

Overview: Use of Risk Assessment in the Department of Community Justice (DCJ)

Presentation to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

November 4, 2014

Scott Taylor

Ginger Martin

Kim Bernard

What does DCJ mean by HIGH RISK?

Risk is....

- Likelihood to reoffend
- Likelihood to fail to appear in court

Risk is **NOT**....

- DANGEROUSNESS
- A degree of punishment

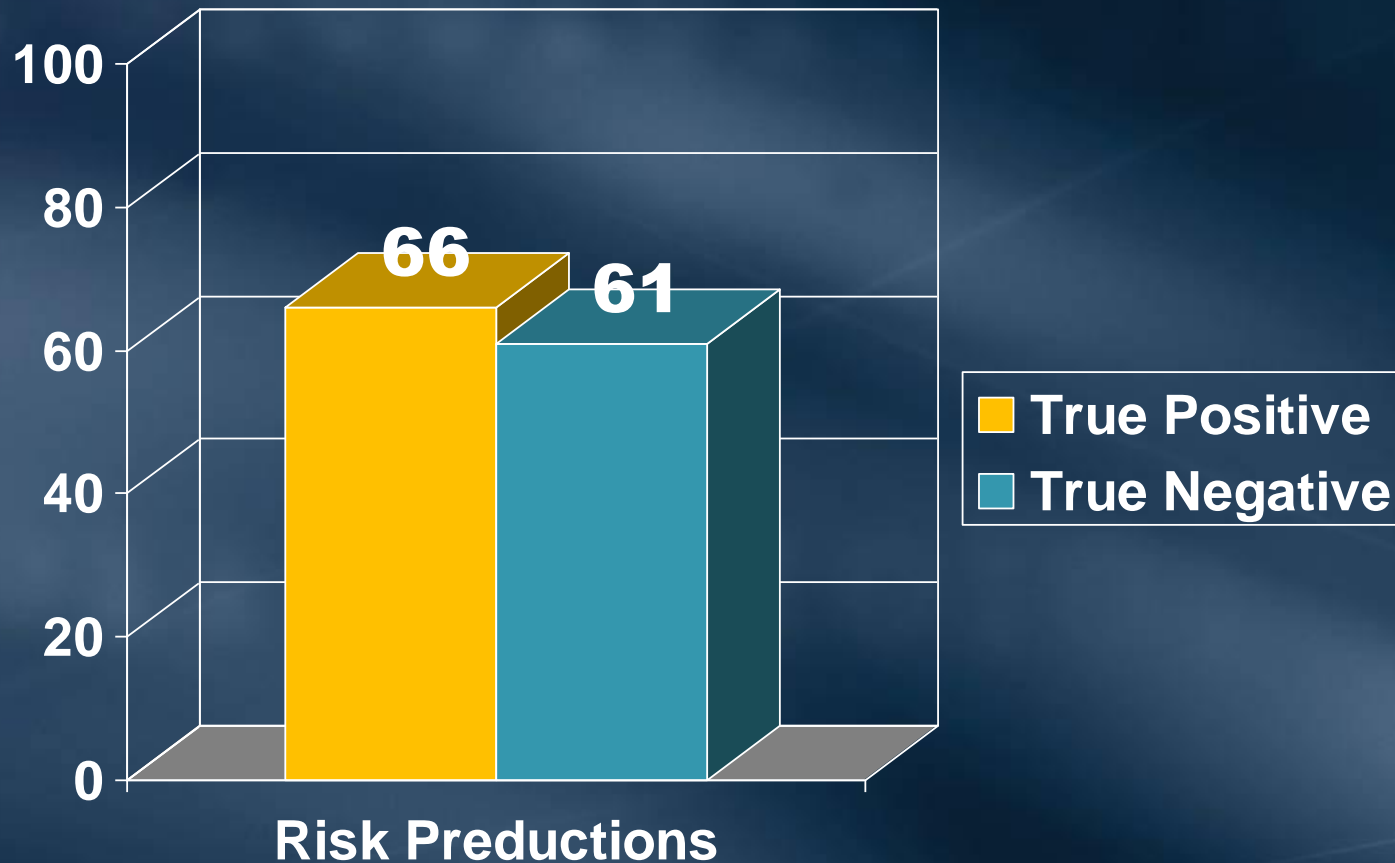
Risk Assessment Tools

- **Used in a variety of areas:**
 - Healthcare
 - Baseball
 - Insurance
 - Las Vegas
- **Consistently have been shown to be more predictive than professional judgment alone**

Example: JCP Validation

NPC Research 2011: Multnomah County Results

Percentage of True & False Predictions Based on Threshold Risk Score = 9



Risk Tools in Criminal Justice

- Used to predict various kinds of offender behavior in order to make decisions about case management
- Item based on theory and research
- Use an actuarial approach
- Based on a define set of factors
- Tend not to include factors that occur infrequently
- Frequently combined with policy override options

Desired Characteristics

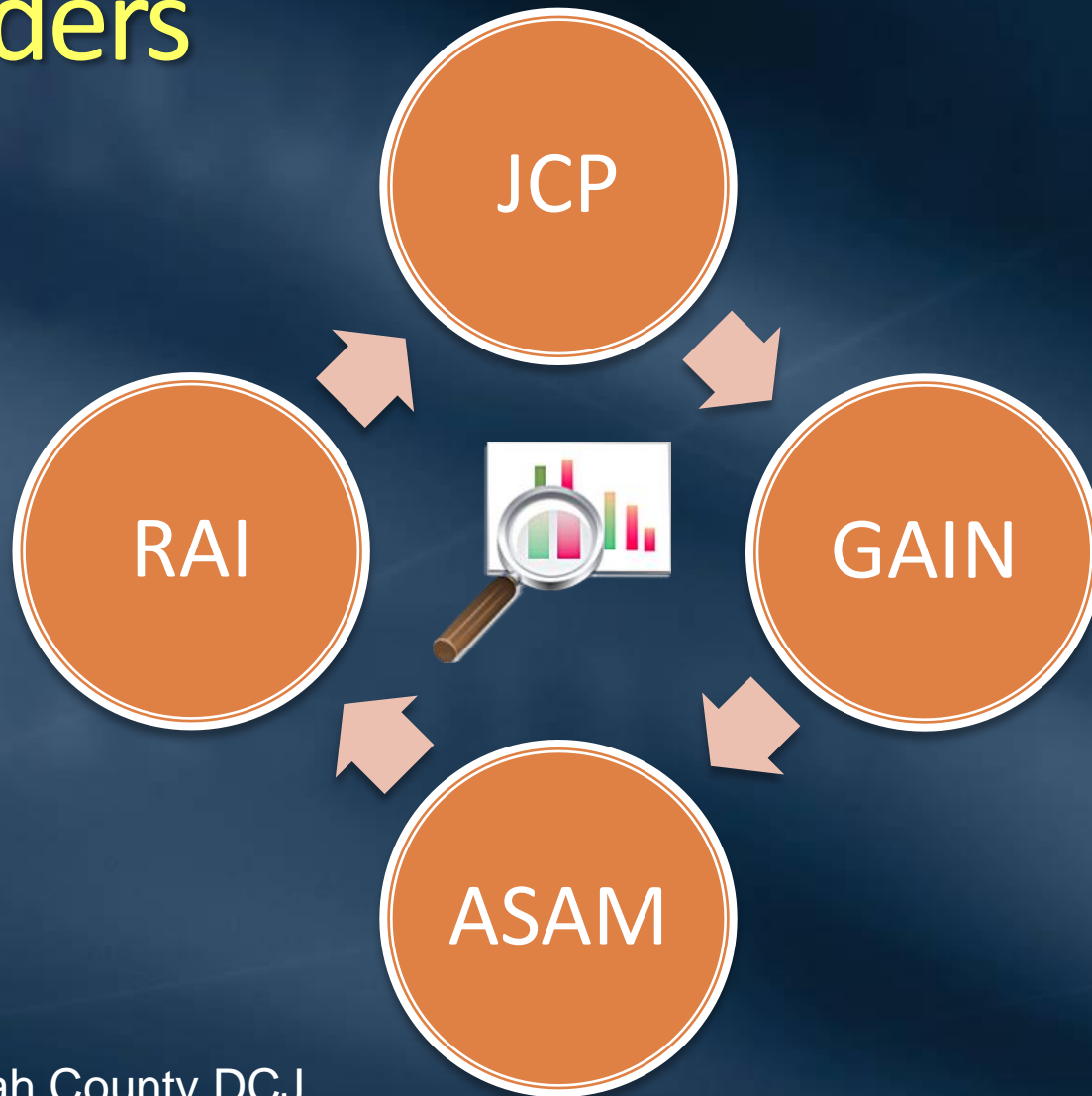
- Meets Your Goal
- Appropriate for your Assessment Setting
- Appropriate for your Population
- Demonstrate Predictive Validity
- Must have good Inter-rater reliability when using human versus automated raters



Risk to Do What?

- Risk tools are used for many purposes: examples are to predict re-offending, violence, rule violations in custody, sexual offending, and failure to appear
- Each tool must be developed to address the type of risk being measured
- Example: The risk factors related to failure to appear are not the same risk factors predicting violence

Assessment Tools for Juvenile Offenders



Assessment Tools for Adult Offenders



Risk Assessment for Youth versus Adults

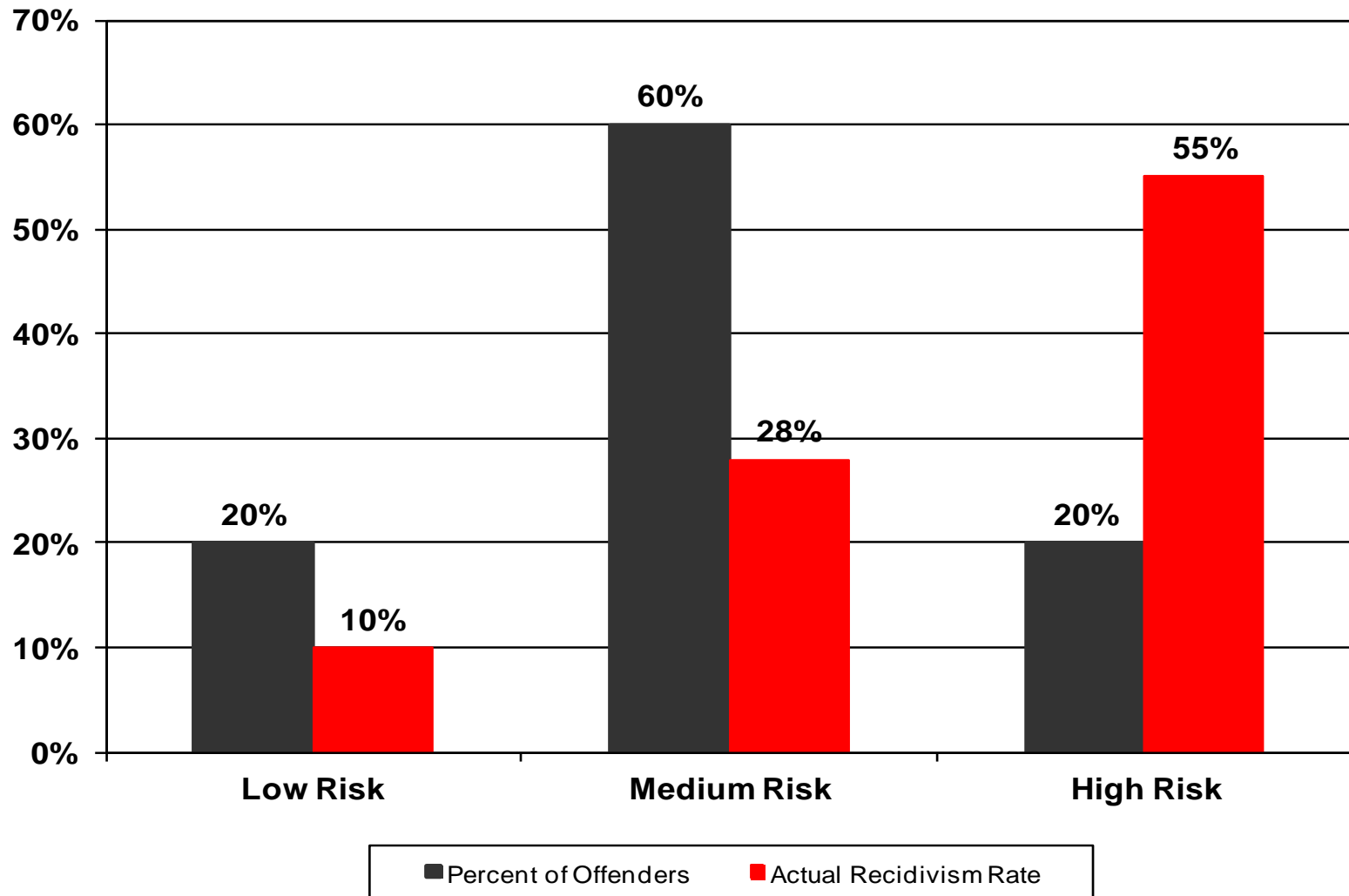
- Limited historical data
- Challenges of developing brain
- Fluidity in characteristics
- Reassessment is critical
- More difficult to make long-term predictions
- Emphasizing youth assets gives a more accurate picture
- Role of the family/family functioning

Risk Tolerance may vary



Example of Static Tool

**Public Safety Checklist Classification Rates
Sample from 2000-2005**



Risk Tools are Static or Dynamic

- Static tools predict risk using predictive factors that for the most part are hard to change.
 - Age at first conviction, # of arrests, gender, type of previous crime.
 - Examples: RAI, PSC, VRI
 - History of behavior strong predictor
- Dynamic tools predict risk using predictive factors that can be changed
 - Anti-social personality or temperament, peers, employment, education, substance abuse.
 - Examples: JCP, LSCMI, STABLE, ACUTE
 - Can be used for case management planning purposes

LSCMI: Level of Service/Case Management Inventory

- History of anti-social behavior
- Anti-social personality or temperament
- Anti-social attitudes, values, or beliefs
- Anti-social peers or companions
- Family and /or marital stressors
- Lack of pro-social leisure recreation
- Lack of success at employment and /or education
- Substance abuse

Assessments

JCP Quick Screen

- A validated screening tool (validated on Multnomah County youth)
- Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Risk Assessment's 8 most predictive indicators
 - Three or more referrals for criminal offenses (misdemeanor or felony)
 - Recent runaway
 - Chronic truancy
 - Suspension(s)/expulsion(s) during the past 6 months
 - Anti-social thinking, attitudes, values, beliefs which are accepting of delinquent behavior, substance use and/or violence
 - Substance abuse at age 13 or younger (including regular use of tobacco)
 - A pattern of impulsivity combined with aggressive behavior toward others
 - Friends disapprove of unlawful behavior (Yes=0; No=1)

Additional Considerations

- Housing Status
- Employment
- Parental Status
- Mental Health
- Transportation
- Language
- Physical Health

Critical Questions for Risk Tools

Do you have the resources to address what you find?

Critical Questions for Risk Tools

Impacts on Population Groups?

Considerations of Race, Gender, Age



Risk Assessments
allow for more
neutral decision-
making



Risk Assessments
perpetuate
societal biases
and profiling



Risk Tools Aren't Everything!

- Step 1:
PSC
- Step 2:
LS/CMI
- Step 3:
Behavior
observed



Questions?