



TEXAS
JUVENILE★JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES AND CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Risk, Needs, Responsivity and Target Population

Road Map

- History of risk assessment instruments
- Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model
- Target Population

Risk through the Years

- First Generation: Professional Judgment
- Second Generation: Evidence-based tools
- Third Generation: Evidence-based AND Dynamic
- Fourth Generation: Systematic and Comprehensive

Risk-Needs-Responsivity

- Risk Principle:
 - If the level of treatment services provided to the offender is proportional to the offender's risk to re-offend, recidivism can be reduced
- Risk – The “Who”
 - Probability a youth will re-offend (not seriousness of offense)
 - Static and dynamic risk factors
 - Determines level of intervention

Risk-Needs-Responsivity

- Need Principle:
 - Focus correctional treatment to criminogenic needs, or those dynamic risk factors directly linked to criminal behavior
- Criminogenic Needs – The “What”
 - Driven by dynamic risk factors
 - Treatment target
 - Affects Recidivism

Seven Major Criminogenic Need Factors

Major Risk/Need Factor	Indicators	Intervention Goals
Antisocial personality pattern	Impulsive, adventurous pleasure seeking, restlessly aggressive & irritable	Build self-management skills, teach anger management skills
Pro-criminal attitudes	Rationalizations for crime, negative attitudes towards the law	Counter rationalizations with prosocial attitudes; build up a prosocial identity
Social supports for crime	Criminal friends, isolation from prosocial others	Replace pro-criminal friends and associates with prosocial friends & associates
Substance abuse	Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs	Reduce substance abuse, enhance alternatives to substance abuse
Family/marital relationships	Inappropriate parental monitoring and disciplining, poor family relationships	Teaching parenting skills, enhance warmth and caring
School/work	Poor performance, low levels of satisfaction	Enhance work/study skills, nurture interpersonal relationships within the context of work and school
Prosocial recreational activities	Lack of involvement in prosocial recreational/leisure activities	Encourage participation in prosocial recreational activities, teach prosocial hobbies & sports

Addressing Criminogenic Factors

- Change antisocial attitudes
- Reduce antisocial peer association and antisocial feelings
- Promote familial monitoring and supervision
- Promote association with anti-criminal role models
- Increase self-control, management, and problem solving skills
- Replace the skills of lying, stealing, and aggression with pro-social alternatives
- Reduce chemical dependencies

Risk-Needs-Responsivity

- Responsivity Principle:
 - Maximize the ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the offender
- Responsivity – The “How”
 - General responsivity
 - Specific responsivity

Addressing Responsivity

- Understand the youth's cognitive capacity
- Understand age limitations for certain programs
- Understand gender limitations for certain programs
- Assess youth motivation with relevant scales

Risk and Needs Key Concepts

- High risk youth should be targeted for more intense supervision and services
- Low risk youth should not be put in programs with high risk youth
- Intensive services can actually increase risk for recidivism in low risk youth
- Good offender assessment is more than making decisions on level of risk as one's behavior is always changing
 - “By adhering to the need and responsivity principles through the assessment of criminogenic needs and responsivity factors we acknowledge that change is an important aspect of life and behavioral change can be facilitated by the appropriate intervention”

Why Define Program Eligibility

- Address the Risk-Needs-Responsivity
- Increase program effectiveness and efficiency
- Target services to those most likely to benefit
- Reduce chances for “net widening”

Identifying the Target Population

- Review the program problem statement
- Review the program goal and program theory
- Explore available data:
 - Assessments/Screenings
 - E.g. case plan domains from RANA and PACT
 - Departmental reports

Identification Example

One-Year Re-Offense for Youth Disposed to Probation Supervision

	2013	2014	2015
MisdB Higher	39.6	41.4	43.5
Probation Program	40.2	43.4	48.6

Probation Program One Year Re-Offense by Offense Type

Fiscal Year	N	Assaultive	Drug	Property	Other
2015	150	30.0%	10.0%	5.2%	3.2%
2014	120	20.0%	8.6%	10.8%	4.0%
2013	110	17.6%	10.0%	8.0%	4.6%

	Referral Fiscal Year				Total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Violent Felony	789	703	767	841	3,100
Other Felony	1,276	1,313	1,415	1,251	5,255
Misd Assaultive	1,021	1,236	1,327	1,580	5,164
Other Misd	4,549	4,149	4,003	3,426	16,127
VOP	1,208	1,138	1,236	1,047	4,629
CINS/Status	287	366	435	364	1,452
Total	9,130	8,905	9,183	8,509	35,727

	Referral Fiscal Year				Total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Homicide	10	6	9	10	35
Sexual Assault	112	83	43	110	348
Robbery	325	324	404	365	1,418
Assaultive	338	281	307	352	1,278
Other Violent	4	9	4	4	21
Burglary	440	460	328	315	1,543
Theft	270	268	390	310	1,238
Other Property	144	159	136	128	567
Drug Offenses	191	199	302	234	926
Weapons Offenses	103	79	76	55	313
Other Felony	128	148	183	209	668
Misd. Weapons Offenses	52	63	85	89	289
Misd. Assaultive	1,021	1,236	1,327	1,580	5,164
Misd. Theft	1,257	1,107	1,079	774	4,217
Misd. Other Property	395	340	397	398	1,530
Misd. Drug Offenses	1,619	1,453	1,056	908	5,036
Other Misdemeanor	1,224	1,176	1,372	1,257	5,029
Contempt of Magistrate	2	10	14	0	26
Violation of Court Order	1,208	1,138	1,236	1,047	4,629
Truancy	6	33	67	0	106
Runaway	123	173	199	205	700
CINS Property	1	3	2	1	7
CINS Sex Offenses	0	0	5	0	5
Other CINS	30	9	12	8	59
Crisis/NotSpecified	127	148	150	150	575
Total	9,130	8,905	9,183	8,509	35,727

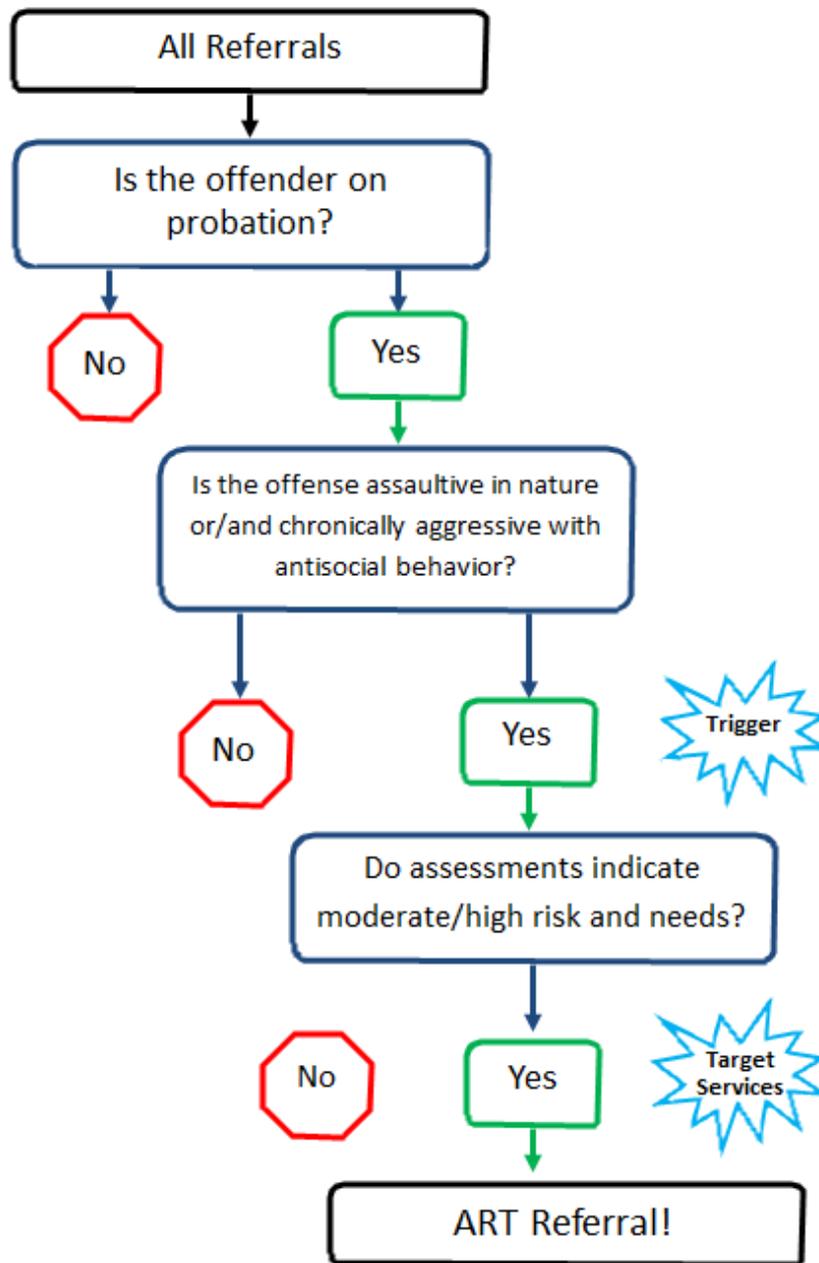
Defining the Target Population

- Involve stakeholders at all levels
 - E.g. program facilitators, probation officers, directors, clinicians
- “Goldilocks”
 - Too vague
 - Too specific
- Must be feasible to apply
 - Easily observed or identified characteristics
 - E.g. supervision type, offense type, risk/need score, gender, and age

Defining Example

- Ages 12-17
- Youth on probation
- Referred for an assaultive offense AND/OR identified by relevant assessments as chronically aggressive
- Youth identified as moderate to high risk on validated risk assessment

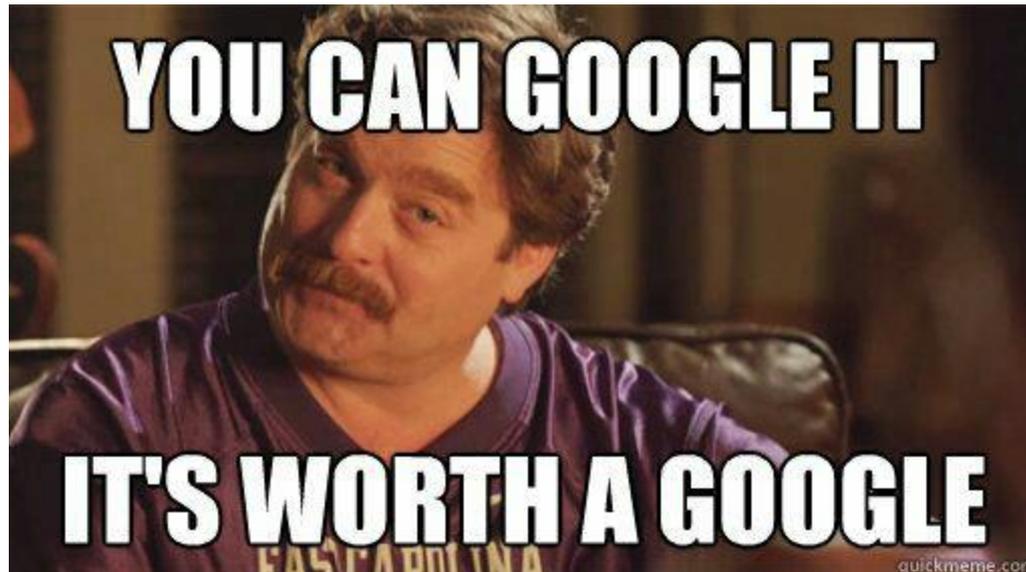
Aggression Replacement Therapy Entry Flow Chart



Linking Target Population to Outcomes

- Target population will have an impact on your outcomes
 - Treatment delivered to high risk offenders associated with an average 10% reduction in recidivism
 - Treatment delivered to low risk offenders associated with an average 3% reduction in recidivism
 - Intense programming with low risk youth may increase their risk of recidivism
- Clearly defining your program target population helps ensure fidelity to the program core theory and components
 - It can also help you to replicate any studies or evaluations from year to year by reassuring that you are measuring program effects and outcomes for the same type of youth

Questions?



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