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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>MisDB Higher</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>43.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probation Program</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>48.6</td>
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**Probation Program One Year Re-Offense by Offense Type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Assaultive</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
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**Referral Fiscal Year**

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

All Referrals

Is the offender on probation?

No

Is the offense assaultive in nature or/and chronically aggressive with antisocial behavior?

No

Do assessments indicate moderate/high risk and needs?

No

ART Referral!

Yes

Yes

Target Services

Trigger
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?

YOU CAN GOOGLE IT

IT'S WORTH A GOOGLE
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References:


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• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2012). A road map to implementing evidence-based programs. SAMHSA’s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.
