

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

VALIDATING AND STRENGTHENING RISK INSTRUMENTS

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Presenters:

David Steinhart, Robert Halverson, Scott Reiner

RAI VALIDATION WORKSHOP COVERAGE

RAI VALIDATION

- **What is it, when and how is it done
(David Steinhart)**
- **Statewide instrument validation: the
Virginia validation study and results
(Scott Reiner)**
- **Advanced validation: the Multnomah County
validation study and results
(Rob Halverson)**

RAI VALIDATION WORKSHOP

Validation Basics

✓ **Distinguish validation from field testing**

✓ **Validation objectives: test two prime effects**
(i.e. same as the risks addressed by the RAI)

- *Failure to appear in court*
- *Re-offending pending court*

✓ **Validation methodology**

- *Define sample: Releases and det. alternatives*
- *Define outcome measures (success/failure)*
 - *Pay special attention to: failure standard for "re-offending"*
- *Define "period of risk"*

RAI VALIDATION WORKSHOP

Validation Basics

✓ **Validation results**

- *Historically, kids released do very well*
- *“Acceptable failure” -- General guideline < 10% of those released*
- *What if results are “too good”?*

✓ **When should validation be done?**

RAI VALIDATION WORKSHOP

"Strengthening" risk instruments

What can you do, other than validation, to "strengthen" your risk instrument?

✓ Fundamental monitoring–

- Track RAI detain rates (by offense, by mandatory detain reasons)*
- Track DMC effects*
- Track facility population effects*

✓ Monitor and control overrides

- Ensure that mid-range scores go to alternatives*

✓ Annual reviews of the RAI

RAI VALIDATION WORKSHOP

PLACE HOLDER SLIDE

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:
HISTORY FACTORS— Combined Example

Santa Clara County Detention Risk Assessment Instrument
Section B: PRIOR OFFENSE HISTORY

B. PRIOR OFFENSE HISTORY *(score only one of the following):*

Felony petition or serious person misdemeanor petition pending	6
Current felony wardship	5
Prior felony adjudication within the last 36 months	3
Documented escape from secure custody, last 18 months	5
Documented court FTA within the last 12 months`	1

TOTAL HISTORY POINTS _____

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 reasons?*
 - *Most common problems:*
 - *Warrants*
 - *Probation violations*
 - *DV cases*