Victim-Offender Mediation

in Germany

Nationwide Victim-Offender Mediation Statistics

for the years 2023 and 2024

Report for the
Federal Ministry of Justice
by

Arthur Hartmann, Marie Schmidt, Sophie Ridder and

Hans-Jürgen Kerner

assisted by Sebastian Adelmund, Milena Preiter, Mareike Becker and Ann-Kathrin Eikhorst

English language version prepared with the generous and invaluable assistance of Robert Mackay

on behalf of the Victim-Offender Mediation Research Group

This version is an unofficial working translation of the report published in German entitled "Victim-Offender Mediation in Germany: Analysis of Nationwide Victim-Offender Mediation Statistics for the Years 2023 and 2024"

FOREWORD

This report focuses on the nationwide victim-offender mediation (VOM) statistics for the years 2023 and 2024. At various points, however, developments in previous years are also discussed.

The statistics began to be compiled in 1993 and cover a period of more than 30 years. The somewhat leaner years pale in comparison with the current total number of 149,207 recorded VOM cases with 353,208 persons harmed and accused. The German VOM statistics are unique in Europe and probably also worldwide (not only in terms of their scope), and we are striving to make their successful, informative and exemplary history better known internationally.

After several years of low participation rates, the number of participating VOM-services has stabilised at a high level in recent years. In 2017, a record number of 76 services participated in the statistics; in the years focused on in this report, 71 and 63 VOM-service participated, respectively, despite the COVID pandemic.

Participation in these statistics is not mandatory. Rather, participation is voluntary and thus does not cover all services that offer victim-offender mediation in Germany. However, the results of a study on the practice of victim-offender mediation in Germany by Kerner and Weitekamp[1] revealed a total number of 438 services and 11,200 reported victim-offender mediation cases nationwide (for the year 2007). Therefore, in relation to this, we assume that about 15% of all VOM-services participate in these statistics – although it needs to be mentioned that these services handle more than 60% of all mediation cases nationally. Hence, we further assume that the VOM statistics mainly represent services that are strongly involved in victim-offender mediation, and that the results of their work are reflected in the VOM statistics. This finding is on the one hand a solid foundation for continuing to compile the VOM statistics, but at the same time is also an incentive to further expand the number of participants.

In our two previous reports[2], we have already pointed out that the scope and significance of these statistics need to be evaluated in comparison with alternative data collection methods and procedures. Using the example of the *Report of the Federal Government on the Effects of the Mediation Act on the Development of Mediation in Germany and on the Situation of the Training and Further Education of Mediators*[3], we have shown how difficult it is to collect valid data in this area[4].

Within the framework of the VOM statistics, it has been possible to optimise data collection over the years, so that the available data on victim-offender mediation is to a large extent so-called "process produced" data, which is collected directly by the mediators in the course of processing the case. The software for the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics can be and is used for both the administration of the mediation cases and the compilation of the VOM statistics. If, for example, a case is compiled in the course of case processing, it is also automatically compiled for the statistics. The same applies to the deletion of cases. Data on the parties involved, the type of case and the course of case processing, which are required for case processing, are automatically transmitted to the VOM statistics if they are also required there. In addition, numerous VOM-services generate their own reports from the data collected for these statistics and therefore have a considerable self-interest in ensuring the validity of the data. Finally, the research centre produces individual reports for some services, which they can use further. In this respect, one may assume a very high validity of the data and analyses.

---

[1] Kerner & Weitekamp 2013.

[2] Unfortunately, only available in German on the website of the Federal Ministry of Justice www.bmj.de.

[3] Masser et al. 2017.

[4] Kerner / Schmidt / Hartmann 2018, vii et seq.

It is also important to acknowledge the commitment of the participating services and mediators who are willing not only to evaluate the necessary data, but also to collect it on a case-by-case basis and, if necessary, to consult records – as the authors know from interviews.

Finally, but importantly, conflict mediation and victim-offender mediation, either alone or in combination with restorative justice, are still not very well established in Germany. There are still open and silent reservations, not only in parts of the population, but also among members of the judiciary and legal representatives. The fact that, in quantitative terms, victim-offender mediation cases have always accounted for only a modest proportion, if any, of all cases settled in the course of criminal prosecution and sentencing in any given year reflects this[5].

In Germany, the terms “victim-offender mediation”, “conflict mediation” and “mediation in criminal cases” are sometimes used synonymously, which can lead to considerable misunderstandings. The background to this problem is that victim-offender mediation was originally introduced in the late 1970s as an alternative to criminal proceedings for dealing with conflicts that led to or resulted from criminal acts, and was inspired by victim-offender mediation projects in anglophone countries. As the English term makes clear, it was and is about a mediation process. The Parliament later took up the concept of victim-offender mediation, but in section 46a of the German Criminal Code (StGB) gave it a legal definition that deviates from the original concept. In particular, this legal definition does not require that the parties to the conflict are assisted by a third, impartial, non-decision-making person to find a solution to their conflict and the problems, damage or injuries associated with it.[6]

In Germany, the term victim-offender mediation therefore does not refer to (or no longer refers to) a mediated procedure, but rather to the prerequisites for a specific sanction or legal consequence decision. A long and partly controversial discussion has developed on this topic[7]. In order to understand the following report, it is necessary to keep in mind that the VOM-services that participate in the nationwide VOM statistics offer and conduct conflict mediation in a form that is rooted in victim-offender mediation and is in the process of testing other forms of restorative justice. In this respect, family group conferencing in the form of restorative conferences and so-called extended VOM are practiced in Germany and are included in these statistics, even if the number of these cases is currently probably still small. For the future, we intend to record such forms of conflict mediation in a more differentiated manner, and to make them more visible in the statistics. Of course, the term "extended VOM", which describes a mediation process that involves not only the person harmed and the accused, but also people from their environment, makes it clear how difficult it is to come up with a clear definition. The statistics do not include – and this must be made clear – cases in which a victim-offender mediation is recognised within the framework of criminal proceedings. VOM cases that were negotiated directly in court or in cooperation

[5] See the systematic overview of explicit statistical evidence on the one hand and important gaps on the other in: Kerner 2013, 87 et seq. and for the numbers: Federal Statistical Office 2019, 453/476.

[6] Restorative Justice is constituted within the German Criminal Law as victim-offender-mediation (“Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich”) which is defined as an offer to those affected by a criminal offence as well as to those responsible, aimed at addressing the conflict caused by the offence through reparation. This may, but in Germany does not have to, take the form of mediation involving a neutral facilitator. A prerequisite for its legal effect within German Criminal Law is the reparation provided, or at least a serious effort to make such reparation.

[7] Trenczek / Hartmann 2018, 859 et seq., 864; Hartmann / Trenczek Neue Justiz 2016, 325 et seq.; Meier TOA-Magazin 02/2017, 36 et seq.; Trenczek 2016; Kaspar NJW 2015, 1646; Hartmann / Haas 2014, 119 et seq., 132; Hartmann 2013, 591 et seq.

with the lawyers of the persons harmed and accused and without the support of an impartial or omnipartial[8] conflict mediator, are not represented here[9].

In our view, therefore, the VOM statistics are certainly not the only instrument that could improve the situation in terms of area coverage. However, they do document, more than any other survey, how many VOM cases are successful, and thus impressively document the potential of VOM in many criminal cases.

In this respect, the VOM statistics have gained greater significance for legal and criminal policy. They show that not only conflicts that have led to criminal offences, but also conflicts that have arisen from criminal offences themselves or as a result of them, can be resolved by the persons harmed and, if necessary, by other parties involved in the case with the help of trained conflict mediators. In the broader context, the VOM statistics thus point to the opportunity for social peace to develop beyond the individual peace of those directly involved and, if applicable, their partners, family members and other close persons – which in turn can serve as a basis for legal peace in the broader context.

If and to the extent that this is the case, the state's right to punish criminal offences is "sublated" in a double Hegelian sense: The accused assume binding responsibility towards the persons harmed as well as towards society, and punishment becomes **superfluous** because of this and because its **functions have been fulfilled alternatively**.

In very serious cases, and especially in the most serious cases with high penalties, the latter will often not be the case, because neither the objectified personal need for punishment of the persons harmed, nor the generalised need for punishment in society can be adequately satisfied by compensation for damage or conflict resolution alone. Alternatively, as provided for by law, there is still the possibility for the competent court to mitigate the punishment by taking into account the sincere efforts made by the accused to provide compensation – and in particular by taking into account the accused's substantial concrete acts.

It is extremely important that it becomes (and remains) publicly visible that VOM can be used successfully, especially in the case of offences that go beyond the petty level. In order to ensure a general, publicly effective perception of VOM, it is just as important to report on general topics quantitatively as it is to report on cases individually – as important as the latter is for a vivid and more complete illustration of the proceedings.

The VOM statistics rely on the fact that practitioners in the VOM-services are willing to fill out the questionnaires on cases, persons harmed and accused fully, reliably and as promptly as possible in addition to their other work. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to this report by doing so. Furthermore, we would like to thank the *VOM Service Office* of the DBH Professional Association for Social Work, Criminal Law and Criminal Policy (*DBH-Fachverband für Soziale Arbeit, Strafrecht und Kriminalpolitik*) in Cologne for its coordination work and other helpful efforts in this matter. Special thanks also go to the *Federal Ministry of Justice* for subsidising the personnel and material costs incurred by the office of the *VOM Research Group* in the processing and statistical evaluation of the many thousands of cases.

Bremen, October 2026 / The authors

[8] "Omnipartial", literally translated from the German term "allparteilich", means that the mediator takes concern for the interests of each party, recognizing that they are not indifferent to power imbalances or situations when one party has been, or is at risk of, being the victim of abuse.

[9] Detailed information on the forms of VOM practiced and their statistical recording can be found in Kerner/Belakouzova ZJJ 2020, 232 et seq.

Table of Contents

FOREWORD 1
List of Figures 6
List of Tables 7
1. Scope of the surveys 8
2. The participating VOM-services 14
2.1 Providers 14
2.2 Form of organisation 14
2.3 Target groups 16
2.4 National distribution of cases 17
2.5 Status of the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive at VOM-services 19
3. General case features 25
4. General data on persons harmed 28
4.1 Social statistical characteristics of the persons harmed 28
4.2 Injuries of the persons harmed 29
5. General data on the accused 31
5.1 Social statistical characteristics of the accused 31
5.2 The charges against the accused: types of offences committed 32
5.3 Types of conflict 35
5.4 Acquaintance with the persons harmed 35
6. VOM willingness of the parties 36
6.1 Willingness of the persons harmed to engage in a VOM 36
6.2 Willingness of the accused to engage in a VOM 37
7. Evaluations of the VOM proceedings 41
8. Result of the VOM procedures 45
8.1 Success and non-success of settlement talks 45
8.2 Overview of the content of compensation agreements 46
8.3 Fulfilment of the understandings 47
9. Settlement of cases in criminal proceedings 49
9.1 Type of Case Settlement by Public Prosecution Offices and Criminal Courts 49
9.2 Sanction consequences on the part of the criminal courts 51
References 53
Appendix I Tables regarding the figures in the text 59
Appendix II Supplemental bibliography for 2023 through 2026 (1st quarter) on victim-offender mediation, restorative justice, and selected other victim issues 69

List of Figures

Figure 1: Organisational form of the participating VOM-services – 2023 / 2024 15
Figure 2: Target groups of the participating institutions 2022 – 2024 17
Figure 3: VOM cases by state – 2023 / 2024 18
Figure 4: Distribution of VOM cases by east and west – 2023 / 2024 19
Figure 5: Initiation of VOM attempts by procedural stage – 2023 / 2024 25
Figure 6: VOM recommendation – aggregated categories – 2023 / 2024 26
Figure 7: VOM recommendation – all other – 2023 / 2024 26
Figure 8: VOM initiation – 2023 / 2024 27
Figure 9: Age of the persons harmed – 2023 / 2024 28
Figure 10: Citizenship of the persons harmed – 2023 / 2024 29
Figure 11: Type of harm suffered and severity of bodily injuries – 2023 / 2024, values in percent 30
Figure 12: Age of the accused – 2023 / 2024 31
Figure 13: Gender of the accused NVS and PCS in comparison – 2023 / 2024 32
Figure 14: Citizenship of the accused – 2023 / 2024 32
Figure 15: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – all age categories – 2023 / 2024 34
Figure 16: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – juveniles adolescents – 2023 / 2024 34
Figure 17: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – adults – 2023 / 2024 35
Figure 18: Contacting the persons harmed – results for 2023 / 2024 37
Figure 19: Contacting the accused – results for 2023 / 2024 38
Figure 20: Willingness to engage in VOM in the event of successful contact – 2022 to 2024 39
Figure 21: Percentage of direct VOM conversations conducted by offence group – 2023 / 2024 43
Figure 22: Percentage of all VOM procedures by offence group – 2023 / 2024 44
Figure 23: VOM results – all VOM procedures – 2023 / 2024 46
Figure 24: Successful VOM procedures by offence group – 2023 / 2024 46
Figure 25: Fulfillment of the defined obligations – 2023 / 2024 48
Figure 26: Termination of case by public prosecutor's office and court depending on the course of the VOM proceedings – 2023 / 2024 51

List of Tables

Table 1: Scope of the surveys 1993 - 2024 13
Table 2: Providers of the VOM-services 2009 to 2024 14
Table 3: Age distribution of the accused 2016 – 2024 17
Table 4: Communication of VOM conditions to the persons harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 20
Table 5: Initiator of the official establishment of contact between the person harmed and the VOM-service, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 20
Table 6: Initiator of the first, direct contact between the VOM-service and the person harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 21
Table 7: Implementation of VOM only in the event that the accused has acknowledged the basic facts of the case, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 21
Table 8: Training of VOM employees – 2023 / 2024 21
Table 9: Participation in further training measures for VOM employees – 2023 / 2024 22
Table 10: Informing the persons harmed of their rights, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 22
Table 11: Measures to protect the privacy of the persons harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 22
Table 12: Persons harmed receive informational material from the VOM-service, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 22
Table 13: Languages in which informational material is available – 2023 / 2024 23
Table 14: Providing for an interpretation service, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 23
Table 15: Risk assessment with regard to secondary victimisation, intimidation and retaliation, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 23
Table 16: Compliance with particular professional standards, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 23
Table 17: Offences by crime 2023 / 2024 33
Table 18: Types of conflict – 2022 to 2024 35
Table 19: VOM procedure without indirect dialogue, values in percent 2022 to 2024 42
Table 19 a: VOM procedure with indirect dialogue, values in percent 2022 to 2024 42
Table 20: Agreements between accused and persons harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024 47
Table 21: Formal completion of criminal cases after VOM-services report back to the judiciary, values in percent 2023 / 2024 50
Table 22: Sanctions imposed by the criminal courts, values in percent 2023 / 2024 52

Victim-offender mediation in Germany: Report on nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the years 2023 and 2024

1. Scope of the surveys

The following evaluation is based on the surveys of victim-offender mediation cases in the Federal Republic of Germany. The nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics (hereinafter referred to as VOM statistics), which were compiled on the basis of these surveys, are generally considered to be a documentation of the course and outcome of victim-offender mediation proceedings that were concluded in different VOM-services in the respective reporting years.

The VOM statistics are nationwide statistics in the sense that VOM-services from many federal states have participated in them for many years and can continue to do so. Participation has always been voluntary. For this reason, the number of VOM-services can vary from year to year; some services have been participating in the statistics since the first survey in 1993, while others have only participated in them for a temporary period. According to the available informal information, most of this variation results from resource problems in the field. Problems also arise – and have recently arisen – when government clients demand reports that require data collection that differs from the VOM statistics and is therefore duplicative. Many VOM-services depend on generally unsecured funding and have to cut back in tight years on everything that is not part of the direct handling of cases and the reporting required to secure their funding.

The focus of the nationwide VOM statistics is not the number of VOM-services, but rather the type, course and outcome of the mediation cases or VOM proceedings. In terms of their central research objective, the nationwide VOM statistics achieve a coverage rate that is, for example, approximately on a par with that of the Juvenile Court Assistance[10] Barometer[11].

[10] Juvenile Court Assistance (Jugendgerichtshilfe) is a specialized service provided by Germany's Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt). Its primary role is to support young offenders aged 14 to 20 throughout criminal proceedings, prioritizing education over punishment. This approach reflects the principles of juvenile justice in Germany, which emphasize reintegration and social responsibility. The legal basis for this work is established in sec 38 of the Juvenile Court Act (Jugendgerichtsgesetz, JGG), supplemented by broader provisions in Book VIII of the Social Code (sec. 52, Sozialgesetzbuch VIII, SGB VIII). Juvenile Court Assistance is tasked with gathering relevant social background information to assist prosecutors and judges in determining appropriate sanctions. At the same time, it provides social support to at-risk youths. Moreover, it plays an important role in referring suitable cases to victim-offender mediation (Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich), thereby contributing to the restorative dimension of juvenile justice in Germany. See: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280158124_Hartmann-Kerner_Victim-Offender-Hartmann, A., & Kerner, H.-J. (2004). Victim-Offender Mediation (VOM) in Germany. DOI:10.13140/RG.2.1.3023.2160 and Dünkel, F. (2009). Diversion: A meaningful and successful alternative to punishment in European juvenile justice systems. In: Reforming Juvenile Justice. Springer.

[11] The Youth Court Assistance Barometer is a research instrument developed by the German Youth Institute (DJI) that has been collecting nationwide data on the work of youth court assistance services at regular intervals since 2012. Its aim is to provide a representative overview of the structures, tasks, and developments in this field of work. The survey is directed at youth welfare offices and, more specifically, at the professionals working in the area of youth court assistance. The Barometer gathers information on various aspects, including the organisational integration of youth court assistance within youth welfare offices, task profiles and caseloads, resources, staffing and qualifications, cooperation with courts, public prosecutors, and independent organisations, as well as current challenges and the need for reform. The findings are published in reports and online publications and serve as an empirical basis for policymakers, public administrations, and practitioners to further develop the role of youth court assistance within juvenile criminal proceedings. See: Schmoll, Annemarie/Lampe, Dirk/Holthusen, Bernd (2024): Jugendgerichtshilfebarometer 2022.

Bundesweite Befragung zu aktuellen Entwicklungen der Jugendhilfe im Strafverfahren. Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 978-3-7560-0671-7, Schriften zur Kriminologie Band 30: Answers are available from 67% of the juvenile court assistance services surveyed; Centre for the Prevention of Youth Crime/Project "Youth welfare and social change", 2011, 13 et seq., 16.

It should also be noted that the number of analysed cases, accused persons, and persons harmed recorded in the VOM statistics for 2023 and 2024 is roughly equivalent to the total number of mediations conducted each year across all other areas of mediation in Germany, with the exception of criminal mediation[12].

Finally, with regard to the question of the representativeness of the nationwide VOM statistics, we refer to the average number of cases. In the nationwide study by Kerner & Weitekamp, which we already mentioned in the Foreword above, the average number of cases per year in 238 VOM-services was 47[13], while in the nationwide VOM statistics for 2023/2024 the average number of cases was 90 or 96, in total since 1993 it is 92.5. This shows that the data in the nationwide VOM statistics predominantly come from services that are strongly involved in victim-offender mediation. The VOM statistics therefore reflect the results achieved in case processing when services practice victim-offender mediation with vigour and commitment.

On the other hand, the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics do not necessarily indicate whether the findings derived from them also apply to VOM-services that only sporadically conduct conflict mediation and victim-offender mediation. As regards the significance of these findings, one can possibly agree that the findings of services that practice victim-offender mediation intensively are particularly interesting for an evaluation of victim-offender mediation.

However, despite these difficulties in examining and presenting the “one” reality of victim-offender mediation in Germany, it is by no means the case that we are left with nothing but very vague information. The literature published on the substance of victim-offender mediation, including individual empirical research, practical reports and case histories, is extremely extensive and very informative in many respects[14]. The aim of the VOM statistics is to add a specific facet to this, presenting not only the volume of cases processed, but also their nature, course and outcome on a broad scale.

Based on their many years of involvement with the subject matter, the authors take the following view: The structural stability of most findings since 1993 is not just remarkable at first glance. Despite frequently changing data suppliers and varying case volumes, there is considerable evidence that the victim-offender mediation statistics are a coherent representation of what actually happens in the practice of conflict mediation and restorative justice as a whole. This view is reinforced when studying the annual reports of local, regional, and occasionally nationwide institutions and agencies[15]. Further confirmation of this can also be found in research that specifically analyses large geographical areas in depth[16].

---

[12] Masser et al. 2017; 84 et seq.

[13] Here, we relate the number of VOM-services (as of the middle of 2010) specified by Kerner / Weitekamp 2013 on p. 16 to the overall number of cases from 2007. And we relate these numbers to our numbers from the recent years 2023 / 2024. We have used the figures from Kerner / Weitekamp because we are not aware of any more recent corresponding figures and it is not our intention at this point to present exact results, but rather to show the significance of the statistics and their limits in particular.

[14] The list of references at the end of this report provides an overview of recent selected publications, with supplementary references to bibliographies from previous years.

[15] It would be desirable to collect such reports as fully as possible on a regular basis and to subject them to a systematic secondary analysis on a regular basis. Admittedly, up until now, sufficient personal and material resources have not been available anywhere for such a demanding task.

[16] Here, we should make particular mention of the empirical study by Bannenberg and colleagues, which dealt in depth with VOM in North Rhine-Westphalia: Bals / Hilgartner / Bannenberg 2005; see also Kerner / Belakouzova 2020, 232 et seq.

From a comparative point of view, we would like to emphasise that the VOM statistics are still unique throughout the entire field of mediation[17] and restorative justice[18], despite their gaps and limited scope. Nowhere in Europe or anywhere else in the world is there a continuous survey of criminal mediation that leads to a similarly extensive documentation of cases in terms of the number of cases, the number of participants, and the most important stages in the course of the case over a period of years[19]. We know of no other specific field of mediation – such as family mediation, environmental mediation, or business mediation – that has similarly extensive case documentation.

The nationwide VOM statistics collect data on the numerous characteristics of the participating VOM-services, the involved persons harmed and accused, as well as the course of the consultations and talks, and the result of the case processing. The surveys and the documentation based on these characteristics are carried out with the help of a standardised questionnaire.

We pursue four goals with this case documentation:

- **Document** the development of VOM on an ongoing basis
- **Provide** basic **data** for legal policy and research on VOM[20], and open up access to this field of research for further studies
- **Enable** the individual VOM-services **to reflect on and further develop** their work through the preparation of overall evaluations and project-specific analyses
- **Make it easier** for the individual VOM-services **to provide evidence** of their activities to clients, etc.

The first reporting year for these statistics was 1993[21]. The following statistics will focus on the years 2023 and 2024. The years 1993 to 2022 are covered in detail in a number of previously published reports. The respective publications are listed below[22]:

---

[17] The range of mediation is impressively illustrated, for example, in the extensive "Handbuch Mediation" (Mediation Handbook) from a theoretical, methodological and factual point of view; see Haft / von Schlieffen 2008.

[18] See Weitekamp / Kerner 2003. As regards the Council of Europe and the United Nations, and specifically the implementation of the respective instruments in Austria, see Pelikan 2007, 126 et seq. A recent, short, but also compact introduction to the terminology and purpose of restorative justice is provided in Domenig 2011, on the basis of experiences in Switzerland.

[19] In Europe, the neighbouring country of Austria is far ahead of Germany in terms of the extent of VOM and compensation, as well as the basic and detailed legal regulations – especially since the major criminal procedure amendment that came into force in January 2000. With the introduction of a separate section on “diversion” (section IXa) in the Code of Criminal Procedure, this amendment brought for the first time a binding overall regulation for general criminal law, which drew on the positive experiences made with the (at the same time, correspondingly modified) juvenile criminal law. The number of cases and types of case settlement can be presented much better with the official statistics than with German official statistics; in addition to the Security Report of the Austrian Federal Government (Bundesministerium für Inneres 2010), see the very clear and informative scientific analysis in Burgstaller / Grafl 2006, 109 et seq. and Burgstaller 2007, 5 et seq. However, these works do not provide any more detailed information than that contained in this report on German VOM statistics. For a detailed overview of 25 European countries, see Mestitz 2005. See also Aertsen / Llewellyn 2026.

[20] The Federal Government's position is set out in the Third Periodic Security Report; see Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium des Innern), Federal Ministry of Justice (Bundesministerium der Justiz) 2021, Chapter 2.3., 33-47.

[21] The results up to 1995 were presented to the public for the first time in more detail in the expert opinion drawn up for the Federal Ministry of Justice on the current state and prospects of VOM in Germany (see Dölling et al. 1998), by Arthur Hartmann and Holger Stroezel (see Hartmann / Stroezel 1998, 149 et seq.). Later publications included further details or later years (cf. e.g. Bannenberg / Rössner 2002, 287 et seq.; Dölling / Weitekamp 1998, 134 et seq.; Hartmann / Kilchling 1998, 261 et seq.; Kerner 1999, 27 et seq.; Kerner 2002, 1252 et seq.; Weitekamp / Tränkle 1998, 9 et seq.) For additional analyses and reports, see e.g Delattre 2000, 151 et seq.; Dünkel et al. 1999, 34 et seq. and Gutsche / Rössner 2000 (with special emphasis on the situation in the new federal states).

[22] The current reports can be downloaded free of charge in PDF format from the Federal Ministry of Justice’s website (http://www.bmj.de/) (for quick access, enter the keyword "Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich" in the search field at the top of the homepage).

- Hartmann, Arthur / Stroezel, Holger: *Die Bundesweite TOA - Statistik*. In: Dölling, Dieter et al. (ed.): Gutachten für das Bundesministerium der Justiz: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland - Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven. Bonn 1998 pp. 149 - 198.
- Hartmann, Arthur / Stroezel, Holger: *Die Bundesweite TOA - Statistik*. In: Dölling, Dieter et al. (ed.): Gutachten für das Bundesministerium der Justiz: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland - Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven. Bonn 2000 pp. 149 - 198 (2nd unchanged edition).
- Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Hartmann, Arthur: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in der Entwicklung.* Evaluation of the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the years 1993 to 1999. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice, Berlin 2003.
- Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Hartmann, Arthur / Lenz, Sönke: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in der Entwicklung: Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs-Statistiks für den zehnjahreszeitraum 1993 bis 2002*; Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice. Mönchengladbach: Forum-Verlag Godesberg, 2005.
- Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Hartmann, Arthur / Eikens, Anke: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the year 2005, with comparison to the years 2003 and 2004, as well as a review of developments since 1993. BMJ, Berlin 2008; this report is only available as a PDF file.
- Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Eikens, Anke / Hartmann, Arthur: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the years 2006 to 2009, with a review of developments since 1993. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg 2011.
- Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Eikens, Anke / Hartmann, Arthur: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide *victim*-offender mediation statistics for the year 2010. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg 2012.
- Hartmann, Arthur / Haas, Marie / Eikens, Anke / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the years 2011 and 2012. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg 2014.
- Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Ede, Katja / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide *victim-offender mediation* statistics for the years 2013 and 2014. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg 2016.
- Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the years 2015 and 2016. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg 2018.
- Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the years 2017 and 2018. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg 2020.
- Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Settels, Sophie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the years 2019 and 2020. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg 2021.
- Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Ridder, Sophie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: *Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland*. Evaluation of the nationwide victim-offender mediation statistics for the

years 2021 and 2022. Report for the Federal Ministry of Justice. Published by the Federal Ministry of Justice. Göttingen: CUVILLIER Verlag 2024.

This report follows on directly from these previous publications; it only addresses past findings and developments at selected points.

The structure of the case documentation allows statements to be made about VOM-services, cases, persons harmed and accused. In this study, a case is a *set of facts* that usually involves one person on each side of the conflict (person harmed and accused), but in which also several accused or persons harmed can be involved. A case thus corresponds to a criminal or VOM proceeding. We emphasise this because in other studies each accused is counted separately from other accused as an independent VOM case[23].

In the following studies, evaluations concerning the persons harmed are carried out based on all persons harmed involved. The same applies to the evaluations concerning the accused. This is important to bear in mind when comparing the findings with the results of other studies, because the number of persons harmed or accused for whom data can be collected in a case may be limited, depending on the survey method used.

In this report, the following table not only provides an overview of the data collected in the reporting years 2023 and 2024, but also shows the scope of the statistics since the beginning of data collection in 1993. The table shows an upward trend in the early years, albeit with significant fluctuations. In the years 2002 to 2007, the number of VOM-services providing data then dropped to a minimum of only 12, and the numbers of cases, persons harmed, and accused again fell below 2,000. Since then, however, all numbers have increased almost continuously and, with respect to the 2017 data on persons harmed, are "scraping" the 10,000 markers. It is also worth noting that the number of persons harmed has been higher than the number of accused since 2008. Despite slightly declining numbers in the reporting years 2023 and 2024, the high level has so far been maintained even under pandemic conditions.

[23] See Hartmann 1995, 189 et seq.

Table 1: Scope of the surveys 1993 - 2024

	Projects	Cases	Persons harmed	Accused
2024	71	6.404	7.598	7.425
2023	63	6.099	7.323	7.045
2022	69	6.196	7.483	7.129
2021	71	6.038	7.472	7.047
2020	68	6.792	8.235	7.978
2019	71	7.386	9.030	8.650
2018	72	7.367	9.043	8.692
2017	76	7.876	9.766	9.236
2016	72	7.672	9.376	8.946
2015	69	7.082	8.741	8.397
2014	67	7.393	8.847	8.557
2013	51	5.573	6.987	6.580
2012	45	4.998	6.101	5.834
2011	42	5.500	6.692	6.627
2010	33	4.283	5.233	5.051
2009	23	4.019	5.080	5.004
2008	15	2.813	3.603	3.596
2007	12	1.480	1.880	1.954
2006	18	2.007	2.599	2.730
2005	28	3.273	4.062	4.321
2004	32	3.702	4.702	4.786
2003	39	3.804	4.712	4.834
2002	44	4.465	4.862	4.486
2001	28	3.052	3.417	3.499
2000	42	3.711	4.471	4.780
1999	57	5.152	6.049	7.017
1998	62	4.311	4.661	5.311
1997	72	3.976	3.997	4.555
1996	64	3.392	3.792	4.099
1995	43	1.812	2.127	2.409
1994	43	1.652	1.765	2.016
1993	51	1.238	1.347	1.431

2. The participating VOM-services

The following chapter provides an overview of the ownership and organisation of the VOM-services participating in the statistics. In addition, we discuss the origins of the cases. Subchapter 2.5 also presents the findings on the EU Victim Protection Directive of 2012, collected since the 2015 cohort.

2.1 Providers

In 2023 and 2024, independent providers, youth welfare offices or juvenile court services and social services of the justice system participated in the VOM statistics. As in previous years, independent VOM-services make up the largest share of the total of 63 VOM-services in 2023 and 71 VOM-services in 2024 (see Table 2). In line with their share of the institutions involved, the independent VOM-services also handle the largest proportion of VOM cases. Of all the cases recorded in the VOM statistics, in earlier years almost 90% came from independent VOM-services. In 2023 and 2024, the proportion of cases handled by independent VOM-services tends to be lower than that towards 85%[24].

Table 2: Providers of the VOM-services 2009 to 2024

	Independent providers	Social services of the judiciary / court assistance services	Youth welfare offices and juvenile justice services	Total
2024	59	3	9	71
2023	53	2	8	63
2022	57	2	10	69
2021	59	3	9	71
2020	56	3	9	68
2019	59	3	9	71
2018	61	2	9	72
2017	63	4	9	76
2016	59	4	9	72
2015	56	3	10	69
2014	55	3	9	67
2013	37	4	10	51
2012	34	5	6	45
2011	34	4	4	42
2010	25	3	5	33
2009	20	-	3	23

The table also shows the increasing share of independent providers and the decline or stagnation in the shares of juvenile justice services, social services of the judiciary and court assistance services. The latter were no longer included at all in the statistics of the years 2006 to 2009. This corresponds to a long-term trend[25], although this should be interpreted with caution given the low total number of these VOM-services, especially since the youth welfare offices are represented with a slightly higher share since 2013.

2.2 Form of organisation

As part of the nationwide VOM statistics, we survey the degree of specialisation in three categories: specialised, partly specialised, and integrated:

- **Specialised** means staff members who are responsible for VOM in a VOM-service **do not have to perform any other professional tasks**.

[24] See appendix, p. 61.

[25] See the information in the ten-year report at Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 4. For the years 1993-1995 see Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 5 as well as Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 6.

- **Partly specialised** means staff members are r**esponsible for other areas of work in addition to the VOM**, **but** do not have any further duties in the same case, in particular they do not carry out any supervision activities.
- **Integrated**, on the other hand, means staff members may be **responsible for both the supervision and mediation activities in the same case,** e.g., the implementation of a supervision instruction and mediation within the framework of a VOM.

Figure 1: Organisational form of the participating VOM-services – 2023 / 2024

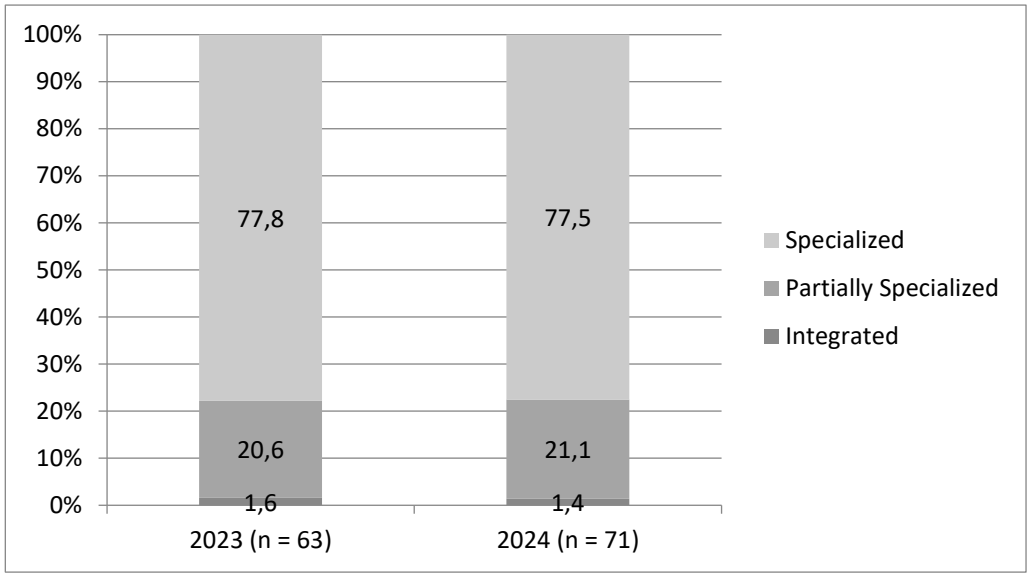


Figure 1 shows the proportions of organisational forms among the participating VOM-services. In literature and practice, the question of the compatibility of simultaneous mediation and supervision activities (e.g. as a supervisor in juvenile court assistance and as a mediator in VOM) has been discussed critically from the beginning[26]. In individual cases, it is always possible to avoid or overcome fundamental and typical problems. In general, we think that the impartiality of a mediator is only possible if there is no relationship with any of the persons concerned, either on the side of the person harmed or on the side of the accused[27].

Even if the mediator is able to separate the support and mediation activities, the change from partisan support to neutral mediation is generally difficult for the client to understand. For this reason, there are repeated calls for VOM to be offered only by specialised mediators. In this respect, section 3 (2) of the Mediation Act provides for a prohibition of activity for mediators who have been active otherwise for one party in the same case.

Whereas at the beginning of the VOM statistics in 1993, the integrated VOM institutions were still represented with almost 58.8% of the total, their share has declined sharply in recent years and even disappeared completely in the meantime.

In 2020 and in 2022, for the first time since 2009, an integrated VOM-service participated in the VOM statistics. In the long term, however, there is a trend toward greater specialisation[28]. Irrespective of this,

[26] Delattre 1989, 42 et seq.; Hermans 1993, 186; Kuhn 1991, 175 et seq.; Wandrey / Delattre 1990, 22 et seq.

[27] See TOA-Servicebüro / BAG-TOA (ed.) 2018, 23 under 5.4. Understanding of roles, there “Rollen-Trennung”. As well as a clear example of the clear separation of functions within an authority, see the interview in Schiller 2011, TOA-Infodienst Nr. 41, 5-12.

[28] Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 7. Cf. Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 6; Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 7.

we try to recruit other agencies or services that work in an integrated manner to participate in the VOM statistics.

The high proportion of specialised institutions is also noteworthy in relation to mediators who do not work in criminal law but in other areas of mediation, such as family or business mediation. In a survey conducted for this purpose, more than two-thirds of the respondents stated that they practiced mediation as a secondary activity or only "as an exception". About 17% of the respondents described mediation as their main activity, with slightly more than half of them actually conducting mediations as more than 50% of their professional activity, while the rest were active in training and continuing education[29]. This shows the disproportionately high level of practical experience that longstanding employees of specialised VOM institutions have and we want to emphasise this as a special qualitative feature.

2.3 Target groups

In 1993, the first year of reporting, the proportion of VOM-services targeting juveniles and adolescents in the VOM statistics was still around 90%[30]. By 1999, this number had fallen steadily (1999: 37%). Since then, the percentage of VOM-services with this target group has been around 40% (2000: 51.4% and 2004: 28.4% represented outliers here). The initially high percentage is due to the fact that victim-offender mediation was initially tested as a model project in juvenile criminal law[31]. As for adult accused, while a model project was conducted in Tuebingen at a very early stage[32], the number of mediation services in this field nevertheless grew much more slowly.

In 2006, 2008 and 2009, the proportion of VOM-services with the target group of juveniles and adolescents rose to around 50%, while in 2007 and 2010 it was only around 40%. In 2011, the share fell below 40% for the first time since 1999, and the share of VOM-services targeting juveniles, adolescents and adults increased to 40.5%. This trend jumped to its previous peak of 55.2% in 2014 and levelled off again at slightly less than 40% in the present reporting years of 2023 and 2024 (see Figure 2).

An additional look at the caseload of individual VOM-services confirms this picture: the largest share – in terms of caseload – comes from VOM-services that serve juveniles and adolescents as well as adults (2023: 59%; 2024: 57.1%). In 2008 and 2010, the majority of cases came from VOM-services serving adults (2008: 48.8%; 2010: 42.4%). Thus, these two years were exceptions, as the other years also had the highest representation of VOM-services serving juveniles, adolescents and adults. This was true in 2006 (56.6%), 2007 (44.4%), and 2009 (52.2%), as well as 2011 (48%), 2012 (47.3%), 2013 (49%), 2014 (55.5%), 2015 (50.3%), 2016 (47.2%), 2017 (47.4%), 2018 (42.1%), 2019 (42.9%), 2020 (41.1%), 2021 (50.4%), and 2022 (49.5%). In 2011 to 2022, however, the proportions of caseloads of VOM-services targeting adults also remain relatively high at around 30% to 40%. In the reporting year 2023/2024 this share has decreased to only 20%[33].

[29] Masser et al. 2017, p. 73 et seq., 76.

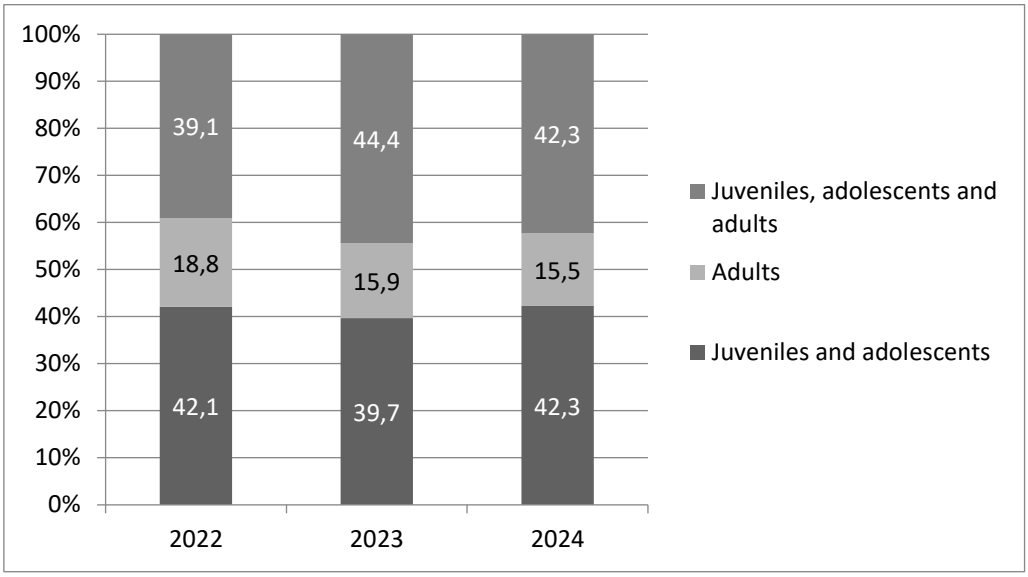
[30] Figure 8 in Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 8. For the corresponding situation in the years 2003-2005, see Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 7.

[31] Based on the conduct of criminal proceedings, the VOM statistics contain information about which criminal law was applied to adolescent accused. According to these, the majority was prosecuted under juvenile criminal law. The adolescents are therefore associated with juveniles in our evaluations.

[32] Rössner 1993, 99 et seq.

[33] See appendix, p. 61.

Figure 2: Target groups of the participating institutions 2022 – 2024



Overall, the proportion of juvenile and adolescent accused in the VOM statistics has decreased. Since 2003, it has even been lower than the proportion of adult accused, not only in terms of case numbers, but also in terms of the proportion of juvenile and adolescent accused in the statistics as a whole (see Table 3; as already mentioned, one case can include several accused).

The 2006 reporting year is an exception with a significant increase in the proportion of juveniles and adolescents (60.6%) in the VOM statistics. By 2016, the proportion of juveniles and adolescents had steadily declined and reached its lowest level of 31.7%. During the following years however a steady incline of the share of juveniles and adolescents was documented and lay around 40% for the reporting years 2020 to 2023 and climbed up to even 44.8% in 2024 (table 3).

Table 3: Age distribution of the accused 2016 – 2024

	2016 (n = 8.835)	**2017** (n = 9.044)	**2018** (n = 8.516	**2019** (n = 8.542)	**2020** (n = 7.795)	**2021** (n = 7.047)	**2022** (n = 7.129)	**2023** (n = 7.045)	**2024** (n = 7.425)
Juveniles and adolescents	31.7	32.2	35.1	36.2	39.8	40.2	40	40.6	44.8
Adults	68.3	67.8	64.9	63.8	60.2	59.8	60	59.4	55.2
Total[34]	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

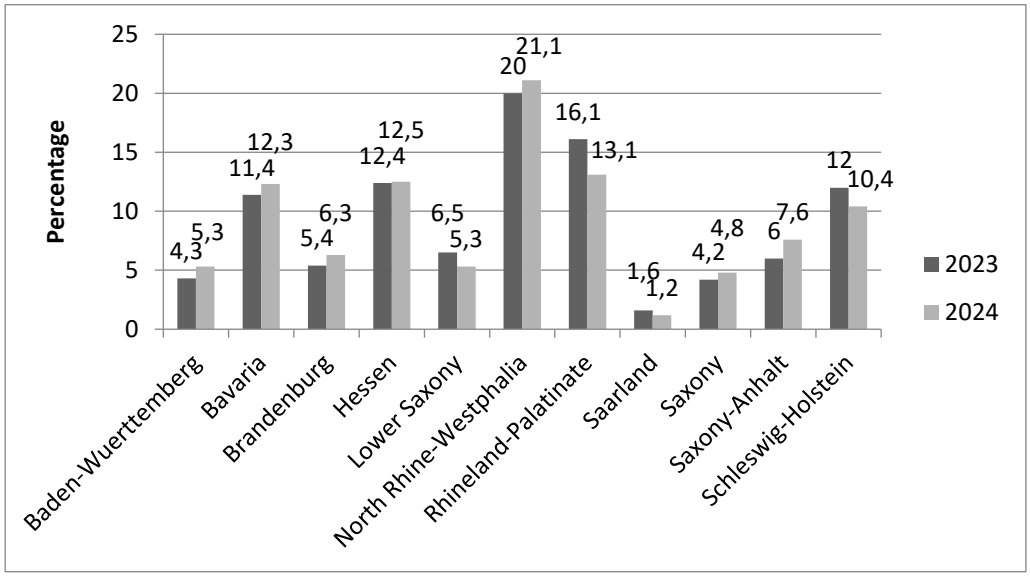
2.4 National distribution of cases

Figure 3 shows the percentage distribution of cases from the VOM-services participating in these statistics, by State.

As has been the case for some time, VOM-services from North Rhine-Westphalia continue to account for the largest share of cases in the statistics in 2023 and 2024, although since 2013 not by VOM-service. Here, Saxony led the way with 13-15% of VOM-services between 2013 and 2021. In the year 2022 Hesse replaced Saxony in this position with a share of 14.5% of all VOM-services. In the years 2023/2024 Bavaria replaced Hesse with 15.9 (or 14.1%) of the VOM-services. Baden-Württemberg, Saxony and Hesse lately had a share of 11 to 13 % of the VOM-services. Overall, there is a balancing trend: Rhineland-Pfalz, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony-Anhalt and Schleswig-Holstein also make up around 7 to 10% of the VOM-services each.

[34] All accused of the age of criminal responsibility in the VOM statistics.

Figure 3: VOM cases by state – 2023 / 2024

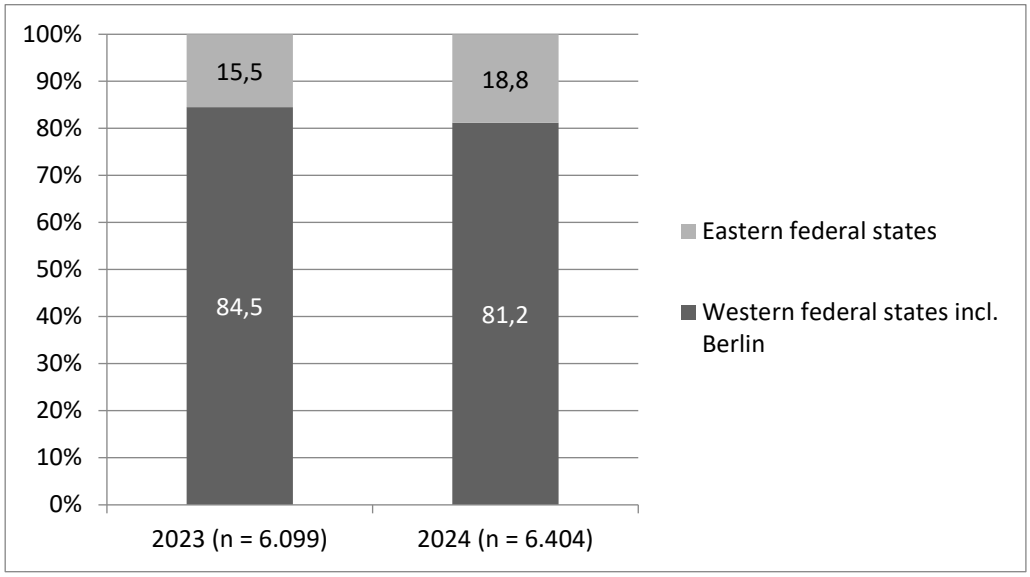


At this point, we would like to point out once again that the specific structure and administration of VOM in each state certainly has a major influence on the willingness or ability to participate in these statistics. The need to keep duplicate statistics in some regions certainly inhibits the willingness of the VOM-services to participate. In federal states where participation in the statistics is encouraged, such as in Schleswig-Holstein or Saxony-Anhalt, participation is correspondingly high. In other states and regions, there is still potential to promote participation in statistics through adapting the reporting system and thereby contributing to the comparability of results.

The proportion of reported cases from the eastern states fluctuates in the VOM statistics. After a continuous increase until 1998, there was a decline for the first time in 1999[35]. A small increase in 2003 is probably due to three eastern German institutions that participated for the first time that year. One of three eastern German states (Brandenburg), which had not been represented in the statistics since 2004, has participated again since 2009 (the other two states are Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Saxony). Since Thuringia has also not participated in the statistics since 2006, the only permanently represented eastern German state is Saxony. In 2010, there was a small increase to 13.9%. In 2011, the share dropped again to 8.4%, but in 2012 it rose again to 11.1%. Thanks to the continuous optimisation of the software and the commitment of the VOM Service Office, the state of Saxony-Anhalt has also participated in the nationwide VOM statistics with several VOM-services since the 2014 cohort. As a result, the proportion of cases from the eastern federal states has meanwhile increased again significantly to around 20% and is between 15.5 and 18.8% in the present reporting years. Despite all the fluctuations, the consistency with which nationwide coverage is achieved using these statistics should be emphasized, even if VOM-services suspend from delivering the data for a few years.

[35] Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 13; Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 8; Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 11.

Figure 4: Distribution of VOM cases by east and west[36] – 2023 / 2024



We should emphasise the consistency with which nationwide coverage is achieved by means of these statistics, even if VOM-services drop out from year to year. The research group will continue its efforts to promote the dissemination of nationwide VOM statistics, since the development of VOM, as a whole, needs uniform case documentation in order to be examined and reviewed properly.

2.5 Status of the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive at VOM-services

Since the 2015 data collection year, at the request of the German Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ for short), we have surveyed certain additional information on the participating VOM-services that relate to the EU Victims' Rights Directive[37].

The background to this is that the Directive contains, among other things, some requirements for dealing with persons harmed in the context of VOM proceedings (referred to as *restorative justice services* in the Directive). The provisions of the Directive were to be implemented by the Member States by November 2015. Furthermore, Article 28 of the Directive required Member States to submit data by November 2017 and every three years thereafter "showing how victims have accessed the rights set out in this Directive."
The Victims' Rights Directive includes 72 preambles and 32 articles, yet it would be beyond the scope of the present report to discuss all of these in detail here. Instead, we will limit ourselves to the parts that we believe are relevant to VOM and which we added to the questionnaire.

The central provision on VOM or restorative justice is Article 12 of the Directive:

Article 12

Right to safeguards in the context of restorative justice services.

(1) Member States shall take measures to safeguard the victim from secondary and repeat victimisation, from intimidation and from retaliation, to be applied when providing any restorative

[36] The distinction between East and West Germany used in the analysis is based on the former division of the country before 1989, which continues to shape structural conditions. In this context, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia are assigned to East Germany, whereas Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North Rhine–Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Schleswig-Holstein, and Berlin are classified as West Germany.

[37] Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of October 25, 2012.

justice services. Such measures shall ensure that victims who choose to participate in restorative justice processes have access to safe and competent restorative justice services, subject to at least the following conditions:

(a) the restorative justice services are used only if they are in the interest of the victim, subject to any safety considerations, and are based on the victim's free and informed consent, which may be withdrawn at any time;

(b) before agreeing to participate in the restorative justice process, the victim is provided with full and unbiased information about that process and the potential outcomes as well as information about the procedures for supervising the implementation of any agreement;

(c) the offender has acknowledged the basic facts of the case;

(d) any agreement is arrived at voluntarily and may be taken into account in any further criminal proceedings;

(e) discussions in restorative justice processes that are not conducted in public are confidential and are not subsequently disclosed, except with the agreement of the parties or as required by national law due to an overriding public interest.

(2) Member States shall facilitate the referral of cases, as appropriate to restorative justice services, including through the establishment of procedures or guidelines on the conditions for such referral.

Accordingly, there are a number of matters that are required to be discussed with persons harmed in the VOM process. The amended questionnaire explored if these matters are to be addressed with persons harmed. Table 4 below provides an overview of the results.

Table 4: Communication of VOM conditions to the persons harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

Items communicated to persons harmed	**2023** (n = 63, N/A = 3)		**2024** (n = 71, N/A = 4)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Voluntary participation	100	0	100	0
Option to terminate the VOM at any time	100	0	100	0
Importance of agreeing with the content of the discussions	100	0	100	0
Confidentiality of the content of the discussions	100	0	100	0
Consequences of VOM for the criminal proceedings	100	0	97	3

Article 12(2) obliges Member States to support referral to restorative justice services, which is why it is of interest to know on which initiative the cases reach the VOM.

Tables 5 and 6 provide more detailed information on this matter for Germany. The table shows that 8.6% and 10.8% of the VOM-services always receive their cases and 65.5% and 61.5% mostly receive their cases from the public prosecutor's office. State case assignment and support thus plays a significant role in the caseload of the VOM-services.

Table 5: Initiator of the official establishment of contact between the person harmed and the VOM-service, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63)						
	N/A	Always	Mostly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
Court	11	0	3.8	42.3	36.5	17.3	100
Prosecutor	5	8.6	65.5	12.1	1.7	12.1	100
Person harmed	11	0	0	13.5	67.3	19.2	100
Accused	12	0	0	27.5	58.8	13.7	100
Legal representation of the accused	12	0	0	19.6	64.7	15.7	100
Third party / Other	13	8	14	16	46	16	100

2024 (n = 71)							
	N/A	Always	Mostly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
Court	13	0	3.4	39.7	36.2	20.7	100
Prosecutor	6	10.8	61.5	9.2	3.1	15.4	100
Person harmed	13	0	0	12.1	60.3	27.6	100
Accused	14	0	0	26.3	56.1	17.5	100
Legal representation of the accused	14	0	0	19.3	57.9	22.8	100
Third party / Other	16	10.9	10.9	12.7	49.1	16.4	100

Table 6: Initiator of the first, direct contact between the VOM-service and the person harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

2023 (n = 63)							
	N/A	Always	Mostly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
Person harmed	11	0	0	9.6	75	15.4	100
Letter VOM office	3	56.7	43.3	0	0	0	100
Call VOM office	12	2	2	27.5	41.2	27.5	100

2024 (n = 71)							
	N/A	Always	Mostly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
Person harmed	12	0	0	10.2	69.5	20.3	100
Letter VOM office	4	59.7	40.3	0	0	0	100
Call VOM office	14	1.8	1.8	31.6	38.6	26.3	100

Furthermore, according to Article 12(1)(c), a VOM should only take place if the accused has acknowledged the basic facts of the case. Table 7 below shows the extent to which this requirement, which is certainly worthy of discussion, is also applied in the day-to-day work of VOM-services.

Table 7: Implementation of VOM only in the event that the accused has acknowledged the basic facts of the case, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)	**2024** (n = 71, N/A = 4)
Yes	86.7	88.1
No	13.3	11.9
Total	100	100

In addition to Article 12, Article 25 *Training of Practitioners* and Recital (61) of the Directive also require and regulate the appropriate and up-to-date initial and ongoing training of those who are in regular contact with victims of crime. The initial and ongoing training should enable the employees to *"increase their awareness of the needs of victims and to enable them to deal with victims in an impartial, respectful and professional manner."* The following tables 8 and 9 list the educational background of the VOM staff members who sent us their data for evaluation.

Table 8: Training of VOM employees – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 4)		**2024** (n = 71, N/A = 5)	
	All mediators			
	n	%	n	%
Yes, basic qualification of the VOM service office	43	72.9	43	65.2
Yes, other relevant qualification	13	22	18	27.3
None	3	5.1	5	7.6
Total	59	100	66	100

Table 9: Participation in further training measures for VOM employees – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)		2024 (n = 71, N/A = 4)	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	56	93.3	63	94
No	4	6.7	4	6
Total	60	100	67	100

Furthermore, the following articles of the Directive grant crime victims their own rights: Article 4 the *right to receive information from the first contact with a competent authority*, Article 8 the *right to access victim support*, and Article 16 the *right to decision on compensation from the offender in the course of criminal proceedings*. We therefore surveyed the question of how victims were informed about these rights. It must however be taken into account here that the VOM institution is probably in most cases not the first institution a crime victim comes into contact with and thus, according to the Directive, is also not necessarily responsible for providing information about these rights.

Table 10: Informing the persons harmed of their rights, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)		2024 (n = 71, N/A = 4)	
	Yes	If needed	Yes	If needed
Victim protection and assistance services	25	75	28.4	71.6
Compensation and indemnity	43.3	56.7	43.3	56.7

Moreover, Article 21 grants crime victims the *right to privacy*, which *"competent authorities"* must uphold on behalf of the Member States.

Table 11: Measures to protect the privacy of the persons harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)	2024 (n = 71, N/A = 4)
Yes	46.7	50.7
No	5.0	6
In case of special needs	48.3	43.3
Total	100	100

The Directive repeatedly emphasises the importance of the adequate communication of information. For example, in recital (21) and especially in Article 3 *right to understand and to be understood* and Article 4 *right to receive information from the first contact with a competent authority*. Article 12(1)(b) also requires that the victims receive informational material.

Table 12: Persons harmed receive informational material from the VOM-service, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)	2024 (n = 71, N/A = 4)
Yes, always	90	89.6
Yes, most of the time	6.7	7.5
Yes, occasionally	3.3	3
Yes, seldom	0	0
Total	100	100

As Table 12 shows, this happens in almost 90% of the VOM-services that participate in the nationwide VOM statistics. In addition, Article 7 grants the *right to interpretation and translation*, which is also supported in other parts of the Directive, such as recitals (11) and (34) and Article 5(2). The extent to which this is already implemented in VOM-services is shown in tables 13 and 14.

Table 13: Languages in which informational material is available – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 0)		2024 (n = 71, N/A = 0)	
	n	%	n	%
German	63	100	71	100
Russian	4	6.3	5	7.0
Turkish	6	9.5	6	8.5
English	2	3.2	3	4.2
Arabic	1	1.6	2	2.8

Table 14: Providing for an interpretation service, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)	2024 (n = 71, N/A = 4)
Yes, always	50	49.3
Yes, most of the time	23.3	20.9
Yes, occasionally	8.3	9
Yes, seldom	15	14.9
No	3.3	6
Total	100	100

Furthermore, recitals (53) and (55) as well as Articles 18 and 22, and thus several parts of the Directive, refer to a possible special *right to protection of crime victims* and require that they be *assessed and protected accordingly*. In this regard, we survey the respective handling in the VOM-services, whereby we point out once again that such a risk assessment is not necessarily and optimally carried out by VOM mediators. See the results in table 15.

Table 15: Risk assessment with regard to secondary victimisation, intimidation and retaliation, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)	2024 (n = 71, N/A = 4)
Yes, always	41.7	41.8
Yes, most of the time	33.3	35.8
Yes, occasionally	10	7.5
Yes, seldom	10	7.5
No	5	7.5
Total	100	100

The Directive also emphasises the need for guidelines and procedures and calls on Member States to ensure "*competent restorative justice services.*" Therefore, the question arises: Are VOM-services [agencies] following principles and if so, which ones? The result in Table 16 shows that all VOM-services represented work according to the standards of the federal working group (BAG TOA) and the VOM-service Office in the reporting years 2023 and 2024[38].

Table 16: Compliance with particular professional standards, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 63, N/A = 3)	2024 (n = 71, N/A = 4)
Yes, federal working group and VOM service office standards	100	100

Overall, the data in this chapter show that the regulations of the EU Directive are largely implemented in the VOM-services participating in the statistics and thus in a large proportion of the VOM cases processed in Germany. However, it seems problematic to us that no risk assessment is made at 5% of VOM-

[38] The current 7th edition of the VOM standards is available in German at: https://www.*toa*servicebuero.de/sites/default/files/bibliothek/toa-standards_7._auflage.pdf

services in 2023 and 7.5% in 2024 (see Table 15). It may also be critical if there is no information is provided about the confidential handling of the contents of the conversation and the consequences for the criminal proceedings[39] (Table 4). Discrepancy between the Directive and the reality depicted here also exists with regard to the acknowledgement of the basic facts of the case by the accused[40]. Between 11.9% and 13.3% of the VOM-services do not see this, in contrast to the Directive, as a mandatory requirement for the implementation of a VOM (see table 7). In our view, there is also room for improvement with regard to possible translation requirements and the further training of mediators. The information provided by a few VOM-services therefore indicates that the implementation of the Directive is still inadequate in some respects.

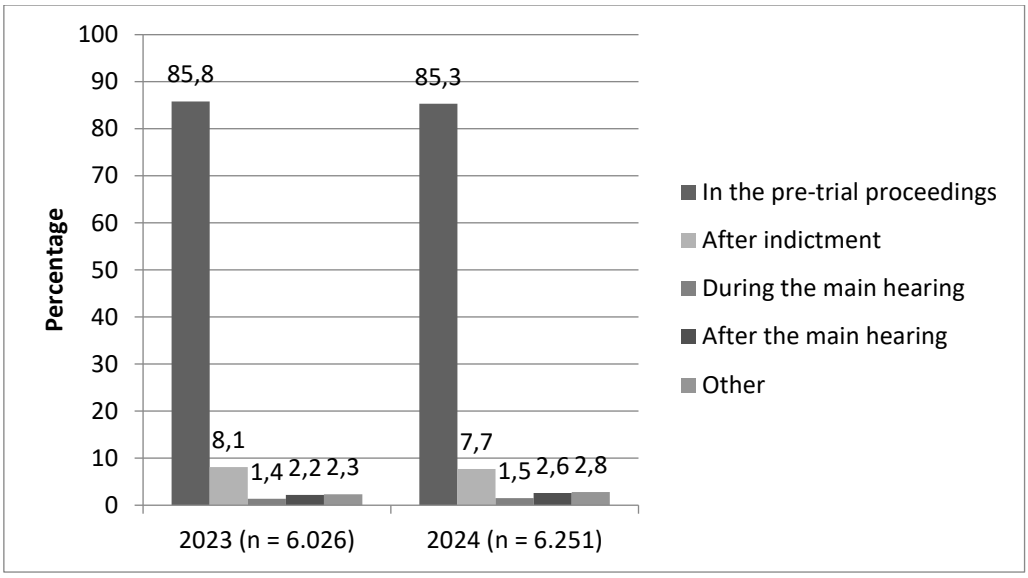
[39] See TOA-Servicebüro / BAG-TOA (ed.) 2018, 23 under 5.4. "Vertraulichkeit".

[40] See TOA-Servicebüro / BAG-TOA (ed.) 2018, 9 under 1.3 “Falleignungskriterien: „Die Grundvoraussetzung ist, dass die beschuldigte (bzw. ggf. bereits gerichtlich verurteilte) Person Verantwortung für ihr Verhalten übernimmt ...”.

3. General case features

The procedural stage at which VOM is initiated provides information on the legal basis on which the case can later be closed. The fact that the majority of cases were initiated at the pre-trial stage shows clearly that in the practice of out-of-court conflict resolution, the earliest possible procedural stage for the initiation of a VOM attempt is considered advisable. This finding is also reflected in the context of the 2023 and 2024 VOM statistics. Figure 5 shows that the proportion of VOM attempts initiated in the pre-trial stage holding steady at a high level since the previous reporting years and the proportion of VOM attempts initiated after indictment is now back at around 8% after an increase to 12.9% in 2012 and a drop in 2016 to only 6.8%.

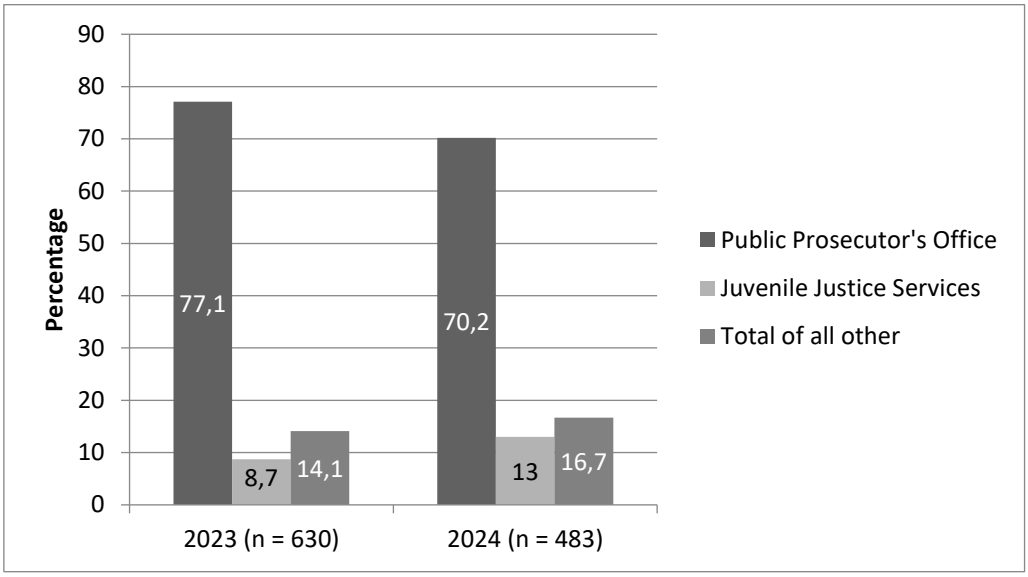
Figure 5: Initiation of VOM attempts by procedural stage – 2023 / 2024[41]



Most VOM attempts were initiated in the pre-trial phase, i.e., during different phases of the investigation and, at the latest, in the final phase before a decision on an indictment. This did not change in 2019 and 2020. In the medium term, however, there was a slight downward trend: the proportion of VOM attempts initiated in the pre-trial phase was still initially just under 90% (2003: 89.0%; 2004: 88.0%; 2005: 86.6%), and from 2006 it fell to a figure around 80% (2006: 80.5%; 2007: 74.6%; 2008: 82.5%; 2009: 81.9%; 2010: 82.1%; 2011: 84.8%; 2012: 80.7%). Since the 2013 reporting year, this trend appears to be ending.

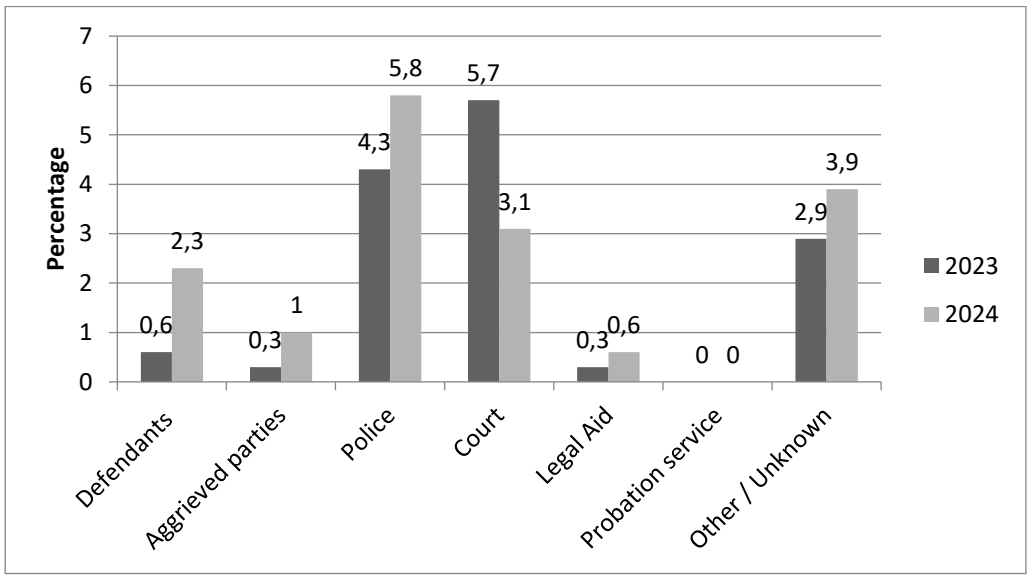
[41] The "Unresolved" category from the associated table in the appendix (at 0.1% for 2023 and 2024) is not shown here for reasons of clarity.

Figure 6: VOM recommendation – aggregated categories – 2023 / 2024



All studies on victim-offender mediation conducted independently of the VOM statistics agree that the majority of pre-trial cases are initiated by the public prosecutor's office (and, if necessary, by the district attorney's office). However, in practice, the access channels are characterised by close cooperation between the public prosecutor's office and the above-mentioned agencies. The final decision to recommend a case to a VOM-service is made by the public prosecutor's office in the preliminary proceedings. The cases deemed suitable are selected in consultation with the police[42] or juvenile justice services[43], for example.

Figure 7: VOM recommendation – all other – 2023 / 2024



In recent years, the role of the police in particular has become statistically less important, while the role of the other parties involved, which for the sake of clarity are combined in the category *Total of all other*

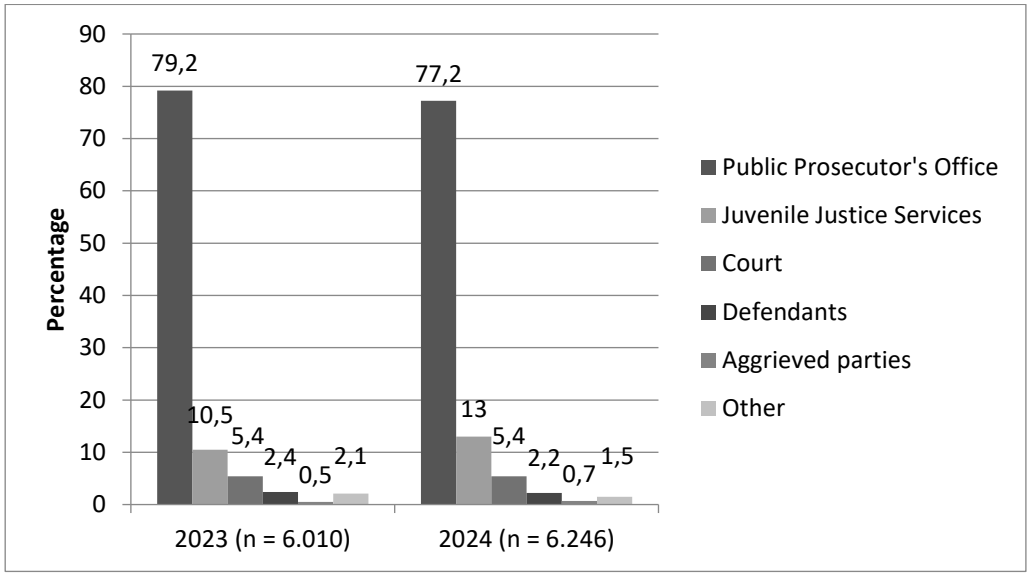
[42] In Lower-Saxony see: https://justizportal.niedersachsen.de/startseite/justizvollzug_und_ambulanter_justizsozialdienst/tater_opfer_ausgleich/taeter-opfer-ausgleich-173100.html

[43] In Hamburg see: https://rueckenwind-hamburg.de/download/toa-flyer/.

in Figure 7, has either remained the same or fluctuated slightly[44]. Until 2006, the share of police as case recommendators rose steadily to 12.4%. Since 2007, this share has been steadily decreasing (2007: 7.7%; 2008: 6.8%; 2009: 2.6%). However, the very low percentage in 2009 appears to have been an outlier, as a slight increase (6.3%) was recorded again as early as 2010, continuing, albeit fluctuating, in 2011 through 2020, and is currently back at a fairly low level (see Figure 7).

We want to note that the importance of the police in the proceedings probably is represented inadequately here. Under current general criminal procedural law and under juvenile criminal law, the police cannot independently initiate diversion measures[45]. In practice, however, police officers are evermore taking the initiative, taking part in training programmes and, in some districts, issuing orders or decrees to create a climate that promotes victim-offender mediation and restorative justice in addition to a stronger orientation towards the person harmed in day-to-day work[46].

Figure 8: VOM initiation – 2023 / 2024



Section 136 (1) sentence 4 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for the public prosecutor's office to inform the accused of the possibility of victim-offender mediation in appropriate cases. This also applies to questioning by officers and the police service[47]. The referral of cases to the VOM-service is officially always done by the public prosecutor's office or the district attorney's office, even if the police have made a strong recommendation for the suitability of the case or have pointed out the possibility of VOM to the persons harmed and the existence of corresponding VOM-services. The survey form for the VOM statistics provides the opportunity to state that the police have made the recommendation for VOM; however, without special reporting forms in the files, the VOM-services generally do not learn that the initiative in a specific case came from the police.

[44] For the development and distribution between 1993 and 2002, see Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 24-29. The data for the years 2003-2005 can be found in Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 11-14. The data for the years 2006-2009 can be found in Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 15-17. The data for 2010 can be found in Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2012, 12 et seq.

[45] Sections 153 et seq. and section 163 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO), sections 2 (2), 45, 47 of the Youth Courts Act (JGG).

[46] Jacob, Oliver 2016, 380 et seq., 421 et seq.

[47] See reference in section 163a (4) as well as section 136 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO). Also, the provisions relating to individual direct victims have been reformed. These are now contained in section 406i StPO. See 2nd Victims' Rights Reform Act of autumn 2010. According to this, injured parties are to be informed “as early as possible, by letter and in a language, they can understand” of various options for actively participating in the proceedings, asserting claims and otherwise applying for victim assistance.

Since 2010, in addition to the person who initiated the case, the VOM-services are able to document the specific person who recommended VOM. Here, the highest percentage of respondents are from the public prosecutor's office, although since 2013 and in the present reporting years there has been a declining trend in favour of the juvenile justice services (see Figure 8).

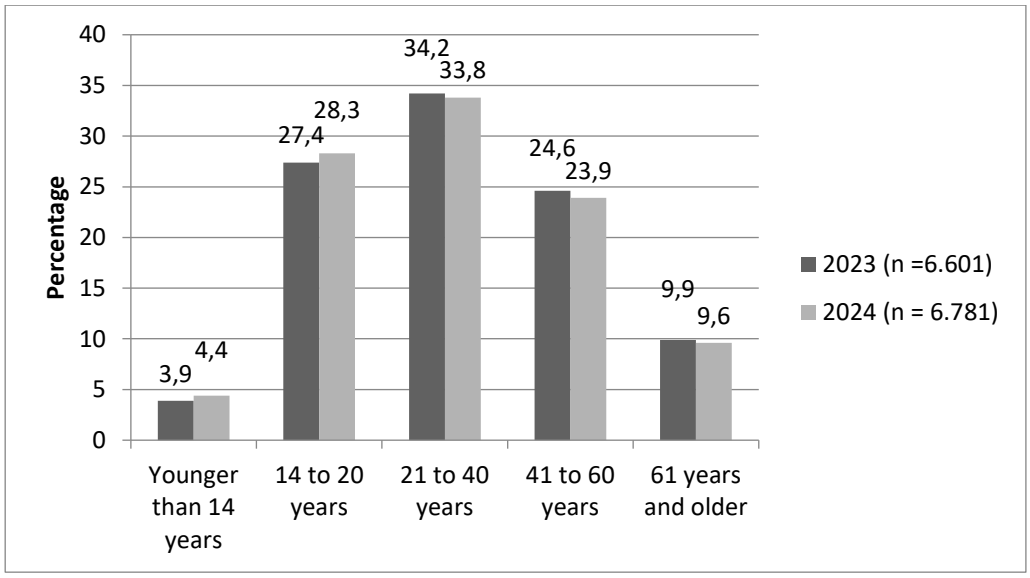
4. General data on persons harmed

After a record number of 9,766 persons harmed in 2017, the numbers are again declining slightly. In 2023, the VOM statistics included 7,323 persons harmed and in 2024, 7,598 persons harmed. A number of social statistical characteristics such as age, gender and citizenship are collected on the persons harmed as part of the nationwide VOM statistics, which should help in gaining an impression of the people involved in VOM[48].

4.1 Social statistical characteristics of the persons harmed

The persons harmed can be divided into five age groups (see the following Figure 9). In 2023 and 2024, as in previous years, the 21 to 40 age group forms the largest age group of persons harmed.

Figure 9: Age of the persons harmed – 2023 / 2024



Almost 60% of the persons harmed in the VOM statistics 2023 / 2024 are male[49], about one third female[50]. Looking at the results of recent years, one can assume a stable percentage distribution of men and women in the VOM statistics. This distribution is close to the percentage distribution of male and female victims in the police crime statistics (PCS) of the same year. According to these, about 60% of the victims of crime were men and about 40% women[51]. Since 2010, it has also been possible to specify that the term 'victim' refers to an institution rather than a gender. In 2010, however, the statistics did not yet

[48] For structure and development in the years 1993-2002, see Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 37 et seq.; for the following years up to 2005 see Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 14 et seq.; for the years 2006-2009 see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 18ff; corresponding data for 2010 in Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2012, 16 et seq.; for the reporting years 2011 / 2012 see Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 19 et seq.; the reporting years 2013 / 2014 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Ede / Kerner 2016, 22 et seq.; Reporting years 2015 / 2016 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2018, 34 et seq.

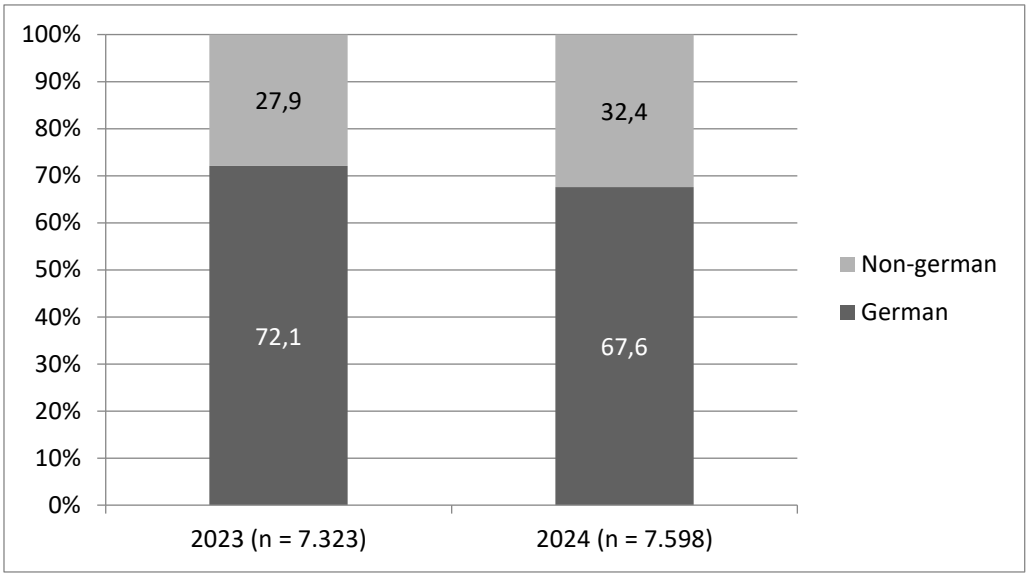
[49] 2023: 56.9%; 2024: 57.4% see appendix, p.64.

[50] 2023: 39.8%; 2024: 39.3% see appendix, p.64.

[51] Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS, year 2023, Table 91.; Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS, year 2024, Table 91; authors´ own calculations.

include any institutions as victims. This changed in 2011 when 1.8% of the harmed were institutions, and since then this has risen steadily: 2012: 2.2%; 2013: 3.1%; 2014: 2.4%; 2015: 3.8%; 2016: 5.2%; 2017: 5.4%; 2018: 5.9%; 2019: 5.3%; 2020: 5.3%; 2021: 5.3%; 2022: 4,5%; 2023: 3,2% and 2024: 3,2%. Additionally, since 2021 it has also been possible to specify "diverse" as gender. This characteristic was thus represented for the first time in the previous report, with values around 0 to 0.1%. The share has not risen above 0.1% in the current reporting years either.

Figure 10: Citizenship of the persons harmed – 2023 / 2024



Since the beginning of data collection in 1993, the proportion of Germans in the VOM statistics has always been significantly higher than that of persons harmed with other nationalities[52]. While the proportion of German citizens was always above 80% until 2002, there was a shift in the distribution in 2002 and 2006 in that the proportion of foreign persons harmed had increased. In the years 2010 to 2016, the proportion of non-Germans fluctuated between 23% and 27%[53]. In 2017 and 2018, it was around 30% for the first time. This trend continues in the present reporting years 2023 / 2024 (Figure 10).

4.2 Injuries of the persons harmed[54]

VOM statistics distinguish between three forms of injury:

1. **Physically harmed** is divided into four levels of severity based on the amount of medical care required:
    - minor bodily injury: no medical treatment required
    - moderate bodily injury: relatively fast healing injury with outpatient medical care
    - serious bodily injury: longer healing process with medical care / hospitalisation
    - bodily injury with permanent consequences: permanent physical damage

[52] Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 43. See Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 15 on the years 2003-2005.

[53] For 2010 see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2012, 17; 2011 / 2012 see Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 2; 2013 / 2014 see Hartmann / Schmidt / Ede / Kerner 2016, 24; 2015 / 2016 see Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2018, 35.

[54] Damages are assessed using three separate variables. The values do not necessarily add up to 100%. They can be higher or (usually) lower. On the one hand, several types of damage can occur in individual cases, on the other hand, a criminal offence does not necessarily have to result in physical, psychological or material damage.

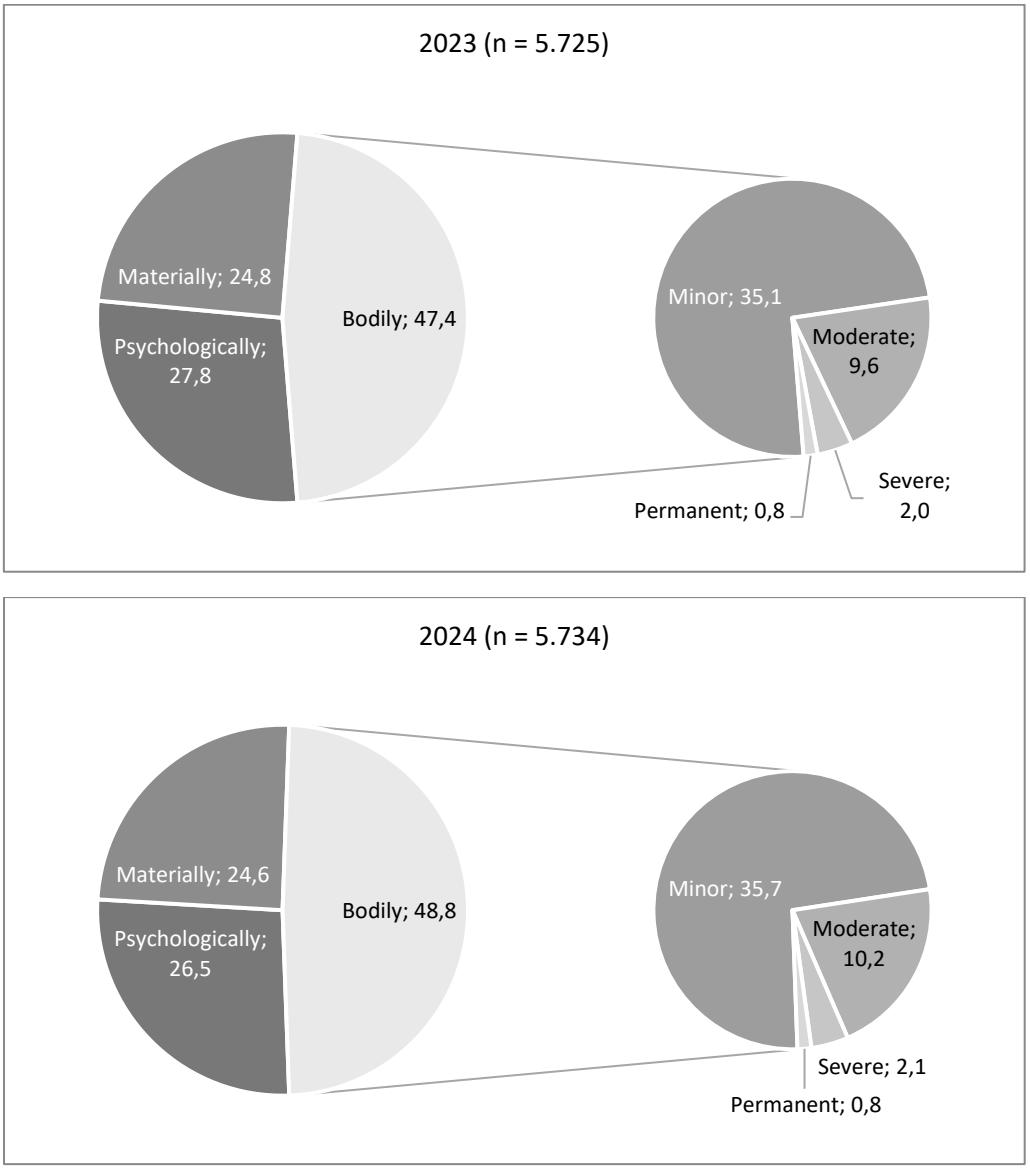
2. Psychologically harmed

- This category reflects the personal assessment of the mediators.

3. Materially harmed

- This category refers to the loss of money or the loss of, or damage to, objects whose monetary value can be quantified.

Figure 11: Type of harm suffered and severity of bodily injuries – 2023 / 2024, values in percent



In summary, it can be said at this point that the VOM statistics are mainly comprised of physical injuries and among them - as in previous years - mainly minor injuries (Figure 11). Compared to the previous reporting years, since 2013 the type of injuries suffered have been reported more frequently. The proportion of persons harmed providing no indication of the harm suffered has almost halved.

In 2013 / 2014, the share of minor assaults had decreased as moderate assaults increased compared to 2011 / 2012. However, this trend has been declining again since 2015.

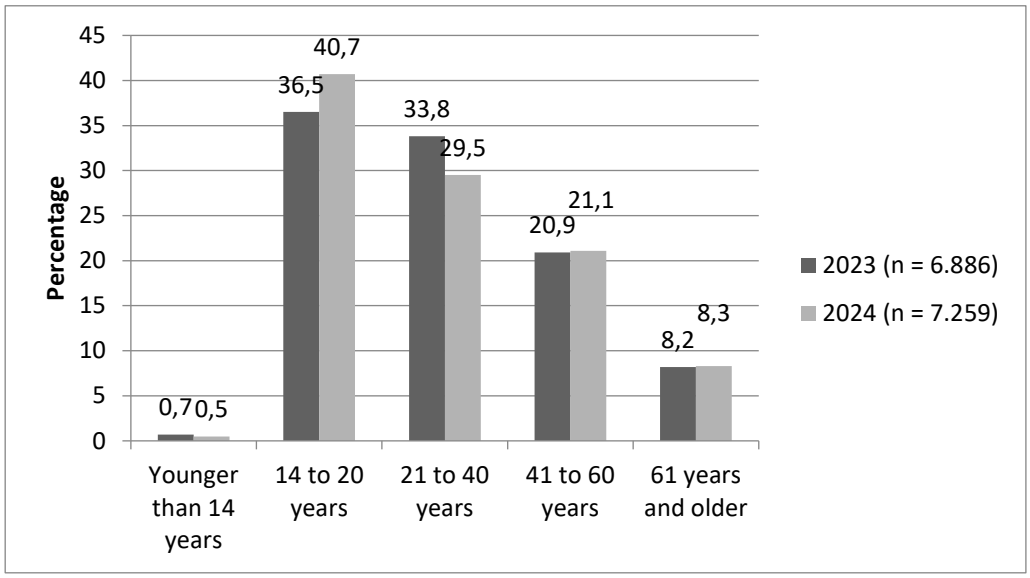
5. General data on the accused

The accused were not only asked about their willingness to participate in victim-offender mediation or about the course of the process; some social data such as age, gender and citizenship as well as the offence committed were also collected. In this chapter, we discuss these data in more detail. The basis here is 7,045 accused in 2023 and 7,425 in 2024.

5.1 Social statistical characteristics of the accused

While in the early years of the statistics, 14 to 20-year-olds made up the largest proportion, in 2009 more 21 to 40-year-old accused were recorded for the first time (38.7%). This trend has continued until 2019. Since 2020 and also in the reporting years, the ratio has slightly reversed in favor of the 14-20-year-olds or the two age groups have been proportionally close to each other over the past three reporting years (see Figure 12).

Figure 12: Age of the accused – 2023 / 2024



The age distribution corresponds in its structure to the results on the "age-crime curve" in the police crime statistics (PCS). When considered in closer detail, the percentages then deviate downwards or upwards, with a considerable upward deviation for juveniles and adolescents, and a more or less downward deviation for all other groups. In the PCS from 2023, 4.6% of the suspects were registered as children; the 14 to 20-year-old suspects made up 16.8%; the 21 to under 40-year-olds accounted for a share of 43.4%, the 40 to under 60-year-olds accounted for a share of 25.8%, and suspects over 60 accounted for a share of 8.4%[55]. Similar values were recorded in 2024[56].

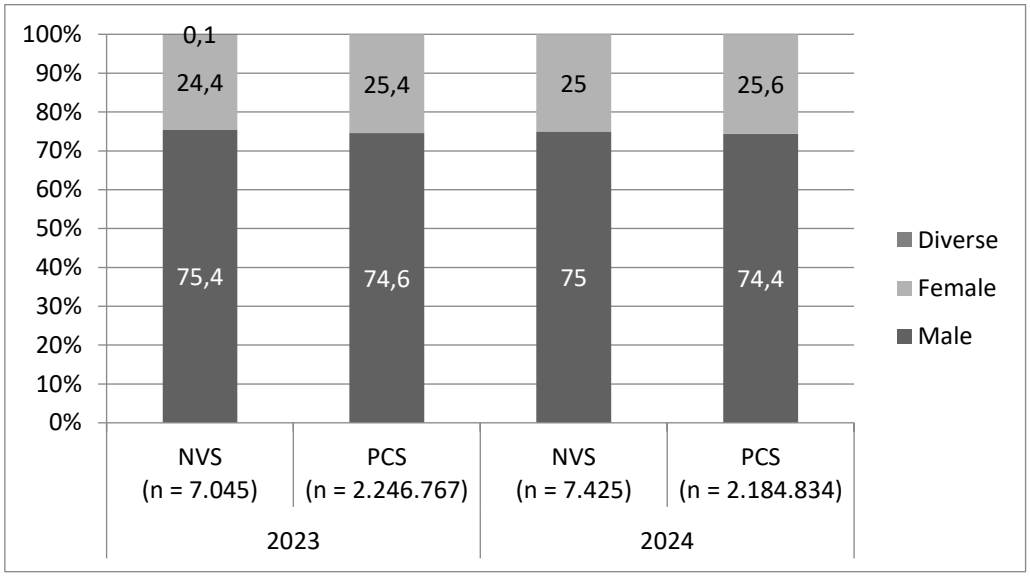
As with the gender structure amongst the persons harmed, the distribution of male and female accused in the VOM statistics corresponds closely to the distribution of male and female suspects in the PCS[57]. In the PCS as well as in the nationwide VOM statistics (NVS), an increase in female suspects can be observed, whereby the proportion of female suspects in the PCS is somewhat higher than that in the VOM statistics presented here (see Figure 13).

[55] Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS year 2019, table 20, authors´ own calculations.

[56] 4.7% children; 16% 14 to 20-year-olds; 43.4% 21 to under 40-year-olds; 26.9% 40 to under 60-year-olds and 9% over 60 years, see Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS year 2024, Table 20, authors´ own calculations.

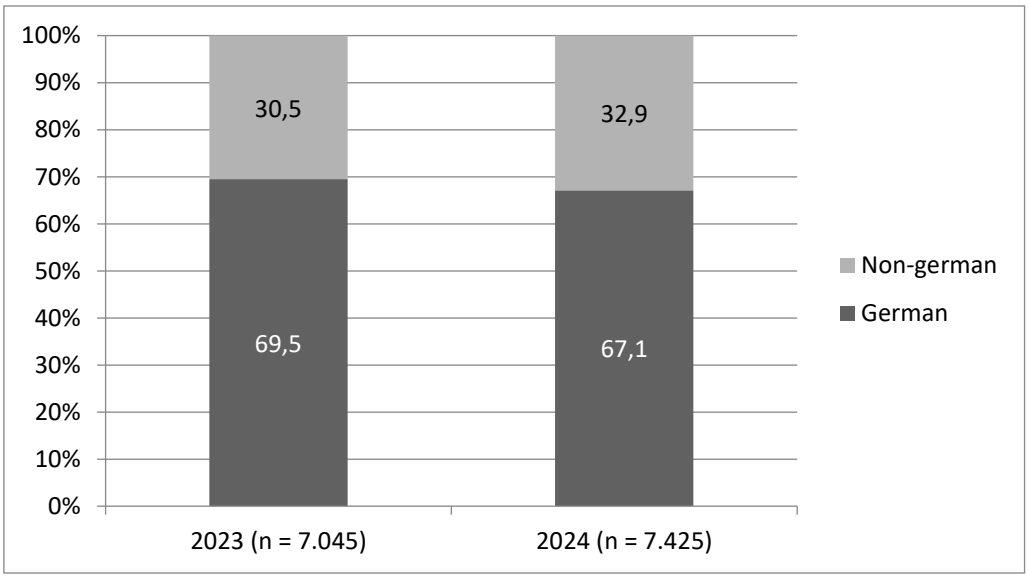
[57] Bundeskriminalamt (ed.), PCS year 2023, table 20, authors´ own calculations; Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS year 2024, table 20, authors´ own calculations.

Figure 13: Gender of the accused NVS and PCS in comparison – 2023 / 2024



In 2023 and 2024, the proportion of accused with German citizenship is much higher than the proportion of non-Germans, as in all but one reporting year in 2009[58] (see Figure 14), rising to around 77% in 2013 / 2014. Since 2015 and in the following reporting years until 2022, the proportion of Germans has settled by around 70 % and decreased a little more in the years 2023/2024.

Figure 14: Citizenship of the accused – 2023 / 2024



5.2 The charges against the accused: types of offences committed

When creating the following offence structure, several identical offences committed by one offender in one case are counted only once in the respective category. For example, if one accused committed three assaults in one case, this case is counted only once in the category "Offences against physical integrity" in the following table. In this way, it is possible to rule out distortions due to differential evaluation and recording of offences committed as single or multiple offences.

Furthermore, the offences are not expressed as a percentage of the number of offences reported, but rather as a percentage of the number of accused. Only in this way is it possible for the percentage values

[58] See Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2012, 21 et seq.

to have a clear significance and to be interpreted in such a way that they indicate the proportion of accused who have, for example, committed assault. For the purposes of the present report, on the other hand, it appears less significant how high the proportion of e.g. bodily injury is among all offences that were registered. Since five offences can be entered for each accused, this proportion depends on whether or not offences accompanying an assault or robbery, such as property damage or an insult for example, are entered.

As Table 17 below shows, as in recent years (2007: 49.1%; 2008: 50.8%; 2009: 46.6%; 2010: 47.3%; 2011: 57.9%; 2012: 55.3%; 2013: 58%; 2014: 54.6%; 2015: 52.9%; 2016: 51.5%; 2017: 51%; 2018: 50.2%; 2019: 54,3%; 2020: 53,9; 2021: 49,5%; 2022: 51,6%), *offences against physical integrity* account by far for the largest share. The offence categories *insult, offences against personal freedom and property damage* follow with a significantly smaller share.

Table 17: Offences by crime 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Offences against physical integrity	3.782	54.4	4.055	55.4
Insult	1.183	17	1.225	16.7
Offences against personal freedom	1.174	16.9	1.300	17.7
Criminal damage (of property)	699	10	628	8.6
Theft and misappropriation	431	6.2	473	6.5
Fraud and embezzlement	401	5.8	405	5.5
Offences against public order	177	2.5	191	2.6
Robbery and extortion	135	1.9	149	2
Offences endangering public safety	36	0.5	39	0.5
Resistance to state authority	38	0.5	30	0.4
False suspicion	27	0.4	31	0.4
Offences against sexual self-determination	132	1.9	124	1.7
Violation of personal life and confidentiality	53	0.8	69	0.9
Aiding after the fact and handling stolen goods	8	0.1	7	0.1
Offences against life	2	0	2	0
Other offences	90	1.3	102	1.4
Total[59]	8.368	120.3	8.830	120.5
Missing[60]	87		99	
N accused[61]	7.045		7.425	

The basic structure of the distribution illustrated in Figure 17 has hardly changed over the long term[62]. Interestingly, in contrast to the picture drawn by the PCS or the criminal prosecution statistics, the picture does not change significantly if a subdivision is made into male and female accused. For both groups, the VOM statistics focus on offences against physical integrity. For example, 55.1% (2023) and 57.1% (2024) of the indicted offences concerning male accused and 52% (2023) and 50.1% (2024) of the offences concerning female accused were offences against physical integrity.

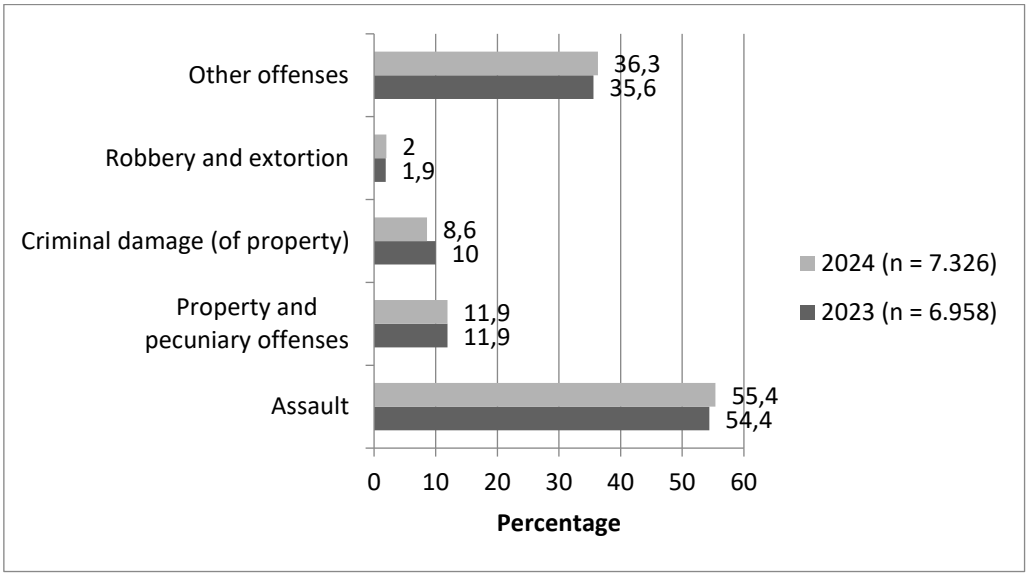
[59] Since it was possible to indicate more than one offence, the number of offences committed does not correspond to the number of accused for whom information is available (N accused).

[60] Number of accused for whom information on offences was not available.

[61] Number of accused for whom information on offences was available.

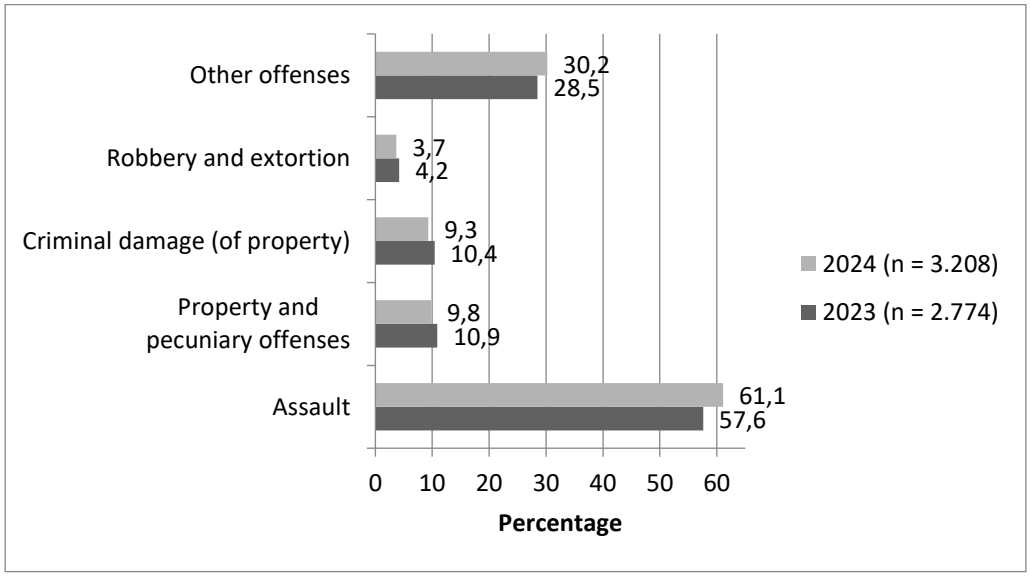
[62] Property and property crimes: 2006: 5,8%; 2007: 6,5%; 2008: 9,6%; 2009: 10,0%; 2010: 10,8%; 2011: 11,3%; 2012: 12,2%; 2013: 11,8%; 2014: 14,6%; 2015: 14,4%; 2016: 16,7%; 2017: 16,4; 2018: 18%; 2019: 16,7%; 2020: 17,1%. Damage to property: 2006: 14,7%; 2007: 14,3%; 2008: 11,9%; 2009: 11,6%; 2010: 11,0%; 2011: 10,9%; 2012: 12,1%; 2013: 10,9; 2014: 10,6%; 2015: 11,4%; 2016: 12,1%; 2017: 11,4%; 2018: 12,6%. Robbery and extortion: 2006: 3,3%; 2007: 2,0%; 2008: 2,0%; 2009: 1,2%; 2010: 1,1% 2011: 1,3%; 2012: 1,0%; 2013: 1,0%; 2014: 1,4%; 2015: 1,3%; 2016: 1,6%; 2017: 1,4; 2018: 1%; 2019: 1,5%; 2020: 2,2%.

Figure 15: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – all age categories – 2023 / 2024



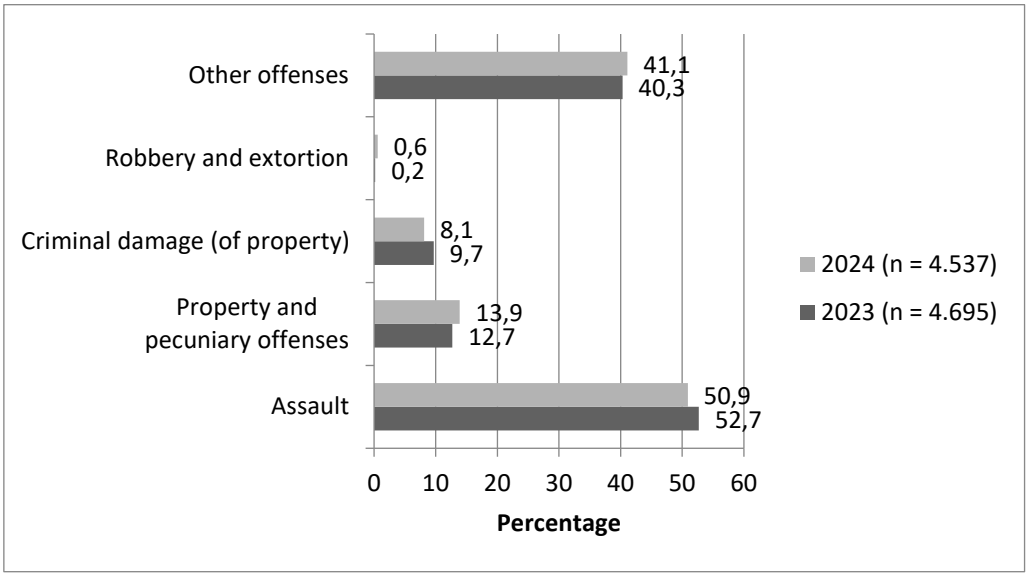
Figures 16 and 17 clearly show that even when the offences are presented for each age group, there is hardly any difference from the overall distribution of offences. In all age groups, offences against physical integrity account for the largest share. This demonstrates a very similar nationwide preference on the part of public prosecutors and district attorneys to select maltreatment and health impairment offences for VOM proceedings, which in comparison to other offences very often have a relationship background. This trend has remained stable in the long term. The type of offence committed thus seems to play a significant role in the suggestion of a VOM, which is apparently largely independent of age or gender.

Figure 16: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – juveniles adolescents – 2023 / 2024



In the case of juvenile and adolescents accused, it is also noticeable that robbery and (predatory) extortion are somewhat more prevalent as when looking at adults. It may be relevant here that robberies committed by juvenile and adult perpetrators have a different character and that robbery offenses are classified as crimes under Section 249 in conjunction with Section 12 Paragraph 1 of the German Criminal Code (StGB), in which the proceedings cannot be discontinued under Section 153a of the German Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO).

Figure 17: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – adults – 2023 / 2024



5.3 Types of conflict

As Table 18 shows, the cases recorded are predominantly *"Other partnership conflicts",* with the proportion having continued to rise since a lowest value of 50% in 2012, reaching 61.2% in 2024. The proportion of cases involving domestic violence has fallen in the meantime, but is again slightly higher in the most recent reporting year, at values about 18%, while in 2012 this figure still was 26.1%[63].

Table 18: Types of conflict – 2022 to 2024

	2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Neighbourhood conflict	709	19.1	740	19.7	807	20.6
Domestic violence	672	18	675	18	588	15
Stalking	64	1.7	35	0.9	44	1.1
Other partnership conflict	2.281	61.2	2.299	61.3	2.486	63.3
Total	3.726	100	3.749	100	3.925	100

5.4 Acquaintance with the persons harmed

In 2023, 43.2% and in 2024, 44.9% of the accused knew the persons harmed well before the crime that was the subject of the VOM, while about a quarter of the participants knew each other only briefly and a third did not know each other at all. Overall, it is clear that the majority – around 70% – of the accused knew the person harmed. Thus, the figures have risen slightly in comparison to previous reporting years.

[63] Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 32.

6. VOM willingness of the parties[64] [65]

6.1 Willingness of the persons harmed to engage in a VOM

The VOM in Germany is conceived as an offer that can be rejected immediately or after a short period of consideration without justification. Participation in a mediation attempt is therefore voluntary in Germany. The extent to which the offer is met with serious interest is therefore of great importance for the evaluation of the VOM. In reality, it can happen that a whole bundle of assessments, motivations, hopes and fears come into play immediately after the crime, on the part of both the person harmed and the accused.

Those working in VOM-services often experience this kind of situation at the beginning of talks with the parties, when memories and emotions are still fresh. This reality cannot be reflected in the VOM statistics. Rather, the statistics are designed to record only certain details regarding the attempts to establish contact and their success or failure.

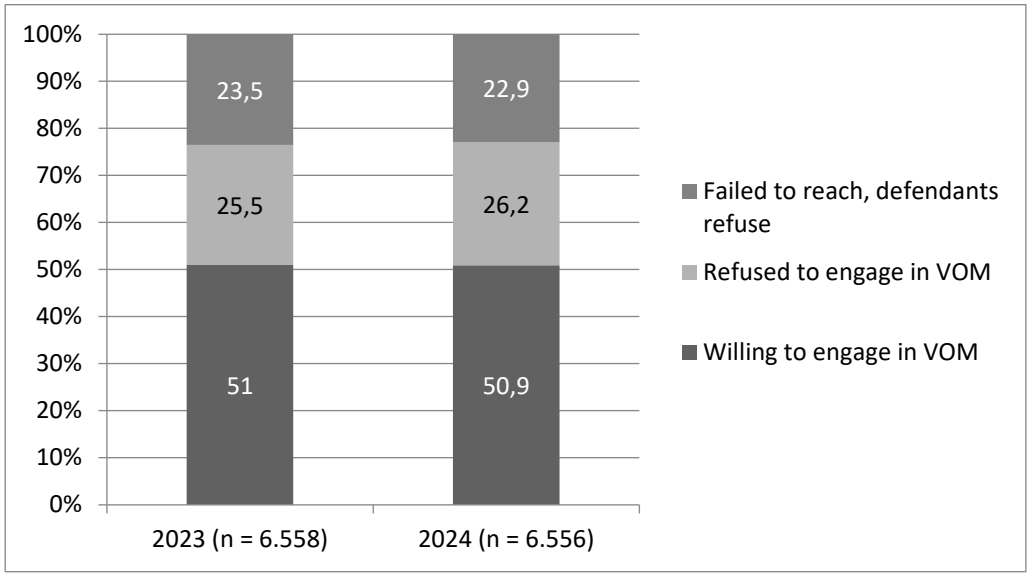
For reasons relating to the usual course of the preliminary proceedings in Germany, which are traditionally centred on the accused, a case is ordinarily assigned to the institutions (mostly together with the files or file excerpts) in respect of the accused. Under this system, it would therefore seem appropriate to first contact the accused. If the accused firmly refuses to enter into the VOM procedure from the outset, it would be in line with the procedural logic of the judiciary in Germany to return the case to the public prosecutor's office or the district attorney's office so that further investigations or final decisions can be made in accordance with other routines and possibilities.

As one of the main ideas of VOM is to strengthen the role of the person harmed in the proceedings, it does not come naturally to initially contact the accused instead of the person harmed. However, conflict mediators have argued that, based on the practical experience of the VOM-services, it can also make sense from the perspective of the person harmed to be contacted only after the accused. The main argument is that it may have a negative psychological impact on a person harmed who has already been willing to open up to a VOM after being contacted first, if he or she then learns that the accused decidedly refuses to do so. Nevertheless, reliable research on the entire problem area does not seem to exist to date.

[64] The decision about engaging with VOM is the delicate point at which we discover whether ideas about the concept of VOM, which have been accepted by society through its laws, are accepted by the parties involved, and translated by them into action. Depending on how things go at the outset, a tone can be established which may continue to have an effect, in the unconscious or in the subconscious. Finally, when the case is over or closed, this tone can also determine how those involved and any third parties affected, assess the outcome. From this point of view, it is important to gain as much knowledge about the willingness to engage in VOM as possible by questioning the persons directly. See also the publications by Bals 2006, 131 et seq. and 2007, 25, 131 et seq. and 2007, 258 et seq.; Noltenius 2007, 528 et seq.; Tränkle 2007; Berndt 2016 and Breitkopf 2017.

[65] Until 2014, the European Union funded a project that enables the "reparation services" of the Member States to easily measure the satisfaction of persons harmed and the perception of relevant rights (see http://rj4all.info). The Institute for Police and Security Research (www.ipos.bremen.de) as part of this project, developed an online survey module in which all VOM-services were able to participate. The results of this survey have been published in Hartmann / Haas 2014.

Figure 18: Contacting the persons harmed – results for 2023 / 2024



This report is based on the logic of compensation related to the person harmed and is, therefore, primarily concerned with documenting the experience of the person harmed. In the context of contacting the person harmed, before consent or refusal to talk can be elicited, there is the considerable risk that the VOM-service will not be able to reach the person harmed, even though several attempts have been made to make contact. If the efforts do remain unsuccessful, there is also no longer any point in trying to reach the accused. Furthermore, the procedure is superfluous if it becomes clear even before contact with the person harmed that the accused refuses to participate. In Figure 20, both types of cases are combined into one category.

Since the first years of the survey, the proportion of persons harmed who were willing to engage in VOM decreased over the years, but in recent years it has stabilised at about 55%[66].

6.2 Willingness of the accused to engage in a VOM

Firstly, as mentioned above, VOM is intended to strengthen the interests of the persons harmed (or to ensure that they are perceived in the first place). The reasons why it is important for the persons harmed to encounter accused who are willing to engage in a VOM must be determined on a case-by-case basis and justified individually. In general, however, the central reasons are obvious.

In addition to compensation in the material sense, i.e. damages and compensation for pain and suffering, and compensation in the immaterial sense, e.g. apology, VOM offers the person harmed the opportunity to talk to the accused about the reasons for them being harmed or simply to get to know the accused's perspective. It is therefore not only a matter of settling the damage that was done, but also an opportunity to *"[...] relieve the victim's mental stress and restore his or her trust in the legal system"*[67]. Unlike in court, where the person harmed and the consequences of his or her victimisation play a subordinate role, at least systematically, in VOM the person harmed is given the opportunity to express his or

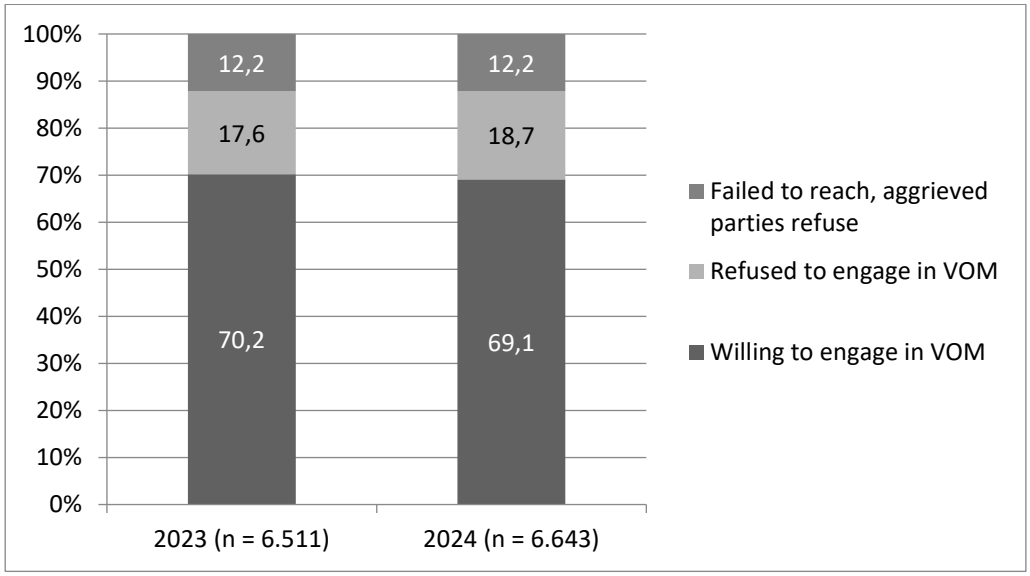
[66] Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 62 et seq. The highest value was in 1996 with 71%. For the years 2003-2005 see Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 24; for the years 2006-2009 see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 30-32; for the 2010 reporting year see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2012, 25 et seq.; for the reporting years 2011 and 2012 see Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 33 et seq.; the reporting years 2013 / 2014 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Ede / Kerner 2016, 37 et seq. and for the years 2015/2016 Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2018, 50 et seq.

[67] Mühlfeld 2002, 139.

her own interests and needs, thus coming to terms with the crime and reducing the fear of being victimised again.

By accepting responsibility for their offence and for the caused harm to others, the accused are given the opportunity to distance themselves from their criminal conduct and to integrate themselves socially. In contrast, the application of criminal law in formal classical proceedings structurally tends to harbour the risk that the accused will first experience exclusion, which may require increased efforts at reintegration later on.

Figure 19: Contacting the accused – results for 2023 / 2024



In addition, victim-offender mediation should also have a preventive effect; it should be a learning experience for the accused because they are prompted to deal with the person harmed in a direct way as an individual. Ideally, a sensitisation to the feelings, fears and needs of the person harmed occurs, which can lead to an involvement that is conducive to resocialisation.

The approval rate of accused for VOM reaches higher percentages than that of the persons harmed[68] (see Figure 19). There is no exception to this finding or trend in any year of VOM statistics. Thus, about three-quarters of all accused were open to a VOM process. Incidentally, there is no significant correlation between willingness to participate in a VOM procedure and the degree of familiarity between accused and persons harmed. This suggests that other reasons play a greater role here.

Even everyday theoretical considerations about the situation of accused involved in criminal proceedings suggest that there are more reasons for them than for persons harmed to respond positively in the first instance to an enquiry about their willingness to participate in VOM.

The idea of VOM appeals primarily to those accused who have an inner need to come to terms with the consequences of the crime and, within this framework, particularly want to achieve a peaceful settlement with the persons harmed.

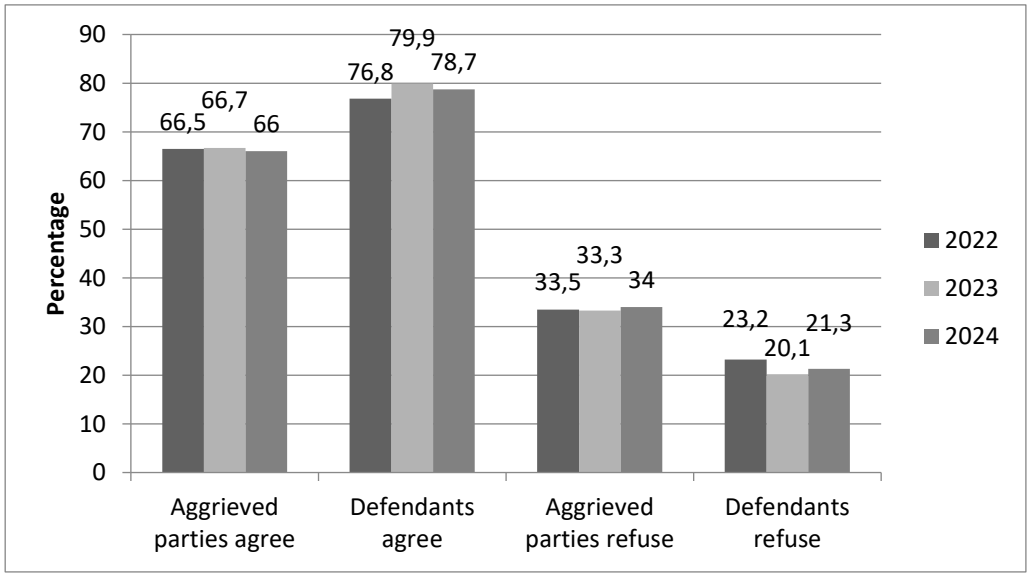
[68] See also Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, Diagram 33 on page 70. For the years 2003-2005 see the information in Hartmann / Kerner / Eikens 2008, Diagram 19 on page 25; for the years 2006-2009 see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, Diagram 19 on page 33. For the year 2010 see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2012, Diagram 19a on page 31. For the reporting years 2011 / 2012 see Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 35 et seq. Reporting years 2013 / 2014 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Ede / Kerner 2016, 39 et seq. Reporting years 2015 / 2016 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2018, 51 et seq. Reporting years 2017 / 2018 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2020, 50 et seq. Reporting years 2019 / 2020 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Settels / Kerner 2021, 50 et seq. Reporting years 2021 / 2022 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Ridder / Kerner 2024, 53 et seq.

In addition to these positive effects, it cannot be ruled out that the willingness of the accused to participate in VOM, at least at the beginning, is influenced, or even determined, by the possible impact on their punishment. Accused may be aware or have been advised by their defence counsel that VOM and/or compensation for damages may by law result in the prosecution being dropped, the case being dismissed by the public prosecutor, or the proceedings being discontinued by the public prosecutor's office or the criminal court (section 153a, also section 153b of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO); sections 45 and 47 of the Youth Courts Act (JGG)). Moreover, after the opening of the main proceedings in court, participation in such measures may also lead to a guilty verdict being handed down with a waiver of punishment or, if the sentence limit of one year is exceeded, then at least a reduction of the punishment (section 46 (2), sections 46a of the Criminal Code (StGB)) may be considered.

Elke Hassemer aptly noted: "Nevertheless, it is a social achievement to assume responsibility for what one has done [and] this must be evaluated positively, regardless of whether the assumption of responsibility was more for moral, more for social or for reasons of expediency"[69].

Often, at the beginning of a trial, it is not at all possible to reliably assess the motivation of an accused. Younger accused in particular tend to deny to third parties any inner concern or to show that they know how to take advantage and manipulate others in their favour. Not all of them have learned to deal with feelings such as guilt, shame or remorse, and often even less to openly admit or acknowledge these feelings to themselves and others. People with a disturbed self-image or with poorly developed self-esteem sometimes feel almost instinctively threatened when they are seriously confronted with the consequences of their actions.

Figure 20: Willingness to engage in VOM in the event of successful contact – 2022 to 2024



The mere participation in victim-offender mediation – in a process involving dialogue – facilitates the entry into a corresponding coping process. Practitioners also report that even in the case of accused who, according to their experience, were in fact almost completely self-interested at the beginning, direct interaction with the person harmed can generate an interactive dynamic after only a short time, which in the end leads to substantial participation and the primacy of altruistic motivation.

For those persons harmed and accused who could not be reached despite repeated contact efforts on the part of the institutions, it is of course completely open to question how they would have engaged if they could have been reached. Statistical data on negative attitudes or at least meaningful individual

[69] Hassemer 1998, 399.

case reports from follow-up surveys are rare in the German-speaking world. In any case, a study by Pelikan et al. on cases of domestic violence in Austria revealed an overall quite positive subsequent assessment of the settlement of the crime by the persons harmed[70]. The same applies to an online survey conducted by the Institute for Police and Security Research at the Bremen University of Public Administration[71].

However, we have to make the reader aware that the distribution shown in Figure 20 is calculated by leaving out the cases in which harmed and accused could not be reached and we know nothing about the reasons behind this.

In the three-year period shown here, both the willingness of those involved to participate in VOM and the rejection of VOM are subject to slight fluctuations. In 2017 and 2018, the proportion of accused willing to participate in VOM fell below 80% for the first time, and has now levelled off, with a recent slight upward trend. In the years 2003 to 2016, around 70% of the persons harmed contacted and 80 to 85% of the accused contacted declared their willingness to engage in a VOM process. In the long-term period between 1993 and 2002, the corresponding figures for persons harmed varied between a maximum of 81 and a minimum of 68 per hundred and for accused between a maximum of 92 and a minimum of 82 per hundred.

[70] Pelikan / Hager / Haller / Kretschmann 2009, 47 et seq., 56, 140.

[71] Hartmann / Haas 2014.

7. Evaluations of the VOM proceedings

Up to and including the reporting year 2010, this chapter referred only to mediation meetings with direct contact between the accused and the person harmed. This is due to the fact that until 2010 it was not yet possible to explicitly indicate the so-called *shuttle mediation* as a possible procedure in victim-offender mediation. The background to the expansion of the questionnaire to include this response option was that the mediators who participated in the revision of the questionnaire requested the introduction of this new category. Hence the following results differentiate between procedures in which a direct dialogue has come about (i.e. a joint conversation) and procedures in which indirect dialogue / *shuttle diplomacy* has been included in the presented results.

In the theoretical discussion, the proponents of VOM emphasise the advantages of a direct personal confrontation between the person harmed and the accused and the associated possibility of a comprehensive reappraisal of the events of the crime.

According to this conception of VOM, if the accused and the person harmed are willing to participate in VOM, a framework should be created for a discussion moderated by a mediator in which the person harmed and the accused can discuss all aspects of the crime and its consequences that they consider important and agree on a settlement agreement[72].

Beyond that, it may happen that the parties involved have already met and, if necessary, come to an agreement on a private basis before an official attempt at compensation is initiated (*private meeting*[73] *before* VOM).

Even after the mediators have made contact with the persons harmed and entered into the proceedings with them, the person harmed and the accused can meet for a discussion without a mediator (*private meeting during* VOM). If a private conversation has taken place before or during a VOM, it seems that both parties involved usually consider a further conversation in the presence of a mediator to be unnecessary[74].

In the circumstances, such a case still counts as a referral to VOM. It is represented as a case of mediation that has not resulted in a formal mediation process or a restorative outcome. It may nevertheless still count as a successful outcome in these statistics.

In addition, however, mediation proceedings are also concluded without any direct contact between the accused and the person harmed during the mediation process. In these cases, agreements are reached through alternating individual discussions between the mediator(s) and the parties involved (*shuttle diplomacy*).

If an agreement is reached between the accused and the persons harmed in this way, it seems appropriate to speak of a successful VOM.

However, with regard to the original conception, it is important to show how high the proportions of the different mediation variants are. Previous studies have shown that, especially in cases involving adult accused, the proportion of proceedings following the original concept was quite small.

Where neither a private nor an official discussion takes place, this can have very different reasons. For example, the matter may seem so minor to the persons harmed that they do not want to take the time for a joint discussion, but at the same time, they are not interested in criminal proceedings against the accused for the same reason.

---

[72] See Hartmann 1995, 28 et seq.; Kuhn 1989, 200 et seq., Messmer 1991, 115 et seq.

[73] Accused and person harmed met each other for a settlement before or even after they have been officially addressed by the mediator but with no involvement of a mediator.

[74] In Germany the VOM does not necessarily imply a mediator.

In other cases, however, the crime may have been so traumatising for the person harmed that a joint discussion is out of the question due to the ongoing traumatic stress. However, there may also be an interest in settling the damage or in agreements for the future, for example with the aim of putting a stop to the fear of further assaults by the accused or persons associated with them.

For these and other reasons, the highest possible proportion of joint discussions is therefore not a sufficient criterion for the quality of mediation work. Rather, it is important that the mediators work out the possibilities and needs of the person harmed and of the accused in talks with both parties in a way that is appropriate to the respective situation.

Only cases in which both the accused and the persons harmed have agreed to an attempt at a VOM measure can be considered as a basis for evaluating the proportions of the two alternatives mentioned. Otherwise, the proportion of cases in which an attempt was not initiated at all would distort the respective proportion. This circumstance is only clearly expressed here, in contrast to the questions discussed above, because the data is filtered several times, from analytic step to analytic step. Thus, in order to be able to calculate the proportion of mediation cases in which face-to-face discussions have taken place, only cases in which both the accused and the person harmed have agreed to a victim-offender mediation are taken into account. Further filter levels are, for example, the proportions of reparation payments in the case of a successful VOM and the proportion of reparation payments actually fulfilled, if such were agreed upon. Even if only small deviations occur at each filter level, they can add up to produce a noticeable overall effect.

Table 19: VOM procedure without indirect dialogue, values in percent 2022 to 2024

	2022 (n = 1.702)	**2023** (n = 1.880)	**2024** (n = 1.856)
VOM dialogue with mediator	62.1	58.7	58.7
Private meeting before VOM[75]	12.6	12.7	13.6
Private meeting during VOM[76]	5.3	6.7	5.6
Both conflicting parties reject meeting	2.4	2.3	3.4
Accused refuses to meet	1.4	1.4	1.8
Person harmed refuses to meet	9.7	11.1	10.6
Other person preventing meeting	6.5	7.1	6.3

Table 19 a: VOM procedure with indirect dialogue, values in percent 2022 to 2024

	2022 (n = 2.653)	**2023** (n = 2.712)	**2024** (n = 2.740)
VOM dialogue with mediator	39.9	40.7	39.8
Private meeting before VOM[77]	8.1	8.8	9.2
Private meeting during VOM[78]	3.4	4.6	3.8
Shuttle mediation took place with at least one person harmed	35.8	30.7	32.3
Both conflicting parties reject meeting	1.5	1.6	2.3
Accused refused to meet	0.9	1	1.2
Person harmed refuses to meet	6.2	7.7	7.2
Other reason for prevention of meeting	4.2	4.9	4.2

We only use cases in which both the person harmed and the accused have agreed to participate in a VOM as a basis for the data. The calculations are based on the questionnaire containing information about the accused. This questionnaire provides four positive and three negative options to record the

[75] See footnote 73.

[76] See footnote 73.

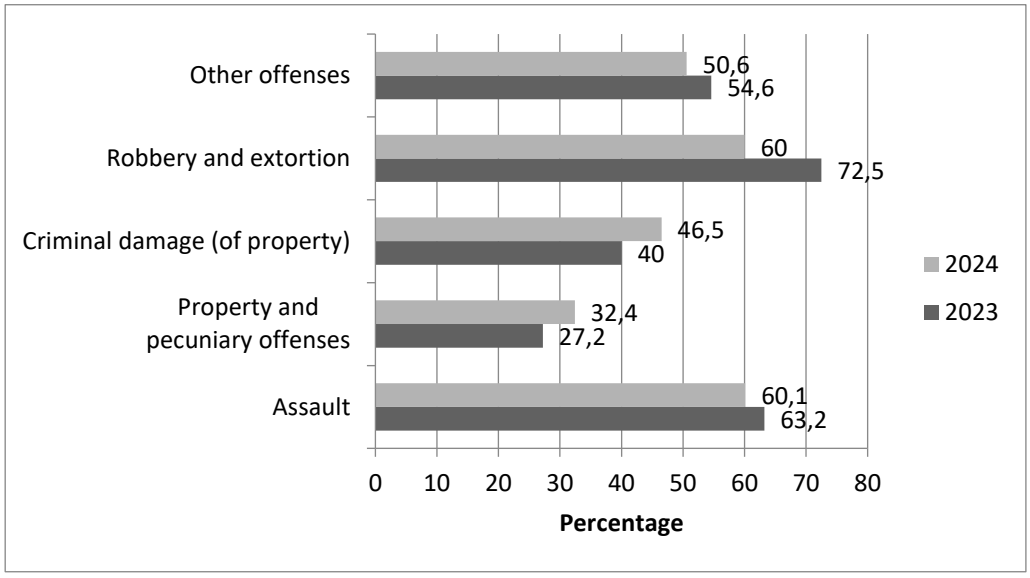
[77] See footnote 73.

[78] See footnote 73.

course of discussions between the parties to the conflict (see Tables 19 and 19a). Figure 21 additionally shows the conversation rates of individual offence groups.

Usually, the summary of the first three or four answer options result in a value well above 50%, as was seen in the present reporting years 2023 / 2024. This was not the case for the first time in 2006 and 2007 (2006: 46.1%; 2007: 47.7%). Since 2008, the situation went back to a moderate level. However, this did not mean that the VOM failed, which can be seen if one looked for example at the group of persons harmed who agreed to the VOM but rejected a face-to-face discussion. In these cases, one found that 66.8% in 2006, 66.7% in 2007 and 67.6% in 2010 of these VOM attempts nevertheless ended with an amicable and final settlement.

Figure 21: Percentage of direct VOM conversations conducted by offence group – 2023 / 2024



In almost all offence groups, the willingness to talk face-to-face is greater than the resistance. Only in the case of property and pecuniary offences has the willingness to talk face-to-face fallen below 50% since 2008. The proportion of those willing to talk in cases of robbery and extortion, which had seen a sharp decline since the survey year 2000 (80.3%[79]) with a low point in 2002 (44.1%), has increased significantly in recent years. These comparatively strong percentage fluctuations, which can also be observed in the present reporting years, are certainly related to the low absolute number of robbery and extortion offences that reach the VOM centres or are recorded here. The higher willingness to talk in the case of more serious offenses, especially those that are directed against the person harmed, is initially unexpected and therefore particularly remarkable. It shows that, especially for more serious crimes, there is at least among some of the accused and persons harmed a special need for VOM.

These results correspond to the findings of a study on mediation in non-criminal cases. In this study, only 14% of the mediators surveyed stated that they exclusively conduct face-to-face mediations with both conflict parties. The majority of mediators deviate from the textbook concept depending on the situation and apply various methods of alternative conflict management[80]. A closer analysis revealed that in business mediation, the proportion of *"bilateral negotiations"* was significantly higher than in private mediation, where in particular family conflicts are dealt with[81]. This corresponds to the finding shown

[79] See also Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 82 (diagramme 37). For the years 2003-2005 see the evidence in Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 30.

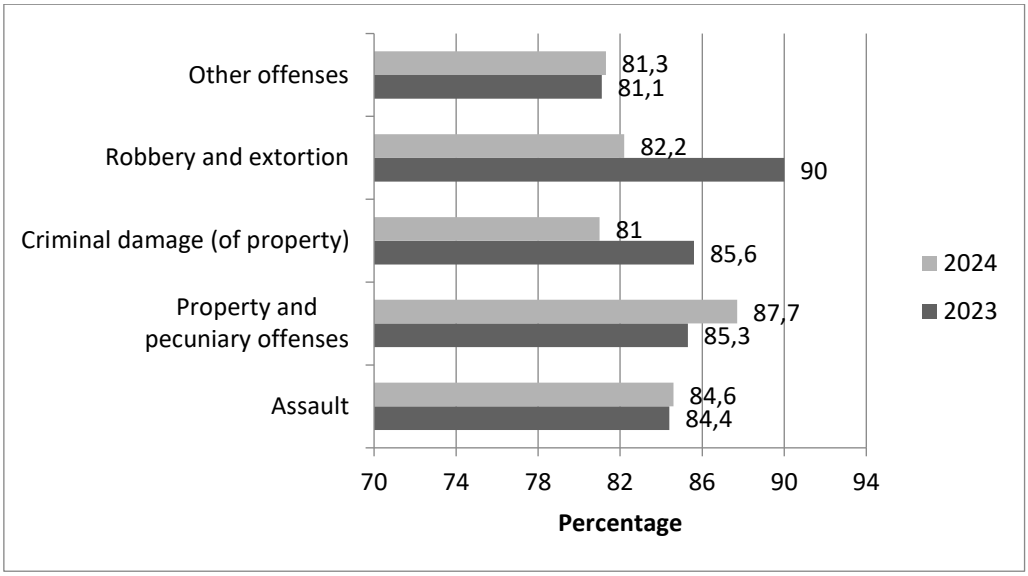
[80] Masser et al. 2017; 122.

[81] Masser et al. 2017; 126.

here that the willingness to engage in direct mediation is lowest in cases of criminal damage (on property).

At this point, since the reporting year 2011 we present two figures. The option *"Shuttle diplomacy took place with at least one person harmed"* was only included in figure 22, whereas figure 21 includes only the proceedings in which a direct face-to-face conversation took place (but NOT the option "*shuttle diplomacy*". This clearly shows that the number of VOM proceedings increases significantly when the possibility of indirect dialogue is included, as would be expected.

Figure 22: Percentage of all VOM procedures by offence group – 2023 / 2024



8. Result of the VOM procedures[82]

The essential criterion by which the success of a VOM is judged is the agreement between the person harmed and the accused. As part of this study, a distinction is made in this context as to whether the accused and the person harmed came to an *amicable and final settlement* or a *partial settlement* in which one of the parties reserved further steps (under criminal or civil law), or whether *no settlement* could be achieved. It must be taken into account here that the content that is to be discussed and resolved in a VOM is largely determined by the concerned parties.

The extent to which the history of a conflict is discussed is primarily a matter for the participating and affected parties to a conflict. Whether, after a case of bodily harm, the VOM should address a claim for pain and suffering; whether arrangements for future conflict avoidance are to be agreed on; or whether the emotional causes and consequences of an act are to be discussed is all up to those affected. The above-mentioned criterion of a final or partial settlement is therefore only relative to the explicit character of the agreement as perceived by the mediator(s).

Whether the persons concerned had further needs that were not expressed or actually initiated the reserved criminal or civil law steps later could only be clarified through further distinct analysis.

If there is no final or partial settlement, this may be because the accused and the person harmed could not agree. Alternatively, the reason may as well be that one party withdrew its consent to the attempted settlement.

8.1 Success and non-success of settlement talks

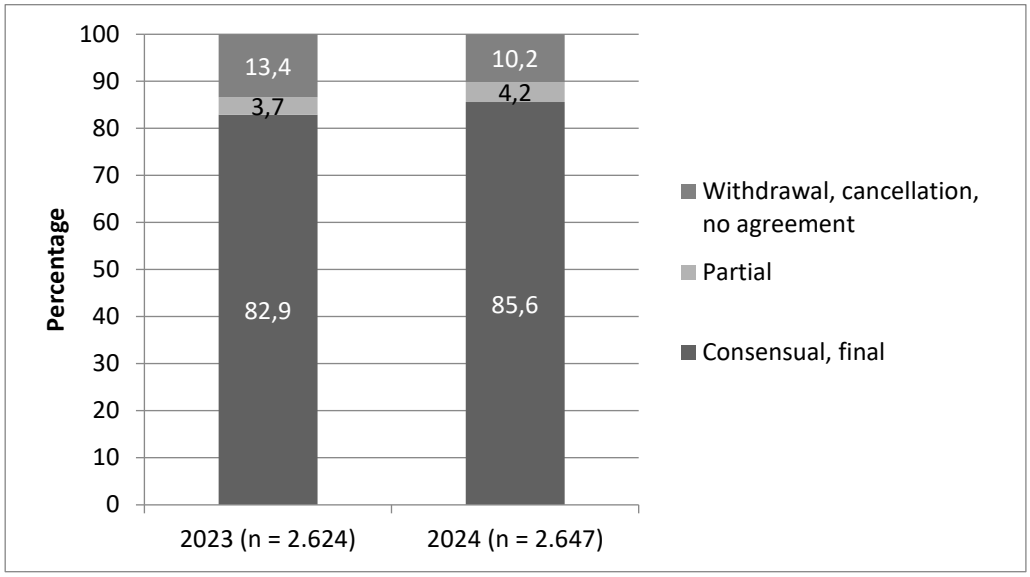
The following figure 23 shows the proportions of possible outcomes and the type of settlement of VOM procedures. As with the evaluations of the VOM proceedings in the chapter above, the percentages here again concern those cases in which both conflicting parties have agreed to a VOM. The evaluations were carried out on the basis of the accused.

The figure shows that taking part in a VOM process contributes greatly to achieving amicable and final settlements. This is also emphasised by the fact that, since the beginning of the data collection in 1993, the proportion of amicable and final settlements has not once fallen below 80%[83].

[82] The data in the years 2006 to 2010 were filtered differently for this chapter than in the initial years of the statistics up to 2005. Originally, it was planned to include all proceedings in which accused and persons harmed consented to participate. The reports (up to and including 2010) also describe the data basis in this way. However, after the consent of the accused and the person harmed, not only was a filter carried out for the VOM procedure, but also according to the type of mediation procedure and the successful conclusion of the procedure. The filtering affects the results insofar as there were around five percent more successful or partly completed procedures, and correspondingly fewer aborted procedures in the data from 2006 to 2010.] The following figures can therefore only be fully compared with the data for the reporting years 1993 to 2005. Corrected recalculations for the years 2006 to 2010 are planned, but not yet available.

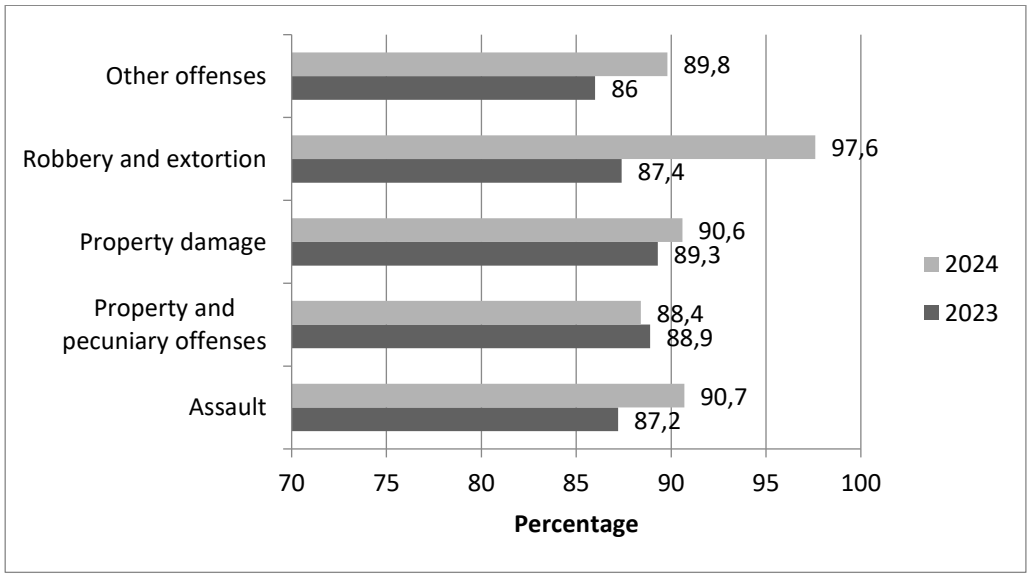
[83] See Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 85 (Diagramme 38). For the results for the years 2003-2005 see Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 31. For 2011 / 2012 see Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 77. For 2013 / 2014 see Hartmann / Schmidt / Ede / Kerner 2016, 52. For 2015 / 2016 see Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2018, 65. For 2017 / 2018 see Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2020, 64. For 2019 / 2020 see Hartmann / Schmidt / Settels / Kerner 2021, 62. For 2021 / 2022 see Hartmann / Schmidt / Ridder / Kerner 2024, 67.

Figure 23: VOM results – all VOM procedures – 2023 / 2024



In a further evaluation step, we investigated whether the settlement rate varies according to offence categories. Figure 24 shows for these reporting years that very high success rates were achieved across the board. Over the long term, temporary fluctuations were discernible for each offence, whereas overall, relatively speaking, stable high values were seen in cases of property damage[84].

Figure 24: Successful VOM procedures by offence group – 2023 / 2024



8.2 Overview of the content of compensation agreements

In addition to the proportion of the settlements in the attempted VOM proceedings, the content of the settlements is of great interest. For this purpose, it was ascertained which contents were agreed on by the accused and the person harmed within the framework of the VOM.

[84] See Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 89 (diagramme 40). For the results for the years 2003-2005, see Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2008, 32; for the results for the years 2006-2009 see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 38. For the year 2010 see Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2012, 35. For 2011 / 2012 see Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 77. Reporting years 2013 / 2014 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Ede / Kerner 2016, 53. Reporting years 2015 / 2016 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2018, 65. Reporting years 2017 / 2018 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2020, 65. Reporting years 2019 / 2020 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Settels / Kerner 2021, 64.

Table 20: Agreements between accused and persons harmed, values in percent – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 3.321)	2024 (n = 3.392)
Apology	59.9	61.9
Agreement about behaviour	34.1	33.2
Indemnity	23.2	19
Compensation for pain and suffering	8.2	9.6
Labour services for the person harmed	2.4	2.5
Gift	4	2.9
Return of stolen item	1.6	1.4
Joint activity with the person harmed	1.2	1.1
Other services	12.6	13.8
No agreement contents	10.5	11.7
Total[85]	159.3	158.4

Apologies in particular, which are probably always expected in a VOM in one form or another, often occur in combination with other acts. Based on practical experience, it is conceivable that apologies are not entered in the questionnaire if they are taken for granted by the parties involved in specific cases. Interpretatively, an apology by the accused to the person harmed is significant in any case. A sincere apology triggers active remorse on the part of the accused; the person harmed learns that it is acknowledged that no misfortune but injustice has befallen him or her[86]. The above table shows the proportions of agreed contents.

What becomes evident—also when compared with previous years—is that apologies are the most frequently agreed-upon form of reparative action. For the calculation, only those cases were included in which both parties consented to victim-offender mediation and a partial or fully amicable settlement was reached.

In the following evaluation, all specified understandings are taken into account, even if several understandings were combined. This means that the entire field of all understandings is documented, whether singular or combined, making it possible to show a ranking.

For example, considered separately and in the long term, the shares of apologies range from around 50% to more than 80%, the shares of indemnity from around 15% to almost 40%, and the shares of compensation for pain and suffering from almost 7% to over 20%, with constant fluctuations from year to year in the VOM statistics[87].

8.3 Fulfilment of the understandings

The above-mentioned understandings are only meaningful if they are fulfilled, otherwise the persons harmed would be disappointed again. In the following, we show the ways in which agreed understandings were fulfilled. We note at this point that in some cases, a fulfillable understanding was not explicitly agreed upon in the conversation, but may nevertheless have actually been fulfilled in the further course of the procedure.

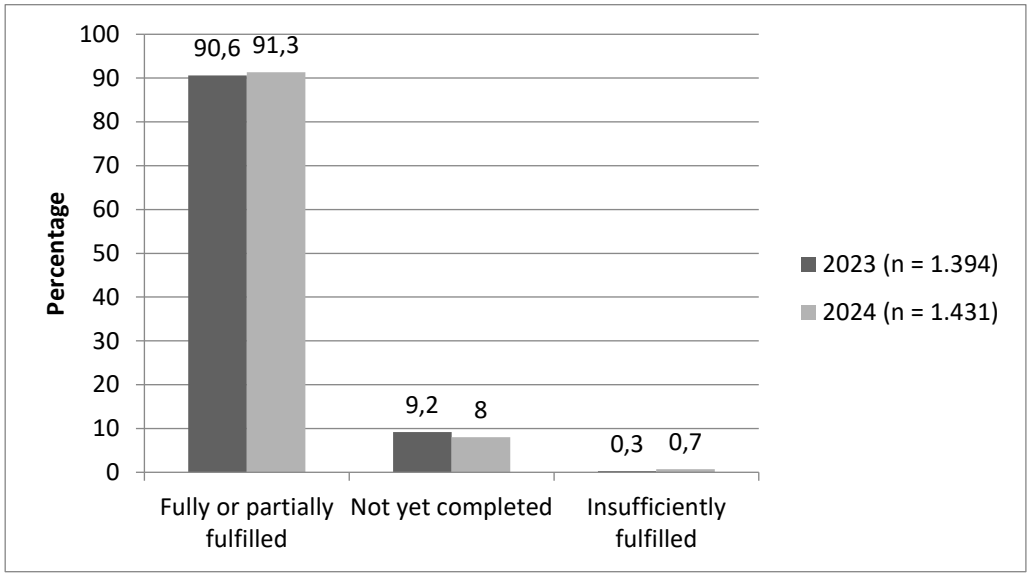
As Figure 25 shows, in 2023/2024 the accused fulfilled the majority of the understandings.

[85] Since multiple answers were possible, the sum of the percentages is greater than 100%.

[86] Pick 2002.

[87] See Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 90-95 and 148 et seq. as well as all previous reports.

Figure 25: Fulfillment of the defined obligations – 2023 / 2024



The category of partial fulfilment includes cases in which, for example, instalment payments had been agreed upon and the accused had met all instalment obligations without any issues by the time the VOM-service concluded its involvement. Follow-up enquiries with VOM-services that were able to monitor such cases showed that full payment was typically completed in these cases. For this reason, fully and partly fulfilled obligations are grouped together here.

The category "*not yet completed*" refers to other constellations in which an agreed fulfillable understanding is still ongoing, so to speak in accordance with the agreement. It is not yet possible to give a conclusive answer as to the proportion of cases that are completely successful or that fail; even if only half were to be classified as successful, the overall success rate in the years analysed here would rise to a value of over 90%.

The cases treated as *insufficiently fulfilled* are those either in which the accused did nothing at all to fulfil their part of the agreement or in which an agreement was definitively abandoned or discontinued after only a few attempts. The values are around 1%; in the long term, they fluctuated between 0.9% and 5.2% in the years from 1993 to 2016, i.e. they always tended to remain at a low level[88].

[88] See Kerner / Hartmann / Lenz 2005, 99-103. For the results for the years 2003-2005, see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2008, 34 et seq. For the results for the years 2006-2009 see Kerner / Eikens / Hartmann 2011, 47 ff. The figures for 2010 can be found in Kerner / Hartmann / Eikens 2012, 38 et seq. The values for 2011 / 2012 see Hartmann / Haas / Eikens / Kerner 2014, 78th. Reporting years 2013 / 2014 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Ede / Kerner 2016, 56th. Reporting years 2015 / 2016 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2018, 68th. Reporting years 2017 / 2018 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Kerner 2020, 68. Reporting years 2019 / 2020 in Hartmann / Schmidt / Settels / Kerner 2021, 66th. Reporting years 2021 / 2022 in Hartman / Schmidt / Settels / Kerner 2024, 72th.

9. Settlement of cases in criminal proceedings

In addition to the outcome of the VOM, the outcome of the related criminal proceedings is of great interest from a criminal policy perspective, but also for the accused themselves. This concerns both the formal settlement and the sanctions imposed. Criminal proceedings and victim-offender mediation are related. The outcome of the mediation process should have an impact on the formal completion of the criminal proceedings.

In general, after a successful VOM, the sanctions against the accused should be milder than without mediation. In addition, by discontinuing the proceedings before the court hearing, the accused are given the opportunity to escape the so-called status degradation[89] and the associated social stigmatisation.

The VOM statistics contain the relevant categories in the survey forms, which in themselves could be used to paint an overall picture of all the proceedings included in the surveys. However, it has not yet been possible to paint such a picture in any single year of the surveys. The background to this is complex. However, two central elements can be characterised in simplified terms, on the surface of what is happening, so to speak, as follows:

On the one hand, many VOM-services, although they attach importance to how the case was finally decided, sometimes receive no feedback at all and sometimes only fragmentary feedback from the judiciary.

On the other hand, there are VOM-services that agree with internationally widespread basic concepts on the central, non-judicial nature of conflict settlement, and do not place any particular emphasis on finding out how the case ultimately developed through criminal prosecution and conviction.

The extent of the cases without corresponding information ("*unresolved*") is particularly high here. In the following, we consider only those accused for whom information about the completion of the criminal proceedings was given. In 2023, these were 2,536 of 7,045 accused, and in 2024, 2,648 of 7,425.

With regard to those proceedings in which the criminal courts ruled after indictment or other forms of involvement (subchapter 9.2), 2,385 cases in 2023 and 2,560 cases in 2024 could be included in the analysis. In both categories, the numbers appear high enough to allow an assessment of the basic structure of the decisions. The key questions are to what extent does the judiciary take into account the question of whether or not the accused were willing to engage in a VOM procedure, and is it considered favourable if the accused also fulfilled the understandings promised in an agreement with the persons harmed, i.e., if the VOM can be considered a success?

9.1 Type of Case Settlement by Public Prosecution Offices and Criminal Courts

The majority of all evaluable cases are dropped by the public prosecutor’s office (just under 80%). This means that only slightly more than 20% of the cases returned to the judiciary by the VOM-services, in which there was also feedback, were dealt with by the courts.

It is important to note here that there is only a low number of persons included in the survey who did not agree to participate in VOM and for whom data exists on the termination of criminal proceedings. This may also explain the percentage proximity of the results in terms of willingness to participate in a VOM and the termination by the public prosecutor's office. In 2024, for example, there were only 322

[89] See on the term “status degradation” Garfinkel 1976, 31. Status degradation is therefore “any communicative activity by people through which the public identity of a 'player' is shifted to a lower rank within the locally customary schema of social types [...]".

accused in the first group, while there was information on accused willing to participate in a VOM in 2,326 cases.

The dominance of the public prosecutor's office (and possibly the district attorney's office) corresponds to the inherent logic of VOM proceedings in mild to moderately severe cases, which – to clarify what we presented here repeatedly – make up the largest proportion of the cases dealt with by the VOM-services.

It can therefore be assumed that the overall picture would not turn out to be significantly different from the one painted here, even if one were able to obtain information on the entirety of all cases that have been processed here.

Table 21: Formal completion of criminal cases after VOM-services report back to the judiciary, values in percent 2023 / 2024

		Not willing to participate in VOM	Willing to participate in VOM	VOM not successful	VOM successful
			2023 (n = 2.536)		
Termination	by prosecutor's office	64.1	82.4	69.4	87.1
	by court without main hearing	2.3	3.4	3.4	3.3
	by court with main hearing	2.0	4.3	4.1	3.9
Punishment by judgement or penalty order		14.8	6	11.6	4
Other		16.8	3.9	11.5	1.7
			2024 (n = 2.648)		
Termination	by prosecutor's office	61.2	83.5	68.9	87
	by court without main hearing	2.2	3.2	3	3.1
	by court with main hearing	2.5	4.5	4.7	4.1
Punishment by judgement or penalty order		16.1	6.2	12.5	4.5
Other		18	2.6	10.8	1.2

What is interesting at this point is the course of the criminal proceedings in relation to the behaviour of the accused or the course of the VOM proceedings, which are shown in Table 21:

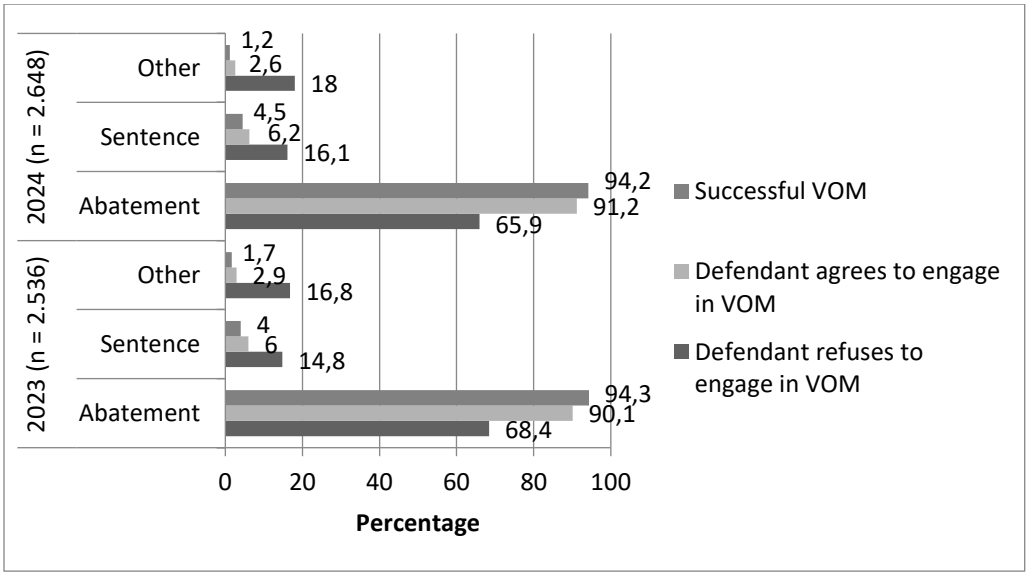
If the accused were not willing to undergo a VOM, the public prosecutor's office discontinued the proceedings in around 61.2 to 64.1% of cases. The rate of discontinuation rose in both reporting years to around 80% if the accused had declared their willingness to undergo VOM, and further to a good 87/87.1% if the VOM proceedings had been successfully completed. In cases where the VOM procedure was discontinued or otherwise unsuccessful, the rate of discontinuation was almost 70%, i.e., somewhat higher than in cases in which the accused had rejected the VOM procedure.

The high termination rate among those not willing to participate in a VOM procedure and among unsuccessful VOM procedures should be interpreted with caution. It does not necessarily mean that no further measures were taken. Rather, it may be because the public prosecutor's office, in accordance with Section 153a of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) or Section 45 of the Juvenile Courts Act (JGG), imposed another measure on the accused instead of a VOM procedure or that the accused in fact accepted an alternative offer.

On the other hand, in both reporting years, between 26.4% and 28.6% of the cases resulted in a penalty order or a main trial with a verdict if the accused had already initially refused a VOM. Among the accused willing to undergo VOM, the rate fell to 6% in both reporting years, and in the context of a successfully completed VOM procedure, further to 4% and 4,5%.

Figure 26 illustrates correlations between outcomes of victim-offender-mediation and criminal proceedings with three collective categories: The category *"Other"* corresponds to the value *"Other"* from table 21; this is comprised of various procedures that may have led to a reaction that incriminated the accused, but which could only be accurately identified through a precise file analysis. The category *"Sentence"* includes all those cases in which the accused were found guilty and sanctioned by a penalty order or by a judgement after a main hearing. *"Termination"* includes all those cases in which the prosecution refrained from prosecution or the court decided to discontinue the proceedings.

Figure 26: Termination of case by public prosecutor's office and court depending on the course of the VOM proceedings – 2023 / 2024



9.2 Sanction consequences on the part of the criminal courts

As already mentioned, only limited information is available for analysis of VOM in the decisions of the criminal courts. The proportion of those accused for whom information on the consideration of VOM by the courts was provided, as a percentage of all accused, lies between 25 and 40% in the last reporting years. It must be taken into account that here, too, the number of responses given, and not the number of accused as a whole, was rated as 100%.

The following table 22 shows what specific influence the willingness of the accused to undergo a VOM procedure and the successful conclusion of the VOM proceedings could have had on the judicial reaction. The values should be interpreted with even greater caution than the values in Table 21 above. Reporting errors, comprehension problems between VOM-services and reporting judicial offices appear to be potentially relevant factors here.

Over the years, as in the present reporting years (see table 22), considerable fluctuations were registered here, which in our view, cannot be explained without more in-depth analysis of files. Possible causes for these fluctuations could be, for example, changes in personnel, variations in the offence profile or simply the feedback behaviour.

Table 22: Sanctions imposed by the criminal courts, values in percent 2023 / 2024

	No willingness to participate in VOM	Willingness to participate in VOM	VOM not successful	VOM successful
		2023 (n = 2.385)		
Besides VOM (offer) no reaction registered	63	88.5	71.3	93.9
Along with VOM (offer) additional sanction	4.1	7	7.5	5.8
Compensatory sanction after unsuccessful VOM	33	4.5	21.2	0.3
		2024 (n = 2.560)		
Besides VOM (offer) no reaction registered	66.6	89.6	74.4	93.2
Along with VOM (offer) additional sanction	5.5	6.7	7.2	6.6
Compensatory sanction after unsuccessful VOM	27.9	3.7	18.4	0.2

In a successful VOM procedure one would expect that there could not be a substitute sanction after a failed VOM. Nevertheless, respondents have repeatedly selected this response category, with proportions ranging between 0.2% and 1.1% of the dataset. It is possible that these figures reflect the possibility that the judiciary did not acknowledge the VOM. Another explanation, however, could be a technical error in the recording. In addition, the figures in Table 22 show the following:

If accused were unwilling to engage in a VOM process from the outset, other sanctions besides VOM were imposed by the courts in 4.1% to 5.5% of cases in 2023 / 2024.

It seems highly improbable that courts should have taken no further action in 63% of cases in 2023 and 66.6% in 2024 in the case of accused whose proceedings were continued by the public prosecutor's office (or district attorney's office) because they initially refused to enter into a VOM process. The more likely assumption would be that something noteworthy did happen after an indictment, possibly an application for a penalty order – or in juvenile cases this may be after an application for simplified juvenile proceedings – whereby a particular suggestion or offer resulted in the court ultimately finding it justifiable, if not positively appropriate, to discontinue the proceedings (namely pursuant to Section 153a (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure or pursuant to Section 47 of the Juvenile Courts Act).

If, for the sake of simplicity, a distinction is made between cases in which no formal reaction is evident from the records and cases in which some reaction is registered alongside VOM or in isolation, the following picture emerges:

- In the case of accused who did *not initially agree to* VOM, sanctions registered in 2023 / 2024 occurred in only 33% / 27,9% of cases.
- In the case of accused who *had agreed to undergo* VOM, sanctions were still registered in 4.5% and 3.7% of cases, respectively.
- If the VOM procedure was successful, this figure drops to much less than 1%.

Any deeper interpretation is not possible due to the methodological uncertainties in the material.

These methodologically delicate and extremely interesting questions could only be clarified by a precise analysis of the course of representatively selected cases, including all information from the original judicial files.

References

Arbeitsstelle Kinder- und Jugendkriminalitätsprävention / Projekt „Jugendhilfe und sozialer Wandel“ (Eds.): Das Jugendgerichtshilfebarometer. Empirische Befunde zur Jugendhilfe im Strafverfahren in Deutschland, Band 12. Deutsches Jugendinstitut, München 2011.

Bals, Nadine / Hilgartner, Christian / Bannenberg, Britta: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich im Erwachsenenbereich: eine repräsentative Untersuchung für Nordrhein-Westfalen. Mönchengladbach: Forum-Verlag Godesberg, 2005.

Bals, Nadine: Der Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich – Ein Weg zur (Wieder-) Herstellung von Verständnis und Sympathie? In: Bewährungshilfe, 54 (3), 2007, 258-269.

Bals, Nadine: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich - Cui bono? Befunde einer Befragung von Geschädigten und Beschuldigten. In: Monatsschrift für Kriminologie und Strafrechtsreform. Cologne: Heymann, 89 (2), 2006, 131-145.

Bannenberg, Britta / Rössner, Dieter: Die Wirklichkeit des Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs (TOA) in Deutschland – Eine Zwischenbilanz. In: H.-H. Kühne (Ed.): Festschrift für Klaus Rolinski zum 70. Geburtstag. Baden-Baden, 2002, 287-307.

Berndt, A.F.: Der Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich aus Sicht des Opfers. Dissertation: Lit-Verlag; Universität Heidelberg, 2016.

Breitkopf, Lisa: Restorative Justice. Wiederherstellung von 'Gerechtigkeit' durch die Begegnung von Opfer und Täter? Frankfurt: Verlag für Polizeiwissenschaft Prof. Dr. Clemens Lorei, 2017.

Bundeskriminalamt (Ed.) Police Crime Statistics. Year 2024. Opfer nach Alter und Geschlecht (Table 91). BKA - PKS Tabellen - Thematische Gliederung - PKS 2024 Bund - Opfertabellen (last visited 10.07.2026).

Bundeskriminalamt (Ed.) Police Crime Statistics. Year 2024. Tatverdächtige insgesamt nach Alter und Geschlecht (Table 20). BKA - PKS Tabellen - Thematische Gliederung - PKS 2024 Bund - Tatverdächtige insgesamt (last visited 10.07.2026).

Bundeskriminalamt (Ed.) Police Crime Statistics. Year 2023. Opfer nach Alter und Geschlecht (Table 91). BKA - PKS Tabellen - Thematische Gliederung - PKS 2023 Bund - Opfertabellen (last visited 10.07.2026).

Bundeskriminalamt (Ed.) Police Crime Statistics. Year 2023. Tatverdächtige insgesamt nach Alter und Geschlecht (Table 20). BKA - PKS Tabellen - Thematische Gliederung - PKS 2023 Bund - Tatverdächtige insgesamt (last visited 10.07.2026).

Bundesministerium des Innern, Bundesministerium der Justiz (Eds.): Zweiter Periodischer Sicherheitsbericht (Langfassung). Berlin 2006 [Chapter 6.4: Legalbewährung nach strafrechtlichen Sanktionen – Ergebnisse der neuen Rückfallstatistik, 660 et seq.].

Bundesministerium des Innern, Bundesministerium der Justiz (Eds.): Erster Periodischer Sicherheitsbericht. Berlin 2001. [Chapter 3.4: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich, 385-393].

Burgstaller, Manfred / Grafl, Christian: Fünf Jahre allgemeine Diversion. In: Moos, Reinhard et al. (Eds.): Strafprozessrecht im Wandel. Festschrift für Roland Miklau zum 65. Geburtstag. Innsbruck et al.: Studien Verlag, 2006, 109-129.

Burgstaller, Manfred: Diversion in Österreich – Eine Zwischenbilanz. In: Bundesministerium für Justiz (Ed.): 35. Ottensteiner Fortbildungsseminar aus Strafrecht und Kriminologie. Vienna, Graz, 2007, 5-26.

Delattre, Gerd: Der Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich – Ein Modell zur Wiedergutmachung im Strafverfahren. In: Bendit / René / Erler, Wolfgang / Niborg, Sima / Schäfer, Heiner (Eds.): Kinder- und Jugendkriminalität. Strategien der Prävention und Intervention in Deutschland und den Niederlanden. Opladen, 2000, 151-161.

Delattre, Gerd: Neutralität versus Parteinahme. In: Arbeitsgruppe "TOA-Standards" in der Deutschen Bewährungshilfe (Ed.): Täter, Opfer und Vermittler. Beiheft zum Rundbrief "Soziale Arbeit und Strafrecht" No. 10. Bonn, 1989, 42-51.

Dölling, Dieter / Weitekamp, Elmar G. M.: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich: Implementation und Wirkungen. Ein Beitrag zu Möglichkeiten und Grenzen kriminalwissenschaftlicher Implementationsforschung. In: J. Reichertz (Ed.): Die Wirklichkeit des Rechts. Opladen, 1998, 134-143.

Dölling, Dieter et al.: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven, published by the federal ministry of justice. Bonn, 1998.

Domenig, Claudio: Restorative Justice: Vom marginalen Verfahrensmodell zum integralen Lebensentwurf. In: TOA-Infodienst, 2011, 41, 1-10.

Donabedian, Avedis: Evaluating the Quality of Medical Care. The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly, 1966, 44 (3), 166.

Dünkel, Frieder: Diversion: A Meaningful and Successful Alternative to Punishment in European Juvenile Justice Systems. In: Junger-Tas, Josine / Dünkel, Frieder (Eds.): Reforming Juvenile Justice. New-York: Springer, 2009, 147-163.

Dünkel, Frieder / Geng, Bernd / Kirstein, Wolfgang: Soziale Trainingskurse und andere neue ambulante Maßnahmen. In: Neue Kriminalpolitik, 11 (1), 1999, 34-44.

European Union: Council of the European Union, Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, 14 November 2012, L 315/57, available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/52eb66354.html (accessed 05/28/2022)

Garfinkel, Harold: Bedingungen für den Erfolg von Degradierungszeremonien. In: Lüderssen / Sack (Eds.): Seminar: Abweichendes Verhalten III. Die gesellschaftliche Reaktion auf Kriminalität 2. Frankfort-on-the-Main, 1976, 31.

Gutsche, Günter / Rössner, Dieter (Eds.): Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich: Beiträge zur Theorie, Empirie und Praxis. Mönchengladbach, 2000.

Haft, Fritjof / von Schlieffen, Katharina Gräfin (Eds.): Handbuch Mediation. Verhandlungstechnik, Strategien, Einsatzgebiete. Second Edition. Munich: C. H. Beck, 2008.

Hartmann, Arthur / Trenczek, Thomas: Vermittlung in strafrechtlich relevanten Konflikten – Fachliche Standards unter Berücksichtigung des Mediationsgesetzes und der EU-Opferschutzrichtlinie. In: Neue Justiz (NJ), 2016, 325 – 333.

Hartmann, Arthur / Haas, Marie / Eikens, Anke / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2011 und 2012. Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz. Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg, 2014.

Hartmann, Arthur / Haas, Marie: The Victims' Directive and Restorative Justice in Germany. In: Gavrielides (Ed.) A Victim-Led Criminal Justice System: Addressing the Paradox. IARS Publications, London, 2014, 119-141.

Hartmann, Arthur: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in der Entwicklung. In: Boers / Feltes / Kinzig / Sherman / Streng / Trüg (Eds.): Kriminologie – Kriminalpolitik - Strafrecht. Festschrift für Hans-Jürgen Kerner zum 70. Geburtstag. Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen, 2013, 591-603.

Hartmann, Arthur / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Victim-Offender-Mediation in Germany. 2004. Retrievable via: Hartmann-Kerner_Victim-Offender-MediationGermany_Text_ERCES2004Final.pdf (DOI: DOI:10.13140/RG.2.1.3023.2160).

Hartmann, Arthur / Kilchling, Michael: The Development of Victim-offender mediation in the German Juvenile Justice System from the Legal and Criminological Point of View. In: Walgrave, L. (Ed.): Restorative Justice for Juveniles. Potentialities, Risks, and Problems for Research. Leuven, 1998, 261-282.

Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Ede, Katja / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2013 und 2014. Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz. Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg, 2016.

Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2015 und 2016. Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz. Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg, 2018. Retrievable via: http://www.bmjv.de/DE/Themen/OpferschutzUndGewaltpraevention/TaeterOpferAusgleich/Taete rOpferAusgleich_node.html

Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland: Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2017 und 2018: Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz und Verbraucherschutz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg GmbH, 2020.

Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Settels, Sophie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland: Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2019 und 2020: Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg GmbH, 2021.

Hartmann, Arthur / Schmidt, Marie / Ridder, Sophie / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland: Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2021 und 2022: Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Göttingen: CUVILLIER Verlag, 2024.

Hartmann, Arthur / Stroezel, Holger: Die Bundesweite TOA - Statistik. In: Dölling, Dieter et al. (Eds.): Gutachten für das Bundesministerium der Justiz: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland - Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven. Bonn, 1998.

Hartmann, Arthur / Stroezel, Holger: Die Bundesweite TOA - Statistik. In: Dölling, Dieter et al. (Eds.): Gutachten für das Bundesministerium der Justiz: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland - Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven (Second Edition). Bonn, 2000.

Hartmann, Arthur: Schlichten oder Richten. Der Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und das (Jugend)strafrecht. Fink Verlag München, 1995.

Hassemer, Elke. In: Dölling, Dieter et al.: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland, Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven, published by the federal ministry of justice. Bonn, 1998, 399.

Hermans, Danielle: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich. Konfliktschlichtung oder Sanktionsalternative? In: DVJJ - Journal 1993 (2), 186-187.

Jacob, Oliver: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Polizei. Grenzen und Perspektiven einer Zusammenarbeit im Ermittlungsverfahren. Schriftenreihe Polizei und Wissenschaft. Verlag für Polizeiwissenschaft, Prof. Dr. Clemens Lorei. Frankfurt, 2016.

Kaspar, Johannes: Mediation und konsensuale Konfliktlösungen im Strafrecht. In: Neue Juristische Wochenschrift (NJW), 2015, 1642-1646.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Belakouzova, Alla: Zur Praxis des Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs. Übergreifende Erwägungen, verbunden mit einer vergleichenden Spurensuche in Strafrechtspflegestatistiken, in der TOA-Statistik aus Anlass ihres 25-jährigen Jubiläums sowie in einer die TOA-Statistik vertiefenden älteren Datenbank. In: Zeitschrift für Jugendkriminalrecht und Jugendhilfe (ZJJ), 2020, 232-244.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Eikens, Anke / Hartmann, Arthur: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2006 bis 2009, mit einem Rückblick auf die Entwicklung seit 1993. Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium der Justiz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg, 2011.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Eikens, Anke / Hartmann, Arthur: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für den Jahrgang 2010. Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium der Justiz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg, 2012.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Hartmann, Arthur / Eikens, Anke: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für den Jahrgang 2005, mit Vergleich zu den Jahrgängen 2003 und 2004, sowie einem Rückblick auf die Entwicklung seit 1993. BMJ, Berlin, 2008; this report is only available as a PDF file.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Hartmann, Arthur / Lenz, Sönke: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in der Entwicklung: Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs-Statistik für den Zehnjahreszeitraum 1993 bis 2002; Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Mönchengladbach: Forum-Verlag Godesberg, 2005.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Hartmann, Arthur: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in der Entwicklung. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs-Statistik für die Jahre 1993 bis 1999. Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Veröffentlicht durch das Bundesministerium der Justiz, Berlin, 2003.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen / Weitekamp, Elmar: Praxis des Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs in Deutschland. Ergebnisse einer Erhebung zu Einrichtungen sowie zu Vermittlerinnen und Vermittlern. Berlin: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Ed.), 2013. („recht“ publication series). Retrievable via: http://www.bmjv.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/pdfs/TOA_Deutschland_Praxisbericht.pdf?__blob =publicationFile

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: „Wiedergutmachen“ und „Wiederherstellen“. Zur Stellung des Täter-OpferAusgleichs in Deutschland im übergreifenden Feld von Mediation und Restorative Justice. In: Dethloff, Nina et al. (Eds.): Freiwilligkeit, Zwang und Gerechtigkeit im Kontext der Mediation. Europäische und deutsche Perspektiven. Frankfort-on-the-Main: Wolfgang Metzner Verlag, 2013, 87-108.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: § 49 Mediation beim Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich. In: Haft, Fritjof / Schlieffen, Katharina (Eds.): Handbuch Mediation: Verhandlungstechnik, Strategien, Einsatzgebiete. Munich: Beck, 2002, 1252-1274.

Kerner, Hans-Jürgen: Verwirklichung des Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs – Einsichten und Perspektiven anhand von Praxisdaten. In: Weißer Ring (Ed.): Wiedergutmachung für Kriminalitätsopfer – Erfahrungen und Perspektiven- Mainz, 1999, 27-88.

Kuhn, Annemarie: “Tat-Sachen” als Konflikt. Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in der Jugendstrafrechtspflege. Forschungsbericht zum Modellprojekt “Handschlag”. Bonn, 1989.

Kuhn, Annemarie: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich im Rahmen eines freien Trägers. In: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Ed.): Bonner Symposium. Bonn, 1991, 175-177.

Masser, Kai / Engewald, Bettina / Scharpf, Lucia / Ziekow, Jan: Evaluierung des Mediationsgesetzes – Rechtstatsächliche Untersuchung im Auftrag des Bundesministeriums der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz, Deutsches Forschungsinstitut für öffentliche Verwaltung Speyer, Speyer 06/14/2017.

Meier, Bernd-Dieter: Anwendbarkeit des Mediationsgesetzes auf den TOA. In: TOA-Magazin, Issue 2, 2017, 36-37.

Messmer, Heinz: Zwischen Parteiautonomie und Kontrolle: Aushandlungsprozesse im Täter-OpferAusgleich. In: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Ed.): Bonner Symposium. Bonn, 1991, 115-131.

Mestitz, Anna (Ed.): Victim-offender mediation with youth offenders in Europe: an overview and comparison of 15 countries. Dordt: Springer, 2005.

Mühlfeld, Stefanie: Mediation im Strafrecht: unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Gewalt in Schule und Strafvollzug. Würzburger Schriften zur Kriminalwissenschaft. Frankfort-on-the-Main, Berlin, Berne, Vienna [et al.] Lang, 2002.

Noltenius, Bettina: Kritische Anmerkungen zum Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich. In: Goltdammer´s Archiv 154 (9), 2007, 518-531.

Pelikan, Christa / Hager, Isabella / Haller, Birgit / Kretschmann, Andrea: Die Möglichkeiten und die Bedingungen einer wirksamen Stärkung (Mächtigung) der Opfer von Gewalt in Paarbeziehungen durch den Außergerichtlichen Tatausgleich. Forschungsbericht des Instituts für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie, Vienna, 2009.

Pelikan, Christa: Der Außergerichtliche Tatausgleich (ATA) in Österreich, die Empfehlung des Europarates „Zur Mediation in Strafrechtsangelegenheiten“ und die „UN Basic Principles on Restorative Justice“. In: Journal für Strafrecht, 4, 2007, 126-131.

Pick, Eckhart: Eröffnungsvortrag des Parlamentarischen Staatssekretärs bei der Bundesministerin der Justiz, 81, in: TOA Servicebüro DBH Materialien No. 48, 2002.

Rössner, Dieter: Das Tübinger Gerichtshilfeprojekt - Ergebnisse der Begleitforschung. In: Hennig, R.-D./ Rössner, D. (Eds.): Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich im allgemeinen Strafrecht. Theorie und Praxis konstruktiver Tatverarbeitung: Grundlagen, Modelle, Resultate und Perspektiven. Bonn, 1993, 99-152.

Schiller, Ilka (2011): Ein Rückblick auf fast 20 Jahre TOA. Der TOA im Fachbereich Jugend und Familie Hannover schaut zurück und nach vorn [Interview with Wolfgang Scheel, Ulla Scheel and Kai Sieben.] In: TOA-Infodienst, Nr. 41, August 2011, S. 5-12. Cologne: Servicebuero für Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Konfliktschlichtung.

Schmoll, Annemarie / Lampe, Dirk / Holthusen, Bernd: Jugendgerichtshilfebarometer 2022: Bundesweite Befragung zu aktuellen Entwicklungen der Jugendhilfe im Strafverfahren. Schriften zur Kriminologie, 30. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2024.

Statistisches Bundesamt: Fachserie 10, Reihe 3, Rechtspflege - Strafverfolgung 2019. Wiesbaden, 2021.

TOA-Servicebüro / Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich e.V. (Eds.): Standards Mediation in Strafsachen im Rahmen des Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs, Seventh Edition, Cologne, 2018.

Tränkle, Stefanie: Im Schatten des Strafrechts: eine Untersuchung der Mediation in Strafsachen am Beispiel des deutschen Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs und der französischen médiation pénale auf der Grundlage von Interaktions- und Kontextanalyse. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot Freiburg i. Br.: MaxPlanck-Institut für Ausländisches und Internationales Strafrecht, Schriftenreihe des Max-PlanckInstituts für Ausländisches und Internationales Strafrecht, Freiburg i. Br. / K; 135, 2007.

Trenczek, Thomas / Hartmann, Arthur: Kriminalprävention durch Restorative Justice. Evidenz aus der empirischen Forschung. In: Walsh, M., Pniewski, B., Kober, M., Armborst, A. (Eds.) Evidenzorientierte Kriminalprävention in Deutschland. Ein Leitfaden für Politik und Praxis. Springer Verlag, 2018, 859-886.

Trenczek, Thomas: Mediation und Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich. Wesensmerkmale und fachliche Standards. In: Zeitschrift für Konfliktmanagement, 2016, 4-8.

Wandrey, Michael / Delattre, Gerd: Organisations- und Umsetzungsprobleme von TOA-Projekten. DVJJ Rundbrief No. 131, 1990, 22-24.

Weitekamp, Elmar G. M. / Kerner, Hans-Jürgen (Eds.): Restorative Justice in Context – International practice and directions. New York: Routledge, 368 Pages.

Weitekamp, Elmar G. M. / Tränkle, Stefanie.: Die Entwicklung des Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland: Neueste Ergebnisse und Befunde. In: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Ed.): Der „Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich“. Moderner Beitrag zur Konfliktregulierung und zur Sicherung des Sozialen Friedens? Potsdam, 1998, 9-33.

Appendix I Tables regarding the figures in the text

Supplementary note:

We rounded the percentages in the following tables to one decimal place. If you summarise these percentages, it is possible that the total for some tables is just above or below 100%, but we have indicated 100%. In order to avoid this rounding problem, it would have been necessary to enter ten or (considerably) more digits after the decimal point for some of these tables. In order to maintain the clarity of the table appendix. We have not done this.

Table regarding chapter 2.1: VOM cases by providers – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Independent providers	5.330	87,4	5.539	86,5
Youth welfare offices or juvenile court services	653	10,7	691	10,8
Social services of the justice system	116	1,9	174	2,7
Total	6.099	100,0	6.404	100,0

Table regarding Figure 1: Organisational form of the participating VOM-services 2022 to 2024

	2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Integrated	1	1,5	1	1,6	1	1,4
Partly specialised	13	19,1	13	20,6	15	21,1
Specialised	54	79,4	49	77,8	55	77,5
Valid percentage	68	100,0	63	100,0	71	100,0
Missing	1		0		0	
Total	69		63		71	

Table regarding Figure 2: Target groups of the participating institutions 2022 to 2024

	2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Juveniles and adolescents	29	42,0	25	39,7	30	42,3
Adults	13	18,8	10	15,9	11	15,5
Juveniles, adolescents and adults	27	39,1	28	44,4	30	42,3
Valid percentage	69	100,0	63	100,0	71	100,0
Missing	0		0		0	
Total	69		63		71	

Table regarding chapter 2.3: VOM cases by target group – 2023 / 2024

	2023 (n = 6.099)		2024 (n = 6.404)	
	n	%	n	%
Juveniles and adolescents	1.167	19,1	1.427	22,3
Adults	1.335	21,9	1.318	20,6
Juveniles, adolescents and adults	3.597	59,0	3.659	57,1

Table regarding Figure 3: VOM cases by federal state – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Baden-Wuerttemberg	263	4,3	337	5,3
Bavaria	696	11,4	789	12,3
Brandenburg	329	5,4	406	6,3
Hesse	757	12,4	802	12,5
Lower Saxony	397	6,5	340	5,3
North Rhine-Westphalia	1.228	20,1	1.354	21,1
Rhineland-Palatinate	982	16,1	837	13,1
Saarland	96	1,6	76	1,2
Saxony	255	4,2	308	4,8
Saxony-Anhalt	364	6,0	489	7,6
Schleswig-Holstein	732	12,0	666	10,4
Total	6.099		6.404	

Table regarding Figure 4: Distribution of VOM cases by east and west – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Western federal states incl. Berlin	5.151	84,5	5.201	81,2
Eastern federal states[90]	948	15,5	1.203	18,8
Valid percentage	6.099	100,0	6.404	100,0
Missing	0		0	
Total	6.099		6.404	

Table regarding Figure 5: Initiation of VOM attempts by procedural stage – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
In the pre-trial proceedings	5.173	85,8	5.330	85,3
After indictment	491	8,1	484	7,7
During the main hearing	86	1,4	91	1,5
After the main hearing	132	2,2	164	2,6
Other	140	2,3	177	2,8
Undocumented	4	0,1	5	0,1
Valid percentage	6.026	100,0	6.251	100,0
Missing	73		153	
Total	6.099		6.404	

[90] Since the state of Saxony-Anhalt has been participating in the nationwide VOM statistics since the 2014 cohort, the proportion of cases from the eastern states has increased significantly.

Table regarding Figures 6 and 7: VOM recommendation – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Accused	4	0,6	11	2,3
Person harmed	2	0,3	5	1,0
Police	27	4,3	28	5,8
Public Prosecutor's Office	486	77,1	339	70,2
Court	36	5,7	15	3,1
Juvenile Justice Services	55	8,7	63	13,0
Court Assistance Services	0	0,0	0	0,0
Probation service	0	0,0	0	0,0
Legal Aid	2	0,3	3	0,6
Other	18	2,9	19	3,9
Unknown	0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Valid percentage	630	100,0	483	100,0
Missing[91]	5.469		5.921	
Total	6.099		6.404	

Table regarding Figure 8: VOM initiation – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Accused	144	2,4	135	2,2
Person harmed	30	0,5	45	0,7
Public Prosecutor's Office	4.757	79,2	4.820	77,2
Court	324	5,4	338	5,4
Juvenile Justice Services	630	10,5	812	13,0
Other	125	2,1	96	1,5
Valid percentage	6.010	100,0	6.246	100,0
Missing	89		158	
Total	6.099		6.404	

Table regarding Figure 9: Age of the persons harmed – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Younger than 14 years	258	3,9	301	4,4
14 to 20 years	1.809	27,4	1.917	28,3
21 to 40 years	2.257	34,2	2.290	33,8
41 to 60 years	1.623	24,6	1.623	23,9
61 years and older	654	9,9	650	9,6
Valid percentage	6.601	100,0	6.781	100,0
Missing	722		817	
Total	7.323		7.598	

[91] The reason why so many missing values appear here is that this is an "optional" field that does not have to be filled in, since most institutions do not distinguish between "initiator" and "client" (see the following table).

Table regarding Chapter 4.1: Gender of the persons harmed in percent – VOM-Statistics and PCS in comparison – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	VOM-Statistics (n = 7.323)	PCS (n = 1.249.329)[92]	VOM-Statistics (n = 7.598)	PCS (n = 1.327.417)[93]
Male	56,9	59,3	57,4	58,5
Female	39,8	40,7	39,3	41,5
Institution	3,2	0,0	3,2	0,0
Diverse	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Table regarding Figure 10: Citizenship of the persons harmed – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
German	5.283	72,1	5.134	67,6
Non-German	2.040	27,9	2.464	32,4
Valid percentage	7.323	100,0	7.598	100,0
Missing	0		0	
Total	7.323		7.598	

Table regarding Figure 11: Type of harm suffered94 – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Bodily	2.714	47,4	2.801	48,9
Psychologically	1.590	27,8	1.520	26,5
Materially	1.421	24,8	1.413	24,6
Total	5.725	100,0	5.734	100,0

Table regarding Figure 11: Severity of bodily injuries – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Minor	2.007	74,0	2.049	73,1
Moderate	551	20,3	586	20,9
Severe	112	4,1	121	4,3
Permanent	44	1,6	45	1,6
Total	2.714	100,0	2.801	100,0

[92] Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS 2023, table 91, authors´ own calculations.

[93] Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS 2024, table 91, authors´ own calculations.

[94] The basis for the percentage distribution is the persons harmed.

Table regarding Figure 12: Age of the accused – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Younger than 14 years	45	0,7	38	0,5
14 to 20 years	2.513	36,5	2.951	40,7
21 to 40 years	2.326	33,8	2.141	29.5
41 to 60 years	1.440	20,9	1.530	21,1
61 years and older	562	8,2	599	8,3
Valid percentage	6.886	100,0	7.259	100,0
Missing	159		166	
Total	7.045	100,0	7.425	100,0

Table regarding Figure 13: Gender of the accused in percent – VOM-Statistics and PCS in comparison – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	VOM-Statistics (n = 7.045)	PCS (n = 2.246.767)[95]	VOM-Statistics (n = 7.425)	PCS (n = 2.184.834)[96]
Male	75,4	74,6	75,0	74,4
Female	24,4	25,4	25,0	25,6
Diverse	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Table regarding Figure 14: Citizenship of the accused – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
German	4.898	69,5	4.983	67,1
Non-German	2.146	30,5	2.442	32.9
Valid percentage	7.045	100,0	7.425	100,0
Missing	0		0	
Total	7.045		7.425	

Table regarding Chapter 5.2: Percentage distribution of all offences – broken down by gender – all ages – values in percent – 2023/2024[97]

	2023		2024	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Assault	55,1	52,0	57,1	50,1
Property and pecuniary offences	11,2	14,1	10,4	16,5
Property damage	11,2	6,6	9,5	6,0
Robbery and extortion	2,3	0,8	2,4	0,8
Other offences	34,0	40,3	35,6	38,7
Total	113,8	113,7	115,0	112,1

[95] Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS 2023, Table 20, authors´ own calculations.

[96] Bundeskriminalamt (ed.) PCS 2024, Table 20, authors´ own calculations.

[97] This calculation is based on the percentages of offenses based on the number of accused individuals, rather than the number of reported offenses. As each accused person can be linked to up to five offenses, total percentages can exceed 100%. This is the only way to present and interpret the percentages in a way that allows us to analyze exactly how many accused individuals committed e.g. assault, rather than focusing on the proportion of assault in all reported offenses.

Table regarding Figure 15: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – all ages – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Assault	3.782	54,4	4.055	55,4
Property and pecuniary offences	831	11,9	874	11,9
Property damage	699	10,0	628	8,6
Robbery and extortion	135	1,9	149	2,0
Other offences	2.477	35,6	2.662	36,3
Total	7.924	113,9	8.368	114,2
Accused with data	6.958		7.326	
Missing	87		99	
Total	7.045		7.425	

Table regarding Figure 16: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – juveniles and adolescents – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Assault	1.598	57,6	1.959	61,1
Property and pecuniary offences	301	10,9	314	9,8
Property damage	289	10,4	297	9,3
Robbery and extortion	117	4,2	118	3,7
Other offences	791	28,5	968	30,2
Valid percentage	3,096	111,6[98]	3.656	114,0[99]
Accused with data	2.774		3.208	
Missing	30		47	
Total	2.804		3.255	

Table regarding Figure 17: Offence structure of VOM cases – aggregated offence categories – adults – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Assault	2.134	52,5	2.014	50,9
Property and pecuniary offences	516	12,7	551	13,9
Property damage	395	9,7	320	8,1
Robbery and extortion	10	0,2	24	0,6
Other offences	1.640	40,3	1.628	41,1
Valid percentage	4.695	115,4[100]	4.537	114,6[101]
Accused with data	4.068		3.959	
Missing	30		47	
Total	4.098		4.006	

[98] See footnote 96.

[99] See footnote 96.

[100] See footnote 96.

[101] See footnote 96.

Table regarding chapter 5.3: Types of conflict – 2022 to 2024

	2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Neighborhood conflict	709	19,1	740	19,7	807	20,6
Domestic violence	672	18,0	675	18,0	588	15,0
Stalking	64	1,7	35	0,9	44	1,1
Other partnership conflict	2.281	61,2	2.299	61,3	2.486	63,3
Total	3.726	100,0	3.749	100,0	3.925	100,0

Table regarding chapter 5.4: Acquaintanceship of accused and person harmed at the time of the offence, values in percent 102 – 2022 to 2024

	2022 (n= 7.129)	2023 (n = 7.045)	2024 (n = 7.425)
Well known	41,6	43,2	44,9
Fleeting acquaintance	26,8	27,0	26,5
Not acquainted	31,6	29,8	28,6
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Table regarding Figure 18: Contacting the persons harmed – results for 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Willing to engage in VOM	3.345	51,0	3.338	50,9
Refused to engage VOM	1.671	25,5	1.718	26,2
Failed to reach, refusal of accused	1.542	23,5	1.500	22,9
Valid percentage	6.558	100,0	6.556	100,0
Missing	765		1042	
Total	7.323		7.598	

Table regarding Figure 19: Contacting the accused – results for 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Willing to engage in VOM	4.569	70,2	4.591	69,1
Refused to engage in VOM	1.147	17,6	1.244	18,7
Failed to reach, refusal of persons harmed	795	12,2	808	12,2
Valid percentage	6.511	100,0	6.643	100,0
Missing	534		782	
Total	7.045		7.425	

[102] The calculations and percentages are based on all relationships specified in the accused data set. N corresponds to the information provided by the accused on the relationships. In principle we have a data set for all cases in which there is a relationship between the persons harmed and the accused. However, the file relating to these relationships has only been available for 3-5 years and has not yet been used for the evaluations.

Table regarding Figure 20: Willingness to engage in VOM in the event of successful contact – persons harmed – 2022 to 2024

	2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Agreed to engage in VOM	3.302	66,5	3.345	66,7	3.338	66,0
Refused to engage in VOM	1.660	33,5	1.671	33,3	1.718	34,0
Valid percentage	4.962	100,0	5.016	100,0	5.056	100,0
Missing[103]	2.521		2.307		2.542	
Total	7.483		7.323		7.598	

Table regarding Figure 20: Willingness to engage in VOM in the event of successful contact – accused – 2022 to 2024

	2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Agreed to engage in VOM	4.487	76,8	4.569	79,9	4.591	78,7
Refused to engage in VOM	1.359	23,2	1.147	20,1	1.244	21,3
Valid percentage	5.846	100,0	5.716	100,0	5.835	100,0
Missing[104]	1.283		1.329		1.590	
Total	7.129		7.045		7.425	

Table regarding Figure 21: Percentage of direct VOM conversations conducted by offence group – 2023 / 2024

	Assault		Property and pecuniary offences		Property damage		Robbery and extortion		Other offences	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
				2023						
VOM conservation	905	63,2	109	27,2	123	40,0	29	72,5	465	54,6
No VOM conservation	526	36,8	292	72,8	184	60,0	11	27,5	386	45,4
Total 2023	1.431	100,0	401	100,0	307	100,0	40	100,0	851	100,0
				2024						
VOM conservation	905	60,1	121	32,4	135	46,5	27	60,0	457	50,6
No VOM conservation	599	39,9	252	67,6	155	53,5	18	40,0	446	49,4
Total 2024	1.504	100,0	373	100,0	290	100,0	45	100,0	903	100,0

[103] No indication of refusal or willingness of persons harmed.

[104] No indication of refusal or willingness of accused.

Table regarding Figure 22: Percentage of all VOM procedures by offence group – 2023 / 2024

	Assault		Property and pecuniary offences		Property damage		Robbery and extortion		Other offences	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
2023										
VOM	1.207	84,3	342	85,3	263	85,7	36	90,0	690	81,1
No VOM	224	15,7	59	14,7	44	14,3	4	10,0	161	18,9
Total 2023	1.431	100,0	401	100,0	307	100,0	40	100,0	851	100,0
2024										
VOM	1.273	84,6	327	87,7	235	81,0	37	82,2	734	81,3
No VOM	231	15,4	46	12,3	55	19,0	8	17,8	169	18,7
Total 2024	1.504	100,0	373	100,0	290	100,0	45	100,0	903	100,0

Table regarding Figure 23: VOM results – all VOM procedures – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Consensual, final	2.174	82,9	2.267	85,6
Partial	98	3,7	110	4,2
Withdrawal, cancellation, no agreement	352	13,4	270	10,2
Valid percentage	2.624	100,0	2.647	100,0
Missing	107		113	
Total	2.731		2.760	

Table regarding Figure 24: VOM results, incl. indirect dialogue – Property damage – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Full or partial agreement	1.195	87,2	1.304	90,7
Withdrawal, cancellation, no agreement	176	12,8	133	9,3
Valid percentage	1.371	100,0	1.437	100,0

Table regarding Figure 24: VOM results, incl. indirect dialogue – Assault – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Full or partial agreement	352	88,9	319	88,4
Withdrawal, cancellation, no agreement	44	11,1	42	11,6
Valid percentage	396	100,0	361	100,0

Table regarding Figure 24: VOM results, incl. indirect dialogue – Property and pecuniary offences – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Full or partial agreement	258	89,3	252	90,6
Withdrawal, cancellation, no agreement	31	10,7	26	9,4
Valid percentage	289	100,0	278	100,0

Table regarding Figure 24: VOM results, incl. indirect dialogue – Robbery and extortion – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Full or partial agreement	38	97,4	41	97,6
Withdrawal, cancellation, no agreement	1	2,6	1	2,4
Valid percentage	39	100,0	42	100,0

Table regarding Figure 24: VOM results, incl. indirect dialogue – Other offences – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Full or partial agreement	708	86,0	777	89,8
Withdrawal, cancellation, no agreement	115	14,0	88	10,2
Valid percentage	823	100,0	865	100,0

Table regarding Figure 25: Fulfilment of the defined obligations – 2023 / 2024

	2023		2024	
	n	%	n	%
Fully or partly fulfilled	1.262	90,6	1.306	91,3
Not yet completed	128	9,2	115	8,0
Insufficiently fulfilled	4	0,3	10	0,7
Valid percentage	1.394	100,0	1.431	100,0
Missing	0		0	
Total	1.394		1.431	

Appendix II Supplemental bibliography for 2023 through 2026 (1st quarter) on victim-offender mediation, restorative justice, and selected other victim issues

Publications from 2023

Abdul Rahim / Razwana B. / Robalo, Teresa L. A. S.: Cyber Victimisation, Restorative Justice and Victim-Offender Panels. In: Asian Journal of Criminology, 18, 2023, 1, 61–74. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11417-023-09396-9

Adlet, Yergali / Rima, Dzhansarayeva / Akbolatova, Maral / Akynkozha, Zhanibekov / Beaver, Kevin M.: Criminal Justice System Processing and Victimization - Results from a Longitudinal Study of Males and Females. In: Victims & Offenders, 18, 2023, 2, 374–391. https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2021.2024468

April, Keisha / Schrader, Shannon W. / Walker, Toni E. / Francis, Robert M. / Glynn, Hector / Gordon, Derrick M.: Conceptualizing Juvenile Justice Reform - Integrating the Public Health, Social Ecological, and Restorative Justice Models. In: Children and Youth Services Review, 148, 2023, C. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.106887

Babakhani, Erfan: On the effectiveness of restorative justice in the ecocide crime. In: Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Law but Were Afraid to Ask – Special publication for the international PhD students conference, 2023. https://doi.org/10.15388/PhDStudentsConference.2023.1

Baier, Dirk: Strafvollzugsforschung – Ausgewählte Themen und Folgerungen. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice - Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 123–141.

Banwell-Moore, Rebecca: Just an ‚Optional Extra' in the ‚Victim Toolkit'?: The Culture, Mechanisms and Approaches of Criminal Justice Organisations Delivering Restorative Justice in England and Wales. In: International Review of Victimology, 29, 2023, 2, 217–235. https://doi.org/10.1177/02697580221079993

Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Wiedergutmachung - Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 148 Pages.

Bartsch, Tillmann: Alter Hut oder neue Wege? – Eine erste Einschätzung zur Kriminalpolitik der sog. Ampelkoalition unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der geplanten Reform der Ersatzfreiheitsstrafe. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.) (2023): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice - Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 9–28.

Batchelor, Diana: Separating the "Deed" from the "Done-To": How Communicating with the Offender Can Change Victims' Self-Concept. In: Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 38, 2023, 5-6, 4877–4905. https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605221119725

Batchelor, Diana: Talking punishment: How Victim Perceptions of Punishment Change When They Communicate With Offenders. In: Punishment & Society, 25, 2023, 2, 519–536. https://doi.org/10.1177/14624745211054748

Battjes, Kimberly / Kaplan, Lilly Z.: Zero Tolerance vs Restorative Justice in the United States. In: Center for Educational Policy Studies Journal, 13, 2023, 4, 185–203. https://doi.org/10.26529/cepsj.1414

Castillo Villavicencio, Flor G. / Pacheco Solano, Jaime A. / Pozo Cabrera, Pablo A.: Violation of the Rights of the Victim in Terms of Comprehensive Reparation due to the Application of the Principle of Opportunity. In: Cienca Digital, 7, 2023, 3, 129–123. https://doi.org/10.33262/cienciadigital.v7i3.2603

Christen-Schneider, Claudia: Restaurative Justiz nach einem Strafverfahren – Eine Übersicht. In: Ajil, Ahmed / Kuhn, André / Schwarzenegger, Christian / Vuille, Joëlle (Eds.): Alternativen: Von der alternativen Sanktion zur alternativen Kriminologie. Basel: Helbing Lichtenhahn, 2023, 136–165 (Schriftenreihe Schweizerische Arbeitsgruppe für Kriminologie SAK, Band 40).

Cipriano, Allison E. / Holland, Kathryn J. / Rieger, Agnes / O'Callaghan, Erin: „I had no power whatsoever": Graduate Student Survivors' Experiences Disclosing Sexual Harassment to Mandatory Reporters. In: Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy, 23, 2023, 1, 129–154. https://doi.org/10.1111/asap.12336

Cunneen, Chris / Deckert, Antje / Porter, Amanda / Tauri, Juan / Webb, Robert (Eds.): The Routledge International Handbook on Decolonizing Justice. London: Routledge, 2023, 570 Pages. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003176619

D'Souza, Nikki: The exclusion of serious and organised offenders and their victims from the offer of restorative justice: Should this be so and what happens when the offer is put on the table? In: Criminology & criminal justice, 23, 2023, 1, 60–77. https://doi.org/10.1177/17488958211021703

Domenig, Claudio: Restorative Justice in der Schweiz: Wird bald mehr getan? In: Neue Kriminalpolitik 35, 2023, 2, 205–213. https://doi.org/10.5771/0934-9200-2023-2-205

Doneva, Nada / Gjorgjieva, Dijana: Mediation in criminal and civil cases in the positive law of the Republic of North Macedonia- situation and challenges. In: International Scientific Journal sui Generis, 2, 2023, 2, 35–51. https://doi.org/10.55843/SG2322035d -

Dünkel, Frieder / Parosanu, Andrea / Pruin, Ineke / Lehmkuhl, Marianne: Restorative Justice – Aktuelle Entwicklungen wiedergutmachungsorientierter Verfahren und Maßnahmen in der Strafrechtspflege im europäischen Vergleich. In: Neue Kriminalpolitik, 35, 2023, 2, 146–171. https://doi.org/10.5771/0934-9200-2023-2-146

Dünkel, Frieder / Willms, Christoph: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Restorative Justice in Deutschland – Aktuelle Entwicklungen und kriminalpolitischer Handlungsbedarf. In: Neue Kriminalpolitik, 35, 2023, 2, 172–189. https://doi.org/10.5771/0934-9200-2023-2-172

Fulham, Lindsay / Schultheis, Elizabeth A.: The effectiveness of restorative justice programs: A meta-analysis of recidivism and other relevant outcomes. In: Criminoligy & Criminal Justice, 25, 2023, 5, 1486–1512. https://doi.org/10.1177/17488958231215228

Ganiyu, Abdul P.: Arbitration, International Mediation, and the Widening of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Space: Bloated Expectations or a Matter of Time? In: International Journal of Law and Society, 6, 2023, 1, 23–30. https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijls.20230601.14

Gautam, Ritu: Mediation Approaches in Family Dispute Resolution Matters: Cases and Commentaries. In: CPJ Law Journal, 13, 2023, 2, 21–34.

Gavrielides, Theo: Preventing Violent Radicalisation in Criminal Justice Settings: A Restorative Justice Approach. Summery research findings from Turkey, the UK, Ireland, Italy, Romania and Spain. In: Restorative Justice Series, 49, 2023, 52 Pages. https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.11740.67208

Gavrielides, Theo: Restorative Justice Dialogue against Violent Radicalisation: Evidence from Turkey, the UK, Ireland, Italy, Romania and Spain. In: Restorative Justice Series, 49, 2023, 15 Pages. https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.25278.77125

Glaeser, Bernd / Pelikan Christa: Restorative Justice in Österreich. Zur Geschichte eines kriminalpolitischen Gegenentwurfs. In: Neue Kriminalpolitik, 35, 2023, 2, 190–204. https://doi.org/10.5771/0934-9200-2023-2-190

Goldblum, Andrea: Restorative justice from theorie to practice. In: Meyer Schrage, Jennifer / Geist Giacomini, Nancy: Reframing Campus Conflict. New York: Routledge, 2nd edition, 2023, 209–227. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003446736

Hadar, Natalie / Gal, Tali: Survivors' Paths Toward Forgiveness in Restorative Justice Following Sexual Violence. In: Criminal Justice and Behavior, 50, 2023, 6, 911–928. https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548231162108

Hagemann, Otmar / Magiera, Kim: Restorative Justice und Wiedergutmachung: Was ähnlich klingt, ist nicht dasselbe. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice. Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 57–76.

Hagemann, Otmar: Restorative Justice: Heilung, Transformation, Gerechtigkeit und sozialer Frieden. Köln: Verlag DBH-Fachverband für Soziale Arbeit, Strafrecht und Kriminalpolitik e.V. 2023, XVII, 392 Pages (Schriftenreihe: „Restorative Justice: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich & Konfliktregelung", Nr. 1).

Hamzani, Achmad Irwan / Aryani, Fajar D. / Bawono, Bambang T. / Khasanah, Nur / Yunus, Nur R.: Non Procedural Dispute Resolution: Study of the Restorative Justice Approach Tradition in Indonesian Society. In: International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 2023. https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X231165425

Hariyanto, Hariyanto / Adhayanto, Oksep / Shalihah, Fihtriatus: The Purpose of Crimination Against Perpetrators and Victims in the Perspective of Restorative Justice. In: Corruptio, 4, 2023, 1, 1–12. https://doi.org/10.25041/corruptio.v4i1.2922

Hillenkamp, Thomas: Zur „Freiwilligkeit" von Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Schadenswiedergutmachung nach § 46a StGB. In: Cornelius; Kai / Tag, Brigitte (Eds.): Ausgewählte Schriften von Thomas Hillenkamp. Heidelberg: C.F. Müller, 2023, 309–319.

Jones, Briony: The Transitional Justice Citizen - From Justice Receiver to Justice Seeker. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd., 2023, 184 Pages.

Kalisz, Anna: The Role of Mutual Recognition in Hybrid Mediation of Family-Related Criminal Disputes. In: Probacja, 2023, 1, 85–114. https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0016.2850

Kilchling, Michael: Die Entwicklung der Restorative Justice aus der internationalen Perspektive. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice - Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 101–122.

Kimbrell, Catherine S. / Wilson, David B. / Olaghere, Ajima: Restorative justice programs and practices in juvenile justice: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis for effectiveness. In: Criminology & Public Policy 22, 2023, 1, 161–195. https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12613

Köhnken, Günther: (Außergerichtliche Konfliktlösung und) Prozedurale Gerechtigkeit. In: Bliesener, Thomas / Lösel, Friedrich / Dahle, Klaus-Peter (Eds.): Lehrbuch Rechtspsychologie. Bern: Hogrefe, 2. überarbeitete Auflage, 2023, 267–278.

Lamanuzzi, Marta: Restorative justice in cases of gender-based violence against women: perspectives on shame, symbolic interactionism and agency. In: The International Journal of Restorative Justice, 6, 2023, 226–249. https://doi.org/10.5553/TIJRJ.000157

Lawther, Cheryl / Moffett, Luke (Eds.): Research Handbook on Transitional Justice. E-Elgar, 2nd edition, 2023, 546 Pages (Publishing Series: Research Handbook on Transitional Justice Law Series). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. https://doi.org/10.4337/9781802202519

Lenk, Maximilian: Zur Systematik des § 46a StGB. In: Li, Yao / Ruppert, Felix (Eds.): Die Rechtsfolgen der Tat. Aktuelle Entwicklungen und Diskussionen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 63–83.

Li, Mengyao / Leidner, Bernhard: Transitional Justice: In: Cohrs, Christopher / Knab, Nadine; Sommer, Gert (Eds.): Handbook of Peace Psychology, 2023, 3–18. https://doi.org/10.17192/es2022.0076

Li, Yao / Ruppert, Felix (Eds.): Die Rechtsfolgen der Tat: Aktuelle Entwicklungen und Diskussionen. 1. Auflage. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 216 Pages.

López Martínez, Miguel A.: The Grey Zones of Reparations for War Victims under International Law. In: Verba Iuris, 2023, 49, 41–63. https://doi.org/10.18041/0121-3474/verbaiuris.49.10483

Lubis, Fauziah: Implementation of Restorative Justice, the Intent of Punishment, and Legal Clarity in Indonesia. In: Russian Law Journal, 11, 2023, 3, 813–823. https://doi.org/10.52783/rlj.v11i3.1275

Maelicke, Bernd: Plädoyer für eine verbesserte Evidenz- und Wirkungsorientierung. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice. Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 141–146.

McConkie Jr., Daniel S.: Restorative Justice as a Democratic Practice. In: Loyola University Chicago Law Journal, 55, 2024, 3, 667–735.

McEvoy, Kieran / Bryson, Anna: Apologies in transitional justice. In: Lawther, Cheryl / Moffett, Luke (Eds.): Research Handbook on Transitional Justice. E-Elgar, 2nd edition, 2023, 306–324 (Publishing Series: Reseach Handbook on Transitional Justice Law Series). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. https://doi.org/10.4337/9781802202519

Nascimento, Ana M. / Andrade, Joana / Rodrigues, Andreia de Castro: The Psychological Impact of Restorative Justice Practices on Victims of Crimes – a Systematic Review. In: Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 24, 2023, 3, 1929–1947. https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221082085

Ni Made Liana Dewi: Mediation in the Settlement of Mindful Criminal Actions what teenagers do. In: Arifin, Bustanul / Porio, Emma / Sedana, Gede (Eds.): Proceedings of The International Conference on Multi-Disciplines Approaches for The Sustainable Development, 2023, 732–737.

Olson, Jeremy: Seeing the Harm to Happiness: Integrating Satisfaction With Life Into Restorative Justice. In: Criminal Justice Policy Review 24, 2023, 1, 88–109. https://doi.org/10.1177/08874034221115337

Padlilah, Padlilah / Ravena, Dey / Zakaria, Chepi A. F.: Reevaluation and Reorientation of the Philosophy of Retributive Justice to Restorative Justice in Imposing Criminal Sanctions. In: Journal La Sociale, 4, 2023, 2, 45–51. https://doi.org/10.37899/journal-la-sociale.v4i2.786

Păroúanu, Andrea / Whipeihana, Nan: Einblicke in den Praxisansatz Whakamana Tangata in einer neuseeländischen Jugendstrafvollzugsanstalt und dessen Evaluation - Eine Forschungsnotiz. In: Neue Kriminalpolitik 35, 2023, 2, 214–219. https://doi.org/10.5771/0934-9200-2023-2-214

Peinhaupt, Peter: Transformative Justiz und ihre Möglichkeiten für den Wiener Gewaltschutz (Masterarbeit, Social Sciences), FH Campus Wien, Wien, 2023, 134 Pages.

Pennell, Joan: A restorative approach to family violence: feminist kin-making. New York: Routledge, 2023, 150 Pages. https://doi.org/10.1177/08861099221133377

Rathod, Shraddha M. / Singh, Rajesh: Restoring Restorative Justice in Indian Criminal Justice System: Is Victim Offender Mediation a Way In: Indian Journal of Law and Legal Research, 5, 2023, 2.

Reed, Trevor: Restorative Justice for Indigenous Culture. In: UCLA Law Review, 70, 2023, 2, 516–595. https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4398314

Rehmet, Bianca: Keine sicheren Räume? Sexualisierte Gewalt in links deklarierten Partykontexten in der Stadt Leipzig - Inwiefern findet sexualisierte Gewalt gegen FLINTA*-Personen in links deklarierten Partykontexten statt und welchen Einfluss haben diesbezüglich vorhandene Awareness-Strukturen? (Masterarbeit, Soziale Arbeit – planen, leiten forschen), Hochschule für Technik, Wissenschaft und Kultur, Leipzig, 2023, 225 Pages.

Rickert, Anne: Online-Mediation in der Praxis. In: Rickert, Anne: Online-Mediation – Konfliktklärung im virtuellen Raum. Wiesbaden: Springer Gabler, 2023, 55–143. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-39414-1

Rigoni, Clara: Honour-Based Violence and Forced Marriages: Community and Restorative Practices in Europe. New York: Routledge, 1st edition, 2023, 284 Pages. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003050452

Rochaeti, Nur / Prasetyo, Mujiono H. / Rozah, Umi / Park, Jihyun: A Restorative Justice System in Indonesia: A Close View from the Indigenous Peoples' Practices. In: Sriwijaya Law Review, 7, 2023, 1, 87–104. https://doi.org/10.28946/slrev.Vol7.Iss1.1919.pp87-104

Rossner, Meredith / Talor, Helen: The Transformative Potential of Restorative Justice: What the Mainstream Can Learn from the Margin. In: Annual Review of Criminology, 7, 2023, 1, 357–381. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-criminol-030421-040921

Ruškus, Jonas: Transformative Justice for Elimination of Barriers to Access to Justice for Persons with Psychosocial or Intellectual Disabilities. In: Laws, 12, 2023, 3. https://doi.org/10.3390/laws12030051

Sassenrath, Claudia et al.: I like it because it hurts you: On the association of everyday sadism, sadistic pleasure, and victim blaming. In: Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 126, 2023, 1, 105–127. Advance online publication: https://doi.org/10.1037/
pspp0000464

Scholl, Mark B. / Townsend, Christopher B.: Restorative justice: A humanistic paradigm for addressing the needs of victims, offenders, and communities. In: Journal of Humanistic Counseling, 63, 2023, 3, 184–200. https://doi.org/10.1002/johc.12204

Scholz, Moritz: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Schadenswiedergutmachung gemäß § 46a StGB als Dritte Spur des Rechtsfolgensystems im Strafrecht (Diplomarbeit, Rechtspflege), Hochschule Meißen (FH) und Fortbildungszentrum, Meißen, 2023, 68 Pages.

Schüttler, Helena: Legalbewährung nach Entlassung aus dem offenen Vollzug - Eine Vergleichsstudie. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023. (Edition Seehaus [Plus], Band 1). https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748939467

Scicluma, Charles J. / Wijlens, Myriam (Eds.): Rights of Alleged Victims in Penal Proceedings. Provisions in Canon Law and the Criminal Law of Different Legal Systems. Baden-Baden: Nomos, Band 2, 2023, 343 Pages. https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748936169

Sereda, Olena / Dmytryk, Olga: Some Issues of Defining the Principles of Mediation as an Out-Of-Judicial Procedure for Resolving Labor Disputes. In: Law and Innovative Science, 1, 2023, 20, 22–32.

Skaar, Elin: When Truth Commission Models Travel: Explaining the Norwegian Case. The International Journal of Transitional Justice, 17, 2023, 1, 123–140. https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijac027

Sonnen, Bernd-Rüdeger: Landesresozialisierungs- und Opferschutzgesetze. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice - Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 29–38.

Steely Smith, Mollee: „I'm not a child molester, but a victim myself": Examining Rationalizations among male sex offenders who report histories of childhood sexual abuse. In: International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 67, 2023, 12, 1254–1271.
https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X221102789

Stout, Brian: Community justice in Australia: knowledge, skills and values. London: Routledge, 2023, 264 Pages. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003193814

Suzuki, Masahiro: Victim Recovery in Restorative Justice: A Theoretical Framework. In: Criminal Justice and Behavior, 50, 2023, 12, 1893–1908. https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548231206828

Thai, Michael / Wenzel, Michael / Okimoto, Tyler G.: Turning Tables: Offenders Feel Like "Victims" When Victims Withhold Forgiveness. In: Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin 49, 2023, 2, 233–250.
https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672211062401

Treskow, Laura / Bartsch, Tillmann: Wie wirken Gesetze zum Schutz der Opfer von Straftaten? – Befunde aus einer empirischen Studie zur psychosozialen Prozessbegleitung im Strafverfahren. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice. Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 39–56.

Von Dewitz, Clivia: Restorative Justice in der Praxis am Beispiel Deutschlands, Neuseelands und Nordamerikas. In: Bartsch, Tillmann / Hoven, Elisa / Limperg, Bettina / Maelicke, Bernd / Merckle, Tobias (Eds.): Resozialisierung, Opferschutz, Restorative Justice. Grundlagen und Rahmenbedingungen. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023, 77–100.

Von Dewitz, Clivia: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und strafrechtliche Mediation. Ein Leitfaden für die Anwendung des § 46a StGB in der richterlichen Praxis. Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlag, 2023, 129 Pages. (Edition Seehaus [plus] – Resozialisierung – Opferschutz – Restorative Justice; Bd. 4).

Wagaman, Megan: Improving School Community Cohesion Through Restorative Justice Practices (Master's Theses, Education), Northwestern College, Iowa, 2023, 35 Pages.

Wibowo, Kurniawan T.: Challenges and Obstacles to the Application of Restorative Justice on the Criminal Justice System in Indonesia. In: International Journal of Law Policy and Governance, 2, 2023, 1, 32–40. https://doi.org/10.54099/ijlpg.v2i1.203

Winn, Misha T.: Restorative Justice, Civic Education, and Transformative Possibilities. In: The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 705, 2023, 1, 156–171. https://doi.org/10.1177/00027162231188566

Wu, Zongxian / Wu, Sishi: The Past, Present, and Future of Restorative Justice in the Chinese Mainland: A Systematic Review of Chinese Literature. In: Asian Journal of Criminology, 18, 2023, 2, 89–112. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11417-023-09400-2

Zhou, Jing: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich im Rahmen eines Strafverfahrens in China und Deutschland in rechtsvergleichender Sicht. Berlin: Lit, 2023, 322 Pages. (Schriften zum Straf-, Strafprozess- und Strafvollzugsrecht, Band 14)

Publications from 2024

Alifuddin, Moj / Thalib, Hambali / Zainuddin: The Effectiveness of Restorative Justice for Victims of Narcotics Crime. In: Jurnal Hukum De'rechtsstaat, 10, 2024, 1, 133–146.

Alnuaimi, Ahmed A. / Alkrisheh, Mohammad: Advancing Criminal Justice through Mediation: Analyzing the Integration of Mediation in Emirati Criminal Legislation. In: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, 11, 2024, 1. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03458-8

Amarini, Indriati / Samhudi, Gamalel R. / Mukarromah, Safitri / Ismail, Noorfajri: Social Reintegration after the Implementation of Restorative Justice in the Indonesian Criminal Code. In: Jurnal Media Hukum, 31, 2024, 1, 115–133. https://doi.org/10.18196/jmh.v31i1.20655

Arsyad, Rahmat R.: Investigation of the Settlement Of Medical Malpractice Cases in Indonesia Using Criminal Mediation (Comparative Analysis with the United States). In: Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research, 4, 2024, 6, 2534–2549.

Awuni, Peter A. / Agyapong, Ama: Exploring the Practice of Victim-Offender Mediation, to Proceed or Retrieve: The Case of Ghana. In: International Journal of Current Research in the Humanities, 27, 2024, 1, 470–487. https://doi.org/10.4314/ijcrh.v27i1.30

Banwell-Moore, Rebecca: Restorative justice: Adopting a whole system approach to address cultural barriers in criminal justice. In: Criminology and Criminal Justice, 24, 2024, 5, 1028–1046. https://doi.org/10.1177/17488958241268005

Barocas, Briana / Avieli, Hila / Shimizu, Rei / Sejung, Yang / Patankar, Krushika Uday/ Al Neyadi, Layla: Restorative Justice for Domestic Violence: The Meaning of Community in Circles. In: Victims and Offender, 19, 2024, 1, 984–1002. https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2024.2312472

Baug, Banshidhar: Assessing the Future of Mediation: The Impact of the Mediation Act, 2023 on Dispute Resolution in India. In: International Journal of Law Management & Humanities, 7, 2024, 5, 905–916. https://doij.org/10.10000/IJLMH.118342

Carels, Monique: Mediation and the Criminal Justice System: Can the Two be Married? In: South African Journal of Criminal Justice, 37, 2024, 3, 395–418. https://doi.org/10.47348/SACJ/v37/i3a5

Daly, Kathleen: Stepping Out of the Shadow of Transitional Justice: A Theoretical Framework for Institutional Justice. In: Victims and Offender, 19, 2024, 2, 1239–1275. https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2024.2391478

Darmawa, Rifqi A. / Diputra, Muhammad M. R. / Rahman, Alip / Sutrisno, Anom: Analyses of the Effectiveness of the Application of Restorative Justice in Criminal Cases in Indonesia. In: Journal of World Science, 3, 2024, 5, 567–572. https://doi.org/10.58344/jws.v3i5.612

Dzemish Abdulovna, Daryna: Advancing Criminal Justice Reform through Restorative Justice: A Narrative Review. In: Sinergi International Journal of Law, 2, 2024, 4, 274–285. https://doi.org/10.61194/law.v2i4.719

El Kady, Ramy: Victim-Offender Mediation as a Model of Restorative Justice: An Analytical Descriptive Study in the Egyptian Law. In: Mesquita Borges, Gabriela / Guerreiro, Ana / Pina, Miriam (Eds.): Modern Insights and Strategies in Victimology. Hershey (Pennsylvania): IGI Global, 2024, 191–219. https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3693-2201-7.ch009

Elisa, Hoven / Rubitzsch, Anja Schriever, Jan (Eds.): Der Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich im Erwachsenenbereich in Sachsen – Eine Evaluierungsstudie, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2024, 144 Pages. (Edition Seehaus [plus])

El-Kady, Ramy: The Role of the Police in Criminal Mediation. In: International Journal of Police Science, 2, 2024, 1. https://doi.org/10.56331/ijps.v2i1.14367

Elmesky, Rowhea / Marcucci, Olivia: Against the Carceral Logics of Schools: A Critical Ethnographic Study of Restorative Justice and Politicized Caring in a Black School. In: AERA Open, 10, 2024, 1. https://doi.org/10.1177/2332858424129716

Fauzurrahman, Iqbal: Introducing Restorative Justice in The Criminal Justice System as An Alternative Approach to Addressing the Shoplifting Crisis in Western Australia. In: Jurist-Diction, 7, 2024, 1, 69–78. https://doi.org/10.20473/jd.v7i1.54101

Fish, Jillian / Ansloos, Jeffrey / O'Keefe, Victoria / Gone, Joseph P.: Truth and Reconciliation for Whom? Transitional Justice for Indigenous Peoples in American Psychology. In: American Psychologist, 79, 2024, 4, 618–630. https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0001234?urlappend=%3Futm_source%3Dresearchgate.net%26utm_medium%3Darticle

Gavin, Paul / Kite, Charlotte / Porter, Cody / McCartan, Kieran: Restorative justice in cases of sexual violence: current and future directions in the UK. In: Contemporary Justice Review, 26, 2024, 1, 393–410. https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2024.2330375

Hartmann, Arthur / Ridder, Sophie / Schmidt, Marie: Prävention durch Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich. In: Hermann, Dieter / Horten, Barbara / Pöge, Andreas (Eds.): Handbuch Kriminalsoziologie. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2. Auflage, 2024, 637–660.

Jülich, Shirley / Brady-Clark, Megan / Yeung, Polly / Landon, Fiona: Restorative Justice Responses to Sexual Violence: Perspectives and Experiences of Participating Persons Responsible and Persons Harmed. In: Victims and Offender, 19, 2024, 7, 1424–1449. https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2024.2333311

Jürschik, Ulrike / Gieseler, Helya / Schlegelmilch, Johanna: Transformatives Recht? Beiträge von Recht in sozialökologischen Transformationen. In: KJ Kritische Justiz, 57, 2024, 3, 321–333. https://doi.org/10.5771/0023-4834-2024-3-321

Koza, Meghan / Kokkalera, Stuti S. / Navarro, John C.: The promise of alternatives for youths: An analysis of restorative justice practices in the United States. In: Juvenile and Family Court Journal, 75, 2023, 3, 23–36. https://doi.org/10.1111/jfcj.12268

Kużelewski, Dariusz: The Norwegian Model of Victim-Offender Mediation as an Original System Approach. In: Białostockie Studia Prawnicze, 29, 2024, 4, 139–160. https://doi.org/10.15290/bsp.2024.29.04.09

Lustick, Hilary / Hakouz, Abeer / Ward-Seidel, Allison / Gaias, Larissa: What makes restorative justice equitable? "It's a practice, not a program.". In: Journal of Educational Administration, 62, 2024, 4, 403–416. https://doi.org/10.1108/JEA-05-2023-0122

Makowiecky Salles, Bruno; Schiessl Cardoso, Helena: Restorative justice as a possible path to access to justice in Brazil: the central role of the Judiciary and the creative translation based on the Euro-American theoretical and methodological framework. In: Cadernos de Dereito Actual, 24, 2024, 71–89. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11317933

Maryna, Fedorchuk: Mediation in Criminal Cases: Comparative Legal Analysis. MEDIATS, 63–68.

Mathanachandiran, B. / Kumar, R.: Influence of Mediation in Criminal Matters of the Judiciary. In: International Journal of Law Management & Humanities, 7, 2024, 4, 668–671. https://doij.org/10.10000/IJLMH.118050

Mattutat, Liza: Strukturell und opferzentriert. Zwei feministische Begriffe von Gerechtigkeit. In: Kritische Justiz, 57, 2024, 1, 71–82. https://doi.org/10.5771/0023-4834-2024-1-71

Mawardi, Chalik / Zaid. M. / Kamil, Rizqan: The importance of the restorative justice approach in the resolution of medical disputes. In: Wacana Hukum, 30, 2024, 1, 71–88. https://doi.org/10.33061/WH.V30I1.10667

Mpofu, Zandile F. / Mkhize, Sazelo M. / Akpan, Udoh J.: Empathy, remorse, and restoration of dignity contributing to reduced recidivism: assessing the role of restorative justice in promoting offender rehabilitation and reintegration in Durban. In: Cogent Social Sciences, 10, 2024, 1. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2024.2429018

Nazim, Muneeba F. / Amjad, Sohail / Shahid, Anum: Juvenile Justice Reform: A Comparative Study of International Practices. In: Pakistan Islamicus (An International Journal of Islamic and Social Sciences), 4, 2024, 1, 42–53.

Olsson, Per / Moore, Michele-Lee: A Resilience-Based Transformations Approach to Peacebuilding and Transformative Justice. In: Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 66, 2024. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2023.101392

Peleg-Koriat, Inbal / Weimann-Saks, Dana: Restorative Justice Behind Bars: People in Custody's Facilitators and Barriers to Participating in Restorative Justice. In: Criminal Justice and Behavior, 51, 2024, 10, 1493–1510. https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548241257608

Procter-Legg, Thomas / Hobson, Jonathan / Quimby, Ernest: Restorative Justice and Social Justice: An International Perspective. In: Contemporary Justice Review - Issues in Criminal, Social, and Restorative Justice, 27, 2024, 2-3, 218–238. https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2024.2414953

Rasmussen, Cameron W.: The Politics of Accountability: Violence, Mass Punishment and Restorative Justice. In: Contemporary Justice Review, 26, 2024, 4, 357–375. https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2024.2315019

Scotland, Gillian: Making a Case for Incorporating Victim–Offender Mediation into the Criminal Justice System of Trinidad and Tobago. In: Journal of Victimology and Victim Justice, 7, 2024, 1, 7–18. https://doi.org/10.1177/25166069241245768

Shem-Tov, Yotam / Raphael, Steven / Skog, Alissa: Can Restorative Justice Conferencing Reduce Recidivism? Evidence From the Make-it-Right Program. In: Econometrica, 92, 2024, 1, 61–78. https://doi.org/10.3982/ECTA20996

Sikking, Kathryn / Clapp, Helen / Marín-López, Daniel / Schmidt, Averell: Gender and Transitional Justice: Explaining Global Trends. In: The International Journal of Transitional Justice, 18, 2024, 3, 387–404. https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijae022

Sirleaf, Matiangai / Achiume, E. Tendayi: Reflecting on Race, Racism and Transitional Justice. In: International Journal of Transitional Justice, 18, 2024, 1, 1–17. https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijae007

Suzuki, Masahiro / Jenkins, Tamera: Redefining forgiveness in restorative justice. In: Criminal Justice Studies, 37, 2024, 5, 273–289. https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601X.2024.2349586

Tahiraj, Flutura / Abdyli, Emine: Mediation in Criminal Matters: A Perspective from Kosovo. In: MDPI Laws, 13, 2024, 4, 39–56. https://doi.org/10.3390/laws13040039

Tiejen, Grant / Cox, Alison / Trombley, R. Renee: Marking 25 Years of Convict Criminology by Building a New Table: Transformative Social Justice, Inclusion and Activism as Part of a Larger Social Movement. In: Journal of Prisons, 33, 2024, 1.

Wahyudhi, Dheny / Rahayu, Sri / Sudarti, Elly / Liyus, Herry: Restorative Justice Approach as an Alternative Criminal Case Resolution in Realizing Effective and Efficient Justice. In: JSSH (Jurnal Sains Sisio Humaniora), 8, 2024, 1, 24–35.

Walim, Walim: The Concept of Restorative Justice in the Criminal Legal System: A Breakthrough in Legal Benefits. In: The Concept of Restorative Justice in the Criminal Legal System: A Breakthrough in Legal Benefits. In: International Journal of Law Reconstruction, 8, 2024, 1, 100–110. https://doi.org/10.26532/ijlr.v8i1.36726

Willms, Christoph / Malzahn, Rehzi: The 'Deadly Embrace' of Restorative Justice in Germany. In: Maglione, Giuseppe / Marder, Ian D. / Pali, Brunilda: Restorative Justice at a Crossroads, London: Routledge, 1st edition, 2024. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003320647

Wood, William R. / Suzuki, Masahiro: Getting to Accountability in Restorative Justice. In: Victims and Offenders, 19, 2024, 7, 1400–1423. https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2024.2333304

Xinrui, Zhang / Zhang, Jiashu: The application of restorative justice in China's environmental crime: an evolutionary game perspective. In: Crime and Law and Social Change, 82, 2024, 3, 717–750. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-024-10165-7?urlappend=%3Futm_source%3Dresearchgate.net%26utm_medium%3Darticle

Publications from 2025

Abdou, Annmary S. / Katic, Barbara / Hernando, Kyna: Cultivating a Restorative Lens: Integrating Restorative Justice into School Psychology Practice. In: School Psychology Review, 2025. https://doi.org/10.1080/2372966X.2025.2522060

Anderson, John / Islam, Mohammad S. / Li, Bin: A Study of the Values and Principles-Based Approach to Restorative Justice. In: Contemporary Justice Review - Issues in Criminal, Social, and Restorative Justice, 28, 2025, 1, 13–38. https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2025.2472310

Barros Neves, Kassia / Traguetto, Jessica / Barros Neves, Julia / Matos Torres, Miguel / De Moraes Sousa, Marcos: Restorative Justice Approaches in the Workplace: A Systematic Review Protocol. In: International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 24, 2025. https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069251369297

Bauckmann, Marcus: Grundaspekte der Mediation. In: Juristische Ausbildung, 47, 2025, 8, 868–876. https://doi.org/10.1515/jura-2025-2056

Dancy, Geoff / Thoms, Oskar T.: Transitional Justice and the Problem of Democratic Decline. In: International Journal of Transitional Justice, 19, 2025, 1, 36–59. https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijae039

Doan, Bich Ngoc (Rubi) / Seering, Joseph: The Design Space for Online restorative Justice Tools: A Case Study with ApoloBot. In: Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2025. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2502.18861

Fhadilah, Indah / Asyafira, Livvy / Ul Hosnah, Asmak: Restorative Justice and Environmental Crime: Exploring New Models for Addressing Harm to the Environment and Communities. In: Enigma in Law, 3, 2025, 1, 157–170. https://doi.org/10.61996/law.v3i1.84

Flora, Henny S. / Harmono, Harmono / Alves, Livia: Effectiveness of the Implementation of Restorative Justice in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. In: Rechtsnormen Journal of Law, 3, 2024, 1, 33–44. https://doi.org/10.70177/rjl.v3i1.2068

Gregory, Anna / Jimenez, Amalia / Norton, Lindsey S. / Tieger, Chad / Huang, Francis L.: Restorative Justice Conferences in Elementary and Secondary Schools, 24, 2025, 2, 298–313. https://doi.org/10.1080/15388220.2025.2471437

Harianja, Dame A. / Simamora, Janpatar / Sihotang, Lesson: The Application of Restorative Justice in The Settlement of Minor Offences. In: (GIJLSS) Greenation International Journal of Law and Social Sciences, 2, 2024, 4, 371–379. https://doi.org/10.38035/gijlss.v2i4.331

Hemphill, Michael A.: Restorative justice as transformative practice in physical education scholarship. In: Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy, 2025. https://doi.org/10.1080/17408989.2025.2514115

Herz, Clara: Rechtliche Grundlagen des Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichs in Deutschland Spektrum der Mediation. In: Spektrum der Mediation, 22, 2025, 1, 15–18. https://doi.org/10.30820/1869-6708-2025-1

Hirt, Daniela: Wenn ein Gefängnis zum Ort der Verständigung wird …: Praxiserfahrungen aus Restorative-Justice-Projekten für gesellschaftliche Wiedergutmachung im Strafvollzug als Best-Practice-Beispiele für nachhaltige Tatbearbeitung. In: KonfliktDynamik, 14, 2025, 1, 24–29. https://doi.org/10.5771/2193-0147-2025-1-24

Hollósvölgyi, Máté: What does Restorative Justice Promise?. In: European Journal of Probation, 17, 2025, 1, 21–34. https://doi.org/10.1177/20662203251319907

Isiaka, Monsurat / Nasirudeen, Ismail / Yusuf, Tolha A. / Ayodele, Austin / Sheu, Wasiu B.: The adoption of restorative justice models in criminal justice system: decongesting backlogs in conventional court system in Nigeria. In: Contemporary Justice Review – Issues in Criminal, Social, and Restorative Justice, 28, 2025, 4, 431–458. https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2025.2536290

Ismail, Dian E. / Ahmad, Nadzriah / Mantali, Avelia R. Y. / Moha, Mohamad R. / Wardhana Machmud, Andika: The Comparative Study: Protecting Children's Rights Through Law Reform of Restorative Justice in Juvenile Cases. In: Journal of Law and Legal Reform, 6, 2025, 2, 909–950. https://doi.org/10.15294/jllr.v6i2.13724

Katic, Barbara / Alba, Laura A.: From Local Classrooms to Global Impact: Exploring the Intersection Between Restorative Justice and Global Citizenship. In: School Psychology Review, 2025. https://doi.org/10.1080/2372966X.2025.2509322

Kenkel-Schwartz, Hilke: Einführung zum Themenschwerpunkt » Restorative Justice «. In: KonfliktDynamik, 14. 2025, 1, 4–6. https://doi.org/10.5771/2193-0147-2025-1-4

Lawler, Siobhan / Boxall, Hayley / Dowling, Christopher: Restorative justice conferencing for domestic and family violence and sexual violence: Evaluation of Phase Three of the ACT Restorative Justice Scheme. In: Research Report 33, 2025, 185 Pages. https://doi.org/10.52922/rr77680

MacDiarmid, Laura: Apology–forgiveness in restorative justice: Victims' experiences with justice-involved youth. In: International Review of Victimology, 31, 2025, 3, 406–423. https://doi.org/10.1177/02697580251314901

Marcucci, Olivia / Grant, Ashley A. / Rice, Eric / Parker, Alexander / Satchell, Tonya W. / Alicea, Mercedes / Phillips, Amber / Cruz, Rebecca A.: Understanding the Anti-Carceral Possibility of School-Based Restorative Justice: A Methodologically Inclusive Systematic Review. In: Review of Educational Research, 55, 2025, 5. https://doi.org/10.3102/00346543251329595

Musgrave, Tyler / Bell, Alexis / Schoenebeck, Sarita: Techno-mediated Justice: How Restorative Justice Practitioners Use VideoConferencing Platforms and What HCI Can Learn from Them. In: Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 9, 2025, 2. https://doi.org/10.1145/3711081

Romero-Seseña, Pablo: Framing European National Policies on Restorative Justice: A Frame Analysis Approach. In: International Criminology, 5, 2025, 115–127. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43576-025-00161-9

Sharma, Nandan / Kapoor, Krishma / Bansal, Vasu: Alchemy of Empathy: Mediation as a Catalyst in the Landscape of Victimological Restoration. In: Thakur, Monika / Gupta, Chander M. / Lambert, Eric (Eds.): Fundamentals of Forensic Victimology. Cham: Springer, 2025, 127–141. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-95987-5_13

Sliva, Shannon / Almengor, Rochelle A. / Hobbs, Anne: Collective Insights in the Past, Present, and Future of Restorative Justice Research. In: Criminal Justice Studies – A Critical Journal of Crime, Law and Society, 38, 2025, 2, 229–249. https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601X.2025.2509051

Stefanopoulou, Georgia: Friedensherstellung durch Restorative Justice – Überlegungen zum Konzept aus rechtssoziologischer Perspektive. In: Neue Strafrechtswissenschaft, 3, 2025, 204–214. https://doi.org/10.61039/29427509-2025-17

Topping, John / Albert, Allely / Martin, Richard: Twenty-five years on the boundary between state and community: revisiting the 'Impossibility' of restorative justice and security informalism. In: Policing and Society – An International Journal of Research and Policy, 35, 2025, 7, 967–982. https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2024.2446586

Ververopoulou, Eleni: Restorative Justice Institutions in Greece and Spain: Criminal Reconciliation and Criminal Mediation. In: Internet Journal of Restorative Justice, 2025.

Vikash, Vaibhav: Efficacy of Mediation in Criminal Cases: A Case Study Approach. In: Jus Corpus Law Journal, 5, 2025, 2, 414–427. https://doi-ds.org/doilink/03.2025-19537694/juscorpuslawjournal/v5/i2/428447

Widjajanto, Agus / Astawa, I. G. P. / Rulyandi, Muhammad: Decolonising restorative justice in Indonesia: a comparative study across Customary Law traditions. In: Legality – Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum, 33, 2025, 2, 470–492. https://doi.org/10.22219/ljih.v33i2.40481

Willms, Christoph: Restorative Justice im strafrechtlichen Kontext: KonfliktDynamik, 14, 2025, 1, 7–13. https://doi.org/10.5771/2193-0147-2025-1-7

Publications from 2026

McGinn, Tony: The end of social work: A plain writing contribution. In: The British Journal of Social Work, 2026. https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcaf288

Oyedokun, Godwyn E / Olaosebikan, Simeon O.: Restorative Justice: Emerging Strategies for Dealing with Crime and the Interests of Stakeholder. In: Lexscriptio a Journal of the Department of Jurisprudence and Public Law, 2, 2025, 2, 594–621.

Peleg-Koriat, Inbal: Ethnic Differences in Support for Restorative Justice in Sexual Abuse Cases: The Role of Offense Severity and Malleability Beliefs. In: Violence Against Women, 32, 2026, 6-7, 1901–1923. https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012251347588

Schoeman, Marelize: Utilising restorative justice to break the cycle of harm for children in conflict with the law. In: Bald, Caroline J. / Martínez Herrero, María I. (Eds.): The Routledge International Handbook of Criminal Justice Social Work. London: Routledge, 1st edition 2026. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003717270

Stabler, Lorna / Fisher, Tim / Au, Kar M.: Strengthening families through Family Group Conferencing. In: Diaz, Clive / Fitz-Symonds, Sammi / Fisher, Tim (Eds.): Participatory Approaches in Child and Families Social Work. Bristol: Policy Press, 2026, 87–110. https://doi.org/10.51952/9781447373407.ch006

Supplemental notice:

Bibliographies on literature from earlier years to 2022.

[2024] Arthur Hartmann / Marie Schmidt / Sophie Settels / Hans-Jürgen Kerner: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland: Auswertung der Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2021 und 2022: Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium der Justiz. Göttingen: CUVILLIER Verlag 2024. [Aee Appendix II: Ergänzende Bibliographie der Jahre 2021 bis 2023 zu Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich, Mediation und Restorative Justice], 121–146.

[2021] Arthur Hartmann / Marie Schmidt / Sophie Settels / Hans-Jürgen Kerner: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland: Auswertung der Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2019 und 2020: Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg GmbH, 2021. [See Appendix II: Ergänzende Bibliographie der Jahre 2019 bis Anfang 2021 zum Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich, zur Schadenswiedergutmachung, zur Mediation, zu Restorative Justice und ausgewählten anderen Opferfragen], 118–161.

[2020] Arthur Hartmann / Marie Schmidt / Hans-Jürgen Kerner: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland: Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich-Statistik für die Jahrgänge 2017 und 2018: Bericht für das Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz. Mönchengladbach: Forum Verlag Godesberg GmbH, 2020. [See Appendix II: References with focus on VOM and mediation].

[2015] Ricarda Lummer; Otmar Hagemann; Sónja Reis (Eds.): Restorative Justice at Post-Sentencing Level in Europe. Kiel, 2015, 134 pp. (Social Criminal Justice Series, Vol. 3). Bibliography [predominantly English titles], 117-128.

[2014] Arthur Hartmann; Marie Haas; Anke Eikens; Hans-Jürgen Kerner: Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich in Deutschland. Auswertung der bundesweiten Täter-Opfer-Ausgleichsstatistik für die Jahrgänge 2011 und 2012., Bundesministerium der Justiz und Verbraucherschutz (Ed.). Berlin, 2014. [See Appendix II: Retrograde references, with a focus on VOM and mediation, back to aprox. 2000], 131-182.

[2013] Gerd Delattre (Red.): Literaturliste zum Thema Restorative Justice. In: Servicebüro für Täter-OpferAusgleich und Konfliktschichtung (Redaktion): Restorative Justice - Der Versuch, das Unübersetzbare in Worte zu fassen, Cologne: DBH Eigenverlag, 2013 (Materialien Vol. 71), 115-126.

[2003] Hans-Jürgen Kerner: Opfer und Täter. Eine Bibliographie zu Außergerichtlichem Tatausgleich, Konfliktausgleich, Mediation, Opferhilfe, Opferschutz, Schadenswiedergutmachung, Täter-OpferAusgleich und weiteren damit verbundenen Problembereichen. Second Edition. Tübingen: Tobias-Lib 2003, 247 Pages. (Tübinger Schriften und Materialien zur Kriminologie, Vol. 1). [ISBN printing by request. The electronic version is available via the Institute's portal or directly via the following address: http://w210.ub.uni-tuebingen.de/portal/tuekrim/].

[2003] Hans-Jürgen Kerner (Ed.): Bibliographie Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Schadenswiedergutmachung. Second unaltered Edition. Köln: Servicebüro für Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Konfliktschlichtung, 2003, 224 Pages. (DBH-Materialien No. 36) <also available on CD-ROM>.

[1998] Hans-Jürgen Kerner (Ed.): Opfer und Täter. Eine Bibliographie zu Außergerichtlichem Tatausgleich, Konfliktausgleich, Mediation, Opferhilfe, Opferschutz, Schadenswiedergutmachung, Täter-OpferAusgleich und weiteren damit verbundenen Problembereichen. Im Auftrag und in Zusammenarbeit mit der Forschungsgruppe Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich. Cologne: DBH, 1998, V, 97 Pages. (DBH-Materialien No. 36.)

[1998] Hans-Jürgen Kerner, in Zusammenarbeit mit Angelika Schroth: Bibliographie zum Täter-OpferAusgleich und zur Schadenswiedergutmachung. In: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Ed.): Täter-OpferAusgleich in Deutschland. Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven. Bonn: Forum-Verlag Godesberg, 1998, 495-575 (Recht).