

What We Know About Juries

Criminal Justice

The findings that survive the fact that real deliberations are rarely observable.

Strong claims about juries usually outrun the evidence for them.

Reasonably supported

Groups recall evidence better than individuals

Pre-trial publicity can bias verdicts

Complex expert evidence is hard to weigh

Written directions improve comprehension

Deliberation corrects some individual errors

Method limits

Real deliberations are rarely observable

Most studies use mock juries and students

Simulated stakes are not real stakes

Findings vary with jury size and rules

Verdicts cannot reveal the reasoning

Educational reference. Research access to real juries is restricted in many jurisdictions, which shapes the whole evidence base.