

Table 1. Comparison of Justice Theories

	Retributive justice	Therapeutic justice	Restorative justice	Community justice
Definition of crime	Crime is a breach of a rule created by a sovereign. Crime should be addressed by professionals who are not connected to the victim or the offender.	Crime is a manifestation of illness of offender's body or character. Crime should be addressed through treatment by professionals.	Crime is a disruption of community harmony and relationships. Crime should be addressed in the community by the community, the victim, and the offender.	Crime is committed by people who are not invested in the community and is caused by complex social problems. Crime should be addressed in the community by a partnership between the community and criminal justice agencies.
Primary focus	Focus on defendant.	Focus on defendant's rehabilitation, including teaching accountability.	Equal focus on offender, community, and victim.	Focus on enhancing and sustaining community life as a way of preventing crime and exerting social control.
Sentencing goals	Vindicate social values, deter defendant and others, isolate defendant from community, rehabilitate defendant if possible. Primary beneficiary is government, second is society, and third, the victim.	To correct/heal the offender, who receives most services and benefits. Society is secondary; victim benefits to the extent that offender is rehabilitated.	Repair the harm, heal victim and community, restore offender to healthy relationship with community through offender accountability, encourage community to take responsibility for responding to crime.	Similar to goals of restorative justice; however, community justice also attempts to address some of the social problems underlying crime and to involve local residents in planning and decisionmaking.
Use of incarceration	A primary form of sanction.	May be used as a sanction and to protect community (comparable to quarantine).	May be necessary to protect community; restorative justice principles should be applied within institutions.	May be necessary to protect community.
Measures of success	Fairness of process; equality and proportionality of sanctions (i.e., sanctions are related to seriousness of crime and similar situated offenders receive uniform sanctions).	Regained health of offender; offender demonstrates accountability in work, family, community; low recidivism.	Emotional and financial restitution for victim, restoration of community harmony, return of offender to valued role in community, low recidivism.	Citizens are directly involved in setting crime-response priorities; all citizens are strongly invested in the community; crime rates decrease.
Examples	Current criminal justice system, most youth courts.	Wellness court, drug court, mental health court, some tribal courts, some youth courts.	Victim-offender mediation, circle sentencing, family group conferencing, reparative probation, citizen boards, some tribal courts.	Community policing and prosecution, Navajo Peacemaker courts, community courts, some tribal courts.

Source: Chart constructed by Susanne DiPietro, in part from Judge Edward J. Cashman, materials on restorative justice, and Leena Kurki, "Incorporating Restorative and Community Justice Into American Sentencing and Corrections," *Sentencing & Corrections: Issues for the 21st Century*, No. 3 (National Institute of Justice Research in Brief, September 1999), NCJ-175723.