

Review

Agreement on Good Behaviour – an evaluation of the effect of a pilot project on the prevention of youth crime

Background and objectives:

- The aim of the report is to evaluate the pilot project Agreement on Good Behaviour.
- Agreement on Good Behaviour is a pilot project conducted in two municipalities in Denmark aimed at minors who have committed less serious crimes or shown other forms of worrying behaviour.

Research design:

- The report is based on information about the minors in the target group for an Agreement on Good Behaviour and information about similar minors from two control municipalities. This information is combined with information from the police about their registration of the minors.
- The analysis is based on a limited amount of data and therefore the results are subject to considerable uncertainty.
- The report includes a descriptive analysis of the difference in recidivism between the two groups, but also a regression analysis to try to measure the effect of an Agreement on Good Behaviour.

Findings:

- There is a slight tendency towards reduced recidivism for the target group for an Agreement on Good Behaviour compared to the control group, but the regression analysis shows that the difference in recidivism is not statistically significant.
- One explanation of the results could be that only relatively few minors are included in the sample, which means that the difference between the two groups has to be more pronounced in order to obtain statistically significant results.
- Another explanation why the results are not significant might be the way the two groups are constructed. The study sample is the entire target group for an Agreement on Good Behaviour, but only about one third of the minors in the target group have completed the project.

