Additional resources on the application of Risk/Need Assessment at sentencing:

   - Given the research evidence, the National Working Group recommends that judges have offender assessment information available to inform their decisions regarding risk management and reduction.
   - There is a better way. We need to move from anger-based sentencing that ignores cost and effectiveness to evidence-based sentencing that focuses on results – sentencing that assesses each offender’s risk and then fits that offender with the cheapest and most effective rehabilitation that he or she needs.

2. **Using Risk and Need Assessment Information at Sentencing: Travis County Texas**  
   [http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/CSI/RNA%20Brief%20Travis%20County%20TX%20csi.ashx](http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/CSI/RNA%20Brief%20Travis%20County%20TX%20csi.ashx)  
   - …the new diagnostic report is better organized, more comprehensive, permits a more comparative analysis of problem areas, and is easier to use to identify an individual’s problem areas than the old PSI report.
   - Some attorneys and judges have found that sharing the diagnostic report with defendants can also help certain offenders understand how the court’s decision is in their own best interest.

3. **Use of Risk and Needs Assessment Information at Sentencing: 7th Judicial District, Idaho**  
   [http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/CSI/RNA%20Brief%207th%20Judicial%20District%20ID%20csi.ashx](http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/CSI/RNA%20Brief%207th%20Judicial%20District%20ID%20csi.ashx)  
   - Stakeholders seem to generally agree that having information on the defendant’s risk and needs enables the criminal justice system to divert offenders from prison who can be appropriately managed in the community and to craft conditions of probation that better address offender risk factors for recidivism.
   - The degree to which RNA information is used in practice varies from judge to judge.

4. **Use of Risk and Needs Assessment Information at Sentencing: Grant County, Indiana**  
   [http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/CSI/RNA%20Brief%20Grant%20County%20IN%20csi.ashx](http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/CSI/RNA%20Brief%20Grant%20County%20IN%20csi.ashx)  
   - Local stakeholders initially resistant to the use of RNA information appear to be more supportive of the initiative now, in part because of opportunities to openly discuss these concerns and in part because of subsequent trainings that all stakeholders have received on the appropriate uses of the tool and the limitations of the science.

5. **Offender Risk Assessment in Virginia**  
   - Risk Assessment should be made a permanent part of Virginia’s sentencing guidelines system.
   - Virginia’s risk assessment system accurately distinguished non-violent felons less likely to recidivate from those more likely.
   - Virginia’s risk assessment instrument provides a more objective, reliable, transparent, and more accurate alternative to assessing an offender’s potential for recidivism than the traditional reliance on judicial intuition or perceptual short hand.