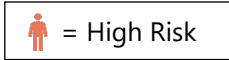
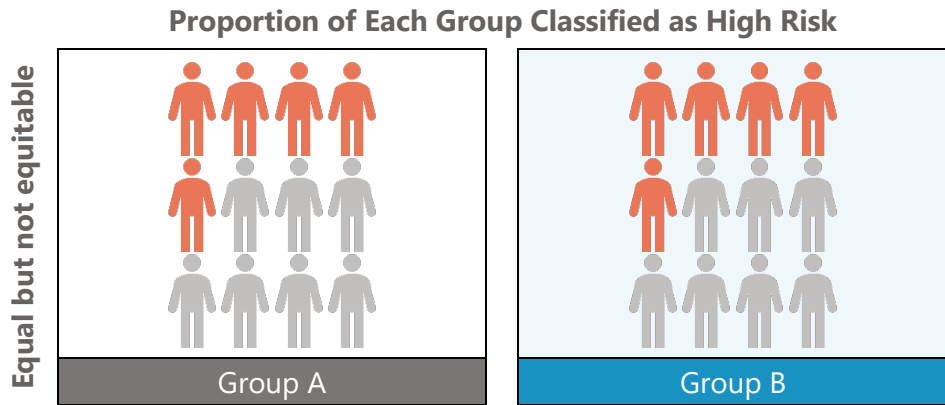


Balancing Values in Risk Assessment: Equality Versus Equity

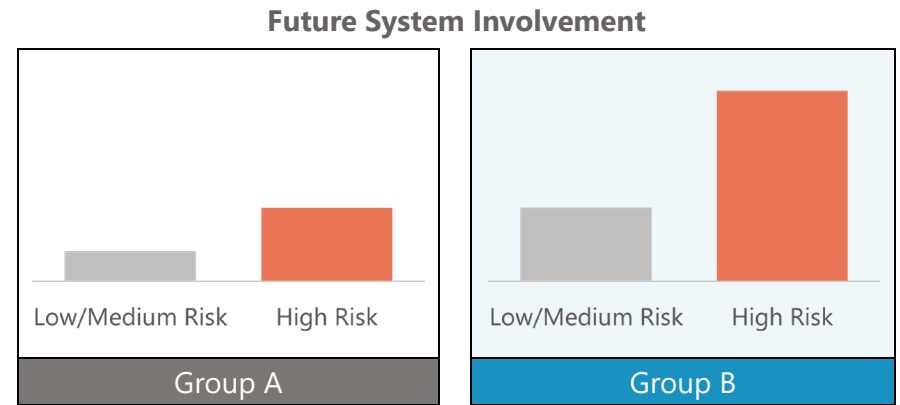
Risk assessment is a mechanism to classify individuals or families based on their likelihood of future system involvement. When any subgroup is overrepresented in the system, risk algorithms must balance the values of equality and equity. Administrators, practitioners, community service providers, researchers, and other subject-matter experts must choose the model that best meets their purpose.



Model 1: Promote Equality

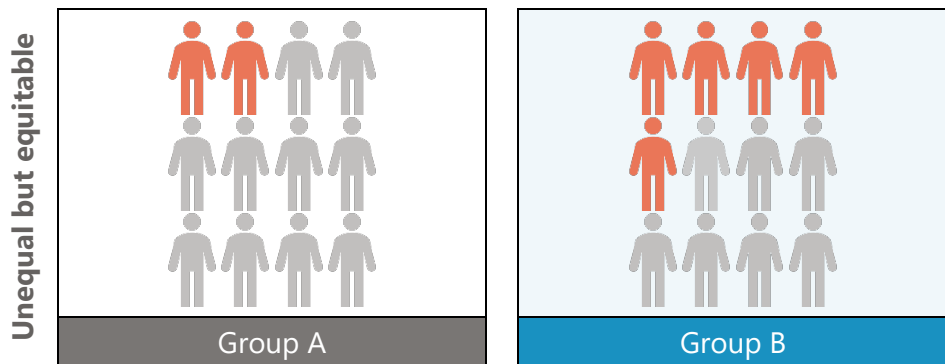


An equal distribution means that a similar proportion of each group is classified "high risk."

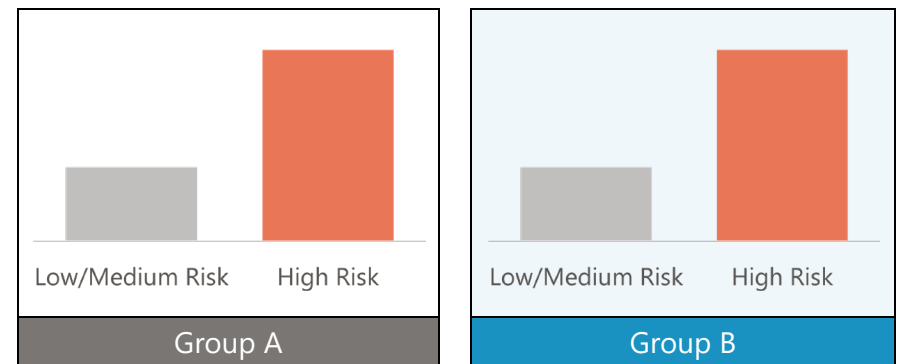


Equal distributions can result in very different outcome rates, which shows that the assessment works differently for different groups of people.

Model 2: Promote Equity



An unequal distribution has different proportions of the two groups classified as "high risk."



An equitable risk classification produces similar outcome rates for all groups, which means that the assessment works similarly for all groups.