

AllRise
Treatment
Court Institute

Selecting The Right Participants

Part I – Risk and Need

Developed by Treatment Court Institute

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Best Practice Standard I

Eligibility + Exclusion Criteria Are Based On

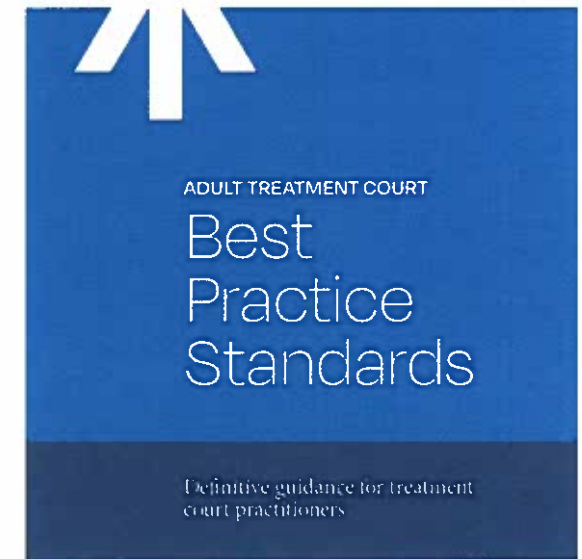
- A. Empirical Evidence

Assessment Process Is Evidence Based On

- A. Objective Eligibility And Exclusion Criteria
- B. Proactive Outreach
- C. High-risk/High-need Participants
- D. Validated Eligibility Assessments
- E. Criminal History Factors
- F. Treatment Resources



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The Risk, Need, Responsivity Principle (*RNR*)

“Too much, too little, or the wrong kind of services does not improve outcomes, and in fact, such practices can worsen outcomes. Underserving individuals with high treatment needs can allow unaddressed problems to become more severe, whereas overburdening individuals with low treatment needs can create new problems, including interfering with their ability to engage in productive activities like work, education, or childcare.” (p.10)

Research States



High Risk

High Need

Refers to individuals at significant risk for committing a new crime or failing to complete less intensive dispositions like probation.

High Risk

High Need

Individuals who have a moderate to severe substance use disorder that includes:

- Substantial Inability to Reduce or Control Use
- Persistent substance cravings
- Withdrawal Symptoms and/or
- Pattern of Recurrent Binge Episodes

What Is Need?

- In the veterans treatment court context, high-need persons include those diagnosed with moderate to severe substance use disorder as previously discussed.
- Additionally, in the veterans treatment court context, high-need persons may include other diagnosed mental health disorders such as:
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder
 - Anxiety disorder
 - Major depressive disorder

Alternative Tracks

	HIGH RISK	LOW RISK
HIGH NEEDS	Standard Track Accountability, Treatment, and Habilitation	Treatment Track Treatment and Habilitation
LOW NEEDS	Supervision Track Accountability and Habilitation	Diversion Track Secondary prevention

Valid Eligibility Assessments

Validated Assessments –Defining Assessment Types:

- **Eligibility Assessments:** Brief, validated risk and needs tools.
- **Treatment-Planning Assessments:** Level of care, therapeutic interventions, credentialed treatment professionals.
- **Other Screening Tools:** Validated screenings designed to identify possible screens in a broad range.
- **Outcome Assessments:** They measure improvements in participant's health, adaptive functioning, and recovery capital to support long-term recovery. Typically done over follow-up intervals; 3-12 mos.

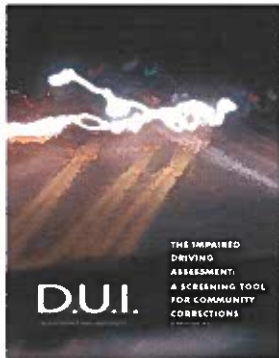
Impaired Driving Offenses

IMPAIRED DRIVING ASSESSMENT

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COMPUTERIZED ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL SYSTEM

www.carstrainingcenter.org



SCREENING TOOL DUI-RANT

Impaired Drivers Are Unique

Impaired drivers tend to score lower on traditional risk assessments

- Often lack an extensive criminal history
- High degree of denial and separation
 - Alcohol is legal, highly prevalent, and encouraged by societal norms...
Marijuana and some other drugs are beginning to follow this trend
 - Tend to be employed
 - May have a stable social network
 - Do not view themselves as “criminals”
- Repeatedly engage in dangerous behavior

Selecting and Using Risk/Need Assessments



Public Safety Risk Assessment Clearinghouse

A leading resource for comprehensive and accessible information on public safety risk assessment for safer communities.

<https://bja.ojp.gov/program/psrac/selection/tool-selector>



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Selecting and Using Risk and Need Assessments

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Risk Assessment: An Overview for Drug Courts

The purpose of this document is to provide Drug Court staff with a concise and current overview of important issues relating to offender risk assessment and to provide a list of recommended contemporary risk instruments. Numerous risk scales are currently used in the United States (see Desmarais & Singh, 2013) to assess static risk factors and criminogenic needs (dynamic risk factors that are related to the client's propensity for criminal behavior), of which substance abuse is but one. Almost all of these are applied to predict risk post-adjudication.

Consequently, we set out to identify those risk scales best suited for use by Drug Courts. To do so, we used validity criteria widely accepted in the research literature on risk assessment (see Overview of Risk Assessment Instruments). Those that met all the criteria are described under Recommended Risk Instruments, and those that met only some of the criteria are described under Promising Risk Instruments. These sections are preceded by a general discussion of the issues pertaining to risk assessment, as well as best practices for selecting an instrument to suit a particular Drug Court's needs and capacity.

Advantages, Limits, and Usage of Risk Assessment Approaches in Contemporary Practice

Through the assignment of scores to the responses to the questions of a given risk assessment approach, the calculation of a client's risk score is designed to identify required level of

particular services (e.g., residential) over a specified period of time (e.g., within three years) for an individual offender or client. Statistical scales have been demonstrated to be more reliable and more accurate than clinical judgments alone (see, e.g., A. Quinsey et al., 2006; Ross, 1999; Ross, 2004; Wilson, Henry, & Goggin, 2009; Wood, 1994).

Questions?

