Indiana Office of Court Services Pretrial Pilot Study

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Indiana Pretrial Pilot Project

- *The use of an empirically based risk assessment tool to determine the likelihood of pretrial misconduct is an evidence-based practice*

- *Why do we need this evidence-based practice?*

  - Local jails hold 750,000 individuals per day at an annual cost of $8 billion dollars

  - Over 60% of these individuals are awaiting trial

  - The decision to release or detain has tremendous consequences

Pretrial Risk Assessment

- *Risk assessments are a tool that can be used as part of the decision-making process*

  - Unstructured judgments have repeatedly been shown to be less accurate than empirically based risk assessment approaches

  - Risk assessments allow us to identify the appropriate intervention

  - Limited time and high case flow so assessments must be short but scientifically-based

Indiana Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool

Pretrial Items		Verified

1. Age of First Arrest
    0=33 or older
    1=Under 33		

2. Number of Failure-to-Appear Warrants Past 24 Months
    0=None
    1=One Warrant for FTA
    2=Two or More FTA Warrants		

3. Three or more Prior Jail Incarcerations
    0=No
    1=Yes		

4. Employed at the Time of Arrest
    0=Yes, Full-time
    1=Yes, Part-time
    2=Not Employed		

5. Residential Stability
    0=Lived at Current Residence Past Six Months
    1=Not Lived at Same Residence		

6. Illegal Drug Use During Past Six Months
    0=No
    1=Yes		

7. Severe Drug Use Problem
    0=No
    1=Yes		

	Total Score:	

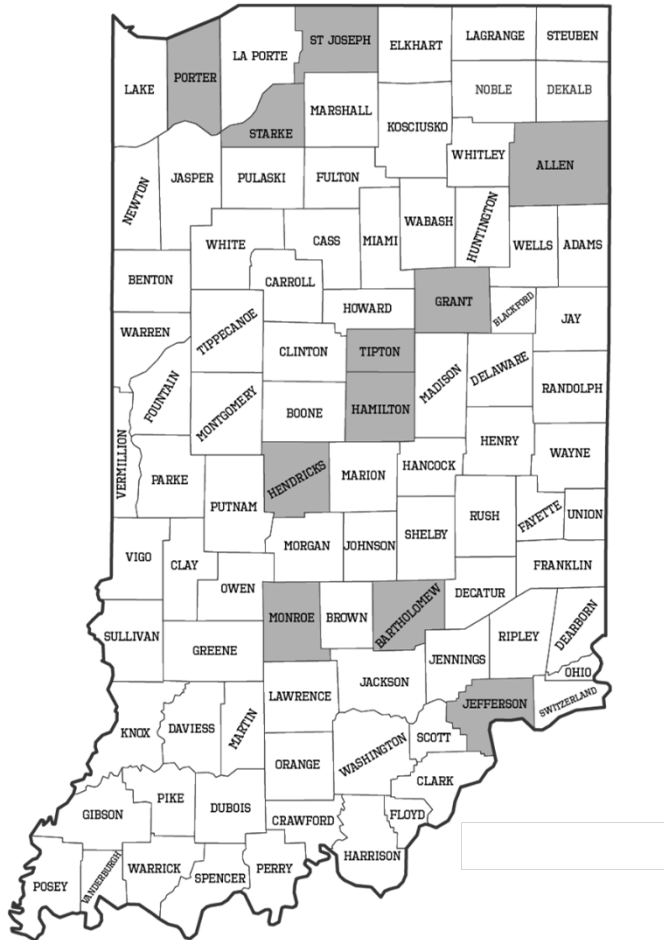		IRAS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Defendant Characteristics																									
Age	•	•				•	•	•				•	•	•		•		•		•	•	•		•	
Mental health history									•				•		•										•
Substance abuse	•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•	•	•
Criminal History																									
Criminal history	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Past release failures	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pending cases		•		•	•		•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•
Current offense		•			•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•		•		•			
Financial Indicators																									
Employment history	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Education									•						•										•
Financial assets			•	•					•		•			•	•	•									•
Home owner				•			•							•		•									
Phone Access				•								•		•		•				•					
Social Ties																									
Residential stability	•		•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	
Residential arrangement			•			•		•							•	•				•					•
Marital status			•									•			•	•				•					•
Available guarantors			•	•					•		•				•										•
Number of Items	7	9	7	6	9	9	9	22	6	9	12	11	7	12	11	30	8	13	7	8	16	7	9	12	14

Misconceptions of Pretrial Risk Assessments

Measurement

- Informed by more than 65 years of rigorous research into factors associated with public safety risks

- Pretrial risk assessments are designed to measure the risk of failure during the pretrial period

Decision-Making

- Pretrial risk assessment tools are designed to inform, not replace

- Even a validated risk assessment tool will not produce accurate estimates if it is not used correctly
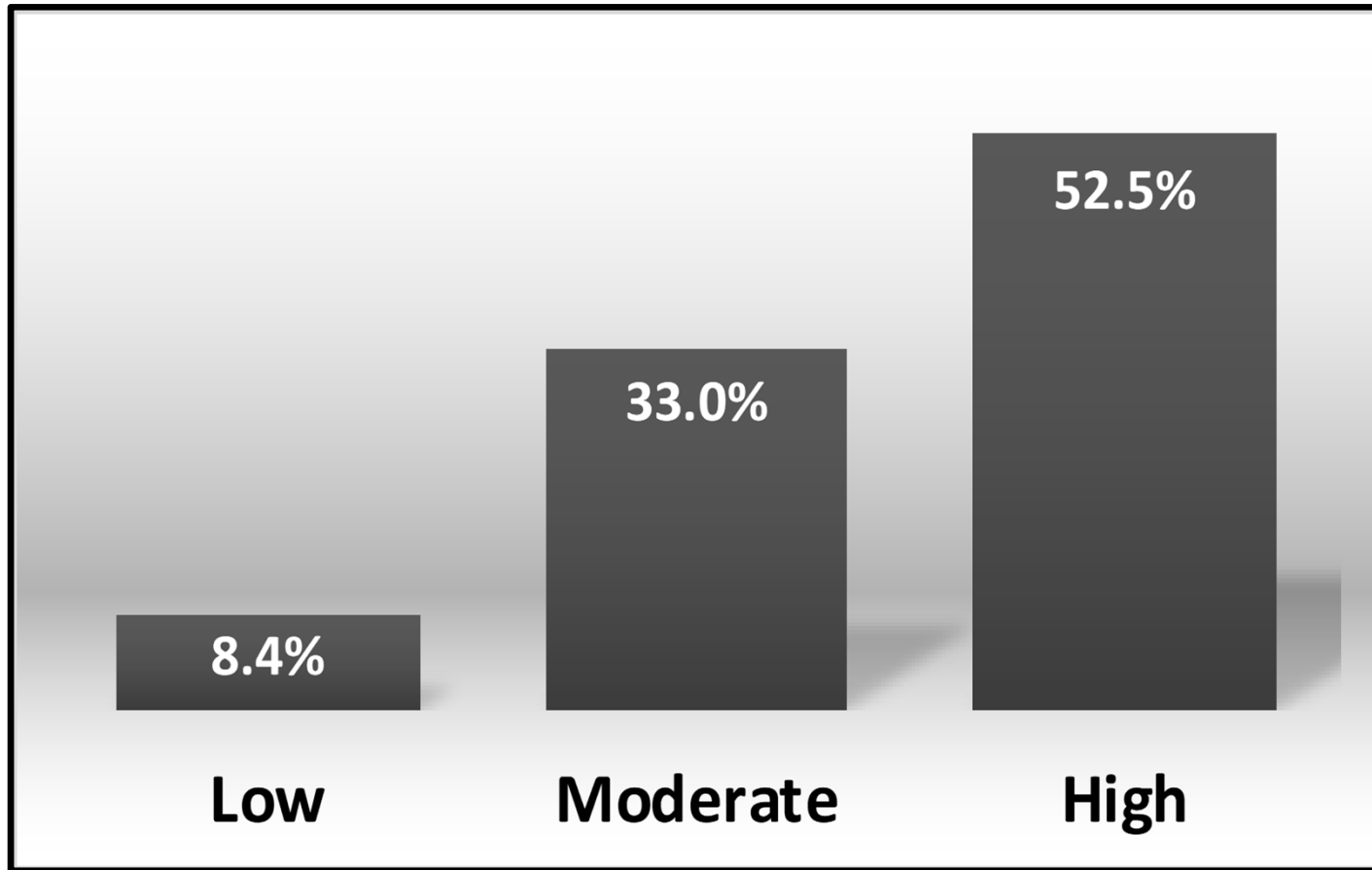
Pretrial Pilot Counties
- Allen
- Bartholomew
- Grant
- Hamilton
- Hendricks
- Jefferson
- Monroe
- Porter
- St. Joseph
- Starke
- Tipton

Indiana Pretrial Pilot Project

- Preliminary results suggest moderate to strong predictive accuracy of the IRAS-PAT

IRAS-PAT Validation: Monroe County

Indiana Pretrial Pilot Project

- Preliminary results suggest moderate to strong predictive accuracy of the IRAS-PAT

- Continue to obtain local jail booking data to validate the IRAS-PAT

- Examine whether the implementation of pretrial risk assessments improves the fairness of pretrial release decisions

- Inform which supervision practices achieve the optimal outcomes for pretrial defendants classified at various risk levels