

Implementing and Using Risk and Needs Assessment in Jail-Based Offender Reentry Services

May 2, 2016



Common Language on Concepts

- **Evidence-Based Practice:** A practice, intervention, or combination thereof, that is proven effective through scientific research to obtain a desired outcome.
- **Risk:** Likelihood of recidivism in the community; the probability that an offender will commit additional offenses.
- **Criminogenic Need:** Dynamic factors (changeable) most strongly related to likelihood of reoffending.
- **Custodial level:** The degree of supervision an inmate receives in a jail facility.



Common Language on Concepts

- **Custody reassessment/review:** The periodic review and update of an incarcerated person's custody level, which takes into consideration any change in the person's risk and needs.
- **Inmate classification:** An objective means of assessing severity and type of crime and inmate risks while in jail (as opposed to risk of recidivism after release), resulting in specific risk classifications and cell assignment.
- **Screening:** The strategy used to identify an individual's potential risk or needs as he or she enters the jail or another agency.
- **Assessment:** A system of assessing inmate criminogenic risks and needs for the purpose of determining transition needs; for use in the facility as well as the in the community.



Common Language on Concepts

Needs assessment instrument: A tool to identify criminogenic and non-criminogenic needs of individuals for assignment to programs.

Reliability: The degree to which an instrument consistently measures an attribute over time.

Validity: The degree to which a measure accurately reflects the concept that it is intended to measure.

Triage: The process by which a person is screened and assessed immediately on arrival at the jail or community service to determine the urgency of the person's risk and needs in order to designate appropriate resources to care for the identified problems.

Programs: The activities that are provided, such as educational and vocational opportunities, counseling services, recreation, and hobbies.

Jail programs: Any formal, structured activity that takes inmates out of their cells and engages them in instrumental tasks.



Collaborative and Coordinated Reentry

“The underlying principle of TJC is that jails and communities must jointly own the issue of local reentry. The challenges are too great and the issues too complex for either a jail or the community to do it alone.”

AMERICANJails, 2009

#1 - A lot of people are released each year

An estimated 12 million releases, 9 million unique individuals

#2 - Lengths of stay are brief

About 19% stay more than 1 month; 13% > two months, 7% > four months, just 4% > six months

#3 - Population is varied

Pretrial and sentenced; probation and parole violators; state and federal prisoners; felons and misdemeanants

#4 - Individual challenges are high

68% meet the criteria for substance abuse or dependence

60% do not have a high school diploma or GED

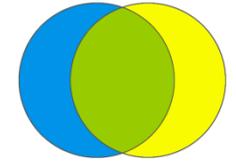
30% of inmates are unemployed the month before arrest

16% are estimated to have serious mental health problems

14% were homeless at some point during the year before they were incarcerated



Transition from Jail to Community (TJC): A Triage Approach to Interventions



- The TJC model applies to the entire jail population, including those with short lengths of stay
- Not possible – or desirable – to apply every intervention to every person
- A triage approach determines “who gets what”
 - Can help prioritize goals, target populations, and resource use
 - Builds on screening & assessment
 - Adaptable to local definitions, needs, resources, timelines



TJC Model

System Elements

Leadership, vision, and organizational culture

+

Collaborative structure and joint ownership

+

Data-driven understanding of local reentry

+

Targeted intervention strategies

+

Self-evaluation and sustainability

Individual Intervention Elements

JAIL

Screening & Assessment

Transition Plan

Targeted Interventions

COMMUNITY

Information & referrals

Case management

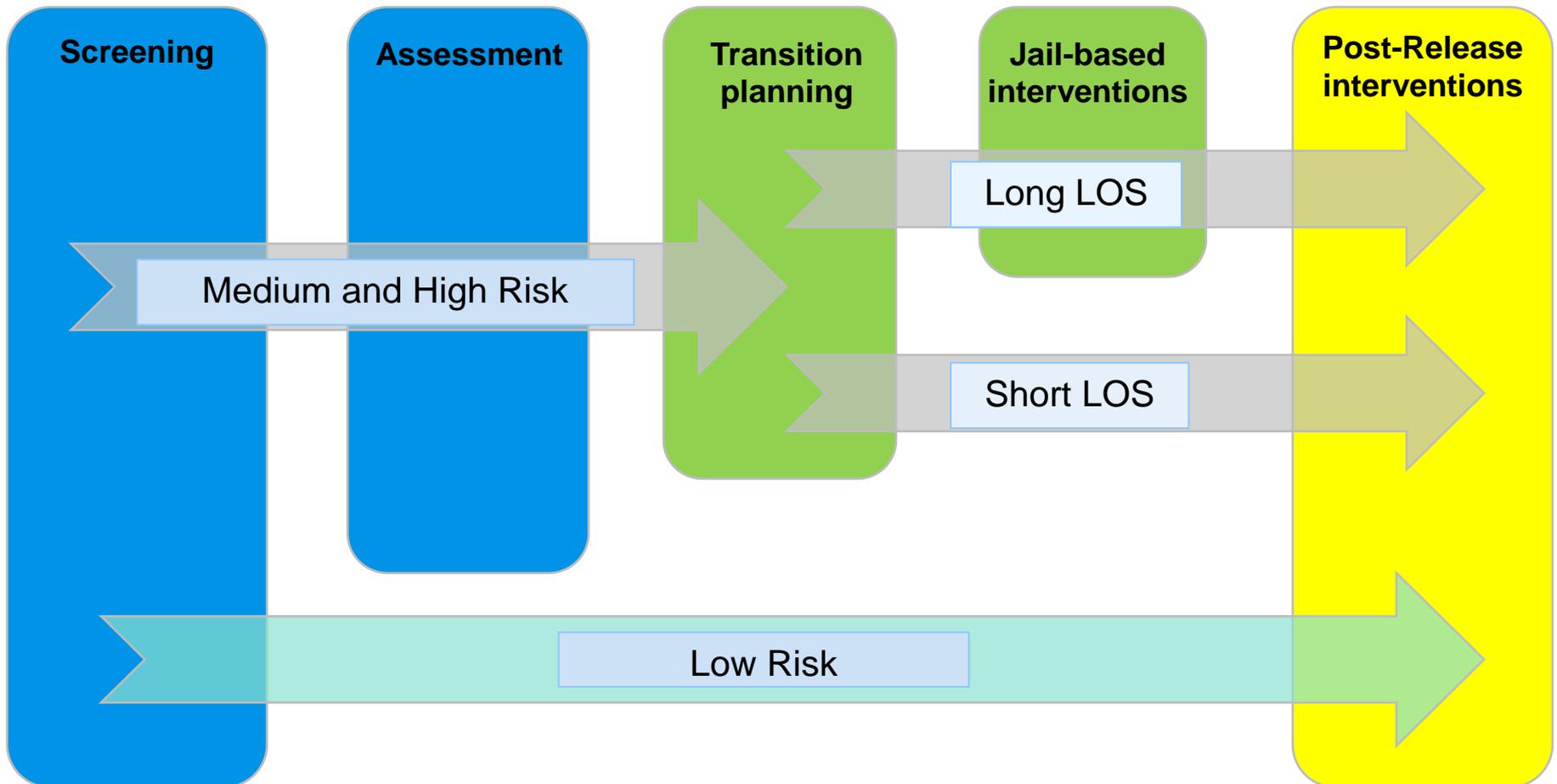
Formal services

Informal support systems

Supervision



TJC: A Triage Approach to Interventions



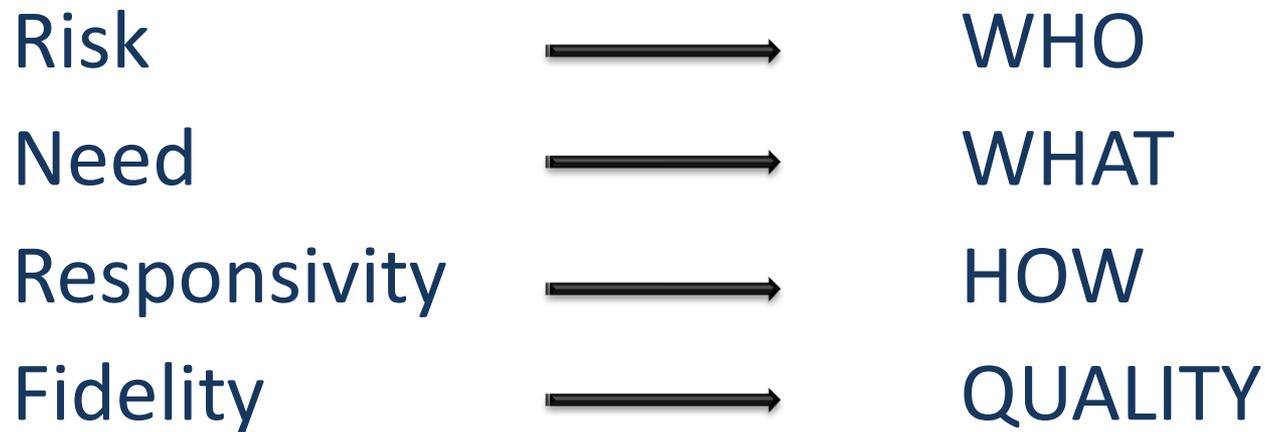
The Components of Evidence-Based Jail Reentry

The underlying concept is that everyone in the jail population should get some intervention, which may be as minimal as receiving basic information on community resources, but the most intensive interventions are reserved for inmates with higher risk and needs.



A Framework for Risk and Recidivism Reduction

Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model



Risk Based Decision-Making

The Risk Continuum

- ***Risk Management (low risk)***

Involves providing least restrictive, most appropriate sanctions & supervision

- ***Risk Reduction (moderate-high risk)***

Involves determining needs and reducing risk factors through effective intervention & appropriate supervision

- ***Risk Control (extreme high risk)***

Involves techniques that control risk of reoffending while under correctional authority

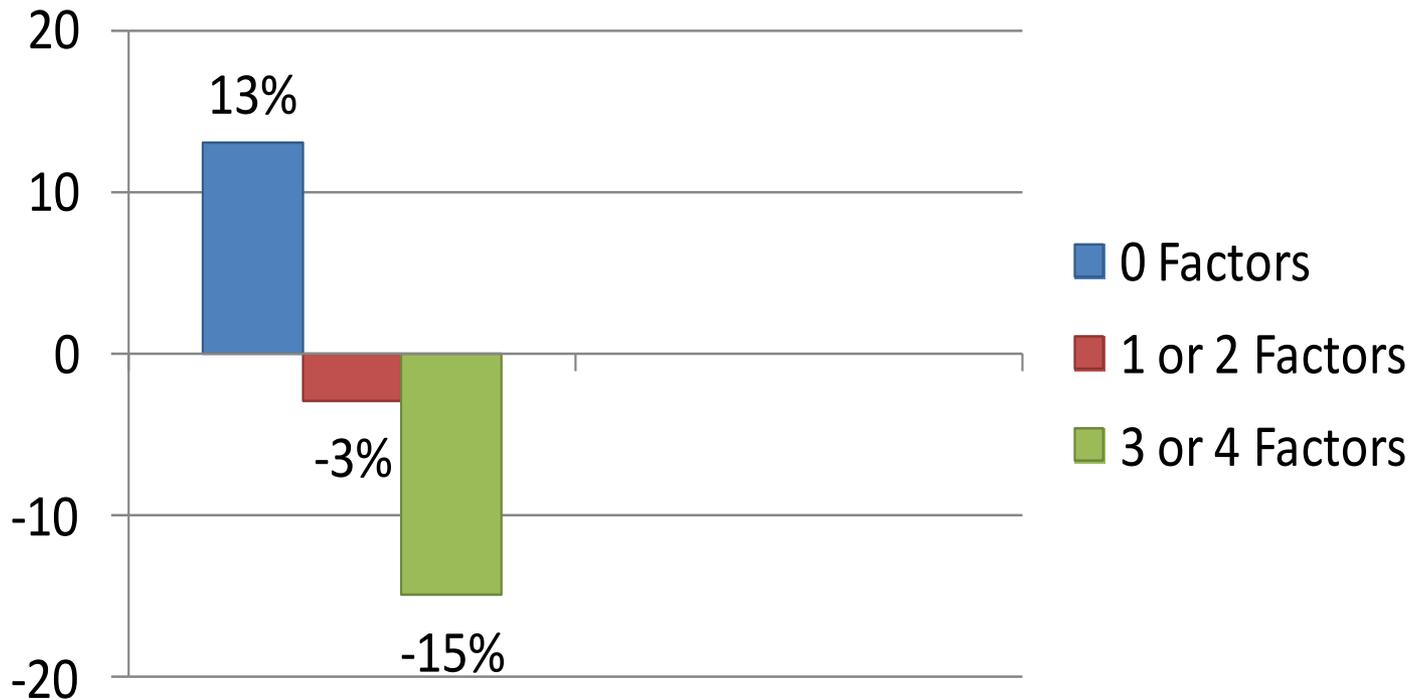


Research Outcomes-Why the RNR Model?

2006 Lowenkamp and Latessa Evaluation

Programs that did not meet any of the four criteria *increased* recidivism by **13%**

Programs that met at least 3 factors *decreased* recidivism by **15%**

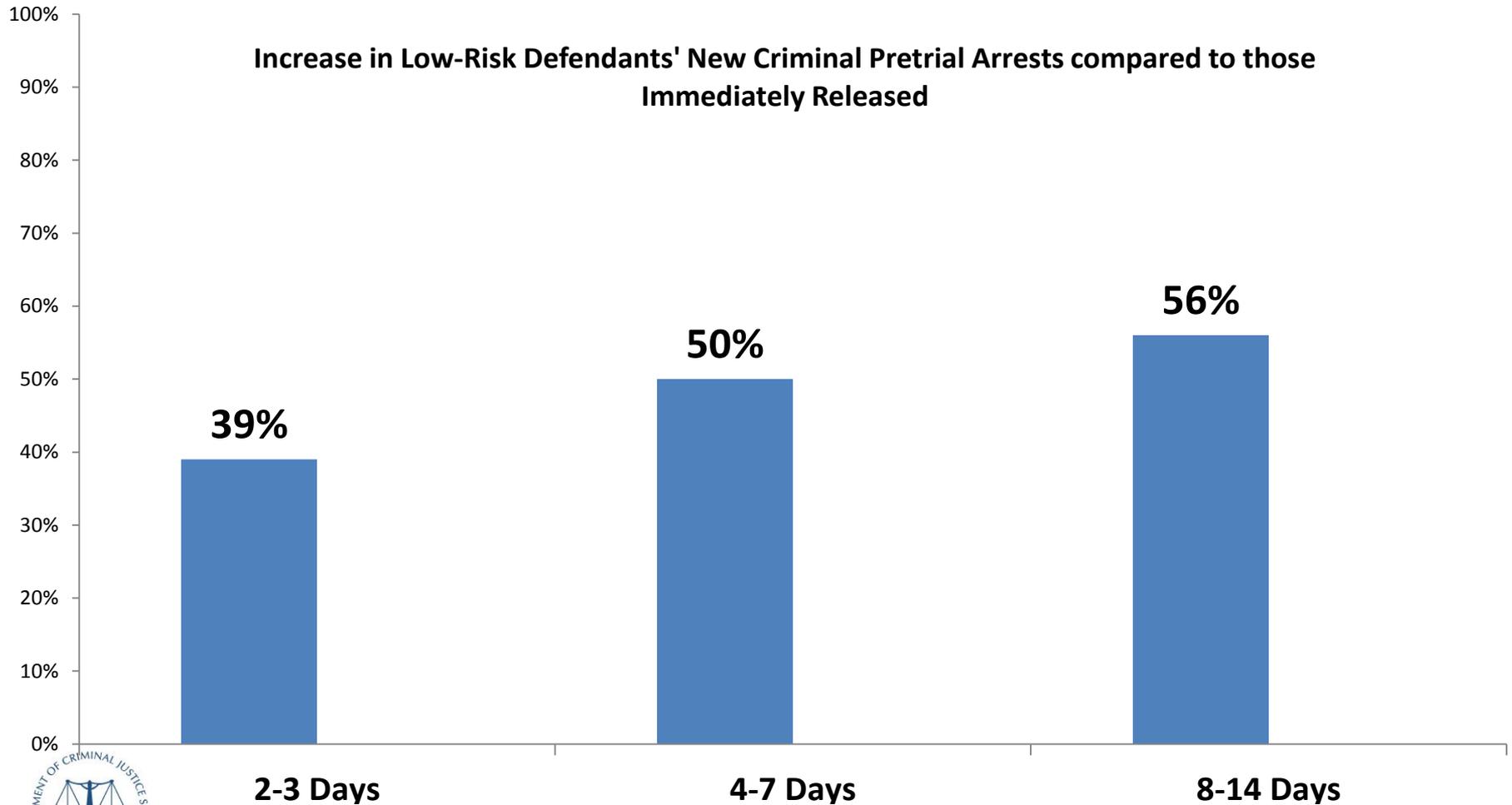


Lowenkamp, C.T., Flores, A.W., Holsinger, A.M., Makarios, M.D., Latessa (2010). Intensive supervision programs: Does program philosophy and the principles of effective intervention matter? *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol. 38 No 4 July-August 2010, 368-375.



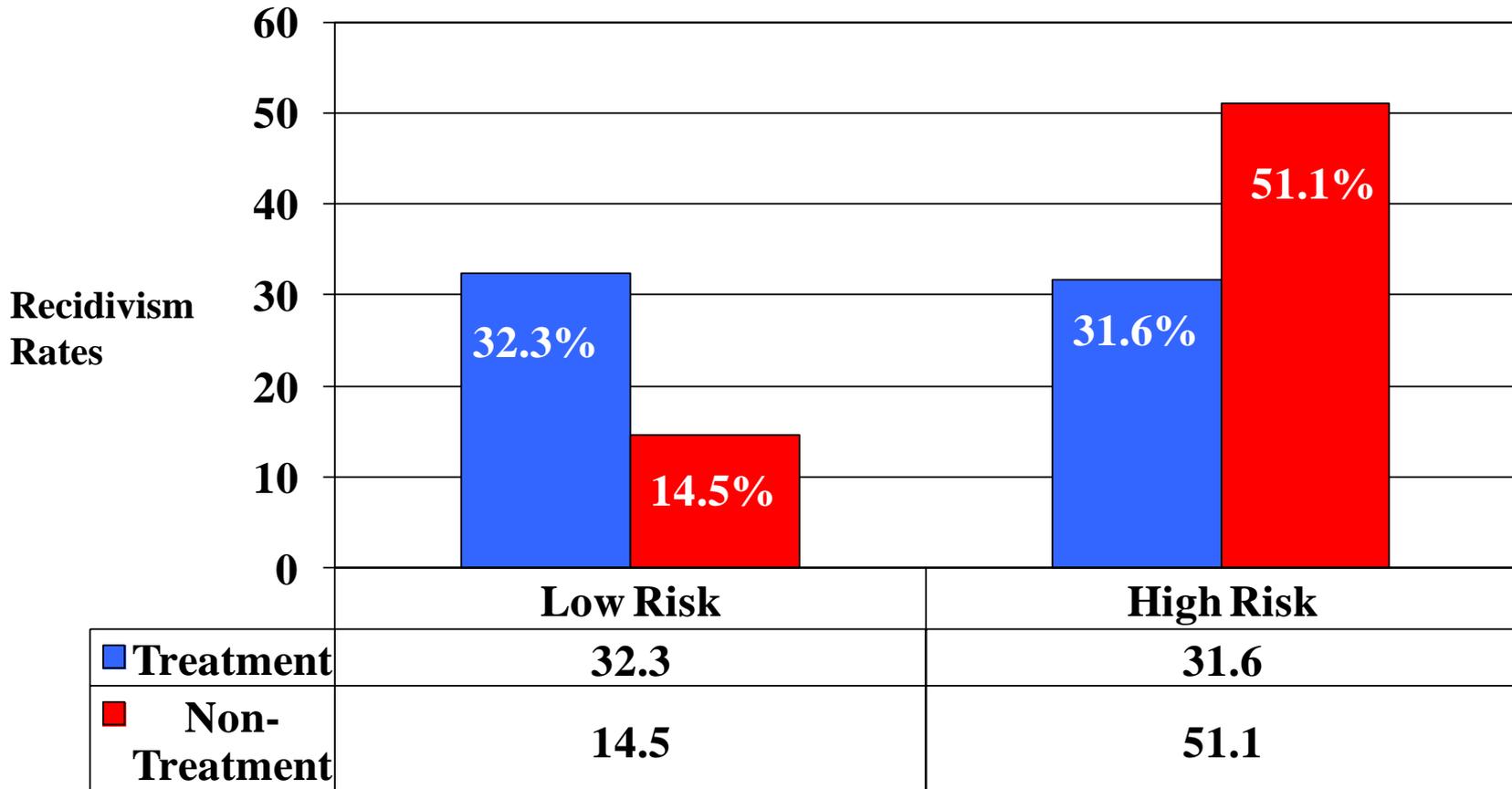
Research Outcomes

Effects of Pretrial Detention on Low Risk Defendants



Research Outcomes

Recidivism Rates by Risk and Treatment



Bonta, J et al., (2000). A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of an Intensive Rehabilitation Supervision Program. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol. 27 No 3:312-329.

Risk-Informed and Data Driven Case Planning and Management

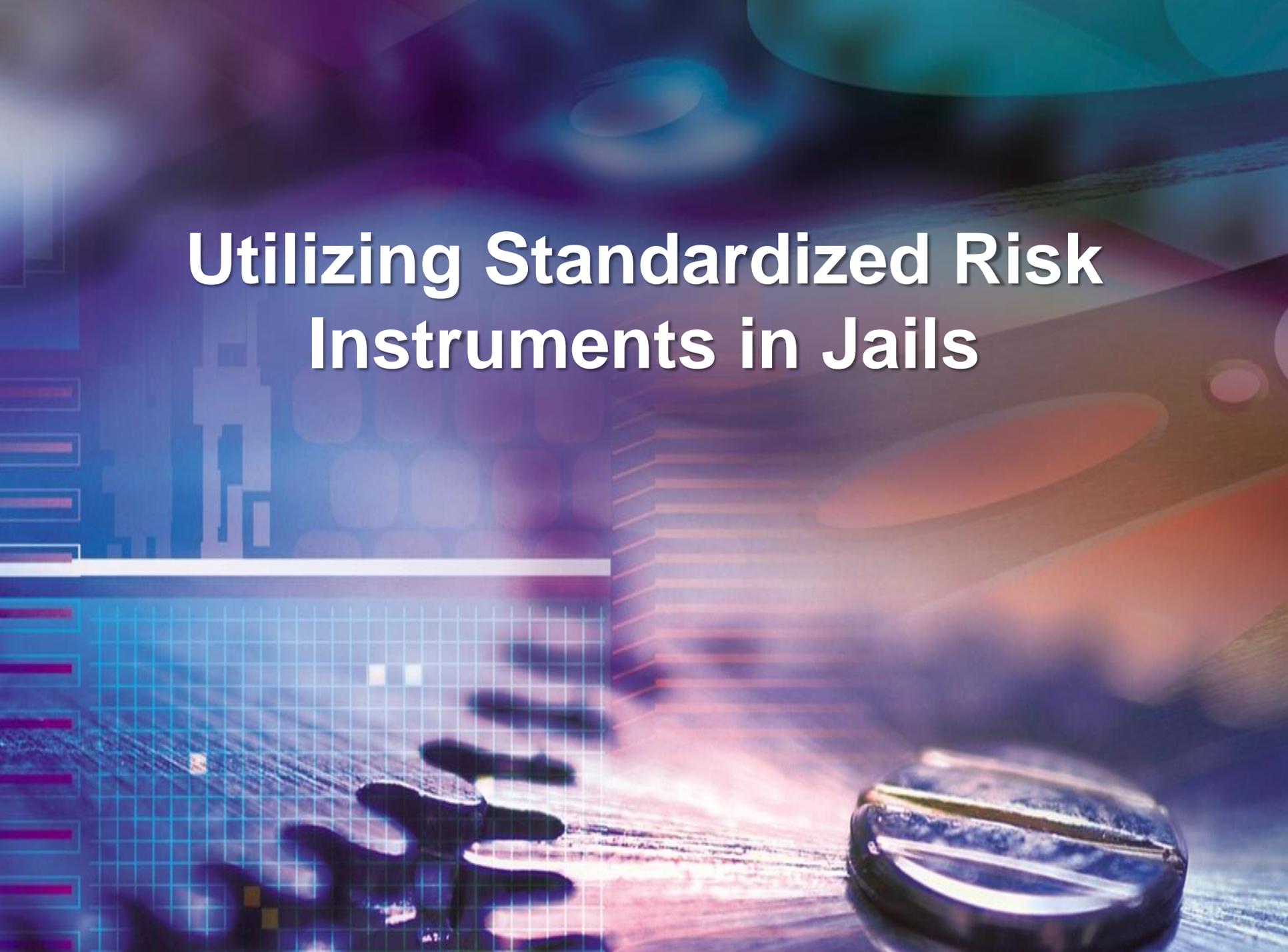
Standardized assessments in combination with professional judgment are more accurate predictors of outcome than professional judgment alone.

Program Staff are able to objectively make intervention decisions considering all information available that could affect public safety.

Agencies can better allocate resources to target medium and high risk individuals for more intensive programming when they know who they serve and what their needs are.



Utilizing Standardized Risk Instruments in Jails



Using Standardized Assessments: Actuarial Methods

Instruments cannot determine any one individual's risk level with absolute certainty, they can identify the outcome of large groups of individuals with similar characteristics.

Actuarial Tools: Measure factors known to be correlated from research

Validated Tools: Tested to ensure that it predicts the likelihood of recidivism for a given population (and re-verify that it is valid).

Reliable Tools: Consistently predict outcomes for a group over time



What does assessment help us do?

- Identify risk to reoffend (predictive)
- Identify an appropriate intensity of intervention
- Informs case management plans
- Identify areas in need of treatment or intervention
- Prioritize treatment needs
- Identify the level or intensity of treatment needed



Screening versus Assessment

Brief screening tools provide a quick assessment of risk.

Comprehensive assessment tools provide information on risk to reoffend and effective targets of intervention to reduce future crime.



Risk Screening (Who)

- Provides an initial look at a person's risk to reoffend
- Helps identify need for further assessment
- Group arrestees/inmates/defendants into low, medium, and high risk and needs categories



Triaging for Risk

A Triage Approach:

- identifies low-risk individuals to assign them to minimal intervention
- separates lower-risk individuals from their higher risk counterparts.



TJC Screening Principles

1. Use a valid and reliable tool
2. Screen the entire jail population as soon as possible
3. Categorize the jail population by risk level with different intervention tracks for each level.



Using the Data from Risk Screening

- Establish a process by which risk information informs the delivery of programs and services to individuals
- Determine who will receive a full risk/needs assessment
- Guide who receives certain types of programming or who gets directed to program tracks that include assessment.
- Strategic planning of a jail transition strategy.

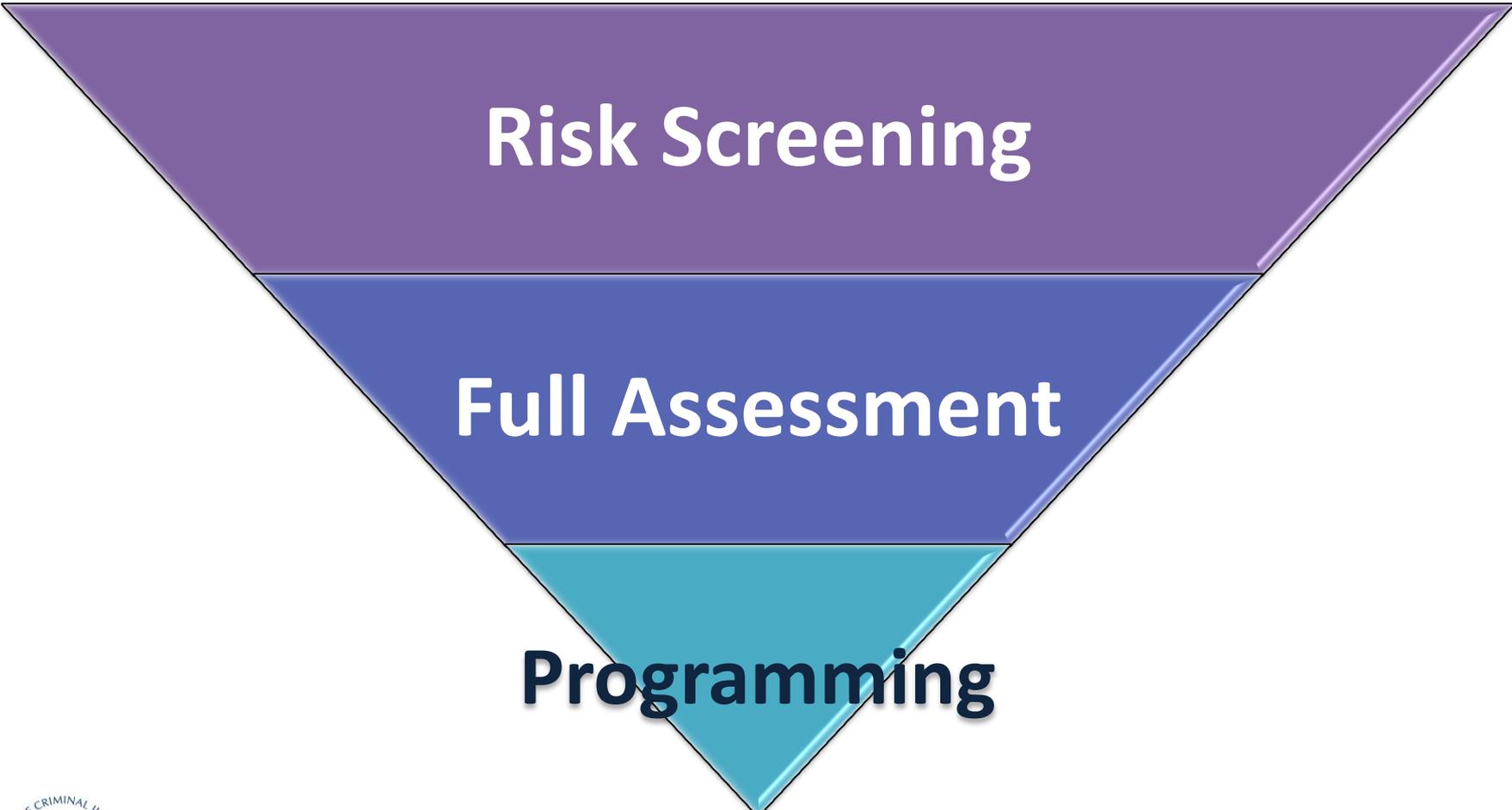


Needs Assessment (What)

Risk screening identifies appropriate target populations, and assessment tells you what to do with them.



How Risk Assessment Works



Risk Screening

Full Assessment

Programming



Assessment Principles

- Administered for medium or higher risk.
- Assessment should be valid and reliable.
- Assessments of criminogenic need must guide case planning, case management, and targeted treatment.
- Best practice in conducting assessments suggests that it be done in the context of a rapport-building, two-way discussion with each offender, so conducting the assessment can become the basis for this first meeting.



Using Assessment Results/Data

- Connecting programming to criminogenic need.
- Categorize programs and interventions (both in the jail and in the community) by criminogenic needs.
- (GAP Analysis) A system-wide criminogenic need profile compared to available services/programming.



Key Points

A general risk and needs assessment tool is useful and applicable to a wide range of justice involved individuals.

Guidelines to direct the use of the information derived from these tools and processes.

Norming a risk assessment instrument is the process of setting risk group cut-scores that reflect actual recidivism rates in the population of interest. Cut-scores adopted from the original study population may not be appropriate.

Quality Assurance and ongoing training should be in place to ensure that staff understand how to appropriately interpret and apply assessment results.



Logistics of Jail Screening and Assessment



Logistics of Screening and Assessment

1. How well suited is your jail's intake and release area for efficiently screening and assessing a larger number of people on a daily basis?
2. Has your staff been properly trained in your agency's screens and assessments?



Where and When to Conduct?

Local institutional programming decisions

- Inform decisions regarding appropriate housing assignment within correctional facilities
- Identify which inmates are most likely to benefit from behavior change interventions (i.e., medium and high risk)
- Inform decisions regarding eligibility for placement such as work crew, work release, etc.
- Inform the development of individual case plans (i.e., identify needs to be addressed)

Local reentry planning decisions

- Identify individuals that should be prioritized for reentry programming and resources



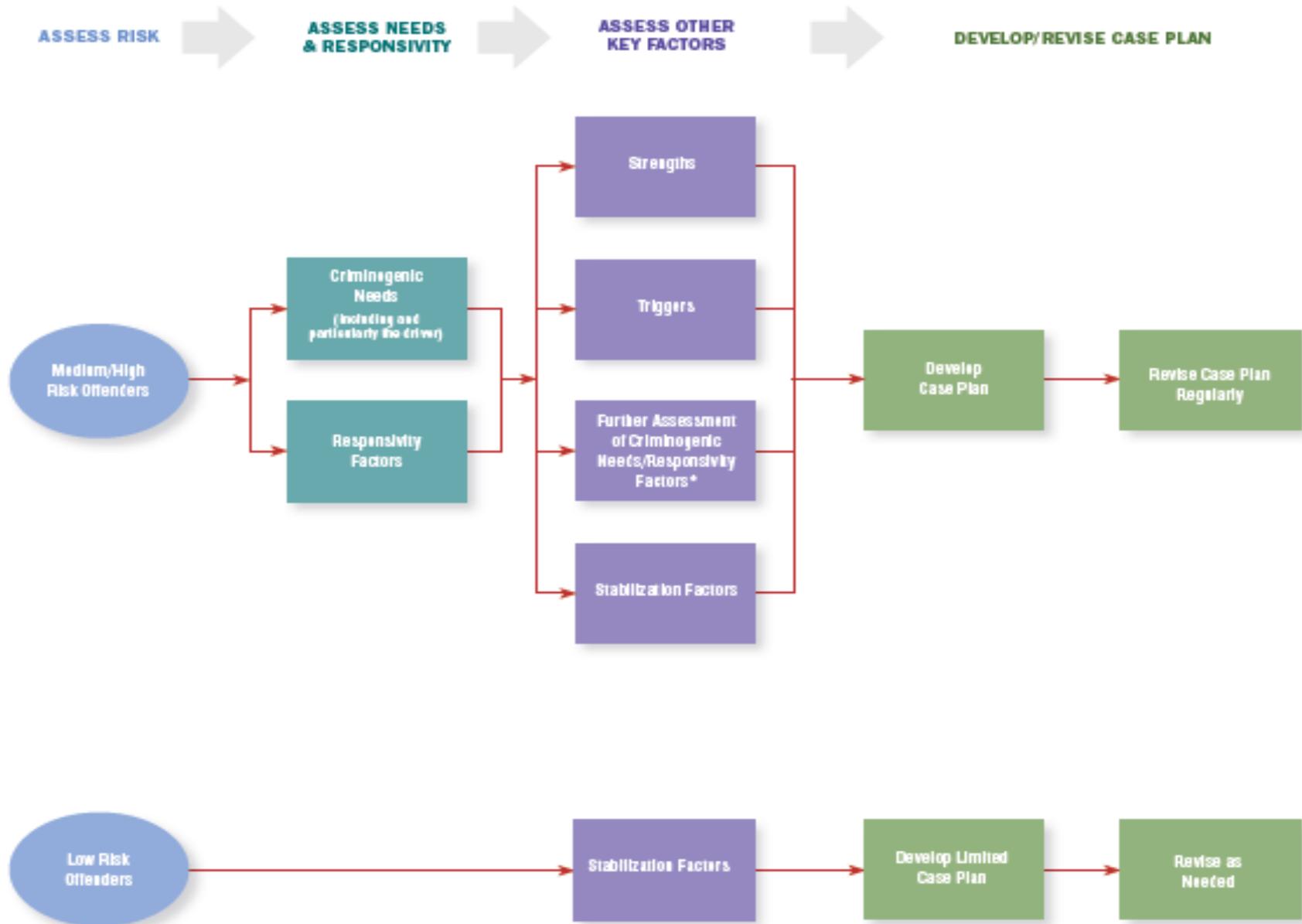
TJC Preimplementation Case Flow Process: Screening and Assessment County Example

	Assessed Population				Screening Tool Used	Who Completes	When Applied
	Pretrial/ Sentenced	Felon / Misdemeanor	Length of Stay	Special Population			
Initial Screening	Both	Both	All	All	Summit	Booking	Immediately upon every booking
Classification Screening	Both	Both	> 72 hours	All	Summit	Classification Sgt	@ 72 hours, @ 30 days, @ 60 days, @ 90 days
Risk/Needs Assessment	Sentenced	Both	> 60 days	Reentry	LSI.R LSI.R SV	Reentry Director	Generally, 2 weeks after sentencing
Mental Health Assessment	Both	Both	> 24 hours	All	Summit	Booking	> 24 hours if NOT book-&-release, know they are bonding < 24 hours
Medical Assessment & History	Both	Both	> 24 hours	All	Summit	Booking	> 24 hours if NOT book-&-release, know they are bonding < 24 hours
Suicide Prevention	Both	Both	Any	All	Facility-based	Anyone	As risk factors present
Pretrial Release	NONE						
Community Corrections	Pretrial if presumptive community corrections	Felony	Any	All	LSI.R	ISO	Usually postconviction, presentence on inmates that are presumptive Community Corrections probation

1.	Does your intake screening process utilize an empirically based medical screen(s)?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
2.	Does your intake screening process identify individuals with mental health issues?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
3.	Does your intake screening process identify individuals with substance abuse issues?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
4.	Does your intake screening process identify individuals with suicide risk?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
5.	Do individuals who score positive on mental health or substance abuse screens receive further empirically based assessments?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
6.	Does your intake screening process utilize an empirically based pretrial release screen?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
7.	Are detainees with low pretrial release risk scores generally recommended for release?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
8.	Does your intake screening process utilize an empirically based risk-to-reoffend screen(s)?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
9.	Do individuals who score medium or higher on the risk and needs screens receive further empirically based assessments?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know
10.	Are your risk and needs screens distinct from your classification system instrument?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
11.	Does your facility use an objective classification system for all incarcerated people?	<input type="radio"/> All the time <input type="radio"/> Some of the time <input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> Don't know



Tailoring Case Plans to Risk Levels



Effective Case Management

- *Driven by Risk Assessment*
- *Includes the Individual as an Active Participant*
- *Review Often and Update as Conditions Change*
- *Involves Family and Significant Others Where Appropriate*
- *Starts Early & Is a Process*
- *Uses Incentives & Rewards to Encourage Progress*
- *Comprehensive (Conditions, Needs, and Responsive to Individual Factors)*



Examples of Jail Risk/Needs Assessments

Experiences in Virginia

Additional Resources

National Institute of Corrections TJC

<http://nicic.gov/jailtransition>

TCJ Toolkit

<http://www.urban.org/policy-centers/justice-policy-center/projects/transition-jail-community-tjc-initiative>

The CSG What Work Reentry Clearinghouse

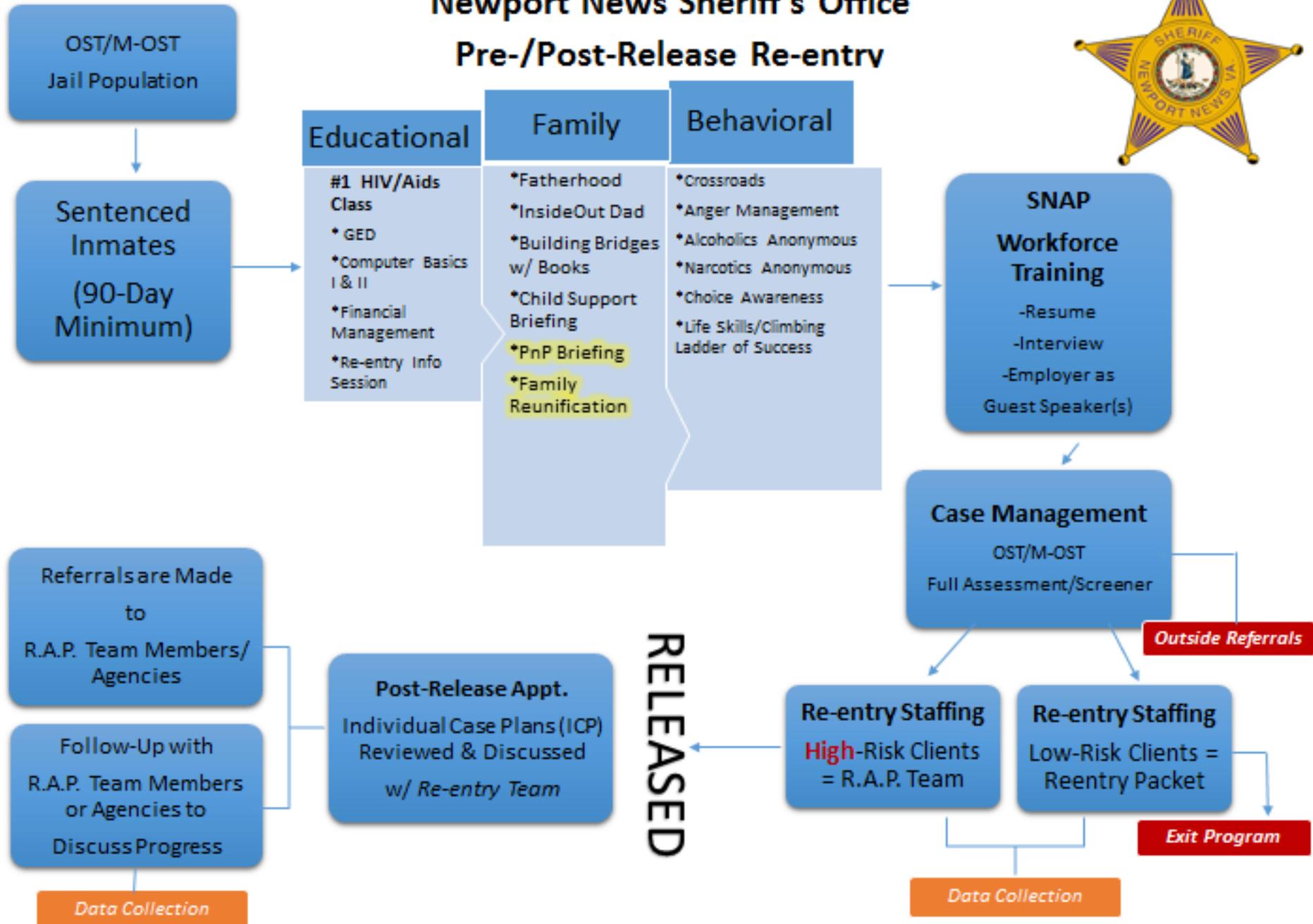
<https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/>

The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP)

<http://cepp.com/resource-centers/>



Newport News Sheriff's Office Pre-/Post-Release Re-entry



Quick Risk Screening

Tool Name	Cost	Time to Complete Interview	Inventory Items	Instrument Result	Additional Information
Proxy Risk Triage Screener (Proxy)	No cost	Five minutes or less	<u>Three items</u> – Current age, age at first arrest, # of priors	Risk of recidivism on an 8-point scale	j-sat.com
Level of Service Inventory— Revised Screening Version (LSI-RSV)	\$2.20/use	15 minutes	<u>Eight items</u> – Criminal history, education/employment, family/marital, companions, alcohol/drug problems, attitudes/orientation, personal/emotional	Risk of recidivism score on an 8-point scale and brief summary of dynamic risk areas that may need attention	www.mhs.com/
Wisconsin Risk	No cost	15–30 minutes	<u>11 items</u> – Criminal history (adult and juvenile), drug/alcohol involvement, living arrangements, general attitude for change	Risk of recidivism score	Available in PDF: http://www.urban.org/projects/tjc/toolkit/module6/Wisconsin-risk.pdf



TABLE 2: Risk Assessment Instrument Content Domains

INSTRUMENTS	Attitudes	Associates/ Peers	History of Antisocial Behaviour	Personality Problems	Relationships	Work/ School	Recreation/ Leisure Activities	Substance Use Problems	Mental Health Problems	Housing Status
COMPAS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IORNS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
LSI-R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LSI-R:SV	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
ORAS-PAT			✓			✓		✓		✓
ORAS-CST	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
ORAS-CSST		✓	✓			✓		✓		
ORAS-PIT		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ORAS-RT	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
PCRA	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
RMS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
SAQ	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
SFS74			✓			✓		✓		✓
SFS76			✓			✓		✓		
SFS81			✓					✓		
SPIn-W	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
STRONG ^a			✓					✓		
WRN	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
WRN-R	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	



Table 5. Characteristics of Risk Assessment Instruments

INSTRUMENTS	CHARACTERISTICS				
	k	Items	Intended Population(s)	Intended Outcome(s)	Time (minutes)
COMPAS	3	70	Any Offender	General Offending & Violations	10—60
IORNS	1	130	Any Offender	General Offending & Violations	15—20
LSI-R	25	54	Any Offender	General Offending & Violations	30—40
LSI-R:SV	2	8	Any Offender	General Offending & Violations	10—15
ORAS-PAT	3	7	Any Offender	General Offending	10—15
ORAS-CST	1	35	Any Offender	General Offending	30—45
ORAS-CSST	1	4	Any Offender	General Offending	5—10
ORAS-PIT	1	31	Any Offender	General Offending	Unknown
ORAS-RT	1	20	Any Offender	General Offending	Unknown
PCRA	2	56	Any Offender	General Offending & Violations	15—30
RMS	2	65	Any Offender	General Offending	Unknown
SAQ	2	72	Any Offender	General Offending	15
SFS74	3	9	Parolees	General Offending	Unknown
SFS76	4	7	Parolees	General Offending	Unknown
SFS81	8	6	Parolees	General Offending	Unknown
SPIn-W	2	100	Any Offender	General Offending	Unknown
STRONG ^a	1	26	Any Offender	General Offending	Unknown
WRN	9	53	Any Offender	General Offending	Unknown
WRN-R	1	52	Any Offender	General Offending	Unknown



Presenter Information

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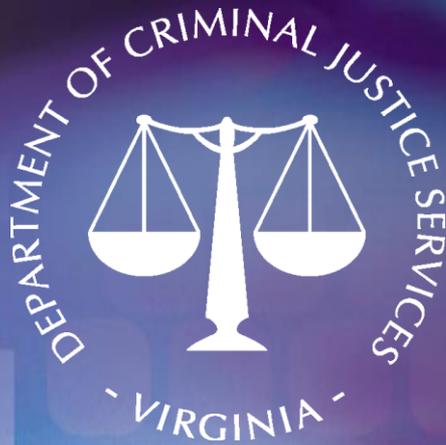
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