The Risk And Needs Assessment Tool: What Statewide Data Reveal

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
2010 Data Coordinator’s Conference
Austin, TX
Agenda

- Purpose and Use
- How to use the web-based instrument
- What the data reveal
Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

Purpose and Use
The TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment was developed in the spring of 2009.

The assessment was piloted in 8 juvenile probation departments throughout the state.

Statewide roll-out of Assessment beginning in February 2010.
The TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment includes 11 risk and 7 needs factors

Separate assessment for males and females
  Factors the same, scoring is different

Assessment valid for juveniles in Texas
Purpose of the Risk Assessment

- The Risk Assessment is designed to identify juveniles who are at risk of becoming chronic offenders.

- Assessment classifies a juvenile’s risk as “Low”, “Medium” or “High”.
Purpose of the Needs Assessment

- The Needs Assessment identifies factors that, although not predictive of re-offense, target juveniles for more intensive or specialized services.

- Assessment classifies the needs of the juvenile into “Low”, “Medium” and “High”
Purpose of the Assessment Instrument

- The assessment is designed to help departments determine the appropriate supervision and services for juveniles
  - Identification of youth most at risk of committing subsequent offenses allows for targeting of supervision and services
  - Identification of youth with highest levels of need allows for targeting of programs and services
Ultimate purpose of assessment instrument is to reduce recidivism.

Targeting supervision and services early rather than later for medium and high risk juveniles should reduce recidivism.
Use of the Assessment Instrument

Assessment Instrument should be completed prior to the disposition of a juvenile’s case

“A juvenile probation department must, before the disposition of a child's case and using a validated risk and needs assessment instrument or process provided or approved by the commission, complete a risk and needs assessment for each child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile probation department.”
Use of the Assessment Instrument

- A Risk and Needs Assessment is required for all dispositions

  - Exception: Cases dropped, dismissed or non-suited
  - Exception: Cases where juvenile is 18 or older
Use of the Assessment Instrument

- You do not have to complete multiple assessments for a juvenile with multiple referrals disposed on the same day
  - One assessment per “disposition event”

- Review circumstances to determine if need new assessment for juvenile with assessment completed within 14 days
Use of the Assessment Instrument

- TJPC recommends the Assessment be completed as part of the disposition decision process
- Most useful if completed prior to making a final decision on the juvenile’s disposition
Use of the Assessment Instrument

- The assessment itself will take only minutes to complete
  
  IF
  
  - the information about the juvenile has been gathered completely!
Use of Assessment Instrument

- It is important to complete the assessment as accurately and thoroughly as possible.
- It is important to use the most current information available for the juvenile.
- Incomplete or inaccurate information used in the assessment instrument will result in miscalculation of the juvenile’s risk and needs classification.
Use of the Assessment Instrument

- It is also essential that all staff completing the assessment use the same definitions for each of the factors included on the assessment.

- Differences in the interpretation of risk and need factors will lead to similar juveniles being classified differently.
Use of the Assessment Instrument

- Upon completion of the assessment the juvenile will have an assigned risk and needs level
- Please enter risk and needs scores in CASEWORKER.
- At a minimum:
  - Recommend supervision and services for “Medium” or “High” Risk and/or Needs juveniles
Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

How to use the web-based tool
Completing the Assessment Form

- The TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment instrument should be completed electronically
  - Web-based application allows for the easy entry and retrieval of information
  - [https://www.tjpc.state.tx.us/rana](https://www.tjpc.state.tx.us/rana)

- A paper copy of the form can be used to gather the information, if needed
**Paper Assessment Form**

**TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION**  
**RISK and NEED ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT - MALE**

### PART I - JUVENILE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile's Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID #</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral #</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Referral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PART II - RISK ASSESSMENT

1. **Age at First Referral:**
   - 10 - 12 years of age: 2
   - 13 - 15 years of age: 1
   - 16 years of age or older: 0

2. **Total Referrals to Juvenile Probation:**
   - 4 or more referrals (including current): 1
   - 1 to 3 referrals (including current): 0

3. **Drug Use:**
   - Frequent use: 3
   - Occasional use: 2
   - None or rare use: 0

4. **Parent/Guardian Supervision/Control:**

   **Score** | **Notes / Comments**
   -----------|----------------------
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Web-Based Assessment Form
Completing the Web-Based Assessment

- The web-based assessment provides drop-down lists for each risk and needs factor
  - Select from the drop-down list or type the first letter of your response

- Automatic error checking prohibits the entry of most incorrect information
  - User notified of error when saving the assessment
Completing the Web-Based Assessment

- Risk and Needs scores are calculated for the user
  - Risk and Needs Levels appear on the form when information for all of the factors have been completed

- Able to save partially completed forms
  - Enter information you have and come back to the assessment with additional information
Completing the Web-Based Assessment

- Able to update a completed assessment if receive additional information

- Can retrieve information from completed assessments
  - Re-assessment of existing referral
  - New referral for juvenile already in the system
Completing the Assessment Form

- Able to print both pending and completed assessments

- Reports allow user to pull information from the database and save to PDF or to Excel
Completing the Assessment Form

The assessment is divided into sections:

- Part I: Juvenile Information
- Part II: Risk Assessment
- Part III: Needs Assessment
- Part IV: Case Plan Domains
- Part V: Disposition and Contacts
Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

Web-Based Application
Frequently Asked Questions

Why won’t my assessment print?

Check your pop-up blocker. In Internet Explorer, go to the “Tools” Menu, select the “Pop-up Blocker” option and select “Turn Off Pop-up Blocker”.
Frequently Asked Questions

What dispositions do I have to do the risk assessment for?

An assessment is necessary for:

- All dispositions except dropped, dismissed, non-suited or certified (if the child is 18 years or older).
- Dispositions for Formalized or Paper Formalized Referrals
- Dispositions not within 14 calendar days of a previous assessment.
Frequently Asked Questions

- Do I need to do an assessment on Supervisory Caution disposition?

- Yes, you must complete the assessment for all dispositions except dismissed, dropped or non-suites.
What if the case is transferred? Do I still have to complete the assessment?

You must complete the assessment for child with a disposition in your county.
Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I use the Firefox web browser to complete the assessment?

- No. Only the Internet Explorer web browser can support the risk assessment we application.
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I look at my data?

Select the “Reports” menu from the top of the assessment screen. Select the way you want to select the data (by Assessment Date, by Referral Date, etc). Export to Excel.
Frequently Asked Questions

- Does the Risk Assessment replace other required assessments (such as the Sex Offender Assessment)?

  No.
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I obtain a user ID and password?

Request a User Authorization Form for the Risk and Needs Assessment from the TJPC Research or MIS Divisions and fax the completed form to (512) 424-6717, attention MIS. You will receive a verification email that you MUST respond to in order to receive your user ID and password information.
Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

What the statewide data reveal
Statewide Data Reveal

- Between March 16 and September 3, 2010 there have been 6,757 completed assessments across the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completed Risk Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statewide Data Reveal

- 54% were classified as “High” or “Medium” risk level.

Risk Levels

- Low: 46%
- Medium: 39%
- High: 15%

Graph: 4000 3000 2000 1000 0

- High: 1000
- Medium: 2000
- Low: 3000

Legend: High, Medium, Low
73% were classified as “High” or “Medium” need level.
51% of males had occasional or frequent substance use compared to 36% of females.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Use</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None or Rare</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasional</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statewide Data Reveal

- 40% of females had at least one runaway compared to 25% of males.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Runaways</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Runaways
The percentage of females with a prior runaway was twice as high for those with a mental health need compared to those with no mental health need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Mental Health Needs</th>
<th>Has Mental Health Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Runaways</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+ Runaways</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statewide Data Reveal

- The percentage of males with a prior runaway was 18% higher for those with a mental health need compared to those with no mental health need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Runaways</th>
<th>Mental Health Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+ Runaways</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For Assistance or Questions Contact:

- Monica Peters  512-383-7086
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