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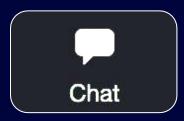
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# Assessment of Risk and Need

August 21, 2024 | Presented by:

Dr. Anjali Nandi, PhD, LAC, MAC





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## **Today's Presenter**

Dr. Anjali Nandi, PhD, MAC, LAC Associate, NCJTC



## **Learning Objectives**

- Understand the key concepts and purposes of risk and need assessments in the criminal justice context, including their impact on decision-making and resource allocation.
- Become familiar with different assessment instruments and methodologies, learning how to select and apply the appropriate tools for evaluating risk and needs in various criminal justice settings.
- Develop the ability to interpret the outcomes of risk and need assessments accurately, using the results to guide case planning, supervision levels, and intervention strategies.





### **Principles for Risk/Recidivism Reduction**

What we do	How we are
Assess	Frequent role clarification
Motivate	
Target	Collaborative problem solving
Coach skills	
Provide positive reinforcement	Prosocial modeling and reinforcement
Explore/enhance social networks	Attention to the PO/client relationship
Provide feedback	
Quality assurance	



## Why Bother?

- Crime rates have reduced by 25% in the past 15 years
- Incarceration rates have increased steeply
- Often, these relationships are inverse (states with low incarceration rates have the highest crime reductions)
- Overreliance on imprisonment as a crime-control strategy
- 75% of those imprisoned every year are convicted of non-violent offenses
- Evidence-based practices can reduce recidivism by 10-20% based on conservative estimates
- Tribal communities have risks and needs that are specific to that population



## Guideposts for Decision-Making

- Risk Principle
- Need Principle
- Person Principle
- Relationship Principle





## Principles

**Risk Principle** *Devote your time, energy and resources to moderate and high risk cases.* 

#### **Need Principle**

Target the criminogenic needs of moderate and high risk offenders (i.e. the dynamic risk factors that, when changed, will change the probability of an offender's recidivism).

#### Responsivity

General: Design your efforts around behavioral and cognitive-behavioral techniques. Specific: Tailor your efforts to the individual abilities (strengths), style, culture and personality of the client.



## **Central Eight Needs**

- Antisocial Behavior
- Antisocial Personality Pattern
- Antisocial Cognition
- Antisocial Peers
- Substance Abuse
- Dysfunctional Family Relations
- Employment/Education
- Leisure/Recreation





### **Probation Supervision Session Study**

**Amount of Session Time Devoted to Terms & Conditions** < 15 Min. > 15 Min. **Recidivism Rate** (Adjusting for risk levels) 18.9% 42.3%



### **Screening/Assessment Components**

- AOD screening and assessment
- Risk, Need, Responsivity (3rd gen tools)
- Co-occurring disorders
- Cognitive functioning and TBI
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Grief and Loss





### Implementing Assessments

- Assessment must drive all services
- A dynamic process that has to occur throughout the entire treatment
- Assessments inform case planning
- Assessments guide each appointment
- Services must not be postponed even if the assessment process is not fully completed



### Common Risk/ Need Assessment Measures

- Total Risk score
- Protective score
- Need Profile
- Classification level
- Change score (upon reassessment)





### **Sample Instrumentation**

- Addiction Severity Index (ASI)
- Computerized Assessment & Referral System (CARS)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)
- Brief Grief Questionnaire
- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)
- OSU TBI screen





### **Important Considerations**

- Motivational Interviewing
- Gender-specific Programming
- Trauma-informed Care
- Frequent Reassessment



### **Contact Information & Final Q&A**



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