

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

***RISK ASSESSMENT
WORKSHOP***

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Risk assessment workshop

WORKSHOP COVERAGE

- **RISK ASSESSMENT BASICS**
 - *RAI essential features*
 - *Goals and risks addressed*
- **STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO RAI DEVELOPMENT**
 - *Startup (stakeholder) tasks*
 - *Constructing RAIs*
 - *Testing RAIs*
 - *Monitoring and validation*
- **TROUBLESHOOTING RAIs**

Risk assessment workshop:
JDAI INSTRUMENTS: ESSENTIAL FEATURES

- ✓ **Point scale instruments**
 - *Risk factors, decision scales*

- ✓ **Triage- classification tools: used to “structure’ detain-release decisions**

- ✓ **Consensus (stakeholder) design method**
 - *Hybrids of policy making and prediction science*
 - *Validated by overall results*

Risk assessment workshop:
JDAI INSTRUMENTS: RISKS MEASURED

- ✓ *Re-offending pending court*
- ✓ *FTA pending court*
- ✓ *What about “risk of harm to self”?*

Risk assessment workshop:
*INTEGRATING THE RAI INTO
THE SCREENING PROCESS*

- ✓ **Who gets screened?**
- ✓ **Where does screening occur?**
 - *Normal: at the detention center*
 - *Options: by phone, in the field*
 - *Rarely: by the Court*
- ✓ **Automation vs. screening by hand**
- ✓ **Overrides and override control**

Risk assessment workshop: *RAI DEVELOPMENT: NINE STEPS*

FROM: "A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO JUVENILE DETENTION RISK ASSESSMENT"

STEP 9: FORMAL VALIDATION OF THE RAI

STEP 8: ADOPT MONITORING PLAN

STEP 7: REVIEW, ADJUST AND ADOPT THE RAI

STEP 6: ANALYZE AND REPORT TEST RESULTS

STEP 5: CONDUCT RAI FIELD TEST

STEP 4; APPROVE DRAFT RAI FOR TESTING

STEP 3: CONSTRUCT THE DRAFT RISK INSTRUMENT

STEP 2: IDENTIFY SCREENING GOALS & WORKPLAN

STEP 1: CONVENE STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

Risk assessment workshop:

RAI DEVELOPMENT– Startup tasks

- ✓ **CONVENE STAKEHOLDER WORK GROUP**

- ✓ **WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW:**
 - *Legitimate purposes of secure juvenile detention*
 - *Local detention policies and procedures*
 - *Local detention reform goals*

- ✓ **RAI DEVELOPMENT WORKPLAN**

Risk assessment workshop:
RAI CONSTRUCTION— Task Overview

- 1) Review RAI models & select format**
- 2) Design offense factor**
- 3) Design delinquency history factor(s)**
- 4) Design aggravation & mitigation factors**
- 5) Design the Decision or Outcome Scale**
- 6) Identify Special / Mandatory Detention Cases**
- 7) Establish override procedures for the RAI**

Risk assessment workshop:

RAI CONSTRUCTION— Select overall format

- **Short or long format**
- **Relation to automation & computer systems**
- **Review RAI models from other sites**
- **Statewide instruments: one for all sites?**

Risk assessment workshop: *OFFENSE FACTOR DESIGN TIPS*

- ✓ **Set serious/ violent crimes at cutoff score**
- ✓ **Set mid-level felonies at half the detention cutoff score**
- ✓ **Misdemeanors– one to three points**
- ✓ **Probation violations:**
 - *Zero points?*
 - *Decide at start on how these cases will be handled...*

Risk assessment workshop:
OFFENSE FACTOR DESIGN—example...

Figure 5

Offense Risk Factors from the
Virginia Detention Risk Assessment Instrument
(Detention cutoff score is 15 points)

Most Serious Alleged Offense

Category A: Felonies against persons.	15
Category B: Felony weapons and felony narcotics distribution	12
Category C: Other felonies.	7
Category D: Class 1 misdemeanors against persons.	5
Category E: Other Class 1 misdemeanors.	3
Category F: Violations of probation/parole	2
Total Offense Points	_____

Risk assessment workshop:
DELINQUENT HISTORY FACTOR– Design Tips

- ✓ **Prior offenses: Adjudications vs. arrests**
 - *Time limits on prior offenses*

- ✓ **Current legal status**
 - *Pending petitions, on probation, etc.*

- ✓ **Prior failures to appear, escapes**
 - *Time limits on FTAs*

- ✓ **Avoid overlap and redundancy!**

Risk assessment workshop:
REDUNDANT HISTORY FACTORS—Example

Prior arrest for a felony offense within the last year	5
Placed on probation for a felony within the last year	5
Currently on active probation for a felony offense	8
Currently referred for a probation violation	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	21

**A MINOR REFERRED FOR A TECHNICAL PROBATION VIOLATION
HAVING ONE PRIOR LOW-LEVEL FELONY (E.G., DRUG POSSESSION)
COULD ACCUMULATE 21 POINTS USING THIS ARRAY OF PRIOR
HISTORY-LEGAL STATUS FACTORS**

Risk assessment workshop: *AGGRAVATION AND MITIGATION factors*

- ✓ **Purposes served by these
COLLATERAL RISK FACTORS**
 - *Add structure, flexibility to the assessment process*

- ✓ **WHAT TO DO**
 - *Use specific and objective descriptions– e.g.,
“Minor was under age 12 at referral”*
 - *Balance the number of points in aggravation-mitigation*
 - *Cap total points assigned for aggravation-mitigation*

- ✓ **WHAT TO AVOID.....**
 - *Criteria that are too soft– e.g. “gang affiliation”, or
“danger to others”*
 - *Criteria for which there is no information at intake*

Risk assessment workshop:
AGGRAVATION- MITIGATION EXAMPLE...

SANTA CLARA CO. (CA) RAI-
AGGRAVATING-MITIGATING FACTORS

C. AGGRAVATING FACTORS (*Add all that apply, up to 3 points*)

Multiple offenses are alleged for this referral	1
Crime or behavior alleged was particularly severe or violent	1
Confirmed runaway history or minor has no known community ties	1
Minor is under the influence of drugs/alcohol at arrest	1
C. <i>AGGRAVATION POINTS total</i>	—

D. MITIGATING FACTORS (*Subtract all that apply, up to 3 points*)

Involvement in offense was remote, indirect or otherwise mitigated	1
Parent or relative is able to assume immediate responsibility for minor	1
No arrests or citations within the last year	1
Minor demonstrates stability in school or employment	1
D <i>MITIGATION POINTS total</i>	—

Risk assessment workshop:
DECISION OR "OUTCOME" SCALE construction

✓ **Example:**

15+ points = Detain

10-14 points = Detention Alternative

0 -9 Points = Release

- ✓ **Cutoff score must balance with factor points**
- ✓ **Mid range scores and alternatives to secure detention**

Risk assessment workshop: *SPECIAL or MANDATORY DETENTION CASES*

- ✓ **Generally include:**
 - *Warrants*
 - *Escapes, pre trial alternative failures*
 - *Legally mandated holds– e.g., DV in NV*
 - *Transfers from other jurisdictions, “courtesy holds”*
- ✓ **Problems with:**
 - *Too many mandatory detain categories?*
 - *Most common problems:*
 - *Warrants*
 - *Probation violations*
 - *DV cases*

Risk assessment workshop:

Designing OVERRIDE PROCEDURES on the RAI

✓ **Requirements:**

- *List specific override reasons*
- *Provide for supervisor sign-off*

✓ **Problems with:**

- *Reasons stated are too broad*
- *“Other” category over-used*
- *Procedure ignored*

Risk assessment workshop:
FORMATTING the RAI

- ✓ *Pick design format– length, layout*
- ✓ *Integrate with computer systems*
- ✓ *Make it user friendly– no scrunching of text, lines*

Risk assessment workshop: *FIELD TESTING THE RAI*

QUESTIONS ADDRESSED:

- *What are the detention effects of the RAI?*
 - E.g., Detention rate by score, offense, other characteristics
- *What is the override rate?*
- *How does the "new" RAI compare to the "old"?*
- *Are there DMC effects?*
- *Can the test reveal special problem groups—
e.g., minors referred on warrants, probation violators?*
- *What are the facility effects (population, bedspace)?*

Risk assessment workshop: *FIELD TEST PROTOCOLS*

- *Prospective vs. Retrospective Sampling*
- *Min. preferred sample size = 300 cases*
- *Who gets tested?*
- *How long does the test last?*
- *Comparing new and old instruments: which one is “live”?*
- *Using field tests to make facility population projections – the “length of stay” analysis*
- *Who should analyze test results?*

Risk assessment workshop:
FIELD TEST RESULTS- example 1

Clark County RAI Test Results(2005)

Table 1: Detention Outcomes, Total Sample

TOTAL REFERRED	NUMBER DETAINED	PERCENT DETAINED	NUMBER RELEASED	PERCENT RELEASED
307	262	85%	45	15%

Risk assessment workshop:
FIELD TEST RESULTS- example 2

Pierce County (WA) RAI Test Results (2004):

Detention outcomes by offense class, "Old" vs. "New" RAI

(New Arrests Only- N=200)

STATUTORY OFFENSE CLASS	NUMBER SCREENED	NUMBER DETAINED: "OLD" RAI	PERCENT DETAINED: 'OLD" RAI	NUMBER DETAINED: "NEW" RAI	PERCENT DETAINED: "NEW" RAI
A+, A, A-	7	7	100%	7	100%
B+	19	19	100%	9	47%
B	27	20	74%	7	26%
C, C+	42	14	33%	5	12%
D+, D, E	105	39	37%	27	26%
Total	200	99	50%	55	28%

Risk assessment workshop:

FIELD TEST RESULTS- example 3

**Clark County RAI Test Results (2005) Table 6:
Override rate by RAI Scoring Group**

RAI SCORE GROUP	NUMBER SCREENED	NUMBER DETAINED	OVERRIDE RATE
0 – 9 pts (Release)	92	56	61%
10 – 14 pts (Alternative)	23	17	74%
<i>Total Scoring 0-14</i>	115	73	64%
15+ pts (Detain) or mandatory/special detain	192	189	2%
<i>Total</i>	307	262	--

Risk assessment workshop:

FIELD TEST RESULTS- example 4

Pierce County, WA- RAI Test Results (2004)

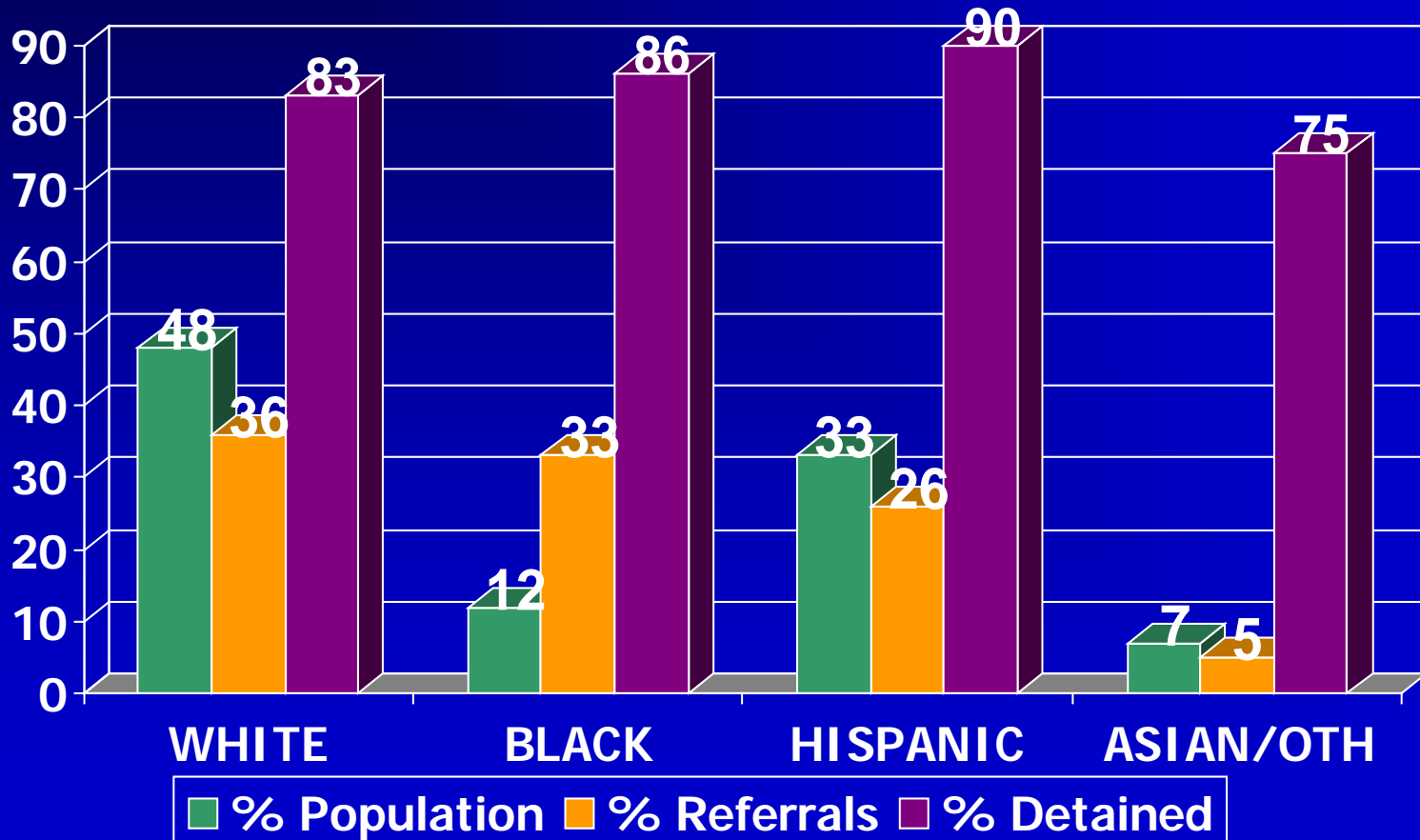
Est. Annual Detentions, ALOS and Beds Occupied By Offense

OFFENSE CATEGORY	EST. ANNUAL REFERRALS	ALOS IN DAYS	TOTAL BEDS NEEDED
All Felonies	696	8.8	18
Gross Misd. or Misdemeanor	432	6.0	7
Other	96	11.2	3
<u>Special Detention Cases:</u>			
Firearm possession	84	8.3	2
Domestic Violence	456	4.5	6
Warrants	1,248	12.0	41
Probation violations	84	5.2	1
Court ordered Detentions	600	10.8	18
TOTAL	3,696	9.3	96

Risk assessment workshop:

FIELD TEST RESULTS- example 5

Clark County (NV) RAI Test (2005)--Race/ethnicity
by population share, referral rate, detention rate



Risk assessment workshop: *RAI MONITORING*

- ✓ **Why is it necessary?**
 - *Track instrument effects*
 - *Avoid breakdown of the screening process*
- ✓ **Data to be tracked**
 - *Detention volume and rate*
 - *Override rates and reasons, special detention cases*
 - *DMC effects, data on "problem area" cases*
- ✓ **Integrated monitoring systems (Virginia example)**
- ✓ **Assigning monitoring responsibility**
- ✓ **Annual reviews of the RAI**

Risk assessment workshop: *RAI VALIDATION*

- ✓ **Distinguish from field testing**
- ✓ **Validation objectives: test two prime effects**
 - *Failure to appear in court*
 - *Re-offending pending court*
- ✓ **Validation methodology**
 - *Follow release cohort*
 - *Determine specific outcome success/failure*
 - *Defined "period of risk"*
- ✓ **Validation results**
 - *Historically, kids released do very well*

Risk assessment workshop: *CONTROLLING OVERRIDES- issues*

➤ **What is an override?**

- *Detain overrides*
- *Release overrides*

➤ **What is an acceptable override rate?**

- *NCCD-JDAI– 15% to 20% of qualifying minors*

➤ **How is the DETAIN OVERRIDE RATE measured?**

- *Pct. detained of all eligible for release based on score*

➤ **Common override problems**

- *Overrides related to parents*
- *Overrides related to local policy or practice*
- *Failure to follow the override procedure*

Risk assessment workshop: *CONTROLLING OVERRIDES-- solutions*

- **List specific reasons on the RAI**
- **Track override reasons selected in actual use**
- **Track overrides by personnel making OR decisions**
- **Adopt override reduction targets**
- **Parent related overrides:**
 - *Distinguish “unwilling” from “unavailable”*
 - *Change parent-locating procedures, charge parents*
- **Control “other” overrides**
 - *Danger to self– document reasons*
 - *Danger to others– be specific*
 - *Probation violators– routine overrides?*
- **Staff training needs**