



National Council on  
Crime & Delinquency

# Risk Assessment for Allocating Resources and Targeting Interventions

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# Risk Assessment

Risk assessment helps juvenile justice systems identify which youth in the system they should focus on.



# Risk Assessment: The “Who?” Questions

Who should we target resources to?

Which youth should we be most worried about?



# Risk Assessment: The “Who not?” Questions

Who should we keep out of the system?

Sometimes intervention increases the likelihood of reoffending.



# “Why?” and “How?” Are Also Good Questions

Why are some youth more likely to get into trouble?

Great question for researchers.

How should we intervene for high-risk youth?

Evidence-based programs, therapeutic interventions, positive youth development.

# An Opportunity for Prevention

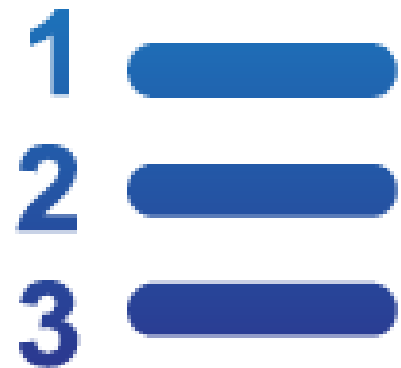
## The Juvenile Brain

What the research tells us



Great potential for intervention.

Criteria exist for ensuring impact.



# Standards: Validity

Validity is about accurate measurement.

What happens when a measuring tool is off?





# Standards: Equity

Equity is about similar likelihoods for subgroups.

What are the odds of rolling a six on each of these dice?



# Standards: Reliability

Reliability is about consistency.

Does everyone get the same answer to the same question?



# Standards: Utility

Utility is about the right tool for the right job.

Do you need a wrench?



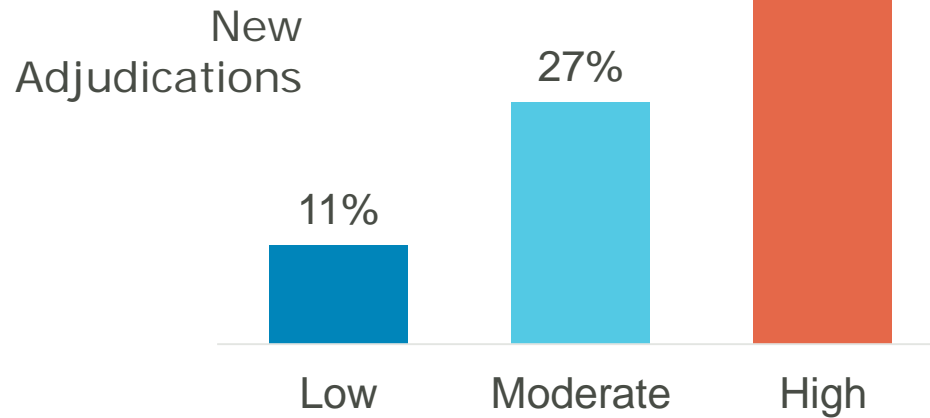
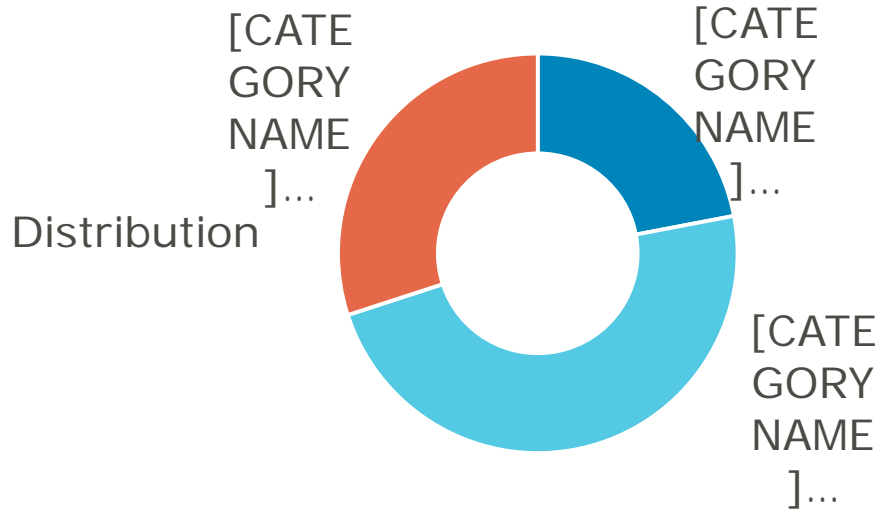
# Risk Assessments Are Used All Across the Country

We asked whether they all worked.

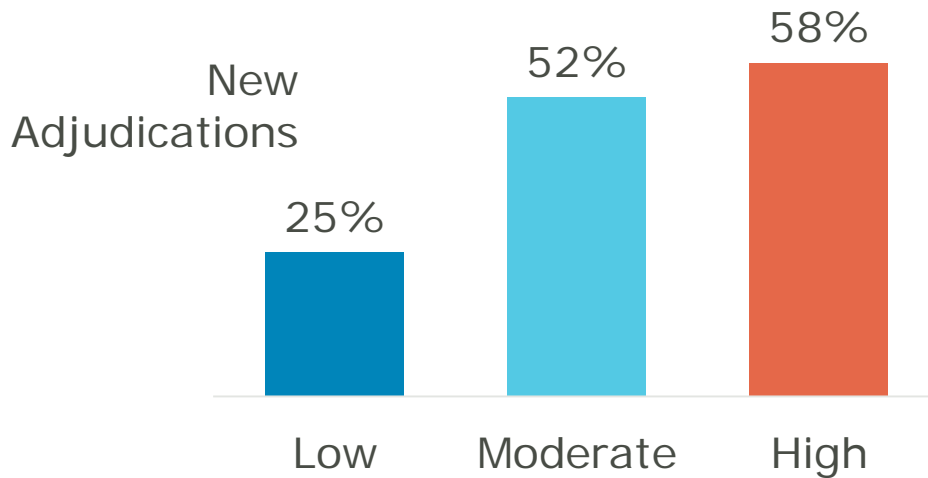
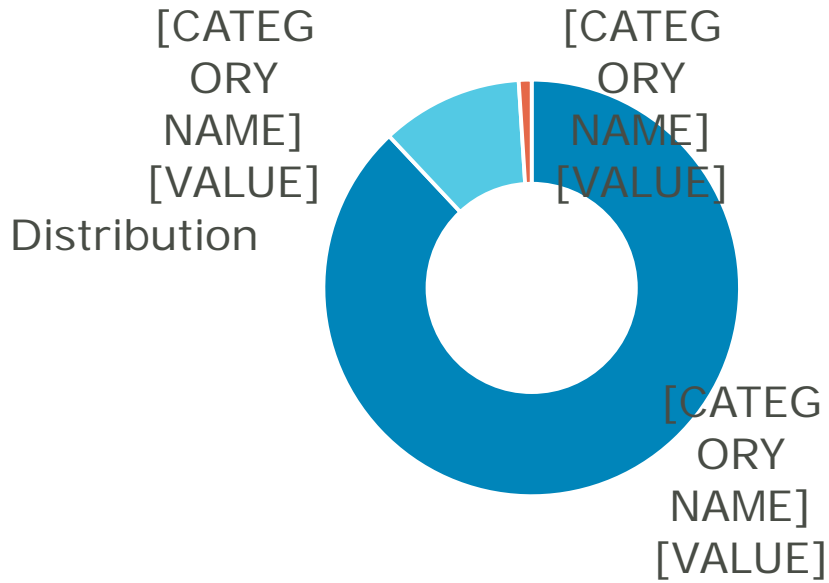
An Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention-funded national study of 10 risk assessments.



# Study Example 1



# Study Example 2



# Going Forward

Risk assessment can support positive youth development and safer communities.

Standards need to be embraced.



# Contact Information

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