Juvenile Risk Assessments Are a Best Practice—But Do They Actually Work?

What the Data Say About Eight Risk Assessments From Across the United States
How To Read the Graphs

Distribution
The distribution graph demonstrates the proportion of youth who are classified at each risk level. No one ideal distribution for risk assessments exists, but it is important for a risk assessment to produce a distribution that is meaningful for practice and corresponds with available resources and programs.

Discrimination
Discrimination represents the actual rate of new adjudications among youth in each risk level. It is important for a risk assessment to demonstrate a large rate increase from each level to the next.
Georgia Comprehensive Risk/Needs Assessment*

* Georgia no longer uses the Comprehensive Risk/Needs Assessment and has recently developed a new valid juvenile risk assessment.
Solano County Juvenile Sanctions Center—Boys (Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System™)

Distribution

- High 39%
- Low 15%
- Moderate 47%

New Adjudications

- Low 19%
- Moderate 48%
- High 64%
Florida Positive Achievement Change Tool

**Distribution**

- High: 5%
- Moderate...
- Low: 67%

**New Adjudications**

- Low: 19%
- Moderate: 48%
- High: 64%
Virginia Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument

Distribution
- High: 30%
- Low: 22%
- Moderate: 48%

New Adjudications
- Low: 11%
- Moderate: 27%
- High: 42%
Arkansas Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

Distribution

- High: 19%
- Moderate: 76%
- Low: 5%

New Adjudications

- 14%
Nebraska YLS/CMI

Distribution

- Low: 27%
- Moderate: 67%
- High: 6%

New Adjudications

- Low: 18%
- Moderate: 23%
- High: 25%
Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

Distribution

- High: 54%
- Moderate: 25%
- Low: 21%

New Adjudications

- Low: 13%
- Moderate: 22%
- High: 29%
Arizona Dynamic Risk Instrument

Distribution:
- High: 25%
- Low: 55%
- Moderate: 20%

New Adjudications:
- Low: 31%
- Moderate: 45%
- High: 47%
Oregon Juvenile Crime Prevention Assessment

Distribution

- Low: 47%
- Moderate: 38%
- High: 16%

New Adjudications

- Low: 5%
- Moderate: 14%
- High: 23%

For more information, contact NCCD:
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