

Research Addendum: Wisconsin Risk Validation

Adding Assaultive Factor to Proposed Revision of the DOC 502 Risk Instrument

Introduction

As a result of a risk validation study of the DOC 502 risk assessment instrument by the Council of State Governments Justice Center (“Justice Center”), the Wisconsin Department of Corrections is modifying the DOC 502 consistent with recommendations of the Justice Center with some exceptions. The primary change in the proposed revision of the DOC 502 requested by the department was to keep the assaultive risk factor, which was recommended to be omitted by the Justice Center. The previous weight given to the assaultive risk factor was 15 points which resulted in significant over-classification of the population. Consistent with one of the options posed by the Justice Center, the committee overseeing revisions of the DOC 502 recommended that the assaultive risk factor remain as a factor in the risk assessment with a reduced weight. The committee recommended a new weight of 4 points.

This Research Addendum proposes new cut-off scores for determining risk level classification after incorporating the assaultive risk factor with a maximum value of 4 points for offenders having an assaultive offense in their history.

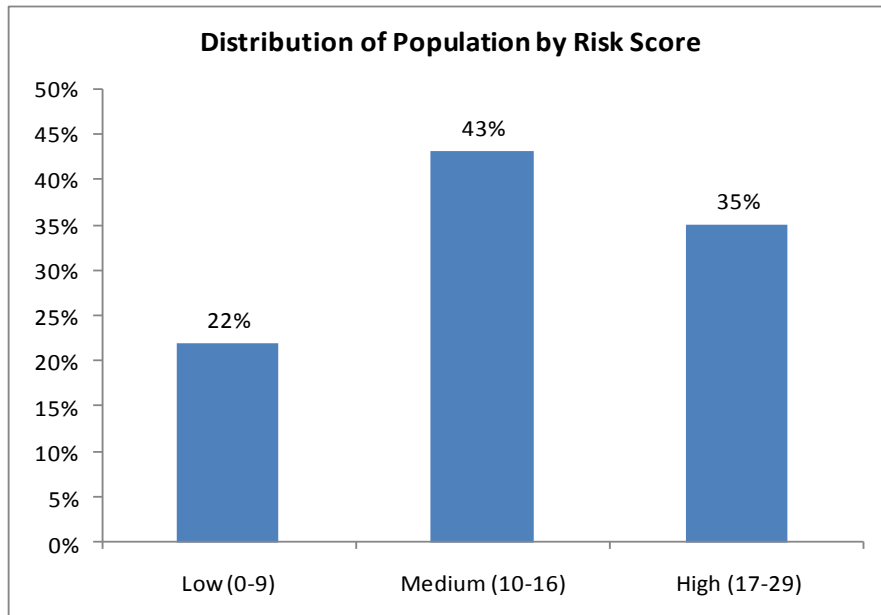
Proposed Cut-off Score Recommendation with Assaultive Factor Added

The table and chart below indicates the proposed cut-off scores with the assaultive risk factor incorporated and the resultant distribution of the population. This distribution is not significantly different from the revision previously proposed and maintains differential risk classifications consistent with recidivism rates as illustrated later in this report.

| Risk Level | Current Score | Proposed Score |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Low | 0-7 | 0-9 |
| Medium | 8-14 | 10-16 |
| High | 15 or greater | 17-29 |

Revised Cut-off Scores, Risk Classification and Distribution of Population

| Risk Score (score range) | Distribution of Population |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Low (0-9) | 22% |
| Medium (10-16) | 43% |
| High (17-29) | 35% |



Percent New offense by New Cut-off Scores Incorporating Assaultive Risk Factor

The table and chart below indicate the percent committing a new offense within 3 years of placement on community supervision by revised risk score and cut-off points. The percent committing new offenses within 3 years by risk level is not significantly different than those obtained in the revised DOC 502 prior to the inclusion of the assaultive risk factor.

Percent New Offense within 3 Years by New Risk Cut-off Scores

| Risk Score | Percent New Offense within 3 Years |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Low (0-9) | 11% |
| Medium (10-16) | 22% |
| High (17-29) | 37% |

Percent New Offense within 3 Years by New Risk Cut-off Scores

