

# Review

## Conflict mediation and the effect on victims

### *Background and objectives:*

- The report assesses whether the use of the conflict mediation strategy called victim-offender mediation (VOM) has an effect on the victim's need for health services and social benefits.
- Since 2010, all Danish police districts have been required to organise VOM. VOM is an opportunity for the offender and the victim to meet with a mediator trained in conflict management.

### *Research design:*

- The analysis is based on information about 3,275 cases where 1,544 had attended VOM and the remainder acted as the control group. The data is a combination of information from the different police districts and register data from Statistics Denmark.
- The victims participating in VOM are compared to the control group to see if the need for health services and social benefits increases after victimisation.

### *Findings:*

- The analysis shows an increase in the need for the examined services and benefits for the group as a whole immediately after victimisation.
- It is not possible to establish that the victims who took part in VOM need the examined services and benefits to a lesser extent than the control group.
- The indicators used in the report reflect a strong response to an offence, so the result of no statistically significant effect does not necessarily imply that VOM does not have any positive effects. It might have an effect on indicators that are harder to measure or are not considered just as severe.

