SDM Overview and Procedures

2017

Office of Research and Evaluation
Annie E. Casey Override Goal: 15 to 20 percent override rate for youth eligible for release
Youth placed in the community, regardless of risk level, are still among the least likely to be reconvicted.

Findings are consistent with national research: Pathways to Desistance and the CSG recidivism study in Texas.
Background

- Developed by Annie E. Casey and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Evidence-based process
- Public safety risk level and the severity of the offense

Research Note: Severity of offense is a predictor of future offending, but probably not the best one.
Informing Placements
The Balancing Act

- Use only to make an initial placement decision

**BUT**

- Don’t forget the SDM, especially if it was low during commitment

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**Low Risk Youth**
Avoid forcing deeper into justice system

**High Risk Youth**
Avoid repeatedly making decisions on old offenses
Decision-making

- Manage risk
- Focus resources strategically
- Ensure youth with similar risks levels are getting comparable services
Getting to the SDM

- Low SDM
  - Low
  - Med

- Med/Low SDM
  - Low
  - Med

- Medium SDM
  - Med
  - Med

- High/Med SDM
  - Low
  - Med

- High SDM
  - High
  - Med

= Risk Level

= Offense
**Key Points**

**The SDM Makes 2 Classifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Offense Severity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>High Offense Severity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Risk</td>
<td>Medium Offense Severity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>Low Offense Severity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To Produce 1 Placement Type Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Restrictiveness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Supervision</td>
</tr>
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<td>Medium Supervision</td>
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The SDM is scientifically calibrated to predict a youth's likelihood to re-offend.

The SDM should be done when a youth is: Newly committed Re-committed

The SDM is a risk assessment (not a needs assessment)

To place a youth in a placement not recommended by the SDM requires approval through the SDM Override Review Process.

**During Commitment**

Don’t hold it against youth who are High

Don’t forget it if it’s Low