




Standard 13: Screening & Assessment

See section 6 of binder

Learning Objectives

As a result of this session you should be able to:


- Identify the key components of a risk assessment and what a risk assessment is not
- Identify other narrow band assessment tools that allow treatment court staff to determine specific risk/need considerations
- Commit to using risk/needs assessment to inform entrance decisions and ongoing service delivery

Historical Timeline

1 st Generation	2 nd Generation	3 rd Generation	4 th Generation
<p><u>Unstructured Professional Judgment</u></p> <p>Some support from collateral information</p> <p>Using our "gut"</p>	<p><u>Actuarial</u></p> <p>Focus mainly on static factors</p> <p>Little to no diagnostic value</p>	<p><u>Include dynamic factors (needs)</u></p> <p>Based on criminological theory</p> <p>Advent of LSI-R, WI risk/needs tool</p>	<p><u>Focus on connecting RNA to case planning</u></p> <p>Continually updated and revalidated</p> <p>Allows for professional judgment</p>

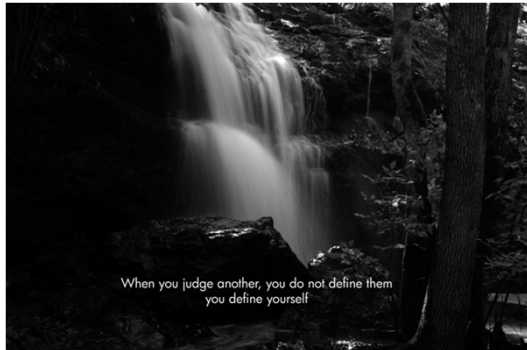
Importance of Screening and Assessment

- To get the right people into program
- Focus on high risk-high need
- Targeting the wrong participants can do HARM



Goal is to Assess Objectively

Avoid using “nick names” when discussing referrals that are being assessed by the team



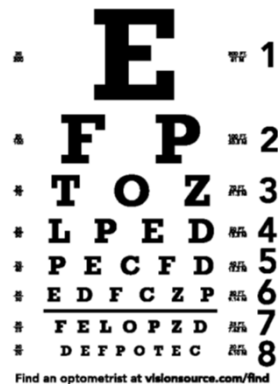
When you judge another, you do not define them
you define yourself

Decision

- A. Cutest kid in the state ?
- B. Cutest kid in the country ?
- C. Cutest kid in the world ?
- D. Very Cute, but it's mostly subjective ?

Answer is -

Quick Screen



What is Risk ?

- Risk is derived from a blending of answers to at least 40 different weighted questions which fuels the risk score.
- What 3 static factors that impact a Risk Score more than anything else?

- A. Gender, Motivation, mental health diagnosis
- B. Treatment history, mental health diagnosis, support in the community
- C. Age, criminal history, age of first arrest

What is Need ?

Need scales identify and measure the most problematic areas of an offender's life

Needs are the "fuel" to the risk "fire"

Might be Bed Time?

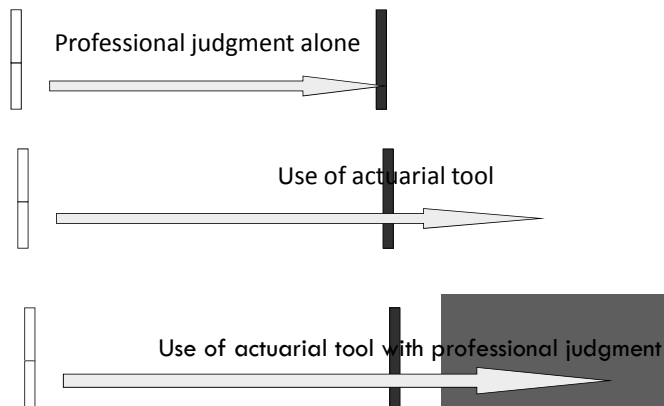


Why pay attention to Risk / Need ?

Always remember, high dosage for low risk clients can be potentially harmful to their outcomes.



Here's another reason:



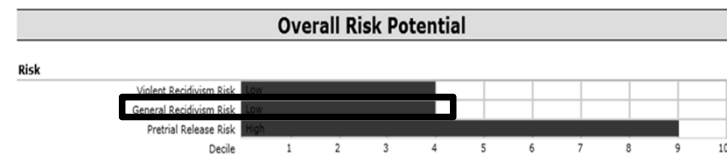
Source: Patricia M. Harris, "What Community Supervision Officers Need to Know About Actuarial Risk Assessment and Clinical Judgment," *Federal Probation*, Vol. 70, Nr. 2 (September 2006)

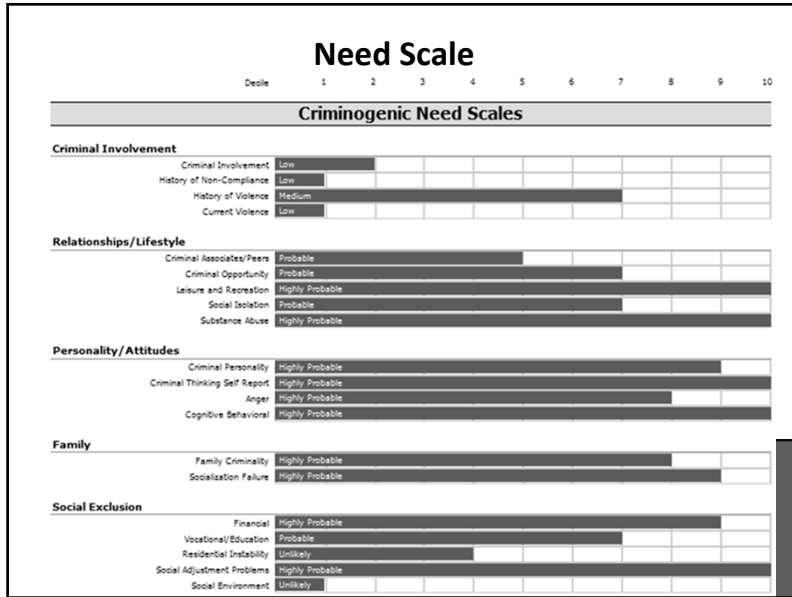
Example of Risk

Female client with the following information:

- Very little criminal history, only 2 prior arrests.
- First arrest was at the age of 18.
- She is 27 years old.

What does this tell us?



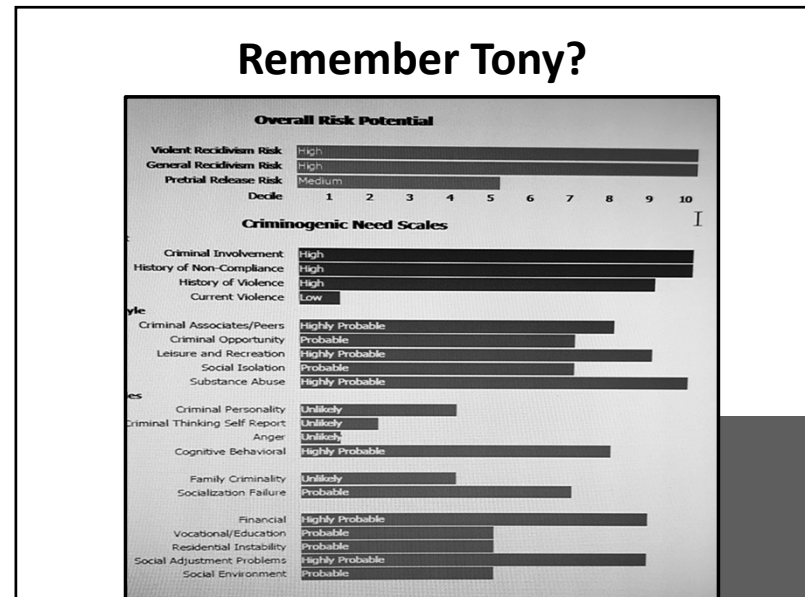


Risk/Need Example

- In this case the female shows low risk but does have higher needs. Would this person be eligible for your treatment court?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Not enough information

Collateral Information

- Referrals can sometimes struggle with honesty
- Do you gather collateral information as part of your screening / assessment process?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Not always

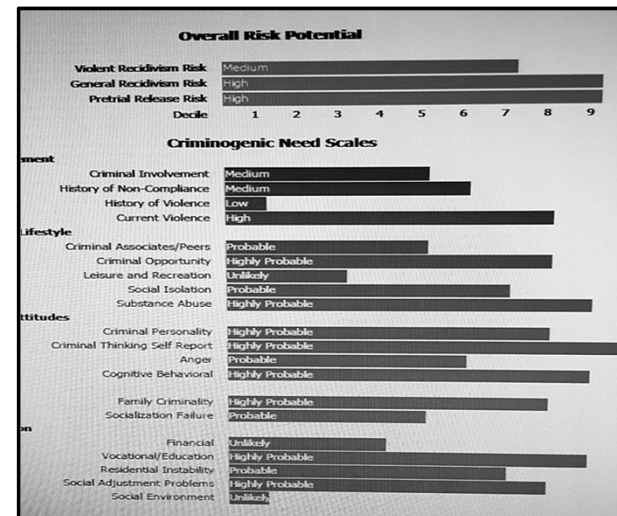


Screening Decision

Based upon the information you have, is Tony eligible for your program?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Remember Chelsea?



Screening Decision

Based upon the information you have, is Chelsea eligible for your program?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Screening Results - Chelsea

- TCU Drug Screen – 9 out of 9 (meets diagnostic criteria for suspected substance abuse dependency, indicates need for full substance abuse assessment)
- TCU Criminal Thinking Screen – meets criteria for cognitive behavioral treatment
- Trauma Screen – Does not meet criteria
- Mental Health Screen – meets criteria
- URICA - Action

Collateral Information

- Contacted Chelsea's attorney and found out that when she was 14 years old, her mother was sent to prison for a prostitution ring that Chelsea was involved in.
- Attempts to contact her father were not successful, but she did sign a release of information for him.

Final Decision ?

Is Chelsea Eligible for a Treatment Court ?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Please turn off your clicker when done!

Action Plan

- **Is Tony eligible for treatment court? Why or why not?**
- **What steps should you take to improve your referral system? Consider:**
 - Do your screening and assessment tools have validity ?
 - Who is trained to use these validated tools ?
 - Is there empirical evidence with your tools ?
- **What steps can you take to improve your screening / assessment system to meet the standard?**
 - Under what circumstances might we override the score?