 percent of individuals that LCJP worked with identified English as their native language, while slightly under 5 percent identified their native language as Spanish.\*
- Amongst these individuals, 2.5 percent had an arrest record over the same time span following completion of the LCJP program. An additional 1 percent revisited LCJP as the consequence of a new offense. While this illuminates the impact of LCJP intervention on recidivism, to better understand the relationship, this paper looks at how some plausible explanatory variables might have influenced average arrest and charge count after program participation (defined as the mean number of arrests or charges per person).
- **Impact of LCJP participation on recidivism:** *An individual’s average arrest count dropped by 31 percent after LCJP intervention and their average charge count dropped by 39 percent, decreasing overall recidivism rates.*

Based on the sample of individuals and period of coverage, we find that the rates of recidivism in terms of adverse contact with law enforcement (in this

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\*For details on Longmont demographics, please see census data using this link: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/longmontcitycolorado/PST045219>

case, arrest and charge counts) declined as a result of LCJP intervention. In particular, while arrest count per program participant on average showed nearly a 31 percent decline, charge count per program participant on average dropped by roughly 39 percent.

- **Impact of contract completion and officer presence on subsequent number of arrests:** *When a participant did not fully complete their contract and an officer was absent from their restorative conference, they were 48 percent more likely to be rearrested in the future.*

Using a variety of estimates, we show that recidivism in the number of arrests was significantly lower when participants fully completed their contracts. The quantitative impact of full contract completion was strikingly large: it virtually eliminated the likelihood of arrest after LCJP intervention. As well, we find that, when officers were present during the restorative conferences, the impact of following through with contract completion on arrest count was even larger. Specifically, the number of arrests was around 48 percent more when an individual did not fully complete their contract and an officer was absent.

- **Impact of contract completion and officer presence on number of subsequent charges filed:** *Full contract completion and the presence of an officer at an individual's restorative conference had no meaningful impact on their charge count recidivism. That is, if a person was re-arrested after LCJP intervention the number of charges they received did not change.*

We do not find similar effects of contract completion and officer presence on the number of charges filed after LCJP contact. In particular, the average number of charges per program participant remained unchanged even when they fully completed their agreed-upon contracts or they did so in the presence of an officer. This suggests that the LCJP program had a mitigating effect on arrest records. However, provided that a program participant was arrested again following LCJP intervention, the community restorative justice model had no meaningful impact on the subsequent number of charges.

- **Impact of gender and race on number of subsequent arrests and number of subsequent charges filed:** *Male and Hispanic participants were more likely to have adverse contact with law enforcement after LCJP intervention.*

Finally, in terms of the role of other demographic factors that influence recidivism, being male or Hispanic was statistically significantly associated with higher arrest

and charge count following the initial LCJP referral. Whereas, being Caucasian had no statistically significant impact. For example, of the total participants who were arrested after completing the LCJP program, males were arrested nearly 47 percent more than an average female LCJP participant. Additionally, Hispanics who had completed the LCJP program were arrested nearly 78 percent more than an average participant of other races.