

Program: THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Population:

Population Served: Multi-ethnic youngsters referred by schools, police, courts, social welfare agencies and community residents because of academic or behavioral problems.

Age: 10-17

Other Characteristics:

Program Components

<u>Component</u>	<u>Provided by</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description</u>
One-on-one Mentoring	Community Resident	Less than 1 year for most participants	Weekly meetings engaging in social activities; mentors trained to establish a warm trusting relationship AND create a plan to change targeted behaviors
Group mentoring	Community resident	Not available	When appropriate, mentors met with their mentees in group activities
Money	Program		Youth were given \$10/month if their behaviors improved

Program Objectives/Goals:

Safety and security: Reduce problem behaviors
 Social skills: Guide youth to engage in socially appropriate behaviors
 Information and technical and academic knowledge: Improve problematic academic behaviors
 Social support/interaction: Increase the number of skilled and experienced helpers (the mentors) in the community

Study 1:

Fo, W. S., & O'Donnell, C. R. (1975). The Buddy System: Effects of community intervention on delinquent offenses. *Behavior Therapy*, 6, 522-524.

Study objectives and measurements:

Objective: To determine the effects of the program on delinquent acts.

Measurement instrument: Records on the delinquent offenses of participants and control group.

Evaluation:

Type: Experimental, random assignment, treatment n=264 and control group n=178.

Statistical techniques: Z test, Significance Level=.05

Population evaluated: youth referred to program, treatment n=264 and control group n=178.

Outcome:

For youth who had committed major offenses in the year prior to entering the project, only 37.5% of the treatment group compared to 64% of the control group ($p < .04$) committed major offenses during the Buddy system year. For youths with no record of major offenses in the preceding year, a different pattern emerges: 15.7% of mentored youth compared to only 7.2% of control youth committed major offenses during the Buddy system year ($p < .02$).

Other Information:

Funding provided through HUD's model cities and HEW's office of Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Development.

Study 2:

O'Donnell, C. R., Lydgate, T., & Fo, W. S. (1979). The Buddy System: Review and follow-up. *Child Behavior Therapy, 1*, 161-169.

Study objectives and measurements:

Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness of the program based on the arrest data (for major offenses only) of participants over a three-year span.

Measurement instrument: Arrest records of participants and control group one year before participation, the year(s) of participation and two years after the initial year of participation.

Evaluation:

Type: Experimental

Statistical techniques: Two tailed Z Tests, Significance Level=.05

Population evaluated: 335 youths (206 boys and 129 girls) in the experimental group. 218 youths (151 boys and 67 girls) in the control group. In the experimental group 255 were in the program for one year, 73 for two years and 7 for three years. In the control group 195 were assigned to three years, 23 for two years and none for three years.

Outcome:

The Buddy system is most effective for youth who have been arrested for major offenses in the preceding year: 56% vs 78% ($p<.04$) were arrested for a major offense in the program year or 2 years after. Of youngsters without prior arrests, those in the treatment group were more likely to commit a major offense than those in the control group: 22.5% vs 16.4% ($p<.05$).

Other Information:
