



Risk Assessment Instrument Development

Jefferson Parish Children & Youth Planning Board

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Overview

- Models for Change-Disproportionate Minority Contact dovetails with Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)
- JDAI Underlying Principles:
 - Detention is a legal status not a building.
 - “Detention” has two purposes:
 - Protect the community
 - Ensure attendance to next hearing

Getting Started

- Formed committee including representatives from the court, public defender, district attorney, probation, detention center, law enforcement, and Families in Need of Service.
- Used model from JDAI guidebook.
- Using Louisiana criminal statutes, committee developed agreed-upon categories.

Finding Middle Ground

- Categories given point scores.
- Items were *discussed* for ability to predict two outcomes.
- Discuss differing viewpoints-everyone's perspective is valuable.
- Committee agreed on the initial instrument-not the final version.

Process Barriers

- Philosophical differences need to be expressed.
- Negotiation is important.
- Identify the barriers to implementing instrument.
- Identify practical concerns:
 - Who will administer?
 - When will it be administered?
 - What laws affect who will administer?
 - Does system have the capacity to distribute offenders?

Item Analysis

- Initial Test (n=74)
 - What does instrument show?
 - Who is being detained?
 - Charge, Race, Gender, Time of admission
 - What factors affect whether an offender is detained or released?
 - Detention Utilization (45-60 days)
 - Re-arrest rate for releases and detained
 - Failure-to-appear rate for releases and detained

Felony/Misdemeanor New Offense Rates Without Alternatives

Indicated Decision	Actual Decision	# Cases	Felony	Misdemeanor	Vo P / Warr.	Total Offenses (66)	Felony %	Misd. %	V. P. %	Total Off. %	New Offense (#)	New Offense (%)	FT A (#)	FT A (%)
Release	Release	35	6	27	2	35	17%	77%	6%	53%	4	11	2	18
Release	Detain	23	5	7	11	23	22%	30%	48%	35%	5	22	1	4
Detain	Release	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
Detain	Detain	8	8	0	0	8	100%	0%	0%	12%	1	13	0	0

Felony/Misdemeanor New Offense Rates With Alternatives

Indicated Decision	Actual Decision	# Cases	Felony	Misdemeanor	Vo P / Warr.	Total Off. (74)	Felony %	Misd. %	V. P. %	Total Off. %	New Offense (#)	New Offense (%)	FT A (#)	FT A (%)
Release	Release	35	6	27	2	35	17%	77%	6%	47%	4	11	2	18
Release	Alternative	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
Release	Detain	23	5	7	11	23	22%	30%	48%	31%	5	22	1	4
Alternative	Release	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
Alternative	Alternative	2	2	0	0	2	100%	0%	0%	3%	0	0	0	0
Alternative	Detain	6	3	0	3	6	50%	0%	50%	8%	1	17	0	0
Detain	Release	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
Detain	Alternative	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
Detain	Detain	8	8	0	0	8	100%	0%	0%	11%	1	13	0	0

Override Rate by RAI Scoring Group			
RAI Score Group	Number Screened	Number Detained	Override Rate
0-9 (Release)	58	23	40%
10-14 pts. (Alternative)	8	6	75%
Total Scoring 0-14	66	29	44%
15+ (Detain)	8	8	n/a
Total	74	29	39%

NOTE: There were no overrides in the 15+ category.

NOTE: The objective with the Total row IS TO DETAIN, so an override would be a release

Same with overall total (# of overrides/total screened or 29 divided by 74).

RAI Revision

- Use initial test to revise instrument.
- Do score ranges accurately predict re-arrest or failure-to-appear?
- Does instrument give the ability to collect data? (e.g., gender, ethnicity, race, charge types, arrest time, intake time, census tract)
- Do any items need to be revised for wording or simplicity of administration?

RAI Validation

- Provide training to all staff who administers.
- Minimum of 300 cases.
- Detention Utilization: Does the instrument predict future arrests and failures-to-appear?
- Make final revision and program enhancements.
- *Plan to revise annually to account for changes in offender trends and in detention policies.

Resources

- <http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/JuvenileDetentionAlternativesInitiative.aspx>
- <http://www.aecf.org/Home/KnowledgeCenter/PublicationsSeries/JDAIPathways.aspx>