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JUVENILE MENTORING: DOES IT REDUCE JUVENILE RECIDIVISM?
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Although the amount of juvenile delinquency has been dropping for some time now, school shootings such as the one at Santee, California continue to cause fear of juvenile crime among U.S. citizens. One of the reasons for this concern about crime is that many juveniles enter the system at a young age and often continue committing crimes into adulthood. Recently juvenile mentoring programs have emerged as another way to reduce recidivism among juveniles. In this paper I examine the effectiveness of A.I.M. (Aftercare by Indiana University through Mentoring) in reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders in Indiana. Preliminary results indicate that those juveniles sentenced to incarceration who fulfill the requirements of A.I.M. recidivate at lower levels than convicted youth who do not complete the A.I.M. program or who never experience the A.I.M. program. Implications of these findings are discussed.