

Community Corrections Service Request Implementation of the Public Safety Checklist

Background:

In November of 2009, the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) charted a workgroup to, among other things, study the feasibility of incorporating a new static risk tool to replace the current OCMS risk assessment. The workgroup was comprised of representatives from community corrections, Criminal Justice Commission, and the Department of Corrections. The workgroup reviewed and piloted a number of tools including the LSI/R SV, LS/CMI Section 1.1, the Oregon Risk Assessment Tool (ORAT), and the Proxy.

Ultimately, the workgroup recommended a tool developed by the Criminal Justice Commission called the Public Safety Checklist (PSC). The PSC is a revised version of the earlier ORAT. The recommendation was the result of numerous factors including:

- ✚ Why PSC—OCMS about 63% accurate and PSC about 78%.
- ✚ Staff will enter SID # and PSC will calculate
- ✚ No training or inter-rater reliability issues
- ✚ Fast!!
- ✚ Can be used by our CJ partners
- ✚ Built on Oregon data and draws data from LEDS/OJIN/CIS
- ✚ More robust than PROXY
- ✚ Easy to use
- ✚ Calculates 15 factors behind the scenes
- ✚ PSC will update monthly

The workgroup also recognized that the PSC does have some deficits, including lack of out of state criminal history and does not access an offender who has no arrest history. In those cases the workgroup recommended that the Proxy Tool be used.

On 07.13.2011, workgroup members presented this recommendation to the full membership of OACCD. The association unanimously voted to move forward with the PSC as a replacement for the current OCMS risk tool.

The Public Safety Checklist (PSC):

The PSC is a second generation actuarial risk tool designed by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission in cooperation with DOC. The tool provides a quick, objective, validated assessment of the probability an offender will be re-convicted of a felony within three-years of release from prison or a sentence to probation based upon historical Oregon data; and the offender's age, gender, and criminal history.

The PSC was built using data from over 350,000 Oregon offenders from 1980 to the present. The tool draws data from CIS, LEDS, and OJIN. The PSC weighs the following predictive factors and gives a “composite score” for an offender with these characteristics.

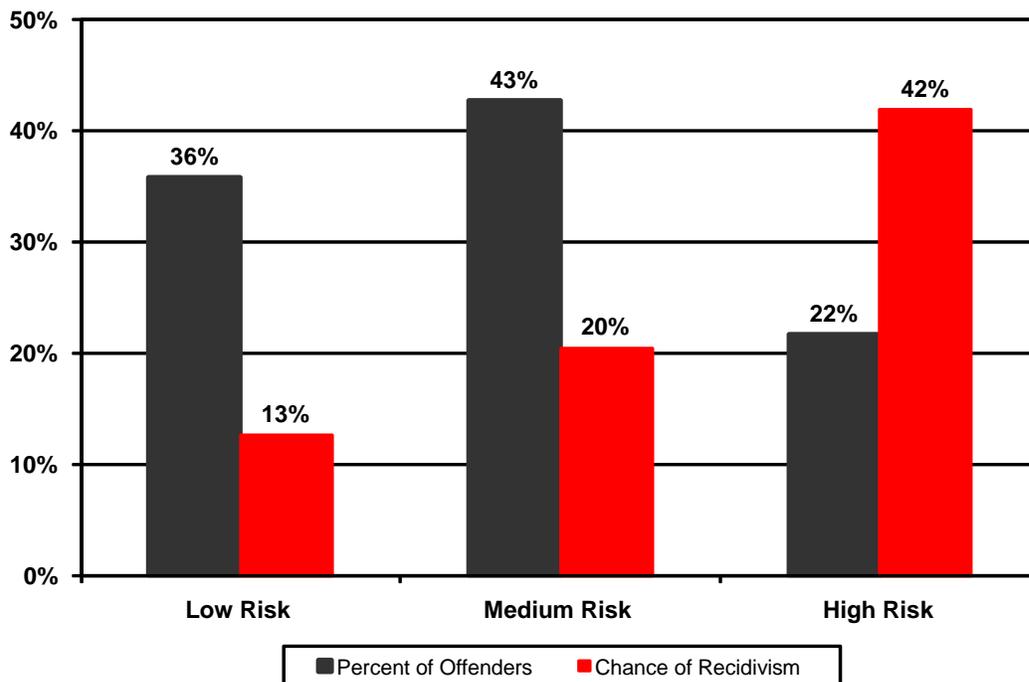
Demographic Data

- ✚ Age
- ✚ Gender

Criminal History Data

- ✚ age of first arrest
- ✚ number of prior arrests for a person, property or other (statutory) type of crime
- ✚ arrest record in the last five years
- ✚ a previous arrest for a domestic violence crime
- ✚ a previous theft conviction
- ✚ any prior revocations on parole or probation
- ✚ any prior incarcerations
- ✚ previous probation and supervision record
- ✚ multiple custody cycles

Based upon the cut-off scores recommended by the workgroup, the PSC classification rates reflect that 36% of the caseload would score LOW Risk and have a 13% recidivism rate, while 22% of the caseload would score HIGH Risk and recidivate at a rate of 42%. The cut-off scores can be adjusted as needed to accommodate workload and funding issues.



The PSC is currently accessible via the following website, <http://risktool.ocjc.state.or.us/psc/cc>

The proposed service request will allow risk assessment scores from CJC to be transferred into the Offender Management System and CIS, where it could be accessed by all community corrections personnel. Upon accessing the PSC, all the user is required to do is enter an offender SID number.

The Public Safety Checklist for Oregon: Community Corrections

How are the risk scores displayed and what do they mean?



This screen shot shows the actual risk score for reconviction of a felony. The Public Safety Checklist also displays risk scores for a new person arrest and a new property arrest. The actual risk for reconviction of a felony estimates the likelihood the offender will be convicted of a new felony within 3 years of release from prison or imposition of probation. This estimate is based upon the recidivism patterns of 345,000 offenders that have been released from prison or sentenced to probation since 1980. The actual risk shown in the screen shot means that the offenders' likelihood of new felony conviction within 3 years of release from prison or imposition of probation is 36%.

SID:

[Lookup offender](#)

To run the Public Safety Checklist (PSC), please enter a person's State Identification Number (SID).

The PSC will automatically check the person's criminal risk factors for you, and tell you a person's level of risk for future crime.

Public Safety Checklist Factors

The PSC automatically checks the following risk factors for each person, and the interplay between these factors. The PSC then computes a person's level of risk for future crime and what percentage of offenders has a lower risk of future crime.

The Public Safety Checklist for Oregon: Community Corrections

New Conviction

FELONY

This estimates the likelihood the offender will be convicted of a new felony within 3 years of release from prison or imposition of probation.



[View this person's comparative risk](#)

Identifying Information

Name:
ORTH, RICHARD
Gender:
Male

DOB:
09-14-1972
Current Age:
38

SID:
8410000

[View additional offender public safety factors](#)

[<< Lookup another offender](#)

The Criminal Justice Commission will continue to work on the PSC to incorporate an override feature, as well as automation of the Proxy Risk Tool within the PSC. The Proxy Risk Tool is a short, simple, validated, three question, risk assessment tool that will be used in circumstances as described earlier in this report.



JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSESSMENT & TRAINING
WWW.J-SAT.COM

PROXY DATA COLLECTION

Name: _____
 System ID: _____
 DOB: ____ / ____ / ____
 Gender: M F
 Agency: _____
 Location: _____

PROXY DATA

Current Age: _____	(16-25) = 2 (26-35) = 1 (35+) = 0	Score	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age of First Arrest: (or summons, warrant for any criminal offense, LIFETIME) Self-Report _____	(0-17) = 2 (18-21) = 1 (22+) = 0	Score	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of Prior Arrests: (or summons, warrant for any criminal offense, ADULT) _____	(0-1) = 0 (2-4) = 1 (5+) = 2	Score	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL			<input type="checkbox"/>

Risk Level Classification

Low Risk		Medium Risk		High Risk	
1	2	3	4	5	6

National Proxy Norms (not calibrated)

Percentage of Population	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total PROXY sample (n=3085)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
	3.1%	16.9%	21.4%	20.1%	22.7%	15.5%	10.3%

Contact Information for the Public Safety Checklist:

Criminal Justice Commission
 Attn: Kelly Officer
 (503) 378-6224
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Service Request Details:

This service request seeks to replace the current OCMS risk assessment, and all its related applications, with a new automated risk tool called the Public Safety Checklist. The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission designed this tool and has agreed to host its application. Data in the PSC will be updated every 30-days. Access for community corrections field staff will be made available via the OMS platform, with DOC uploading the updated data every 30-days.

SR Criteria

1. Required for compliance with Federal or State law, Administrative Rule (OAR), or DOC policy?

The ability to accurately assess an offender's risk level is of paramount importance to public safety and effective community supervision. The risk level of an offender drives many of the decisions made in a community corrections setting from supervision level to transfer requirements to funding as determined by Oregon Administrative Rules. The following OAR related to Case Management denotes the purpose and importance of an accurate risk assessment as follows:

OAR 291-078-0005 (*emphasis added*)

- (2) Purpose: The purpose of this rule is to:
 - (a) Establish a level of *statewide consistency* to the classification of offenders;
 - (b) *Classify offenders based primarily upon risk of recidivism;*
 - (c) Operate on the principle of limited risk control and utilize an objective risk assessment tool for *making classification decisions;*
 - (d) *Quantify workload*, including both investigative and supervision services;
 - (e) Assign levels of supervision;
 - (f) *Provide the data necessary for policy decisions*, program planning, effective utilization of resources, research, and evaluation;
 - (g) *Enhance corrections system credibility* by providing a means of accountability through established auditing methods; and
 - (h) Provide workload data which may be *used for resource allocation*.

In 2009, the Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill 100, which requires DOC to conduct an actual cost study for community corrections every six years. The bill was codified as ORS

423.486 and is cited below. A primary factor in determining actual cost is the actual risk level of the offenders supervised in the community. Thus, it is extremely important that we have the most accurate risk assessment tool available to community corrections staff. As noted in the statute, the actual cost study requirement begins in 2012 making the timely implementation of the PSC that much more critical.

ORS 423.486 Costs incurred by county; rules. (1) Beginning in 2012, and every six years thereafter, the Department of Corrections shall conduct a study to determine the actual costs incurred by each county of providing management, support services, supervision and sanctions for offenders described in ORS 423.478 (2).

2. Fixes a critical data integrity problem or increases the availability / accessibility of critical data.

As noted earlier in this novella, the PSC represents a substantial improvement in our ability to predict the risk of re-offense for an offender under community supervision. The PSC in essence is twice as accurate as the current OCMS risk tool; meaning, a flip of the coin will bring you a 50% predictive rate, so anything above 50% is representative of the accuracy of the tool. The OCMS has a predictive accuracy of 63% or 13% better than a coin flip. Meanwhile, the PSC has a predictive accuracy of up to 78% or 28% better than a coin flip and over twice that of OCMS. Implementation and automation of this tool will allow access and make available accurate critical data for statewide users and key decisions makers.

Another component of the PSC is the issue of data integrity. There are no inter-rater reliability concerns with the PSC as the user simply enters a SID number and the risk is calculated behind the scene by a series of complex equations. The OCMS is subject inter-rater reliability issues due to the complexity of the instructions for completion.

3. Enables DOC to significantly work more effectively or efficiently?

The effectiveness of community corrections work starts with an accurate risk assessment. The PSC will significantly increase effectiveness because high risk offenders will be more accurately identified and, thus resources can be more effectively allocated to where research shows they have the most impact. Public Safety will also be enhanced as officer's time and attention will be diverted from lower risk offenders and appropriately focused on high risk offenders.

The efficiency of the PSC is that all it takes to complete is the entry of an offender SID number. The OCMS required research by the user to determine prior criminal history, prior incarcerations, substance abuse history, etc. The PSC comes with a substantial time savings as well as increased accuracy.

4. Existing workarounds.

None known or identified at this time, with the exception of "business as usual."

5. Impacts a Strategic Initiative. (2009-2011 Strategic Initiatives)

“Expand Alcohol and Drug Treatment for Addicted Property Crime Offenders *This initiative expands treatment for drug addicted offenders on supervision in the community and incarcerated in prison, who persistently commit property offenses, offering these offenders the chance to get clean and stay clean, while enhancing public safety by decreasing the risk that future victims will suffer due to the property crimes of those offenders. Increasingly, research is demonstrating that treatment for drug-addicted offenders during and after incarceration can have a significant beneficial effect upon future drug use and criminal behavior. The case for integrating drug addiction treatment approaches with the criminal justice system is compelling. Combining prison- and community-based treatment for drug-addicted offenders reduces the risks of recidivism to drug related crimes and relapse to drug use.”*

Research informs us that the principles of risk, need, and responsivity are the most effective means in changing offender behavior and addressing criminogenic risk factors, such as substance abuse. The PSC will provide for the accurate risk assessment so treatment resources can be targeted to the correct offender population, thus helping meet this 2009-2011 Strategic Initiative.

“Sustainability of the Corrections Information System *This initiative continues in 2009-11. The Department must replace the mission-critical but outdated offender management information system with current technology in order to guarantee a system that is both cost-effective and sustainable. The Corrections Information System (CIS) is used to manage and track felons in the prisons and on supervision in the community. The data in CIS is important to criminal justice system partners and to policy makers at the state level.”*

The PSC serves to replace a portion of the “mission-critical but outdated offender management information system with current technology in order to guarantee a system that is both cost-effective and sustainable,” thus helping meet this on-going Strategic Initiative.

“Correctional Case Management *This initiative, in its third phase of implementation, continues in 2009-11. Correctional Case Management is the next logical step in implementation of the Oregon Accountability Model – the adopted business strategy for accomplishing the Department's public safety mission. A major component of this undertaking is to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior. To do so, the Department targets resources to those inmates who are most likely to recidivate.”*

While this initiative is more focused on an institution setting, the components of good case management start in a correctional setting and transcend the walls to the community. As the institutions have implemented a fully automated risk tool (ACRS) the PSC will achieve this purpose in the field, thus incorporating a seamless case management structure.

6. Addresses safety issue.

The PSC addresses safety issues from two different perspectives. First, from the perspective of officer safety, an effective risk assessment tool is essential to determine which offenders present

the high threat to our parole and probation officers. Having this information officers are better able to plan accordingly when it comes to arrests, searches, and responses to violation behavior.

Likewise, to be able to determine those offenders who present the highest risk to the public allows resources to be focused on that population instead of those offenders who present a low or limited risk to our citizens.

For more information contact Community Corrections Chief Mark J. Cadotte at Mark.J.Cadotte@doc.state.or.us.