Nebraska Children's Commission – Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee

Twenty - Ninth Meeting
July 14, 2015
9:00am – 1:30pm
Lincoln Airport Country Inn & Suites,
1301 West Bond Circle, Lincoln, NE 68521

Call to Order
Co-Chair Nicole Brundo called the meeting to order at 9:14 am and announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the room as per state law.

Roll Call
Subcommittee Members present: Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Dr. Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Cynthia Kennedy, and Dr. Ken Zoucha.

Acting as resources to the committee: Jim Bennett, Dannie E. Elwood, Christine Henningsen, Liz Hruska, Mark Mason (9:38), Katie McCleese Stephenson, Monica Miles-Steffens, Jerall Moreland, Adam Proctor, Julie Rogers, and Dan Scarborough.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Jeanne Brandner, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Tom McBride, Jana Peterson, Cassy Rockwell, Juliet Summers, and Dr. Richard Wiener.

Resource members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Catherine Gekas-Steeby, Doug Koebernick, Monica Miles-Steffens, Judge Linda Porter, and Hank Robinson.

Also attending: Bethany Allen, Josh Henningsen, and Julia Tse.

Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Nicole Brundo to approve the agenda, seconded by Ron Johns. Voting Yes: Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Dr. Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Cynthia Kennedy, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: none. Jeanne Brandner, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Tom McBride, Jana Peterson, Cassy Rockwell, Juliet Summers, and Dr. Richard Wiener were absent. None abstained. Motion carried.

Approval of April 14, 2015 Minutes
Nicole Brundo made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting as written. Cynthia Kennedy seconded the motion. Voting Yes: Nicole Brundo, Kim Culp, Tony Green, Kim Hawekotte, Dr. Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Cynthia Kennedy, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: none. Jeanne Brandner, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Tom McBride, Jana Peterson,

Cassy Rockwell, Juliet Summers, and Dr. Richard Wiener were absent. Nick Juliano abstained. Motion carried.

Co-Chair's report

Kim Hawekotte led a Co-chair's report. She discussed that representatives from Missouri would be presenting on the Missouri Regional model. The Committee identified a need to specifically gather information about Missouri's assessment tools. At the August 11, 2015, meeting the National Council for Juvenile Justice would attend the meeting to provide and gather information.

Community Based Juvenile Services Aid Program Update and Action Item

Cynthia Kennedy provided an update on the Community Based Juvenile Services Aid Program. She noted that the review of the aid requests was the most extensive and detailed it has ever been. Dr. Anne Hobbs contributed feedback on evidence based practices for the review. She notes that the program received additional funding and the Crime Commission is in the process of determining how the funds will be disbursed. She discussed the impact that evidence based practices has had on the grant request, noting that randomized trials are costly. Many counties have evidence influence practices and are able to make a showing that their programs work. She further noted that counties address many of the same issues with different programs. She shared that the number of counties participating has risen from 30 counties to 70 counties and three tribes.

Magellan and Juvenile Justice Presentation and Action Item

Adam Proctor led a presentation on Magellan. He provided background on Magellan as a Managed Care Organization for Nebraska. Magellan functions as claims payer, provides value added services, and manages a statewide network of over 1,600 providers at 2,500 locations. He noted that the most commonly used youth services include both community based services and Inpatient and residential services. Magellan provides value added services for youth including MY LIFE youth empowerment group, Mobile Crisis Services for Children, Telehealth, and Children as Champions.

Medicaid and Juvenile Justice Presentation and Action Item

Dannie Elwood led a presentation on Medicaid. She noted that Medicaid is the nation's primary health insurance program for low-income children, families, the aged and disabled. Managed Care is a health delivery system with more flexibility than Medicaid. Medicaid managed care has both physical health managed care and behavioral health managed care. The behavioral health benefits package included inpatient mental health services, residential services, outpatient substance use disorder services, psych RN nursing services, and behavioral health injectibles.

Probation Update

Jim Bennett gave a brief update on Probation's activities. He provided data on intake and detention alternatives, pre-adjudication and investigations, case management and services, and re-entry. He noted that the Nebraska Juvenile Intake Screening Risk Assessment (RAI) has been studied by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the tool has been verified as accurately assessing youth who can be released. Probation will continue working to develop detention alternatives. Probation has created training for probation staff including service marching, critical thinking, and transition planning for youth in out-of-home placements.

YRTC Update

Tony Green provided an update on the YRTCs. He noted that the average length of stay continues to increase, suggesting that the children who enter do need the level of care provided by the YRTCs. The youth entering the YRTCs show significant mental health and substance abuse needs. Both Tony Green and Dr. Zoucha stressed the need to look at negative behaviors as symptoms of mental health or substance abuse disorder. Tony Green noted that the YRTCs continue to see youth who do not have supports in their community. He noted that the YRTCs are a no eject/no reject facility and do not have legal standing in juvenile court cases. This can pose a challenge for when youth need a step-down in services, as it is unclear who has the responsibility of changing the court order.

Public Comment

None.

Potential Recommendations Discussion and Action Item

Kim Hawekotte discussed that the Committee has taken steps to consult with Missouri on its model for the YRTCs. The August meeting will include presentations on screenings and assessments, including the RAI.

New Business

No new business.

Next Meeting Planning

This agenda item was discussed during the "Potential Recommendations Discussion and Action Item."

Future Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee will be on August 11, 2015, location TBA.

Adjourn

Ron Johns made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kim Hawekotte. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Juvenile Justice Institute

Analysis of the Nebraska Intake Risk Assessment Instrument - 2015

Sara Moore, M.A.
Anne Hobbs, J.D., Ph.D.

University of Nebraska Omaha

Executive Summary

Under current Nebraska law, a youth in Nebraska should be placed in a secure detention facility for only two reasons: (1) "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile or the person or property of another or (2) if it appears that such juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court" (Rev. Stat. § 43-251.01(5)).

In the State of Nebraska, the Office of Juvenile Probation Administration screens youth using the Nebraska Juvenile Intake Screening Risk Assessment prior to making a determination whether to detain the youth. The assessment is referred to in this report as the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) (Office of Probation Administration, 2013). The Office of Probation contracted with the University of Nebraska Omaha's Juvenile Justice Institute to assess whether the RAI effectively predicts which youth pose a threat to the community (will commit a new law violation) or fail to attend their scheduled court date (flee the court's jurisdiction). Data was provided by the Office of Probation Administration and included juvenile intakes for whom a Risk Assessment Instrument was completed between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014.

Prior to assessing how well the score predicted whether a juvenile would break the law or fail to appear in court, we examined the consistency with which intake officers relied on the tool. That is, we studied whether intake officers rely on the scores or cut points when making their recommendations and ultimate decisions on whether or not to detain a youth.

Between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014, the Probation Administration completed the RAI on 1,845 juveniles. Of these, 1,191 were subsequently detained (66%) while 621 youth were released (34%). Intake officers appear to have a higher level of confidence in the tool, and rely on it more consistently, when youth score in the highest point range. Of the total 384 that scored for secure detention, the intake officer was confident in the RAI recommendation 93.5% of the time. For youth that score below a 12, overall, intake officers rely on the RAI score only 55% of the time.

Generally, youth were scheduled to appear in court within 40 days of the intake. We were not able to determine court dates in a handful of cases, but of the 569 juveniles with a scheduled court hearing, only 38 youth (6.7%) failed to appear at the next court hearing associated with the intake. This analysis indicates that when a youth is released, the youth is very likely to appear in court.

The majority of youth who are released are also not incurring new legal violations: 91.1% (N=566) had no new law violation prior to the next scheduled court hearing. Of the 8.4% (N=52) that had a new law violation, new charges included fairly minor adolescent behaviors, such as running away. In a handful of cases, the youth was charged with a more serious offense, like assault or multiple new law violations.

The report that follows includes an in-depth analysis of youth who completed the RAI in 2013-2014. While it appears that the tool is accurately predicting which youth pose an immediate or urgent risk for new law violations or not appearing for court; the 45% override rate impacts our overall findings, as it impacts which youth would have been released.

Introduction

Development & Implementation

In 2002, the Nebraska legislature assigned the Nebraska Probation Administration responsibility for determining whether a youth should be admitted to juvenile detention. The Nebraska Probation Administration began by developing a standardized tool and requiring statewide training of officers conducting intakes. Nebraska has had a number of generations of intake tools, modeled after the risk assessment utilized in Santa Cruz, California, a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Model Site and based on national best practices of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In 2013, they revised the tool once again.

Pursuant to Nebraska statutes, a juvenile should be placed in a secure detention facility for only two reasons: (1) "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile or the person or property of another or (2) if it appears that such juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court" (Rev. Stat. § 43-251.01(5)).

When a juvenile is presented for intake, a Nebraska Probation officer gathers information and completes the RAI following Nebraska Juvenile Intake Protocol (n.d.). According to the protocol, the RAI is completed when a juvenile meets one of the following criteria:

1. The juvenile has violated a law;
2. The juvenile is uncontrollable and has violated the law;
3. The juvenile has violated the law and is on probation;
4. The juvenile has violated the law and is in Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) custody;
5. The juvenile is an in-state or out-of-state runaway.

Until a determination is made regarding detention authorization or alternative placement, the juvenile remains in law enforcement custody. According to Nebraska statute §43-260, only trained probation officers may administer the RAI and conduct intake screenings.

In an effort to complete the RAI thoroughly, the intake officer is encouraged to obtain additional collateral information prior to conducting the intake interview with the juvenile. The intake officer should examine all prior records for the juvenile or obtain a copy of the juvenile's record from law enforcement. The intake officer determines if the juvenile is currently on probation, in the custody of DHHS, and/or if they have a warrant or order for custody by the Court. Contact with the parent/guardian is made in an effort to obtain any additional information and to explain to the parent/guardian the purpose of the call. Intake officers are encouraged to utilize the Nebraska Juvenile Intake Interview Guide (2013), to ensure that they accurately complete the intake interview and obtain all necessary information.

In 2013, with the technical assistance of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Nebraska revised the RAI tool. An evaluation of the revised tool found that the new RAI was less likely to recommend that a youth be detained (Neeley, 2013). The revised RAI was subsequently implemented statewide (FY 12/13 Annual Report to the Governor).

As with prior generations of the tool, the revised RAI is designed to assist an intake officer in determining the risk posed by a juvenile. Risk in this context refers to a youth's probability of reoffending. A juvenile who is low risk is one with a relatively low probability of committing a new offense (i.e., relatively prosocial behaviors and few high risk factors), while a youth who poses a high risk, demonstrates characteristics that are linked with a greater probability of offending (Latessaa & Lovinsa).The RAI is intended to assist the officer with determining the least restrictive placement when a juvenile is presented for detention. The tool aims to do this by capturing mostly objective criteria and limiting subjectivity. Each section of the RAI has a point scale that lends toward the overall score of the juvenile to determine appropriate placement. The RAI provides criteria for each section and each scored item in an effort to limit subjective scoring; instructions for completing the RAI notes the need to refrain from scoring the juvenile based on suspicion or subjectivity, only on objective information (Office of Probation Administration, 2012). The instrument includes specific protective and risk factors the intake officer considers when scoring to include, but not limited to, arrest history, family or guardian supervision, offense history, runaway behaviors, and other factors revealed by the juvenile or their family such as school, employment, or substance abuse. These factors could add or subtract 1-3 points to the overall score of the instrument. The overall score assigned from the instrument directly relates to the recommended outcome:

- 5 or less: Release without restriction
- 6-9: Release with an identified alternative
- 10-11: Staff secure detention
- 12 or more: Secure detention

Research Questions

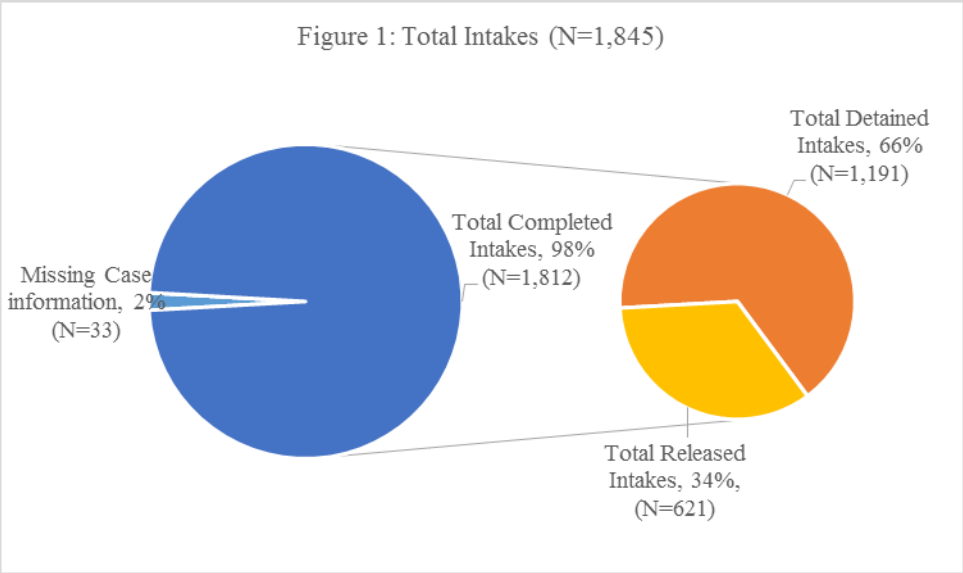
In 2015, Nebraska Probation Administration contracted with the Juvenile Justice Institute to evaluate the revised RAI. The intention of the present report is to examine the current utilization of the RAI, and to assess how well it predicts whether youth who score for release will re-appear for court and will refrain from breaking the law. To this end, we examined the following research questions:

- Consistency in Decision Making
  - Does the detention decision made by the intake officer "match" the recommendation of the intake RAI tool?
  - How often is a juvenile's initial score overridden to a higher or lower level?
  - What are the underlying reasons an intake officer or supervisor cites for the override?
- Youth and Public Safety Outcomes
  - When a juvenile is released (after a completed RAI) does the youth appear for the next scheduled court date?
  - When a juvenile is released (after a completed RAI) does the juvenile reoffend prior to the next scheduled court appearance?

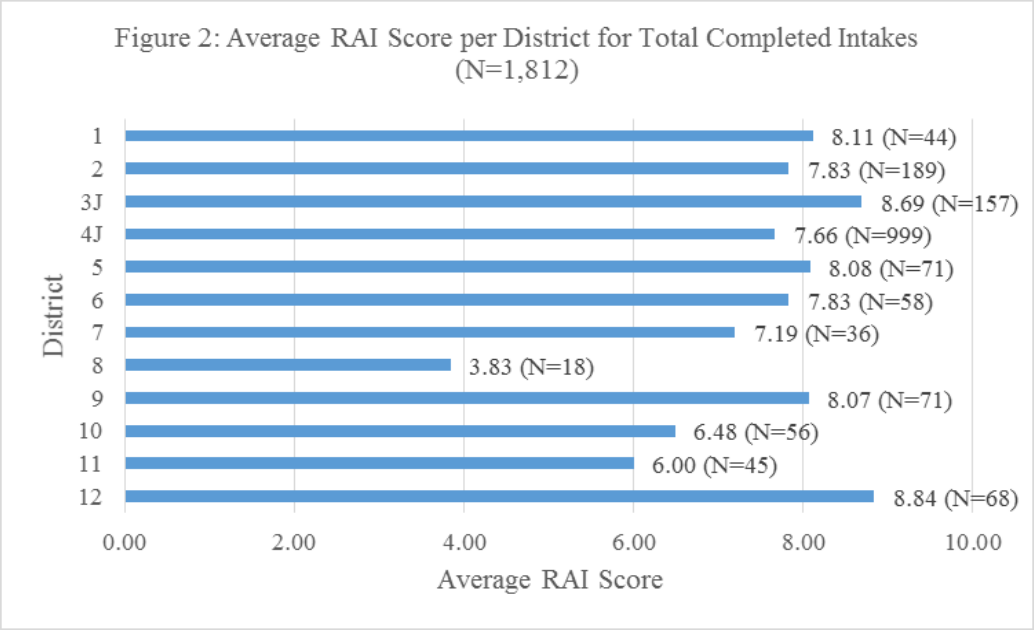
Juvenile Intakes Completed

Between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014, the Office of Probation Administration completed the RAI on 1,845 juveniles. Of these, 33 cases had missing information or were incomplete intakes, 1,191 were detained, and 621 youth were released, resulting in a total of

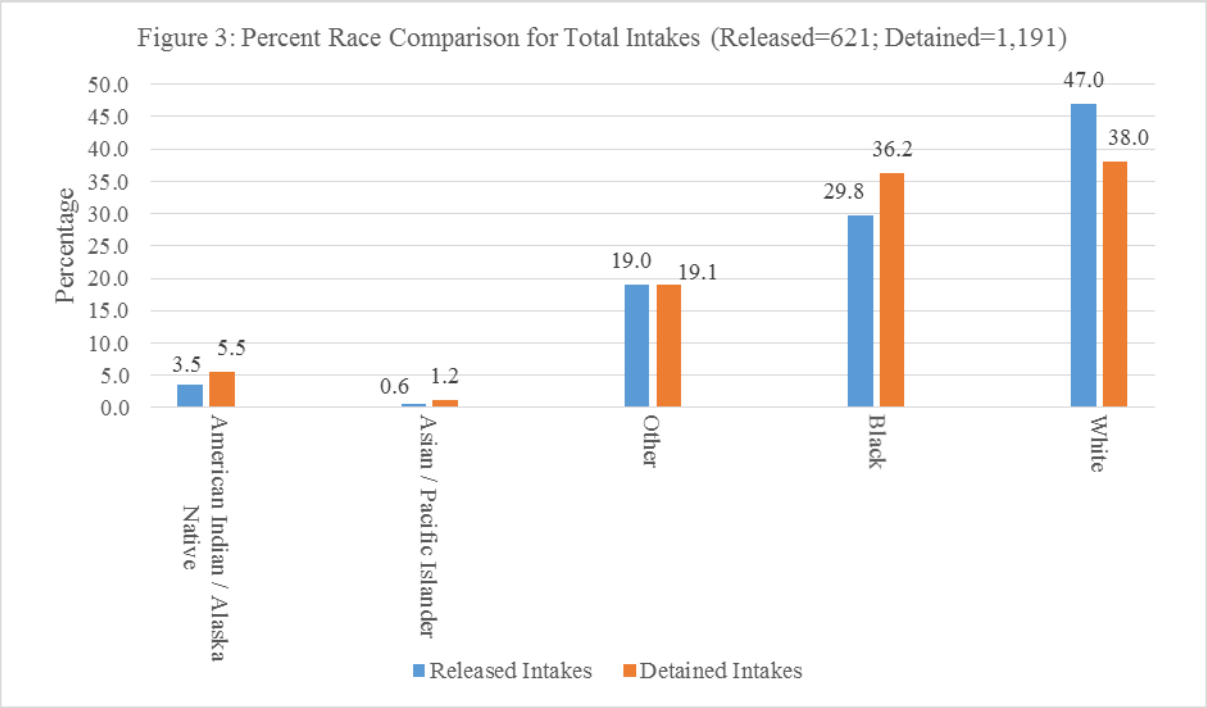
1,812 completed intakes (Figure 1). A total of 1,812 youth were brought to intake, primarily at the request of law enforcement. Although there are a handful of cases that included probation violations, for the most part this data does not include juveniles that were detained for a violation of probation or some other technical violation. For the purposes of this report, we will focus primarily on the 1,812 juveniles brought to intake by law enforcement (Figure 1).



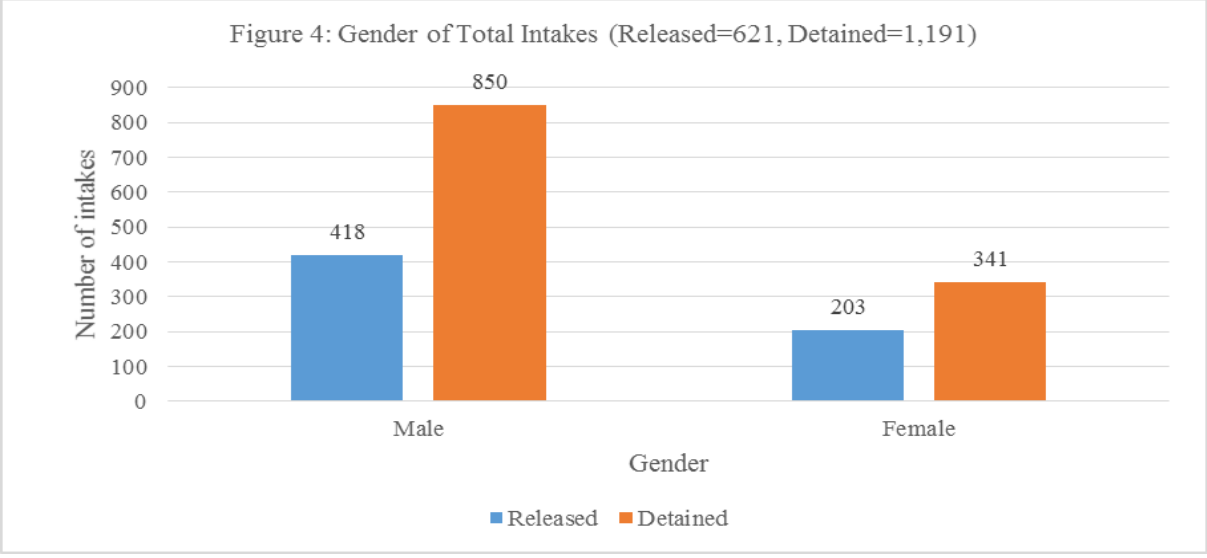
From the total completed intakes, the average RAI score was 7.74, (N=1,812). On average, youth screened in Nebraska scored to be released to the community, if that release included a detention alternative (electronic monitor, tracker). The average RAI varied across District. As displayed in Figure 2, District 12 had the highest average RAI score, 8.84, and District 8 had the lowest average RAI score of 3.83.



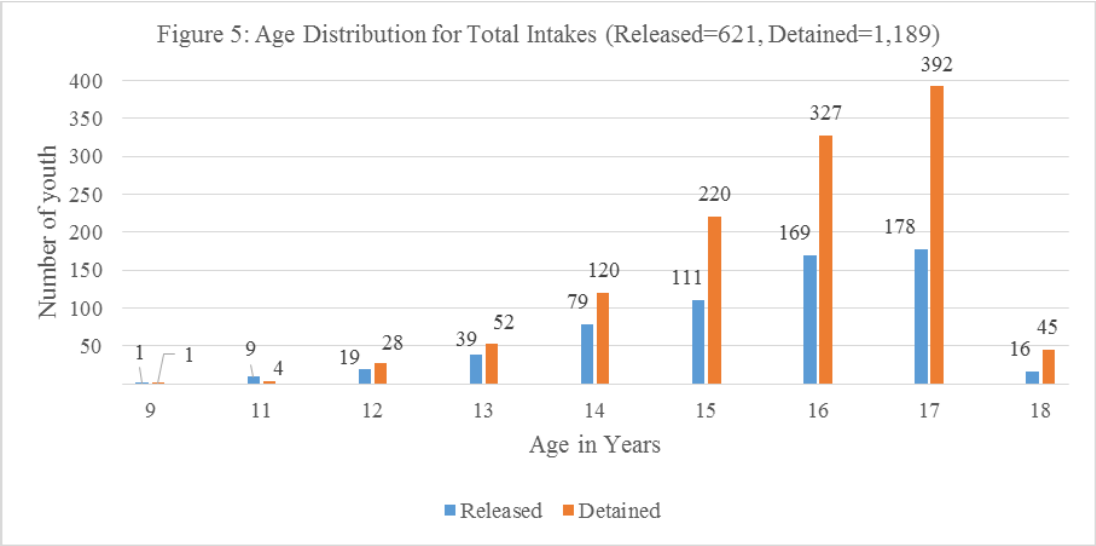
White youth comprised 41.1% of the total intakes with 47% (N=292) of the juveniles released at intake and 38% (N=453) of the detained intakes. Figure 3 shows the percent comparison of the detained and released population by race. White youth are statistically more likely to be released than detained. Further research is necessary to examine reasons why White youth are more likely to be released. The "Other" race category is mostly Hispanic youth; this is applicable in subsequent figures that display race.



As Figure 4 illustrates, the distribution of females and males were reflective of the total intakes, with approximately 30% being female and 70% male. Figure 4 compares released and detained juveniles by number of male and female youth.

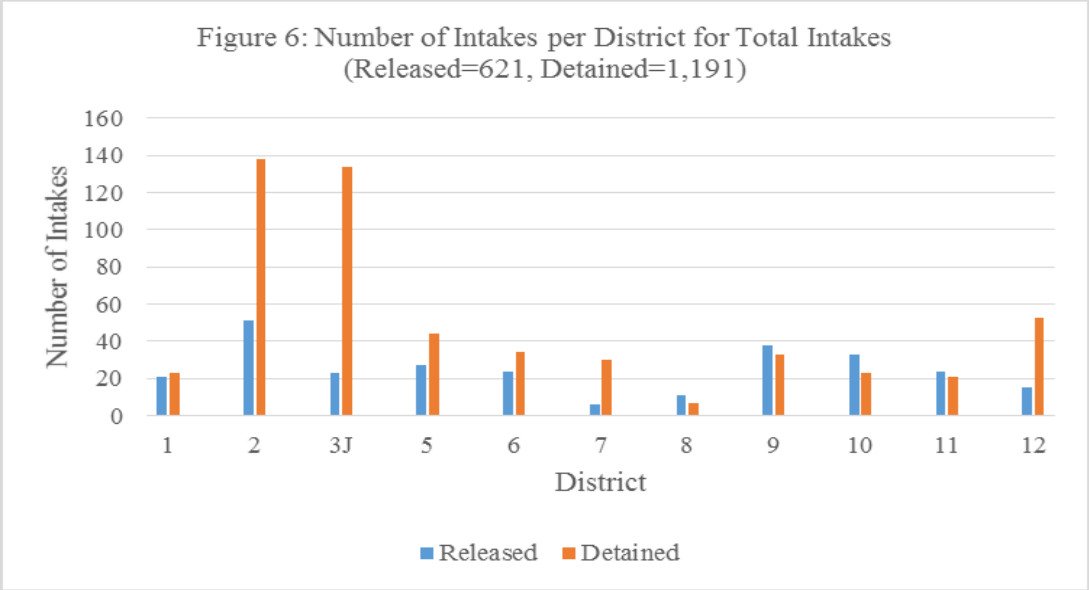


There was no significant mean difference in age for youth where the RAI was completed. The mean age was 15.68[1], and the mean age for released and detained juveniles was 15.51 and 15.77[2] respectively. Figure 5 notes the age distribution for released and detained juveniles. The ages range from 9-18 for both populations.



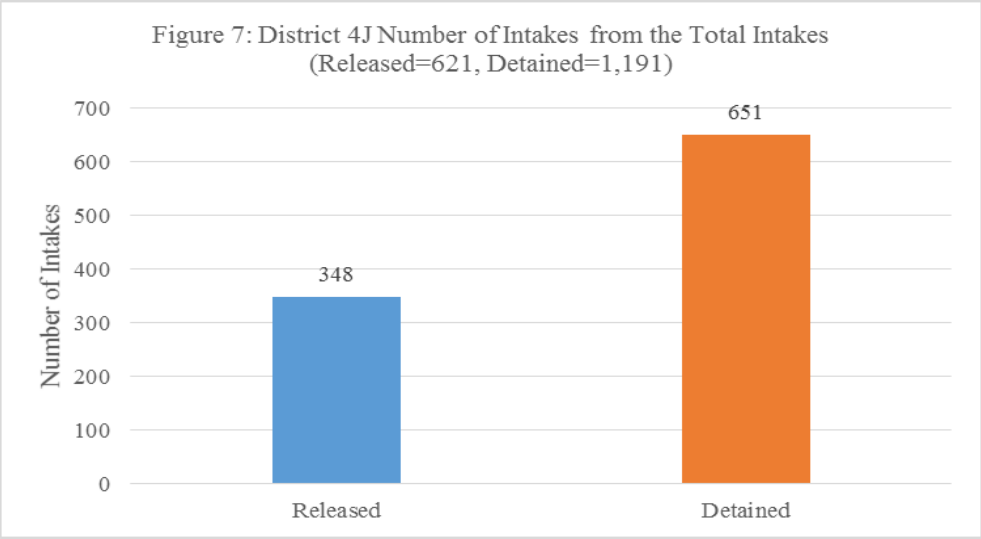
Analysis by District

Whenever possible we analyzed the data by district (Figure 6). There are 12 probation districts in Nebraska with many districts covering multiple counties; Douglas and Lancaster Counties have separate juvenile probation districts. Due to the high volume of intakes completed by District 4J, we occasionally separate the results so they can be viewed more clearly (Figure 7).



[1] From the total completed intakes, N=1,812, the mean age was calculated for 1,810 due to two missing birthdates for juveniles from the intakes detained.

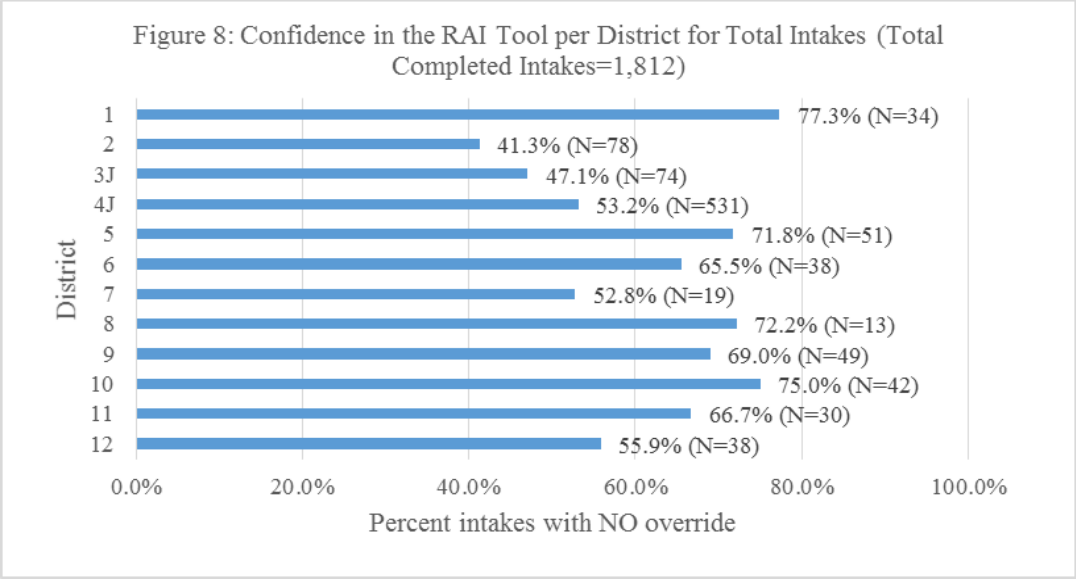
[2] From the total detained intakes, N=1,191, the mean age was calculated for 1,189 due to two missing birthdates.



Intake Officer Reliance on the Assessment Instrument

The confidence of the intake officer in the RAI tool decision is vital in determining the effectiveness of the instrument. To determine confidence in the tool, we examined the percent of intakes with no override. We then analyzed whether there were different patterns for youth who were released compared to youth who were detained. From the total intakes (N=1,812), intake officers relied on the tool only 55% of the time; 45% of the time the officer overrode the instrument.

Figure 8 identifies the percent of confidence officers have in the RAI tool, by district. The "N" indicates the number of intakes with no override. District 2 was least apt to follow the RAI decision, adhering to the score only 41.3% of the time. District 1 was more likely to use the RAI recommendation, doing so 77.3% of the time.

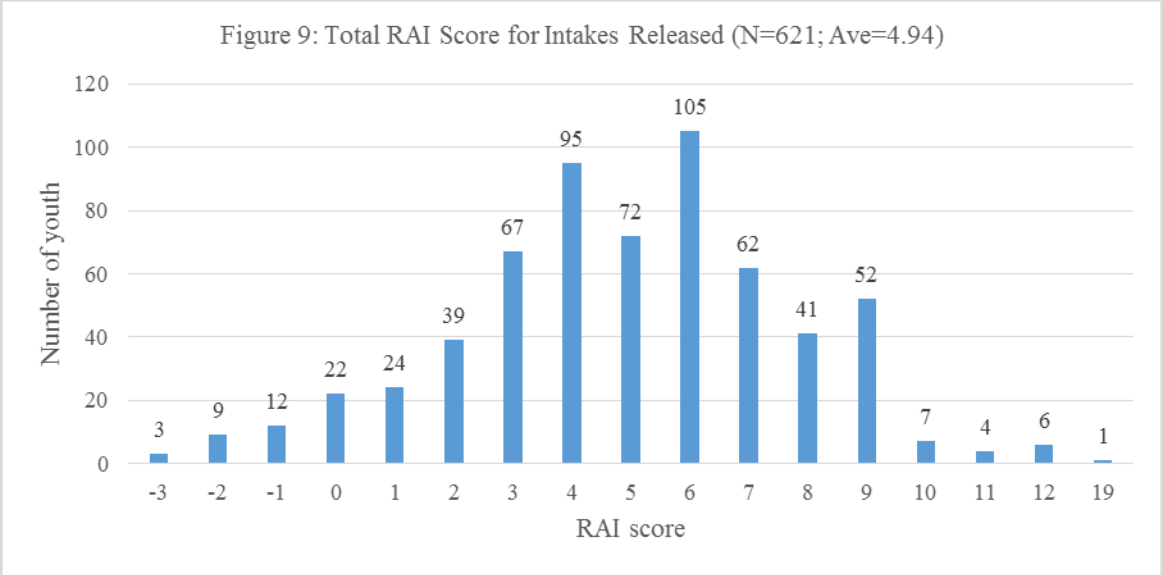


Released Youth

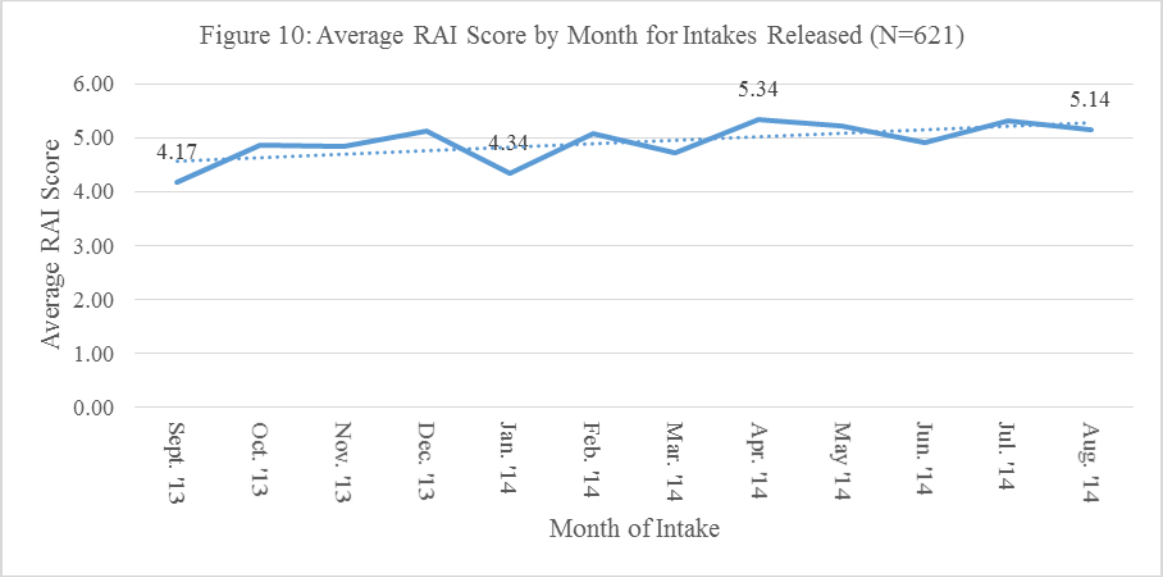
In this chapter, we examine only the youth who completed the Risk Assessment Instrument and were released from custody. We utilize this approach for two reasons. First, evaluating the differences between the juveniles detained and released at intake assists with understanding the utilization of the RAI tool. Secondly, we were only able to analyze court dates and new law violations for the youth who were released.

RAI Score for Intakes Released

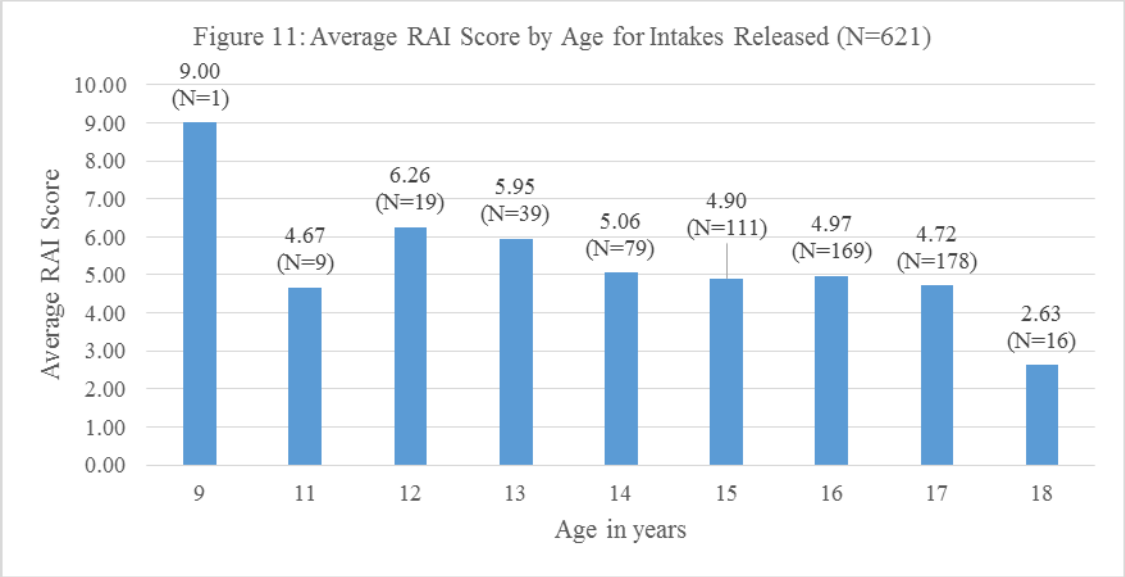
According to intake policy, youth who score 0 to 5 on the RAI are to be released; youth who score 6 to 9 may be released if an alternative to detention is available (i.e., electronic monitoring, curfew). Youth may score a negative number if they have protective factors, like an adult guardian who is able to take them home and supervise them. The average RAI score for the 621 released juveniles was 4.94; indicating, overall, that the released youth scored to be released. Figure 9 shows the total RAI score distribution; displaying that a greater portion of released juveniles scored around the total average of 4.94. The range of RAI scores for juveniles released at intake is from -3 to 19.



As illustrated by Figure 10, since the revised tool was introduced in September 2013, the average RAI score has gradually increased over time (for the released population). The reason for this gradual increase is unclear.

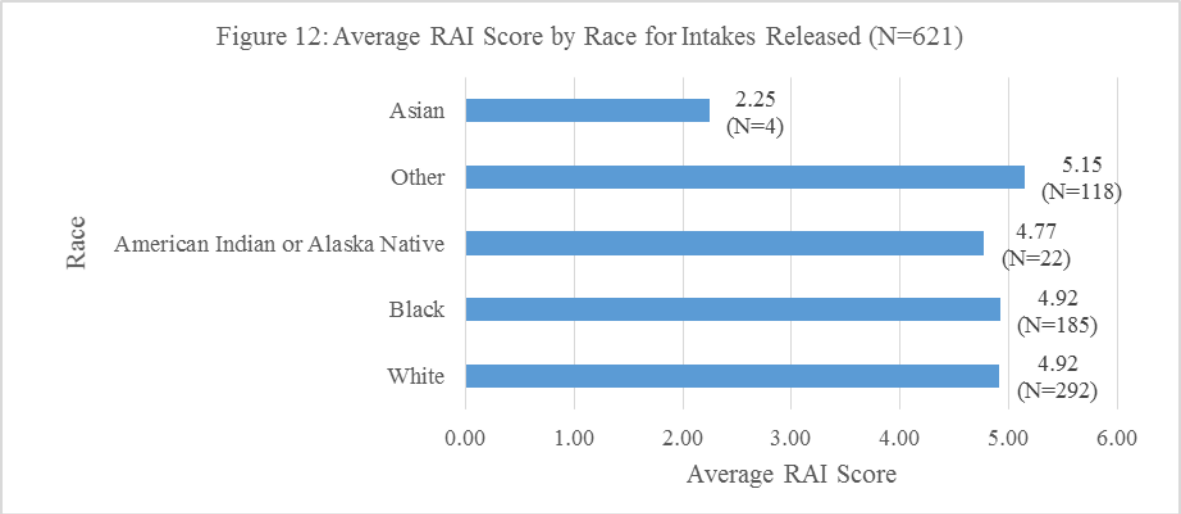


[Age] The average RAI score by age is noted in Figure 11. The highest average RAI score was 9.00, however, this was for one juvenile aged 9 years old. The 12-year-old juveniles' (N=19) average RAI score was the second highest, and per the RAI tool, results are in the range of release with an alternative (i.e. electronic monitoring, tracker). The 18-year-old juveniles had the lowest average RAI score of 2.63, which is in the release without an identified alternative range of the RAI tool.

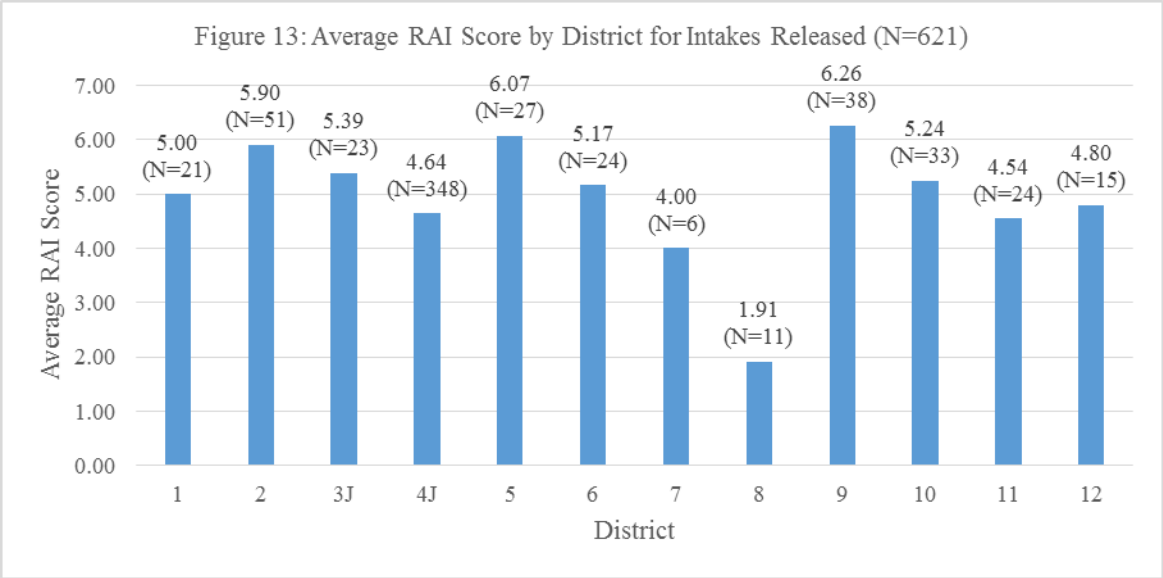


[Gender] Young women who are released have an average RAI score of 4.22, which is statistically lower than the average intake scores for young men who are released (score =5.29).

[Race and Ethnicity] As seen in Figure 12[3], White and Black juveniles had the same average RAI score of 4.92. Although Asian youth appear to have a lower average intake score (for released youth), there were only four cases. Consequently, there was no statistical significance when we compared average scores of all minority youth to White youth.



[District] District 8 has the lowest average RAI score of 1.91, thus, on average, the juveniles released in this district were released without an identified alternative. Districts 5 and 9 have average RAI scores that are above six, which means that, on average, a juvenile released in these districts were released with an alternative (i.e. tracker, curfew). Districts 4J, 7, 8, 11, and 12 have average RAI scores below the overall average RAI score of 4.94. The average RAI score by district is observed in Figure 13.



[3] Youth indicated as "Other" are primarily Hispanic

Intake Reason for Intakes Released

Per the RAI tool, a juvenile has an intake for one of four reasons: 1) new law violation; 2) runaway; 3) probation violation; and 4) warrant. As previously indicated, due to the limited use of the RAI by probation officers when deciding to detain on a probation violation or a technical violation only a few of the probation violations are included in the total intakes from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014. The majority of juveniles (N=376) released at intake had a new law violation as the reason for the intake (Figure 14). Warrants include both juvenile and adult court warrants. Although the RAI tool requires the intake officer to specify the type of warrant for which the juvenile is being brought in for intake, this is not consistently identified, so we were unable to distinguish between juvenile and adult court warrants.

Figure 14: Intake Reason Frequency for Intakes Released (N=621)

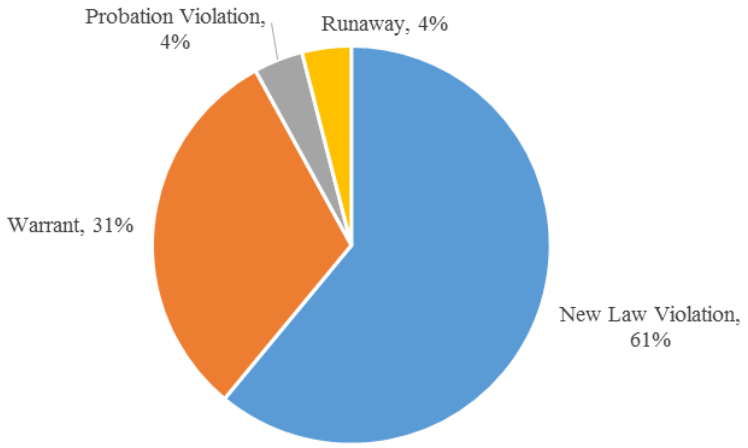
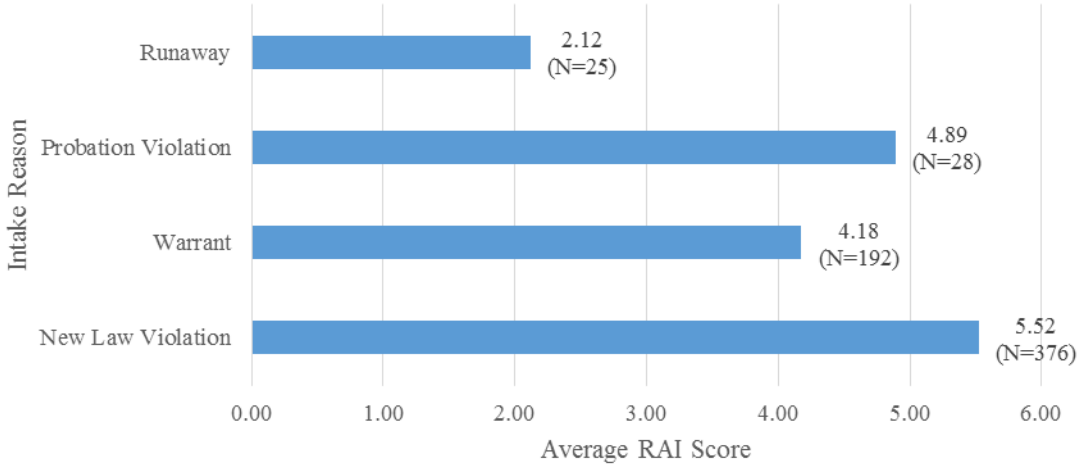


Figure 15 illustrates the average RAI score by intake reason. New law violations have a higher average RAI score (5.52) and runaways have a lower average RAI score (2.12).

Figure 15: Average RAI Score by Intake Reason for Intakes Released (N=621)



The average age for juveniles presented at intake for a new law violation and subsequently released was 15.22. The average age for juveniles released from an intake for a warrant was 16.08. The average ages for probation violations and runaways were 15.93 and 15.12, respectively. The most frequent intake reason for both males and females was a new law violation. The least frequent intake reason for males was runaway and for females, it was probation violation. Figure 16 displays the intake reason by age and gender.

Figure 16: Intake Reason by Age and Gender for Intakes Released (N=621)

Age	Gender	New Law Violation	Warrant	Probation Violation	Runaway
9	Male	1	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0
	Total	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
11	Male	5	0	0	1
	Female	3	0	0	0
	Total	**8**	**0**	**0**	**1**
12	Male	10	0	0	0
	Female	6	1	0	2
	Total	**16**	**1**	**0**	**2**
13	Male	26	4	1	1
	Female	6	0	0	1
	Total	**32**	**4**	**1**	**2**
14	Male	43	11	1	1
	Female	14	6	2	1
	Total	**57**	**17**	**3**	**2**
15	Male	50	14	4	2
	Female	19	17	2	3
	Total	**69**	**31**	**6**	**5**
16	Male	77	34	4	1
	Female	22	21	4	6
	Total	**99**	**55**	**8**	**7**
17	Male	68	47	4	1
	Female	25	25	3	5
	Total	**93**	**72**	**7**	**6**
18	Male	1	4	2	0
	Female	0	8	1	0
	Total	**1**	**12**	**3**	**0**

Figure 17[4] shows that the most frequent intake reason for all races was for a new law violation. White and Asian youth had the highest percent of new law violations, at 66% and 75% respectively (released population). American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian juveniles did not have an intake completed for a probation violation. Asian juveniles also had no intakes for warrants.

Figure 17: Intake Reason by Race for Intakes Released (N=621)					
Race	New Law Violation	Warrant	Probation Violation	Runaway	**Total**
White	194	63	15	20	**292**
Black	105	70	9	1	**185**
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	9	0	0	**22**
Other	61	50	4	3	**118**
Asian	3	0	0	1	**4**
Total	**376**	**192**	**28**	**25**	**621**

As displayed in Figure 18, Districts 5, 6, 7, and 12 had no runaways as an intake reason for the released juveniles. Similarly, Districts 1, 7, 8, and 9 had no warrants as an intake reason. In each district, either law enforcement or probation has specific ways for working with warrants and runaways.

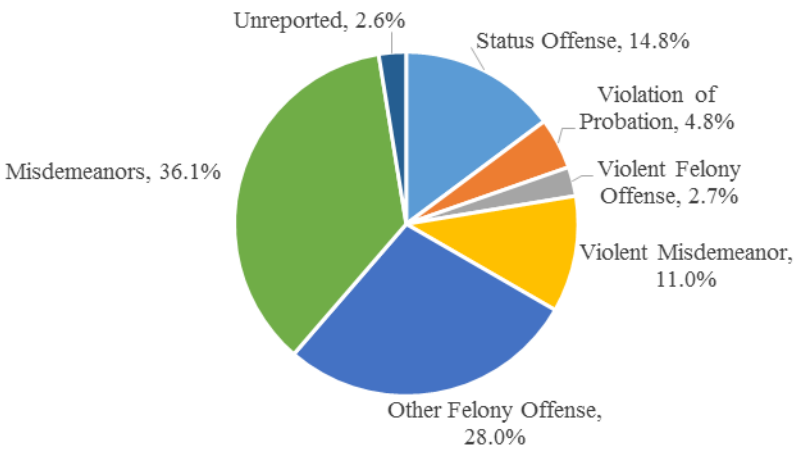
Figure 18: Intake reason by District for Intakes Released (N=621)					
District	New Law Violation	Warrant	Probation Violation	Runaway	**Total**
1	19	0	0	2	**21**
2	27	16	7	1	**51**
3J	20	1	1	1	**23**
4J	178	160	6	4	**348**
5	24	1	2	0	**27**
6	18	4	2	0	**24**
7	5	0	1	0	**6**
8	5	0	0	6	**11**
9	34	0	0	4	**38**
10	18	3	6	6	**33**
11	19	1	3	1	**24**
12	9	6	0	0	**15**
Total	**376**	**192**	**28**	**25**	**621**

[4] Youth indicated as "Other" are primarily Hispanic

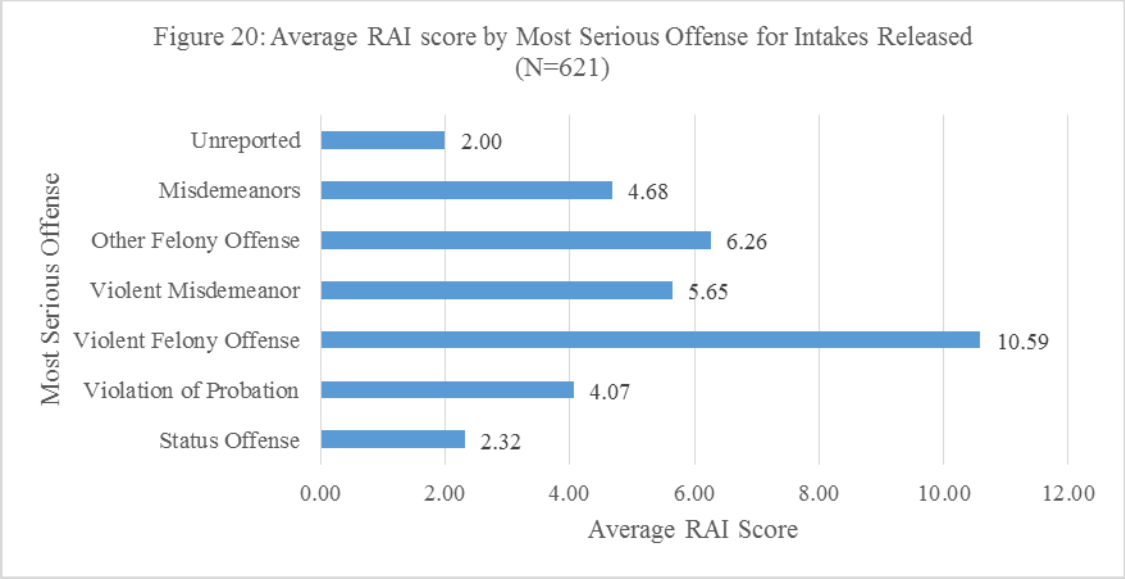
Most Serious Offenses for Intakes Released

During the intake process, the juvenile's most serious presenting offense is documented on the RAI. The most serious offense is applied to the overall risk of the juvenile and ranges from violent felony offense as being the most serious offense to a status offense as the least serious offense. Of the released juveniles, 16 did not have a "most serious offense" indicated on the RAI and are noted in Figure 19 as "Unreported." Of the juveniles released at intake, 14% had a documented violent offense and 31% a felony offense. The specific offenses for "Other Felony Offense" are not reported on the RAI.

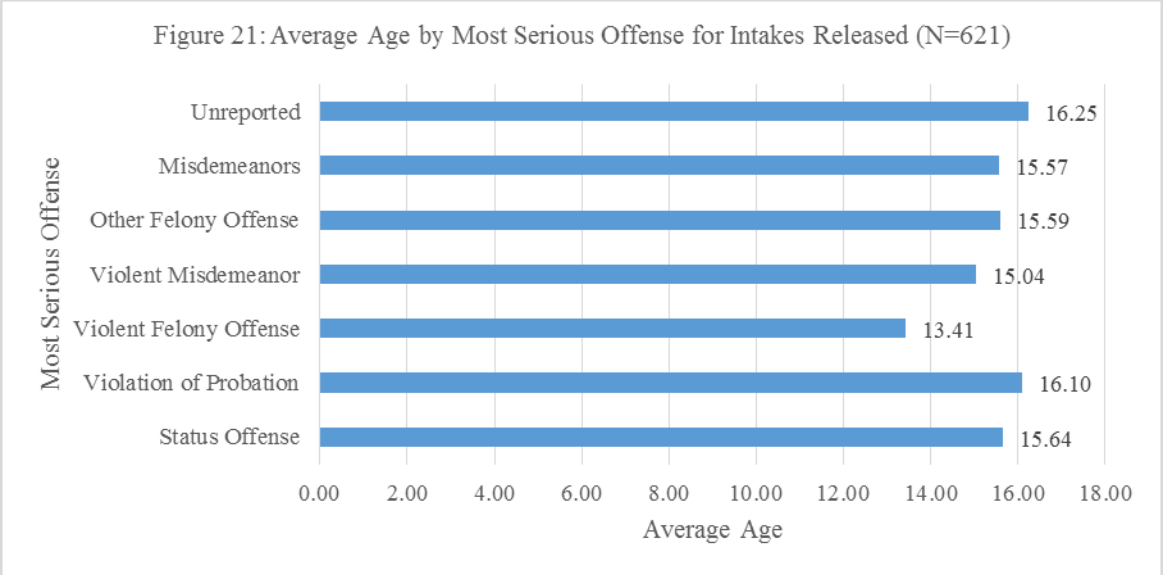
Figure 19: Most Serious Offense Frequency for Intakes Released (N=621)



The juveniles that had a violent felony offense as their most serious offense at intake had the highest average RAI score of 10.59, which, per the RAI tool, warrants staff secure detention. Figure 20 displays the average RAI score by most serious offense at intake and further displays that felony offenses (including other felony and violent felony) had the highest average RAI scores. Status offenses and probation violations had the lowest average RAI scores. The average RAI score of the unreported offenses was 2.00.



Females accounted for 58.7% (N=54) of the status offenses and 5.9% (N=1) of violent felony offenses. Males had 82.2% of other felony offenses, 54.4% of violent misdemeanors, and 60% of violations of probation. Juveniles with a violent felony offense at intake were, on average, younger (13.41) than the less ranked offenses. Figure 21 depicts the average age of the juveniles per each of the most serious offenses at intake.



Hispanic juveniles were more likely to have a misdemeanor offense than a felony offense at intake, as 52.2% of Hispanic juveniles had a misdemeanor or violent misdemeanor. Figure 22[5] shows the number of juveniles by race for each type of most serious offense indicated at intake.

[5] Youth indicated as "Other" are primarily Hispanic

Figure 22: Race by Most Serious Offense for Intakes Released (N=621)								
Race	Status Offense	Violation of Probation	Violent Felony Offense	Violent Misdemeanor	Other Felony Offense	Misdemeanors	Missing	**Total**
White	45	16	11	36	87	86	11	**292**
Black	26	6	6	14	49	83	1	**185**
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	0	0	2	6	10	0	**22**
Other	17	8	0	16	31	44	2	**118**
Asian	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	**4**
Total	**92**	**30**	**17**	**68**	**174**	**224**	**16**	**621**

Misdemeanor was the most frequent serious offense at intake for Districts 2 (41%), 4J (40%), 6 (42%), 10 (30%), 11 (46%), and 12 (33%). District 7 had an equal number of intakes for violent misdemeanor, violent felony offense, and misdemeanors, which comprised of all the intakes for this district. Other felony offense was the most frequent serious offense at intake for Districts 1 (43%), 3J (74%), and 9 (37%). The most frequent serious offense for District 5 was equally distributed across both violent misdemeanors (33%) and other felony offenses (33%). For District 8, 45% of the intakes were for status offense, listed as the most frequent serious offense. Figure 23 provides the actual number of intakes released per district by the most serious offense.

Figure 23: Number of Intakes per District by Most Serious Offense for Intakes Released (N=621)								
District	Status Offense	Violation of Probation	Violent Felony Offense	Violent Misdemeanor	Other Felony Offense	Misdemeanors	Missing	**Total**
1	2	0	0	4	9	6	0	**21**
2	6	7	3	3	8	21	3	**51**
3J	0	0	0	2	17	3	1	**23**
4J	59	7	9	28	100	138	7	**348**
5	0	2	0	9	9	6	1	**27**
6	0	5	0	1	8	10	0	**24**
7	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	**6**
8	5	0	0	4	1	0	1	**11**
9	4	0	2	5	14	12	1	**38**
10	9	3	3	7	1	10	0	**33**
11	5	4	0	1	2	11	1	**24**
12	2	2	0	2	3	5	1	**15**
Total	**92**	**30**	**17**	**68**	**174**	**224**	**16**	**621**

Overrides for Intakes Released

The RAI is designed to provide intake officers an objective tool when trying to assess the risk a youth poses to the community. The scoring ranges indicate characteristics that permit the safe release to the community with an appropriate parent/guardian, release to an identified alternative to detention, or placement of the juvenile in secure or staff secure detention. Any time an intake officer overrides the instrument, the officer is required to contact a supervisor for approval. In

addition, any change in circumstances that may lend toward a reassessment of the intake decision (prior to the probable cause hearing) is documented in the RAI reconsideration section. Based on the data we received, it is unclear whether any juveniles had a reconsidered RAI.

Of the released population, officers adhered to the RAI score and decision 80% of the time (N=496) (Figure 24). An officer can override the tool up or down. Of the 125 cases with an override, 6% (N=37) were overridden down from a detention score or a score recommending an identified alternative, and 14% (N=88) were overridden up from a score of release without an alternative to releasing the juvenile with an identified alternative. Of the 37 juveniles that had an override down, 49% (N=18) initially had a score on the RAI that warranted detention, and 51% (N=19) had a score that recommended an identified alternative but the juvenile was overridden to be released without an alternative. As noted in Figure 25, District 4J had the highest numbers for releases without an override. District 5 had the most overrides down (N=6) and District 2 had the highest overrides up (N=17).

Figure 24: Override Frequency for Intakes Released (N=621)

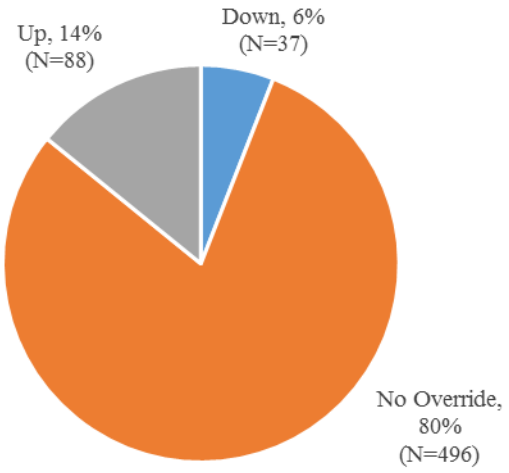
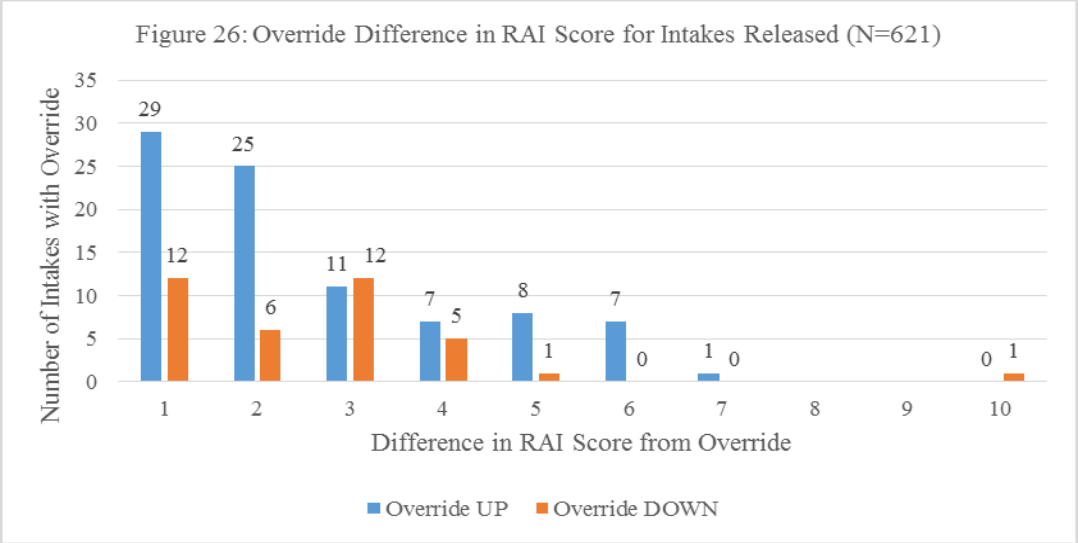


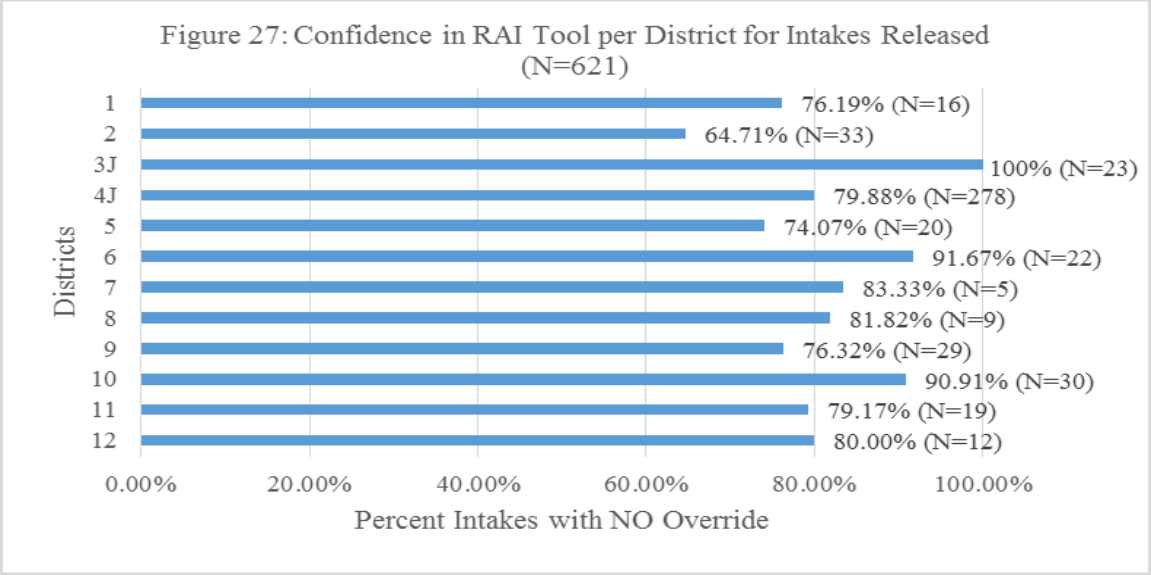
Figure 25: Overrides by District for Intakes Released				
District	Released with NO Override	Released with Override UP	Released with Override DOWN	**Total Intakes Released**
1	16	2	3	**21**
2	33	17	1	**51**
3J	23	0	0	**23**
4J	278	50	20	**348**
5	20	1	6	**27**
6	22	2	0	**24**
7	5	1	0	**6**
8	9	2	0	**11**
9	29	4	5	**38**
10	30	3	0	**33**
11	19	4	1	**24**
12	12	2	1	**15**
Total	**496**	**88**	**37**	**621**

An override up indicates that the intake officer believed the juvenile needed greater restriction, and is equivalent to a RAI score of 6 to 9. Figure 26 displays the point difference between the juvenile's initial score and the override minimum score of six. Of the juveniles that had an override up, the majority had an override up within one point away from the score required for an alternative. However, seven juveniles had an override up from 0, which results in a 6 point difference from being provided an identified alternative per the RAI tool, and 1 had an override from -1. Of the juveniles that had an override down, 10 had originally scored between a 10 and 11 on the RAI tool, resulting in a staff secure detention decision that had an override to release with an identified alternative, thus, being between 1 to 2 points from a release with an identified alternative. One juvenile had originally scored a 19 on the RAI tool and had an override to release with an identified alternative, consequently this was a 10 point difference.



For the juveniles with an override down, the primary reason for the override was a parent or responsible adult who was available to supervise the youth. Of the 37 juveniles that had an override down, six were placed in an out-of-home placement, such as shelter care, six were provided an electronic monitor or tracker, and two were referred to a community-based service, such as triage or family support services. For releases with an override up, the primary reason was the juvenile was noted on the RAI tool as "Other" and identified by the officer as a flight risk, runaway, or uncontrollable. For the 88 juveniles with an override up for the purpose of providing an identified alternative, 44 were placed on electronic monitor or assigned a tracker, 31 were placed out-of-home, and three were referred to a community-based service. Notably, two juveniles with an override down and four with an override up had two or more alternatives at intake, primarily electronic monitor and tracker.

As previously noted, intake officers relied on the RAI score 80% of the time for youth who were subsequently released. In other words, of the 621 youth released, 496 were released per the RAI tool recommendation. Figure 27 displays the confidence in the RAI tool recommendation for juveniles released at intake. District 3J had a 100% confidence in the RAI tool recommendation and did not override the RAI tool decision to release a juvenile. District 2 was least confident in the RAI tool recommendation, being confident in the RAI tool decision to release 64.71% of the time.



Youth and Public Safety Outcomes for Intakes Released

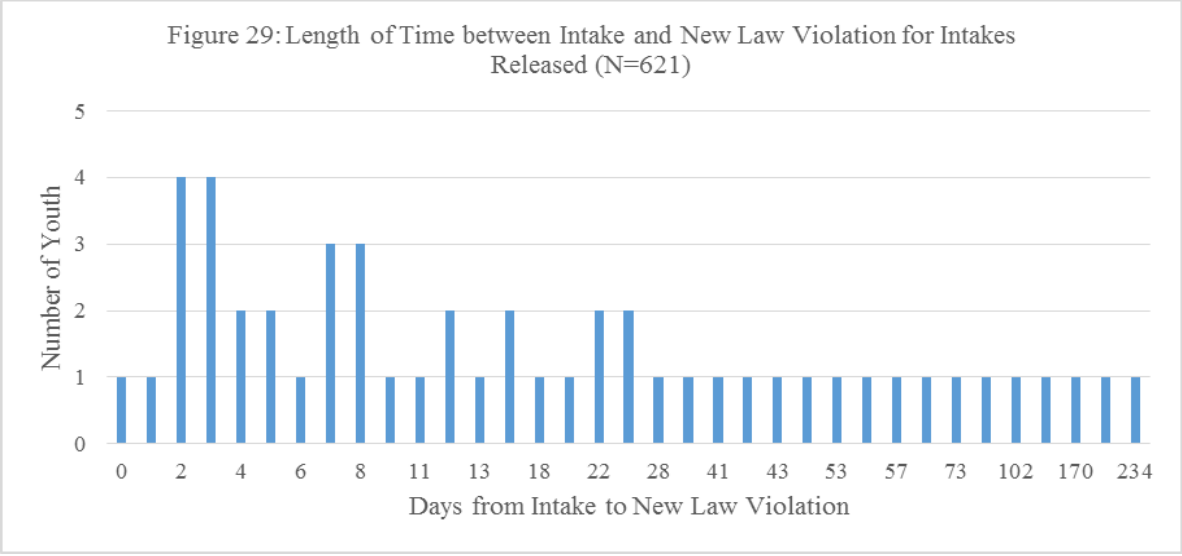
Of the juveniles released at intake between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014, 91.1% (N=566) had no new law violation prior to the next scheduled court hearing[6] and 8.4% (N=52[7]) had a new law violation. It should be noted, scheduled court hearings were retrieved from several databases and are approximate. For 28.8% (N=15) the charge of the new law violation was runaway, 15.4% (N=8) were an assault, and 9.8% (N=5) were for multiple offenses.
The average RAI score for juveniles that had a new law violation after intake and prior to the next scheduled court hearing was 5.37. Of the 52 juveniles with a new law violation, 55.8% (N=29) did not have an alternative identified at intake. Seven juveniles had an intake score requiring an alternative to detention upon release after intake but had no identified alternative and had a new law violation. Pertaining to intake decision, 46 were released per the RAI tool decision and had a new law violation, three were released from an override down, and three from an override up.

Figure 28 shows the number of new charges by intake decision and type of alternative identified at intake. For the juveniles with a reported new law violation date, the average number of days between the intake and the new law violation was 35.2 days. Of the 51 juveniles that incurred a new law violation after intake and had a new law violation date, 35.3% (N=18) had the new charge within one week of the intake, 55% (N=28) was within two weeks, and 45% (N=23) were after two weeks.

[6] Three juveniles did not have information as to whether there was a new law violation and are noted as unreported.
[7] One of the reported new law violations did not have a date of the new law violation.

Figure 28: New Charge by Type of Alternative Assigned and Intake Decision for Intakes Released (N=621)					
Alternative to Detention	New Charge After Intake	Released with NO Override	Released Override UP	Released Override DOWN	**Total**
No Alternative	Unreported	2	0	0	**2**
	No	275	0	14	**289**
	Yes	28	0	1	**29**
Community-based service	No	4	3	2	**9**
	Yes	0	0	0	**0**
Electronic Monitor or Tracker	No	80	43	6	**129**
	Yes	5	1	0	**6**
Curfew/Home Detention	No	28	5	2	**35**
	Yes	4	0	2	**6**
Residential Facility	Unreported	1	0	0	**1**
	No	41	29	6	**76**
	Yes	5	2	0	**7**
Multiple Alternatives	No	12	4	2	**18**
	Yes	3	0	0	**3**
Other	No	7	1	2	**10**
	Yes	1	0	0	**1**
Total		**496**	**88**	**37**	**621**

Figure 29 displays the length of time between the intake and the juvenile acquiring a new law violation.



Court Appearance for Intakes Released

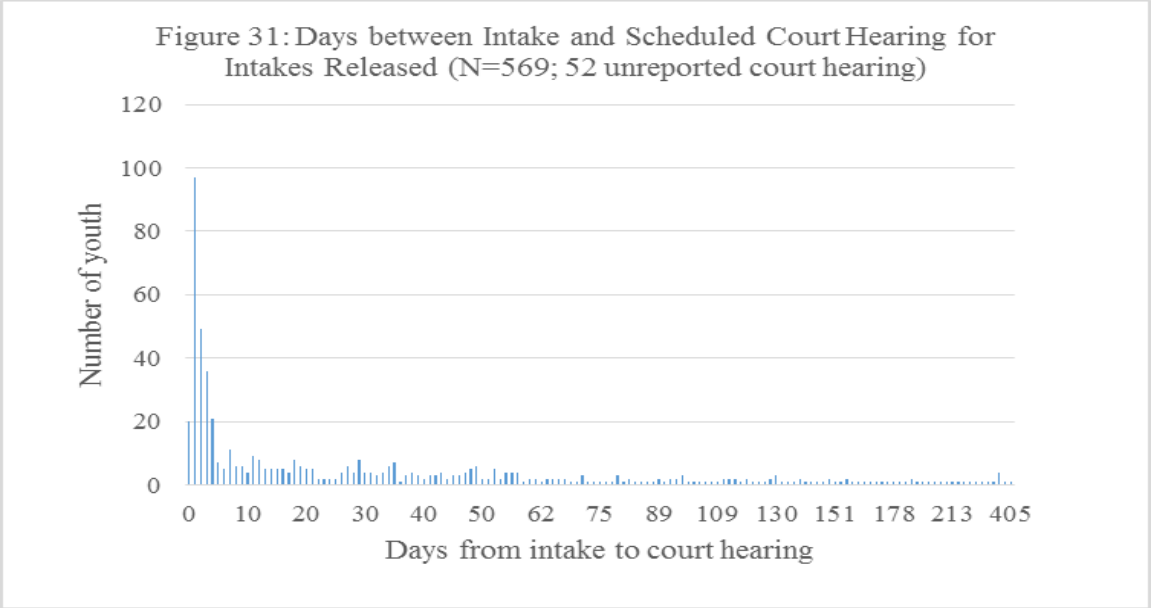
For released juveniles, 569 had scheduled court hearings associated with the intake (52 youth did not have data indicating a scheduled court date). Of the 569 juveniles with a scheduled court hearing, 6.7% (N=38) failed to appear at the next court hearing associated with the intake.

Figure 30 shows the number of juveniles that failed to appear given the type of alternative identified at intake and the type of intake decision. Of the juveniles that failed to appear in court, 74% (N=28) did not have an identified alternative at intake.

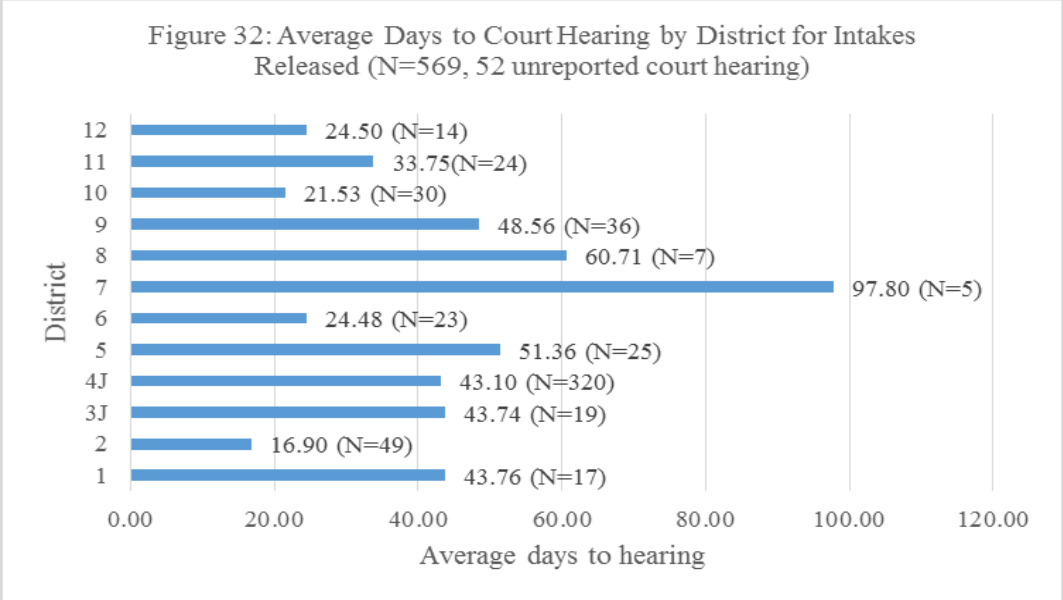
Figure 30: Failure to Appear to Court after Intake by Type of Alternative Assigned at Intake and Type of Intake Deicsion for Intakes Released (N=621)

Alternative to Detention	Failed to Appear in Court	Released with NO Override	Released Override UP	Released Override DOWN	**Total**
None	Unreported	2	0	0	**2**
	No	278	0	12	**290**
	Yes	25	0	3	**28**
Community alterantive Placement	No	4	3	1	**8**
	Yes	0	0	1	**1**
EM/Tracker	No	82	43	6	**131**
	Yes	3	1	0	**4**
Curfew/Home Detention	No	31	4	4	**39**
	Yes	1	1	0	**2**
Residential facility	Unreported	1	0	0	**1**
	No	46	30	6	**82**
	Yes	0	1	0	**1**
Multiple alternatives	No	14	3	2	**19**
	Yes	1	1	0	**2**
Directive to communicate	No	8	1	2	**11**
	Yes	0	0	0	**0**
Total		**496**	**88**	**37**	**621**

Figure 31 displays the trend of days between the intake and the next court hearing. The length between intake and a scheduled court hearing ranged from 0-405 days. The average number of days between the completed intake and the next scheduled court hearing was 39.55 days. A hearing was held within two days for 29% (N=166) of the juveniles released at intake, 43% (N=246) had a hearing within one week, and 15% (N=86) had a hearing 80 days or more after the intake.



District 2 had the shortest average number of days from intake to the next court hearing, with 16.9 days (N=49), while District 7 had the longest average number of days, with 97.8 (N=5). The juvenile with 405 days between intake and the next court hearing was from District 4J. Figure 32 notes the average number of days from intake to the court hearing by each district.

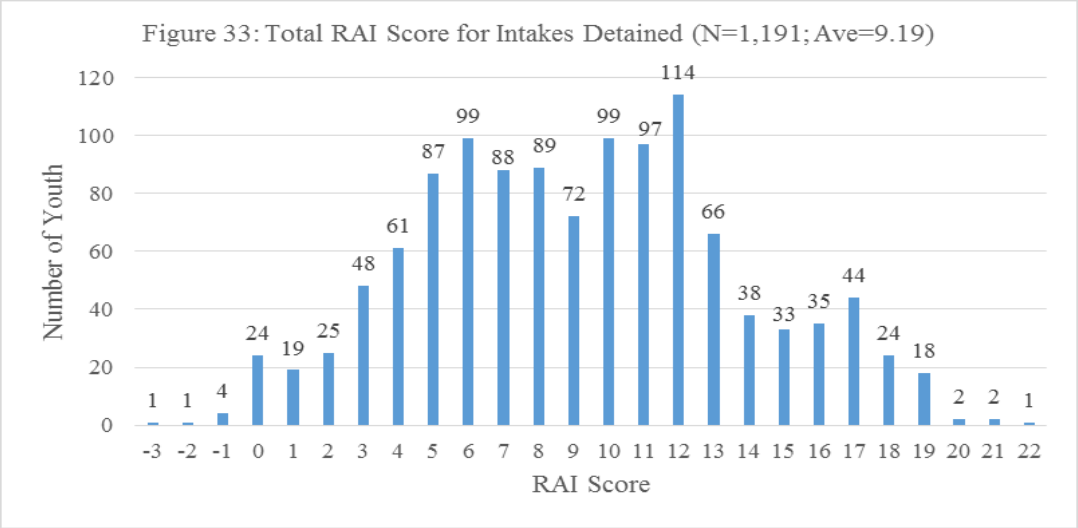


Detained Youth

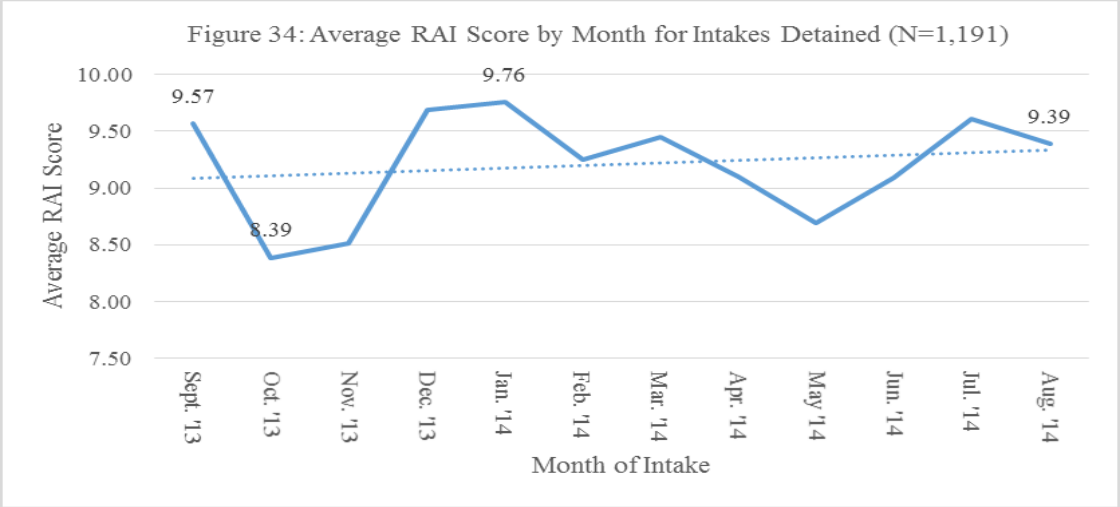
Understanding the utilization of the RAI tool for the released population assists in validating the tool. The RAI tool has the potential to assign the appropriate intake decision, as the evaluation of the intakes released display that objective use of the tool results in appearance at court and no new law violations prior to court. However, evaluating the released population without the detained population provides only a partial understanding of the utilization of the tool. In this chapter, we examine how the RAI tool is utilized for youth who were detained.

RAI Score for Intakes Detained

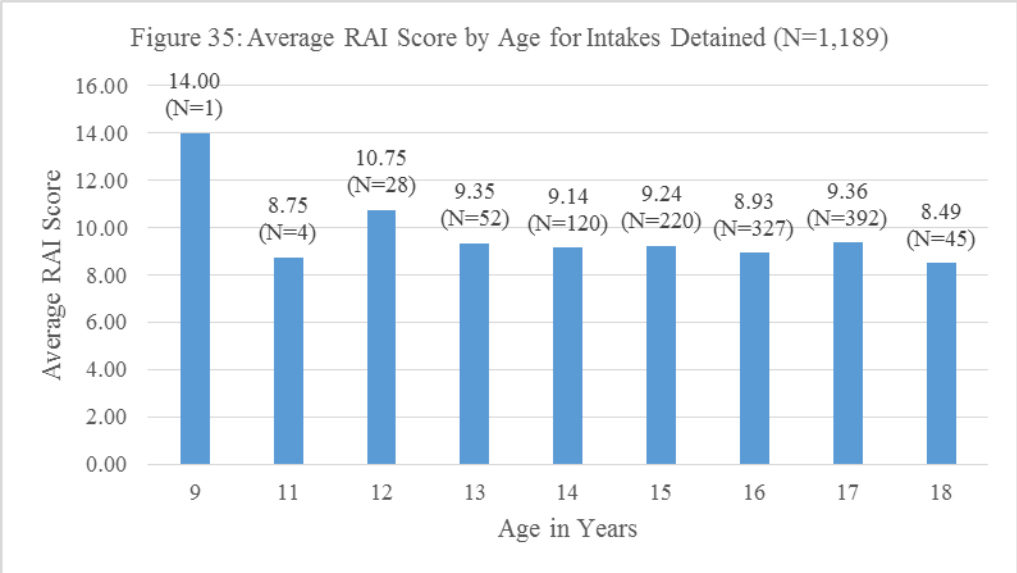
The RAI tool assigns a score of 10 or 11 if a juvenile is to be detained in a staff secure detention and 12 or more for a youth to be detained in a secure detention. The average RAI score for the 1,191 detained juveniles was 9.19. Overall, this score indicates that the detained juveniles scored to be released with an identified alternative. The range of RAI scores for juveniles detained was between -3 and 22. Figure 33 shows the RAI score distribution for juveniles detained.



The average RAI score for detained juveniles shows a gradual upward trend since the inception of the 2013 RAI tool, and has remained in the release with an identified alternative scoring, (Figure 34). The reason for the upward trend is unclear.



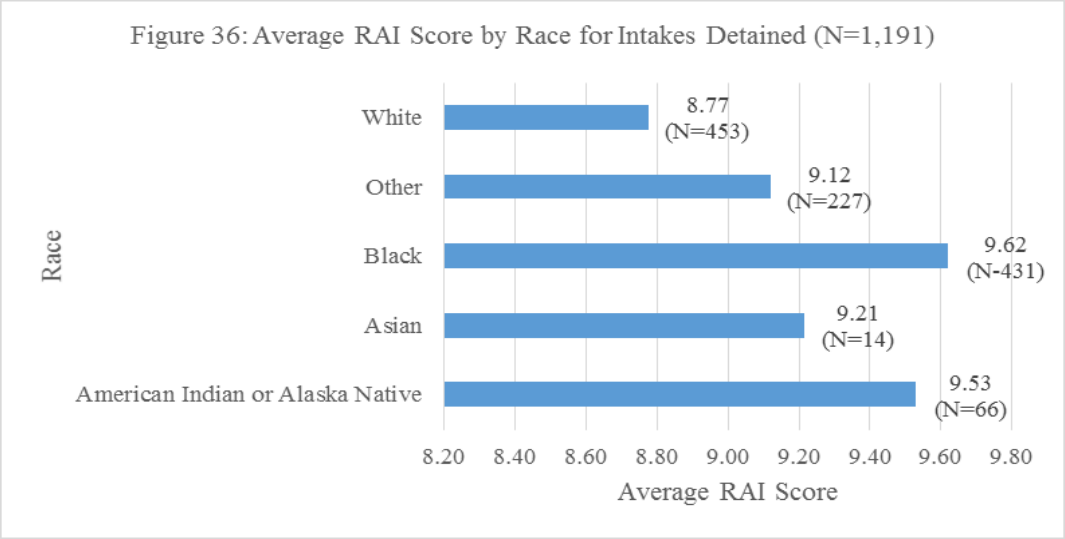
[Age] Of the 1,191 detained juveniles, 64% (N=764) were between 16 and 18 years of age and 36% (N=425) were between 9 and 15 years of age[8]. The average RAI scores by age for detained juveniles was not statistically different from the released population. One 9 year old juvenile had the highest RAI score of 14, which scored for secure detention. The 12 year old juveniles had the second highest average RAI score of 10.75, a score for staff secure detention. Eighteen year old youth averaged the lowest RAI scores (M= 8.49) (Figure 35).



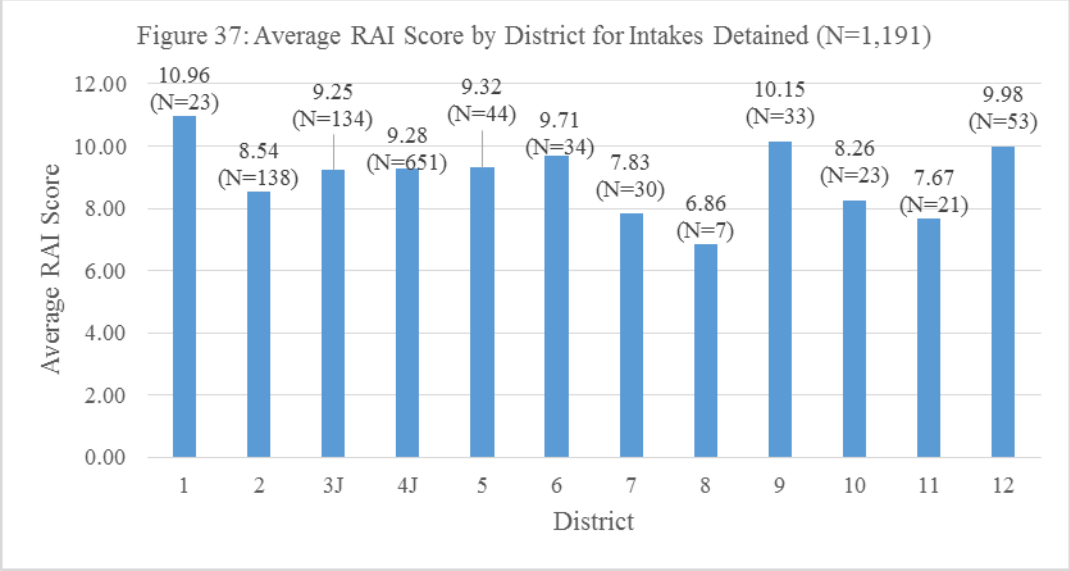
[Gender]
Young women who are detained have an average RAI score of 7.43, which is statistically lower than the average intake scores for young men who are detained (score = 9.90).

[8] The date of birth was not provided for two juveniles that were detained; thus, leaving 1,189 for the detained population.

[Race & Ethnicity] Figure 36[9] shows that the Black youth who were detained averaged higher RAI scores (9.62) compared to White youth who were detained (8.77). Minority youth were statistically more likely to score higher on the RAI than White youth.



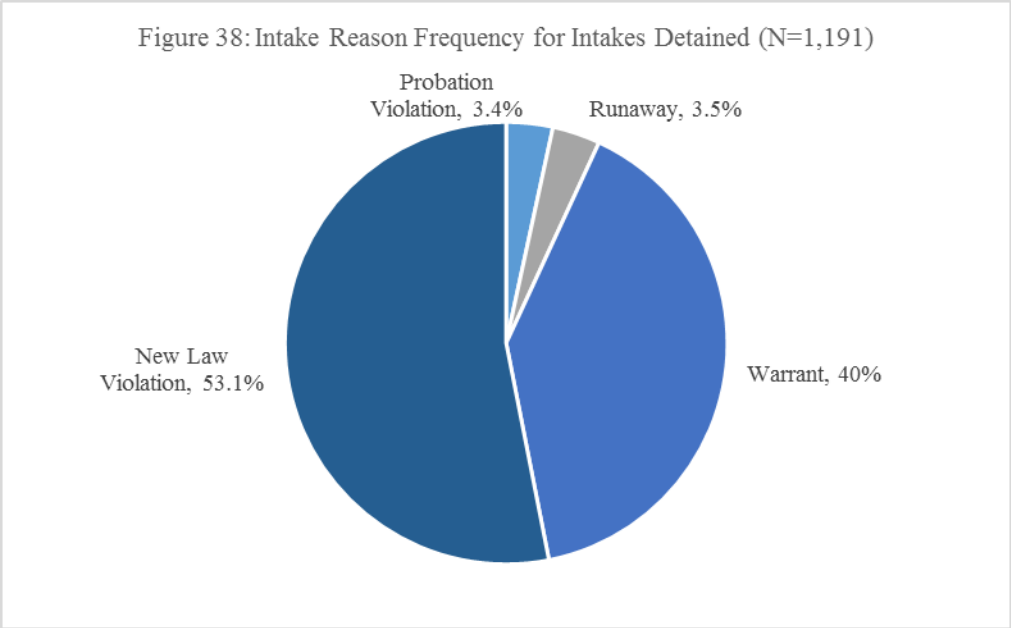
[District] As shown in Figure 37, District 8 had the lowest average RAI score (6.86) for detained juveniles; this District also had the lowest average RAI score for released juveniles. Districts 1 and 9 had average RAI scores that were related to detain in staff secure; the remaining districts had average RAI scores related to release with an identified alternative.



[9] Youth indicated as "Other" are primarily Hispanic

Intake Reason for Intakes Detained

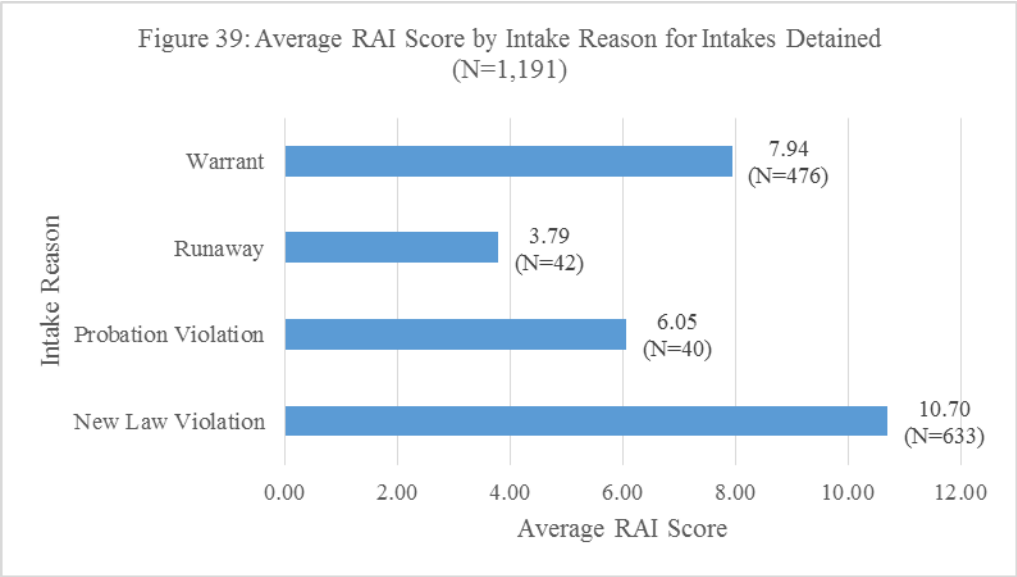
As aforementioned, the RAI tool requires juveniles to have an intake for one of four reasons: new law violation, runaway, probation violation, and warrant[10]. Of the 1,191 juveniles detained, 53.1% (N=633) were detained for a new law violation and 40% (N=476) were detained for a warrant (Figure 38). Juveniles were more likely to be detained on a warrant than released on a warrant. As previously noted, warrants include both juvenile and adult court warrants[11].



[10] As previously noted, not all probation violations are included in the detained population results as there is limited use of the RAI when deciding to detain on a probation violation or technical violation.

[11] The specific type of warrant was not consistently reported on the RAI and, therefore, it is unclear which type of warrant a juvenile was detained.

Youth with new law violations had a higher average RAI score. Runaway juveniles had the lowest average RAI score of 3.79 (Figure 39). It should be noted, each district has different protocol for addressing runaway juveniles, however out-of-state runaways may require a mandatory hold until adequate supervision is available.



The average age for detained juveniles was 15.77. The average age for juveniles detained for a new law violation was 15.60 and for a warrant, it was 15.96. The average age for probation violations was 15.75 and for runaway it was 16.17. The most frequent intake reason for detained males was new law violations (N=494), however, for females it was warrant (N=170). An equal number of males (N=21) and females (N=21) were detained for runaway. Figure 40 further displays the intake reason by age and gender.

Figure 40: Intake Reason by Age and Gender for Intakes Detained (N=1,191)

Age	Gender	New Law Violation	Probation Violation	Runaway	Warrant
9	Male	1	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0
	Total	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
11	Male	4	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0
	Total	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**
12	Male	20	1	0	1
	Female	5	0	0	1
	Total	**25**	**1**	**0**	**2**
13	Male	26	3	1	10
	Female	7	0	1	4
	Total	**33**	**3**	**2**	**14**
14	Male	50	1	2	34
	Female	12	2	0	19
	Total	**62**	**3**	**2**	**53**
15	Male	89	7	2	51
	Female	33	1	3	34
	Total	**122**	**8**	**5**	**85**
16	Male	131	8	6	81
	Female	37	4	5	55
	Total	**168**	**12**	**11**	**136**
17	Male	170	7	9	101
	Female	45	2	11	47
	Total	**215**	**9**	**20**	**148**
18	Male	2	2	1	28
	Female	0	2	0	10
	Total	**2**	**4**	**1**	**38**

Of the juveniles detained at intake for a new law violation (N=633), 35.4% (N=224) were Black and 40.1% (N=254) were White. For warrants, (N=476), 40.3% (N=192) were Black and 31.1% (N=148) were White. Figure 41[12] displays the intake reason by race of juveniles detained at intake.

Figure 41: Intake Reason by Race for Intakes Detained (N=1,191)					
Race	New Law Violation	Probation Violation	Runaway	Warrant	**Total**
American Indian or Alaska Native	32	1	1	32	**66**
Asian	4	1	1	8	**14**
Black	224	12	3	192	**431**
Other	119	4	8	96	**227**
White	254	22	29	148	**453**
Total	**633**	**40**	**42**	**476**	**1191**

Districts 1, 5, 6, 7, and 9 had over 70% of intakes detained for a new law violation. Districts 8 and 10 had less than 50% of their intakes detained for a new law violation. District 10 had 52.2% detained for a warrant and District 8 had 14.3% detained for probation violation or warrant, 28.6% for runaway, and 42.8% for new law violation. District 4J had relatively equal numbers of juveniles detained at intake for new law violations (47.8%) and warrants (47.3%). Figure 42 notes the numbers of juveniles detained at intake by reason and district.

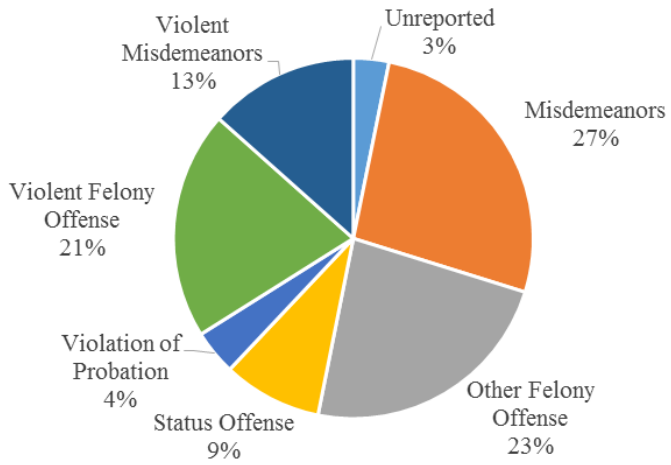
Figure 42: Intake Reason by District for Intakes Detained (N=1,191)					
District	New Law Violation	Probation Violation	Runaway	Warrant	**Total**
1	17	0	2	4	**23**
2	73	4	6	55	**138**
3J	69	5	4	56	**134**
4J	311	24	8	308	**651**
5	34	1	6	3	**44**
6	26	0	1	7	**34**
7	22	0	5	3	**30**
8	3	1	2	1	**7**
9	28	1	1	3	**33**
10	10	0	1	12	**23**
11	12	4	4	1	**21**
12	28	0	2	23	**53**
Total	**633**	**40**	**42**	**476**	**1191**

[12] Youth indicated as "Other" are primarily Hispanic

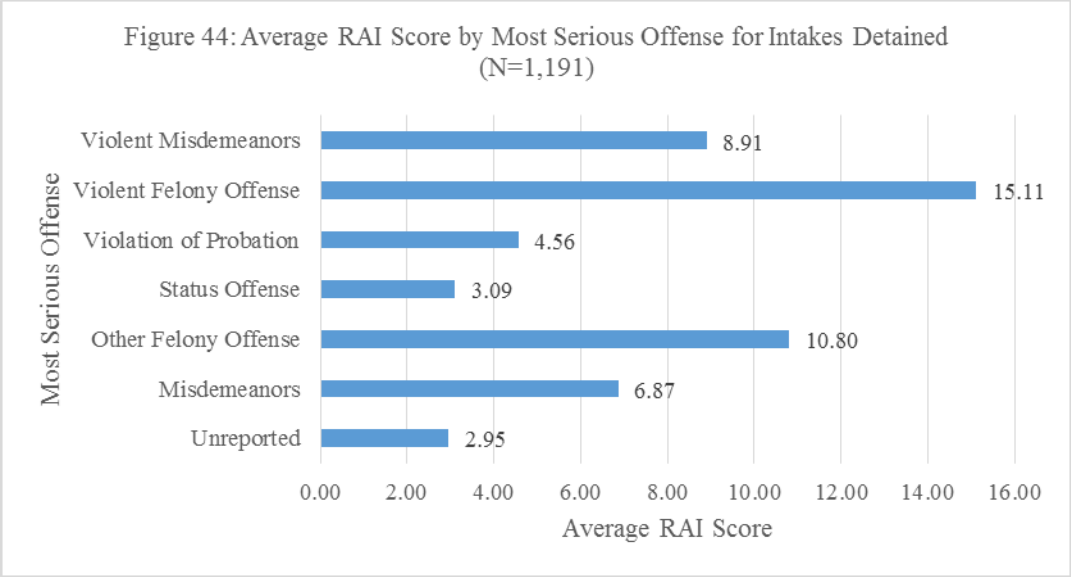
Most Serious Offenses for Intakes Detained

As previously noted, in the RAI the most serious offense is indicated for the overall risk of the juvenile and ranges from violent felony offense as being the most serious offense to a status offense as the least serious offense. Of the 1,191 juveniles detained at intake, 34% were detained for a violent offense (N=404); this is more than indicated for the released population. Approximately 36% (N=423) were detained at intake for a misdemeanor or status offense. As noted in Figure 43, 38 juveniles did not have a "most serious offense" indicated on the RAI tool.

Figure 43: Most Serious Offense for Intakes Detained (N=1,191)

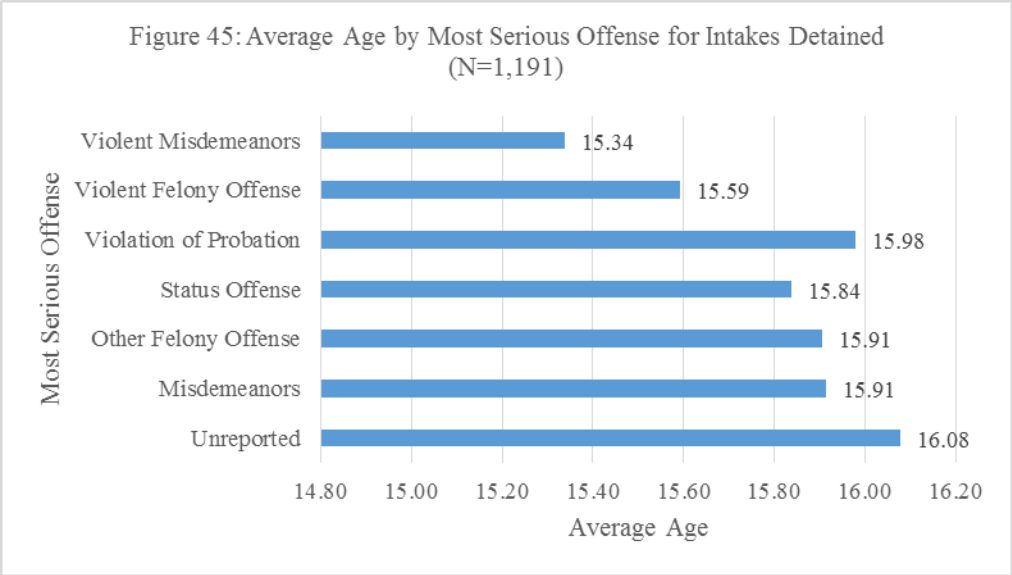


Similar to the juveniles released at intake, those detained at intake for a violent felony offense had the highest average RAI score of 15.11 (Figure 44). Juveniles detained at intake for an "other" felony offense had an average RAI score that indicated detain in staff secure. The juveniles at intake with a misdemeanor offense had an average RAI score in the range of release with an identified alternative. Juveniles detained at intake for a status offense or probation violation had an average RAI score for release without a restriction.



Females were statistically more likely to be detained for a misdemeanor or status offense and males for other felony offense or violent felony offense. Of the juveniles detained at intake for a status offense, 62.3% were female. Of the juveniles detained due to a violent felony offense, 85.6% were male.

On average, the juveniles with a violent offense were younger than the less ranked offenses; this finding is similar to the juveniles released at intake, as violent felony offenses were on average younger. Figure 45 notes the average age of each listed serious offense for juveniles detained at intake.



Of the 231 Hispanic juveniles detained at intake, 41.6% (N=96) were for a felony offense and 45% (N=104) were for a misdemeanor offense. Approximately a quarter of the intakes detained for a misdemeanor (22.7%) or other felony offense (23%) were Hispanic. The Hispanic juveniles do not comprise of all juveniles listed as "Other" but do account for the majority of this category. The percent of Black youth detained for a misdemeanor, 32.8% (N=104), and other felony offense, 33.1% (N=92), was similar to the percent of White youth detained for these same offenses, 37.8% (N=120) and 36% (N=100) respectively. For a violent felony offense, Black youth were more likely to be detained, 49.6% (N=121), than other races. Figure 46[13] shows the number of juveniles detained at intake by race per the type of most serious offense noted from the RAI.

Figure 46: Race by Most Serious Offense for Intakes Detained (N=1,191)

Race	Unreported	Misdemeanors	Other Felony Offense	Status Offense	Violation of Probation	Violent Felony Offense	Violent Misdemeanors	**Total**
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	21	17	4	0	13	7	**66**
Asian	2	2	3	2	1	3	1	**14**
Black	8	104	92	45	10	121	51	**431**
Other	9	70	66	17	7	29	29	**227**
White	15	120	100	38	30	78	72	**453**
Total	**38**	**317**	**278**	**106**	**48**	**244**	**160**	**1191**

[13] Youth indicated as "Other" are primarily Hispanic

Other felony offense was the most frequent most serious offense for Districts 1 (47.8%), 6 (26.5%), 8 (42.9%), 11 (33.3%), and 12 (32.1%). Misdemeanor offense was the most frequent offense for Districts 2 (33.3%), 3J (32.8%), 5 (25%), and 7 (36.7%). District 4J had 24.9% of intakes detained due to a misdemeanor and 25% detained due to a violent felony offense. Violent misdemeanor was the most frequent serious offense for District 10 and violent felony offense was the most frequent for District 9. Figure 47 provides, for each District, the actual number of intakes detained given the most serious offense noted on the RAI.

Figure 47: District by Most Serious Offense for Intakes Detained (N=1,191)

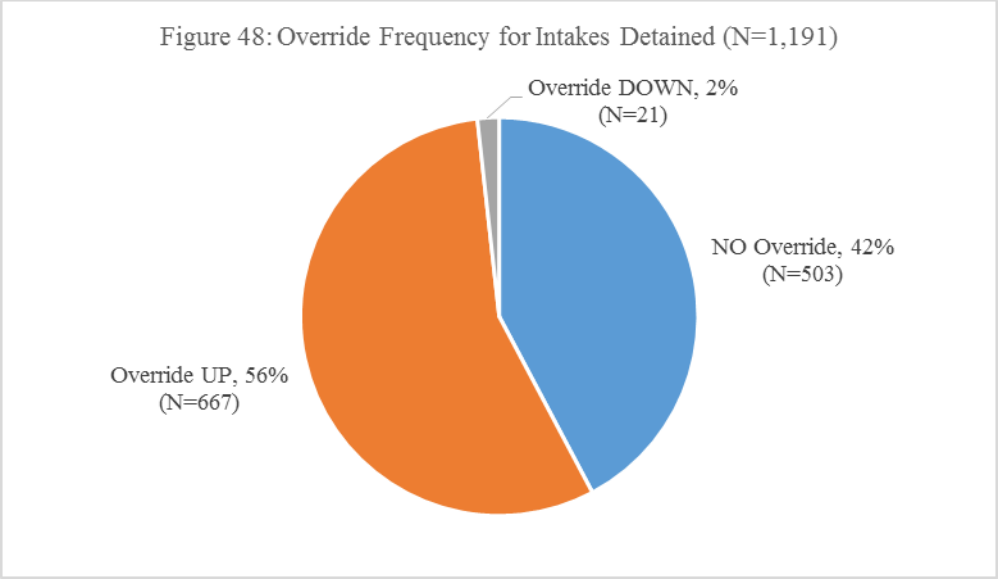
District	Unreported	Misdemeanors	Other Felony Offense	Status Offense	Violation of Probation	Violent Felony Offense	Violent Misdemeanors	**Total**
1	1	1	11	1	0	7	2	**23**
2	3	46	27	11	13	20	18	**138**
3J	3	44	32	9	8	26	12	**134**
4J	18	162	138	77	13	163	80	**651**
5	2	11	20	1	1	2	7	**44**
6	2	8	9	0	1	7	7	**34**
7	1	11	6	2	0	4	6	**30**
8	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	**7**
9	0	7	6	2	3	9	6	**33**
10	1	6	2	1	3	0	10	**23**
11	1	6	7	1	4	0	2	**21**
12	5	14	17	0	2	6	9	**53**
Total	**38**	**317**	**278**	**106**	**48**	**244**	**160**	**1191**

Overrides for Intakes Detained

As previously indicated, the objective use of the RAI may result in the use of the juvenile being detained in either staff secure or secure detention. During the intake process, an intake officer may determine that a juvenile needs to be overridden up from a release status to be detained or overridden down from a detain score to be released. The following provides data on juveniles for whom a determination was made at intake to either adhere to the RAI tool outcome or override the juvenile to detention.

Of the intakes that were detained between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014, 58% (N=688) were due to an override and 42% (N=503) were detained based on the RAI tool recommendation, as noted in Figure 48.

Of the 688 juveniles that had an override into detention, 36.5% (N=251) initially scored for release without a restriction at intake, 47.5% (N=327) scored for release with an identified alternative, and 16% (N=110) scored for detention. Of the 110 juveniles that scored for detention, 84% (N=92) scored for staff secure detention but were placed in secure, 14% (N=16) scored for secure detention but were placed in staff secure, and 2% (N=2) scored for secure detention and had an override to secure detention. It is unclear as to why. Of the 21 juveniles that had an override down to staff secure, 16 scored for detention, three scored for release without restriction, and two scored for release with an identified alternative; it is unclear why the five juveniles that scored for release had an override down to staff secure detention.



Districts 2, 3J, and 4J had intakes where the juvenile was detained due to an override down, as displayed in Figure 49. The Districts that detained more juveniles due to an override up were 2 (56%), 3J (60.4%), 4J (60.4%), 6 (52.9%), 7 (53.3%), and 12 (50.9%). The Districts that detained more juveniles based on the RAI recommendation were 1 (78.3%), 5 (70.5%), 8 (57.1%), 9 (60.6%), 10 (52.2%), and 11 (52.4%). District 4J had the highest number of juveniles detained with no override and juveniles detained with an override up. Excluding district 4J due to the population difference, District 3J had the second highest number of youth detained with an override up (N=81) and detained with no override (N=51), and District 2 had the highest number of overrides down (N=16).

Figure 49: Overrides by District for Intakes Detained

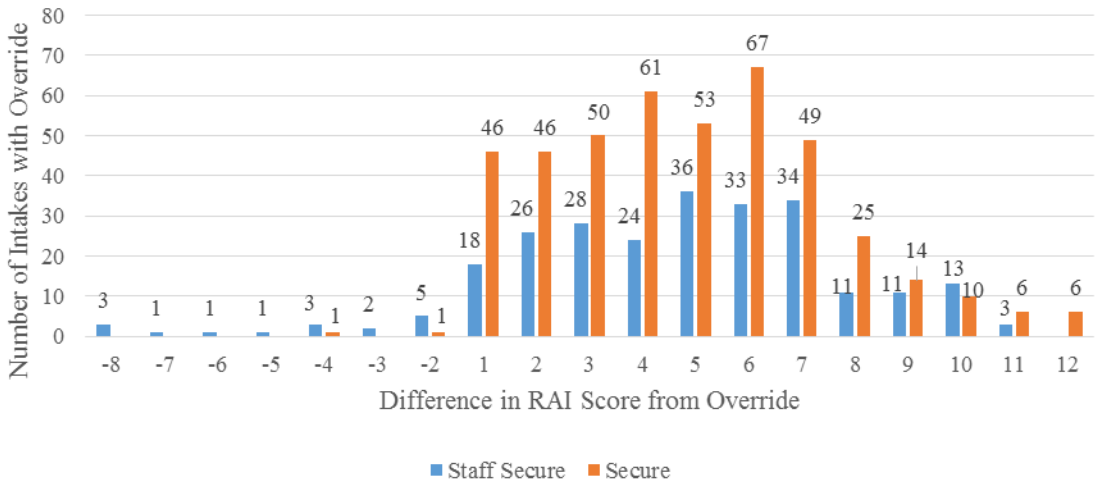
District	Detained with NO Override	Detained with Override UP	Detained with Override DOWN	**Total Intakes Detained**
1	18	5	0	**23**
2	45	77	16	**138**
3J	51	81	2	**134**
4J	255	393	3	**651**
5	31	13	0	**44**
6	16	18	0	**34**
7	14	16	0	**30**
8	4	3	0	**7**
9	20	13	0	**33**
10	12	11	0	**23**
11	11	10	0	**21**
12	26	27	0	**53**
Total	**503**	**667**	**21**	**1191**

An override to staff secure detention would be equivalent to a juvenile scoring between 10 and 11 on the RAI. A secure detention override up is relative to a juvenile scoring a 12 or higher on the RAI. Figure 50 displays the point difference between a juvenile scoring below 10 or above 12 and having an override to staff secure. Also displayed are juveniles that scored below 12 and had an override to secure detention; as previously noted, two juveniles scored for secure and were overridden to secure. Of the juveniles that had an override to staff secure (N=253), 55.7% (N=141) had more than a five point difference, meaning they had scored for release without restriction and needed at least five more points before scoring to be detained in staff secure.

Additionally, of the overrides to staff secure, 37.9% (N=92) were between a 1 to 4 point difference to override them up to staff secure detention. For overrides down to staff secure, two juveniles had an 8 point difference when measuring for a staff secure detention score of 10. Again, when using the measure of 10 as the score for staff secure, five juveniles were overridden down from secure within a 2 point difference. For the juveniles that had an override to secure detention (N=435), a quarter of the juveniles (N=110) had an initial score within release without restriction, resulting in a scoring difference between 7 to 12 points. There were 231 (53.1%) juveniles initially scoring for release with an identified alternative who had between a 3 to 6 point override to secure detention. The two juveniles that had a -4 and -2 point difference to secure detention were previously noted, as the juveniles that initially scored for secure detention and had an override to secure detention.

For juveniles detained at intake with an override, 66.6% of the juveniles had an override with the reason of "Other." The second highest reason for override was "parent or responsible adult not willing to take the juvenile home" (12.2%). For juveniles placed due to an override reason of "Other," typically the intake officers noted the juveniles were a flight risk, had runaway behaviors, needed to be detained due to a warrant or court order, or were a danger to themselves or the community; flight risk was the predominate reason.

Figure 50: Override Difference in RAI Score for Intakes Detained (N=1,191)



Conclusions

The Nebraska Intake Risk Assessment Screening Instrument (RAI) was evaluated to determine if the current utilization of the tool aligned with the statute and protocol for detention screening.

- Between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014, the Probation Administration completed the RAI on 1,845 juveniles. Of these, data was available for 1,812 intakes.

- A total of 1,221 youth initially scored for release – 578 of whom were overridden into a Nebraska detention or staff secure facility. Consequently, a total of 1,191 youth were detained (66%), while 621 (34%) youth were released. Based upon the RAI, it appears that 578 youth could have been released, but were detained.

- Overall, the findings show the decisions made by the intake officers match the recommendation of the RAI tool only 55% of the time. When an intake officer overrides the tool, 97% of the time they override the tool up.

- An intake officer overrides the RAI score 45% of the time (either up or down). Generally, intake officers indicated "other," as the reason for overriding the tool (65.8%). The second highest reason for overriding the RAI up was "parent or responsible adult not willing to take the juvenile home" (11.7%). For juveniles placed in detention due to an override reason of "Other," typically the intake officers noted the juveniles were a flight risk, had runaway behaviors, needed to be detained due to a warrant or court order, or were a danger to themselves or the community; flight risk was the predominate reason.

- Intake officers have a higher level of confidence in the tool, and rely on it more consistently, when youth score in the highest point range. Of the total 384 juveniles that scored for secure detention, the intake officer was confident in the RAI recommendation 93.5% of the time.

The tool appears to have predictive validity, but this must be stated with caution due to the high override rate.

- Of the youth who were released, most were scheduled to appear in court within 40 days of the intake to detention. The majority of released youth attended their scheduled court date. Of the 569 juveniles with a scheduled court hearing, 531 youth (93.3%) appeared at the next court hearing. This analysis indicates that when a youth is released, the youth is very likely to appear in court.

- In addition, the majority of youth who were released did not incur new legal violations: 91.1% (N=566) had no new law violation prior to the next scheduled court hearing. Of the 8.4% (N=52) that had a new law violation, new charges included fairly minor, adolescent behaviors, like running away.

Overall, the evaluation of the RAI found that objective use of the instrument has the potential to result in: (1) the risk of the juvenile being assessed appropriately; (2) the intake decision aptly coinciding with the risk of the juvenile; (3) the juvenile appearing in court following intake; and (4) the juvenile refraining from engaging in a new law violation prior to court.

Recommendations

[Specific Populations]

Due to statistically significant findings with regard to specific populations, we recommend that additional research be conducted on the RAI and race and gender. Intake officers may benefit from gender-specific and culturally-specific training to help identify alternatives to detention. An example of gender-specific alternatives could be providing respite locations on a court order for females in an effort to reduce status offending behaviors. A potential resource is the National Council on Crime and Delinquency: Center for Girls and Young Women.

[Complete the RAI on all Youth]

In an effort to fully evaluate the validity of the RAI, we recommend that all juveniles presented to detention have a completed RAI. During the current evaluation, it was found that not all probation violations, violations of court orders, nor youth presented to detention had a completed RAI.

[Data Collection]

The validation of the RAI is limited due to the lack of consistent and accurate completion of all RAI fields. The frequency with which the RAI is overridden also hinders analysis. In an effort to validate the instrument in the future, improved data collection, training, and reporting are paramount.

We recommend that the state identify standard goals for override rates wherein Districts need to strive to maintain overrides that are commensurate with the state standard. Reducing the use of overrides will provide a clearer understanding as to whether the RAI accurately assesses risk as required by state statute.

In an effort to reduce overrides and limit subjective assessments of juvenile risk, we recommend that a clear identification be made as to the definitions of “flight risk” and “uncontrollable” in relation to the state statute term of “flee the jurisdiction of the court.” Similarly, further definition of “Other” reasons for overrides would assist with more consistent data collection. We recommend limited options for the “Other” override reason in the Nebraska Probation Application for Community Safety (NPACS) system or requiring a separate supervisor verification in the system to further clarify the “Other” override reason. Without clearly identified override reasons, it is difficult to determine risk characteristics that intake officers perceive but are not captured by the RAI. Based on narrative comments, it appears that the risk is associated with runaway behaviors.

Finally, the data obtained for the completed intakes had missing information for most serious offense, type of warrant, reassessments, court outcomes, and court dates. Missing data limited the comprehensive evaluation of the RAI. In some instances, it appeared that the instrument may have been completed after a decision to detain was made. Enhanced training for intake officers is

essential in ensuring consistency in the use of the instrument, and uniform entry of data and reporting outcomes. Systematic training of intake officers in completion of the RAI, documentation, and follow-up in NPACS would assist with ensuring all data fields are reported.

References

Juveniles; placements and commitments; restrictions, Neb. Revised Statute § 43-251.01 (5).

Latessa, E. J., & Lovins, B. (2010). The role of offender risk assessment: A policy maker guide. *Victims and Offenders*, *5*(3), 203-219.

Neeley, E. (2013). Lancaster RAI pilot data (unpublished).

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. (2012/2013, Fiscal Year). Annual Report to the governor and Nebraska legislature. The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice website.

Office of Probation Administration. (2012, September). Scoring guide for Nebraska intake risk assessment instrument [Draft].

Office of Probation Administration. (2013). Nebraska juvenile intake screening risk assessment.

Office of Probation Administration. (2013, July). Nebraska juvenile intake interview guide.

Office of Probation Administration. (n.d.). Juvenile intake protocol.

Standardized juvenile detention screening instrument. Neb. Revised Statute § 43-260.

Evaluation of the Nebraska Juvenile Intake Screening Risk Assessment

University of Nebraska Omaha
Juvenile Justice Institute
Dr. Anne Hobbs & Sara Moore, M.A.

RAI Background

- Probation is statutorily required to perform the intake function statewide in 2002. This includes having a statewide tool and training of all officers.
- The intake format has evolved through several “generations” of tools.
- Current tool was revised and implemented as part of JDAI in 2013.

Purpose of Risk Assessment Instruments

- Purpose of the tool is to provide the intake officer with the information proven in research to determine the following:
  - Risk of re-offense prior to court and/or
  - Risk to Fail to Appear for court
- Objectivity
- Uniformity

A Risk Assessment Instrument is NOT:

- Designed to determine a youth's needs (i.e. substance abuse)
- Designed to determine their risk to harm themselves (i.e. mental health)

Risk Assessment Design

- Demographics
- Mandatory Detention Cases
- Most Serious Offense
- Legal Status
- Risk of FTA and Re-offense
- Mitigating and Aggravating factors
- Scoring Breakdowns

Evaluation of the Tool

Research Questions

- Youth and Public Safety Outcomes
  - Did youth released after a completed RAI appear in court?
  - Did youth released reoffend prior to their court appearance?

- Consistency in Decision Making
  - Does the detention decision made by the intake officer "match" the recommendation of the intake RAI tool?
  - How often was the youth's score overridden to a higher or lower level, why there was an override.

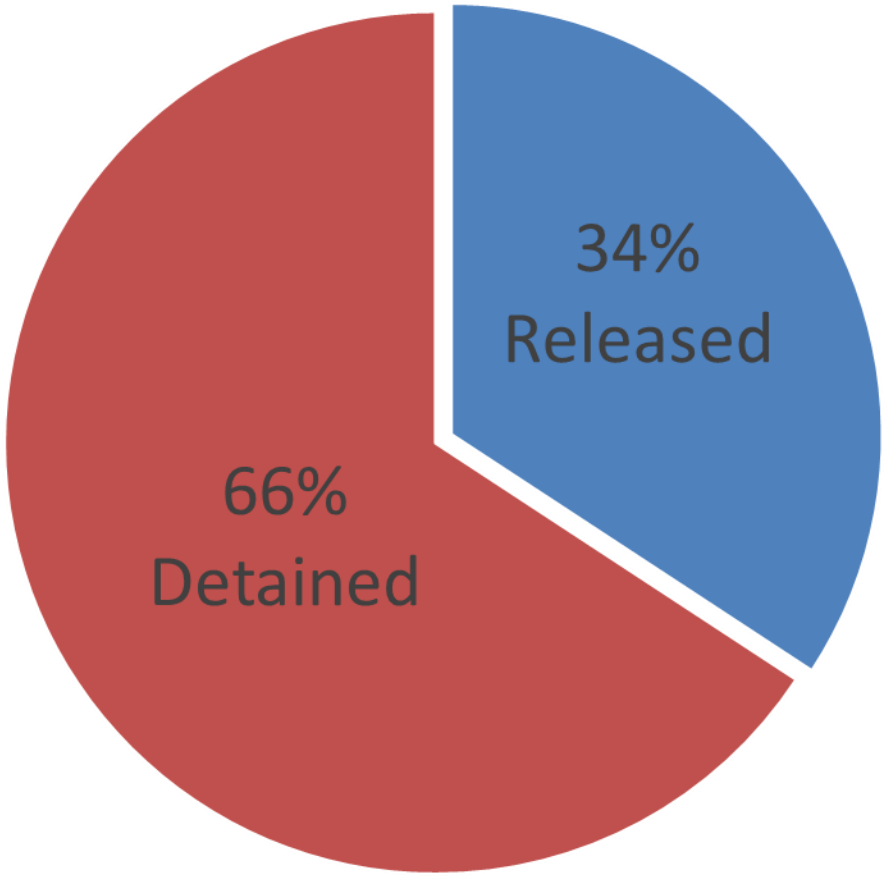
Data

- RAI
  - Scoring
    - Release without Restriction is 5 or less
    - Release to Parent (ATD) 6-9
    - Detention (Staff Secure) 10-11
    - Detention (Secure) 12 and higher
  - Scoring components
- Probation
  - NPACS
  - JUSTICE
  - NCJIS
  - Case Files from Districts

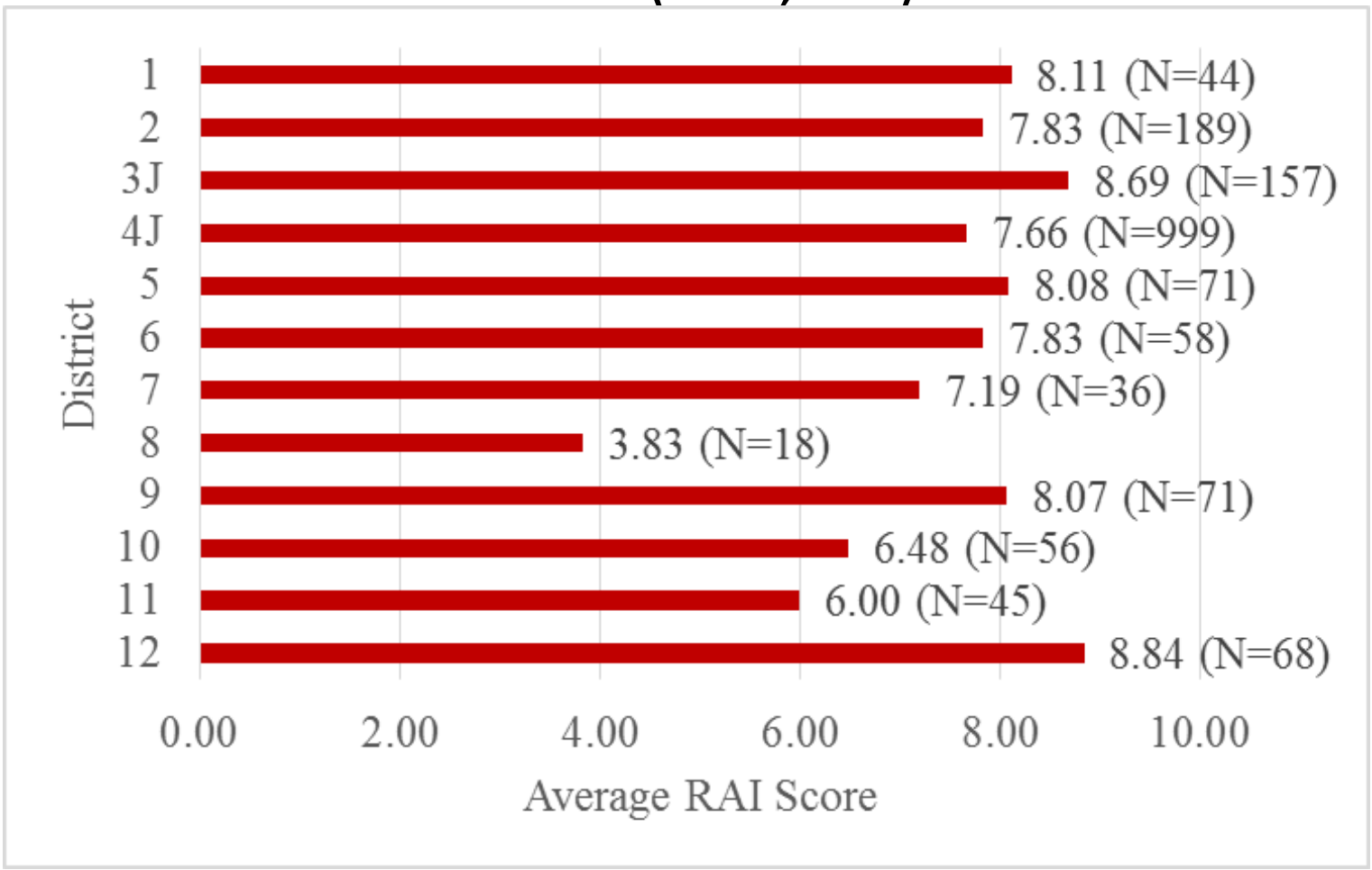
All Youth Who Had the Risk Assessment Instrument Completed

Statewide Population Characteristics

- RAI completed between
  - 9/1/13 & 8/31/14
- 1,845 Total Intakes
  - 621-Released
  - 1,191-Detained (secure/staff secure)
  - 33 missing



Average RAI Score per District for Total Completed Intakes (N=1,812)



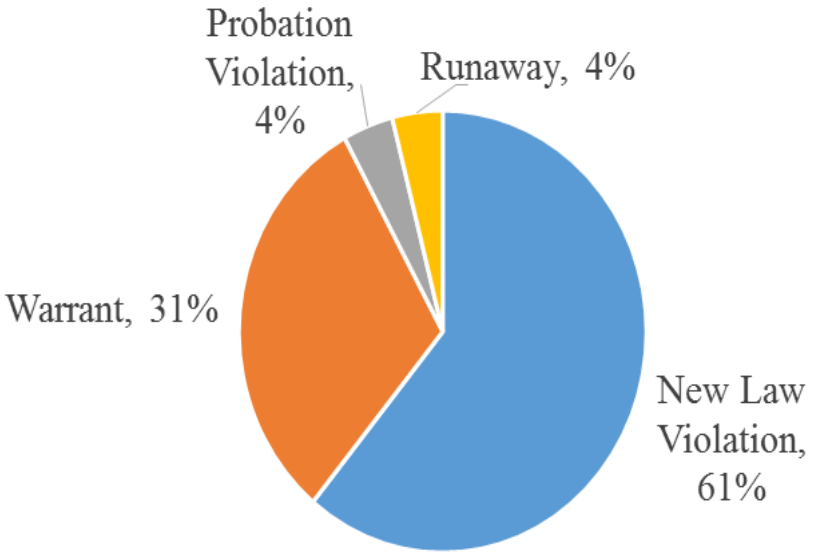
Demographics of Total Intakes
(N=1,812)

- Race
  - 41.1% White
  - 34.0% Black
  - 4.9% American Indian or Alaska Native
  - 1.0% Asian
  - 19.0% Other (mostly Hispanic)

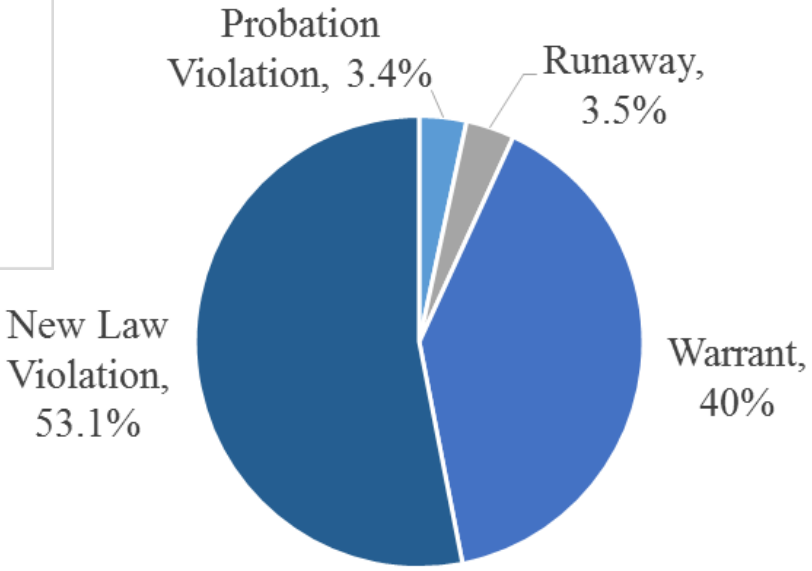
20.3% Hispanic Ethnicity-includes multiracial youth

- Age
  - 15.68 years average age (Missing DOB-2 intakes)
  - 9 years to 18 years
- Gender
  - 70% Male
  - 30% Female

Intake Reason for Youth Released (N=621)



Intake Reason for Youth Detained (N=1,191)



Most Serious Offense (N=1,812)

Intakes Released (N=621)

- Misdemeanors-36.1%
- Other Felony Offense-28%
- Violent Misdemeanor-11%
- Violent Felony Offense-2.7%
- Violation of Probation-4.8%
- Status Offense-14.8%
- Unreported-2.6%

Intakes Detained (N=1,191)

- Misdemeanors-27%
- Other Felony Offense-23%
- Violent Misdemeanor-13%
- Violent Felony Offense-21%
- Violation of Probation-4%
- Status Offense-9%
- Unreported-3%

Statewide Overrides

Overrides for Intakes Released

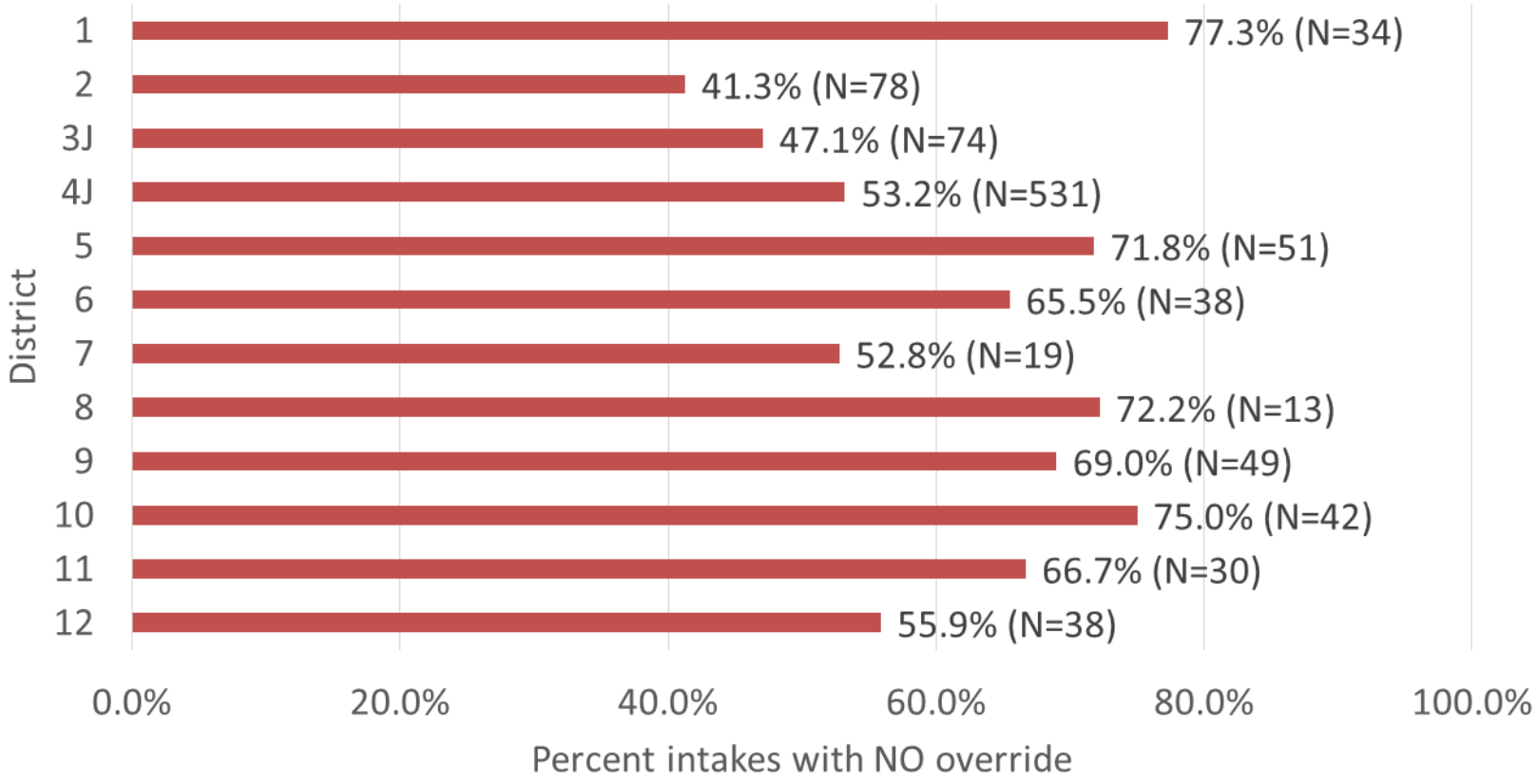
- 80% (N=496) NO Override
- 6% (N=37) Override DOWN
  - 49% Scored for Detention Secure/Staff Secure
  - 54% Reason for override: "Parent or Responsible Adult Available to Supervise Youth"
- 14% (N=88) Override UP
  - 74% Reason for override: "Other" (i.e. Flight Risk, Runaway Behavior, Uncontrollable)

Overrides for Intakes Detained

- 42% (N=503) NO Override
- 2% (N=21) Override DOWN
  - 16 Scored for detention and placed in staff secure
  - 5 release score, unclear override to staff secure
- 56% (N=667) Override UP
  - 36.5% Scored for Release without a restriction
  - 47.5% Scored for release with an identified alternative

Reliance on Tool Per District

(Released & Detained Intakes=1,812)



Youth Who Were Released

Released Youth Days Intake to Hearing

Released=569 (52 unreported court hearing)

- 39.55-Average days to hearing
- Range from 0-405 days to hearing
- 29% (N=166) Hearing within 2 days
- 43% (N=246) Hearings within 1 week
- 15% (N=86) Hearing 80 Days or more after intake
- 6.7% (N=38) Failure to appear

Released Youth New Law Violations

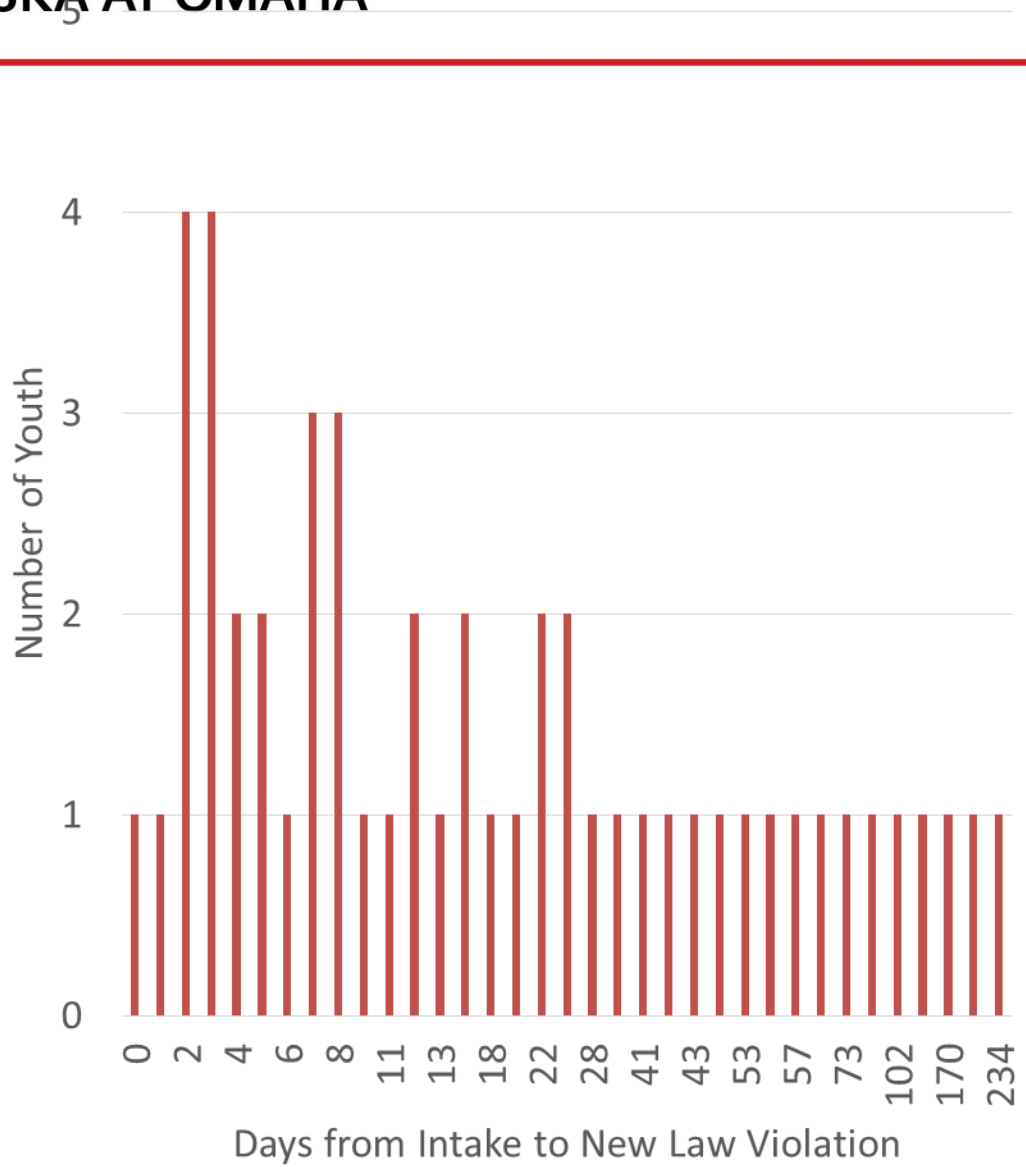
(Released=621)

- 91.1% (N=566) No NLV
- 8.4% (N=52) NLV
- 0.5% (3) Unreported

- 28.8% (N=15) Tech-Runaway
- 15.4% (N=8) NLV=Assault
- 9.6% (N=5) Multiple NLV

- N=51 Reported NLV date
- 35.2-Average days intake to NLV
- Range from 0-234 days intake to NLV

- 35.3% (N=18) NLV within 1 Week
- 55% (N=28) NLV within 2 Weeks
- 45% (N=23) NLV after 2 Weeks



Intake Outcome for Intakes Released (N=621)

- 52-New Law Violation after intake
  - 29 had no alternative identified at intake
    - 7 had score requiring an alternative but none identified and had a new law violation
  - 7 placed in residential facility at intake

- 38-Failure to Appear after intake
  - 28 had no alternative identified at intake

Summary

- Did youth released after a completed RAI appear in court?
  - Yes! Only 6.7% (N=38) failed to appear
- Did youth released reoffend prior to their court appearance?
  - No! 91.1% (N=566) of the youth had no new law violation
- Does the detention decision made by the intake officer "match" the recommendation of the intake RAI tool?
  - -55% overall confidence rate
    - -When intake officer overrides the tool, they usually override up
- How often tool was overridden to a higher or lower level, why there was an override, and barriers related to override?
  - Intake officer overrides 45% of the time
  - Primary reason for override is "Other"-flight risk/runaway behaviors

Future Research

- Youth with probation violations / RAI completed
  - Demographics
  - RAI scores, mean score by district
  - Most serious law violations
  - Reason for detention
- Replicate study

Probation Strategies & Collaborations

- Immediate Supervisor approval of overrides
- Intake units/coordinators
- Probation Intake Sub-committee Committee
- Enhanced Training and Quality Assurance
- Expanded Alternatives to Detention
- JDAI

The Juvenile Justice Institute

Screening & Assessment

August 11, 2015

Juvenile Services Subcommittee of the Nebraska Children's Commission

Dr. Anne Hobbs – UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

Confusion

- We sometimes use the word assessment to mean any type of tool that gathers information on a youth.
- Even research / juvenile justice literature uses the words inconsistently
- Individuals who create tools sometimes label the tool without attention to these definitions
- You will see clear examples of the inconsistencies as I point out tools being used in Nebraska.

Definitions

- **Screening** – These tools "can serve as a cost-effective method for identifying potential mental health problems that can be applied to all youth entering a system or facility (Grisso, 2005; Vincent, Grisso, & Terry, 2007)

- **Assessment** – A formal process/ instrument used to provide thorough and unbiased information regarding a youth/family in order to best serve the needs of the youth; to place focus on rehabilitation and decrease recidivism; to provide all system providers information regarding the most appropriate and effective means to support the youth and family.
  - **Risk Assessment**

"To provide the right service to the right youth at the right time."

"*A 20-year longitudinal study of low-income youth in Montreal found that youth who received even a minor juvenile justice intervention (e.g., community service), with limited exposure to other troubled kids, were still twice as likely to be arrested as adults than youth with the same behavior problems who did not receive a juvenile justice intervention of any sort."*

Why Should We Screen or Assess Youth?

"The *risk principle* suggests that the highest-risk offenders should receive the most intensive monitoring and services to reduce their risk of continued offending. Conversely, low risk cases have a lower chance of reoffending even in the absence of services, and therefore should be able to function well with minimal attention."

Risk-Need-Responsivity

Some of the Screening & Assessment Tools Used in Nebraska

- Administered to juveniles presented for intake to detention
- Designed to screen for risk of juvenile to re-offend prior to court or failure to appear for court
- Probation officer utilizes an interview guide to help score the instrument (specific points).

Nebraska Juvenile Intake Screening Risk Assessment (RAI)

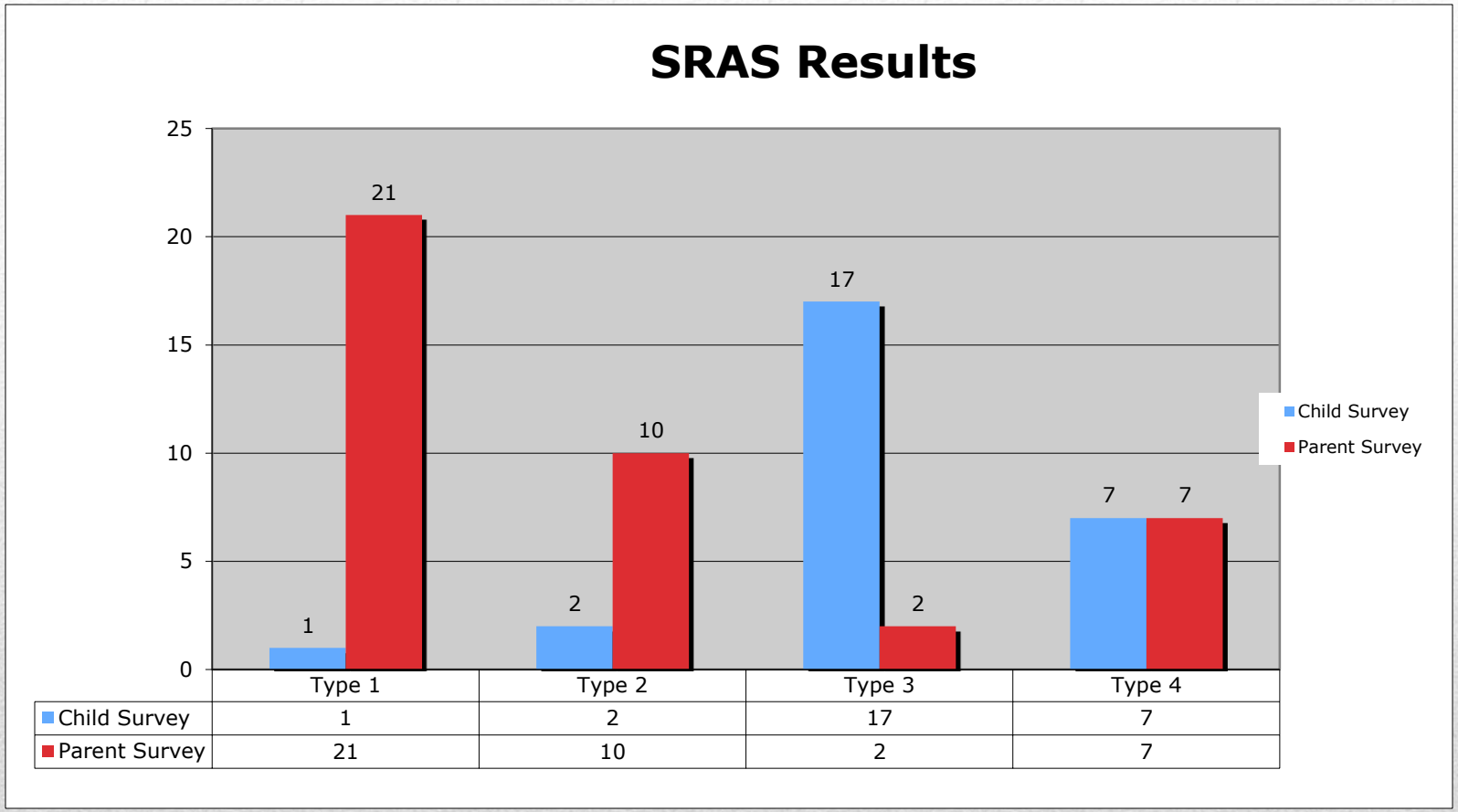
- Utilized during pre- and post- adjudication supervision; pre-disposition
- Determines contact/supervision and additional need for further assessment
- Designed to indicate potential recidivism
- Targets domains top criminogenic risk factors for recidivism; uses an interview guide to complete the screening instrument.

Nebraska Youth Screen (NYS)

Designed to capture four reasons why a youth may be absent from school, including:

1. Child escapes and avoids specific unpleasant things or people.
2. Child escapes and avoids unpleasant social or evaluative situations.
3. Child is positively reinforced for school avoidance.
4. Child receives tangible reinforcement for school avoidance

School Refusal Assessment Survey (SRAS)



	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
Child Survey	1	2	17	7
Parent Survey	21	10	2	7

Sample Data

Adolescent Chemical Dependency Inventory (ACDI):

-Used to assess substance abuse issues and assist with identifying other issues

- Self-reported; juvenile must be able to read inventory and answer questions on own.

-Five scales: Truthfulness, Alcohol, Drugs, Adjustment, Distress

GAIN-SS:

-Short screener, helps measure behavioral change over time

- helps identify further evaluation referrals

-Self-reported but administered by probation officer

Simple Screen Instrument (SSI)

-Screens for substance abuse

-Uses information that was self-reported; officer completes partly based on professional judgment

The "right tool" depends on the work you are doing

That there is sufficient research evidence to establish that the tool in fact predicts what it was intended to predict.

What Does it Mean to Validate a Particular Tool?

Using the Appropriate Tools . . .

- Maximize your resources by screening then assessing;
- Common tools provides a common language between agencies. can minimize bias in judgments about youths' risk to public safety and their case management needs.
- Can reduce costs by decreasing use of more intensive supervision, over-use of expensive incarceration, and provision of services for youth who do not need them.
- Using validated tools, can improve the targeting of services/interventions that would address youths' identified risk factors.

(adapted from Models for Change: Risk Assessment in Juvenile Justice - A Guidebook for Implementation)

Questions?

Examples of Screening & Assessment Tools

The following are examples of mental health screening tools currently used by juvenile justice personnel, mainly in probation intake or detention. The instruments generally take less than 20 minutes to administer by nonprofessional staff and have some research evidence for their value:

• Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument—Version 2 (MAYSI-2; Grisso & Barnum, 2006): a 52-question self-report screening instrument that measures symptoms on seven scales pertaining to areas of emotional, behavioral, or psychological disturbance, including suicide ideation. This tool has been examined in more than 50 research studies, and it is possibly the only tool with national norms.

• *Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire* (SIQ; Reynolds, 1988): a 25-item self-report screening instrument used to assess suicidal ideation in adolescents. It can be administered individually or in a group setting.

• *Global Appraisal of Individual Needs—Short Screener* (GAIN-SS; Dennis, Scott, Funk, & Foss, 2005): a 20-item behavioral health screening tool designed to identify adolescents in need of more detailed assessment for substance use or mental disorders. Many studies have been conducted to demonstrate that this tool accurately identifies drug and alcohol problems.

• *Voice-Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children* (Voice-DISC; Wasserman, McReynolds, Fisher, & Lucas, 2005): a self-report, computerized tool based on the *DSM-IV* that produces computer-assisted suggested diagnoses. This instrument can take up to 1 hour to complete, yet it is often classified as a screen because a follow-up assessment is recommended to confirm any diagnosis.

The following are examples of *mental health assessment* tools that are used in many youth systems and have research evidence to varying degrees:

• *Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale* (CAFAS; Hodges, 2000): a functional assessment that rates youth on the basis of the adequacy and deficits in functioning within life domains such as home and school and with regard to potential problem areas such as substance use or self-harmful behavior. It was developed to assist in identifying those individuals with "serious emotional disturbances" for the purpose of determining service eligibility. A screening version of this assessment—the *Juvenile Inventory for Functioning*—has been created and is currently undergoing validation.

• *Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths—Comprehensive* (CANS-C; Lyons, Griffin, Fazio, & Lyons, 1999): the CANS has several versions. Although the content of this tool includes information about a youth's mental health problems and risk, it does not measure these characteristics, but rather provides a mechanism to support consistent communication about a youth's service needs and level of functioning. It is considered a needs assessment tool that documents functioning in several domains, including substance abuse, mental health, other risk behaviors, and caregiver needs. It has some reliability evidence.

• *Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment* (ASEBA; Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001)—formerly known as the *Child Behavior Checklist*: a widely studied and used 118-item self-report form focusing on eight behavioral and problem dimensions that can be grouped into two broader types of pathology: "externalizing" (outward expression) and "internalizing" (inward feelings and thoughts). It is completed by the youth, parents, or teachers.

• *Behavioral Assessment System for Children* (BASC-2; Reynolds & Kamphaus, 2004): a self-report tool that has different versions for the adolescent, parent/guardians, and teacher. The BASC-2 has different age-appropriate versions ranging from childhood to young adulthood. It provides norm-based information about problem areas including aggression, anxiety, attention problems, conduct problems, and depression.

• *Practical Adolescent Dual Diagnosis Interview* (PADDI; Estroff & Hoffmann, 2001): a guided interview procedure that identifies suggested diagnoses related to substance abuse and mental disorders. It can be useful in mental health clinics, private practices, courts, and juvenile justice facilities.

The following are examples of *risk assessment* tools that have evidence of predictive validity in more than one jurisdiction:

• *Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment* [PDF] (WSJCA; Barnowski, 2004): the WSJCA has also been modified into the *Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument* (YASI). Both are computerized assessment tools that measure risk of reoffending and consist of three parts: prescreen, full assessment, and reassessment. They are administered by trained probation officers and other staff. Youth rating moderate or high risk on the prescreen complete the full assessment, whereas those rating low risk do not get a full assessment. The WSJCA/YASI prescreen currently is the only brief risk assessment tool with published evidence of validity in more than one jurisdiction.

• *Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory* (YLS/CMI; Hoge & Andrews, 2006): a well-validated, comprehensive, standardized inventory for assessing risk among youth ages 12–17 involved with the juvenile court. It includes measures of static and dynamic risks that can assist with postadjudication case planning. Created specifically for administration by probation officers, it is probably the most widely used tool by probation offices in the United States.

• *Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth* (SAVRY; Borum, Bartel, & Forth, 2006): a comprehensive risk assessment for adolescents. It contains measures of structured static and dynamic risk factors and protective factors to be combined with professional judgment in deriving the youth's level of risk. Although the SAVRY originally was intended to assess violence risk, research indicates that it also has high accuracy for predicting general delinquent reoffending.

• *Risk & Resiliency Checkup* (RRC; Justice System Assessment and Training [J-SAT], 1998): a comprehensive risk assessment with semi-structured interview designed to assess behaviors that place a youth at risk of reoffending. It contains both risk and protective factors. J-SAT allows juvenile justice agencies to add items to the existing validated instrument in order to meet the needs of the agency. Both San Diego (SDRRC) and Los Angeles (LARRC) have versions of the RRC.

Gina Vincent's "Screening and Assessment in Juvenile Justice Systems: Identifying Mental Health Needs and Risk of Reoffending" (2012). Pages 5-6. Found at http://www.tapartnership.org/docs/jjResource_screeningsAssessment.pdf

Risk Assessment for Criminal Activity in Youth

Dr. Richard L. Wiener
Law/Psychology Program

LPUNL

rwiener2@unl.edu

Common Measures to Assess Risk of Criminal Activity in Youth

1. NCAR
2. YLS/CMI
3. SAVRY
4. JSC
5. JCP
6. YASI

NCAR

North Carolina Assessment of Risk (NCAR)

Sample: 464 juvenile offenders in North Carolina

Criterion: Recidivism – rearrests within 12 month follow-up period

Raters: Court counselors upon intake

Reliability: Coefficient Alpha full scale = .73

Validity: *r* value in predicting recidivism (– calculated from Cox Regression Chi Square statistic):

$r = .11$

Welsch et al., 2008

Risk Assessment in Youth Psychometrics 101

Dr. Richard L. Wiener
Law/Psychology Program

LPUNL

rwiener2@unl.edu

Basic Concepts

It's all about error….

Basic Concepts

- **Random Error**
- **Systematic Error**
- **Reliability**
- **Validity**

Random Error

Unpredictable errors that go in different directions

- **Fluctuations in measurement that are inconsistent in direction and magnitude**
- **Result from random individual differences in raters emotions, attitudes, cognitive understanding**
  - **Temporal events that change over time in haphazard ways**
  - **Different people respond to the same stimulus materials in different ways that are unpredictable**

Systematic Error

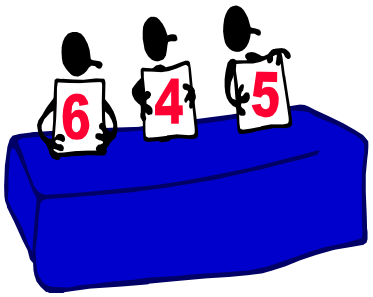
Predictable errors that go in same direction repeatedly

- **Deviation in measurement that is consistent in direction and magnitude**
- **Result from fixed differences in types of individual respondents (e.g., personality or experience or biological differences)**
  - **Drift in measurement in one direction over time**
  - **People respond to an irrelevant component of complex stimulus materials in the same way regardless of the other relevant components**

Systematic vs. Random Errors

Random Errors

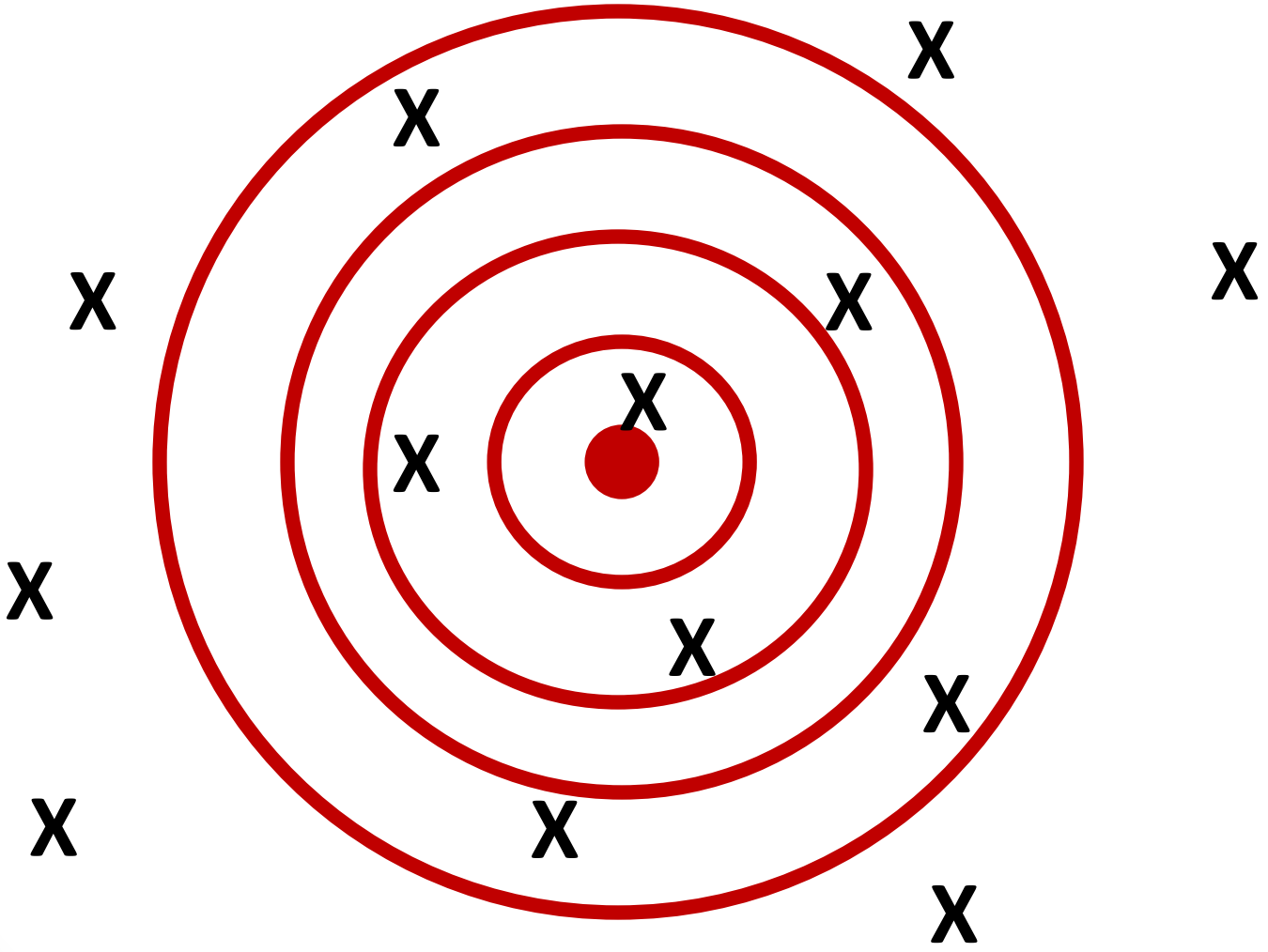
Unavoidable errors that are always present in any measurement. Impossible to eliminate but possible to reduce in magnitude



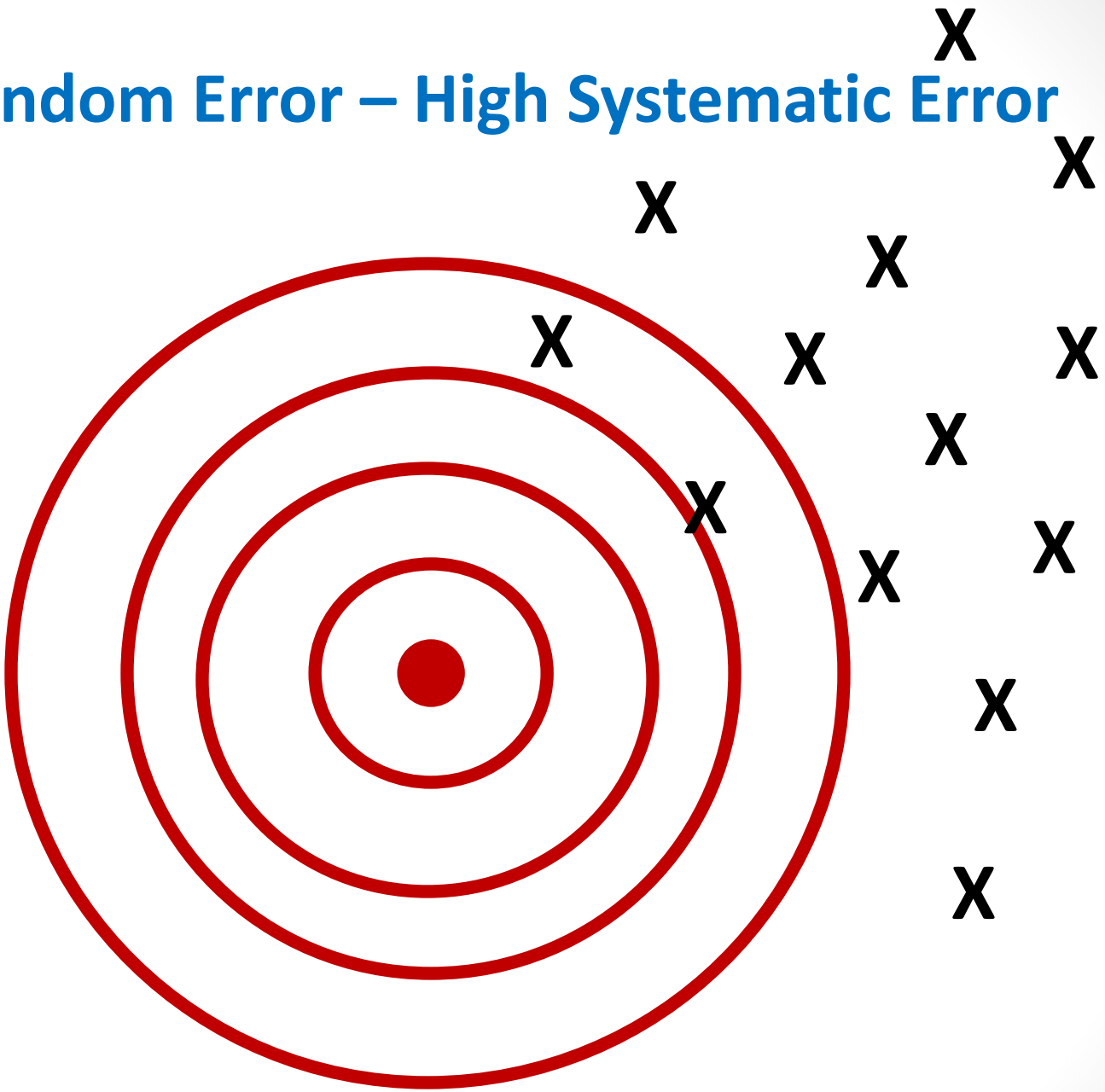
Systematic Error

Avoidable error due to controllable variables in a measurement.

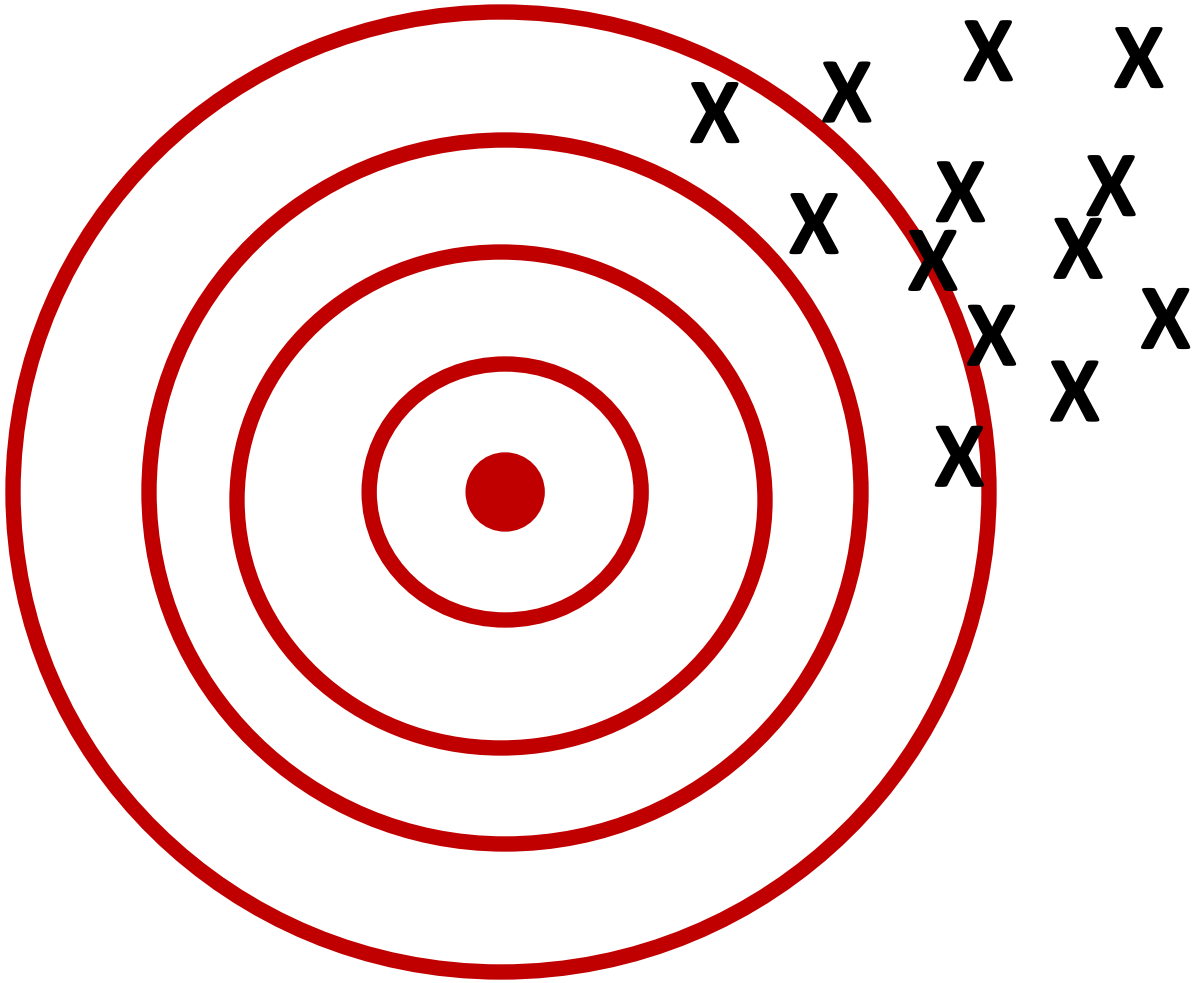
High Random Error – Low Systematic Error



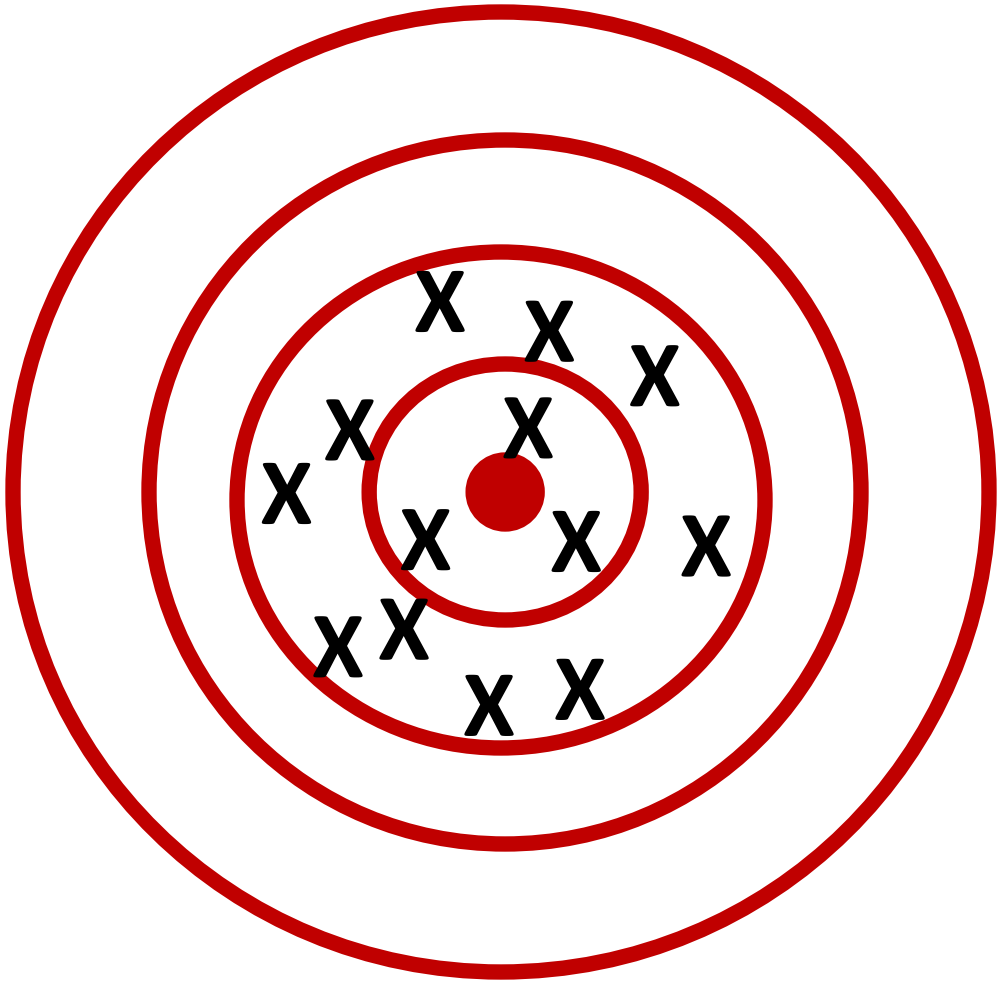
High Random Error – High Systematic Error



Low Random Error – High Systematic Error



Low Random Error – Low Systematic Error



Assumptions for Measuring Reliability and Validity

1. Statistical measures of association (reliability and validity) match the measurement level of the data (i.e., categorical vs. continuous scale)
2. All data points are independent
    - Each observation is independent of every other observations – one observation per individual client
3. Sample sizes are adequate to produce enough statistical power to find small to moderate associations

Reliability

Absence of random error

- **Measurement that produces the same results repeatedly with the same stimulus materials**
- **Controls individual differences in raters' emotions, attitudes, cognitive understanding as they impact behavior of interest**
- **Events are unchanged over time**
- **Different people respond to the same stimulus materials in the same predictable ways**

Measures of Reliability

Types of Reliability

- Internal Consistency
  - Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha
- Inter-rater agreement
  - Percent Agreement
  - Kappa Coefficient
  - Intraclass Coefficient (ICC)

Measures of Reliability

Internal Consistency

- An instrument has multiple scales and multiple items within each scale
- If the instrument is reliable, the items in the scale should agree with each other
  - Items 1 and 2 measure anti-social personality

    1 = very low anti-social personality

    2 = low anti-social personality

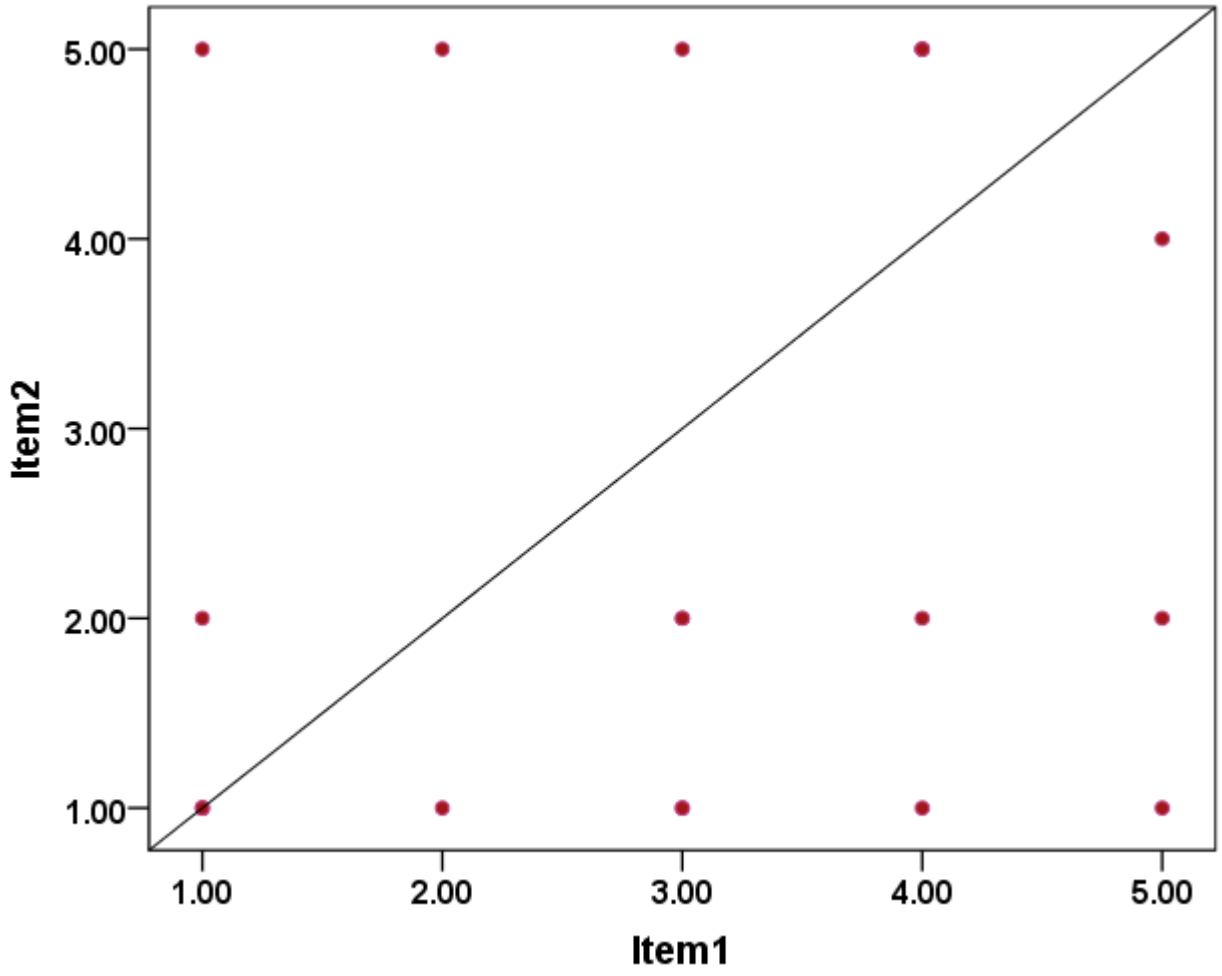
    3 = moderate anti-social personality

    4 = high anti-social personality

    5 = very high anti-social personality

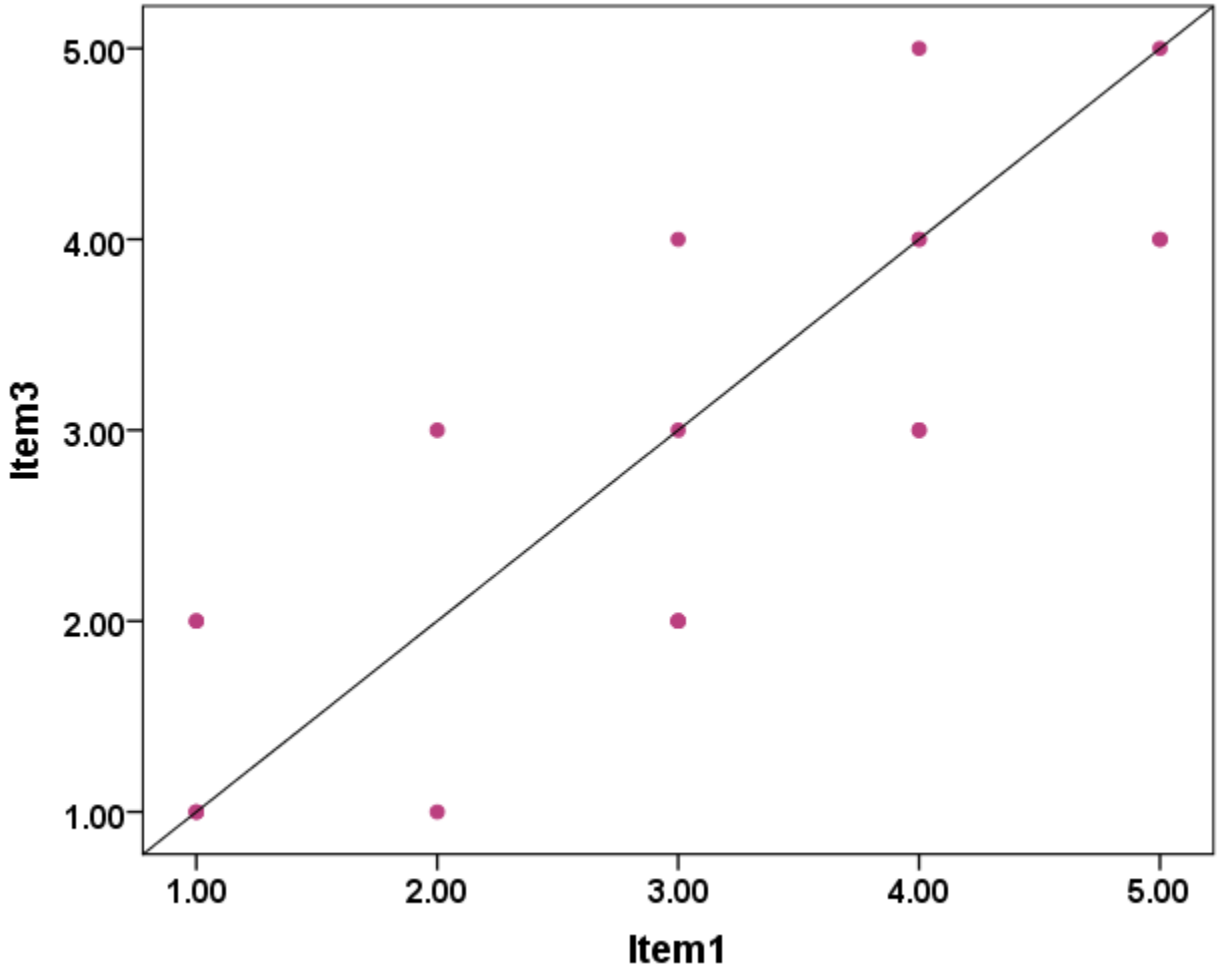
Measures of Reliability

Internal Consistency: $r = .16$



Measures of Reliability

Internal Consistency: $r = .83$



Measures of Reliability

Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha:

- A measure of the average inter-correlation among items weighed by the number of items in the scale
- The higher the score (0 to 1) the greater the reliability (.70 is considered minimal)

$$\alpha = \frac{N \cdot \bar{c}}{\bar{v} + (N-1) \cdot \bar{c}}$$

N = number of items; $\bar{c}$ = average inter-item covariance;
$\bar{v}$ = average item variance

Measures of Reliability

Inter-rater agreement

- **Different raters (or even the same rater over time) agree on judgments of responses**
- **20 youth scored on an risk survey and 3 raters**
  - **The survey produces responses:**
    - **1 very low risk**
    - **2 low risk**
    - **3 medium risk**
    - **4 high risk**
- **IDEALLY THE 3 RATERS SHOULD AGREE ON THE RISK LEVEL OF ALL 20 YOUTH**

Measures of Reliability

Inter-rater agreement

- **Percent Agreement = # agreed / number scored**
- **Raters 1 and Rater 2 agree on 15 youth**
  - **75% agreement**
- **Raters 2 and 3: 80% agreement**
- **Raters 1 and 3: 90% agreement**

So average agreement across all 3 raters = 81.67%

AGREEMENT LESS THAN 70% INDICATE TOO MUCH RANDOM ERROR – INSTRUMENT HAS TOO MUCH NOISE

Measures of Reliability

Inter-rater agreement

- **Percent of agreement is biased produces rates of agreement that are two high – does not control for chance**
- **Kappa is unbiased**

$$\kappa = \frac{p_o - p_e}{1 - p_e},$$

- **Two raters classify N youth (items) into C mutually exclusive categories (risk levels)**
  - **Po is the relative observed agreement**
  - **Pe is the probability of chance agreement**

Measures of Reliability

Interpretation of Kappa

	Poor	Slight	Fair	Moderate	Substantial	Almost perfect
Kappa	0.0	.20	.40	.60	.80	1.0

Kappa	Agreement
< 0	Less than chance agreement
0.01–0.20	Slight agreement
0.21– 0.40	Fair agreement
0.41–0.60	Moderate agreement
0.61–0.80	Substantial agreement
0.81–0.99	Almost perfect agreement

Viera & Garrett (2005) – *Family Medicine*

Measures of Reliability

Intraclass Correlation Coefficient (ICC):

- A measure of the average inter-correlation among two or more raters evaluating the same respondents
- Calculates:
  - the estimated reliability of a single hypothetical rater
  - the average reliability across the actual raters (always higher)
- The higher the score (0 to 1) the greater the reliability (.70 is considered minimal)

Measures of Validity

All based upon effect sizes

- ***r* and r^2**
- **Cohen's *d***
- **Reporter Operating Characteristic Curve (ROC)**
  - **AUC (area under the curve)**

Validity

Absence of systematic error

- **Measurement is consistent in direction and magnitude**
  - **scores distribute around the true parameter**
- **Controls fixed differences in types of individual respondents (e.g., personality or experience or biological differences) as they influence the relevant behavior**
- **Absence of drift in measurement over time**
- **Control response to irrelevant components of complex stimulus materials**

Types of Measurement Validity

- **Content Validity – the measure samples all components of a construct; measures all aspects of risk**
- **Construct Validity – instruments of the same construct are correlated (e.g., two measures of risk are correlated) and instruments of two different constructs are not correlated (e.g., a measure of risk does not correlate with a measure of introversion)**
- **Predictive Validity – a measure correlates with the construct it is theorized to predict**

Predictive Validity for Risk Assessment

- **Does the instrument predict higher levels of recidivism?**
  - **Higher levels of risk should be associated with higher levels or recidivism**
  - **Lower levels of risk should be associated with lower levels of recidivism**
- **Does the instrument predict successful outcomes?**
  - **Higher levels of risk should be associated with negative outcomes of probation**
  - **Lower levels of risk should be associated with lower positive outcomes of probation**

Measures of Predictive Validity

- **Effect Sizes**
  - **The strength of the relationship between one or more predictor variables (say risk) and an outcome measure (recidivism or successful outcome).**
  - ***r*, or correlation coefficient is one measure of effect size that researchers report in any single study or groups of aggregated studies**
  - **Cohen's *d* is the strength of association divided by error in the sample**

$$d = \sqrt{\frac{4r^2}{1 - r^2}}$$

Numerator is the effect size

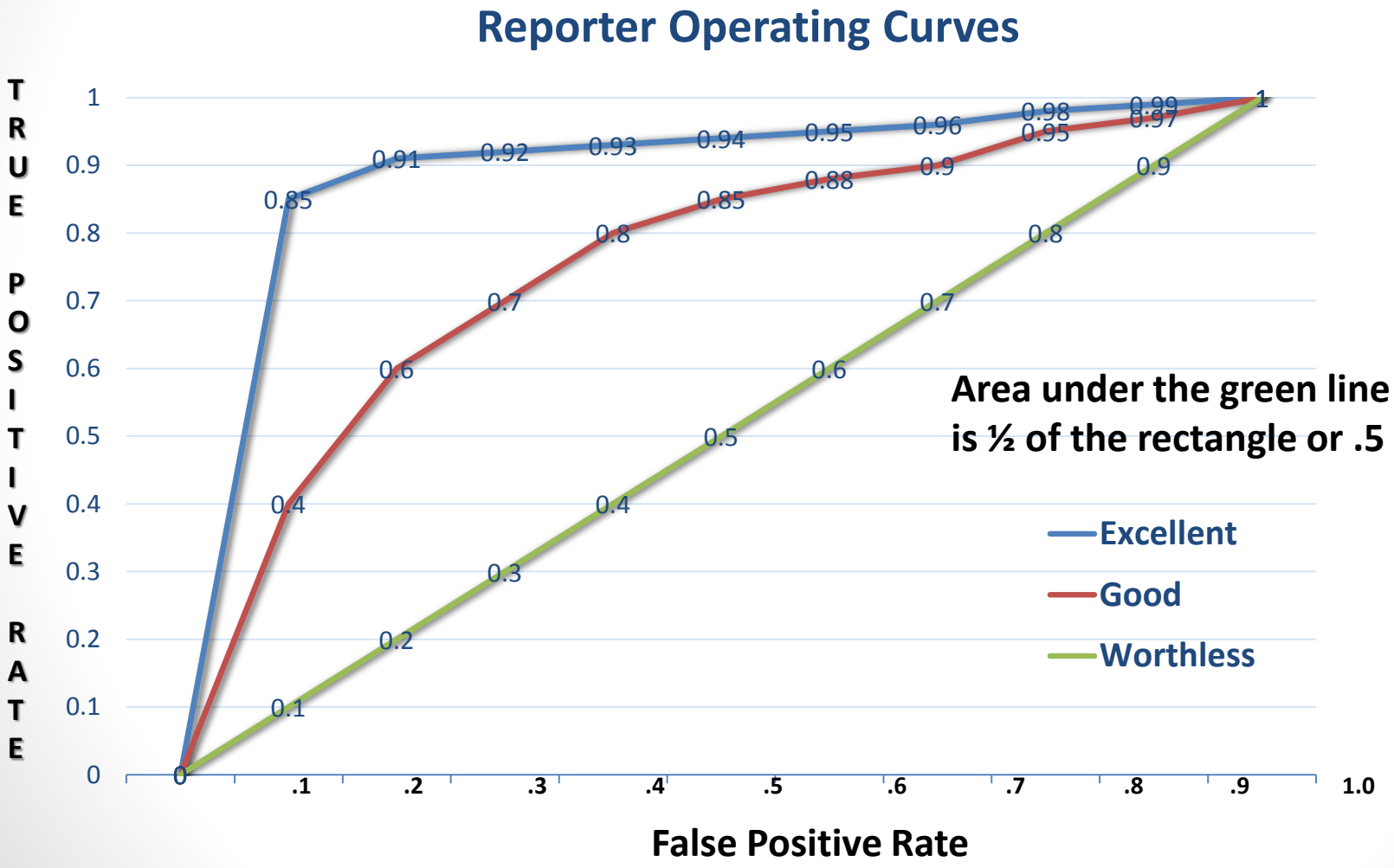
———————————

Denominator is error measure

Measures of Predictive Validity

- Effect Sizes
  - Area under an ROC curve
    - ROC curve is the plot of true positives (predicting recidivism and being correct) to false positives (predicting recidivism and being wrong)
    - True positives should be associated with few false positives, if the instrument is valid

Three AUC Curves



Predictive Validity

Classifying the Accuracy of a Diagnostic Test AUC values

- .90-1 = excellent (A)
- .80-.90 = good (B)
- .70-.80 = fair (C)
- .60-.70 = poor (D)
- .50-.60 = fail (F)

Predictive Validity

The conceptual meaning of $AUC_{(roc)}$

- **The AUC is the probability of a successful outcome for an individual who is selected at random from the predicted successful outcome group**

❖ **If a risk instrument has an AUC of .50 then, an individual selected at random from the group predicted to recidivate has 50% change of recidivating and a 50% change of not recidivating – the prediction is of no value**

❖ **If a risk instrument has an AUC of .70 then, an individual selected at random from the group predicted to recidivate has 70% change of recidivating and only a 30% change of not recidivating – the prediction is of great value**

Predictive Validity

Comparing Effect Sizes

- **All measures of effect size are directly comparable and each one can be calculated from every other one with knowledge abut the sample distribution**

Effect Size	Small	Moderate	Large
r	.10	.30	.50
Cohen's d	.20	.62	1.15
$AUC_{(roc)}$	.56	.67	.79

Predictive Validity

Comparing Effect Sizes

Table 1

Frequency Table for Smoking and Lung Cancer

***r* = .40**

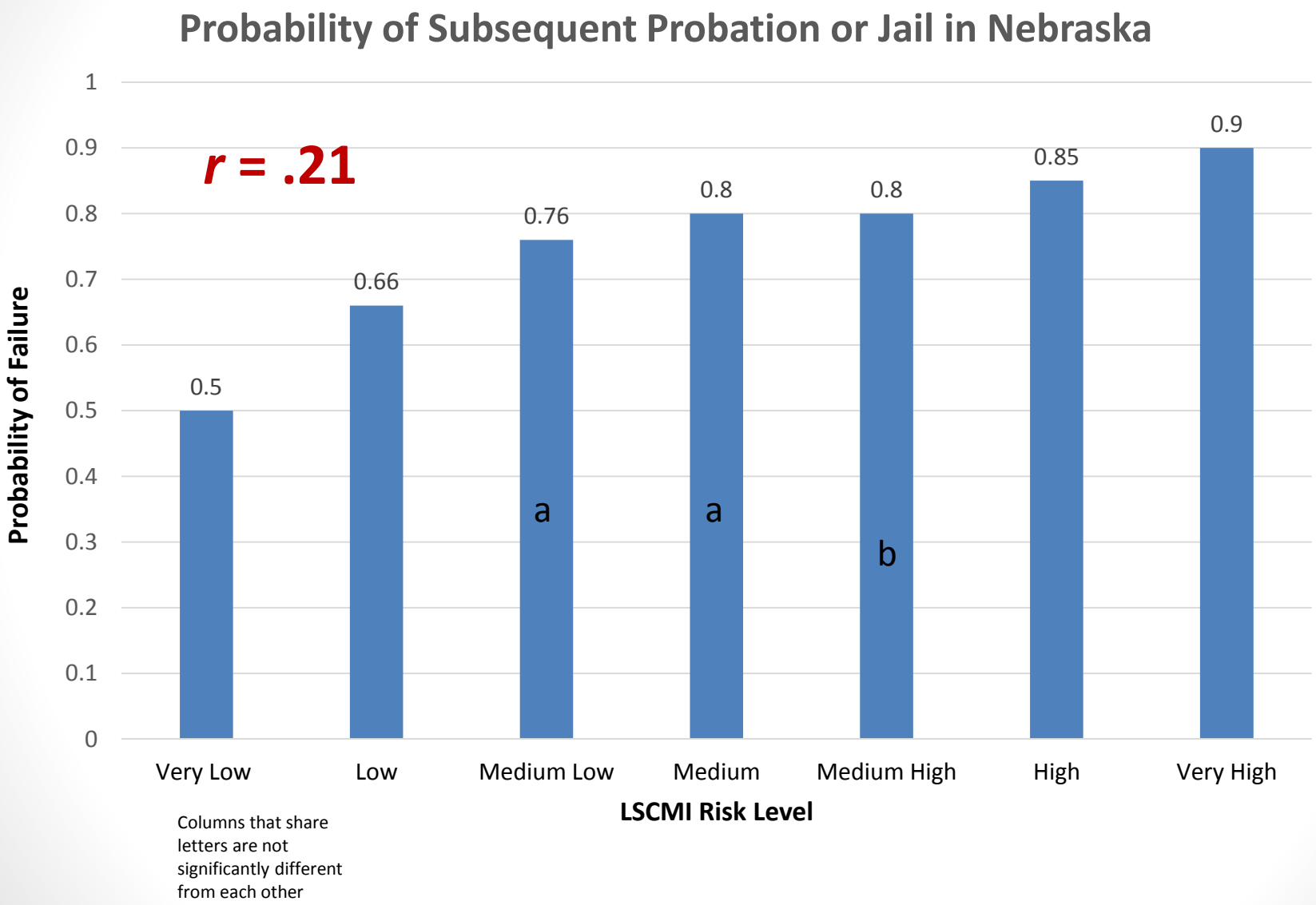
Smoking level (over 20 years)	No cancer (*n*)	Cancer (*n*)	Cancer probability (%)
None	114	8	7
1–9 cigarettes/day	90	14	13
10–15 cigarettes/day	148	61	29
16–20 cigarettes/day	278	213	43
21–34 cigarettes/day	90	187	68
35+ cigarettes/day	59	123	68

Bushman and Anderson (2001) with data by Wynder and Graham (1950)

Some Other Common Effect Sizes

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	Sample Size	r as effect size (AUC)
Salk vaccine	Polio Contraction	402,826	.74 (.94)
Aspirin	Heart Attack	22,071	.52 (.80)
Vietnam Veteran Status	Alcohol Problems	4,462	.44 (.75)
Psychotherapy	Mental Health	111	.38 (.72)
LSC/MI risk level	Recidivism	70,428 (United States)	.22 (.63)
Beta Carotene (Cancer Prevention)	Death	19,133	.20 (.60)
ESP	Accuracy	22	.17 (.59) *(n.s)*

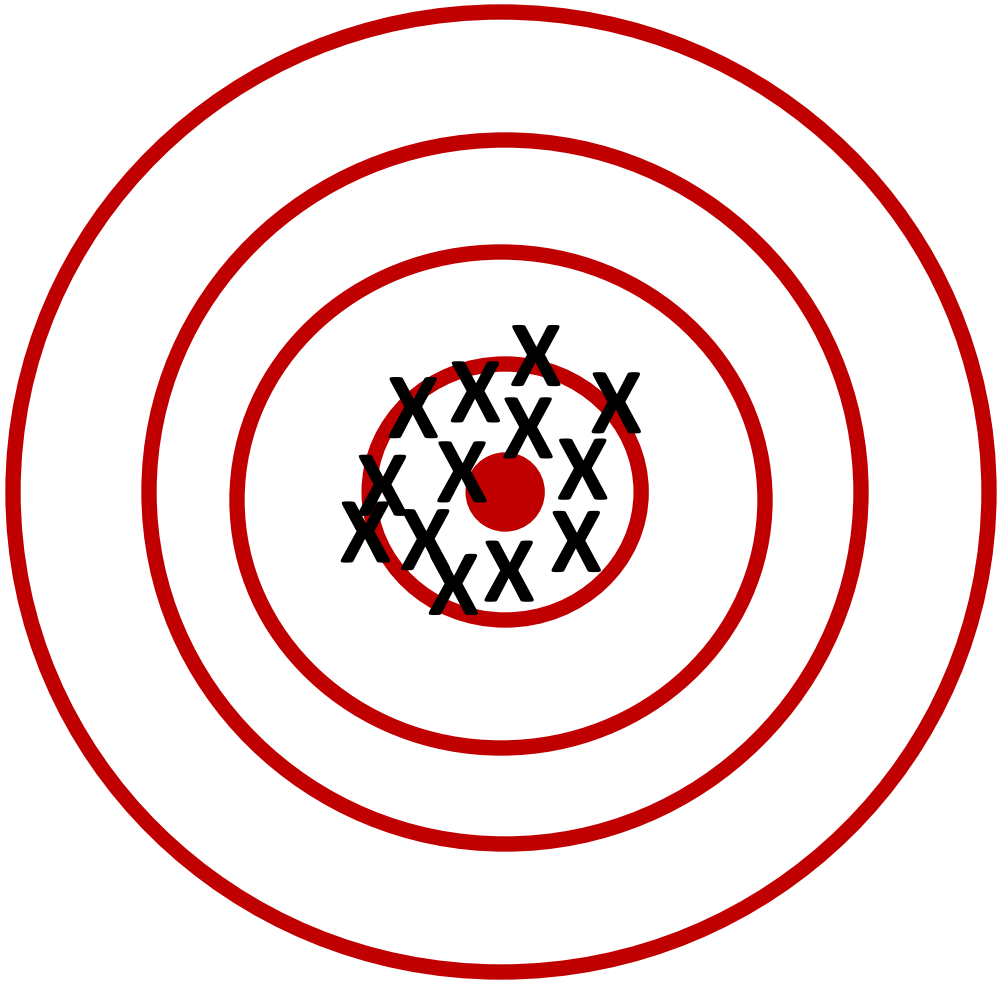
Predictive Validity of LSC/MI in Adult Probationers – Nebraska Data



Relationship of Reliability and Validity

The reliability of the measure limits the validity of the measure

Reliable and Valid Measure



Review of Existing Risk Tools

Review of Risk Screening Instruments for Youth

(Two Major Instruments in Use: YLS/CMI and the SAVRY)

Evaluations of Common Measures to Assess Risk in Youth

1. YLS/CMI
2. SAVRY
3. NCAR
4. JSC
5. JCP
6. YASI

YLS/CMI

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

Measure Description: 42 items measure 8 domains: (each item is coded as present or absent)

1. **Prior and current offenses/dispositions**
2. **Family circumstances/parenting**
3. **Education/employment**
4. **Peer relations**
5. **Substance abuse**
6. **Leisure/recreation**
7. **Personality/behavior**
8. **Attitudes/orientation**

Hoge & Andrews (2002)

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

The total score places youth in one of four categories for future risk for continued criminal behavior:

- **Low**
- **Moderate**
- **High**
- **Very High**

- (Jung & Rawana, 1999; Marczyk et al., 2003; Schmidt et al, 2005)

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

Sample: 328 youth in probation in a midsize industrial county in the Midwest

Criterion: Recidivism – any new criminal charge within 12 months following the YLS/CMI intake

Raters: Court personnel

Reliability: 90% agreement or above between 36 pairs of interviewers rating 36 cases

Validity: AUC = .62(was significant from .50)

(Onifade et al, 2008)

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

Sample: 1077 Nebraska youth on probation

Criterion: Recidivism over 12 months – additional commitment

Raters: 28 Probation Officers

Reliability: 79% agreement in risk classification but only 39% agreement with YLS experts

Validity: Based on 597 youth released from YRTC

AUC = .526 (not significant from .50)

National Council on Crime and Delinquency: Baird et al. (2013)

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

Sample: 111 youth referred by youth court judges in Thunder Bay, Ontario

Criterion: Recidivism – violent, nonviolent and general recidivism in a follow-up period from 7 to 61 months

Raters: Trained raters coded from agency records

Reliability: 24 selected youth rated by two professionals ICC =.72; Alpha for the subscales ranged from .64 - .86

Validity: AUC = .60 (not significantly different from .50) for general recidivism; **AUC = .64** for violent recidivism; **AUC = .50** for non-violent recidivism (not significant)

Welsch et al., 2008

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

Sample: 105 youth on probation in Catalonian, Spain

Criterion: Recidivism – self-reported offending during an Interview general offending

Raters: Spanish Juvenile P.O.'s

Reliability: ICC for 20 pairs = .51, Coefficient alpha = > .73 for family, education, leisure, personality; .67 for peer relations; .66 for attitudes, .63 for prior and current offenses, .55 for substance abuse

Validity: AUC = .67 (was significant from .50)

(Hilterman et al, 2014)

SAVRY

Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Measure Description: 24 items : (each risk item is rated on a three point scale: low, moderate, high AND each protective factor is rated as present or absent)

- **Grouped into three domains**
  1. **Historical (Static)**
  2. **Social Contextual (Dynamic)**
  3. **Individual/Clinical (Dynamic)**

- **Raters provide a professional judgment rating for risk factors on the 3 point scale**

Borum et al., (2002)

Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Total scores result in 3 risk levels:

- **Low**
- **Medium**
- **High**

Borum et al., (2002)

Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Sample: 111 youth referred by youth court judges in Thunder Bay, Ontario

Criterion: Recidivism – violent, nonviolent and general recidivism in a follow-up period from 7 to 61 months

Raters: Trained raters coded from agency records

Reliability: 24 selected youth rated by two professionals ICC =.96; Coefficient Alpha full scale = .98

Validity: **AUC = .77** for general recidivism; **AUC = .81** for violent recidivism; **AUC = .55** for non-violent recidivism (not significant)

Welsch et al., 2008

Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Sample: 480 adolescent males in a secured detention facility in Connecticut

Criterion: Recidivism – violent arrests, nonviolent arrests, and any arrests in a 1, 2, and 5 year follow-ups

Raters: Trained raters coded from agency records

Reliability: No reliability data reported but referred to Borum et al (2009) – across 6 studies ICC ranged from .81 to .97

Validity: (next slide)

Vincent et al., (2011)

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

Validity: (r's calculated from Odds ratios)

1 year follow-ups:

Any arrest	.42
Non-violent arrest	.48
Violent arrest	.44

2 year follow-ups:

Any arrest	.52
Non-violent arrest	.56
Violent arrest	.45

5 year follow-ups:

Any arrest	.34
Non-violent arrest	.30
Violent arrest	.43

Vincent et al (2011)

NCAR

North Carolina Assessment of Risk (NCAR)

Measure Description: 9 items : (each contains between 2 and 5 response options)

- **Produces a cumulative risk score of 0 to 30**
- **Factors are anchored behaviorally or historically**

1. Age of first complaint
2. Number of delinquent referrals
3. Most serious prior adjudication
4. Number of prior assaults
5. History of runaways
6. Alcohol or illegal drug use
7. School behavior problems
8. Delinquent peer associations

Schwalbe et al. 2004)

North Carolina Assessment of Risk (NCAR)

Sample: 464 juvenile offenders in North Carolina

Criterion: Recidivism – rearrests within 12 month follow-up period

Raters: Court counselors upon intake

Reliability: Coefficient Alpha full scale = .73

Validity: r value in predicting recidivism – calculated from Cox Regression. Chi Square statistic:

r = .11

Welsch et al., 2008

Solano County JSC

Solano County California Juvenile Sanctions Center JSC (girls) & LINK (boys)

Measure Description: 8 items for girls and 10 items for boys: (-1, 0, 1, 2 scales)

- **Produces a cumulative risk score of -2 to 8 for girls and -4 to 18 for boys**
- **Factors include:**
    1. Age of first referral
    2. School discipline/attendance
    3. Substance Use
    4. Peer relationships
    5. Parent/Sibling criminality
- **Produces categories of low, moderate, and high risk**

Baird et al. 2013 -NCCD

Solano County California Juvenile Sanctions Center JSC (Girls)

Sample: 764 female and 2024 male youth on probation in Solano County

Criterion: Recidivism over 12 months – subsequent adjudication

Raters: 28 Probation Officers

Reliability: Percent Agreement (males = 92%, females = 84%) ICC- risk level (males = .90, females = .74);

Validity: AUC (males) = .68; AUC females = .68

Baird et al. 2013 -NCCD

JCP

Oregon Juvenile Crime Prevention
JCP

Measure Description: 30 risk factors organized into 7 domains (items anchored with explicit definitions and scoring instructions)

- Produces a cumulative risk score of 0 to 18
- Factors include:
    1. School academic issues
    2. Peers
    3. Behavioral issues
    4. Family dynamics
    5. Substance use
    6. Attitudes
    7. Mental health
- Produces categories of low, medium, medium high, and high risk

Baird et al. 2013 -NCCD

Oregon Juvenile Crime Prevention
JCP

Sample: 12,370 new adjudications throughout Oregon

Criterion: Recidivism over 12 months – subsequent adjudication

Raters: 51 Probation officers, detention workers and prevention workers

Reliability: Percent Agreement (77%); ICC- risk level (.68,); ICC score (.77); Kappa = .46

Validity: AUC (males) = .71

Baird et al. 2013 -NCCD

YASI

Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument Virginia YASI – Full-screen

Measure Description: 87 items organized into 10 domains for which the YASI provides both risk and protective scores (items anchored with explicit definitions and scoring instructions)

- Scores range from 1 (low) to 6 (very high) in each of the 10 domains for risk and protective factors
- Factors include:

1. Legal history
2. Family
3. School
4. Community and peers
5. Alcohol and drugs
6. Mental health
7. Aggression
8. Pro and anti-social attitudes
9. Social and cognitive skills
10. Employment and free time

Baird et al. 2013 -NCCD

Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument Virginia YASI – Pre-screen

Measure Description: 32 items from the Full-screen in to assess brief social history and legal history

Can be used as a pre-screen tool

Baird et al. 2013 -NCCD

Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument
Virginia YASI – Full-screen

Sample: 1919 youth (908 prior to starting probation and 1,011 cases after starting probation)

Criterion: Recidivism over 12 months – subsequent adjudication

Raters: 69 probation officers and facility staff

Reliability: Percent Agreement (84.7%; ICC- risk level (.77); ICC score (.89); Kappa = .61

Validity: AUC = .68

Baird et al. 2013 -NCCD

Conclusions

The YLS/CMI did not perform well in the NCCD test in Nebraska in 2013 with regard to its reliability and validity.

The YLS/CMI does not perform as well as the LS/CMI in Nebraska.

The YLS/CMI did not perform very well in other tests in other places. (It did the best in Spain!)

There are other risk tools that seem to perform better:

SAVRY, JCP, and the YASI

There needs to be more study of the YLS/CMI to improve its use in Nebraska or we should consider alternatives.

Thank you for your time and patience!

NCJJ
NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Evidence-Based Practice Resource Center Case Study

Nebraska Site Visit
August 11-13, 2015

Teri Deal, M.Ed.
Research Associate

Sam Zaleski
Research Assistant

NCJJ
NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Who is NCJJ?

The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) is the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).

NCJFCJ is a membership organization of juvenile and family court judges that provides resources, knowledge, and training to improve the lives of families and children seeking justice.

NCJJ
NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Funded by the MacArthur Foundation

www.JJGPS.org

2014 National Survey

Conducted a state scan on state-level support of Evidence Based Practice advancement within juvenile justice

Examined means of support:

- Statutes & State Agency Policies
- Funding
- Research

NCJJ
NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

What is an EBP Resource Center?

- An entity that provides support across the state in the adoption of EBPs in juvenile justice
- Resources may include
  - Training and Technical Assistance
  - Data Collection, Analysis, & Reporting
  - Maintaining catalogue of EBPs
- 13 states have an EBP Resource Center

NCJJ NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Nebraska Case Study

- Participants include a variety of juvenile justice system actors:
  - Juvenile Justice Institute staff & partnering researchers
  - Administrators in juvenile justice and child welfare
  - Direct service staff

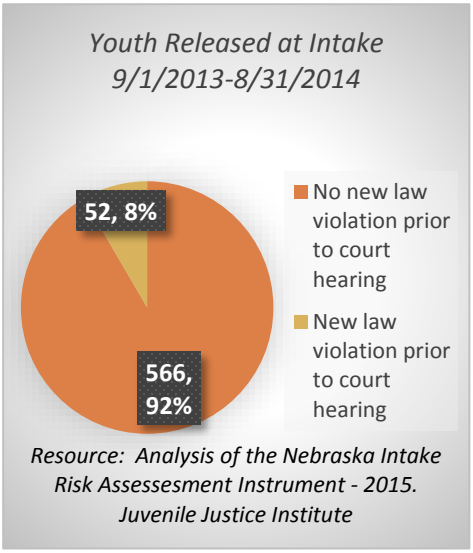
NCJJ NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Probation Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PROBATION

June 2015 Report

Intake and Detention Alternatives

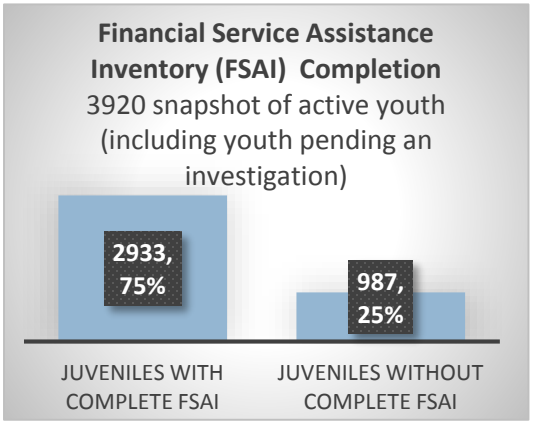


Resource: Analysis of the Nebraska Intake Risk Assessesment Instrument - 2015. Juvenile Justice Institute

- The University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) completed the study of the Nebraska Juvenile Intake Screening Risk Assessment (also known as the RAI).
  - The study verified the tool accurately assesses youth who can be released.
  - The study encourages the reduction in overriding the tool to increase validity. This will be accomplished by continuing to develop detention alternatives.
- Detention Alternatives, Tracker and Electronic Monitoring (EM) booster training will occur statewide for probation staff and providers.
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) finalizing infrastructure to expand to new site by the end of the year.
  - JDAI data group is developing standardized definitions for detention and detention alternative system points.

Pre-adjudication and Investigations

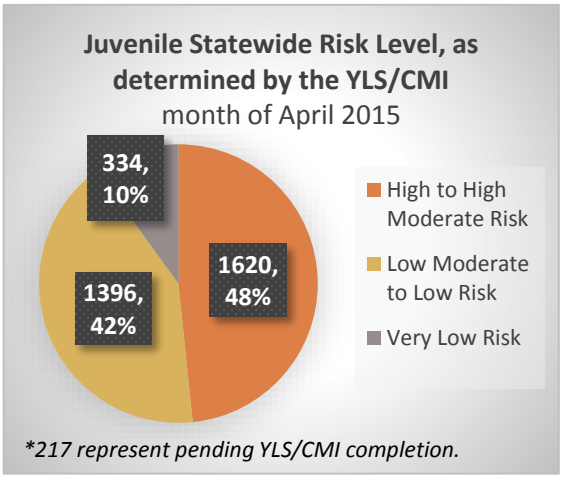
- Crossover Youth Practice Model implementation continues expansion to Sarpy County with the goal of increased information sharing for youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.



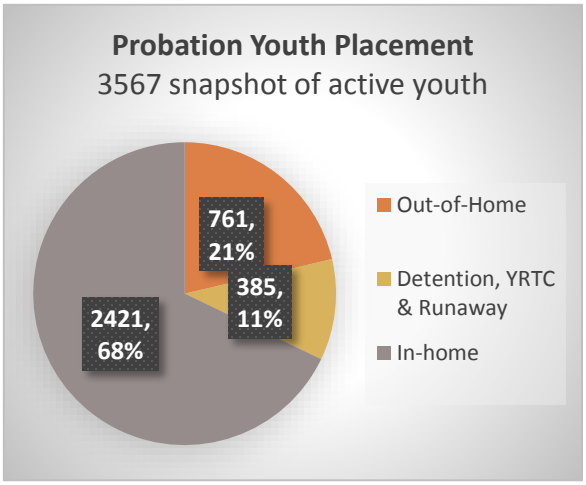
- Financial Resource titled "Pre-planning and Applying for Medicaid and Magellan Financial Assistance" has been trained and distributed to all probation staff enhancing skill in family engagement and support when completing the application.
- Youth Behavioral Health Services Stakeholder Collaboration is focused on assisting youth and families in accessing funding for needed services.
- Updated Predisposition Investigation (PDI) training for new Probation Officers has been implemented.
- Creation of a pilot to implement the MAYSI-2, mental health screening.

Case Management and Services

- A new web-training "Juvenile Service Delivery and Targeting Interventions" was trained to all probation staff that work with juveniles, which included:
  - Service matching;
  - Critical thinking and levels of care; and
  - Transition planning for youth placed out-of-home.
- Development of specialized case management for "Non-Delinquent Status Youth."

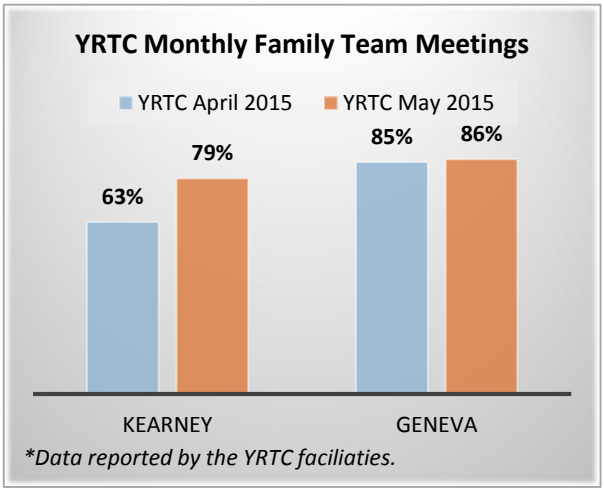


- Continued creation of the new Juvenile Services Guide planned for completion in February 2016.
- Implemented the Assessment Services Engagement (ASE) Team which is a resource for the judiciary and probation to assist in development of a supervision / placement plan for youth at risk of out-of-home placement.
- Intensive In-Home Service expansion continues.



Reentry

- The Individualized Reentry Plan (IRP) has been updated to include judicial feedback and has been trained to probation staff.
- Collaboration with the YRTC's in implementation of a youth and family reentry survey.
- Planning underway to share the scores of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) assessments to reduce unnecessary multiple assessments and improve tool fidelity.



- Shared supervision programming enhancement is underway to improve supervision of youth placed in another court jurisdiction.

JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION
521 South 14th Street, Fifth Floor Lincoln, NE 68508
Tel 402.471.4816 Main Line / Fax 402.471.4891
https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/10824/juvenile-services