

THE PREDICTION OF RISK TO RECIDIVATE AMONG A JUVENILE OFFENDING  
POPULATION

By

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To the memory of my mother, Lorraine

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The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has recently implemented a new fourth-generation risk/need assessment to predict the risk to re-offend for juveniles referred to the Department. The new assessment, the Positive Achievement Change Tool, or PACT, is adapted from the validated “Back On Track!” instrument utilized in Washington State. This study validates the PACT assessment, and examines whether the instrument is as predictive of female delinquency as it is of male delinquency utilizing official delinquency referral as the dependent measure. The study furthermore examines the predictive power of each of the twelve areas, or criminogenic domains, of the PACT to examine the strength of each domain in the prediction of juvenile delinquency. Gender differences are explored to examine whether the factors predicting female delinquency mimic those predictive of male delinquency.

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

The focus of the current study is to validate the assessment instrument used by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to determine a referred youth's risk to re-offend. The validation of an assessment or instrument used in the prediction of risk to recidivate is critical to ensure the predictions that come from that instrument and the recommendations made based on the predictions are indeed the best possible. The first step to being able to provide effective treatment to juvenile offenders is the use of a validated risk/needs assessment to determine the risk level of the youth, which determines the needed intensity of treatment, and the individualized criminogenic needs, which must be targeted in order to reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is one of the largest juvenile justice agencies in the United States. The Department received 150,104 delinquency referrals during FY 2005-06, representing 94,288 individual youth. Beyond the importance of the safety and security of the youth served, one of the most challenging tasks for a criminal justice agency of that magnitude is to ensure the provision of appropriate, evidence-based treatment services to the youth referred in an effort to reduce their risk of re-offending and increase public safety. A critical step to providing empirically proven, appropriate treatment to a juvenile offending population is the implementation of an evidence-based, validated risk/need assessment.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has recently implemented a new instrument designed to assess juvenile offenders with regard to risk, needs, and strengths related to the same risk factors as outlined in the extant "what works" literature (Andrews & Bonta, 2003). The Positive Achievement Change Tool, or PACT, is heavily adapted from the validated Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment, Back On Track! (also known as the YASI™ in some jurisdictions), which has been in use throughout the country since 1998. The Florida

Department of Juvenile Justice and Assessments.com created the PACT collaboratively in 2005. Implementation of the PACT began in November of 2005 in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, and was statewide by August of 2006. Over 1,400 Juvenile Probation Officer staff members have received the two-day PACT training including risk assessment theory, case planning, and the techniques of motivational interviewing (Miller & Rollnick, 2002). The 1,400 staff represents all Juvenile Probation Officers and all juvenile assessment center (JAC) screeners.

The PACT is an advancement from other fourth-generation risk/needs assessments, including Back on Track! and the YASI on which it was based, due to its incorporation of questions from the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI), making it an indicator for need of further mental health assessment, and its integration with DJJ's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) database. The JJIS and PACT interface allows for automatic scoring of the criminal history domain (official prior criminal history). Furthermore, the PACT automates findings into the Youth Empowered Success Plan (YES), one of the first ever supervision and treatment plans in the nation to be automated to directly apply information gained from an evidence-based risk/needs assessment (see Appendix A: How to Read and Interpret the PACT Overview and the YES Case Plan Reports).

The PACT identifies not only the areas (domains) in which a juvenile is most at risk, but equally as important, those areas which he or she has strengths (protective factors), which can be built upon in the case planning process. Risk and protective factors within the PACT include both static and dynamic characteristics. The benefit of measuring risk and protective factors and characteristics is that a juvenile justice professional is better able to match a youth's current needs with appropriate programs and services.

## **Pre-Screen**

The PACT has both a Pre-Screen and a Full-Assessment, with risk levels ranging from low, moderate, moderate-high, and high. Youth who score moderate-high or high risk to re-offend are administered the Full-Assessment, as are youth being placed in residential commitment. Furthermore, youth on probation supervision are given a reassessment every ninety days so as to measure progress on the treatment plan, and youth in residential commitment receive an assessment within sixty days of release so as to assist in aftercare supervision planning. The Pre-Screen is a 46-item, initial assessment instrument, which produces risk level scores measuring a juvenile's risk of re-offending. This tool is designed as a semi-structured interview protocol and utilizes Motivational Interviewing techniques (Miller & Rollnick, 2002). With automated scoring, the PACT Pre-Screen identifies a total risk level for each youth assessed, as well as a rank order of criminogenic needs and protective factors. Low-risk to re-offend youth are generally recommended for diversion or other community-based intervention programs and isolated from any contagion effects caused by intermingling with higher-risk youth or separation from the protective factors present in their lives. Moderate-risk youth are generally directed to supervised probation and other community-based interventions. Moderate-high and high-risk youth receive the PACT Full-Assessment.

The PACT Pre-Screen collects information on four distinct domains (see Table 1-1). Domain 1 assesses the youth's prior criminal history. This domain is pre-populated from the JJIS database, as mentioned above, and is therefore not self-reported as are many of the other domains. Domain 1 includes information on the age at which the youth first offended, seriousness of prior offenses in terms of number of prior felonies and prior misdemeanors, prior commitment placements, prior escapes, and the type of offenses (such as weapon, against person,

and sex offenses). A complete listing of Domain 1 questions, and all PACT Pre-Screen questions can be seen in Appendix B: PACT Pre-Screen Assessment.

Table 1-1. Pre-Screen Domains

Domain #	Domain Name
1	Record of Referrals
2	Social History
3	Mental Health
4	Attitude/Behavior Indicators

Domain 2 of the PACT Pre-Screen examines the youth’s social history. This domain features gender, current school status and performance, history of, and extent of current, anti-social friends, history and current alcohol and drug use, history of abuse and mental health problems, and history of family problems. Domain 3 assesses the youth’s mental health status including suicidal ideation, history of anger, depression, somatic complaints, thought disturbance, and history of traumatic experiences. It is this domain that has incorporated questions from the MAYSI and allows for the identification of the need for further mental health assessment. Certain “hits” on Domain 3 questions trigger the need for a more in-depth assessment of the youth’s current mental status. The final Pre-Screen domain is Domain 4, which examines the youth’s extent of anti-social attitudes and beliefs, and resulting behavior. This section covers attitudes toward law-abiding behavior, beliefs about aggression and fighting to solve problems, self-reports of violence not included in the official criminal history domain (Domain 1), and reports of sexual aggression.

### **Full Assessment**

The PACT Full-Assessment is a 126-item, in-depth assessment instrument, which produces identical risk level scores as the Pre-Screen, measuring a juvenile's risk of re-offending. This tool is designed as a semi-structured interview protocol utilizing Motivational Interviewing

techniques as well. Every question in the Pre-Screen is included in the Full-Assessment and is pre-populated from the Pre-Screen into the Full-Assessment to decrease the workload of the individual completing the assessment. The Full-Assessment is required to be administered to moderate-high and high risk to re-offend youth, and all youth being placed in residential commitment as a means to gather the most comprehensive amount of information on each youth related to research-validated risk and need factors as possible. The PACT Full-Assessment instrument measures a youth's risk and protective factors in the following twelve domains: Criminal History, School, Use of Free Time, Employment, Relationships, Family History, Living Arrangements, Alcohol and Drugs, Mental Health, Attitudes/Behaviors, Aggression, and Skills (see Table 1-2).

Table 1-2. PACT Full Assessment Domains

Domain #	Domain Name
1	Record of Referrals
2	Gender
3A	School History
3B	Current School Status
4A	Historic Use of Free Time
4B	Current Use of Free Time
5A	Employment History
5B	Current Employment
6A	History of Relationships
6B	Current Relationships
7A	Family History
7B	Current Living Arrangements
8A	Alcohol and Drug History
8B	Current Alcohol and Drugs
9A	Mental Health History
9B	Current Mental Health
10	Attitudes/Behaviors
11	Aggression
12	Skills

The first domain, as in the Pre-Screen, is automated from the JJIS database so as to decrease the errors in reporting prior official offending history. Domain 1 of the Full-Assessment is identical to Domain 1 of the Pre-Screen and provides a comprehensive description of referral history for the youth. Prior referrals are disaggregated by type of offense (against-person, sexual, weapon) by felony and misdemeanor. Furthermore, the amount of prior detention confinements, residential commitments, escapes, and pick up orders/failure-to-appear in court are included (for a full list of Full-Assessment questions, see Appendix C: PACT Full-Assessment). The inclusion of this domain is the empirical importance of the predictive power of past behavior on future behavior; the notion that the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior (Sherman et al., 1997).

The second domain distinguishes between males and females. This gender domain is essential to capture the reality that male youth consistently offend and re-offend at higher rates than do female youth. Males automatically receive one point towards the assessment of risk whereas females receive zero points.

The third domain is subdivided into School History and Current School Status. The School History section examines whether the youth has ever been a special education student, and why (behavioral, ADHD/ADD, learning disability, mental retardation). This section also captures any history and the amount of expulsion and out of school suspensions, age at first expulsion/suspension, and whether the youth has been enrolled in school during the last six months. The Current School Status section captures the youth's current enrollment status, type of school in which the youth is enrolled, and the youth's perception of the value of education. This section also examines the youth's conduct, involvement in school activities, number of expulsions/suspensions, attendance, and performance, all in the most recent school term.

Information included in this domain is by self-report from the youth in combination with corroboration from teachers from the school in which the youth was enrolled.

The next domain captures the youth's use of free time. This domain is also separated to examine historic use of free time and the youth's current use of free time. Information for this domain is captured by self-report from the youth. Historic use of free time is simply measured by whether the youth has participated in structured and supervised, or unstructured, pro-social community activity within the past five years. Current use of recreational time is captured by the youth's current interest and involvement in structured recreational activities, which activities the youth is currently engaged in (volunteer organizations, athletics, religious groups, etc.), and the current interest and involvement in other positive recreational activities (such as reading or pro-social hobbies). The notion behind this domain is social control, and that youth who are involved in pro-social recreational and leisure activities will be less likely to commit criminal offenses than those youth without an interest in such activities.

The fifth domain captures the youth's employment and is divided into employment history and current employment. This domain does take into account the fact that the youth may be too young for employment consideration. The employment history section looks at whether the youth has ever been employed, problems while employed (fired or quit for poor performance, or fired/quit because he/she could not get along with employer or coworkers), and history of positive personal relationships with past employers or coworkers. The current employment section measures whether the youth understands what is required to maintain a job, interest in employment, current employment status, and current positive relationships with employers or coworkers.

Relationship issues are measured by the sixth domain and are divided into history of relationships and current relationships. History of relationships captures past positive adult non-family relationships, who can provide support and model pro-social behavior, as well as past antisocial friends/peers, who are hostile to or disruptive of the legal social order or engage in criminal activities. Current relationship issues are measured by the extent of current positive adult influences, pro-social community ties, whether current friends are pro-social or antisocial, current romantic relationship, whether the youth currently admires anti-social peers, and the youth's current resistance to anti-social peer influences. This domain is heavily influenced by the notion of differential association (Akers, 1998).

Family history and current living arrangements compose the next domain. Family history is captured by a history of out-of-home Department of Children and Families (DCF) and shelter placements, history of running away, history of imprisonment of persons living in the household with the youth, and whether the youth lives with a supervising adult, with peers, or is transient. Current living arrangements examines who the youth currently lives with, annual income of the family, imprisonment history of persons the youth is currently living with, problem history of parents currently in the household (such as alcohol, drug, mental health, employment), problem history of siblings in the household (identical to those of the parents), support network for the family, level of conflict between parents and siblings, parental supervision, and the extent of appropriate punishment and rewards. The incorporation of factors dealing with the consistency of punishments and rewards, and the extent of parental supervision, authority, and control are heavily influenced by Gottfredson and Hirschi's General Theory of Crime (1990).

The eighth domain captures substance abuse and is gathered from self-report from the youth as well as corroboration with parents and teachers when possible. This domain is divided

into alcohol and drug history, and current use of alcohol and drugs. Alcohol use is measured separately from drug use for both subgroups of questions. Past use or current use is captured as is whether the use has disrupted, or currently disrupts, education, causes family conflict, interferes with keeping pro-social friends, causes health problems, contributes to criminal behavior, or leads to increased tolerance or withdrawal. History or current referral for assessment and substance abuse classes/treatment is also captured. For the current drug use section, the types of drugs used are identified as well.

The ninth domain measures mental health history and current mental health status. As stated above, this domain purposively incorporated questions from the MAYSI assessment so as to be able to flag youth for need of further mental health and suicide assessment. This inclusion allows the individual performing the assessment to discontinue using the MAYSI altogether, decreasing workload and increasing efficiency. The mental health history section assesses whether the youth has ever thought about suicide, attempted suicide, engaged in self-mutilating behavior, has a history of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, a traumatic experience, witnessing violence, mental health problems, anger or irritability, depression, somatic complaints, or thought disturbance. The assessment takes into account any neglect or abuse self-reported by the youth, whether substantiated or not, but excludes reports proven to be false in the event investigations by social service agencies concluded the report to be false.

The mental health problem questions include such issues as schizophrenia, bi-polar, mood, thought, personality, and adjustment disorders. Conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, substance abuse, and ADD/ADHD are excluded. The mental health problems are those confirmed by a professional in the social service/healthcare field (the youth must have been diagnosed).

The current mental health section includes whether the youth is currently prescribed treatment, or currently prescribed medication. These questions disaggregate further by whether the youth is actually attending the treatment, or taking the medication, or whether it is prescribed but the youth is not attending or complying with the medication regimen. Furthermore, the current mental health section also captures whether the individual performing the assessment believes the mental health problems of the youth interfere with working with the youth.

The next domain assesses the attitudes and behaviors of the youth. This section captures the youth's self-reported primary emotion when committing crimes (nervous, excited, indifferent, confident) and the primary purpose for committing them (anger, revenge, impulse, sexual desire, money, amusement, or peer status). The level of optimism the youth has about the future is also examined in terms of whether the youth has high aspirations, some sense of purpose, low aspirations, believes nothing matters, as well as his/her belief in being able to successfully meet the conditions of the court. Several questions capture the extent to which the youth believes he/she can control or avoid anti-social behavior, or use self-control. The youth's empathy for victims is assessed, as is the youth's acceptance of responsibility for anti-social behavior, respect for the property of others, authority figures, and attitude toward law abiding behavior.

The Aggression domain is next, which measures tolerance for frustration, hostile interpretation of the actions and intentions of others, and belief that yelling or belief that fighting resolves disagreements. Information for this domain is generated from youth self-report. This domain also measures reports/evidence of violence not included in the criminal history domain, such as outbursts, deliberately inflicting physical pain, threatening with a weapon, fire starting,

and animal cruelty. Reports of problems with sexual aggression are examined, such as aggressive sex, sex for power, young sex partners, child sex, voyeurism, and exposure.

The final domain examines skills that could potentially help the youth avoid anti-social behavior. These skills include the ability to recognize there are consequences to one's actions, ability to set realistic goals, ability to apply appropriate solutions and problem-solve, and situational perception. The Skill domain also captures the youth's use of basic social skills to deal with others, deal with difficult situations, and deal with feelings/emotions. The final few questions measure whether the youth can monitor internal triggers, external triggers, control impulsive behaviors, and control aggression. Information for this domain is generated from youth self-report as well as the assessor's impression of the youth's skills.

### **Assessment Scoring**

The PACT Pre-Screen and Full-Assessment are scored identically. The purpose of including additional items in the Full-Assessment is to gather as much information on the youth as possible to assist with case planning, but the overall total risk to re-offend score is identically derived for each assessment type. The score (low, moderate, moderate-high, high) is based on two sets of factors. The criminal history score is assessed exclusively based on the youth's prior official criminal offending. The criminal history score ranges from zero to thirty-one. The social history score, in contrast, is based on responses to questions from several of the other PACT domains. The social history score ranges from zero to eighteen. The two scores, criminal and social history, are associated within a matrix, determining the youth's overall risk to re-offend (see Table 1-3).

The items used to score criminal history include age at first offense, number of prior referrals (misdemeanor, felony, weapon, and person-misdemeanor, person-felony), prior detention confinement, prior residential commitments, prior escapes from commitment, and prior

pick-up orders. Social history is scored using variables including gender, school status (enrollment, conduct, attendance, academic performance), current anti-social peers, history of court-ordered out of home placements, history of running away or being kicked out of home, incarceration of a current household member, parental control, history and current alcohol or drug use, history of violence/physical abuse, history of being a witness to violence, sexual abuse history, history of neglect, and mental health problems. Individuals administering the assessments are not knowledgeable about the maximum scores associated with any domain of the PACT. The instrument, therefore, cannot be manipulated as easily as assessments without automated scoring, or where individuals are aware of which questions are weighted more heavily than others.

Table 1-3. PACT Scoring Matrix

Criminal History Score	Social History Risk Score		
	0 to 5	6 to 9	10 to 18
0 to 5	Low	Low	Moderate
6 to 8	Low	Moderate	Moderate-High
9 to 11	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
12 to 31	Moderate-High	High	High

## CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The notion of predicting individuals' risk to offend or recidivate has been a constant focus for criminologists and policy-makers for several decades. As early as 1923, Warner examined offender characteristics related to violation of parole (Warner, 1923; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). Prediction studies generated worldwide attention over the next few decades due to the seminal work by Glueck and Glueck (1950; see also von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). The California Base Expectancy Score, used in the 1960's, and a similar scale adopted by the United States Parole Commission in the 1970's, were used extensively to predict parole success and classification decisions (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). Prediction then moved to the realm of classifying offenders based on the likelihood of re-offending. David Greenberg (1975) first introduced the term "selective incapacitation", and the idea of targeting particular offender groups for imprisonment emerged, although a comprehensive strategy for implementing such a plan was first extrapolated by Greenwood and Abrahamse (1982).

### **Collective vs. Selective Incapacitation**

Incapacitation is a simple crime prevention strategy based on the notion that offenders cannot commit crimes in society as long as they are incarcerated. Crime reduction therefore occurs, as those incarcerated are prevented from committing offenses in the community. A secondary benefit of a crime prevention strategy based on incarceration is the concept of deterrence. Individuals in the general population are believed to be deterred from committing crime from the fear of being sent to prison; referred to as the general deterrence effect. Furthermore, imprisoned individuals may be deterred from committing subsequent offenses upon release; referred to as the specific deterrent effect (Sherman, et al., 1997).

Collective incapacitation refers to the crime reduction effect resulting from physically restraining individuals regardless of the strategy utilized (be it deterrent, incapacitative, retributive, or rehabilitative) and without the necessity of prediction of future behavior. Collective incapacitation was popularized by James Wilson (1975), calling for uniform sentences imposed on all offenders of specific felonies. Removing all of these offenders from the community for a significant portion of their criminal careers would prevent all of them who were so inclined from re-offending while incarcerated (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984).

Wilson (1975) promised a twenty percent reduction in robbery rates if a strategy of incapacitating a larger fraction of the convicted serious robbers were implemented. The estimates were derived from a projection technique developed by Shinnar utilizing the newly invented lambda variable (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984; Shinnar & Shinnar, 1975). The effect on the crime rate due to collective incapacitation strategies has been found to depend critically on the estimates of lambda, the average annual offense rate at which individual offenders commit offenses in the community (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). When lambda is assumed to be high, the reduction in the crime rate due to incapacitation would be substantial, but when a lower average offense rate is assumed, the effects are much more modest.

Selective incapacitation, in contrast, implies the prevention of future criminality through physically restraining those particular individuals who are predicted to be higher risk to commit future criminal behavior than other groups of individuals (Greenberg, 1975). Greenwood and Abrahamse (1982) revised the formula used in the Shinnar and Wilson studies by establishing not one, but three lambdas (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). A separate lambda would be estimated for low, medium, and high-risk offenders. Greenwood and Abrahamse (1982) hold that the separate estimates can be gathered from the data by using the average self-reported annual

robbery rates for individuals falling in each of the three risk level classifications of his prediction instrument (a seven-item, dichotomous additive index). These authors argue for the ability to estimate the incapacitative effect for each level of offender risk, demonstrate that incarcerating high-risk offenders is most effective, and subsequently propose the lengthening of sentences for individuals in that high-risk classification category.

In the event accurate prediction can be achieved, and if it is coupled with focusing incarceration only on high risk to re-offend individuals, Greenwood and Abrahamse proposed that it would be possible to remain within the available prison resources, a statement not possible by those adhering to a collective incapacitation mentality (Greenwood & Abrahamse, 1982, von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). In this model, the offender's risk score, not simply the seriousness of the presenting offense, would principally determine whether that offender is incarcerated. Von Hirsch and Gottfredson (1984) argue this policy would require imprisonment of a larger proportion of offenders convicted of less serious crimes if their predicted level indicated they were bad risks. This statement, while true, discounts the empirical evidence arguing against the offense-specific specialization of offenders (discussed at greater length below).

Other researchers question the ability to estimate lambda as Greenwood and Abrahamse have due to their use of generalizing the self-reported robbery rates of the convicted robbers in his sample to active robbers generally, especially in light of their own admission that the probability of being convicted then incarcerated for robbery is so low; .0258 in that study (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). Other researchers have found incarcerated samples biased toward having more high-rate offenders than found in the general population (Auerhahn, 1999; Canela-Cacho et al., 1997; Chaiken & Chaiken, 1984; Shannon, 1991; Wolfgang et al., 1972; Wright & Rossi, 1986). Any incarceration effect, be it selective or collective, would be overestimated if the

sample used for estimation is an incarcerated one. Additional problems with estimating the benefits of incarceration strategies have been proposed as well, such as the assumptions regarding length of criminal career, replacement/substitution effects, and the decline in offending with age (Blumstein et al., 1978; Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1986; Spelman, 1994; Zimring & Hawkins, 1995; 1988). Replacement and substitution effects refer to the notion that when an individual is arrested and/or removed from a particular locale, another individual will take his/her place and commit similar offenses. This notion is prevalent when referring to the sale of illegal drugs where removal of a drug dealer from a location may only lead to a new individual subsequently selling drugs at that same location.

At the time of the 1975 publication, Greenberg, and others, including researchers and prison administrators, hypothesized the group of high-risk offenders to be targeted for selective incapacitation would be between ten to fifteen percent of the prison population, while all other prisoners could be safely released under varying levels of supervision with minimal threat to society (Greenberg, 1975; see also Goldfarb & Singer, 1973; Mitford, 1973).<sup>1</sup> Other research at the time had found that most crimes are committed by a small percentage of the population as a whole and that most are committed by recidivists (Belkin et al., 1972; Hughes, 1971; Shannon et al., 1988; Shinnar & Shinnar, 1975; West & Farrington, 1977; Wolfgang et al., 1972).

Shinnar and Shinnar (1975) caution the importance of distinguishing between the percentage of crimes committed by recidivists and the percentage of criminals who are recidivists. They provide the example that assuming for every career criminal there are 5 one-

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<sup>1</sup> Greenberg also presented the argument that higher recidivism rates for particular offenders could demonstrate both the need for longer sentences for public protection, or show the need for increased resources aimed at increasing rehabilitation program effectiveness. The same data are utilized by both ends of the rehabilitative-incapacitative spectrum with neither party realizing the high recidivism rates may be greatly due to “artifacts of administration” in that most returns to prison are for technical violations, not new-law violations (Greenberg, 1975:556). By constantly calling the public’s attention to high recidivism, both sides of the argument increase the prejudice against ex-convicts.

time offenders and with an estimate of 50 crimes per career criminal, then career criminals would compose only 16% of the criminal population, yet account for more than 90% of the crimes. This hypothetical has been somewhat echoed by empirical research by Wolfgang who found 6.3% of a birth cohort of Philadelphia boys (18% of the offenders) were responsible for roughly 52% of the offenses committed by the cohort (Wolfgang et al., 1972; see also Chaiken & Chaiken, 1984; Cohen, 1984; Mednick & Christiansen, 1977; Shannon, 1991; Shannon et al., 1988; Wilson & Herrnstein, 1985; West & Farrington, 1977; Wright & Rossi, 1986).

### **New Penology**

The concept of selective incapacitation came just after the now infamous “nothing works” declaration interpreted from Martinson, questioning the possibility of rehabilitative effectiveness in the criminal justice system (1974; see also Lipton et al., 1975; Zimring & Hawkins, 1995).<sup>2</sup> Critics argued against the “nothing works” conclusion, faulting inadequacy of the research methodology used to evaluate the programs and the poor implementation and delivery of the treatment programs studied, for the inability to realize reduced recidivism or draw conclusions from the research (Cullen & Gendreau, 1989; Cullen & Gilbert, 1982; Gendreau & Ross, 1979, 1981, 1987; Gottfredson, 1979; Halleck & Witte, 1977; Palmer, 1975, 1983; van Voorhis, 1987). While these critics published evaluations indicating substantial evidence of effective treatments, the “nothing works” mantra exerted tremendous power over practitioners, professionals, and the public (Cullen & Gendreau, 1989). The Martinson report encapsulated the shifting focus evident in the waning influence of the principle of rehabilitation for imprisonment previously held by the criminal justice system in the United States, which had begun to decline in the 1970’s (Allen, 1981; Auerhahn, 1999; Flanagan, 1996; von Hirsch, 1985).

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<sup>2</sup> Several researchers have suggested the decline in support for the rehabilitative ideal may also be traced to the rising proportion of minority individuals in U.S. prisons (Allen, 1981; see also Sklansky, 1995; Tonry, 1995).

The focus then transferred from the rehabilitative ideal of treatment of individual offenders towards incapacitative and retributive goals emphasizing control, management, and incarceration of particular offender groups (Auerhahn, 1999; Feeley & Simon, 1992; Shichor, 1997). The major aim of the criminal justice system switched to the effective management of so-called dangerous groups in the “new penology” (Feeley & Simon, 1992). The new emphasis on efficiency, calculability, prediction, and control was based on the Weberian concept of “formal rationality”, and has resulted in the movement being compared with the fast-food industry and the “McDonaldization” of punishment (Ritzer, 1993; Shichor, 1997; Weber, 1968).

Three distinct influences have been identified as being involved in the shift to the new penology, including language, objectives, and techniques (Feeley & Simon, 1992). With the intent shifted from individual treatment to managerial concerns for controlling certain offender groups, the notions of probability and risk became increasingly relevant, replacing discourse of clinical diagnosis and mental status. These ideas of probability and risk are instrumental in the isolation and classification of particular high-rate offending groups as well as predicting the likelihood of offending or recidivating. Objectives of efficient control replaced traditional goals of rehabilitation and crime control. Finally, techniques targeting aggregate levels of offenders for the purpose of identification, classification, and management of dangerousness groupings supplanted traditional practices of diagnosis, intervention, and treating offenders on an individualized basis (Cohen, 1985; Garland & Young, 1983; Feeley & Simon, 1992; Gordon, 1991; Messinger, 1969; Messinger & Berecochea, 1990; Reichman, 1986; Wilkins, 1973).

According to Feeley and Simon, a focus on risk management and incapacitation of particular offender groups “promises to reduce the effects of crime in society not by altering either offender or social context, but by rearranging the distribution of offenders in society”

(1992:458). The task became one of removing high-rate offenders from society, while returning those low risk individuals who pose no significant threat to the community. Advancement in statistical methods allowed for the expansion of discourse of actuarial and quantifying language with “high-rate offenders” and “career criminals” defined by the distribution of criminals itself, linking direct relationships between penal policy and strategies to the offending population.

One additional effect of the focus on control of aggregate subpopulations of offenders was the decrease in expectations about the effectiveness of criminal sanctions (Feeley & Simon, 1992). No longer was there anticipation that a sanction, be it incarceration, probation, parole, etc., have the potential to rehabilitate or treat the offender with the hope of reintegration into society. Rather, the desire became that the sanction be effective at monitoring and managing aggregate groups based on classification according to the degree of control warranted by their classification risk levels. This “custodial continuum”, as Feeley and Simon called it, had at one extreme the prisons, which provided the highest security at the highest cost for those individuals who present the greatest risk, and probation at the low end of the spectrum providing low-cost surveillance for low-risk individuals.

In between the extremes are intermediate levels of supervision and surveillance techniques as evidenced by present-day intermediate sanctions such as boot camps, intensive supervision (with frequent drug testing) and electronic monitoring. Feeley and Simon caution that “once the focus is on categories of offenders rather than individuals, methods naturally shift toward mechanisms of appraising and arranging groups rather than intervening in the lives of individuals” thus “in the end the search for causal order is at least premature” (1992:459). The appraising of groups these scholars mention is evident in the increased number of prison admissions due to technical parole and probation violations making prisons holding pens for

violators assessed as too dangerous to remain in society. This shifts the mission of the prison from correctional to a management function of warehousing a particular risk level of offenders. The differentiation of prisons by security risk level is in contrast to the differentiation by specialized function evident in prisons in the 1970's, such as the California Rehabilitation Center for drug users and California Medical Prison at Vacaville for the mentally ill (Feeley and Simon, 1992).

The new penology movement led to the funding of a research program in the 1970's and 1980's by the National Institute of Justice for the study of criminal careers in relation to policy decisions impacting the criminal justice system. The 1982 Rand report by Greenwood and Abrahamse came out of that program. This report was the first to articulate a coherent proposal for the identification of offender groups for the purpose of selective incapacitation. The Greenwood and Abrahamse study and the subsequent RAND studies by Chaiken and Chaiken improved over previous prediction research in one essential aspect. These studies moved beyond attempting to predict whether an offender would return to crime, and included also addressing the frequency of offending (von Hirsch, 1984). High-rate offenders were to receive longer sentences while lower-rate offenders would receive shortened sentences. This process would in turn reduce crime and be a more efficient use of penal resources by only holding high-rate offenders for prolonged periods (Greenwood and Abrahamse, 1982).

Shinnar and Shinnar (1975) advised that what is important is the uniform application of penalties for any recidivist offender, regardless of the severity of the second offense (foreshadowing current three-strikes laws further examined below). Their suggested strategy included improved sentencing procedures, screening to recognize recidivists, and selective increase in those sentences. These scholars did provide one caveat to their argument stating, "in

no way do we want to imply that future crime policies should be based solely on incapacitation. Better rehabilitation would be preferable but rehabilitation must become much more successful before it will have a significant effect” (Shinnar & Shinnar, 1975:606).

The Greenwood and Abrahamse report sparked a debate in the literature as to the potential effectiveness of a selective incapacitation strategy (Blumstein et al., 1978; Spelman, 1994; Zimring & Hawkins, 1995), as well as the ethical and methodological obstacles to implementing such a plan (Blackmore & Welsh, 1983; Chaiken & Chaiken, 1984; Cohen, 1983; Gottfredson & Gottfredson, 1985a, 1985b; Moore et al., 1984; Visher, 1986; von Hirsch, 1972; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). Moore and colleagues (1984) argued that selective incapacitation is at its core an assertion that individuals vary in their capacity for evil and that these differences are inherent within the individual and not the result of any social processes, which could be altered or remedied.<sup>3</sup> As the individual who arguably coined the term “selective incapacitation”, Greenberg himself cautioned that “*the recommendation for deciding who is to be incarcerated on the basis of the threat such individuals would represent if released could be implemented only if it were possible to predict how a given prisoner would behave if released*” (Greenberg, 1975:543, emphasis in the original).

The notion of selective incapacitation, coupled with the empirical research on career criminals then provided the rationale for the habitual offender three-strikes and truth-in-

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<sup>3</sup> Feeley and Simon (1992) echo Wilson (1987) in their assertion that policy and policy-makers view a certain segment of the population as unemployable (even if jobs were available) and incapable of being integrated into society, labeling this group with the term “underclass”. This segment of marginalized individuals is also viewed as dangerous to the social order, distrusted for their ability to disrupt as a collective group more so than as individuals. Feeley and Simon (1992) expand by illustrating the extent of custodial supervision enforced on young black males, arguing that the heightened visibility of minority overrepresentation in the penal system is likely to reinforce the notion that crime is the result of this “pathological subpopulation” upon which nothing can be done with the exception of custodial control. They furthermore argue that rehabilitation or reintegration only makes sense if those being rehabilitated or reintegrated share common values and norms with middle class society. The existence of permanent marginality of a subpopulation would render rehabilitative ideals irrelevant by nature of the argument.

sentencing legislation, which has since followed (Auerhahn, 1999; Benekos & Merlo, 1995; Clark et al., 1997; Stolzenberg & D'Alessio, 1997). Based on the selective incapacitation ideal, the goal of this legislation is to incapacitate the relatively small number of potential career criminals early in their criminal life-course to achieve a substantial reduction in crime. One such policy came in 1994 when Congress enacted the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, also known as the Federal Crime Bill (commonly referred to as the “three strikes and you’re out” law). This law mandates life sentences for criminals convicted of three violent felonies or drug offenses if the third conviction is a federal crime (Lewis, 1994; Shichor, 1997).

The purpose of this legislation was to increase the severity of the sanction and lengthen the term of confinement for offender groups deemed habitual or career criminals. Some three strikes legislation requires prosecutors to pursue the case under the statute, calling for longer sentences for offenders with one or more prior felony convictions, and often life sentences for three time felons. Prosecutorial discretion is limited, unless he or she can plea bargain down the charges (in which case discretion is enhanced for the prosecution), and judicial discretion reduced due to a requirement to impose the maximum sentence in the event of conviction. Mitigating factors are irrelevant to sentence considerations (Stolzenberg & D'Alessio, 1997). As the laws mandate such extreme sentences, more offenders are taking their cases to trial rather than accepting plea agreements, which has the effect of increasing the number of individuals in county jails awaiting trial, more court trials which increases costs, more long-term prisoners leading to a need for more prisons, an older prison population with increasingly high medical and health care bills, and increasing welfare expenditures for dependents of incarcerated felons for longer periods of time (Shichor, 1997).

The other sentencing legislation, beyond the three strikes and 10-20-life laws, has been the truth-in-sentencing movement. This legislation has been enacted by many states to secure prison funding under the 1994 Federal Crime Act (Greenwood, 1998). These laws usually require that all violent offenders serve at least 85% of their sentence before they are eligible for parole or early release. This is in stark contrast to the 30% to 40% that most of these offenders had been serving prior to the legislation (BJS, 1992; Greenwood, 1998). The percentage of sentence served was lower pre-legislation due to the ability to accrue good-time credit and the possibility of early release. Truth-in-sentencing doubled the length of time these offenders serve, therefore drastically increasing the prison population.

The important empirical question then becomes whether the three strikes and other habitual offender legislation, or the truth-in-sentencing legislation has reduced crime. Greenwood and colleagues (1996) projected the incapacitative effect of California's three strikes laws and estimated that, if fully implemented, they would reduce serious felonies between 22% and 34%. Furthermore, they estimated that nearly 1/3 of that reduction would be for violent crimes, and the remaining 2/3 for less violent felonies. As Greenwood and colleagues (1996), and Stolzenberg & D'Alessio (1997) have hypothesized, this reduction may be an underestimation, as the study did not take into account any deterrent effect the laws may have for individuals contemplating commission of one of the severely sanctioned offenses.

Projected analysis aside however, empirical research directly assessing the impact of the three strikes legislation has not been so favorable. For example, the California three-strikes law was examined by Greenwood and colleagues (1994) who concluded, if applied in all eligible cases, the legislation would reduce the number of serious felonies in a year by about 28%, or 329,000 crimes. They caution however that this broad application would cost an additional \$5.5

billion per year in additional criminal justice funding for the additional construction and operation of prisons (Greenwood et al., 1994). This finding can be translated to a cost of \$16,000 per serious felony prevented (Sherman et al., 1997).

Stolzenberg & D'Alessio (1997) assessed the impact of the California three strikes legislation on serious crime using an interrupted time-series design. They concluded the laws did not reduce crime levels below that which would be expected based on the preexisting downward trend. Possible explanations offered by the authors for the lack of reduction include the relationship between age and crime (most offenders would age out of crime anyway by the time they are incarcerated for their third strike) and the prevalence of juvenile crime (juveniles account for roughly 20% of the violent crime arrests and 35% of property crime arrests, yet are unaffected by the legislation).

The conclusions made by Stolzenberg and D'Alessio regarding the aging out of offenders is in keeping with one of the most commonly accepted extant relationships in the field of criminology and broader research on criminal careers; that of the age crime curve and the declining frequency of offending with age, regardless of sex, race, country, offense, or time period (Farrington, 1986; Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1986; 1990; Nagin, 1998; Nagin & Land, 1993, Petersilia, 1980; Tittle & Grasmick, 1998; Wilson & Herrnstein, 1985). As far back as the early 1970's research has found the proportion of offenders who desist their criminal career, or "drop out", after each subsequent offense is constant and around 20% to 30% (Wolfgang et al., 1972; Auerhahn, 1999). This high drop out rate means that while it is possible to predict with some degree of accuracy that a certain proportion of a sample will be high-rate offenders, prediction at the individual level of analysis is plagued by the stochastic sequence at hand. For example, assuming 10% of a sample will be high-rate offenders, predicting which particular individuals

will be career criminals, is beset by the fact that 20% to 30% of even that high risk group will desist after each additional offense. Alfred Blumstein proposed a now classic explanation of this phenomenon, saying:

“Any stochastic sequence of events with a non-zero probability of termination after an event will inevitably result in a distribution of sequence lengths. In criminal-career terms...since every statistical distribution has to have a right-hand tail, the group of ‘chronic offenders’ who comprise the right-hand tail will necessarily account for disproportionately large number of offenses. The critical question is whether the members of this group are distinguishably different...The fundamental policy question, then, is whether the ‘chronic offenders’ are identifiable in prospect, that is, during the period in which they accumulate a record...unless such discrimination can be made, any identification of chronic offenders can only be made retrospectively, and so is of little policy or operational value (1979; reproduced in Auerhahn, 1999:709; and Petersilia, 1980:374).

The aging out phenomenon has led to the necessity to look for other factors that are more predictive of re-offending than is the prior criminal history of the offender. Otherwise, by the time the individual has enough priors to be deemed high-risk, that individual is likely to be near the end of his/her criminal career or at the very least decreasing in frequency of offending. Gottfredson and Hirschi (1986) argue the 20-20 hindsight of criminal career research to be misleading in that “it turns out that the particular career criminals identified in criminological research are no longer active and their replacements cannot be identified until they too are on the verge of ‘retirement’” (pp.217). These scholars see incapacitation policies doomed to failure in that, with the knowledge that crime declines with age and peaks around 17 years of age, then an incapacitation strategy must intervene at an optimal age to prevent the most frequent offending

(before 17 years of age), suggesting lengthy incarceration of young juveniles in the interest of prevention.

A further argument criminal career research brings is the notion of specialization. The habitual offender legislations call for longer sentences for violent offenders. This contradicts life-course criminology research, which finds little to no evidence of specialization, especially over the long-term, for high frequency criminals (Auerhahn, 1999; Blumstein et al., 1986; Blumstein et al., 1988; DeLisi, 2005; Farrington et al., 1988; Kempf, 1987; Piquero et al.; 2003; Simon, 1997; Wright & Rossi, 1986).<sup>4</sup> Legislation aimed at targeting offenders who specialize in violent crime is misguided as this vast literature shows these offenders may not even exist.

### **Errors in Prediction**

There exist two forms of error in the prediction of offender classification based on risk to re-offend. In the event an individual is predicted to be a low rate offender but actually commits crimes at a high rate, the error is one of underprediction. These errors of underprediction are called false negatives. These errors involve threats to public safety by predicting low offense rates for individuals who will in fact end up committing offenses at a high rate. The second type of error, while less of a public safety risk, is perhaps more ethically challenging. This type of error involves the prediction of an individual as being a high rate offender, who would in reality commit offenses at a low rate. These false positives lead to the incapacitation of individuals to prevent them from committing future crimes, which would actually not be committed. False positives are also disturbing due to the high unnecessary costs and wasted resources of

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<sup>4</sup> While the studies referenced indicate offenders having low levels of specialization, especially over the long-term, recently Sullivan and colleagues (2006) have demonstrated empirical evidence of a “considerable amount of short-term specialization with regard to their offending patterns” (p.221).

incarceration of individuals for prolonged periods of time that would not have been a threat to commit future offenses.

To reduce the number of false negatives, a larger fraction of the actual recidivists must be identified, thus requiring the researcher to lower the “cutoff” score in the prediction instrument to make the predictions more inclusive. This will, however, increase the number of false positives; increase the already high incidence of predicting individuals as being high rate offenders, who would in reality, commit offenses at a low rate. Conversely, to reduce the number of false positives, the “cutoff” score would have to be raised to be less inclusive; yet this results in the instrument missing an even larger number of actual recidivists (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). The essential fact to gather is that reducing the occurrence of one type of error will in all cases increase the occurrence of the other type.

The extent to which these two types of errors occur in the prediction of risk to re-offend is substantial. Research reveals that most assessments predicting offender risk have false positive rates greater than fifty percent (Auerhahn, 1999; 2006; Blackmore & Welsh, 1983; Cohen, 1983; Monahan, 1981; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). High error rates in the prediction of any low base rate phenomenon or rare outcome have been found to be quite common; the rarer the event, the greater the tendency to overpredict (Cohen, 1983; Copas, 1983; Farrington, 1987; von Hirsch, 1972; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). The seminal selective incapacitation strategy outlined in the above-mentioned report by Greenwood and Abrahamse (1982) resulted in a fifty one percent overall success rate in classifying offenders. The rate of classifying an offender as high risk who in fact is not (false-positive rate) was forty eight percent. In four attempts to reanalyze the Rand data used by Greenwood and Abrahamse, a false-positive rate of fifty five

percent was discovered (Auerhahn, 1999; 2006; Chaiken & Chaiken, 1982; Cohen, 1983; Visher, 1986).

The Greenwood study also evidenced a false-negative rate of about sixteen percent (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). This corresponds to one of every six offenders classified as medium or low risks actually committing frequent offenses. These “misses” or failures to imprison offenders assessed at lower risk levels, yet actually high risk may cause political pressure to make the definition of high risk more inclusive (which as mentioned above would increase the rate of false positives).

### **Prediction Method**

The primary task of risk assessment is to predict, not to explain the behavior in question (Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005). Prediction involves first assessing particular criterion variables at one time to forecast a specific behavior or performance at a later time (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). Currently, there exists an extensive history of risk prediction of offending behavior in the criminal and juvenile justice fields (Gottfredson, 1967; Gottfredson & Tonry, 1987; Mannheim & Wilkins, 1955; Simon, 1971). Prediction has certainly progressed both in methodology as well as accuracy and can be grouped into four “generations” (Andrews & Bonta, 2003).

Originally, risk to re-offend was “predicted” using clinical/professional judgment; the “gut feeling” approach. A variation of this first-generation assessment is called “structured clinical judgment” which reflects decisions made after review of specific factors, but without a validated process to link the scores to the decisions made (Andrews et al., 2006). Meta-analyses have illustrated the weak predictive validity of first generation assessment with an overall mean  $r$  of .12 (Andrews et al., 2006; Grove et al., 2000). While only available for sex offender samples

thus far, structured clinical judgment assessments appear to do better than unstructured, yet not as well as later generation assessment (Andrews et al., 2006; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004).

Prediction, as the new penology took over, evolved into utilizing statistical techniques correlating static characteristics of the individual (such as age, race, prior criminal history, and prior substance abuse history) with the dependent behavior of offending/re-offending but was atheoretical (Andrews et al., 2006; Shichor, 1997). These second generation assessments continue to be used extensively. The prediction studies described extensively below by Greenwood and Abrahamse (1982) and Auerhahn (1999) both utilized second-generation, actuarial, static predictor instruments.

Meta-analyses have found the predictive validity of second-generation assessments much higher than that for clinical assessments, with an  $r$  of .42 (Andrews et al., 2006). Additional past research has shown that informal, subjective, clinical judgments are far less accurate than actuarial/statistical methods (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Dawes, Faust & Meehl, 1993; Hoge, 2001; Meehl & Grove, 1996). Grove and colleagues conducted a 136 study meta-analysis comparing actuarial approaches to clinical risk prediction, finding actuarial superior in 47% of the studies, equally as predictive in 47% and less predictive in only 6% of the studies (Grove et al., 2000). While the Grove team analyzed only clinical psychology and psychiatry studies, three other meta-analyses focusing more on criterion behavior and offender samples, all finding the statistical/objective risk measures outperformed clinical judgment (Bonta et al., 1998; Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Mossman, 1994). These studies predicted recidivism for mentally disordered offenders, violent behavior among psychiatric patients and sexual offending.

The third-generation of prediction examined both static factors and dynamic factors (such as antisocial attitudes and beliefs). Meta-analysis or even accessible reports of predictive validity

could only be ascertained from one third generation instrument, the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R). Results show the predictive criterion validity for this instrument to have an overall mean  $r$  of .36 (Andrews et al., 2006). This is much better than the  $r$  of .12 for first generation, yet lower than the .42 reported for second-generation prediction instruments.

Finally, the fourth-generation of risk assessment has attempted to assess static and dynamic risk factors as well as protective factors and follows service and supervision from intake through case cessation (Andrews et al., 2006). It is the addition of evaluating protective factors that may help reduce the likelihood of re-offending and the guidance with the creation of case management plans that advances the latest generation of prediction. Risk and protective factors are not, however, mutually exclusive categories. For example, family may be a risk factor for one juvenile with abusive parents who engage in criminality themselves, and protective for another youth who has a supportive, consistent family structure. The inclusion of both risk and protective factors highlights one of the distinguishing characteristics of fourth-generation risk assessment in the area of increased attention to the linkage between assessment and case management (Andrews & Bonta, 2003). Individualized strengths are built upon to construct a prosocial orientation and responsivity factors and learning styles are considered when placing for treatment.

As in the case for third-generation instruments, the predictive validity of only one fourth-generation instrument has been reported. Andrews and colleagues (2006) report an estimate of .41 for the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI). Andrews and colleagues (2006) do report that the best know fourth-generation instruments are the Correctional Assessment and Intervention System (CAIS) and the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS).

Fourth-generation assessments appear to be equally as valid in terms of predictive criterion validity as the more popular, yet significantly more simplistic, second-generation instruments. Andrews and his co-authors furthermore suggest, “substantial improvements in the predictive criterion validity of risk assessments may reside in reassessments of dynamic risk factors” (2006:16; see also Andrews & Robinson, 1984; Motiuk et al., 1994; Roynor et al., 2000). This notion is supported by two recent dissertations showing increased predictive validity with re-assessment as well as assessment of dynamic risk factors that can change rapidly (Brown, 2003; Law, 2004). Andrews and colleagues (2006) suggest that re-assessment with a focus on rapidly changing risk factors may double or even triple the variance explained by intake assessments, touting the idea “a breakthrough” (2006:16; see also Hanson & Harris, 2000; Quinsey et al., 1997; Zamble & Quinsey, 1997).

### **Prediction Studies**

Most prediction studies vary in degrees of complexity, yet utilize essentially the same method (von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). The research team collects data from a sample of convicted offenders, usually criminal history and varying degrees of social history, demographics, education, drug abuse, family history, etc. (Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005). The sample participants are followed for some length of time and recidivism is captured for those who commit subsequent offending (either self-reported or official). The original data collected is examined in how it correlates to the subsequent recidivism, using bivariate or multivariate statistical techniques.

The factors that correlate strongly with the recidivism are constructed into a predictive instrument that is then tested on a validation sample. The final process of testing against the validation sample is the most essential as it shows how well the instrument actually predicts offending, rather than how well it correlates to the offending of the population from which the

data were gathered (Gottfredson, 1967; Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005; Mannheim & Wilkins, 1955; Simon, 1971). When an item is a statistically significant predictor of the dependent variable in question, the item improves the power of the instrument and should be used in the construction of the scale (Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005).<sup>5</sup>

Five basic steps have been shown essential in developing and utilizing prediction instruments (Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005). First, the criterion to be predicted must be defined. Second, the predictors are selected. Third, the relationships between the predictors and the criterion must be measured. Fourth, the relationships found must be validated. Lastly, the method of prediction must be applied in situations for which it was developed.

The steps outlined above have led some scholars to assert the seminal Greenwood and Abrahamse study was not a prediction of risk to re-offend study at all (Auerhahn, 1999; Chaiken & Chaiken, 1984; Clear and Barry, 1983; Visher, 1986; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). Greenwood and Abrahamse used offender characteristics and self-reported past delinquency from a single questionnaire to assess the correlation of the former with the later. The authors then concluded that certain offender characteristics are “predictive” of offending behavior and devised their seven-item scale. This process contradicts several of the steps of constructing a prediction study in that Greenwood and Abrahamse do not have sequential time periods, only the one-time questionnaire. They are in effect examining how current offender characteristics

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<sup>5</sup> Gottfredson and Snyder (2005) caution regarding the ethical implications of including certain significant correlates in the scale construction which may actually simply be proxies for unmeasured items (such as race for poverty, school failure, amount of police presence in the community, etc.). Any recidivism differences captured may be correlated with the proxy but may not be caused by the proxy. They expand, stating that “statistically including the race variable improves the predictions made by the risk scale... Ethically, excluding the race variable prevents the assignment of risk scores that may inappropriately lead to greater sanctions for minority youth” (pp.iii). Gottfredson and Snyder suggest including these variables (such as race) in the early stages of scale construction and then removing them from the published instrument, thus removing the bias. If the race variable was never included in the construction, other measures would be proxies for race and would keep racial bias inherent in the instrument, yet hidden beneath the surface.

correlate with past offending behavior, and not analyzing how current characteristics predict future behavior (which presumably was the intention).

Furthermore, Greenwood and Abrahamse did not utilize a validation sample once the original scale was created, in order to assess “shrinkage”. A replication/validation sample is essential to determine the generalizability of the prediction instrument, as opposed to correlating offending behavior with the original sample’s idiosyncrasies (Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984). “Shrinkage” refers to the portion of variation that is lost when the prediction instrument is validated on the replication sample; usually the instrument accounts for a smaller portion of variation on a subsequent sample than the original sample (Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984).

Shrinkage is especially true with retrospective studies where the researchers are typically not blind to outcomes in that they already are aware of which individuals in the samples have recidivated. Researchers can then “fish for combinations of predictors that enhance the accuracy of what is actually a ‘postdiction’” which potentially “capitalizes on unique features of the original sample -- features that will not be present in other samples” (Lanza-Kaduce et al., 1990:28). Therefore, without the inclusion of a validation sample, the Greenwood and Abrahamse study overstates the accuracy of their seven-factor scale. Research has consistently shown that simple, less sophisticated statistical techniques are less vulnerable to shrinkage, such as the Burgess basic additive approach, in comparison to complex multivariate techniques (Lanza-Kaduce et al., 1990; Gottfredson & Gottfrdson, 1979; Gottfredson & Snyder, 2005; Wilbanks, 1985). In addition to shrinkage considerations, the predictive accuracy of simpler, easier to implement techniques does not differ significantly from more elaborate, sophisticated techniques (Lanza-Kaduce et al., 1990).

Auerhahn (1999) replicated the Greenwood and Abrahamse scale on a representative sample of California state prison inmates (n=2,188). The replication scale used identical, or proxy measures as the Greenwood and Abrahamse scale. The seven items in the replication include: 1) Prior conviction for any offense, 2) Free at least one year before the current incarceration, 3) Arrest before age sixteen, 4) Served time in a juvenile detention facility, 5) Regular use of heroin or barbiturates at any point in inmate's life, 6) Heroin or barbiturate use as a juvenile, and 7) Employed before arrest resulting in current incarceration.

Identical to the Greenwood and Abrahamse study, the seven predictor variables were summed and offenders grouped according to low-, medium-, and high-risk. Offenders were classified as low-rate with scores 0-1, medium-rate with scores 2-3, and high-rate those with scores of 4 or higher (Auerhahn, 1999). The replication scale resulted in 41% of the sample being low-risk, 31% medium-risk, and 28% being classified as high risk to re-offend. Auerhahn (1999) next compared the "predictive" risk to re-offend with the official prior convictions of the sampled individuals. She notes the predictive accuracy (the percentage of offenders placed in the right cell) of the Greenwood and Abrahamse scale was 51%, while the replication scale produced slightly better accuracy at 60% (Auerhahn, 1999). Furthermore, 13% of the offenders who are not high-rate were predicted as such (false positives) by the Greenwood and Abrahamse scale, and only 5.6% were reported so by the replication. However, upon closer examination of the Auerhahn study, the Greenwood and Abrahamse scale had 14% of the offenders not high-rate predicted as such (not the 13% reported) and the replication scale produced 18% of all the offenders being predicted high-rate who in actuality were not (not the 5.6% reported). This means that only 15% of all the offenders predicted high risk in the Greenwood and Abrahamse study (not the 29% predicted), and only 10% of the offenders predicted high risk in the

replication study (not the 28% predicted), were in actuality high risk to re-offend. The two studies, therefore, demonstrate false positive rates around fifty percent for all the individuals predicted as high risk to re-offend as nearly half of those predicted high risk actually recidivated.

Cronbach's alpha, a measure of internal reliability for multiple-item scales based on the strength of correlations between the items in the scale, is reported as .38 (Auerhahn, 1999). Alpha values range from 0 to 1, with 1 representing perfect reliability of the assessment tool. An alpha value of .70 or higher is usually recognized as acceptable for reliability in the social sciences (Auerhahn, 1999). Auerhahn (1999) reports all of the inter-item correlations of the scale significant at the  $p=.01$  level, yet cautions that some associations are small enough that their significance is attributable mainly to the size of the sample, as it is easier to achieve significance with larger samples. Also pointed out is the finding that many of the associations are in fact negative, though coded for agreement, which is counter to the requirement of positive direction association for additive scales.

The Auerhahn (1999) study intentionally elaborates on the question of internal reliability due in part to the brevity or outright exclusion of the issue in previous research. The study mentions prior research focusing on the reliability of using inmate self-report data (Greenwood and Turner, 1987; Spelman, 1994; von Hirsch & Gottfredson, 1984), estimation of incapacitation effects of selective incapacitation strategies, or the ethical issues surrounding the basis of sentencing decisions on prediction of future offending, rather than actions the offender has decided to take, yet little attention to the methodological issues inherent in the construction of prediction instruments (Auerhahn, 1999; Gottfredson & Gottfredson, 1985). Auerhahn (1999) presents the internal reliability, false positive rate, and scale alpha values for the purpose of

illustrating the shortcomings of actuarial risk assessment in terms of driving a policy of selective incapacitation.

Even as research shows actuarial risk assessment superior to clinical judgment and “gut feeling” approaches, there is still a roughly 50% false positive rate of predicting offenders to be high-risk when, in actuality, their offending patterns will not play out that way. Greenberg (1975) cautioned over thirty years ago the inaccuracy of prediction in criminal behavior suggests the selective incarceration of individuals on a predictive basis was not a promising direction. Nearly twenty-five years later, Auerhahn concluded that the “obstacle to realizing this seemingly perfect solution to crime prevention lies in the prospective identification of this offender pool...we simply cannot do it with any reliable accuracy”, and that “it appears that the time has come to open the discourse of crime and crime prevention to permit the consideration of strategies that do not focus on incarceration in formulating our response to the crime problem” (1999:727-728).

### **What Works?**

The “nothing works” mantra sparked by the Martinson report pushed corrections policy into relying on incapacitation as its predominate strategy with regard to addressing crime, yet also spawned a quite contradictory line of inquiry; that of the “what works?” movement. This empirically based research implies that certain programs and interventions, when properly targeted, reliably produce reductions in recidivism (NIC, 2004). This line of inquiry has been fueled mainly by the results of meta-analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and clinical trials, all providing indications of how to more effectively reduce the likelihood of re-offending (Andrews et al., 1990a; Andrews et al., 1990b; Andrews et al., 1999; Antonwicz & Ross, 1994; Aos, 1998; Cullen, 2002; Gendreau, 1996; McGuire, 2002; NIC, 2004; Sherman et al., 1997). The meta-analysis technique has been especially instrumental in the identification of effective intervention

characteristics and permits the aggregation of a large body of research literature in order to examine and compare the effect sizes for treatment versus control group comparisons. Meta-analyses summarize a large number of studies (a rigorous “study of studies”) while controlling for important methodological issues (Sherman et al., 1997).

“What works” is now often used interchangeably with the term “evidence-based practices” (NIC, 2004). Evidence-based practices (EBPs) have recently become a trend throughout the social sciences and human service fields and focus primarily on outcome. The outcome with regard to criminal justice practices is almost exclusively the reduction of risk to re-offend and subsequent offending. Bogue and colleagues stress that “interventions within corrections are considered effective when they reduce offender risk and subsequent recidivism and therefore make a positive long-term contribution to public safety” (NIC, 2004:1). Research on offender rehabilitation has progressed to the point where there exists sufficient evidence of several key interdependent principles (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Burrell, 2000; Carey, 2002; Corbett et al., 1999; Currie, 1998; Latessa et al., 2002; McGuire, 2002; NIC, 2004; Sherman et al., 1997). Meta-analyses have been used both to identify individual risk factors associated with recidivism, as well as to determine the characteristics of the most effective delinquency treatment programs (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Andrews et al, 1990; Lipsey, 1989, 1992; Palmer, 1992). Research and practitioner communities have moved progressively from “nothing works”, to “what works”, and are now learning what in fact makes “what works” work (Andrews, 2006; Antonowicz & Ross, 1994).

### **Empirical Predictors**

Meta-analyses have led to the ability to identify major and minor risk/criminogenic need factors with respect to offending behavior (Andrews et al., 2006; Bonta et al., 1998; Gendreau et al., 1996; Hanson & Morton Bourgon, 2004; Lipsey & Derzon, 1998). The major risk factors can

be divided into the “big four” and the “central eight” (Andrews et al., 2006; Andrews & Bonta, 2003). The big four include 1) history of antisocial behavior, 2) antisocial personality pattern, 3) antisocial thinking, and 4) antisocial peer associations. The four additional risk factors rounding out the central eight include 1) family problems, 2) school/work problems, 3) procriminal leisure/recreation activities, and 4) substance abuse. Minor risk factors include such issues as emotional distress, mental disorders, low socio-economic status, seriousness of the presenting offense, low IQ, and physical health problems.

Research has demonstrated the minor factors to be of relatively low predictive validity, if present at all, and that they most likely can be explained away by the contributions of the big four, whose inclusion pushes the minor factors to insignificance (Andrews et al., 2006). For example, the predictive power sometimes associated with mental disorders’ relation to offending is believed in actuality to be related to antisocial attitudes/thinking, antisocial personality pattern, and substance abuse (Andrews et al., 2006; Link et al., 1992; Swanson et al., 1996). Furthermore, the power associated with low socioeconomic status, or socially disadvantaged neighborhoods can be attributed to the increased prevalence of the big four risk factors within the individuals with lower socioeconomic status and the residents in those disadvantaged areas (Stouthamer-Loeber et al., 2002).

The meta-analyses uncovering the big four and the central eight risk factors demonstrate a significant reduction in recidivism when the factors are targeted through effective interventions (Andrews et al., 2006; Andrews & Bonta, 2003). It is essential to understand the risk associated with each of the eight major factors, as well as the dynamic need of the individual in terms of what is needed to address the risk. It is a well-known criminological mantra that the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior (Sherman et al., 1997). The first of the big four,

history of antisocial behavior, is the often-utilized criminal history item present in predictive instruments since the inception of second-generation assessments (Andrews & Bonta, 2003). This item is characterized by early and continuous involvement in deviant behavior in a variety of situations and manifestations. Individuals presenting with prior criminal history (be it self-report or official) are in need of skills to identify non-criminal alternative behaviors in risky situations.

The second factor, antisocial personality pattern, is characterized by an impulsive, pleasure-seeking, and risk-taking personality. This risk factor, though believed to be dynamic in nature in this context, is similar to Gottfredson and Hirschi's (1990) concept of low self-control. Individuals presenting with antisocial personality patterns place a high value on adventurous thrill-seeking and immediate gratification, which increases the probability of engaging in deviant behavior. This dynamic criminogenic need can be addressed by building problem-solving, anger management, and coping skills (Andrews et al., 2006).

Antisocial attitudes and thinking is the third of the big four risk factors. This factor is characterized by attitudes, beliefs, and values that are supportive of criminal behavior. These procriminal sentiments "represent the pool of justifications and exonerating statements that the person has available in any particular situation" (Andrews & Bonta, 2003:178). Antisocial cognitions enable individuals to rationalize deviant behavior, thus increasing the likelihood of its occurrence. Individuals with these beliefs and attitudes are in need of cognitive restructuring to reduce antisocial attitudes and recognize risky thinking triggers, so as to engage in alternative prosocial behaviors.

The fourth of the major risk factors which need to be targeted to reduce recidivism is the extent of antisocial peer associations. Deviant peer associations have been the subject of

countless empirical investigations, and their influences have proven significant and withstood the test of time (Akers, 1998). Association with criminal peers and the seclusion from pro-social peers leads to procriminal modeling and adjustments to the reward and cost structure associated with deviant behaviors, thus making the likelihood of continuation of those behaviors more likely (Akers, 1998). This dynamic criminogenic need can be addressed by reducing the associations with antisocial others and enhancing the exposure to prosocial peers.

Negative family situations are the fifth identified risk factor of the central eight. The key elements of this need are nurturing and support, and monitoring and supervision. Individuals who are reared in environments which lack support and monitoring of behavior are at increased odds of engaging in deviant behavior (Andrews et al., 2006). The notion of behavior monitoring is central to Gottfredson and Hirschi's explanation of deviant behavior with their General Theory and its emphasis on the monitoring, recognition, and consistent punishment of deviance (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). Addressing this dynamic need requires the reduction of conflict within the family environment, enhancing the three areas of effective parenting of monitoring, recognition, and punishment, and building positive relationships within the family structure.

The sixth factor identified in the empirical research is in the domain of school and work problems. The intent of this factor is to identify low levels of performance and satisfaction in the areas of school and employment. Enhancing the individual's performance in school or work and improving satisfaction or increasing rewards is an important way to address this dynamic need.

Problems in the area of recreation and leisure activities are the seventh risk factor of the central eight. This factor is composed of low levels of involvement in structured prosocial activities and pursuits. A low level of satisfaction with pursuing prosocial activities may also be

involved. Ways to address this dynamic need include increasing the rewards associated with engaging in anti-criminal activities, and enhancing the involvement in prosocial pursuits.

The final risk factor domain is substance abuse. This simply points to the increased likelihood of offending or re-offending for individuals who abuse alcohol or drugs. In order to address this dynamic need, a reduction in the abusing behavior must occur. Drug education has been found successful, but only when accompanied with building relapse prevention skills to identify triggers and alternative behaviors (Sherman et al., 1997). Historically, second generation prediction instruments have utilized an individual's history of substance abuse, but newer third and fourth generation assessments have begun to separate prior use from current use of alcohol or drugs.

### **Principles of Effective Intervention**

A meta-analysis of 374 controlled experimental studies of the treatment effects of various interventions on recidivism was conducted by the Carleton University (Andrews, et al., 1999). This analysis helped to reveal three principles of effective intervention: 1) the risk principle, 2) the need principle, and 3) the responsivity principle. The risk principle expresses the finding that intensity of treatments and interventions should mimic the intensity of the risk to re-offend. More intense services should be delivered to the highest risk youth (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Harland, 1996, McGuire, 2002; Sherman et al., 1997). Criminological literature actually shows high intensity services delivered to low-risk to re-offend youth are iatrogenic; having the negative consequence of actually increasing recidivism. It is important to remember the risk to re-offend concept is not to be confused with the seriousness of the presenting offense for which the individual may have come in contact with the criminal justice system for (Andrews, 2006). An individual may be lower risk to re-offend, regardless of the apparent heinousness of the presenting offense.

Studies spanning nearly thirty years have observed the negative effect of providing intense services to lower risk to re-offend youth (Andrews & Kiessling, 1980; Baird et al., 1979; Bonta et al., 2000; O'Donnell et al., 1971). In these studies, low-risk to re-offend individuals had higher recidivism percentages when they received intensive treatment compared with low-risk to re-offend individuals who received minimal treatment, and high-risk to re-offend individuals had lower recidivism percentages when receiving intensive treatment compared to high-risk receiving minimal treatment, all illustrating the importance of the risk principle. Furthermore, a greater percentage of high-risk individuals have a need for pro-social skills and thinking and will demonstrate a greater improvement, as lower risk individuals re-offending is a much lower base-rate phenomenon to begin with, thus making for a greater “bang-for-the-buck” as well (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Gendreau, 1996; Harland, 1996; McGuire, 2002; NIC, 2004; Sherman et al., 1997).

The need principle, the second principle of effective intervention, holds that services provided should address individualized criminogenic needs relevant to each individual. Criminogenic needs are dynamic, changeable factors associated with re-offending behavior that, when addressed or changed, affect the individual's risk to re-offend (NIC, 2004; Sherman et al., 1997). These needs are in contrast to static factors, such as age at first offense, prior substance abuse, or gender, which, while strong predictors of recidivism are not amenable to treatment and can not be change through intervention. The strongest dynamic correlates of crime are anti-social peer relationships, family factors, substance abuse, and antisocial attitudes, values and beliefs toward authority, education, and employment and low self-control (Gendreau, Andrews, Cugin & Chanteloupe, 1992; NIC, 2004). Seven of the central eight major risk factors outlined above (all except history of antisocial behavior) are dynamic needs that can be addressed through

intervention/treatment. Programs and interventions successful in reducing these criminogenic needs can expect corresponding reductions in recidivism, especially when the needs are prioritized through valid assessment so that services are focused on the greatest ones (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Gendreau et al., 1994; Harland, 1996).

An important caveat to the need principle is the notion of appropriateness. Individuals should only be treated, or receive interventions targeting, an actual need they possess. Research has shown it to be iatrogenic to provide blanket approaches and non-targeted services to individuals not presenting with the specific need addressed (Andrews, 2006; Brown & Campbell, 2005). For example, providing substance abuse services to an individual free of substance abuse problems may lead to an actual increase in recidivism (Brown & Campbell, 2005). This is in direct opposition to those, operating opposite to empirical findings, holding that simple education (such as substance abuse education) will deter individuals from every following a certain path. Andrews suggests appropriate targets including “building up low-risk alternative behavior in high-risk situations, reducing antisocial associations, and building up levels of reward, satisfaction, and monitoring in home, school, work, and leisure settings” (2006:598).

The third principle derived from the Carleton University databank was the responsivity principle. There are two types of responsivity, general and specific. General responsivity asserts that behavioral, social learning, and cognitive-behavioral strategies are the most effective when the preferred outcome is recidivism reduction (Andrews et al., 1990c; Andrews et al., 2006; Izzo & Ross, 1990; Lipsey, 1992). These strategies are more effective due to their use of techniques such as role-playing, modeling, graduated reinforcement, and skill-building (Hubbard, 2002). Lipsey (1992) evaluated over 400 studies in a meta-analysis and concluded that not only was

treatment more effective than control groups, but that type of treatment was the most important variable.

Cognitive-behavioral treatment is at the forefront of correctional treatment. Behavior therapy is a technique based on the principle that environment has an effect on learning and behavior through operant and classical conditioning (Hubbard, 2002). Behavior therapy assumes modeling to be essential in learning and that offenders have learned antisocial behaviors by watching others and the rewards/punishments achieved, and by being rewarded themselves for behaviors in the past. Antisocial behaviors, and attitudes conducive to them, are continued as a result of these reward contingencies. Behavioral therapy for offenders utilizes techniques of behavioral rehearsal, modeling, and token economies (Hubbard, 2002).

Cognitive therapy posits errors in thinking lead to problematic behavior (Yochelson & Samenow, 1976, 1977). This faulty thinking, coupled with offenders' impulsive tendencies, lack of problem solving skills, and failure to consider the consequences of their actions, is what drives delinquency (Hubbard, 2002). Cognitive therapy focuses on changing these thinking processes and patterns, and not on directly changing the behavior. Cognitive-behavioral therapy is a combination of the aforementioned two therapies and includes both a focus on the cognitions of offenders and changing those patterns, as well as utilizes behavioral strategies of modeling, role-playing, behavioral rehearsal, and reward/punishment contingencies. Cognitive-behavioral therapy teaches offenders "how to develop self-control, manage their anger more appropriately, develop empathy through role playing, improve problem solving abilities, and develop their level of moral reasoning" (Hubbard, 2002:38).

Specific responsivity is based on the assumption that not all offenders are alike and certain personal characteristics of offenders have the possibility of interfering with treatment (Andrews

& Bonta, 2003). Specific responsivity argues for the need to match services provided to the learning styles, personality, motivation, developmental stages, mental disorders, and demographics such as age, gender, and ethnicity of the individual (Andrews et al., 2006; Gordon, 1970; Miller & Rollnick, 2002). Specific responsivity is based on the assumption that the personal characteristics mentioned above may interfere with treatment and therefore need to be addressed. The essential issue of specific responsivity is the moving from what works in correctional treatment to which cognitive-behavioral curriculums work best for which offenders.

There exists a plethora of empirical research on general responsivity, while little more than theoretical speculation and hypothesizing has been undertaken with regard to the notion of specific responsivity. Van Voorhis (1987) holds that program evaluations will mask the effectiveness of treatment if offender classification, in terms of risk level, personality characteristics, and other responsivity characteristics, is not utilized. This lack of classification and matching offenders to appropriate treatment may lead to the assignment of individuals to harmful interventions that may even increase their risk of re-offending, making treatment programs appear to be failures when they may actually just have been misdirected.

One exception to this gap in specific responsivity literature has been a dissertation conducted by Hubbard (2002). The purpose of the study was to ascertain whether the characteristics of gender, depression, self-esteem, history of sexual abuse, intelligence, or personality affect treatment effectiveness. The question is whether these characteristics can affect whether individuals are successful in treatment, are capable of understanding the treatment, can focus while in treatment, and has the ability or willingness to alter behavior (Hubbard, 2002). Of the characteristics listed above, only gender and history of sexual abuse were significantly related to subsequent recidivism, with males and individuals with a history of sexual abuse more

likely to recidivate. Gender remained significant after controlling for risk to re-offend level, quality of programming, sexual abuse, depression, and self-esteem; all possible variables for which gender could possibly have been a proxy measure. Contrary to previous work (Fabiano et al., 1991) intelligence was not related to the outcome measure of recidivism, and those with lower IQ's performed equally well as those with higher IQ's.

Hubbard (2002) offered the possibility that the significance of gender may be due to different staff quality, leadership, programming or overall implementation of the curriculum for females. Another explanation offered was that perhaps women are more receptive to the strategies of cognitive-behavioral treatment. While possible, this position does not explain the fact that females, even in no-treatment control groups, always recidivate at a lower rate than males. The final explanation offered for the gender significance was that perhaps females are more motivated or able to take responsibility for their actions. This conclusion remains speculative, as noted by Hubbard (2002), since no control for or assessment of motivation was made. Overall, Hubbard (2002) found little support for specific responsivity and the possibility of personal characteristics impacting treatment effectiveness, except for gender and history of sexual abuse. The possibility that cognitive-behavioral treatment succeeds at reaching a wide variety of learning styles may negate the effects of personal characteristics on treatment success (Hubbard, 2002).

The Carleton meta-analysis uncovered the need for services provided to use behavioral, social learning, or cognitive-behavioral strategies rather than unstructured, insight-oriented, nondirective counseling or get tough approaches such as deterrence-oriented or "Scared Straight" interventions (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Sherman et al., 1997). The structuring strategies that have been found to work effectively include differential reinforcement, motivational

interviewing, practicing of new skills, and modeling (Andrews, 2006). The meta-analysis found that when correctional interventions adhered to the risk, need, and responsivity principles, the mean effect size was .26 in sixty tests of treatment. This is in contrast to .18 in eighty tests when only two of the principles are followed, and .02 in 106 tests when only one of the three are followed (Andrews & Bonta, 2003).

Recently, Andrews has incorporated a few more essential elements of effective programming, which he terms the “supplementary” principles of integrity and intervention implementation (Andrews, 2006). These supplementary elements deal with management and organizational aspects and help make for a more complete picture of what is needed for rehabilitative effectiveness (Andrews, 2001; Andrews & Bonta, 2003; NIC, 2004). The first additional element is the necessity of implementing and validating a structured risk/need assessment instrument. Differential risk designations and targeting of individualized criminogenic needs is critical to case management and treatment progression. Simply having effective instruments is not enough, if they are never fully implemented and utilized in the case planning process (Goggin & Gendreau, 2006). These elements illustrate the need for validated assessment instruments and demonstrate the importance of the current study, which attempts to examine the predictive ability, and construct validity of the PACT assessment.

Andrews (2006) also argues for the necessity of having program managers or directors and supervisors cognizant and attentive to the relationship skills and the structuring skills of the service delivery staff (ability of delivery staff to employ the responsivity principle).

Administrators or supervisors must carefully select, train, and supervise delivery staff according to the risk/need/responsivity principles to ensure compliance and proper implementation of the program. Staff competence has been found critical in enhancing the effectiveness of

programming and intervention to reduce recidivism, as evidenced by Barnoski's (2003) analysis of the conditions necessary for "blueprint" programs to successfully work. This principle was further evidenced by the possibility of the failure of Project Greenlight to be attributed to two case managers with inadequate training and skills in program delivery (Brown & Campbell, 2005).

Additional research has identified other principles of effective evidence-based practice. The fidelity principle holds that it is critical to monitor the implementation of treatment programs to ensure the curriculums are delivered in accordance to the way in which they were intended and designed. Many programs proven to be effective at reducing recidivism are delivered according to manualized curriculums that are partially scripted so as to ensure all facilitators deliver the lessons in identical fashion. The fidelity principle holds that it is beneficial to periodically monitor the delivery of treatment groups and coach facilitators.

Research has demonstrated that even sound and empirically supported programs, when not delivered with adherence to the protocol, will not have the extent of recidivism reduction evident in those programs that monitor treatment staff to ensure proper delivery (Barnoski, 2004; Lipsey, 1992; Lowenkamp et al., 2006). Simply choosing an evidence-based program from available lists, such as the University of Colorado "blueprints" programs is not enough, as even "model" programs such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Multisystemic Therapy (MST), and Functional Family Therapy (FFT) have failed when not properly implemented (Andrrews, 2006; Barnoski, 2004). There exists extensive literature that even programs that were empirically shown to be effective in one place and time were not so in another, due to differences in implementation (Welsh, 2006; Welsh & Harris, 2004). The major aim of the fidelity principle is to monitor the implementation quality and treatment fidelity to ensure programs are delivered the

way in which they were designed and intended to maximize program success and recidivism reduction (Lipsey, 1993; McGuire, 2002; Miller & Rollnick, 2002).

### **Gender Differences in Offending**

Gender is one of the single best predictors of delinquency, as males continue to offend at higher rates than their female counterparts. However, in recent years, research has begun to discover that, while rates of delinquency are declining for both males and females since 1997, the decline has not been shared equally among the sexes, nor does it offset the substantial increase in criminal offending between 1984 and 1997 (Snyder, 2003). Snyder and Sickmund (1999) have found arrests of adolescent females between 1987 and 1999 to have increased 76%, while arrests of adolescent males increased 42% (see also Chesney-Lind, 2001). Arrests for female juveniles increased 50.3% between 1981 and 1997, while arrests for male juveniles was observed at only a 16.5% increase, according to the Uniform Crime Reports (Chesney-Lind, 2001). A more alarming fact may be the increase in violent crime for female adolescents during the same period of 103%, while the arrests for male juvenile violent crime only increased 27% (Chesney-Lind, 2001). Despite the fact that male juveniles still account for the majority of juvenile crime (as is also true of adult criminality), female adolescents are unmistakably narrowing the gender gap. These statistics illustrate the necessity of examining the potential for gender differences with regard to risk and protective factors to offending as well as the predictability of gendered offender. The differences in the correlates of offending for males and females are central to the current focus of this study.

While many factors have empirically been related to delinquency, the question at hand has to do with whether or not the factors that predict female adolescent delinquency are different from those that predict male juvenile criminal involvement. An additional concern is the issue of differential significance. Perhaps, even though identical factors may predict delinquency of

both sexes, certain factors are more important in the prediction of criminality of one sex versus the other due to differential exposure.

Scholars have argued both sides of the coin as to whether identical prediction instruments can be utilized for females and males. Reisig and colleagues (2006:385) state, “whether actuarial risk tools...can effectively gauge women offenders’ risk and needs continues to be debated”. Scholars more orientated toward a feminist perspective argue that existing actuarial risk assessments ignore the gendered context of female criminality, as they were derived from male theories of crime and delinquency. These scholars contend existing tools fail to consider the economic disadvantages, propensity for drug-related offense involvement in the criminal justice system, and the importance of prior victimization, many females face (Covington, 2003; Holtfreter and Morash, 2003; Reisig et al., 2006). Proponents of identical risk assessment utilization maintain that the “potential influence of factors highlighted by feminist scholars (e.g. victimization, poverty, substance abuse) is captured... through offenders’ attitudes, peer associations, and the like” Reisig et al., 2006:385; see also Andrews and Bonta, 2003; Dowden and Andrews, 1999).

The scholars oriented towards the feminist gendered context of female criminality believe the utility of risk assessment tools is suspect since those tools were developed based on male theories of crime and delinquency and therefore ignore the specific risks and protective factors associated with female offending. These scholars hold the view that traditional criminological theories and empirical research were developed by men who brought forth assumptions about social life, society in general, and offending to predict criminality. The samples used in the studies to test and validate their assumptions were exclusively male and therefore would not be applicable or generalizable to female criminality, as feminists reject the notion that the same

functions and correlates explain both male and female delinquency (Chesney-Lind, 1989; Daly & Chesney-Lind, 1988; Reisig et al., 2006; Simpson, 1989).

Reisig and colleagues argue “male-centered theories fail to appreciate a variety of elements unique to female criminality, including the greater relative likelihood of young women fleeing abusive homes and experiencing domestic abuse as adults” (Reisig et al., 2006:388; see also Daly, 1992). Victimization during both childhood and as a young adult, alcohol and drug abuse, and economic disadvantage have all been disproportionately connected to female criminality in empirical literature (Broidy & Agnew, 1997; Covington, 2001; Reisig et al., 2006).

Daly (1992) suggests the need to differentiate women according to gendered pathways. Daly’s pathway framework examines how abuse history, substance use, economic disadvantage and destructive intimate relationships are differentially dispersed throughout the female population. Daly suggests disaggregating females into those who have prior histories with the aforementioned factors from those who do not, so as to more effectively predict the risk to re-offend associated with each group separately rather than as a whole. Daly suggests the need for four separate pathway groupings; street women, drug-connected, harmed and harming, and “other” (1992, 1994). Prior theory and research has not made similar assertions for the disaggregation of male offenders.

An additional attempt to answer the fundamental question of differential involvement and the reason for it can be extrapolated from Agnew’s general strain theory. General strain theory has been found unable to explain the higher rates of male delinquency in terms of amount of exposure to strain, as females experience at least as much strain as males (Broidy & Agnew, 1997). Gender differences in the types of strain experienced, such as material/financial, ties to others, family violence, and procedural justice, may foster the explanation of gender differences

in crime type; i.e. what offenses females and males most typically engage (see Broidy & Agnew, 1997).

Furthermore, gender differences in the response to emotional strain (particularly anger) help to explain differences in delinquency. Males are more likely to respond to anger with external aggressive behavior (inflicting harm on others), while females more likely to engage in self-directed behaviors (self-mutilation, substance abuse, disordered eating) when experiencing anger. Finally, general strain theory is useful for the explanation of gender differences in that males are more likely, due to differences in coping strategies, social ties, criminal opportunities, social control, and disposition to crime, respond to a given amount of strain with more serious and violent behaviors (Broidy & Agnew, 1997). In tandem with the gender differences described by the authors, Broidy and Agnew assert the importance to “note the above gender differences, to the extent that they exist, involve differences in *degree* rather than *kind*” (1997:296, emphasis in the original). The picture is not one in which different factors explain male and female criminality, but that different degrees of emphasis of those factors predict delinquency.

Reisig and colleagues (2006) argue, “the research addressing the predictive accuracy of risk assessment tools using samples of women offenders is relatively limited” (pp.387). One study examining the creation of actuarial risk assessments separately for female and male offenders shows the male model to be similar to the combined sample construction, but the female model to resemble neither the male model nor the combined sample model (Funk, 1999). By creating a female specific model, the adjusted R-squared increased from .21 for the combined sample model to .32 for the female only model (Funk, 1999). Interestingly enough, the male-only model achieved an R-squared of only .20, meaning the authors were able to predict female re-offending significantly better than male re-offending.

Contrary to the view presented in the Funk study, is the meta-analysis conducted by Simourd and Andrews (1994), who examined 60 studies and 464 correlations between delinquency and risk factors to determine whether specific factors are more important for one gender than for the other. These authors found no differences in risk factors across gender; the general risk factors important for male delinquency were identical to those important for female delinquency. Furthermore, and even more essential is that no risk factor was found to be more important for a particular gender, however, victimization was not included as too few studies utilized that correlate. The inability to include victimization, and even more specifically to separate different types of abuse/neglect is a disadvantage in light of the gendered pathways research described below. The current study will be able to examine this factor in more detail and with substantial sample size to allow for gender comparison of the role of abuse/neglect.

Gender differences in offending are argued to have serious repercussions with respect to utilizing scores from actuarial risk/needs assessments. For example, women charged with serious violent offenses are most often accessories to the event and not the primary instigator, a situation that would lead to over-classification of risk to re-offend on any actuarial instrument considering previous engagement in a violent offense as leading to risk (Reisig et al., 2006). The over-classification argument is rejected by supporters of actuarial tools who acknowledge a dearth of empirical research to support the notion (Blanchette, 2002; Reisig et al., 2006). The importance of the over-classification argument is essential to the possibility of equality in the prediction of male and female likelihood of offending, and thus necessitates the inclusion of a focus on gender-specific false positive calculations. Essential to the current study is the need to ascertain whether female offenders predicted to offend yet subsequently abstain is disproportional to those instances with males.

## **Current Focus**

The PACT risk/needs assessment has not yet been formally validated in terms of predicting recidivism in the state of Florida for the youth served by the Department of Juvenile Justice. An initial pre-validation examination used proxy measures of criminal history in an attempt to assess whether the risk levels presented closely match in percentage those attained using the Washington State assessment upon which the PACT was based, which they in fact have. The actual PACT assessment of official criminal history was not used, and no social history items were included in the scoring, as the PACT includes. Additional preliminary reports and analysis indicate that the PACT risk levels (as presented by the actual PACT assessment) do indeed predict recidivism, with higher risk to re-offend youth recidivating at higher rates (Winokur & Blankenship, 2007). However, these initial validation attempts have only been able to track youth up to six months after PACT administration and have not examined whether the assessment predicts recidivism equally well for females as it does males. Formal gender comparisons on any level of complexity have unfortunately been lacking up to this point.

The focus of this study is on assessing the validity of the PACT assessment for predicting recidivism, tracking juvenile offenders for over twelve months post-administration, and providing gender comparisons for instrument effectiveness. The current study will also examine the relationship between risk to re-offend and time to failure, hypothesizing higher risk to re-offend youth more likely to commit a new offense in a shorter time post-assessment than lower risk youth. The study will furthermore investigate whether identical items should be included to predict female recidivism as used to predict male recidivism.

The PACT risk/need assessment is designed to assess a youth's overall risk to re-offend level. Therefore, it is hypothesized youth with higher overall risk levels will be more likely to recidivate than youth with lower overall risk levels. It is hypothesized that the assessment will be

valid for youth assessed who remain in the community, or who are assessed in residential commitment and tracked post-release, as the risk factors for recidivism are similar for all youth. The third hypothesis relates to the scoring of the PACT. Individuals with higher criminal history scores (more serious official prior offending histories) will be more likely to recidivate than individuals with a lower criminal history score. The notion of more extensive serious prior offending being predictive of a higher likelihood of recidivism is not new to criminological literature (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; Moffitt, 1993; Sherman et al., 1997). However, the criminal history of the PACT as it is scored has not been validated with respect to recidivism when tracking youth twelve months post-assessment. Additionally, it is predicted youth with higher social history scores will be more likely to recidivate. The social history score has never been examined as it relates to recidivism for youth tracked twelve months post-assessment.

Central to the current study is the importance of gender comparison. No attempts have yet to be made to examine the validity of the PACT assessment with regard to whether the instrument predicts recidivism as well for female youth as it does for male youth. Additionally, research examining the predictive accuracy of actuarial risk assessment of female offenders is relatively sparse (Reisig et al., 2006). The overall risk score presented by the PACT instrument is hypothesized to be a significant predictor for male recidivism and female recidivism. In other words, it is hypothesized that there is no need for any other gender-specific scoring differences, other than the additional one point on the social history score males automatically receive. The PACT currently gives males one point on their social history score automatically, for being male, and females zero points automatically.

The additional point assignment for males is in relation to the commonly accepted extant relationship in the field of criminology between gender and offending, finding males

significantly more likely to engage in offending behavior than females (Farrington, 1986; Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; Moffitt, 1993). The current study hypothesizes no additional need for scoring alteration for females or males due to literature asserting the causes of delinquency to be essentially the same for males and females (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; Hubbard & Pratt, 2002; Lipsey, 1992; Moffitt, 1993). Hubbard and Pratt (2002) found the predictors of female delinquency to be the same as those of male delinquency, namely a history of antisocial behavior, antisocial attitudes, antisocial personality, and antisocial peers. These scholars did, however, find school and family relationships and a history of physical and/or sexual abuse to be significant predictors of female delinquency. The PACT assessment does take these factors into account with respect to scoring, as mentioned above, making it possible to examine the relationships observed by Hubbard and Pratt (2002).

The causes of delinquency of female offenders has historically been lacking in the extant criminological literature (Hubbard & Pratt, 2002; Pratt et al., 1998). Criminological theory, the “causes” of criminality, and the research on crime and deviance have been based on male offending and then generalized to female offenders (Belknap, 1996; Chesney-Lind & Sheldon, 1992; Hubbard & Pratt, 2002). Hubbard and Pratt acknowledge the importance of discerning whether the predictors of female delinquency are identical as those for male delinquency and state if “the strongest predictors of female delinquency are different for females, correctional programs may need to make adjustments to target certain gender-specific risk factors” rather than simply apply the treatment programs found effective for male delinquency to female offenders (2002: 2). Additional scholars have asserted the existence of “gendered pathways”, finding the importance of sexual and physical abuse in the development of female offending (Chesney-Lind & Rodriguez, 1983; Hubbard & Pratt, 2002; Reisig et al., 2006). History of

abuse, both physical and sexual, is a predominant risk factor for both females and males, yet the fact that females are more likely to be victims of the abuse could arguably disproportionately increase the probability of females engaging in criminal behavior as a result of such abuse (Hubbard & Pratt, 2002).

Additionally, females charged with serious or violent offenses are, more often than males, accessories that did not instigate the offending, and therefore are misclassified as higher risk by assessment instruments and become “false positives” that in fact do not re-offend (Reisig et al., 2006). The inclusion of an assessment within the PACT of history of physical abuse, history of sexual abuse, and school relationships will enable the current study to assess whether these factors are more important for the prediction of female recidivism than for males. Previous research indicates that actuarial assessments are not predictive of female offending as a whole, but are valid for predicting the recidivism for economically motivated women (Reisig et al., 2006). The current study will examine whether the PACT assessment is a valid predictor of female re-offending.

Gender differences that may appear in analysis of the PACT assessment are hypothesized to be the result of prevalence of some social history measurements utilized in the instrument scoring. The current study hypothesizes that all significant gender differences will wash out to insignificance once the proxy measure is taken into account (for example history of sexual abuse being more prevalent for females; the issue is not the youth being female, but the youth having a history of sexual abuse).

The discussion above leads to the following hypotheses:

- Overall risk to re-offend, as presented by the PACT, will significantly predict recidivism, with higher risk youth more likely to re-offend.

- Youth assessed as higher risk to re-offend will do so regardless of whether the youth was assessed and placed on probation supervision, or assessed during a residential commitment placement and tracked post-release.
- The higher the criminal history score as presented by the PACT, the more likely the youth will re-offend.
- The higher the social history score, as presented by the PACT, the more likely the youth will re-offend.
- Overall risk to re-offend, as presented by the PACT, will be a significant predictor of male recidivism and female recidivism.
- Males will be more likely to re-offend than females, controlling for overall risk level.
- Gender differences that may appear will be “washed out” to insignificance with the inclusion of proxy measures (such as school relationships and history of physical or sexual abuse).
- History of physical or sexual abuse will not be a stronger predictor of female re-offending than of male re-offending.

## CHAPTER 3 METHODS

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice maintains a comprehensive database called the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). The database stores information on all youth entering the system and all services provided to those youth. From the JJIS database, the Office of Research and Planning performs monthly cumulative updates of various data elements on youth served and placement history. Part of these monthly extracts includes all PACT assessments administered. The monthly data extract for February 2007 will be utilized for the current study. The extract contains all PACT assessments from the initial November 15, 2005 implementation date up to the date of the extract (February 4, 2007). The PACT extract contains the date each assessment was administered, as well as the overall risk score, criminal history risk score, social history risk score, answers to each PACT question, and gender. Furthermore the extract contains information as to whether the assessment was a PACT Pre-Screen or a Full Assessment. The PACT data will serve as the initial prediction of whether the youth will recidivate and the length of time until re-offending occurs.

The PACT data will be merged with another monthly data extract that captures the entire offense history for every youth who enters the juvenile justice system. This extract contains demographic information including date of birth, race, ethnicity, and gender. The extract also includes all prior referrals for each youth who has ever entered the juvenile justice system, reliable from 1994 to the present. Currently, there are over two million records of referrals for juvenile offenders contained in the extracts. The extract for April 2007 will be utilized for this study, containing all referral records up to April 6, 2007.

The data is stored by referral meaning that each youth may have multiple referrals within the database. Every referral has a unique referral identification number and every youth has a unique identifier, called the djjid number. Every line of data is a unique referral with information pertaining to the date of the referral, the date of the arrest, and the date of the offense. Furthermore, information related to the most serious offense within the referral is collected, as an arrest can be made for one event with multiple charges. The data also include information about whether the youth was adjudicated and the resulting disposition.

The referral extract will be used to examine recidivism. Therefore, the dependent variable will be recidivism based on an official delinquency referral to the Department of Juvenile Justice post-administration of a PACT assessment. The PACT data are organized by djjid number (uniquely identifying each youth) and by PACT identification number (uniquely identifying each PACT assessment). The two extracts will be merged so that PACT information and referral information for each youth can be examined. All youth included in the PACT extract must have a referral history since they are given an initial PACT assessment at intake, after being referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The referral history prior to the PACT assessment will be captured in Domain 1 of the PACT, which scores official criminal history. The referral extract is necessary, however, to examine all referrals occurring after the date of PACT administration. This creates a situation in which a youth is assessed using the PACT and given a score representing that youth's risk to re-offend. In order to validate the PACT, the current study will examine whether subsequent official delinquency referrals after PACT administration can be predicted in relation to the youth's overall risk to re-offend.

## **PACT data**

The February 2007 monthly PACT extract utilized for the current study contains 111,450 PACT assessments. The data includes 88,670 Pre-Screen assessments and 22,780 Full Assessments. Of the Pre-Screen assessments completed, 67,300 (75.9%) were administered to males and 21,370 (24.1%) to females. Data for the Full Assessments include 18,270 (80.2%) males, and 4510 (19.8%) females. Arguably, the most important variable contained in both the Pre-Screen and Full Assessment is the overall risk to re-offend. The 111,450 assessments reveal 50.9% of the youth to be low risk to re-offend, 15.8% moderate, 17.9% moderate-high, and 15.5% high risk to re-offend. The overall risk score, as mentioned above, is derived from a matrix of a criminal history score, coded 0-31 with the higher the score the greater the previous official referral seriousness, and a social history score, coded 0-18 with the higher the score the more risk factors present in the youth's social environment. The mean criminal history score for the 111,450 assessments is 8.30 (standard deviation of 5.482) and the mean social history score 4.96 (standard deviation of 2.885). Overall risk to re-offend has been coded from 1 to 4 representing low risk to re-offend (1), and then moderate (2), moderate-high (3), and high risk to re-offend (4). The mean overall risk to re-offend for the 111,450 assessments is 1.98, with a standard deviation of 1.143.

The criminal history score is derived entirely from Domain 1, which consists of twelve questions. Two of the questions, sexual misconduct misdemeanor referrals, and felony sex offense referrals, are not used in the criminal history scoring to count towards overall risk to re-offend. The remaining ten questions from Domain 1 are used to generate the criminal history score (see Table 3-1 for descriptive statistics). The answer to all Domain 1 questions, as described above, are automated from JJIS, the Department's

“real-time” database which captures, among many other elements, the entire official referral history for every youth entering the juvenile justice system.

The first Domain 1 question utilized in the criminal history scoring assesses the youth on the age at the time of the offense for which the youth was first referred (again, see Appendix B and Appendix C for exact wording of PACT questions). The item is coded 1 to 5 with 1 being over age 16 at first referral, 2 being 16 years of age, 3 for 15 years of age, 4 for 13 to 14 years of age, and 5 for 12 years of age or under. The next two items assess the number of misdemeanors and felonies for which the youth was referred, respectively. The misdemeanor item is coded from 1 to 4, with 1 being none or one referral, 2 being two referrals, 3 being three or four referrals, and 4 representing five or more misdemeanor referrals. The felony item is also coded 1 to 4, but is more stringent on the criteria. For this item, 1 represents no felony referrals, 2 being one referral, 3 being two referrals, and 4 representing three or more felony referrals.

Table 3-1. Criminal History Item Descriptive Statistics

Criminal History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age at First Offense	111,450	1	5	2.2898	1.219
Adjudicated Misdemeanors	111,450	1	4	1.6912	0.93
Adjudicated Felonies	111,450	1	4	2.0778	1.01
Total Weapon Offenses	111,450	1	2	1.249	0.331
Total Against-person Misd.	111,450	1	3	1.4349	0.658
Total Against-person felonies	111,450	0	2	1.2299	0.463
Secure Detention Placements	111,450	1	4	1.8986	1.163
Commitment Placements	111,450	1	3	1.156	0.422
Total Escape Adjudications	111,450	1	3	1.0073	0.089
Total Failure to Appear PUOs	111,450	1	3	1.3957	0.698

The next three items assess the extent of official against-person and weapon referrals in the youth's history. Weapon referrals is coded 1 to 2, with 1 being no weapon referrals, and 2 representing one or more referrals for which the most serious offense in the referral was a firearm/weapon charge. The next two items measure against-person referrals, which are broken down by misdemeanors and felonies. Misdemeanor against-person referrals are coded 1 to 3, with 1 being no against-person misdemeanor referrals, 2 being one referral, and 3 representing two or more referrals for which the most serious offense was a misdemeanor involving threats, force, or physical harm to another person. The against-person felony item is coded 0 to 2, with 0 representing no against-person felony referrals, 1 being one or two such referrals, and 2 representing three or more against-person felony referrals.

The remaining four questions utilized in the scoring of official criminal history relate to confinements, residential commitments, escapes, and pick up orders for failure- to-appear in court. The confinements item measures the number of times the youth was held for at least forty-eight hours in a detention facility. This item is coded 1 to 4, representing no detention confinements (1), one confinement (2), two confinements (3), and three or more confinements in a detention facility (4). The total number of residential commitment confinements is coded 1 to 3, representing no placements in a residential facility (1), one placement (2), and a history of two or more residential placements (3). History of escapes is coded 1 to 3, representing no history of escape (1), one attempt or actual escape (2), and two or more attempted or actual escapes (3). The final criminal history item used in scoring gauges the number of failures-to-appear in court that have resulted in a pick up order being issued in the youth's history. The item is coded 1 to 3, representing no pick up orders (1), one (2), and two or more pick up orders for failure-to-appear (3).

Table 3-2. Social History Item Descriptive Statistics

Social History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sex	111,450	0	1	0.7678	0.422
Current School Enrollment	111,450	1	6	2.5592	1.23
Recent School Conduct	111,450	1	5	2.9025	1.183
Recent School Attendance	111,450	1	5	2.6197	1.533
Recent Academic Performance	111,450	1	5	3.3858	0.946
Anti-social Peers	111,450	0	2	0.6688	0.552
Out-of-home Placements	111,450	1	4	1.2003	0.593
History of Running Away	111,450	1	5	1.5722	1.11
Parental Authority/Control	111,450	1	3	1.7241	0.68
Household Jail History	111,450	0	1	0.9951	0.07
History of Alcohol Use	111,450	0	1	0.3375	0.473
History of Drug Use	111,450	0	1	0.4758	0.499
Current Alcohol Use	111,450	0	1	0.2203	0.414
Current Drug Use	111,450	0	1	0.3544	0.478
History of Physical Abuse	111,450	0	2	0.237	0.608
History of Sexual Abuse	111,450	0	1	0.0497	0.217
History of Neglect	111,450	1	2	1.0723	0.259
Mental Health Problems	111,450	1	5	1.2738	0.847

The social history of the youth is assessed, in part, using the eighteen items illustrated in Table 3-2. Descriptive statistics for these social history items are reported in Table 3-2. The first item assessing social history is sex. Females are coded as 0 and males as 1. Current school enrollment status is coded 1 to 6, representing the youth has graduated high school or has received a GED (1), being enrolled full-time (2), enrolled part-time (3), suspended (4), dropped out (5), and having been expelled (6). Recent school conduct is measured next, coded 1 to 5. Conduct is broken down by recognition for good behavior, no problems with school conduct, problems reported by teacher, problem calls to parents, and lastly, calls to police related to the youth's conduct. The youth's recent academic attendance is coded 1 to 5, representing good attendance with few absences (1), no unexcused absences (2), some partial-day unexcused (3), some full-day unexcused (4), and the youth being a habitual truant (5). Academic performance

rounds out the school-related measures, and is coded 1 to 5. Honor students are coded as 1, G.P.A. above 3.0 coded 2, G.P.A. from 2.0 to 3.0 coded as 3, G.P.A. from 1.0 to 2.0 coded as 4, and G.P.A. below 1.0 represented as 5.

The youth's current friends/companions who the youth actually spends time with is broken down by no consistent friends or companions, pro-social friends, anti-social friends, and gang members/associates. Within the PACT software, this item can receive multiple "checks" meaning that the individual administering the instrument can record that the youth spends time with any combination of the options listed above. The item has been recoded for this study to separate youth who spend no time with anti-social friends, or have all pro-social friends, from those who spend time with anti-social friends, and from youth who are gang members or have friends who are gang members/associates. The new item has been coded 0 to 2, representing no anti-social friends (0), anti-social friends (1), and the youth who are gang members or actually spend time with gang members (3).

History of court-ordered or Department of Children and Families voluntary out-of-home and shelter care placements exceeding thirty days is measured as part of the social history scoring. This item is coded 1 to 4, representing no out-of-home placements exceeding thirty days (1), one placement (2), two placements (3), and three or more out-of-home placements (4). The youth's history of running away is coded 1 to 5, representing no history or running away or being kicked out (1), one instance of running away (2), two to three instances (3), four to five instances (4), and over five instances of running away (5).

The jail and imprisonment history of individuals currently living in the household with the youth is taken into account in the social history scoring as well. This item differentiates youth living with no one with a history from the mother having a history of jail/prison, the father

having a history, older siblings having a history, younger siblings having a history, and from other members of the household having a history of jail or imprisonment. The individual administering the PACT is able to “check” each of these scenarios separately, much like the “current friends” item described above. Therefore, this item was recoded to represent the history of jail/imprisonment of individuals currently living in the household with the youth, now coded 0 to 1. The new coding coincides with the scoring utilized by the PACT separating youth who currently live in a household without an individual who has a history of jail or imprisonment (coded as 0) from those living with at least one such individual (coded as 1).

The level of parental authority and control is accounted for in the social history score and coded 1 to 3. Youth who usually obey parents and follow the rules they set are coded as 1, youth sometimes obeying the rules coded as 2, and youth consistently disobeying rules or acting hostile toward the parents are coded as 3. Four items measuring alcohol and drug use are measured as well. History of alcohol use, history of drug use, current alcohol use, and current drug use are each utilized in the social history scoring. History of use includes any use by the youth in his/her lifetime. Current use refers to engaging in the behavior in the last six months. The two history of use items are broken down by no past use, past use, alcohol (or drugs) disrupted education, caused family conflict, interfered with keeping pro-social friends, caused health problems, contributed to criminal behavior, youth needed increasing amounts to achieve the same level of intoxication or high, and youth experienced withdrawal problems. Current use is broken down by not currently using, currently using, alcohol (or drugs) disrupts education, causes family conflict, interferes with keeping pro-social friends, causes health problems, contributes to criminal behavior, youth needs increasing amounts, and youth experiences withdrawal problems. Identical to two scenarios described above, the individual administering the PACT can “check” all

answers that item, necessitating the need to recode the items. The new items are coded 0 to 1 separating individuals with no history of use, or no current use in the case of the second two variables, from youth with a history of use or current use. Recoding the variables in this manner is consistent with the scoring utilized in the social history score.

Abuse and mental health issues are the last four items used in the social history scoring. For the abuse and neglect items, suspected incidents of abuse are included, as are those disclosed by the youth (whether or not reported or substantiated officially) but reports of abuse and neglect investigated officially and proven to be false are excluded. Youth are assessed for a history of being the victim of physical abuse, which is broken down by not having been a victim, having been a victim at home, having been a victim in a foster/group home, having been victimized by a family member, having been victimized by someone outside of the family, and having been attacked by a weapon. Again, the individual administering the PACT can “check” all scenarios that apply. The item has therefore been recoded 0 to 2 to separate youth not having been a victim (coded as 0) from youth ever having been victimized by a family member or someone outside the family (coded as 1) and from youth ever having been the victim of physical abuse at home, in a foster/group home, or attacked with a weapon (coded as 2). Recoding the item in this manner is consistent with the scoring used and the notion that being attacked with a weapon or having been victimized where the youth was residing achieves some higher level of seriousness than only having been a victim.

History of sexual abuse/rape is assessed and taken into account in the scoring of social history. The item differentiates youth who have not been a victim of sexual abuse or rape from youth having been abused/raped by a family member, and from youth having been abused/raped by someone outside of the family. Youth may have been victimized both by a family member,

and by someone outside of the family. The individual administering the PACT may “check” all that apply. The item has been recoded 0 to 1 to separate youth not having been a victim of sexual abuse/rape from those that have, regardless of the perpetrator. Recoding the item in this fashion is consistent with the method used in the social history scoring. History of being the victim of neglect is assessed, coded 1 to 2. Individuals not having been the victim of neglect (coded as 1) are separated from individuals that have been the victim of neglect (coded as 2).

Finally, the youth’s history of mental health problems is assessed. Mental health problems such as schizophrenia, bi-polar, mood, thought, personality, and adjustment disorders are included. Conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, substance abuse, and ADD/ADHD are excluded. The problem must have been confirmed by a professional in the social service/healthcare field to be included, as individuals administering the assessment are predominately non-licensed, non-clinical staff (usually they are juvenile probation officers). The item is coded 1 to 5, with 1 being no history of mental health problems, 2 being diagnosed with mental health problems, 3 being diagnosed and only mental health medication is prescribed, 4 being diagnosed and only mental health treatment prescribed, and 5 representing the youth being diagnosed and having mental health medication and treatment prescribed.

The above section has articulated the items from the PACT that are used in deriving the criminal history score as well as various social history items. The remaining ninety-eight items in the Full Assessment are used to gain a comprehensive picture of the youth and his/her past and present situation with respect to the twelve PACT domains. These remaining items, however, are not utilized in the scoring of the overall risk to re-offend revealed by the PACT assessment. The items used in the overall risk to re-offend scoring of the PACT assessment will be utilized in the current validation/gender comparison study. These variables will be examined with respect to

their ability to predict official recidivism for the juvenile offending population, using Florida Department of Juvenile Justice JJIS data as explained above.

### **Sample**

The PACT data outlined above represent all PACT assessments completed from August of 2005 to February 2007. The PACT is administered to each youth who enters the juvenile justice system in the state of Florida. Furthermore, each youth remaining in the custody of the Department is re-assessed every ninety days, as well as sixty days prior to release, if placed in residential commitment. Due to the re-assessment process, and the fact that many youth enter the juvenile justice system on multiple occasions, the current study narrows the sample down so as to utilize the first ever Full Assessment for each youth in the sample. In the event a Full Assessment was never administered to the youth, the first ever Pre-Screen is utilized. The first assessment administered to the youth was chosen so as to maximize the follow-up period possible to track recidivism. As the PACT assessment is a new process, implemented in August of 2005, allowing for follow-up times is a critical factor. The choice to use the first Full Assessment was made in order to capture the most information available on each youth, due to the Full Assessment containing 126 variables versus the forty-six included in the Pre-Screen.

The sampling procedure outlined above resulted in a final N of 48,871. There is no need to divide the sample into subgroups for the purpose of construction and validation samples as would be necessary in the event an instrument were being designed. The current study is attempting to validate and examine an existing instrument and, as a result, will not benefit from the construction and replication process nor will it suffer any shrinkage issues that would normally accompany instrument development. Future research wishing to examine potential improvements to the existing instrument and/or scoring protocols would be well advised to

utilize a sub-sample for construction plus multiple replication samples to ascertain shrinkage and predictive validity.

However, the current study benefits from dividing the sample into those youth that were assessed and subsequently remained in the community versus those youth assessed and placed in residential commitment. The study may have kept these sub-samples together and simply controlled for “street time”, beginning the follow-up period immediately for youth remaining in the community and waiting until release from residential commitment to begin the follow-up period for the committed youth. The decision was instead made to separate youth into the two categories mentioned above and analyzed independent of one another to assess the effectiveness of the PACT for youth remaining in the community versus those youth being released from residential placement.

### **Cohort 1 Descriptive Statistics**

Prior to dividing the overall sample into community youth and residential youth, the decision was made to split the sample into two cohorts. Cohort 1 will consist of youth who are tracked for only six months, while Cohort 2 consists of youth who are followed for twelve months. This will allow for the utilization of as many cases as possible of youth who have received the PACT assessment thus far, as well as allow for the examination of the effectiveness of the assessment to predict short-term and long-term success. Youth who can be tracked twelve months, and thus placed in Cohort 2, are not also placed in Cohort 1. The youth that remain in the community are tracked beginning right after the assessment and followed six months for Cohort 1 and twelve months for Cohort 2. The youth who are in residential commitment are tracked following release from placement and then followed six months post-release for Cohort 1 youth and twelve months post-release for Cohort 2 youth.

Table 3-3. Community Cohort 1 Criminal History Descriptive Statistics

Criminal History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age at First Offense	36,325	1	5	2.5581	1.298
Adjudicated Misdemeanors	36,325	1	4	1.4332	0.762
Adjudicated Felonies	36,325	1	4	1.7703	0.853
Total Weapon Offenses	36,325	1	2	1.0951	0.293
Total Against-person Misd.	36,325	1	3	1.3428	0.584
Total Against-person felonies	36,038	1	2	1.1984	0.3988
Secure Detention Placements	36,325	1	4	1.5	0.931
Commitment Placements	36,325	1	3	1.0829	0.315
Total Escape Adjudications	36,325	1	3	1.0032	0.058
Total Failure to Appear PUOs	36,325	1	3	1.2158	0.533

Table 3-4. Community Cohort 1 Social History Descriptive Statistics

Social History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sex	36,325	0	1	0.7335	0.442
Current School Enrollment	34,489	1	6	2.4114	1.103
Recent School Conduct	29,982	1	5	2.6863	1.122
Recent School Attendance	29,982	1	5	2.3237	1.439
Recent Academic Performance	29,982	1	5	3.2571	0.923
Anti-social Peers	36,325	0	2	0.6125	0.538
Out-of-home Placements	36,325	1	4	1.1445	0.504
History of Running Away	36,325	1	5	1.3658	0.892
Parental Authority/Control	36,105	1	3	1.5628	0.632
Household Jail History	36,105	0	1	0.2173	0.412
History of Alcohol Use	36,325	0	1	0.2783	0.448
History of Drug Use	36,325	0	1	0.3848	0.487
Current Alcohol Use	32,043	0	1	0.1088	0.311
Current Drug Use	32,043	0	1	0.2204	0.415
History of Physical Abuse	36,325	0	2	0.1814	0.538
History of Sexual Abuse	36,325	0	1	0.0394	0.195
History of Neglect	36,325	1	2	1.0506	0.219
Mental Health Problems	35,466	1	5	1.2107	0.758

The resulting sub-samples of Cohort 1 community and residential youth yield a final N of 36,325 community and 3,399 residential Cohort 1 youth. The first sub-sample to be examined is composed of youth remaining in the community with the follow-up period beginning

immediately after the PACT assessment. The community Cohort 1 sub-sample is 56.7% white, 42.7% black, and 0.6% “other”. This sub-sample is 73.3% male and 26.7% female. Descriptive statistics for the criminal history and the social history of the community Cohort 1 sub-sample can be seen in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4, respectively.

The second Cohort 1 sub-sample is composed of youth exiting residential commitment placement prior to beginning the six-month follow-up period. The residential sub-sample is 44.6% white, 55% black, and 0.4% “other”. The residential sub-sample is 84.5% male and 15.5% female. The descriptive statistics outlining the criminal history and social history of the residential sub-sample are reported in Table 3-5 and Table 3-6, respectively.

Table 3-5. Residential Cohort 1 Criminal History Descriptive Statistics

Criminal History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age at First Offense	3,399	1	5	1.8664	0.972
Adjudicated Misdemeanors	3,399	1	4	2.0891	1.047
Adjudicated Felonies	3,399	1	4	2.7193	1.041
Total Weapon Offenses	3,399	1	2	1.1692	0.375
Total Against-person Misd.	3,399	1	3	1.5711	0.741
Total Against-person felonies	3,232	1	2	1.3685	0.482
Secure Detention Placements	3,399	1	4	2.8653	1.154
Commitment Placements	3,399	1	3	1.4693	0.629
Total Escape Adjudications	3,399	1	3	1.0274	0.172
Total Failure to Appear PUOs	3,399	1	3	1.6973	0.837

### Cohort 1 Analysis

The first step is to assess the effectiveness of the PACT to predict re-offending for the Cohort 1 community sub-sample and the residential sub-sample, separately, before moving to Cohort 2 comparisons. The purpose of this step is to ascertain whether the instrument is effective at predicting recidivism for youth who remain in the community subsequent to assessment as well as youth exiting a residential commitment placement prior to beginning the six-month follow-up. Consistent with prior risk assessment research, re-offending is operationalized as any

subsequent delinquency referral after the assessment date (Funk, 1999:55; see also Foley, 1991; Wiebush et al., 1995). The current study uses the date of the subsequent offense post-assessment as it is capturing the behavior that desired, and not any indication of police or court action, so will use the actual date the offense occurred. Recidivism, therefore, for the purposes of this study, will be any subsequent delinquency referral to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The “success” or “failure” of a youth will determined based on whether the youth commits a new offense for which he/she is officially referred by law enforcement to the Department and having an offense date within six months for Cohort 1 youth and twelve months for Cohort 2 youth from the beginning of the follow-up period.

Table 3-6. Residential Cohort 1 Social History Descriptive Statistics

Social History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sex	3,399	0	1	0.8452	0.362
Current School Enrollment	2,889	1	6	2.5147	1.158
Recent School Conduct	2,602	1	5	3.0223	1.171
Recent School Attendance	2,602	1	5	2.9181	1.596
Recent Academic Performance	2,602	1	5	3.5984	0.963
Anti-social Peers	3,399	0	2	0.7941	0.539
Out-of-home Placements	3,399	1	4	1.3113	0.718
History of Running Away	3,399	1	5	1.9412	1.343
Parental Authority/Control	3,337	1	3	2.0039	0.701
Household Jail History	3,399	0	1	0.341	0.474
History of Alcohol Use	3,399	0	1	0.474	0.499
History of Drug Use	3,399	0	1	0.6764	0.468
Current Alcohol Use	3,399	0	1	0.2304	0.421
Current Drug Use	3,399	0	1	0.5179	0.5
History of Physical Abuse	3,399	0	2	0.3033	0.676
History of Sexual Abuse	3,399	0	1	0.0691	0.254
History of Neglect	3,399	1	2	1.1068	0.309
Mental Health Problems	3,309	1	5	1.417	0.98

The dependent variable for analysis of the effectiveness of the PACT risk to re-offend prediction for Cohort 1 community and residential youth is dichotomous (either the youth

recidivated within six months or not) and therefore the use of logistic regression is appropriate. The analysis, beginning with Cohort 1 community youth, uses the overall level of risk to re-offend, as measured utilizing the PACT assessment, to predict recidivism, based on a new referral to the Department of Juvenile Justice subsequent to the assessment date. Consistent with prior research, the analysis begins by assessing recidivism rates across risk-need categories of overall risk to re-offend (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Andrews et al., 2001; Bonta, LaPairie, & Wallace-Capretta, 1997; Reisig et al., 2006). Descriptive statistics for overall risk to re-offend can be seen in Table 3-7. Low risk to re-offend youth made up 70.7% of the sample, moderate risk 13.2%, moderate-high risk 10%, and high risk to re-offend 6.1%. The percentage of low risk youth who received a new referral to the Department within six months was 19.6%. The percentage for moderate risk youth was 34.7%, 38.6% for moderate-high, and 43.4% of all high risk youth received a new referral to the Department within six months.

Table 3-7. Community Cohort 1 Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Overall Risk to Re-offend	36,325	1	4	1.5158	0.904
Sex	36,325	0	1	0.7335	0.442
Race	36,325	0	1	0.4332	0.496
Referral within six months	36,325	0	1	0.2499	0.433

The analysis using logistic regression to predict six-month recidivism of youth who remain in the community after receiving a PACT assessment reveals that overall risk to re-offend is a statistically significant predictor, with a p-value of .000. Youth assessed as having a higher overall risk to re-offend score are more likely to recidivate than youth assessed as lower risk. As Table 3-8 illustrates, each increase in the independent variable, overall risk to re-offend, produces a 1.543 increase in the dependent variable, recidivism (an over 50% increase).

Next, race was also included as a covariate, simply separating white (coded 0) and non-white (coded as 1). The final covariate included was sex, separating males (coded 1) and females (coded 0). Logistic regression was once again utilized to predict a delinquency referral tracked six months post PACT assessment for youth who remain in the community, this time using overall risk to re-offend, race, and sex as predictors. The analysis reveals all three covariates to be significant predictors of a delinquency referral subsequent to PACT assessment, all with p-values of .000. As above, youth assessed as higher risk are more likely to recidivate during the six-month follow-up period, as are males and non-white youth. Results of the logistic regressions can be seen in Table 3-8. Examination of the Exp(B) reveal overall risk to re-offend to have the strongest relationship to recidivism, followed by sex and finally race.

Table 3-8. Community Cohort 1 Logistic Regression Results

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression 1						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.434	0.012	1226.507	1	.000*	1.543
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.395	0.013	981.987	1	.000*	1.484
Sex	0.434	1	158.437	1	.000*	1.456
Race	0.434	0	223.35	1	.000*	1.453

\* =significant at p=.05

Table 3-9. Residential Cohort 1 Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Overall Risk to Re-offend	3,399	1	4	2.9491	1.047
Sex	3,399	0	1	0.8452	0.362
Race	3,399	0	1	0.554	0.497
Referral within six months	3,399	0	1	0.3945	0.489

The Cohort 1 youth who were in residential commitment facilities at the time of the assessment, or who entered residential subsequent to the PACT assessment were analyzed next.

These youth were analyzed identically to the Cohort 1 community youth described above (descriptive statistics can be seen in Table 3-9). For this sub-sample, low risk youth composed 14.1% of the youth, moderate risk 15.1%, moderate high 32.5%, and high risk to re-offend youth 38.3%. These simple percentages illustrate the difference between the Cohort 1 community youth analyzed initially from these Cohort 1 residential youth. While only 6.1% of the community youth were assessed as high risk to re-offend, 38.3% of the residential youth are high risk. Likewise, whereas only 14.1% of these residential youth are low risk, 70.7% of the community youth were low risk to re-offend. These differences will help to see whether the PACT assessment can predict equally well the recidivism of lower risk community youth as it does higher risk residential youth.

Table 3-10. Residential Cohort 1 Logistic Regression Results

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression 1						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.041	0.033	1.516	1	.218	0.96
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.045	0.034	1.782	1	.182	0.956
Sex	-0.015	0.097	0.024	1	.877	0.985
Race	0.072	0.071	1.03	1	.310	1.075

First, logistic regression was used to predict a delinquency referral subsequent to PACT assessment and release from a residential commitment facility. Overall risk to re-offend is not a significant predictor of a referral to the department when youth exiting residential facilities are followed six months (see Table 3-10). Identically to the analysis to Cohort 1 community youth, logistic regression was again used to predict a subsequent referral using overall risk to re-offend, sex, and race. Similar to the community sub-sample, the residential sample is predominately male (see Table 3-9 for descriptive statistics). However, the residential sample is majority non-white, where the community sample was over 50% white. The results of the logistic regression

(see Table 3-10) reveal overall risk to re-offend, race, and sex are not significant predictors of a referral to the Department for youth who exist residential facilities subsequent to a PACT analysis.

There are several reasons why it may be expected that youth being released from a residential facility may be different from youth who remain in the community, which could lead to hypothesizing as to why the PACT overall risk to re-offend score is not a significant predictor of recidivism for these youth. Prior to any theorizing as to why this is the case, the residential sample must be further analyzed. The sample was composed of two types of scenarios. The first was youth who were administered the PACT and subsequently placed into a residential facility after a court hearing. The six month follow-up began after the youth was released from the facility, but using the pre-commitment PACT assessment. The second group of youth was those that were assessed while already in a commitment facility, and it was that assessment that was used to predict the six months follow-up recidivism.

The second scenario, youth assessed after already being in commitment, may be an inadequate use of the PACT assessment. The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice realizes this inadequacy and is currently in the process of developing a PACT assessment more appropriate for residential youth. The problem lies with the social history questions from which the overall risk to re-offend score is derived. Remember that the overall risk score is composed of a matrix of criminal history items and social history items. The criminal history items are static predictors (age at first offense, number and seriousness of prior offenses, for example), so would not make an issue for assessing youth within commitment facilities.

However, the social history items are dynamic, changeable factors and certainly could be altered by residential placement. This alteration is not necessitated by some type of effective, or

for that matter ineffective, treatment delivered to residential youth, but more of a result of the questions themselves. Questions related to delinquent peers, substance abuse, and school attendance differ by necessity simply by residing in a residential facility. Youth are, arguably, forced to be around antisocial peers, as all youth received delinquency referrals that resulted in the commitment. Therefore, all youth would be scored higher the day they were placed in the facility through no fault of their own with regard to choosing who they associate with (with the realization that with committing the offense comes the possibility of residential placement if apprehended). Furthermore, all youth are essentially forced to attend school on a daily basis, making the score on this factor decrease for many youth who did not have stellar attendance in the community. Also, using substances and alcohol decreases by nature of the youth being placed in commitment. A picture is quickly painted where the results of a PACT assessment given to a youth in residential commitment is suspect at best, as some variables used in the scoring are artificially inflated and some deflated by the mere fact of the placement.

Table 3-11. Split Residential Cohort 1 Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
PACT before commitment	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Overall Risk to Re-offend	2,850	1	4	2.9102	1.088
Sex	2,850	0	1	0.8435	0.363
Race	2,850	0	1	0.5411	0.498
Referral within six months	2,850	0	1	0.4119	0.492
PACT while in commitment	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Overall Risk to Re-offend	549	1	4	3.1512	0.772
Sex	549	0	1	0.8543	0.353
Race	549	0	1	0.6211	0.486
Referral within six months	549	0	1	0.3042	0.46

The scenario depicted above was tested, breaking the Cohort 1 residential sample into two groups. The first group was composed of youth who were given the PACT assessment prior to residential placement. This will help to test the longevity of the predictability of the PACT as

some youth are placed in residential facilities for several months and the follow-up period does not begin until release meaning scores would have to be valid and predictive of re-offending for months. The second group, youth assessed while in residential commitment, will show whether the PACT assessment is appropriate for assessing the risk to re-offend after subsequent release for these youth. The descriptive statistics for the two groups of residential youth are shown in Table 3-11.

Table 3-12. Split Residential Cohort 1 Logistic Regression Results

Covariate	Statistics					
PACT before commitment						
Logistic Regression 1	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.041	0.035	1.377	1	.241	0.96
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.043	0.035	1.475	1	.225	0.958
Sex	-0.102	0.105	0.954	1	.329	0.903
Race	0.067	0.077	0.763	1	.383	1.07
PACT while in commitment						
Logistic Regression 1	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.129	0.123	1.106	1	.293	1.138
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.105	0.126	0.686	1	.407	1.11
Sex	0.623	0.297	4.393	1	.036*	1.864
Race	0.228	0.197	1.334	1	.248	1.256

\* =significant at p=.05

Identically to previous analyses, logistic regression was used to predict a new delinquency referral post-release from a residential facility. First, only the overall risk to re-offend level was entered as a covariate, separately for the youth assessed prior to commitment and for youth assessed while committed. For the first group, youth assessed prior to being placed in residential commitment, overall risk was not significant (see Table 3-12). This is contrary to the notion presented above that the PACT may still be predictive for youth assessed with appropriate

questions. It may, however, depict that inability to use risk assessment scores from months previous to the beginning of the follow-up period to ascertain adequate predictions of risk to recidivate. For youth assessed while in commitment placement, overall risk to re-offend was also not a significant predictor of post-release recidivism (see Table 3-12). This finding was suspected due to the inappropriateness of some PACT questions for a residential population.

As analyzed previously, logistic regression was next used to assess the predictive ability of overall risk to re-offend, race, and sex of the two sub-samples, separately, of a subsequent delinquency referral post-release. For the youth assessed prior to entering a facility, none of the three covariates were significant predictors of recidivism (see Table 3-12). For the youth assessed while in residential commitment, only sex was a significant predictor of recidivism. Male youth are more likely to recidivate than female youth when followed post-release. Examination of the  $\text{Exp}(B)$  for sex reveals that every increase in the  $B$  produces a 1.864 times increase in recidivism (well over a 50% increase).

### **Cohort 2 Descriptive Statistics**

Youth for which a one-year follow-up can be conducted are analyzed next. This will enable the comparison of the ability of PACT to predict long-term recidivism versus short-term. The following analyses will be conducted identically to those reported for Cohort 1 youth. After initial descriptive statistics are reported, the residential youth will be split into two samples prior to further analysis (separating those youth assessed prior to commitment and those youth assessed while in a residential facility).

The Cohort 2 community sub-sample is 61.1% white, 38% black, and 0.9% “other”. The sub-sample is 69.8% male and 30.2% female. The PACT criminal history descriptive statistics are reported in Table 3-13. Table 3-14 illustrates the descriptive statistics for the eighteen variables composing the social history scoring for the Cohort 2 community youth sub-sample.

Table 3-13. Community Cohort 2 Criminal History Descriptive Statistics

Criminal History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age at First Offense	8,132	1	5	2.4953	1.281
Adjudicated Misdemeanors	8,132	1	4	1.4405	0.766
Adjudicated Felonies	8,132	1	4	1.7213	0.838
Total Weapon Offenses	8,132	1	2	1.1024	0.303
Total Against-person Misd.	8,132	1	3	1.3517	0.585
Total Against-person felonies	8,077	1	2	1.1804	0.385
Secure Detention Placements	8,132	1	4	1.5425	0.98
Commitment Placements	8,132	1	3	1.0637	0.28
Total Escape Adjudications	8,132	1	3	1.0041	0.073
Total Failure to Appear PUOs	8,132	1	3	1.2298	0.555

Table 3-14. Community Cohort 2 Social History Descriptive Statistics

Social History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sex	8,132	0	1	0.6981	0.459
Current School Enrollment	7,959	1	6	2.5155	1.168
Recent School Conduct	7,957	1	5	2.9773	1.247
Recent School Attendance	7,957	1	5	2.5831	1.587
Recent Academic Performance	7,955	1	5	3.2925	0.978
Anti-social Peers	8,132	0	2	0.6779	0.536
Out-of-home Placements	8,132	1	4	1.1422	0.502
History of Running Away	8,132	1	5	1.3876	0.927
Parental Authority/Control	8,102	1	3	1.5994	0.632
Household Jail History	8,102	0	1	0.2407	0.428
History of Alcohol Use	8,132	0	1	0.2907	0.454
History of Drug Use	8,132	0	1	0.3915	0.488
Current Alcohol Use	7,468	0	1	0.1197	0.325
Current Drug Use	7,468	0	1	0.2442	0.43
History of Physical Abuse	8,132	0	2	0.2167	0.586
History of Sexual Abuse	8,132	0	1	0.0454	0.208
History of Neglect	8,132	1	2	1.0594	0.236
Mental Health Problems	7,951	1	5	1.24	0.817

The second Cohort 2 sub-sample is composed of the youth who were assessed using the PACT and had a residential commitment placement prior to the follow-up period. The Cohort 2 sub-sample is 52.2% white, 46.7% black, and 1.1% “Other”. Furthermore, the sample is 84.6%

male and 14.4% female. As in the Cohort 1 residential sample, the Cohort 2 youth being placed in residential commitment prior to the follow-up period is substantially more male (84.6% versus the 69.8% for community youth) and less likely to be white (52.2% versus 61.1% for the community youth). Descriptive statistics for the PACT assessed criminal history and social history for the Cohort 2 youth who have a residential commitment placement prior to the follow-up period can be seen in Table 3-15 and Table 3-16, respectively.

Table 3-15. Residential Cohort 2 Criminal History Descriptive Statistics

Criminal History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age at First Offense	1,015	1	5	1.802	0.896
Adjudicated Misdemeanors	1,015	1	4	2.1271	1.073
Adjudicated Felonies	1,015	1	4	2.6739	1.038
Total Weapon Offenses	1,015	1	2	1.1645	0.371
Total Against-person Misd.	1,015	1	3	1.5793	0.741
Total Against-person felonies	981	1	2	1.3191	0.466
Secure Detention Placements	1,015	1	4	2.999	1.135
Commitment Placements	1,015	1	3	1.2926	0.526
Total Escape Adjudications	1,015	1	2	1.0197	0.139
Total Failure to Appear PUOs	1,015	1	3	1.6887	0.832

### Cohort 2 Analysis

The analysis of the Cohort 2 community sub-sample utilizes logistic regression to examine the effectiveness of the overall risk to re-offend score as identified by the PACT assessment in the prediction of a subsequent delinquency referral to the Department of Juvenile Justice for youth who remain in the community after assessment. The Cohort 2 community sub-sample is composed of 70.9% low risk, 13.3% moderate risk, 9.6% moderate-high risk, and 6.3% high risk to re-offend youth. The sample is 61.1% white, and 38.9% non-white. Descriptive statistics for the Cohort 2 community sample can be seen in Table 3-17. The percentage of low risk youth who received a new referral to the Department within twelve months was 27.3%. The percentage for moderate risk youth was 43.6%, and 48.3% for moderate-high risk youth, and 50.3% for high

risk youth. This means that just over half of the youth assessed as high risk to re-offend will in fact do so within twelve months if they remain in the community post-assessment. The logistic regression results using only overall risk to re-offend to predict a subsequent referral to the Department for youth assessed reveal overall risk level to be a significant predictor of recidivism at  $p=.000$  (see Table 3-18). The Exp(B) illustrates that for every increase in overall risk to re-offend, as assessed by the PACT, there is a 1.491 times increase in recidivism (almost a 50% increase).

Table 3-16. Residential Cohort 2 Social History Descriptive Statistics

Social History Item	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sex	1,015	0	1	0.8562	0.351
Current School Enrollment	958	1	6	2.8758	1.422
Recent School Conduct	957	1	5	3.3501	1.188
Recent School Attendance	957	1	5	3.4253	1.603
Recent Academic Performance	957	1	5	3.7482	1.019
Anti-social Peers	1,015	0	2	0.869	0.536
Out-of-home Placements	1,015	1	4	1.2916	0.681
History of Running Away	1,015	1	5	2.0562	1.372
Parental Authority/Control	1,007	1	3	2.0725	0.679
Household Jail History	1,007	0	1	0.3903	0.488
History of Alcohol Use	1,015	0	1	0.5251	0.5
History of Drug Use	1,015	0	1	0.7084	0.455
Current Alcohol Use	894	0	1	0.2808	0.45
Current Drug Use	894	0	1	0.5436	0.498
History of Physical Abuse	1,015	0	2	0.4	0.766
History of Sexual Abuse	1,015	0	1	0.069	0.254
History of Neglect	1,015	1	2	1.13	0.337
Mental Health Problems	992	1	5	1.4849	1.094

Table 3-17. Community Cohort 2 Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Overall Risk to Re-offend	8,132	1	4	1.5124	0.905
Sex	8,132	0	1	0.6981	0.459
Race	8,132	0	1	0.3893	0.488
Referral within twelve months	8,132	0	1	0.3294	0.47

Identical to the previous analyses, the next step utilized logistic regression to predict a referral subsequent to PACT assessment using overall risk to re-offend, race (again coded white and non-white), and sex (male and female). Consistent with the analysis of Cohort 1 community youth who were tracked only six months post-assessment, overall risk to re-offend, race, and sex were all significant (at  $p=.000$ ) predictors of a subsequent delinquency referral (see Table 3-18). Results reveal that youth assessed as higher risk to re-offend are in fact more likely to do so within the one-year follow-up. Furthermore, males are more likely to receive a subsequent delinquency referral, as are non-white youth. The second strongest relationship (race being the strongest) to recidivism was the overall risk to re-offend as assessed by the PACT, showing for every increase in overall risk, there is a 1.433 times increase in the dependent variable. These results illustrate the validity of the PACT to predict short-term (six month) as well as long-term (one year) recidivism for youth who are assessed and remain in the community post-assessment.

Table 3-18. Community Cohort 2 Logistic Regression Results

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression 1						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.4	0.025	249.763	1	.000*	1.491
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.36	0.026	196.432	1	.000*	1.433
Sex	0.302	0.054	31.047	1	.000*	1.353
Race	0.428	0.049	75.848	1	.000*	1.534

\* =significant at  $p=.05$

Cohort 2 residential youth are analyzed using the same procedures utilized to examine Cohort 1 residential youth. These youth are collectively analyzed first, including both youth who were assessed using the PACT and subsequently placed in residential commitment before one-year follow-up, as well as youth assessed while in residential commitment and tracked following release. Covariate descriptive statistics for these youth can be seen in Table 3-19. The Cohort 2

residential sub-sample is composed of 12.4% low risk youth (as assessed by the PACT), 17.1% moderate risk youth, 29.2% moderate-high risk, and 41.3% high risk to re-offend youth. These frequencies are in stark contrast to the 70.9% low risk and only 6.3% high-risk youth who composed the Cohort 2 community sample. The Cohort 2 residential sample is also slightly less white (52.2% compared to 61.1% for community youth) and more male (85.6% compared to 69.8% for community youth).

Table 3-19. Residential Cohort 2 Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Overall Risk to Re-offend	1,015	1	4	2.9931	1.04
Sex	1,015	0	1	0.8562	0.351
Race	1,015	0	1	0.4778	0.5
Referral within twelve months	1,015	0	1	0.6059	0.489

Logistic regression analysis of the full sub-sample of Cohort 2 residential youth using overall risk to re-offend, race (white and non-white) and sex (male and female) as predictors of referral subsequent to release reveals the covariate to be a significant predictor. The results of the analysis reveal a severely unexpected significance (see Table 3-20). Race is significant with non-whites more likely to recidivate than whites, as is sex with males more likely than females. However, overall risk to re-offend is significant, but in the reverse direction as expected. Logistic regression shows those with high risk to re-offend being significantly *less* likely to do so. The same holds true when only risk to re-offend is included as a covariate predicting recidivism; the higher the overall risk level, the less likely to recidivate for youth in residential facilities prior to the one-year follow-up period. The strongest relationship to recidivism was with sex, followed by race, and finally overall risk to re-offend. However, for every drop in risk to re-offend, there was still a 0.776 times *increase* in the dependent variable, recidivism.

The results of the logistic regression for the Cohort 2 residential sub-sample are perplexing and enough cause for the sample to be further disaggregated, using the same approach as that used for the Cohort 1 residential youth. The Cohort 2 residential sample was further divided into youth who received the PACT assessment prior to being placed in residential commitment and then followed one year, and youth assessed at some point during a commitment placement and then tracked post-release (see Table 3-21 for descriptive statistics). The timing of when the PACT assessment was given (prior to, or during commitment placement) may yield some interesting clues as to why the overall risk to re-offend is a significant predictor of recidivism, only in the opposite direction, for Cohort 2 residential youth.

Table 3-20. Residential Cohort 2 Logistic Regression Results

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression 1						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.23	0.064	13.031	1	.000*	0.794
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.254	0.065	15.358	1	.000*	0.776
Sex	0.421	0.182	5.336	1	.021*	1.523
Race	0.312	0.132	5.565	1	.018*	1.366

\*=significant at p=.05

Table 3-21. Split Residential Cohort 2 Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
PACT before commitment					
Overall Risk to Re-offend	984	1	4	2.9797	1.043
Sex	984	0	1	0.8598	0.347
Race	984	0	1	0.4797	0.5
Referral within twelve months	984	0	1	0.6128	0.487
PACT while in commitment					
Overall Risk to Re-offend	31	1	4	3.4194	0.848
Sex	31	0	1	0.7419	0.445
Race	31	0	1	0.4194	0.502
Referral within twelve months	31	0	1	0.3871	0.495

Logistic regression was again used separately to predict recidivism for the Cohort 2 residential youth who were assessed prior to a commitment placement and the youth assessed while in residential placement (see Table 3-22 for all Cohort 2 residential split sample analyses). Initially, only overall risk to re-offend, as assessed by the PACT was entered in the model as a covariate. For youth assessed prior to a commitment placement, then subsequently tracked one year, overall risk to re-offend was again significant ( $p=.001$ ), however, lower risk youth were more likely to receive a delinquency referral within the follow-up period. This result is similar to that found when analyzing the full Cohort 2 sub-sample. For youth assessed while in commitment and tracked post-release, overall risk to re-offend was not significant ( $p=.65$ ). However, this result must be interpreted with caution, as there were only thirty-one youth included in the analysis.

Table 3-22. Split Residential Cohort 2 Logistic Regression Results

Covariate	Statistics					
PACT before commitment						
Logistic Regression 1	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.221	0.065	11.683	1	.001*	0.802
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.245	0.066	13.869	1	.000*	0.783
Sex	0.317	0.188	2.858	1	.091	1.373
Race	0.301	0.134	5.02	1	.025*	1.351
PACT while in commitment						
Logistic Regression 1	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Overall Risk to Re-offend	-0.198	0.437	0.206	1	.65	0.82
Logistic Regression 2						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.063	0.473	0.018	1	.893	1.066
Sex	9.516	34.54	0.076	1	.783	13580.44
Race	0.978	0.89	1.208	1	.272	2.66

\* =significant at  $p=.05$

Next, sex and race were included in the model, along with overall risk to re-offend to predict subsequent referral to the Department of Juvenile Justice. For youth assessed by the PACT prior to residential placement, overall risk to re-offend was significant ( $p=.000$ ), again in the opposite direction with youth assessed as lower risk more likely to receive a referral during the one year follow-up. Race was also a significant predictor of subsequent referral ( $p=.025$ ) with non-whites more likely to be referred than whites. For youth assessed while in residential commitment and then tracked after release, none of the three covariates (overall risk, race, or sex) were significant predictors. Again, the logistic regression results for youth assessed while in commitment and tracked one year must be interpreted with caution, as only thirty-one youth were included in the analysis.

While unexpected, the result of overall risk to re-offend being significant in the opposite direction (low risk youth more likely to recidivate) for youth assessed prior to entering residential commitment, the finding is consistent with the plethora of research of the Principles of Effective Intervention explored above. The first major principle, the risk principle, holds that the duration and the intensity of treatment should mimic the risk level of the youth, with higher risk youth receiving more intense treatment for a longer period of time. The research consistently illustrates, for over thirty years, that low risk to re-offend youth who receive intense services actually re-offend at higher rates than they do when receiving minimal treatment. The findings of the current study illustrate this point, finding low risk youth who are sent to residential commitment re-offending at higher rates than high risk youth who were provided the longer, more intense treatment they required. This finding further illustrates the need to keep low risk youth out of long-term residential commitment. Placing low risk to re-offend youth in long-term

residential placement actually increases their risk to re-offend and jeopardizes both the future of these individuals and public safety.

Unfortunately, the Department of Juvenile Justice does not currently have a method to track the type, frequency, or duration of the delinquency interventions youth receive while in residential commitment programs. Therefore, there is no way to distinguish what type or brand name intervention a youth received, how many times per week that intervention was delivered to that youth, and for how many weeks it was delivered. Had the Department captured this data, analysis could have been conducted to distinguish which treatment, or group of treatments, delivered at what frequency and what duration was most effective at predicting a lower likelihood of recidivism. The three covariates of treatment type, treatment frequency, and treatment duration could have been included with risk to re-offend to investigate possible interaction effects on the prediction of subsequent referral.

However, all that can be deduced from the current study is that the PACT is not predictive of subsequent referral for youth who are assessed within residential commitment and tracked post-release. This deduction holds true for both Cohort 1 residential youth tracked six months and Cohort 2 residential youth followed for twelve months. The finding that sex and race are sometimes significant in Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 residential analysis is not surprising and consistent with prior empirical research that males and non-whites are more likely to re-offend than females and whites. The finding that overall risk to re-offend predicts which youth assessed prior to entering residential placement, again, illustrates the necessity to avoid long-term residential placement for lower risk youth, and is in keeping with previous research described above.

The inability of the PACT to predict recidivism for the youth placed in residential commitment leads to the remainder of the analysis of the current study to focus on the prediction of recidivism for youth remaining in the community after assessment. One of the original intents of the PACT instrument was for the Department's Probation and Community Intervention branch to more effectively determine which youth under supervision are more likely to re-offend, and to aid in recommendations to the court in terms of the likelihood of a youth on probation recidivating. The PACT assessment has in fact achieved this goal as the recidivism of youth who remain in the community post-assessment has been significantly predicted in follow-ups of both six and twelve months. The next step of the analysis is to investigate the role of gender for both Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 youth who remain in the community.

### **Gender Analysis**

In both the six-month and the twelve-month follow-up sub-samples, race and gender were significant predictors with non-whites and females more likely to receive a subsequent delinquency referral than whites and females. Previous empirical as well as theoretical research has argued for either the existence of gender-specific prediction instruments, and even pathway-specific prediction instruments for sub-samples of female offenders. As the PACT is utilized to assess risk to re-offend for all youth referred to the Department, analysis of the predictive ability for both males and females is of critical concern. This analysis will be the first known attempt to formally validate the PACT across gender.

Logistic regression was used to examine the ability of the PACT to predict recidivism, as measured by a subsequent referral to the Department, for both males and females who are assessed and remain in the community. As in previous analyses, youth who are tracked six months and remain in the community (Cohort 1) and youth tracked twelve months and remain in the community (Cohort 2) will be assessed separately to examine the ability of the PACT to

predict short-term as well as long-term follow-up recidivism. Descriptive statistics for Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 males and females can be seen in Table 3-23.

Table 3-23. Descriptive Statistics By Gender

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<b>Cohort 1 Community Males</b>					
Overall Risk to Re-offend	26,643	1	4	1.5675	0.937
Race	26,643	0	1	0.4335	0.496
Referral within six months	26,643	0	1	0.271	0.444
<b>Cohort 1 Community Females</b>					
Overall Risk to Re-offend	9,682	1	4	1.3735	0.789
Race	9,682	0	1	0.4323	0.495
Referral within six months	9,682	0	1	0.1918	0.394
<b>Cohort 2 Community Males</b>					
Overall Risk to Re-offend	5,677	1	4	1.5723	0.941
Race	5,677	0	1	0.3838	0.486
Referral within twelve months	5,677	0	1	0.3527	0.478
<b>Cohort 2 Community Females</b>					
Overall Risk to Re-offend	2,455	1	4	1.3739	0.798
Race	2,455	0	1	0.402	0.49
Referral within twelve months	2,455	0	1	0.2758	0.447

Logistic regression results reveal overall risk to re-offend and race (white and non-white) to be significant predictors of subsequent referral, with higher risk youth and minority youth more likely to recidivate. These results hold true for male youth who are assessed using the PACT and remain in the community being tracked for six months and for twelve months, as well as female youth assessed and remaining in the community both six and twelve months (see Table 3-24 for results). For both the male youth tracked six months and those tracked twelve months, the relationship to recidivism was slightly stronger for race than overall risk to re-offend. For both groups of female youth, overall risk to re-offend has a stronger relationship to recidivism than race. For all youth, for every increase in overall risk to re-offend, there is between a 1.4 to 1.6 times increase in recidivism (roughly 50%). These analyses illustrate the effectiveness of the PACT assessment in the prediction of a delinquency referral within a six-month or one-year

follow-up for all youth who remain in the community. The PACT was designed for the purpose of doing precisely that task. The goal was to implement an instrument that could assess the likelihood that youth that enter the juvenile justice system would recidivate if they remained in the community.

Table 3-24. Logistic Regression Results By Gender

Covariate	Statistics					
Cohort 1						
Logistic Regression Males	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.374	0.014	713.279	1	.000*	1.454
Race	0.405	0.028	203.312	1	.000*	1.499
Logistic Regression Females						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.476	0.028	280.985	1	.000*	1.61
Race	0.269	0.053	25.963	1	.000*	1.309
Cohort 2						
Logistic Regression Males	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.336	0.029	131.779	1	.000*	1.4
Race	0.466	0.058	64.836	1	.000*	1.593
Logistic Regression Females						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.436	0.053	67.554	1	.000*	1.547
Race	0.328	0.093	12.398	1	.000*	1.389

\* =significant at p=.05

The ability of the PACT to predict recidivism for both males and females is a critical piece of the current study. The significant prediction of a new referral for female juveniles is essential for the PACT to achieve the desired goal and to advance from previous prediction instruments that were unable to predict female offending. Reisig and colleagues, when assessing the LSI-R prediction instrument for females state, “Predictive accuracy exists if recidivism increases with risk-need level...the relationship between risk-need and recidivism (when using the LSI-R for females) is not statistically significant for the full sample” (Reisig et al., 2006:397). Contrary to the results found in that analysis, the current study finds the overall risk level identified by the

PACT statistically significant in the prediction of full-sample female recidivism. These results are extremely important with regard to literature stressing the need to have gender-specific instruments or separate instruments for females and males. The PACT has been proven to predict re-offending for males and for females equally well, with both a six and a twelve-month follow-up.

While the prediction of re-offending for both males and females is an essential goal of the current study, it is important to know whether the same aspects of the PACT are predictive for males and females. The construction of the PACT allows for analyzing whether the criminal history of the youth or the social history of the youth is driving the significance of the prediction. Therefore, the next step in the analysis is to separate overall risk to re-offend into its two core components of criminal history score and social history score to examine the predictive significance of each separately for male and female youth. Logistic regression is used to predict a subsequent referral to the Department for both male and female youth who are assessed and remain in the community for twelve months (Cohort 2).

Table 3-25. Cohort 2 Descriptive Statistics By Gender

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Cohort 2 Males					
Criminal History Score	5,677	0	28	6.51	4.695
Social History Score	5,677	1	16	4.59	2.425
Race	5,677	0	1	0.3838	0.486
Referral within six months	5,677	0	1	0.3527	0.478
Cohort 2 Females					
Criminal History Score	2,455	0	27	5.25	3.913
Social History Score	2,455	0	15	3.87	2.905
Race	2,455	0	1	0.402	0.49
Referral within twelve months	2,455	0	1	0.2758	0.447

The covariates for this analysis are criminal history, social history, and race, rather than race and overall risk to re-offend utilized in previous analysis (see Table 3-25 for dependent

variable and covariate descriptive statistics). This allows for the determination as to whether the extent and seriousness of previous official offending is driving the significance of the prediction, or whether the social, educational, family, mental health, substance abuse, peer relationships, or abuse history circumstances are driving the prediction for both males and females. Logistic regression results show that criminal history, social history, and race are significant predictors of subsequent referral for both males and females. The higher the criminal history and the higher the social history, the more likely the youth will receive another referral. Both of these covariates are significant at  $p=.000$  for males and for females (see Table 3-26 for results). Identical analyses were conducted on males and females who remain in the community and followed six months (Cohort 1) post-assessment, with identical results. Furthermore, non-whites were again more likely to receive a subsequent referral. While race has the strongest relationship to recidivism among the predictors, for both males and females, the relationship between social history and recidivism is stronger than that between criminal history and recidivism. For every increase in the social history score, there is a 1.138 times increase in recidivism for males and a 1.152 increase for females.

Table 3-26. Cohort 2 Logistic Regression By Gender

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression Males						
Criminal History	0.044	0.006	50.246	1	.000*	1.045
Social History	0.129	0.012	112.92	1	.000*	1.138
Race	0.487	0.059	68.206	1	.000*	1.627
Logistic Regression Females						
Criminal History	0.079	0.012	42.053	1	.000*	1.083
Social History	0.141	0.017	68.163	1	.000*	1.152
Race	0.313	0.097	10.449	1	.000*	1.368

\* =significant at  $p=.05$

An additional hypothesis of this current study involving gender differences is the notion that any significance associated with gender being a predictor of recidivism will be “washed out”

with the inclusion of additional covariates. Some researchers have argued that “gendered pathways” exist in that the tract to delinquency for females is often different than that for males (see Daly 1992, 1994; Daly & Chesney-Lind 1988). The current study hypothesizes it may be possible to include variables associated with female pathways in the prediction of recidivism which will make the seemingly significant finding that gender predicts re-offending become insignificant in the logistic regression model.

Table 3-27. Cohort 2 Community Gendered Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sex	8,132	0	1	0.6981	0.459
History of Physical Abuse	8,132	0	1	0.1299	0.336
History of Sexual Abuse	8,132	0	1	0.0454	0.208
Drug Use	8,132	0	1	0.3915	0.488
Alcohol Use	8,132	0	1	0.2907	0.454
School Suspension/Expulsion	8,132	0	6	0.6369	1.433
Teachers/Coaches	8,132	0	5	0.3789	0.918
Positive Adult Non-family	8,132	0	4	0.4292	0.934
History of Running Away	8,132	0	5	1.3876	0.92681
Parental Supervision	8,132	0	3	0.3296	0.708
Antisocial Peers	8,132	0	2	0.6779	0.536
Referral within twelve months	8,132	0	1	0.3294	0.47

To test the above hypothesis, the Cohort 2 sub-sample of youth who are assessed using the PACT and subsequently remain in the community to be tracked for twelve months will be used. Gender was a significant predictor of recidivism for this sub-sample in earlier analyses. Now, however, additional covariates will be introduced in the prediction of recidivism that have been suggested to be issues that lead to female offending. In addition to the sex of the youth, history of physical abuse, history of sexual abuse, history of alcohol use, history of drug use, anti-social peer involvement, history of school suspension or expulsion, number of teachers or coaches the youth is comfortable talking to, history of adult non-family school or job positive relationships,

history of running away or getting kicked out of the house, and level of parental supervision will be included. All covariates are coded so that the higher the value, the greater the extent of the issue defined (see Table 3-27 for descriptive statistics).

Logistic regression was again utilized to assess the significance of the covariates in the prediction of recidivism within twelve months for youth who remain in the community post PACT assessment (see Table 3-28 for results). Youth who have a history of more school suspensions and expulsions are significantly more likely to recidivate, as are youth with more instances of running away, inconsistent/inadequate supervision, and a higher prevalence of antisocial peers. Interestingly, youth with more relationships with pro-social adults who are not employers or teachers, have a greater likelihood of recidivism. History of physical abuse and history of sexual abuse were not significant predictors in the model (though physical abuse approached significance at  $p = .067$ ), neither were history of alcohol abuse and problems related to that use, or presence of teachers or coaches the youth feels comfortable with. Furthermore, and congruent with hypothesis seven of the current study, sex was “washed” to insignificance in the presence of the above-mentioned covariates. This finding runs counter with previous research by Hubbard (2002) who found gender to remain significant, even after controlling for risk to re-offend, quality of programming, sexual abuse, and self-esteem. The strongest relationship to the dependent variable, recidivism, was with antisocial peers. For every increase in that independent variable, there was a 1.34 times increase in the dependent variable. The second strongest relationship was between parental supervision and recidivism, followed by school suspension/expulsion and recidivism, then history of running away and recidivism, and finally prevalence of non-family/employment/school positive adults and recidivism.

Table 3-28. Cohort 2 Community Expanded Covariate Logistic Regression

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression						
Physical Abuse	0.263	0.143	3.365	1	.067	1.3
Sexual Abuse	-0.367	0.243	2.28	1	.131	0.692
Alcohol	-0.066	0.131	0.257	1	.613	0.936
Drugs	0.144	0.127	1.281	1	.258	1.155
School Suspension/Expulsion	0.172	0.033	28.031	1	.000*	1.188
Teachers/Coaches	-0.042	0.049	0.737	1	.391	0.959
Non-family Adults	-0.112	0.056	4.058	1	.044*	0.894
Running Away	0.109	0.054	4.133	1	.042*	1.116
Parental Supervision	0.231	0.083	7.824	1	.005*	1.26
Antisocial Peers	0.293	0.098	9.03	1	.003*	1.34
Sex	0.109	0.127	0.747	1	.388	1.116

\* =significant at p=.05

This finding is extremely important in that it shows that apparent sex differences may, in actuality, be due to proportional differences in the extent to which various risk factors are present for males and females. This supports the notion that sex differences may be differences in degree, rather than differences in kind. While beyond the scope of the current study, future empirical endeavors should look to see whether qualitative differences exist between the physical and sexual abuse suffered by male and female youth and the implications of that abuse on the youth.

The finding in the previous analysis of physical and sexual abuses not being significant predictors of recidivism is surprising and deserves further attention. It may be the case that such abuse is more important in the prediction of female offending as it is in male offending behavior. For the 2,455 females and the 5,677 males in the Cohort 2 Community sub-sample, 11.5% of the females and only 1.5% of the males reported sexual abuse, and 16.6% of the females and 11.4% of the males reported a history of physical abuse. Due to these differences, physical abuse and sexual abuse, along with race, history of alcohol use, history of drug use, anti-social peer

involvement, history of school suspension or expulsion, number of teachers or coaches the youth is comfortable talking to, history of adult non-family school or job positive relationships, history of running away or getting kicked out of the house, and level of parental supervision, are utilized as covariates in the prediction of recidivism separately for males and females (see Table 3-29 for descriptive statistics). This will allow for the examination as to whether certain life events, namely physical and sexual abuse, matter more in the prediction of re-offending for one sex than they do for the other.

Table 3-29. Cohort 2 Community Gender-Split Covariate Descriptive Statistics

Covariate	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<b>Cohort 2 Community Males</b>					
Race	5,677	0	1	0.3838	0.486
Physical Abuse	5,677	0	1	0.1143	0.318
Sexual Abuse	5,677	0	1	0.0153	0.123
Antisocial Peers	5,677	0	2	0.7013	0.541
Alcohol Use	5,677	0	1	0.2869	0.452
Drug Use	5,677	0	1	0.4104	0.492
School Suspension/Expulsion	1,333	1	6	2.934	1.674
Teachers/Coaches	1,192	1	5	1.9069	1.145
Non-Family Adults	1,333	1	4	2.0645	1.023
Running Away	5,677	1	5	1.291	0.795
Parental Supervision	1,310	1	3	1.5351	0.694
Referral within twelve months	5,677	0	1	0.3527	0.478
<b>Cohort 2 Community Females</b>					
Race	2,455	0	1	0.402	0.49
Physical Abuse	2,455	0	1	0.1658	0.372
Sexual Abuse	2,455	0	1	0.1149	0.319
Antisocial Peers	2,455	0	2	0.624	0.523
Alcohol Use	2,455	0	1	0.2994	0.458
Drug Use	2,455	0	1	0.3479	0.476
School Suspension/Expulsion	442	1	6	2.8688	1.615
Teachers/Coaches	414	1	5	1.9517	1.147
Non-Family Adults	442	1	4	2.052	0.99
Running Away	2,455	1	5	1.611	1.146
Parental Supervision	434	1	3	1.5415	0.706
Referral within twelve months	2,455	0	1	0.2758	0.447

Table 3-30. Cohort 2 Community Gender-Split Covariate Logistic Regression

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression Males						
Race	0.823	0.132	38.909	1	.000*	2.278
Physical Abuse	0.324	0.179	3.292	1	.070	1.383
Sexual Abuse	0.091	0.417	0.048	1	.827	1.096
Alcohol	0.012	0.157	0.006	1	.938	1.012
Drugs	0.337	0.149	5.136	1	.023*	1.401
School Suspension/Expulsion	0.164	0.039	17.478	1	.000*	1.178
Teachers/Coaches	-0.077	0.058	1.749	1	.186	0.926
Non-family Adults	-0.082	0.065	1.586	1	.208	0.921
Running Away	0.073	0.072	1.047	1	.306	1.076
Parental Supervision	0.219	0.098	4.953	1	.026*	1.245
Antisocial Peers	0.278	0.114	5.929	1	.015*	1.32
Logistic Regression Females						
Race	0.578	0.237	5.958	1	.015*	1.783
Physical Abuse	0.379	0.257	2.177	1	.14	1.461
Sexual Abuse	-0.530	0.325	2.659	1	.103	0.588
Alcohol	0.412	0.282	2.135	1	.144	1.51
Drugs	-0.257	0.274	0.884	1	.347	0.773
School Suspension/Expulsion	0.097	0.065	2.227	1	.136	1.102
Teachers/Coaches	0.05	0.097	0.264	1	.607	1.051
Non-family Adults	-0.286	0.116	6.057	1	.014*	0.751
Running Away	0.188	0.088	4.611	1	.032*	1.207
Parental Supervision	0.114	0.165	0.473	1	.492	1.121
Antisocial Peers	0.284	0.202	1.983	1	.159	1.329

\* =significant at p=.05

Results of the analysis (reported in Table 3-30) reveal somewhat different predictors to be significant for males and females. Both male and female re-offending is significantly predicted by being non-white. However, all other significant covariates were different for males and females. Starting with the independent variable with the strongest relationship to recidivism to the weakest, greater histories of drug use and problems associated with that use (such as drugs disrupting education, causing family conflict, causing health problems, withdrawal issues, and tolerance increase), having antisocial peer associations, and inadequate/inconsistent parental supervision, and a greater history of school suspensions or expulsions, is predictive of male

recidivism. The only covariates, other than race, that are predictive of female recidivism are greater history of running away and more relationships with pro-social adults other than teachers and employers.

Therefore, males and females have different covariates that are predictive of re-offending behavior, even though the overall risk to re-offend and the social history score of the PACT is predictive for both. Perhaps most surprising of the difference is that a greater presence of antisocial peers is not predictive of female recidivism. The presence of either a history of physical abuse or a history of sexual abuse was not significant for either the male or the female sub-samples.

### **Violence Analysis**

The final goal for the current study is to examine whether the PACT assessment can predict violent re-offending<sup>6</sup>. Previous analyses in this study have illustrated the ability of the PACT to predict recidivism, but not necessarily violent recidivism. The ability to predict which youth will re-offend with a subsequent violent offense was never the goal of the PACT assessment, or the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The PACT was designed to predict which youth are more likely to recidivate generally, not specifically related to the level of violence of the subsequent offense. While many studies have shown there to be a limited level of offense specialization among juveniles (meaning a youth who has committed a violent offense is no more likely to commit a violent offense in the future than a youth who did not commit an initial violent offense), criminologists and the public are still interested in violent offending.

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<sup>6</sup> The current study also validated the PACT with respect to predicting recidivism for both “non-white” and “white” youth to ensure there was no difference in the predictive ability of the instrument for different racial groups. Results reveal the PACT to be a valid predictor for both. Further analyses illustrate the social history score to have a stronger relationship with recidivism than the criminal history score, though both were significant at  $p=.000$ .

The current analysis will use a dependent variable similar to that used in previous analyses above of a delinquency referral to the Department within twelve months. However, for this analysis, only violent offenses will count for recidivism, meaning that the analysis will examine whether the PACT can predict which youth are more likely to commit a violent offense within twelve months post-assessment. For the purposes of this analysis, any delinquency referral within twelve months will count as violent if the most serious charge in of the referral was murder/manslaughter, attempted murder/manslaughter, felony sexual battery, armed robbery, or aggravated assault and/or battery. The Cohort 2 Community sub-sample will be used in the analysis (youth assessed who remain in the community and are tracked twelve months post-assessment). Of the 8,132 youth in that sub-sample, 386 (4.7%) committed a violent offense (using the criteria of this analysis), scored dichotomously as a zero or a one with a mean of 0.0475 and a standard deviation of 0.21265.

Table 3-31. Cohort 2 Community Violent Offense Logistic Regression

Covariate	Statistics					
	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Logistic Regression 1						
Overall Risk to Re-offend	0.455	0.046	96.278	1	.000*	1.576
Sex	0.322	0.126	6.512	1	.011*	1.38
Race	0.817	0.109	56.599	1	.000*	2.265
Logistic Regression 2						
Criminal History	0.072	0.01	53.429	1	.000*	1.075
Social History	0.103	0.02	26.732	1	.000*	1.109
Sex	0.271	0.127	4.55	1	.033*	1.311
Race	0.824	0.11	56.032	1	.000*	2.279

\* =significant at p=.05

Logistic regression is used to predict violent recidivism within twelve months using the overall risk to re-offend level from the PACT, sex, and race (white and non-white). An additional analysis uses logistic regression to predict violent recidivism once again, but instead uses the

criminal history and social history scores composing the PACT rather than the overall risk to re-offend level. This will determine whether it is the social history or criminal history of the youth that are driving the prediction of violent recidivism, or both (results of both analyses can be seen in Table 3-31).

The first analysis reveals overall risk to re-offend as evidenced by the PACT to be a significant predictor of a violent offense subsequent to assessment for youth who remain in the community and are tracked twelve months for follow-up recidivism. Youth who are assessed as higher risk on by the PACT are significantly more likely to commit a violent offense during the twelve-month follow-up than lower risk youth. The results also reveal males and non-whites to be more likely to commit violent offenses. While race has the strongest relationship with recidivism, for every increase in overall risk to re-offend, there is a 1.576 times increase in the dependent variable (over 50%).

The second analysis reveals that both the youth's prior criminal history, and the seriousness of that history, as well as the social circumstances surrounding the youth's life both significantly predict subsequent violent offending. Youth who have a greater and more serious criminal history are more likely to commit violent offenses during the follow-up period, as are youth with more risky social circumstances. Again, males and non-white youth are also more likely to commit violent offenses within the twelve month time frame. While race, followed by sex have the two strongest relationships to a violent recidivism, social history, again, has a stronger relationship with recidivism than criminal history. These two analyses validate the PACT for youth assessed who remain in the community as an assessment capable of predicting, on an aggregate level, which youth are more likely to commit a violent offense within twelve months if allowed to remain in the community.

## CHAPTER 4 DISCUSSION

The main purpose of the current study was to validate the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), the risk/needs assessment utilized by the Probation and Community Intervention program area of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Eight of the ten hypotheses of the study were supported. The overall risk to re-offend level presented by the PACT is indeed a significant predictor of recidivism for youth who are assessed and remain in the community, with higher risk youth more likely to re-offend. The purpose of the development of the PACT was to create an instrument that could help Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Department, classify youth in terms of likelihood of re-offense if all youth remained in the community. Youth assessed as lower risk to re-offend by the PACT are indeed significantly less likely to commit an offense if allowed to remain in the community than youth assessed as higher risk. Furthermore, the likelihood of re-offense is exactly as the PACT predicts with low risk youth less likely than moderate risk, who are in turn less likely than moderate-high risk, which are less likely than high-risk youth to recidivate. The analysis related to this first hypothesis confirms the PACT as a valid risk assessment.

The second hypothesis was not supported. The hypothesis held that youth assessed as higher risk to re-offend would indeed do so regardless of whether the youth was assessed and remained in the community, or assessed prior to, or during, a residential commitment placement. The youth who remained in the community re-offend as predicted by the PACT. However, neither youth assessed prior to commitment placement, nor youth assessed while in commitment placement, recidivated subsequent to release as predicted by the PACT. Several hypotheses for these phenomena were presented. First, and consistent with the literature related to the Principles of Effective Intervention (specifically the risk principle), intensive treatment provided to low risk

youth actually increases their likelihood of recidivating. Long-term residential treatment is beneficial to high-risk youth, and they therefore improve from the PACT assessment conducted prior to placement. However, residential placement provided to youth assessed as low risk prior to residential placement is actually iatrogenic, making the low risk youth worse and more likely to re-offend.

The extant literature holds that reassessments are a necessary component in order to gather information related to progression of criminogenic needs. The Department currently has a policy that all youth who remain in the community must be reassessed every ninety days in order to be certain the treatment plans for youth on probation are in keeping with the risks and needs of the youth. While beyond the scope of this study, future analyses should examine how PACT overall risk to re-offend scores, and individual scores for the domains of the PACT rise and fall as it relates to the treatment/services youth receive.

An alternative hypothesis as to why the PACT is not predictive of recidivism for youth assessed prior to residential placement is related to the treatment youth receive while committed. The current study did not control for the type of treatment youth receive while in the more than 120 residential commitment facilities in Florida operated or contracted by the Department. Treatment variables are as of yet unavailable within the Department's JJIS database making it impossible to know from the monthly data extracts exactly what services each youth received while in commitment.

The finding that the PACT is not predictive for youth assessed while in commitment and tracked subsequent to release becomes logical once the actual questions of the PACT are examined. Several of the questions essential to the scoring of the PACT make the instrument artificial and directly related to the circumstance of being committed. For example, "Current use

of alcohol”, “Current use of drugs”, “Current friends”, as well as “Youth’s attendance in the most recent (school) term” are all “fixed” due to the youth being committed. There are no opportunities to engage in the use of alcohol or drugs, all of the other youth with which the youth interacts are arguably antisocial, as they are all in a residential commitment facility, and all youth are required to attend school every weekday. Many of the questions themselves force all youth to “look” a certain way and therefore many of the questions relevant to accurate assessment, scoring, and differentiation amongst classifications, become artificial.

The Department is currently designing, along with the developers of the PACT, an instrument that will alleviate this issue. The new instrument will attempt to measure progress during residential placement on decreasing criminogenic needs and risk factors, and increasing protective factors. The instrument is still in its formative stage, soon to be piloted then evaluated. The current study does, however, raise one issue with respect to the current business rules associated with PACT assessments. Currently all youth are assessed within sixty days of projected release from a residential facility, using the PACT assessment. The present study shows the assessment prior to release to not be a significant predictor of recidivism for these youth when they are released (more than likely due to the issue of improper questions for youth in residential, as discussed in the paragraphs above). The Department may benefit from using the assessment conducted sixty days prior to release as a way to guide aftercare planning, but should be sure to reassess youth within a relatively short time of actual release from commitment to gauge reentry success more effectively.

The third and fourth hypotheses of the current study were both supported. The third hypothesis held that the higher the criminal history score, as presented by the PACT, the more likely the youth is to re-offend. This was indeed the case, as a greater extent of prior official

offenses, and greater seriousness of those offenses was a significant predictor of recidivism. The identical held true for the social history score, as the higher the score, the more likely the youth is to re-offend. The current study did not go into depth as to which components of the criminal history score or social history score were driving the significance of those scores, except for some analysis with respect to sex differences. Future research would benefit from more in-depth analysis to uncover the specific components responsible for the significance.

The fifth hypothesis was also supported, and was perhaps one of the most important findings of the current study. The hypothesis held that the overall risk to re-offend level, as evidenced by the PACT, would be a significant predictor of both male and female recidivism. The analysis conducted by the current study on the ability of the PACT to predict female as well as male re-offending validate the use of the PACT in the state of Florida for all youth under the care and custody of DJJ. The current study illustrates there exists no need, with respect to predicting re-offending, for a “gender-specific” assessment as the PACT predicts female and male re-offending equally well. The Pact establishes which classifications of youth will recidivate (on an aggregate level) if they are able to remain in the community. Therefore, the PACT is an appropriate assessment for DJJ to use to determine which youth should be recommended for community placement and which youth are significantly more likely to be a detriment to public safety if they are allowed to remain in the community.

The finding that the PACT significantly predicted recidivism for the full sample of female youth assessed and subsequently remaining in the community differentiates the PACT from other risk assessment instruments unable to predict full sample female re-offending, and only re-offending of sub-groups of females. As mentioned in the review of the literature, previous research indicates that actuarial assessments (specifically the LSI-R) are not predictive of female

offending as a whole, but are valid for predicting the recidivism for economically motivated women (Reisig et al., 2006). The current study shows the PACT to be a valid instrument for the prediction of female offending, without the necessity of having to sub-group the females, or only being able to predict re-offend of certain of those sub-groups. This finding runs counter to much of the gendered pathways research asserting the need to examine the ways females become involved in offending behavior, and the rationale of why those females engage in that behavior.

The sixth hypothesis was also supported by the current study. Males are significantly more likely to re-offend than females. This pattern held true even after controlling for overall risk to re-offend as evidenced by the PACT and a variety of other criminal history and social history covariates. This finding is in keeping with a plethora of criminological literature and empirical research, such that it is a universal truth in criminology that males are more likely to recidivate than females regardless of time period, age of the youth, country, or culture.

The seventh hypothesis was supported by the current study. The hypothesis asserted that any sex differences that would appear would be “washed out” with the inclusion of proxy measures. The inclusion of sexual and physical abuse history, drug and alcohol abuse, delinquent peer associations, history of school expulsion/suspensions, number of teachers/coaches the youth is comfortable with, positive adult non-family relationships, history of running away, and level of parental supervision did indeed decrease the significance of simply being male or female. Sex was reduced from being a significant predictor of recidivism, with males more likely to re-offend, by the inclusion of the proxy measurements. Future direction for additional analyses should include a more in-depth analysis of the more than 126 PACT measures that may be proxies for sex to examine sex differences in re-offending predictors.

In relation to sex difference, the eighth hypothesis was supported. The hypothesis was that a history of physical or sexual abuse would not be a stronger predictor of female re-offending than of male re-offending. The original notion behind the hypothesis was related to the seventh hypothesis of proxy measures being able to reduce sex (being male or female) to insignificance, which did indeed occur. Although the basis for the prediction that physical and sexual abuse would not be stronger predictors of female recidivism did not play out as hypothesized, the analysis led to interesting findings. History of physical abuse and history of sexual abuse are not stronger predictors for female re-offending than for male re-offending because neither physical or sexual abuse history was found to significantly predict either male or female recidivism. The seventh hypothesis (correctly) believed that inclusion of proxy measures such as physical and sexual abuse would “wash out” the significance of being male or female, meaning that it is really the circumstance of having been abused that led to delinquent behavior, and not being male or female. The eighth hypothesis held that males who were abused physically or abused sexually would be just as likely as females with those histories to re-offend. The hypothesis was supported, but not in the way in which it was intended. The physical and sexual abuse history did not lead to the offending behavior, as believed, because the abuse histories did not significantly predict the behavior at all.

The final hypothesis examined whether the PACT was predictive of violent recidivism. While the original intent of the PACT was to enable the prediction of which youth would be more likely to re-offend if they remained in the community, and to categorize that likelihood into four components (low, moderate, moderate-high, and high), researchers have often sought to examine whether risk/needs assessments can predict offenses more detrimental to public safety. Violent offense prediction is often first on the list of subcomponents of offense to attempt to

predict. Hypothesis ten was supported as the analysis showed the overall risk to re-offend score of the PACT to be a significant predictor of violent recidivism for youth assessed who remain in the community.

It is a significant step for the PACT to be able to significantly predict which youth, on an aggregate level, are more likely to commit a violent offense if they remain in the community than other youth. Furthermore, only a very narrow range of offenses was included in the “violent” category. Only murder/manslaughter, attempted murder/manslaughter, felony sexual battery, armed robbery, and aggravated assault and/or battery were included. This extremely strict assortment of offenses was included so as to be certain the analysis was capturing the most violent against person offenses possible. Future research should examine whether the PACT is equally as successful at predicting other categories of offenses, such as property or drug offenses. Future direction may also include examination of which of the more than 46 questions within the Pre-Screen, and which of the more than 126 questions within the Full Assessment are driving the prediction of violent offenses.

## CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice received over 150,000 delinquency referrals, representing over 94,000 youth, between July 1, 2005 and June 31, 2006. The Department has developed and implemented a risk/needs assessment to help predict which youth are more likely to recidivate if they remain in the community, as well as to identify the criminogenic needs of all youth referred so as to provide appropriate treatment to reduce those risk factors and increase protective factors. The purpose of the current study was to validate that instrument, the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), for the youth referred in Florida. The current study utilized the full population of PACT assessments, one for every youth referred making any issue regarding the generalizability of the findings irrelevant.

The analysis shows that the PACT is indeed a valid instrument and that the higher the risk to re-offend as evidenced by the PACT, the more likely recidivism will occur for youth assessed who remain in the community. Furthermore, the PACT is valid for both males and females. The finding that the PACT significantly predicts female offending as well as male offending is substantial, and places the PACT above other risk/needs assessments, which have been found incapable of predicting full-sample female recidivism. Additional analyses showing the ability of the PACT to predict not only general recidivism, but violent offending as well are also important. These analyses validate the use of the PACT for the prediction of risk to recidivate for all youth referred to the Department. The PACT was able to predict both short-term (six month) and long-term (one year) recidivism.

The PACT, for the youth in the current sample, was capable of predicting recidivism for youth assessed prior to entering residential commitment facilities that are tracked subsequent to release, only in the opposite direction as intended. For the youth assessed as higher risk to re-

offend, this may be mainly due to progress within specific criminogenic needs as a result of the treatment youth receive within residential facilities. However, there currently exists no way to discern what treatment youth receive based on the monthly data extracts from the Department's JJIS database and contact with each of the over 120 residential facilities would have been futile as there are often no records of the frequency or duration of particular treatments for each individual youth. For the youth assessed as low risk to re-offend, the extant literature coupled with the results of the current study suggest this is due to the negative implications of providing low risk youth intensive treatment.

The PACT was also not able to predict re-offending for youth assessed while in residential commitment facilities and tracked subsequent to release. The major limitation of this finding is that only thirty-one youth composed the sub-sample of youth assessed while in commitment and tracked one year. Possibilities for this inability include the small sample size lacking power to capture statistical significance and the artificial nature of some PACT questions for youth in a residential commitment facility. Future studies should revisit this issue when a greater number of PACT assessments have been conducted on youth while in residential placement. In the event the results of this study are replicated, and the PACT administered while a youth is in commitment is still not predictive of recidivism post-release, the Department may wish to consider ensuring an additional PACT is administered shortly after release so as to gain a more accurate picture of the risk and protective factors for youth while in the community.

## CHAPTER 6 FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Future empirical research should attempt to provide a more in-depth analysis regarding the individual questions which compose the four domains of the PACT Pre-Screen and the twelve domains of the Full Assessment. Each domain is composed of multiple questions and factor analysis would be a useful tool to examine whether domains are individual constructs or multiple factors. Furthermore, scale analysis could be used to examine the domains as they relate to the social history score composing one half of the scoring matrix used by the PACT to determine risk to re-offend.

A substantial amount of work remains to be done regarding the individual domains, or, more specifically, questions, which drive the significance of male versus female offending. The finding that the social history score significantly predicts male and female offending is important, but it may be the case that certain individual covariates that compose that score are more essential to female offending and others more essential to male offending. The validation of the PACT for both males and females was the initial step, and essential if the instrument is to be used to assess both sexes, but more extensive work should be undertaken to examine the covariates which lead to female offending behavior and, separately, male offending behavior, so the appropriate criminogenic needs can be targeted with treatment.

An additional stream of future research should focus on examining whether there may exist a better alternative for scoring overall risk to re-offend based on the information gathered by the PACT. As the PACT has been found significant in the prediction of recidivism for almost every analysis attempted by the current study, this task may be difficult, but worthy of undertaking. As the current study was an attempt to validate an existing instrument, there was no need to create a construction sample and validation samples. However, ample data exist for the attempt to create

an instrument based on various PACT covariates and scoring of those covariates to then be validated and assessed for shrinkage. Additional future directions may also wish to examine whether more simple combinations of covariates are equally as predictive as the complex, automated scoring of the PACT assessment.

Perhaps the most important analysis that has yet to be conducted relates to PACT reassessments. Future work should examine the ways scores on the various domains of the PACT fluctuate from one assessment to the next. More importantly is the examination of the ways in which the individual domain scores fluctuate when youth are provided with specific treatments. Considerable work should be undertaken related to how the provision of a standardized evidence-based treatment curriculum positively, or negatively affects a domain score, and whether a similar effect for the identical treatment is observed for both males and females.

The current study in conjunction with the empirical work suggested above would take the question of “What works?” to “What works for whom?” Answers to these questions will guide the Department toward providing the best treatment possible for the risk factors and needs presented by the youth served. The provision of proven effective, evidence-based treatment, targeted to specific individualized criminogenic needs, as presented by a validated risk/needs assessment as the PACT has shown itself to be in the current study, is the quintessential step to reducing juvenile recidivism, and thereby increasing public safety, and to improving the lives of the youth served throughout the state of Florida.

APPENDIX A  
 HOW TO READ AND INTERPRET THE PACT OVERVIEW AND THE YES CASE PLAN  
 REPORTS

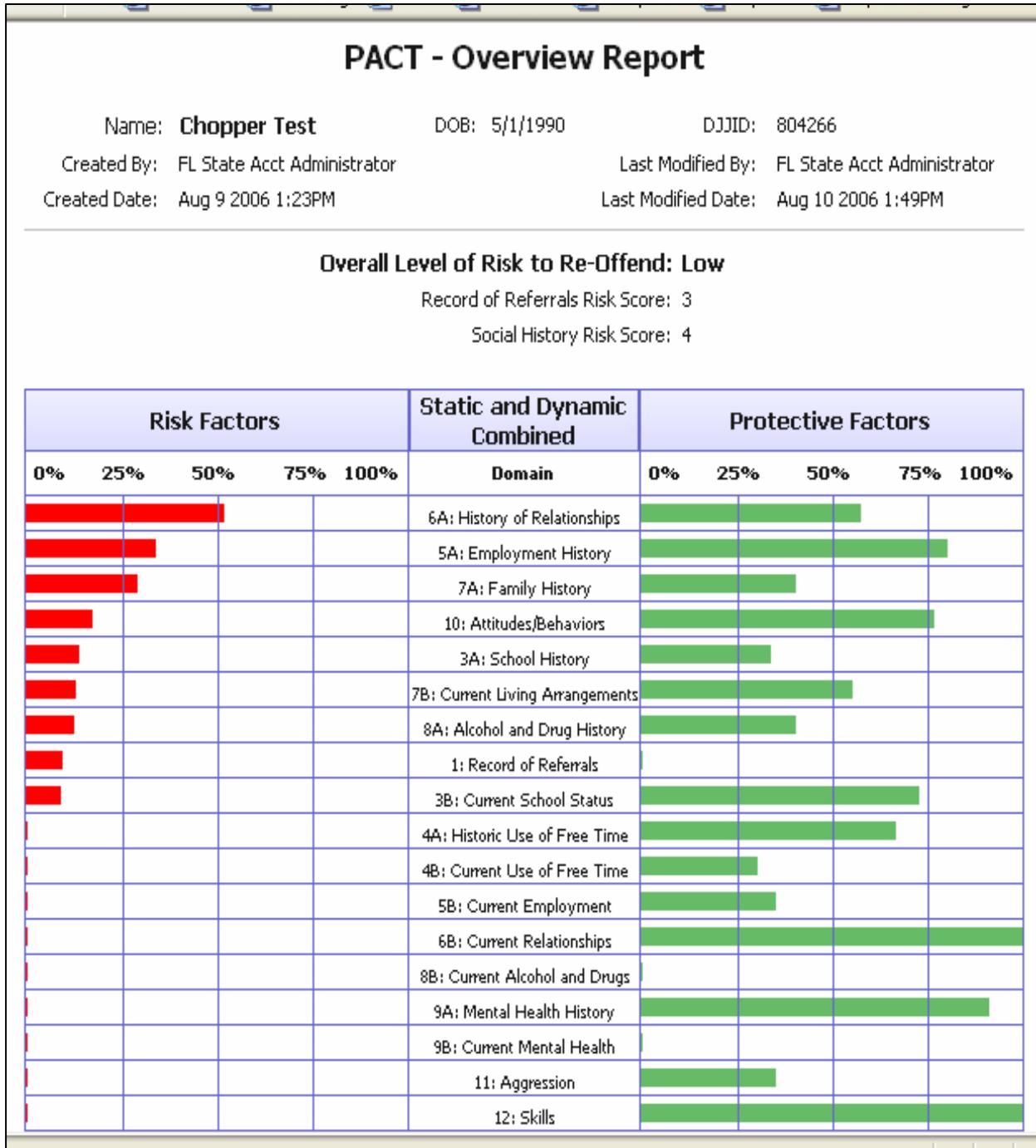


Figure A-1. PACT Overview Report

The PACT (*Positive Achievement Change Tool*) is designed to accomplish four basic objectives:

- Determine a youth's level of risk for re-offending as a way to target resources to higher-risk youth.
- Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the youth's unique assessment profile.
- Develop a case management approach focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
- Allow managers to determine if targeted factors change as a result of the court's intervention.

The Overview Report helps Florida's juvenile justice practitioners accomplish those objectives by showing, at-a-glance:

**Overall level of risk to re-offend:** In simple terms, a youth with a low overall level of risk is much less likely to commit another crime than a youth with a high overall level of risk. Indeed, according to the Pre-Validation Study of the PACT by the Florida Justice Research Center conducted in September 2005, recidivism rates for higher-risk youth are 57% compared to 17% for low-risk youth. This is key information because the research literature is clear that "what works" in reducing recidivism is matching the levels of treatment with the risk levels of offenders. High-risk offenders require intensive interventions to reduce recidivism, while low-risk offenders benefit most from low intensity interventions or no intervention at all.

**Risk factors** are the circumstances or events in the youth's life that increase the likelihood that the youth will start or continue criminal activities. In the Overview Report, they are prioritized from highest to lowest; the higher the risk score, the more risk in that area. They can be static or dynamic. *Static factors* are circumstances in a youth's life that are historic and cannot be changed, such as a history of physical abuse. In the Overview Report, Domain 1, Record of Referrals, and the other domains labeled with an "A" are static. All the others are dynamic. *Dynamic factors* are circumstances or conditions in a youth's life that can potentially

be changed, such as the youth's friends or school performance. Dynamic factors are used to guide the rehabilitative effort.

**Protective factors** are circumstances or events in the youth's life that reduce the likelihood of the youth committing a crime, those positive things that help the youth overcome adversity.

**Domains:** The PACT full assessment includes 12 major domains related to juvenile delinquency and continued criminal activity based on the research literature: (1) Criminal History; (2) Gender; (3) School; (4) Use of Free Time; (5) Employment; (6) Relationships; (7) Family/Current Living Arrangements; (8) Alcohol and Drugs; (9) Mental Health; (10) Attitudes/Behaviors; (11) Aggression; and (12) Skills.

**Pre-Screen vs. Full Assessment:** The PACT implementation consists of a two-stage process. The first stage is a pre-screen assessment completed for all youth placed on probation. The pre-screen is a shortened version of the full assessment that quickly indicates whether a youth is of low-, moderate-, moderate-high-, or high-risk to re-offend. Each of these levels is presumed to have distinctly different recidivism rates.

The second stage, a full assessment, is required by DJJ business rules, for youth assessed as moderate-high or high-risk on the pre-screen. The full assessment identifies a youth's risk and protective factor profile and then forwards only those factors that are dynamic to the YES Case Plan to guide rehabilitative efforts.

The **YES Case Plan Report** displays the dynamic factors that are influencing the youth's anti-social behavior, and it provides the facts (evidence) needed to develop a Case Plan to effectively address these prioritized criminogenic needs. In a very focused way, the PACT and the YES Case Plan help JPOs and judges define the youth's unique behavioral problems and create goals and actions to resolve those problems.

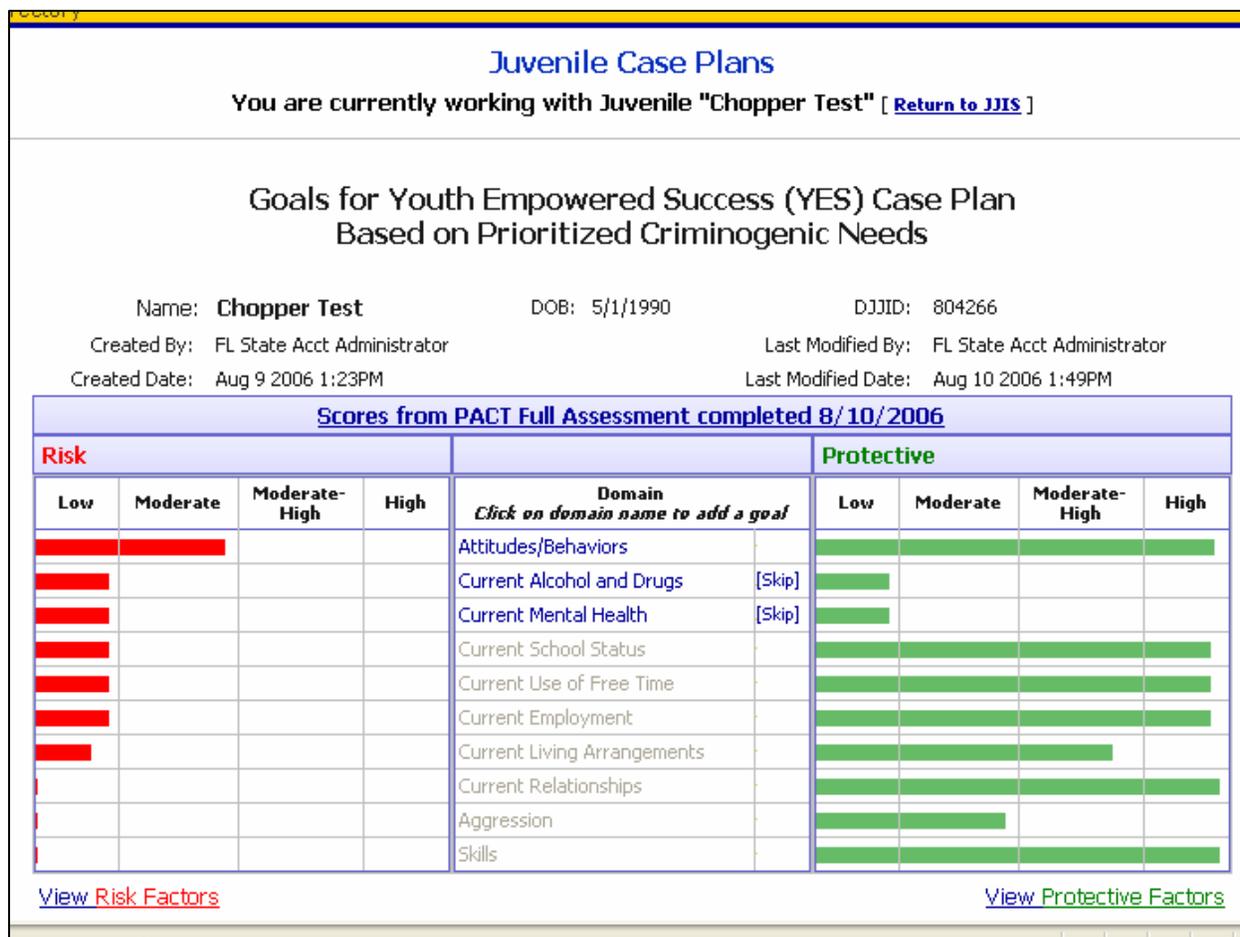


Figure A-2. YES Case Plan

**The responsivity principle:** The Assessments.com software simplifies and organizes this process and provides a critical reporting function for monitoring individual and systemic progress toward the desired positive outcomes. However, it is up to the case workers to use their professional judgment to choose which behavioral problems to work on based on responsivity issues; and to choose those actions which the youth and the parents are most ready, willing and able to take to help turn the youth's life around. If implemented successfully, the Case Plan will increase the youth's protective factors and lower the risk factors, and will result in lower overall recidivism.

**The risk principle:** It is important, of course, to target all this effort, not at the low-risk, but at higher-risk youth. The PACT provides the facts (evidence) for judges to focus their resources on higher-risk youth and assign lower-risk youth to minimum- supervision caseloads, bringing savings and more effectiveness to the entire juvenile justice system.

**Re-assessments.** Either the pre-screen or the full assessments can be re-administered to measure changes in risk and protective factors as interim outcomes for court interventions. This comparative-over-time information can help a judge make good sentencing decisions. For example, a youth who at intake is not attending school, but who returns to school as a result of court-ordered sanctions and then performs well as measured by a PACT re-assessment can be expected, on average, to be associated with reduced recidivism.

APPENDIX B  
PACT PRE-SCREEN ASSESSMENT

<b>DOMAIN 1: Record of Referrals</b>	
<i>Referrals, rather than offenses, are used to assess the persistence of re-offending by the youth. Include only referrals that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	
1. <b>Age at first offense:</b> <i>The age at the time of the offense for which the youth was referred to juvenile court for the first time on a non-traffic misdemeanor or felony that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Over 16 <input type="radio"/> 16 <input type="radio"/> 15 <input type="radio"/> 13 to 14 <input type="radio"/> 12 and Under
<b>Felony and misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Items 2 and 3 are mutually exclusive and should add to the total number of referrals that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court.</i>	
2. <b>Misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Total number of referrals for which the most serious offense was a non-traffic misdemeanor that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	<input type="radio"/> None or one <input type="radio"/> Two <input type="radio"/> Three or four <input type="radio"/> Five or more
3. <b>Felony referrals:</b> <i>Total number of referrals for a felony offense that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two <input type="radio"/> Three or more
<b>Against-person or weapon referrals:</b> <i>Items 4, 5, and 6 are mutually exclusive and should add to the total number of referrals that involve an against-person or weapon offense, including sex offenses that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	
4. <b>Weapon referrals:</b> <i>Total referrals for which the most serious offense was a firearm/weapon charge or a weapon enhancement finding.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One or more
5. <b>Against-person misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Total number of referrals for which the most serious offense was an against-person misdemeanor – a misdemeanor involving threats, force, or physical harm to another person or sexual misconduct (assault, coercion, harassment, intimidation, etc.).</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
6. <b>Against-person felony referrals:</b> <i>Number of referrals involving force or physical harm to another person including sexual misconduct as defined by FDLE as violent felonies.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One or two <input type="radio"/> Three or more
<b>Sex offense referrals:</b> <i>Items 7 and 8 are mutually exclusive and should add to the total number of referrals that involve a sex offense or sexual misconduct that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court.</i>	

7. <b>Sexual misconduct misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Number of referrals for which the most serious offense was a sexual misconduct misdemeanor including obscene phone calls, indecent exposure, obscenity, pornography, or public indecency, or misdemeanors with sexual motivation.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
8. <b>Felony sex offense referrals:</b> <i>Referrals for a felony sex offense or involving sexual motivation including carnal knowledge, child molestation, communication with minor for immoral purpose, incest, indecent exposure, indecent liberties, promoting pornography, rape, sexual misconduct, or voyeurism.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
9. <b>Confinements in secure detention where youth was held for at least 48 hours:</b> <i>Number of times the youth was held for at least 48 hours physically confined in a detention facility.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two <input type="radio"/> Three or more
10. <b>Commitment orders where youth served at least one day confined under residential commitment:</b> <i>Total number of commitment orders and modification orders for which the youth served at least one day confined under residential commitment. A day served includes credit for time served.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
11. <b>Escapes:</b> <i>Total number of attempted or actual escapes that resulted in adjudication.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
12. <b>Pick Up Orders for failure-to-appear in court or absconding supervision:</b> <i>Total number of failures-to-appear in court or absconding supervision that resulted in a pick up order being issued. Exclude failure-to-appear warrants for non-criminal matters.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more

**Domain 2 : Social History**

*Current is defined as behaviors occurring within the last six months*

1. <b>Youth's Gender</b>	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
2a. <b>Youth's current school enrollment status, regardless of attendance:</b> <i>If the youth is in home school as a result of being expelled or dropping out, check the expelled or dropped out box, otherwise check enrolled.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Graduated, GED <input type="radio"/> Enrolled full-time <input type="radio"/> Enrolled part-time <input type="radio"/> Suspended <input type="radio"/> Dropped out <input type="radio"/> Expelled
2b. <b>Youth's conduct in the most recent term:</b> <i>Fighting or threatening students; threatening teachers/staff; overly disruptive behavior; drug/alcohol use; crimes, e.g., theft, vandalism; lying, cheating, dishonesty.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Recognition for good behavior <input type="radio"/> No problems with school conduct <input type="radio"/> Problems reported by teachers <input type="radio"/> Problem calls to parents <input type="radio"/> Calls to police
2c. <b>Youth's attendance in the most recent term:</b> <i>Full-day absence means missing majority of classes. Partial-day absence means attending the majority of classes and missing the minority. Habitual truancy as defined in FS includes 15 unexcused absences in a 90-day period.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Good attendance with few absences <input type="radio"/> No unexcused absences <input type="radio"/> Some partial-day unexcused absences <input type="radio"/> Some full-day unexcused absences <input type="radio"/> Habitual truant

<p>2d. <b>Youth's academic performance in the most recent school term:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Honor student (mostly As)  <input type="radio"/> Above 3.0 (mostly As and Bs)  <input type="radio"/> 2.0 to 3.0 (mostly Bs and Cs, no Fs)  <input type="radio"/> 1.0 to 2.0 (mostly Cs and Ds, some Fs)  <input type="radio"/> Below 1.0 (some Ds and mostly Fs)</p>
<p>3a. <b>History of anti-social friends/companions:</b> Anti-social peers are youths hostile to or disruptive of the legal social order; youths who violate the law and the rights of others and other delinquent youth. <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Never had consistent friends or companions  <input type="checkbox"/> Had pro-social friends  <input type="checkbox"/> Had anti-social friends  <input type="checkbox"/> Been a gang member/associate</p>
<p>3b. <b>Current friends/companions youth actually spends time with:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No consistent friends or companions  <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-social friends  <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-social friends  <input type="checkbox"/> Gang member/associate</p>
<p>4. <b>History of court-ordered or DCF voluntary out-of-home and shelter care placements exceeding 30 days:</b> Exclude DJJ residential commitments.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No out-of-home placements exceeding 30 days  <input type="radio"/> 1 out-of-home placement  <input type="radio"/> 2 out-of-home placements  <input type="radio"/> 3 or more out-of-home placements</p>
<p>5. <b>History of running away or getting kicked out of home:</b> Include times the youth did not voluntarily return within 24 hours, and include incidents not reported by or to law enforcement</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No history of running away/being kicked out  <input type="radio"/> 1 instance of running away/kicked out  <input type="radio"/> 2 to 3 instances of running away/kicked out  <input type="radio"/> 4 to 5 instances of running away/kicked out  <input type="radio"/> Over 5 instances of running away/kicked out</p>
<p>6a. <b>History of jail/imprisonment of persons who were ever involved in the household for at least 3 months:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No jail/imprisonment history in family  <input type="checkbox"/> Mother/female caretaker  <input type="checkbox"/> Father/male caretaker  <input type="checkbox"/> Older sibling  <input type="checkbox"/> Younger sibling  <input type="checkbox"/> Other member</p>
<p>6b. <b>History of jail/imprisonment of persons who are currently involved with the household:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No jail/imprisonment history in family  <input type="checkbox"/> Mother/female caretaker  <input type="checkbox"/> Father/male caretaker  <input type="checkbox"/> Older sibling  <input type="checkbox"/> Younger sibling  <input type="checkbox"/> Other member</p>

<p>6c. <b>Problem history of parents who are currently involved with the household:</b> <i>(Check all that apply).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No problem history of parents in household <input type="checkbox"/> Parental alcohol problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental drug problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental physical health problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental mental health problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental employment problem history
<p>7. <b>Current parental authority and control:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> Youth usually obeys and follows rules <input type="radio"/> Sometimes obeys or obeys some rules <input type="radio"/> Consistently disobeys, and/or is hostile
<p>8a. <b>Youth's history of alcohol use:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No past alcohol use <input type="checkbox"/> Past alcohol use <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol caused family conflict <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol disrupted education <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol caused health problems <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol interfered with keeping pro-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol contributed to criminal behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Youth needed increasing amounts of alcohol to achieve same level of intoxication or high <input type="checkbox"/> Youth experienced withdrawal problems
<p>8b. <b>Youth's history of drug use:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No past drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Past drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs caused family conflict <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs disrupted education <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs caused health problems <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs interfered with keeping pro-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs contributed to criminal behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Youth needed increasing amounts of drugs to achieve same level of intoxication or high <input type="checkbox"/> Youth experienced withdrawal problems

<p>8c. <b>Youth's Current alcohol use:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No current alcohol use</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Current alcohol use</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol causing family conflict</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol disrupting education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol causing health problems</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol interfering with keeping pro-social friends</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol contributing to criminal behavior</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth needs increasing amounts of alcohol to achieve same level of intoxication or high</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth experiences withdrawal problems</li> </ul>
<p>8d. <b>Youth's current drug use:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No current drug use</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Current drug use</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs causing family conflict</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs disrupting education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs causing health problems</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs interfering with keeping pro-social friends</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs contributing to criminal behavior</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth needs increasing amounts of drugs to achieve same level of intoxication or high</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth experiences withdrawal problems</li> </ul>
<p><i>For abuse and neglect, include any history that is suspected, whether or not reported or substantiated; exclude reports of abuse or neglect proven to be false.</i></p>	
<p>9a. <b>History of violence/physical abuse:</b> Include suspected incidents of abuse if disclosed by youth, whether or not reported or substantiated, but exclude reports investigated but proven to be false. <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not a victim of violence/physical abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Victim of violence/physical abuse at home</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Victim of violence/physical abuse in a foster/group home</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Victimized by family member</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Victimized by someone outside the family</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attacked with a weapon</li> </ul>
<p>9b <b>History of witnessing violence:</b> <i>(Check all that apply)</i> Include perpetrators and victims of violence as having witnessed violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has not witnessed violence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has witnessed violence at home</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has witnessed violence in a foster/group home</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has witnessed violence in the community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Family member killed as result of violence</li> </ul>

<p>9c <b>History of sexual abuse/rape:</b> Include suspected incidents of abuse if disclosed by youth, whether or not reported or substantiated, but exclude reports investigated but proven to be false. <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a victim of sexual abuse/rape <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually abused/raped by family member <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually abused/raped by someone outside the family
<p>10. <b>History of being a victim of neglect:</b> Include suspected incidents of neglect, whether or not reported or substantiated, but exclude reports investigated but proven to be false.</p>	<input type="radio"/> Not victim of neglect <input type="radio"/> Victim of neglect
<p>11. <b>History of mental health problems:</b> Such as schizophrenia, bi-polar, mood, thought, personality, and adjustment disorders. Exclude substance abuse and special education since those issues are considered elsewhere. Confirm by a professional in the social service/healthcare field.</p>	<input type="radio"/> No history of mental health problem(s) <input type="radio"/> Past history of mental health problem(s) diagnosis (more than six months ago) <input type="radio"/> Diagnosed with mental health problem(s) <input type="radio"/> Only mental health medication prescribed. If yes, list _____ <input type="radio"/> Only mental health treatment prescribed <input type="radio"/> Mental health medication and treatment prescribed

**Domain 3: Mental Health**

<p>1. <b>History of suicidal ideation: Include any previous thoughts, threats, plans and attempts even if youth indicates they were manipulative or there was no intent.</b> <i>(Check all that apply)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Has never had serious thoughts about suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Has had serious thoughts about suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Has made a plan to commit suicide. If yes, describe _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Has attempted to commit suicide. If yes, describe attempt(s) and date(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Feels life is not worth living – no hope for future. <input type="checkbox"/> Knows someone well who has committed suicide. If yes, who, when and how _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Engages in self-mutilating behavior _____
<p>2. <b>History of anger or irritability:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> No history of anger/irritability <input type="radio"/> History of occasional feelings of anger/irritability <input type="radio"/> History of consistent feelings of anger/irritability <input type="radio"/> History of aggressive reactions to feelings of anger/irritability.

<p>3. <b>History of depression or anxiety</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No history of depression/anxiety</p> <p><input type="radio"/> History of occasional feelings of depression/anxiety</p> <p><input type="radio"/> History of consistent feelings of depression/anxiety</p> <p><input type="radio"/> History of impairment in every day tasks due to depression/anxiety</p>
<p>4. <b>History of Somatic Complaints:</b> Bodily or physical discomforts associated with distress, such as stomachaches or headaches</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No history of somatic complaints</p> <p><input type="radio"/> History of one or two somatic complaints</p> <p><input type="radio"/> History of three or four somatic complaints</p> <p><input type="radio"/> History of 5 or more somatic complaints</p>
<p>5. <b>History of thought disturbance</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No unusual thoughts or beliefs</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Presence of hallucinations (auditory or visual)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Presence of beliefs that the youth is controlled by others or others control the youth.</p>
<p>6. <b>History of traumatic experience:</b> Lifetime exposure to events such as rape, abuse or observed violence, including dreams or flashbacks</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No presence of traumatic event</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Presence of traumatic event</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Flashbacks to traumatic event</p>

<b>Domain 4: Attitude/Behavior Indicators</b>	
<p>1. <b>Attitude toward responsible law abiding behavior:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Abides by conventions/values</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Believes conventions/values sometimes apply to him or her</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Does not believe conventions/values apply to him or her</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Resents or is hostile toward responsible behavior</p>
<p>2. <b>Accepts responsibility for anti-social behavior:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Accepts responsibility for anti-social behavior</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Minimizes, denies, justifies, excuses, or blames others</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Accepts anti-social behavior as okay</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Proud of anti-social behavior</p>
<p>3. <b>Belief in yelling and verbal aggression to resolve a disagreement or conflict:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Believes verbal aggression is rarely appropriate</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Believes verbal aggression is sometimes appropriate</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Believes verbal aggression is often appropriate</p>
<p>4. <b>Belief in fighting and physical aggression to resolve a disagreement or conflict:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is never appropriate</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is rarely appropriate</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is sometimes appropriate</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is often appropriate</p>

<p><b>5. Reports/evidence of violence not included in criminal history:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No reports/evidence of violence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Violent outbursts, displays of temper, uncontrolled anger indicating potential for harm</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Deliberately inflicting physical pain</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Using/threatening with a weapon</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fire starting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Violent destruction of property</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Animal cruelty</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Reports of problem with sexual aggression not included in criminal history:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No reports/evidence of sexual aggression</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive sex</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sex for power</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Young sex partners</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child sex</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Voyeurism</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exposure</li> </ul>

APPENDIX C  
FULL ASSESSMENT

<b>DOMAIN 1: Record of Referrals</b>	
<i>Referrals, rather than offenses, are used to assess the persistence of re-offending by the youth. Include only referrals that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	
2. <b>Age at first offense:</b> <i>The age at the time of the offense for which the youth was referred to juvenile court for the first time on a non-traffic misdemeanor or felony that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Over 16 <input type="radio"/> 16 <input type="radio"/> 15 <input type="radio"/> 13 to 14 <input type="radio"/> 12 and Under
<b>Felony and misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Items 2 and 3 are mutually exclusive and should add to the total number of referrals that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court.</i>	
5. <b>Misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Total number of referrals for which the most serious offense was a non-traffic misdemeanor that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	<input type="radio"/> None or one <input type="radio"/> Two <input type="radio"/> Three or four <input type="radio"/> Five or more
6. <b>Felony referrals:</b> <i>Total number of referrals for a felony offense that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two <input type="radio"/> Three or more
<b>Against-person or weapon referrals:</b> <i>Items 4, 5, and 6 are mutually exclusive and should add to the total number of referrals that involve an against-person or weapon offense, including sex offenses that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</i>	
7. <b>Weapon referrals:</b> <i>Total referrals for which the most serious offense was a firearm/weapon charge or a weapon enhancement finding.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One or more
12. <b>Against-person misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Total number of referrals for which the most serious offense was an against-person misdemeanor – a misdemeanor involving threats, force, or physical harm to another person or sexual misconduct (assault, coercion, harassment, intimidation, etc.).</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
13. <b>Against-person felony referrals:</b> <i>Number of referrals involving force or physical harm to another person including sexual misconduct as defined by FDLE as violent felonies.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One or two <input type="radio"/> Three or more
<b>Sex offense referrals:</b> <i>Items 7 and 8 are mutually exclusive and should add to the total number of referrals that involve a sex offense or sexual misconduct that resulted in diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court.</i>	
14. <b>Sexual misconduct misdemeanor referrals:</b> <i>Number of referrals for which the most serious offense was a sexual misconduct misdemeanor including obscene phone calls, indecent exposure, obscenity, pornography, or public indecency, or misdemeanors with sexual motivation.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more

15. <b>Felony sex offense referrals:</b> <i>Referrals for a felony sex offense or involving sexual motivation including carnal knowledge, child molestation, communication with minor for immoral purpose, incest, indecent exposure, indecent liberties, promoting pornography, rape, sexual misconduct, or voyeurism.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
16. <b>Confinements in secure detention where youth was held for at least 48 hours:</b> <i>Number of times the youth was held for at least 48 hours physically confined in a detention facility.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two <input type="radio"/> Three or more
17. <b>Commitment orders where youth served at least one day confined under residential commitment:</b> <i>Total number of commitment orders and modification orders for which the youth served at least one day confined under residential commitment. A day served includes credit for time served.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
18. <b>Escapes:</b> <i>Total number of attempted or actual escapes that resulted in adjudication.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more
19. <b>Pick Up Orders for failure-to-appear in court or absconding supervision:</b> <i>Total number of failures-to-appear in court or absconding supervision that resulted in a pick up order being issued. Exclude failure-to-appear warrants for non-criminal matters.</i>	<input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> One <input type="radio"/> Two or more

DOMAIN 3A: School History	
1. <b>Youth is a special education student or has a formal diagnosis of a special education need:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No special education need <input type="checkbox"/> Learning retardation <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral <input type="checkbox"/> Mental <input type="checkbox"/> ADHD/ADD
2. <b>History of expulsions and out of school suspensions since the first grade:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No expel/suspend <input type="radio"/> 1 expel/suspend <input type="radio"/> 2 or 3 <input type="radio"/> 4 or 5 <input type="radio"/> 6 or 7 <input type="radio"/> More than 7
3. <b>Age at first expulsion or suspension:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No expulsions <input type="radio"/> 5 to 9 years old <input type="radio"/> 10 to 13 years old <input type="radio"/> 14 to 15 years old <input type="radio"/> 16 to 18 years old
4. <b>Youth has been enrolled in a community school during the last 6 months, regardless of attendance:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No, graduated/GED and not attending school, do not complete Domain 3B <input type="radio"/> No, dropped-out or expelled for more than six months, do not complete Domain 3B <input type="radio"/> Yes, must complete Domain 3B
DOMAIN 3B: Current School Status	
<input type="radio"/> For Initial Assessments, current is the most recent term in last 6 months. <input type="radio"/> For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current is the last 4 weeks in the most recent term.	
1. <b>Youth's current school enrollment status, regardless of attendance:</b> <i>If the youth is in home school as a result of being expelled or dropping out, check expelled or dropped out; otherwise check enrolled, if in home school.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Graduated/GED <input type="radio"/> Enrolled full-time <input type="radio"/> Enrolled part-time <input type="radio"/> Suspended <input type="radio"/> Dropped out <input type="radio"/> Expelled
2. <b>Type of school in which youth is enrolled:</b>  <b>Name of School</b>	<input type="radio"/> Public academic <input type="radio"/> Vocational <input type="radio"/> Alternative <input type="radio"/> GED program <input type="radio"/> Private academic <input type="radio"/> Home school <input type="radio"/> College <input type="radio"/> Other_____

3. <b>Youth believes there is value in getting an education:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Believes getting an education is of value <input type="radio"/> Somewhat believes education is of value <input type="radio"/> Does not believe education is of value
4. <b>Youth believes school provides an encouraging environment for him or her:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Believes school is encouraging <input type="radio"/> Somewhat believes school is encouraging <input type="radio"/> Does not believe school is encouraging
5. <b>Teachers, staff, or coaches the youth likes or feels comfortable talking with:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Not close to any teachers, staff, or coaches <input type="radio"/> Close to 1 <input type="radio"/> Close to 3 <input type="radio"/> Close to 2 <input type="radio"/> Close to 4 or more
6. <b>Youth's involvement in school activities during most recent term:</b> <i>School leadership; social service clubs; music, dance, drama, art; athletics; other extracurricular activities.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Involved in 2 or more activities <input type="radio"/> Involved in 1 activity <input type="radio"/> Interested but not involved in any activities <input type="radio"/> Not interested in school activities
7. <b>Youth's conduct in the most recent term:</b> <i>Fighting or threatening students; threatening teachers/staff; overly disruptive behavior; drug/alcohol use; crimes (e.g., theft, vandalism); lying, cheating, dishonesty.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Recognition for good behavior <input type="radio"/> No problems with school conduct <input type="radio"/> Problems reported by teachers <input type="radio"/> Problem calls to parents <input type="radio"/> Calls to police
8. <b>Number of expulsions and suspensions in the most recent term:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No expel/suspend <input type="radio"/> 2 or 3 <input type="radio"/> 1 expel/suspend <input type="radio"/> More than 3
9. <b>Youth's attendance in the most recent term:</b> <i>Partial-day absence means attending majority of classes and missing minority. Full-day absence means missing majority of classes. Habitual truancy as defined in FS includes 15 unexcused absences in a 90 day period.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Good attendance; few excused absences <input type="radio"/> No unexcused absences <input type="radio"/> Some partial-day unexcused absences <input type="radio"/> Some full-day unexcused absences <input type="radio"/> Habitual truant
10. <b>Youth's academic performance in the most recent school term:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Honor student (mostly As) <input type="radio"/> Above 3.0 (mostly As and Bs) <input type="radio"/> 2.0 to 3.0 (mostly Bs and Cs, no Fs) <input type="radio"/> 1.0 to 2.0 (mostly Cs and Ds, some Fs) <input type="radio"/> Below 1.0 (some Ds and mostly Fs)
11. <b>Interviewer's assessment of likelihood the youth will stay in and graduate from high school or an equivalent vocational school:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Very likely to stay in school and graduate <input type="radio"/> Uncertain if youth will stay and graduate <input type="radio"/> Not very likely to stay and graduate

<b>DOMAIN 4A: Historic Use of Free Time</b>	
1. <b>History of structured recreational activities within the past 5 years:</b> <i>Youth has participated in structured and supervised pro-social community activities, such as religious group/church, community group, cultural group, club, athletics, or other community activities.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Involved in 2 or more structured activities <input type="radio"/> Involved in 1 structured activity <input type="radio"/> Never involved in structured activities
2. <b>History of unstructured pro-social recreational activities within the past 5 years:</b> <i>Youth has engaged in activities that positively occupy the youth's time, such as reading, hobbies, etc.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Involved in 2 or more pro-social unstructured activities <input type="radio"/> Involved in 1 pro-social unstructured activity <input type="radio"/> Never involved in pro-social unstructured activities
<b>DOMAIN 4B: Current Use of Free Time</b>	
<input type="radio"/> For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months. <input type="radio"/> For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.	
1. <b>Current interest and involvement in structured recreational activities:</b> <i>Youth participates in structured and supervised pro-social community activities, such as religious group/church, community group, cultural group, club, athletics, or other community activity.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Currently involved in 2 or more structured activities <input type="radio"/> Currently involved in 1 structured activity <input type="radio"/> Currently interested but not involved <input type="radio"/> Currently not interested in any structured activities
2. <b>Types of structured recreational activities in which youth currently participates:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Community/cultural group <input type="checkbox"/> Hobby group or club <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics <input type="checkbox"/> Religious group/church <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer organization
3. <b>Current interest and involvement in pro-social unstructured recreational activities:</b> <i>Youth engages in activities that positively occupy his or her time, such as reading, hobbies, etc.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Currently involved in 2 or more pro-social unstructured activities <input type="radio"/> Currently involved in 1 pro-social unstructured activity <input type="radio"/> Currently interested but not involved <input type="radio"/> Not interested in any pro-social unstructured activities

<b>DOMAIN 5A: Employment History</b>	
1. <b>History of employment:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Too young for employment consideration <input type="radio"/> Never been employed <input type="radio"/> Has been employed
2. <b>History of successful employment:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Never successfully employed <input type="radio"/> Has been successfully employed
3. <b>History of problems while employed:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Never fired or quit because of problems <input type="radio"/> Fired or quit because of poor performance <input type="radio"/> Fired or quit because he or she could not get along with employer or coworkers
4. <b>History of positive personal relationship(s) with past employer(s) or adult coworker(s):</b>	<input type="radio"/> Never had any positive relationships <input type="radio"/> Had 1 positive relationship <input type="radio"/> Had 2 or more positive relationships

<b>DOMAIN 5B: Current Employment</b>	
<input type="radio"/> For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months. <input type="radio"/> For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.	
1. <b>Understanding of what is required to maintain a job:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Lacks knowledge of what it takes to maintain a job <input type="radio"/> Has knowledge of abilities to maintain a job <input type="radio"/> Has demonstrated ability to maintain a job
2. <b>Current interest in employment:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Currently employed <input type="radio"/> Not employed but highly interested in employment <input type="radio"/> Not employed but somewhat interested <input type="radio"/> Not employed and not interested in employment <input type="radio"/> Too young for employment consideration
3. <b>Current employment status:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Not currently employed <input type="radio"/> Employment is currently going well <input type="radio"/> Having problems with current employment
4. <b>Current positive personal relationship(s) with employer(s) or adult coworker(s):</b>	<input type="radio"/> Not currently employed <input type="radio"/> Employed but no positive relationships <input type="radio"/> At least 1 positive relationship

<b>DOMAIN 6A: History of Relationships</b>	
1. <b>History of positive adult non-family relationships not connected to school or employment:</b> <i>Adults, who are not teachers and not part of the youth's family, who can provide support and model pro-social behavior, such as religious leader, club member, community person, etc.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No positive adult relationships <input type="radio"/> 1 positive adult relationship <input type="radio"/> 2 positive adult relationships <input type="radio"/> 3 or more positive adults relationships
2. <b>History of anti-social friends/companions:</b> <i>Anti-social peers are youths hostile to or disruptive of the legal social order; youths who violate the law and the rights of others and other delinquent youth. (Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Never had consistent friends or companions <input type="checkbox"/> Had pro-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Had anti-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Been a gang member/associate

<b>DOMAIN 6B: Current Relationships</b>	
<input type="radio"/> For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months. <input type="radio"/> For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.	
1. <b>Current positive adult non-family relationships not connected to school or employment:</b> <i>Adults, who are not teachers and not part of the youth's family, who can provide support and model pro-social behavior, such as religious leader, club member, community person, etc.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No positive adult relationships <input type="radio"/> 1 positive adult relationship <input type="radio"/> 2 positive adult relationships <input type="radio"/> 3 or more positive adults relationships
2. <b>Current pro-social community ties:</b> <i>Youth feels there are people in his or her community who discourage him or her from getting into trouble or are willing to help the youth.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No pro-social community ties <input type="radio"/> Some pro-social community ties <input type="radio"/> Has strong pro-social community ties
3. <b>Current friends/companions youth actually spends time with:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No consistent friends or companions <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Gang member/associate

4. <b>Currently in a “romantic,” intimate, or sexual relationship:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Not romantically involved with anyone <input type="radio"/> Romantically involved with a pro-social person <input type="radio"/> Romantically involved with an anti-social person/criminal
5. <b>Currently admires/emulates anti-social peers:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Does not admire, emulate anti-social peers <input type="radio"/> Somewhat admires, emulates anti-social peers <input type="radio"/> Admires, emulates anti-social peers
6. <b>Current resistance to anti-social peer influence:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Does not associate with anti-social peers <input type="radio"/> Usually resists going along with anti-social peers <input type="radio"/> Rarely resists goes along with anti-social peers <input type="radio"/> Leads anti-social peers

<b>DOMAIN 7A: Family History</b>	
1. <b>History of court-ordered or DCF voluntary out-of-home and shelter care placements exceeding 30 days:</b> <i>Exclude DJJ residential commitments.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No out-of-home placements exceeding 30 days <input type="radio"/> 1 out-of-home placement <input type="radio"/> 2 out-of-home placements <input type="radio"/> 3 or more out-of-home placements
2. <b>History of running away or getting kicked out of home:</b> <i>Include times the youth did not voluntarily return within 24 hours, and include incidents not reported by or to law enforcement.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No history of running away or being kicked out <input type="radio"/> 1 instance of running away/kicked out <input type="radio"/> 2 to 3 instances of running away/kicked out <input type="radio"/> 4 to 5 instances of running away/kicked out <input type="radio"/> Over 5 instances of running away/kicked out
3. <b>History of petitions filed:</b> <i>Include all petitions regardless of whether the petition was granted. (Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No petitions filed <input type="checkbox"/> CINS/FINS <input type="checkbox"/> Dependency
4. <b>History of jail/imprisonment of persons who were ever involved in the household for at least 3 months:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No jail/imprisonment history in family <input type="checkbox"/> Mother/female caretaker <input type="checkbox"/> Father/male caretaker <input type="checkbox"/> Older sibling <input type="checkbox"/> Younger sibling <input type="checkbox"/> Other member
5. <b>Youth living under any “adult supervision.”</b> <i>Adult supervision must be someone who is responsible for the youth’s welfare, either legally or with parental consent.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No, living with peers without adult supervision, do not complete Domain 7B <input type="radio"/> No, living alone without adult supervision, do not complete Domain 7B <input type="radio"/> No, transient without adult supervision, do not complete Domain 7B <input type="radio"/> Yes, living under adult supervision, must complete Domain 7B
<b>DOMAIN 7B: Current Living Arrangements</b>	
<input type="radio"/> <i>For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months.</i> <input type="radio"/> <i>For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.</i>	

<p>1. <b>All persons with whom youth is currently living:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Living alone <input type="checkbox"/> Biological mother <input type="checkbox"/> Non-biological mother <input type="checkbox"/> Older sibling(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term parental partner(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth's romantic partner <input type="checkbox"/> Foster/group home <input type="checkbox"/> Transient (street) <input type="checkbox"/> Biological father <input type="checkbox"/> Non-biological father <input type="checkbox"/> Younger sibling(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other relative(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Short-term parental partner(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth's child <input type="checkbox"/> Youth's friends
<p>2. <b>Annual combined income of youth and family:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> Under \$15,000 <input type="radio"/> \$15,000 to \$34,999 <input type="radio"/> \$35,000 to \$49,999 <input type="radio"/> \$50,000 and over
<p>3. <b>Jail/imprisonment history of persons who are currently involved with the household:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No jail/imprisonment history in family <input type="checkbox"/> Mother/female caretaker <input type="checkbox"/> Father/male caretaker <input type="checkbox"/> Older sibling <input type="checkbox"/> Younger sibling <input type="checkbox"/> Other member
<p>4. <b>Problem history of parents who are currently involved with the household:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No problem history of parents in household <input type="checkbox"/> Parental alcohol problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental drug problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental physical health problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental mental health problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Parental employment problem history

<p>5. <b>Problem history of siblings who are currently involved with the household:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No siblings currently in household <input type="checkbox"/> No problem history of siblings in household <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling alcohol problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling drug problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling physical health problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling mental health problem history <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling employment problem history
<p>6. <b>Support network for family:</b> <i>Extended family and/or family friends who can provide additional support to the family.</i></p>	<input type="radio"/> No support network <input type="radio"/> Some support network <input type="radio"/> Strong support network
<p>7. <b>Family willingness to help support youth:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> Consistently willing to support youth <input type="radio"/> Inconsistently willing to support youth <input type="radio"/> Little or no willingness to support youth <input type="radio"/> Hostile, berating, and/or belittling of youth
<p>8. <b>Family provides opportunities for youth to participate in family activities and decisions affecting the youth:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> No opportunities for involvement provided <input type="radio"/> Some opportunities for involvement provided <input type="radio"/> Opportunities for involvement provided
<p>9. <b>Youth has run away or been kicked out of home:</b> <i>Include times youth did not voluntarily return within 24 hours, and include incidents not reported by or to law enforcement.</i></p>	<input type="radio"/> Has not run away/kicked out of home <input type="radio"/> Has run away/kicked out of home <input type="radio"/> Is currently kicked out of home or is a runaway



<p>2. <b>Youth's current drug use:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No current drug use <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Current drug use</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs causing family conflict <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs disrupting education <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs causing health problems <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs interfering with keeping pro-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs contributing to criminal behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Youth needs increasing amounts of drugs to achieve same level of intoxication or high <input type="checkbox"/> Youth experiences withdrawal problems
<p>2. <b>Youth's history of drug use:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No past drug use <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Past drug use</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs caused family conflict <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs disrupted education <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs caused health problems <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs interfered with keeping pro-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs contributed to criminal behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Youth needed increasing amounts of drugs to achieve same level of intoxication or high <input type="checkbox"/> Youth experienced withdrawal problems
<p>3. <b>Youth's history of referrals for alcohol/drug assessment:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> Never referred for drug/alcohol assessment <input type="radio"/> Diagnosed as no problem <input type="radio"/> Referred but never assessed <input type="radio"/> Diagnosed as abuse <input type="radio"/> Diagnosed as dependent/addicted
<p>4. <b>History of attending alcohol/drug <u>education classes</u> for an alcohol/drug problem:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> Never attended drug/alcohol education classes <input type="radio"/> Voluntarily attended drug/alcohol education classes <input type="radio"/> Attended classes by parent, school, or other agency request <input type="radio"/> Attended classes at court direction
<p>5. <b>History of participating in alcohol/drug <u>treatment program</u>:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> Never participated in treatment program <input type="radio"/> Participated once in treatment program <input type="radio"/> Participated several times in treatment programs
<p>6. <b>Youth currently using alcohol or drugs:</b></p>	<input type="radio"/> No, do not complete Domain 8B <input type="radio"/> Yes, must complete domain 8B
<p><b>DOMAIN 8B: Current Alcohol and Drugs</b></p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months.  <input type="radio"/> For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.</p>	
<p>1. <b>Youth's current alcohol use:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No current alcohol use <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Current alcohol use</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol causing family conflict <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol disrupting education <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol causing health problems <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol interfering with keeping pro-social friends <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol contributing to criminal behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Youth needs increasing amounts of alcohol to achieve same level of intoxication or high <input type="checkbox"/> Youth experiences withdrawal problems

<b>3. Type of drugs currently used:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No current drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Marijuana/hashish <input type="checkbox"/> Inhalants (glue/gasoline) <input type="checkbox"/> Cocaine (crack/rock) <input type="checkbox"/> Cocaine (coke) <input type="checkbox"/> Amphetamines (Meth/uppers/speed/ecstasy) <input type="checkbox"/> Barbiturates (Tuinal/Seconal/downers) <input type="checkbox"/> Tranquilizers/sedatives (Valium/Libnum/Dalmane/ Ketamine) <input type="checkbox"/> Hallucinogens (LSD/acid/mushrooms/GHB) <input type="checkbox"/> Phencyclidine (PCP/angel dust) <input type="checkbox"/> Heroin <input type="checkbox"/> Other opiates (Dilaudid/Demerol/Percodan/Codeine/ Oxycontin)
<b>4. Current alcohol/drug treatment program participation:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Alcohol/drug treatment not warranted <input type="radio"/> Not currently attending needed alcohol/drug treatment program <input type="radio"/> Currently attending alcohol/drug treatment program <input type="radio"/> Successfully completed alcohol/drug treatment program

<b>DOMAIN 9A: Mental Health History</b>	
<b>History of suicidal ideation:</b> Include any previous thoughts, threats, plans and attempts even if youth indicates they were manipulative or there was no intent. <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Has never had serious thoughts about suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Has had serious thoughts about suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Has made a plan to commit suicide. If yes, describe _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Has attempted to commit suicide. If yes, describe attempts and dates _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Feels life is not worth living—no hope for future <input type="checkbox"/> Knows someone well who has committed suicide, If yes, who, when and how _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Engages in self-mutilating behavior
<i>For abuse and neglect, include suspected incidents of abuse, including those disclosed by youth, whether or not reported or substantiated, but exclude reports of abuse/neglect investigated but proven to be false.</i>	
<b>History of violence/physical abuse:</b> Include suspected incidents of abuse, whether or not substantiated, but exclude reports proven to be false. <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a victim of violence/physical abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Victim of violence/physical abuse at home <input type="checkbox"/> Victim of violence/physical abuse in a foster/group home <input type="checkbox"/> Victimized or physically abused by family member <input type="checkbox"/> Victimized or physically abused by someone outside the family <input type="checkbox"/> Attacked with a weapon
<b>History of witnessing violence:</b> <i>(Check all that apply.)</i> Include perpetrators and victims of violence as having witnessed violence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Has not witnessed violence <input type="checkbox"/> Has witnessed violence at home <input type="checkbox"/> Has witnessed violence in a foster/group home <input type="checkbox"/> Has witnessed violence in the community <input type="checkbox"/> Family member killed as a result of violence
<b>History of sexual abuse/rape:</b> Include suspected incidents of abuse if disclosed by youth, whether or not reported or substantiated, but exclude reports investigated but proven to be false. <i>(Check all that apply.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a victim of sexual abuse/rape <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually abused/raped by family member <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually abused/raped by someone outside the family

<b>History of being a victim of neglect:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Not a victim of neglect <input type="radio"/> Victim of neglect
<b>History of ADD/ADHD:</b> <i>Confirmed by a professional in the social service/healthcare field.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No history of ADD/ADHD <input type="radio"/> Diagnosed with ADD/ADHD <input type="radio"/> Only ADD/ADHD medication prescribed <input type="radio"/> Only ADD/ADHD treatment prescribed <input type="radio"/> ADD/ADHD medication and treatment prescribed
<b>History of mental health problems:</b> <i>Such as schizophrenia, bi-polar, mood, thought, personality, and adjustment disorders. Exclude conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, substance abuse, and ADD/ADHD. Confirmed by a professional in the social service/healthcare field.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No history of mental health problem(s) <input type="radio"/> Past history of mental health problem(s) diagnosis (more than six months ago) <input type="radio"/> Diagnosed with mental health problem(s) <input type="radio"/> Only mental health medication prescribed. If yes, list _____ <input type="radio"/> Only mental health treatment prescribed <input type="radio"/> Mental health medication and treatment prescribed
<b>History of anger or irritability</b>	<input type="radio"/> No history of anger/irritability <input type="radio"/> History of occasional feelings of anger/irritability <input type="radio"/> History of consistent feelings of anger/irritability <input type="radio"/> History of aggressive reactions to feelings of anger/irritability

<b>1. History of depression or anxiety</b>	<input type="radio"/> No history of depression/anxiety <input type="radio"/> History of occasional feelings of depression/anxiety <input type="radio"/> History of consistent feelings of depression/anxiety <input type="radio"/> History of impairment in everyday tasks due to depression/anxiety
<b>2. History of somatic complaints:</b> <i>Bodily or physical discomforts associated with distress, such as stomachaches or headaches.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No history of somatic complaints <input type="radio"/> History of one or two somatic complaints <input type="radio"/> History of three or four somatic complaints <input type="radio"/> History of 5 or more somatic complaints
<b>3. History of thought disturbance</b>	<input type="radio"/> No unusual thoughts or beliefs <input type="radio"/> Presence of hallucinations (auditory or visual) <input type="radio"/> Presence of beliefs that the youth is controlled by others
<b>4. History of traumatic experience:</b> <i>Lifetime exposure to events such as rape, abuse or observed violence, including dreams or flashbacks.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No presence of traumatic event <input type="radio"/> History of traumatic event <input type="radio"/> History of flashbacks to traumatic event
<b>5. Currently has health insurance:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No health insurance <input type="radio"/> Public insurance (Medicaid, KIDCARE) <input type="radio"/> Private insurance

6. <b>Current mental health problem status:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No current mental health problem(s), do not complete Domain 9B <input type="radio"/> Current mental health problem(s), must complete Domain 9B
<b>DOMAIN 9B: Current Mental Health</b>	
<input type="radio"/> For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months. <input type="radio"/> For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.	
1. <b>Current suicidal ideation:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Does not have serious thoughts about suicide <input type="radio"/> Has serious thoughts about suicide <input type="radio"/> Has recently made a plan to commit suicide. If yes, describe _____ <input type="radio"/> Has recently attempted to commit suicide. If yes, describe attempts and dates _____ <input type="radio"/> Feels life is not worth living—no hope for future <input type="radio"/> Knows someone well who has committed suicide. If yes, who, when and how _____ <input type="radio"/> Engages in self-mutilating behavior
2. <b>Currently diagnosed with ADD/ADHD: Confirmed by a professional in the social service/healthcare field.</b> <b>Type of medication:</b> _____	<input type="radio"/> No ADD/ADHD diagnosis <input type="radio"/> No ADD/ADHD medication currently prescribed <input type="radio"/> Currently taking ADD/ADHD medication <input type="radio"/> ADD/ADHD medication currently prescribed, but not taking
3. <b>Mental health treatment currently prescribed excluding ADD/ADHD treatment:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No current mental health problem <input type="radio"/> No mental health treatment currently prescribed <input type="radio"/> Attending mental health treatment <input type="radio"/> Treatment currently prescribed, but not attending
4. <b>Mental health medication currently prescribed excluding ADD/ADHD medication:</b> <b>Type of medication:</b> _____	<input type="radio"/> No current mental health problem <input type="radio"/> No mental health medication currently prescribed <input type="radio"/> Currently taking mental health medication <input type="radio"/> Mental health medication currently prescribed, but not taking
5. <b>Mental health problems currently interfere in working with the youth:</b>	<input type="radio"/> No current mental health problem <input type="radio"/> Mental health problem(s) do not interfere in work with youth <input type="radio"/> Mental health problem(s) interfere in work with youth

<b>DOMAIN 10: Attitudes/Behaviors</b>	
<input type="radio"/> For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months. <input type="radio"/> For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.	

1. <b>Primary emotion when committing crime(s):</b>	<input type="radio"/> Nervous, afraid, worried, ambivalent, uncertain, or indecisive <input type="radio"/> Hyper, excited, or stimulated <input type="radio"/> Unconcerned or indifferent <input type="radio"/> Confident or brags about not getting caught
2. <b>Primary purpose for committing crime(s) within the last 6 months:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Anger / Revenge <input type="radio"/> Impulse <input type="radio"/> Sexual desire <input type="radio"/> Money or material gain, including drugs <input type="radio"/> Excitement, amusement, or fun <input type="radio"/> Peer status, acceptance, or attention
3. <b>Optimism:</b> <i>Youth talks about future in positive way with plans or aspirations of a better life that could include employment, education, raising a family, travel, or other pro-social life goals.</i>	<input type="radio"/> High aspirations: sense of purpose, commitment to better life <input type="radio"/> Normal aspirations: some sense of purpose <input type="radio"/> Low aspirations: little sense of purpose or plans for better life <input type="radio"/> Believes nothing matters; he or she will be dead before long
4. <b>Impulsive; acts before thinking:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Uses self-control; usually thinks before acting <input type="radio"/> Some self-control; sometimes thinks before acting <input type="radio"/> Impulsive; often acts before thinking <input type="radio"/> Highly Impulsive; usually acts before thinking
5. <b>Belief in control over anti-social behavior:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Believes he or she can avoid/stop anti-social behavior <input type="radio"/> Somewhat believes anti-social behavior is controllable <input type="radio"/> Believes his or her anti-social behavior is out of his or her control
6. <b>Empathy, remorse, sympathy, or feelings for the victim(s) of criminal behavior:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Has empathy for his or her victim(s) <input type="radio"/> Has some empathy for his or her victim(s) <input type="radio"/> Does not have empathy for his or her victim(s)
7. <b>Respect for property of others:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Respects property of others <input type="radio"/> Respects personal property but not publicly accessible property: "It's not hurting anybody." <input type="radio"/> Conditional respect for personal property: "If they are stupid enough to leave it out, they deserve losing it." <input type="radio"/> No respect for property: "If I want something, it should be mine."
8. <b>Respect for authority figures:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Respects most authority figures <input type="radio"/> Does not respect authority figures, and may resent some <input type="radio"/> Resents most authority figures <input type="radio"/> Defies or is hostile toward most authority figures
9. <b>Attitude toward responsible law abiding behavior:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Believes pro-social rules/conventions apply to him or her <input type="radio"/> Believes some pro-social rules/conventions sometimes apply to him or her <input type="radio"/> Does not believe pro-social rules/conventions apply to him or her <input type="radio"/> Resents or is defiant toward pro-social rules/conventions
10. <b>Accepts responsibility for anti-social behavior:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Accepts responsibility for anti-social behavior <input type="radio"/> Minimizes, denies, justifies, excuses, or blames others <input type="radio"/> Accepts anti-social behavior as okay <input type="radio"/> Proud of anti-social behavior
11. <b>Youth's belief in successfully meeting conditions of court supervision:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Believes he or she will be successful <input type="radio"/> Unsure if he or she will be successful <input type="radio"/> Does not believe he or she will be successful

### DOMAIN 11: Aggression

*Items 1. through 4.:*

*○ For Initial Assessments, rate items based on behavior during the last 6 months.*

*○ For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, rate items based on behavior during the last 4 weeks.*

<b>1. Tolerance for frustration:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Rarely gets upset over small things or has temper tantrums <input type="radio"/> Sometimes gets upset over small things or has temper tantrums <input type="radio"/> Often gets upset over small things or has temper tantrums
<b>2. Hostile interpretation of actions and intentions of others in a common non-confrontational setting:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Primarily positive view of intentions of others <input type="radio"/> Primarily negative view of intentions of others <input type="radio"/> Primarily hostile view of intentions of others
<b>3. Belief in yelling and verbal aggression to resolve a disagreement or conflict:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Believes verbal aggression is rarely appropriate <input type="radio"/> Believes verbal aggression is sometimes appropriate <input type="radio"/> Believes verbal aggression is often appropriate
<b>4. Belief in fighting and physical aggression to resolve a disagreement or conflict:</b>	<input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is never appropriate <input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is rarely appropriate <input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is sometimes appropriate <input type="radio"/> Believes physical aggression is often appropriate

*Items 5. and 6.:*

*○ For Initial Assessments, include the entire history of report.*

*○ For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, include reports within the last 4 weeks.*

<b>5. Reports/evidence of violence not included in criminal history: (Check all that apply.)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No reports/evidence of violence <input type="checkbox"/> Violent outbursts, displays of temper, uncontrolled anger indicating potential for harm <input type="checkbox"/> Deliberately inflicting physical pain <input type="checkbox"/> Using/threatening with a weapon <input type="checkbox"/> Fire starting <input type="checkbox"/> Violent destruction of property <input type="checkbox"/> Animal cruelty
<b>6. Reports of problem with sexual aggression not included in criminal history: (Check all that apply.)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No reports/evidence of sexual aggression <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sex for power <input type="checkbox"/> Young sex partners <input type="checkbox"/> Child sex <input type="checkbox"/> Voyeurism <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure

### DOMAIN 12: Skills

*○ For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 6 months.*

*○ For Re-assessments and Final Assessments, current means behaviors during the last 4 weeks.*

*○ Use a general pattern of current behaviors and not a single incident.*

<p>1. <b>Consequential thinking:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Does not understand there are consequences to actions  <input type="radio"/> Understands there are consequences to actions  <input type="radio"/> Identifies consequences of actions  <input type="radio"/> Acts to obtain desired consequences—good consequential thinking</p>
<p>2. <b>Goal setting:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Does not set goals  <input type="radio"/> Sets unrealistic goals  <input type="radio"/> Sets somewhat realistic goals  <input type="radio"/> Sets realistic goals</p>
<p>3. <b>Problem-solving:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Cannot identify problem behaviors  <input type="radio"/> Identifies problem behaviors  <input type="radio"/> Thinks of solutions for problem behaviors  <input type="radio"/> Applies appropriate solutions to problem behaviors</p>
<p>4. <b>Situational perception:</b> <i>Ability to analyze the situation, choose the best pro-social skill, and select the best time and place to use the pro-social skill.</i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Cannot analyze the situation for use of a pro-social skill  <input type="radio"/> Can analyze but not choose the best pro-social skill  <input type="radio"/> Can choose the best skill but cannot select the best time and place  <input type="radio"/> Can select the best time and place to use the best pro-social skill</p>
<p>5. <b>Dealing with others:</b> <i>Basic social skills include listening, starting a conversation, having a conversation, asking a question, saying thank you, introducing yourself, introducing other people, and giving a compliment. Advanced social skills include asking for help, joining in, giving instructions, following instructions, apologizing, and convincing others.</i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Lacks basic social skills in dealing with others  <input type="radio"/> Has basic social skills, lacks advanced skills in dealing with others  <input type="radio"/> Sometimes uses advanced social skills in dealing with others  <input type="radio"/> Often uses advanced social skills in dealing with others</p>
<p>6. <b>Dealing with difficult situations:</b> <i>Incl. making a complaint, answering a complaint, dealing with embarrassment, dealing with being left out, standing up for a friend, responding to frustration, responding to failure, dealing with contradictory messages, dealing with accusation, getting ready for a difficult conversation, and dealing with group pressure.</i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Lacks skills in dealing with difficult situations  <input type="radio"/> Rarely uses skills in dealing with difficult situations  <input type="radio"/> Sometimes uses skills in dealing with difficult situations  <input type="radio"/> Often uses skills in dealing with difficult situations</p>
<p>7. <b>Dealing with feelings/emotions:</b> <i>Includes knowing his or her feelings, expressing feelings, understanding the feelings of others, dealing with someone else's anger, expressing affection, dealing with fear, and rewarding oneself.</i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Lacks skills in dealing with feelings/emotions  <input type="radio"/> Rarely uses skills in dealing with feelings/emotions  <input type="radio"/> Sometimes uses skills in dealing with feelings/emotions  <input type="radio"/> Often uses skills in dealing with feelings/emotions</p>
<p>8. <b>Monitoring of internal triggers, distorted thoughts, that can lead to trouble:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Cannot identify internal triggers  <input type="radio"/> Identifies internal triggers  <input type="radio"/> Actively monitors/controls internal triggers</p>
<p>9. <b>Monitoring of external triggers, events or situations, that can lead to trouble:</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Cannot identify external triggers  <input type="radio"/> Identifies external triggers  <input type="radio"/> Actively monitors/controls external triggers</p>
<p>10. <b>Control of impulsive behaviors that get youth into trouble:</b> <i>Reframing, replacing anti-social thoughts with pro-social thoughts, diversion, relaxation, problem solving, negotiation, relapse prevention.</i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Never had a problem with impulsive behavior  <input type="radio"/> Does not know techniques to control impulsive behavior  <input type="radio"/> Knows techniques to control impulsive behavior  <input type="radio"/> Uses techniques to control impulsive behavior</p>

11. **Control of aggression:** *Includes asking permission, sharing thoughts, helping others, negotiating, using self control, standing up for one's rights, responding to teasing, avoiding trouble with others, and keeping out of fights.*

- Never had a problem with aggression
- Lacks alternatives to aggression
- Rarely uses alternatives to aggression
- Sometimes uses alternatives to aggression
- Often uses alternatives to aggression

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