



Screening and Assessment

Youth Justice Oversight Committee

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Introduction

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) created the Screening and Assessment Workgroup to review existing policies and protocols, develop new policies and protocols, and provide a statewide implementation plan for the use of risk screening and risk and needs assessment tools for youth in the youth justice system. H.E.A. 1359-2022 specifically focuses on considering a youth's risk to reoffend and needs in making decisions along the youth justice continuum, and that the youth's needs are properly addressed through supervision and services that reduce the likelihood of them returning to the youth justice system in the future.

The workgroup met ten times and completed the following activities:

- reviewed the current policies and procedures regarding existing risk screening and risk and needs assessments,
- reviewed the current training requirements and methods for sharing screening and assessment results,
- reviewed prior educational materials for judicial officers, detention center staff, probation officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and service providers,
- discussed the workgroup member's outreach efforts and feedback provided by numerous judicial officers, detention center staff, probation officers, prosecutors, and defense attorneys from forty counties, and the Department of Correction's Division of Youth Services staff related to local policy, practice and understanding of risk screening and assessments,
- discussed feedback from the Youth and Family Advisory Group on the information related to screening and assessment and preliminary recommendations,
- reviewed national information on the use of screening and assessments, and
- received a presentation from a professor with University of Cincinnati on assessment validation and the Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS).

Deliverables and Definitions

The workgroup reviewed H.E.A. 1359-2022 to specifically identify the deliverables outlined related to this work. The deliverables include review and establish policies, procedures, and an implementation plan for the use of:

- Risk screening tools for diversion,
- Detention tool to inform initial and ongoing use of secure detention, and
- Risk and needs assessment tools for dispositional decisions, including out of home placements.

As a part of this review, the statutes¹ also included some key definitions directly related to these deliverables:

- I.C. 31-9-2-112.8 - "Risk screening tool" means a validated screening instrument approved by the judicial conference of Indiana that:
 - (1) measures a child's risk to reoffend; and
 - (2) is used to inform a child's eligibility to participate in juvenile diversion and informal adjustment.
- I.C. 31-9-2-39.7 - "Detention tool" means a validated instrument that assesses a child's risk for rearrest in order to inform a decision on the use of secure detention.
- I.C. 31-9-2-112.5 - "Risk and needs assessment tool" means a validated instrument approved by the judicial conference of Indiana for use at appropriate stages in the juvenile justice system to identify specific risk factors and needs shown to be statistically related to a child's risk of reoffending, and that when properly addressed may reduce a child's risk of reoffending.

Within each deliverable, H.E.A. 1359-2022² also requires plans for providing the risk screening tool and assessment results to judicial officers and parties in a case as well as training for judicial officers and probation officers on the use of these tools and assessments.

¹ The Indiana Code use the term "juvenile" within the statutory text as reflected in this section. Throughout the rest of this report, we will use the term youth where appropriate.

² Statutes regarding sharing risk screening information for diversion and informal adjustment include IC 2-5-36-9(6)(B)(iii), IC 31-37-8-2, and IC 31-37-8.5(c) & (d). Statutes regarding sharing detention tool information include IC 2-5-36-9(6)(B)(iii), IC 31-37-5-5(a) & (d), IC 31-37-6-6(a), IC 31-37-5-5(f). Statutes regarding sharing the risk and needs assessment tool information for disposition include IC 2-5-36-9(6)(B)(iii), IC 31-37-17-1(a) & (c), IC 31-37-17-6.1(a)(1). Statutes regarding training of judicial officers and probation officers include IC 2-5-36-9(6)(B)(iv) and IC 11-13-1-9(b).

Current Foundation

Indiana has a solid foundation in place for the use of risk screening and assessments that focus on the risk to reoffend and needs of youth involved in the justice system. Since the screening and assessment process is the starting point to assist with decision-making and matching services, it is important to provide an overview and key information on the pieces of this foundation.

Indiana Youth Assessment System

Indiana's adoption of the Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS) was approved by the Judicial Conference Board of Directors and the Department of Correction in 2008 at the recommendation of the Risk Assessment Task Force³. Before making this recommendation, the Task Force undertook a lengthy, detailed review of available risk and needs assessment tools with the assistance of two national consultants. The goal was to ensure the selected tools would promote a uniform and consistent risk assessment process across the relevant supervising agencies as a part of the continuing effort to implement evidence-based practices⁴ in Indiana, assist with decision-making and case planning, allow for state-level data collection, and consider fiscal impacts associated with implementation of these assessments.

The IYAS is a suite of screening and assessment tools designed for use at key points in the youth justice system to help guide decisions, ascertain the appropriate supervision levels and programs guided by evidence-based practices, measure changes in an individual's risk to reoffend and need factors during supervision. The IYAS system contains the following

³ This task force included representatives from the various supervising agencies (probation, community corrections, problem-solving courts, Court Alcohol and Drug Programs, Department of Correction, and parole), a member of the judiciary, and staff of the Judicial Automation and Technology Committee (JTAC) (now Trial Court Technology) with the Indiana Supreme Court Division of State Court Administration (now Indiana Office of Court Services) and received staff support from the Indiana Judicial Center (now Indiana Office of Court Services).

⁴ The term evidence-based practices refers to the use of empirical data derived through scientific research from the justice system which identifies predictive factors about an individual that provide a valid and empirical assessment of the individual's likelihood to reoffend, and requires the use of techniques and programs that are shown to be effective in reducing such risks.

instruments: Diversion Tool, Detention Tool, Disposition Screener, Disposition Tool, Residential Tool, and Reentry Tool.

The IYAS system is based on the [Ohio Youth Assessment System](#) (OYAS) system, which are public domain⁵ risk screening and assessments developed and validated on a Midwest population using a prospective data collection⁶ methodology. Prior to the IYAS implementation, IOCS contracted with the University of Cincinnati to conduct the initial [validation study](#)⁷ on the larger IYAS instruments, which demonstrated similar results to the Ohio study.

On January 15, 2010, the Judicial Conference of Indiana and the Department of Correction adopted the statewide, systemwide [policy for training eligibility and certification](#) for those administering the assessments and the statewide [minimum IYAS policy](#) outlining when each assessment tool is completed, requirements for reassessments and case planning, establishing best practices, and addressing confidentiality and release of assessment information.

The IYAS policy requires all supervising entities to use the IYAS and record assessment information in the state's web-based application. The Risk Assessment Application is part of the Indiana Supreme Court's INcite framework. The main objectives behind the development of the automated Risk Assessment Application were to improve communication between supervision agencies, to provide continuity of services for youth, and store statewide aggregate data needed for revalidation of the instruments.

The supervision staff administering the full complement of IYAS instruments are required to attend a two-day, in-person training and pass a certification exam. Staff who administer only the IYAS-DIV and IYAS-DET must attend a two-hour training session and complete an in-class assessment exercise prior to being credentialed to conduct these instruments. All

⁵ Public domain refers to the fact the IYAS is not a proprietary instrument. There are no per assessment expenses and the scoring rubric is accessible.

⁶ Prospective study involves collecting and gathering the necessary information to conduct the assessment and then studying recidivism after a set period of time has elapsed after the assessment was completed. This is compared to retrospective studies that rely on commonalities gathered from file reviews and recidivism research. Both research methodologies have pros and cons, but a prospective study allow for researchers to gather information through file reviews and interviews to evaluate additional factors related to recidivism that cannot be gleaned from a review of historical file information.

⁷The purpose of a validation study is to determine if the items on the tool are predictive of future delinquent behavior. As with any evidence-based practice or procedure, re-examination is also important. Hence, instruments like these need to be revalidated from time to time to ensure they remain predictive.

certified and credentialed individuals are required to be recertified every three years. In addition to these requirements, certified and credentialed staff are also provided periodic opportunities for booster sessions to maintain their skills.

Prior to and shortly after implementation of the IYAS, several stakeholder informational sessions were provided through existing conference opportunities, local trainings, and regional offerings. These sessions were designed to provide information about and promote understanding of the IYAS to supervision agency staff, judicial officers, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, and service providers.

The financial resources for the work of the Risk Assessment Task Force, the initial validation study, initial user certification trainings, and INcite Risk Assessment Application development came from multiple federal grants, national technical assistance resources, agency budget contributions, and significant amounts of state and local agency staff time. Additional agency resources and grants were used for providing stakeholder sessions prior to and after implementation of IYAS.

With the IYAS policies adopted, initial certification trainings completed, and the INcite Risk Assessment Application deployed, Indiana began using the IYAS on October 1, 2010. Since the IYAS system was implemented on October 1, 2010, through May 31, 2023, the following number of assessments have been conducted:

- IYAS-Diversion Tools: 115,101
- IYAS-Detention Tools: 62,858
- IYAS-Disposition Screening Tools: 47,328
- IYAS-Disposition Tools: 87,128
- IYAS-Residential Tools: 16,914
- IYAS-Reentry Tools: 15,516

To further support the implementation of IYAS, IOCS and IOCT partnered with the Judicial Conference Probation Committee and the Probation Officers Advisory Board to build and deploy the INcite Standard Juvenile Reports Application and the Case Plan Application. The work on the Standard Juvenile Reports resulted in updating the required standard report⁸ templates to directly incorporate the IYAS assessment results into the report to

⁸ The required standard reports include the Preliminary Inquiry (PI), the Predisposition Report (PDR), and the modification report. These standard templates are approved by the Judicial Conference of Indiana and directed for use as directed by the Indiana Probation Standards.

communicate the necessary information to judicial officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and others eligible to receive these reports and maintain compliance with the Indiana Probation Standards. The work on the Case Plan Application assisted in providing an electronic template to assist supervision agencies with developing individualized case plans that incorporate the IYAS assessment results and support requirements in the Indiana Probation Standards.

Indiana, in following evidence-based practice literature, completed an interrater reliability study⁹ in 2019 and is currently finalizing a revalidation study on all IYAS instruments. The results of the validation study will be used to make any necessary adjustments to the instruments and the validation report will be added to the Indiana's Risk Assessment web page.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a model for youth justice system improvement that was developed in the early 1990's by the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The model has evolved from a focus on detention reform to overall youth justice system improvement throughout all stages of the system - from prevention and diversion to reintegration. JDAI is the most widely replicated youth justice system improvement initiative across the country. Thirty-five Indiana counties are implementing JDAI, and those counties are home to 73% of the youth population aged 10-17.

A core strategy that has remained foundational to the model is objective admissions. One of the goals of JDAI is to eliminate the inappropriate and unnecessary use of secure detention while also ensuring public safety. Through a collaborative process that includes local system and community stakeholders, JDAI sites develop detention screening tools (DSTs). A Detention Screening Tool guides the initial decision regarding whether a youth should be released, released with conditions, or securely detained pending their first court appearance. These locally developed tools use a decision-tree model and are developed

⁹ An interrater reliability study looks at the accuracy of users in scoring the tools and how similarly groups of users are in scoring the tools. This work helps identify opportunities to improve accuracy through booster training and local quality assurance reviews.

using clear design principles, including the selection of proven risk factors, avoiding redundancy, using balanced aggravation/mitigation criteria, striking a balance between points and decision or outcome scales, providing for mid-range alternatives, controlling for special and mandatory detention cases, and the inclusion of specific override criteria¹⁰.

The process of developing DSTs starts with a series of facilitated discussions and activities with the goal of the local community establishing consensus on the purpose of secure detention. The second step is to examine current trends by completing a Detention Utilization Study (DUS) which helps the local collaborative group understand their utilization of secure detention. The next step is developing the actual Detention Screening Tool which is done through facilitated discussions and includes factors related to risk for re-offense and for failure to appear for court.

When a draft of the DST is completed, three phases of testing occur: retrospective, prospective, and case review. The purpose of testing is to determine if adjustments need to be made to meet the purpose of detention established by the local collaborative group. Prior to implementing a DST, counties create policies on the use of the DST (e.g., establishing who is screened and when they are screened), develop a user guide for training and reference, and provide training on the tool for those administering it, and for other impacted stakeholders such as law enforcement officers, and others. Once those things have been accomplished, counties implement and monitor use of the DST. To date, three local JDAI sites in Indiana have undergone validation studies on their DSTs¹¹.

Ongoing objective admissions work includes monitoring admissions to detention, the use of overrides including override rates (best practice recommends a maximum override rate of 15%) and reasons, interrater reliability, and areas within a policy/user guide/training that needs to be clarified and/or updated.

¹⁰ See: [Practice Guide to Juvenile Detention Reform: Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment](#).

¹¹ At the time of writing this report, IOCS did not have access to these local reports.

Findings

The YJOC makes the following findings based on the information presented and provided:

Risk Screening and Assessment Tools

The [Indiana Youth Assessment System](#) (IYAS) are validated screening and assessment tools approved and required by the Judicial Conference of Indiana. These tools are designed to screen and assess a youth's risk for reoffending and needs at specific decision points within the youth justice system. More specifically,

- the IYAS-Diversion Tool satisfies the requirements of [I.C. 31-9-2-112.8](#) in measuring a child's risk for reoffending and is used to inform a child's eligibility to participate in diversion and informal adjustment.
- the IYAS-Detention Tool satisfies the requirements of [I.C. 31-9-2-39.7](#) in measuring a child's risk for reoffending to inform a decision on the use of secure detention.
- the IYAS-Dispositional Screener and Assessment Tools satisfy the requirements of [I.C. 31-9-2-112.5](#) in identifying specific risk factors and needs related to a child's risk of reoffending for the purpose of properly addressing those risks and needs to reduce a child's risk of reoffending while being supervised in the community.
- the IYAS-Residential Tool satisfies the requirements of [I.C. 31-9-112.5](#) in assessing a child's risk of reoffending and needs who is being placed out of the home for programs and services.
- the IYAS-Reentry Tool continues to assess a child's risk of reoffending and needs who is moving from an out of home placement back to the community, which also satisfies the requirements of [I.C. 31-9-112.5](#).

While the IYAS tools are the only validated screening and assessment tools approved and required by the Judicial Conference, jurisdictions also use other complementary assessments (e.g., Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-2 (MAYSI-2), suicide screening tool, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI), human trafficking screening tool, sex offender tool, etc.) to further assess a youth's needs and inform release and supervision conditions. For example, jurisdictions that actively engage in the [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative](#) (JDAI) also use a locally developed screening tool for initial detention decisions, referred to as a Detention Screening Tool (DST). While not all these DSTs are validated, probation officers routinely rely on them in making decisions on detention and release conditions. The use of any complementary assessment, whether

validated or not, must be used as a supplement to and not as a replacement for the IYAS tools.

Risk Screening and Assessment Policies

The Judicial Conference of Indiana and the Department of Correction adopted a [joint state-level IYAS policy](#), specifically providing for when each tool is used in the youth justice system, when reassessments are required, the use of assessment information for case planning, and requiring the assessment information be entered into the [INcite Risk Assessment Application](#) timely.

Indiana’s long-standing policy for the statewide use of the IYAS Tools is consistent with the growing [national trend for use of statewide assessments as documented on the National Center for Juvenile Justice](#). As of 2020, this resource shows that forty-two jurisdictions use a statewide, uniform assessment and other jurisdictions also use the IYAS tools.

As noted above, the IYAS policy encourages agencies to use complimentary assessment tools in conjunction with the IYAS to assist in developing individualized case plans.

JDAI sites also have local policies regarding the administration of the DSTs and a system to analyze data related to the use of the tools.

Sharing of Risk Screening and Assessment Results

The [IYAS policy](#) defines confidential risk assessment information and lists those eligible to receive assessment information. The list includes the following:

- the court,
- the child,
- the child’s attorney of record,
- the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian,
- the child’s guardian ad litem,
- the child’s court appointed special advocate,
- the attorney representing the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian,
- the prosecuting attorney assigned to the case,
- a probation department,
- a Court Alcohol and Drug Program,
- a Problem-Solving Court,

- a community corrections program,
- the Indiana Department of Correction,
- the Department of Child Services,
- an agency or service provider charged with providing court-ordered services to the child, and
- a person or agency authorized in writing by the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian.

The policy also requires those accessing such information to also maintain the same level of confidentiality.

Probation Departments are required to use the standard Preliminary Inquiry Report, Pre-Dispositional Report, and Modification Report forms adopted by the Judicial Conference of Indiana. These reports include current IYAS assessment results along with the narrative information so that the judge, attorneys, and others eligible to review¹² these reports have the assessment results along with the context of the youth’s current circumstances to aid with individualized determinations and decision making.

The INCite Risk Assessment Application already produces the assessment results that can be provided within the existing standard reports listed above or as a separate document as needed.

JDAI jurisdictions have local procedures in place regarding sharing the DST information with decision makers (e.g., judicial officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, etc.).

Training on Risk Screening and Assessment Tools

Certified and authorized users of the IYAS Tools

The Judicial Conference and the Department of Correction have a joint state-level [risk assessment user certification policy](#) specifying the specific agency staff who are eligible for training and certification to conduct the IYAS Tools as well as the criteria for becoming a certified risk assessment user and maintaining that certification. Under this policy, eligible staff include court-appointed probation officers, community correction officers, Court Alcohol & Drug program professional staff, Problem-solving court intake staff/case

¹² For example, see IC 31-37-17-6 regarding availability of Pre-dispositional Report.

managers/coordinators, DOC intake staff/case managers/program staff, parole agents, detention center staff (for diversion and detention instruments), and pre-trial services staff (for pre-trial instrument).

The Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS) is responsible for providing the risk assessment user trainings and the recertification trainings since implementation of the IYAS Tools. When resources permit, IOCS also provides booster sessions for risk assessment users at conferences hosted by IOCS, periodic regional booster trainings, or at the request of other conference providers. All trainings are conducted by IYAS certified trainers.

Stakeholders

In addition to the assessment user trainings, IOCS has previously provided educational sessions for other interested stakeholder groups at conferences hosted by IOCS, and at the request of specific jurisdictions or other conference providers. These occurred at a higher frequency leading up to and shortly after implementation of the IYAS Tools. All educational sessions are conducted by or co-presented with IYAS certified trainers and focus on background information about the assessment tools, how assessment information is provided, and how the assessment information can help with decision making. The process for requesting a stakeholder session is included on IOCS's [Risk Assessment web page](#) since the implementation of these instruments.

Outreach and Feedback

The outreach efforts by workgroup members yielded a consistent theme that judicial officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, and detention center staff needed more education and training to better understand the scope of the IYAS risk and needs assessment tools, what the assessment results mean and how to incorporate that information in their decision making, and strategies to improve implementation and the quality of assessment results.

The feedback received from the Youth and Family Advisory Group echoed the need for additional training to help support the youth and families to understand the role of assessments, how the assessment information is used in the process and to improve the engagement with youth and families during the assessment process.

Data and Research related to Risk Screening and Assessment Tools

The Office of Court Technology provides the [INcite Risk Assessment Application, a separate, statewide web-based application](#), to all agencies completing IYAS Tools for the purpose of:

- storing all assessment results and related data,
- storing standard assessment documents and instructions to ensure all agencies can access the most current materials,
- connecting the assessments to the standard reports provided to judicial officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and others eligible to receive these reports and to community supervision agency case records,
- storing necessary data valuable for state level data analysis and research, and
- permitting local agencies using the system the ability to analyze their agency data to support grant applications and reporting requirements, understand the risks and needs of their supervised population, and assist with local quality improvement strategies.

IOCS, in partnership with the Department of Correction, is contracted with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute to complete the IYAS interrater reliability and revalidation study. The purpose of an interrater reliability study is to determine if multiple assessment users can accurately and consistently complete an assessment instrument. The reliability study was completed in 2019, and the study showed that the assessment users were administering the tools within an acceptable range. The purpose of a revalidation study is to re-examine if the items on the assessment tools are predictive of future delinquent behavior and aid in properly distinguishing between high, moderate, and low risk categories. The revalidation study was completed in 2023 and the results show that the IYAS Tools are validated instruments for predicting recidivism (e.g., future delinquent behavior). These reports will be available on the [Indiana Risk Assessment System website](#).

Recommendations

After review and discussion of the information presented, the YJOC makes the following recommendations:

Risk Screening and Assessment Tools

1. The use of the IYAS Tools should continue to be required statewide in accordance with the IYAS policy jointly adopted by the Judicial Conference and the Department of Correction.

Implementing this recommendation will allow for the systemic identification of youth's needs at each phase of the youth justice system. The use of standard validated tools provides critical information so the state can review and research outcomes and enhance implementation of best practices to reduce recidivism for justice involved youth. Using the same validated instruments statewide provides the common language required to help state-level policy makers allocate resources (e.g., direct funding, grant funding, etc.) and provide supportive services (e.g., model programs, training, technical assistance, etc.) across the state to further reduce the effects of justice by geography.

2. Consistent with the IYAS policies, jurisdictions are encouraged to also use appropriate complementary assessments (e.g., mental health, substance use, human trafficking, DSTs, etc.) to further assess a youth's needs and use the assessment results to inform individualized supervision conditions and services.

Risk Screening and Assessment Policies

3. To enhance compliance with the requirements of H.E.A. 1359-2022, the IYAS policy should be amended as follows:
 - IYAS – Diversion tool policy should be amended to provide that this tool is completed when information is given to the county's probation intake officer pursuant to I.C. 31-37-8-1 indicating the child is a delinquent child for the purpose of complying with I.C. 31-37-8.5-1 regarding juvenile diversion decisions.

- IYAS – Detention tool policy should be amended to provide that this tool is completed prior to the detention decision being made for the individual youth.

Proposed amendments consistent with these recommendations are provided in the appendix.

4. Each county must ensure that their policies and procedures regarding detention decisions are written and include the following elements:
 - the required screening and assessment tools, including the position that completes them and when they are completed,
 - any criteria used to detain a youth, regardless of the screening and assessment results, also referred to as mandatory hold or auto hold, and
 - when results of screening and assessment tools are provided to judicial officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and all legal parties.

These policies should be provided to IOCS, as staff agency for the YJOC, in conjunction with reporting requirements in I.C. 31-37-6-6 no later than June 30, 2024.

Sharing of Risk Screening and Assessment Results

5. The standard Preliminary Inquiry Report should be updated to require the appropriate IYAS assessment to be included to complete the report and permit more than one current IYAS assessment to be included.

For example, if a youth has been assessed with both the IYAS-Diversion Tool and the IYAS-Detention Tool, the Preliminary Inquiry Report should be able to include both sets of results. Also, if a jurisdiction completes a local DST, then that additional information should be provided within the report as well. The Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS) and the Indiana Office of Court Technology (IOCT) shall instruct probation departments on steps necessary to include information from multiple assessments within these reports and work to enhance the technology to make these steps more efficient.

In implementing this recommendation, IOCS and IOCT will need to secure sufficient resources to make these technology enhancements, coordinate with supervision case

management systems on interface requirements, and secure approval from the Judicial Conference Board of Directors to update the required standard report form templates.

6. As resources allow, the Indiana Office of Court Services should provide additional education to judges and probation departments on the Probation Standards as it relates to the required use of the standard Preliminary Inquiry Report, Pre-Dispositional Report, and Modification Report forms. IOCS should partner with Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC) and Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC) to also provide training to prosecutors and defense attorneys regarding these reports. The use of these standard reports is critical to ensure the court and parties receive all relevant information for each case prior to the decision at that phase of the youth justice system regardless of the jurisdiction.
7. Each jurisdiction should provide a report cover sheet to communicate relevant information to judicial officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, etc. at the early decision points in the youth justice system. More specifically,
 - the results of the IYAS-Diversion Tool, IYAS-Detention Tool, and the DST, if applicable, should be given to probation intake and other applicable decision makers in advance of the detention decision, and
 - the results of the IYAS-Diversion Tool should be given to the prosecutor if the prosecutor directs a preliminary inquiry to be completed under I.C. 31-37-8-1. The assessment results can also be incorporated into that report as provided by I.C. 31-37-8-2 and I.C. 31-37-8.5.

Training on Risk Screening and Assessment Tools

Certified and authorized users of the IYAS Tools

8. IOCS shall continue to provide the initial and recertification trainings for IYAS Tools as required by current policy.
9. As a part of required CEUs for certified risk assessment users, agencies should require that these users participate in an annual booster session. Options for participating in an annual booster session could be webinars, on-demand training, regional trainings, conference sessions, etc.

10. IOCS will, subject to available resources, have IYAS master trainers in collaboration with IYAS certified trainers or qualified contractors create additional curriculum to enhance booster sessions or other training resources to continue improving certified risk assessment users' skills and abilities to conduct quality assessments.
11. IOCS will, subject to available resources, provide more training to agencies with certified users on implementing continuous quality improvement strategies, specifically related to the completion of valid assessments, as well as the skills needed to perform this responsibility (e.g., interview skills, etc.) and other skills related to the use of risk assessment information (e.g., using assessment information and results for case planning, etc.) to strengthen agencies compliance with the current Probation Standards for quality improvement requirements.

Stakeholders

12. Subject to available resources, IOCS will collaborate with IPAC, IPDC, DOC, DCS, DMHA, and behavioral health providers to provide informational sessions on the IYAS Tools to assist stakeholders in better understanding the purpose of risk and need assessments, the proper use of assessment results, and the value of this information for making decisions and providing services to justice involved youth and their families. These opportunities should be provided routinely as a part of orientations for new judges, new prosecutors, and new defense attorneys. In addition, ongoing education should be presented to any youth justice stakeholders who receive and rely on assessment information in their work. These educational offerings can be provided in many formats including webinars, on-demand trainings, regional trainings, conference sessions, etc.

Content requirements

13. In developing the educational materials for each stakeholder group, the following elements must be included to help each stakeholder better understand and use the assessment information to help inform their decisions and recommendations:
 - The definition of validated risk screening tools and assessment tools
 - The scope of information provided by each IYAS Tool and what the information means
 - How to properly use the results of each IYAS Tool in decision-making, including how to use information from multiple assessments in the decision-making process

- How assessment information is provided within various reports to judicial officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and others eligible to receive these reports
- Understanding outcomes for validated tools as it relates to the purpose and scope at that decision point
- Required data entry and communication between agencies
- Best practices for referral/case processing steps, and the timeliness of completing needed assessments, including areas for local policy development

To assist with implementing the case processing and assessment steps, a model assessment tool utilization and case processing chart is provided in the appendix. This chart can aid all stakeholders and agency staff in better understanding the case processing steps and what assessments are required at each step to enhance compliance with HEA 1359-2022 and provide for more consistency among the youth justice agencies.

Data and Research related to Risk Screening and Assessment Tools

14. IOCS, in collaboration with critical stakeholders, should continue to engage in ongoing study of the IYAS Tools for the purpose of improving adherence to evidence-based practices, assessing and maintaining the reliability and validity of the IYAS Tools, and to further inform improvements to training and education offerings.
15. IOCS should, subject to available resources, conduct research into the use of complementary assessments along with the IYAS results to support jurisdictions' use of these tools to support individualized decisions and case planning. This level of research can further inform jurisdictions on policies, procedures, and implementation of best practice to reduce future involvement with the justice system.

Screening and Assessment Work Group

16. The Screening and Assessment Work Group should remain a standing work group to provide guiding recommendations to the YJOC. The ability to have a diverse group continue to review processes and policies for continued improvement of the use of the IYAS in Indiana is critical to the ongoing work of the YJOC, its work groups, and local jurisdictions. The proper implementation of validated risk and needs assessment tools

are foundational to all the other efforts necessary to further reduce recidivism among justice involved youth.

Screening and Assessment Workgroup Members

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Appendix

Proposed Amendments to the Indiana Youth Assessment System Policy

Policy for Indiana Youth Assessment System

Adopted on January 15, 2010 by the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana

Indiana Youth Assessment System

The Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS) is made up of six instruments to be used at specific points in the juvenile justice process to identify a youth’s risk to reoffend and criminogenic needs. These instruments are used at distinct points in the juvenile justice system to promote and assist with developing individualized case plans. By appropriately targeting the identified criminogenic needs through individualized case plans, it is anticipated recidivism will be reduced.

The agency with primary case management responsibilities for a youth shall ensure that the appropriate IYAS instruments and reassessments are completed according to the policies in the table below. All completed IYAS assessments and reassessments shall be entered into the INCite Risk Assessment Application within 30 days after completing the assessment or reassessment interview. The assessment/reassessment information is designed to be updated as a youth proceeds through the juvenile justice system. Accordingly, if the assessment/reassessment and case plan information has been completed within the last six months, departments and programs should be able to access and rely on accurate and timely information for a specific youth when beginning supervision.

When appropriate, agencies are encouraged to use complimentary assessment tools in conjunction with the IYAS to assist in developing individualized case plans when specific risk, need, or responsivity factors (i.e., substance abuse, mental health, sex offense, etc.) are identified by an IYAS tool.

This risk assessment instrument shall be used in Indiana court proceedings and for court-ordered supervision in accordance with the policies adopted by the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana.

The Indiana Youth Assessment System shall be used as follows:

Instruments	Purpose of Tool and Best Practices Recommendations	Policy when used in Juvenile Justice System	Case Plan Required	Reassessment Policy
Diversion tool	<p>This tool is designed to assess a youth’s risk to reoffend within the next 12 months.</p> <p>It is a best practice to complete this tool at initial contact for the instant offense to assist in making diversion decisions.</p>	<p>The Diversion tool shall be completed <u>upon referral to the intake officer to assist in making decisions for diversion or if the youth is being considered for</u> informal adjustment.</p>	None	None

Detention tool	<p>This tool is designed to assess a youth’s risk to reoffend within the next 12 months.</p> <p>It is a best practice to complete this tool prior to detention to assist in making hold/release decisions. This tool can also assist in making decisions regarding releases from detention.</p>	<p>The Detention tool shall be completed if the youth is detained in <u>being considered for</u> detention.</p>	None	None
Disposition Screener	<p>This tool is designed to quickly identify low-risk youth and determine if a full risk assessment should be completed.</p>	<p>The Disposition Screener shall be completed at post-adjudication/pre-disposition.</p> <p><u>*Exception</u> – If local policy requires a full risk assessment be completed, the screener does not have to be completed for that case.</p>	None	None
Disposition tool	<p>This tool is designed to assess a youth’s risk to reoffend and identify criminogenic needs to assist in making decisions regarding post-adjudication supervision.</p> <p>It is a best practice to reassess a youth’s risk prior to termination of supervision in order to measure change in behavior, but the results of the reassessment should not be the determining factor regarding termination of supervision.</p>	<p>The Disposition tool shall be completed at post-adjudication/pre-disposition if youth scored moderate/high risk on the Disposition Screener.</p> <p><u>*Exception</u> – If youth will be sent to a private placement, then the Residential tool would be completed instead of the Disposition tool.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Based on reassessment results, case plans should be updated as needed.</p>	<p>Reassessments using the Disposition tool shall be completed every six months.</p> <p>More frequent reassessments may be completed based on local policy.</p>
Residential tool	<p>This tool is designed to assess a youth’s risk to reoffend and identify criminogenic needs to</p>	<p>The Residential tool shall be completed if the youth is placed in long-term (3 months or longer) residential care.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Based on reassessment results, case</p>	<p>Reassessments shall be completed every six</p>

	assist in making decisions regarding level of placement, case planning and length of stay recommendations.	<p>If the youth is being committed to the Department of Correction (DOC), DOC will complete the Residential tool and required reassessments.</p> <p>If the youth is being sent to a private placement, the sending agency is responsible for completing the Residential tool and required reassessments.</p>	plans should be updated as needed.	<p>months. The Reentry tool is the proper tool for reassessing a youth placed in a residential setting.</p> <p>More frequent reassessments may be completed based on local policy.</p>
Reentry tool	This tool is designed to reassess a youth's risk to reoffend and identify criminogenic needs to assist in making decisions regarding release, case planning, and length of stay in residential placements.	The Reentry tool shall be completed as the reassessment tool for youth in long term residential placements or for youth who have been released from such placements back to community supervision.	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Based on reassessment results, case plans should be updated as needed.</p>	None

Note: If a youth has been waived to the adult system, then the appropriate Indiana Risk Assessment System (IRAS) instruments should be used for the instant offense.

The information gathered in the course of, and as a result of, the risk assessment using the Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS) is confidential. Confidential risk assessment information includes the risk assessment score, the assessment document, the assessment summary and any case plan based on risk assessment results. Confidential risk assessment information may be released to:

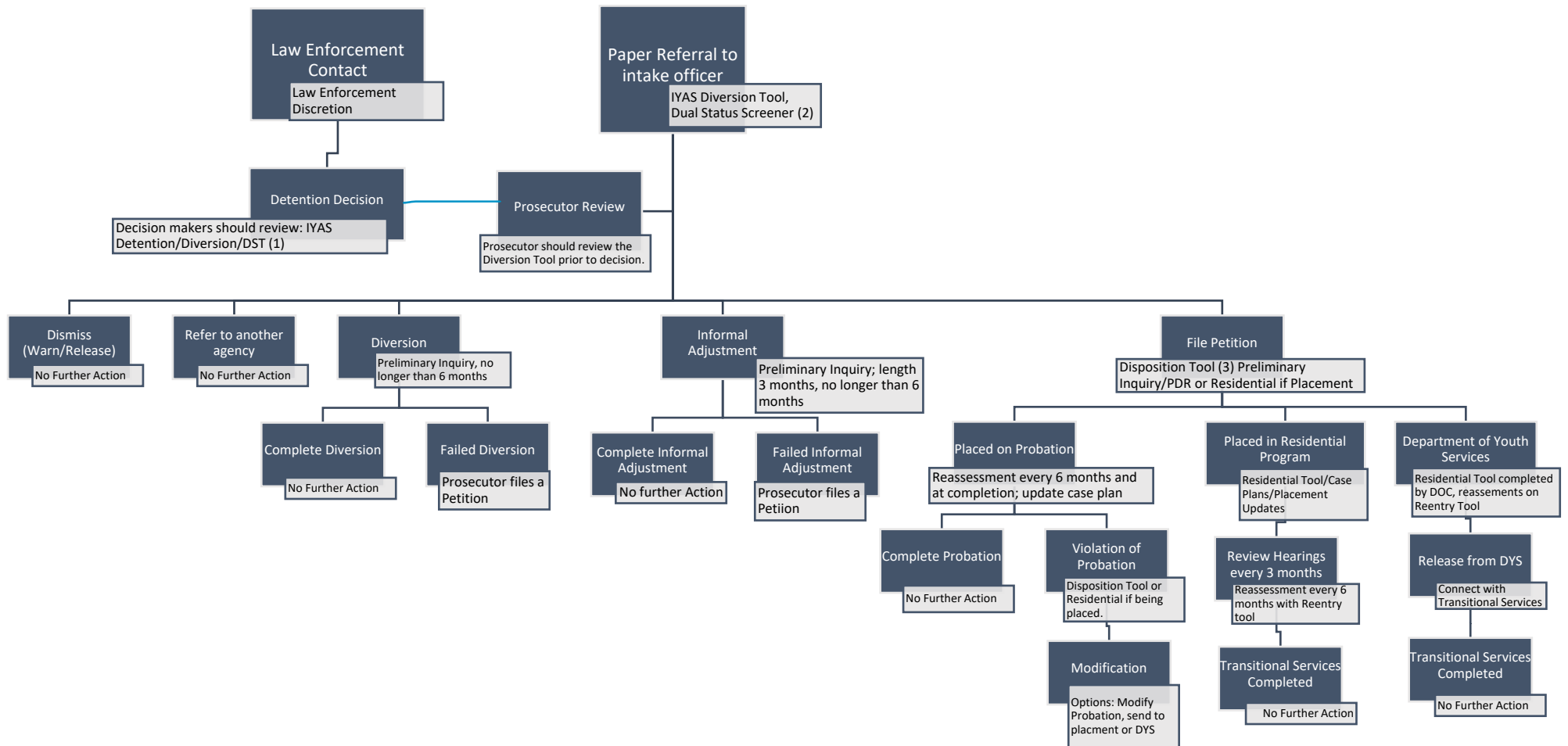
- the court,
- the child,
- the child's attorney of record,
- the child's parent, guardian or custodian,
- the child's guardian ad litem,
- the child's court appointed special advocate,
- the attorney representing the child's parent, guardian, or custodian,
- the prosecuting attorney assigned to the case,
- a probation department,
- a Court Alcohol and Drug Program,
- a Problem-Solving Court,
- a community corrections program,
- the Indiana Department of Correction,
- the Department of Child Services,
- an agency or service provider charged with providing court-ordered services to the child, and
- a person or agency authorized in writing by the child's parent, guardian or custodian.

The confidentiality of risk assessment information shall be maintained by the person, agency, program or service provider receiving this information in accordance with this policy.

Revised March 7, 2014

Model Assessment Tool Utilization and Case Process Chart

Assessment Tool Utilization and Case Process Chart - HEA 1359



Assessment Tool Utilization and Case Process Chart - HEA 1359

- (1) IC 31-37-6-6 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: (a) The juvenile court shall use the results of the detention tool to inform decisions regarding the detention or temporary detention of a child taken into custody under IC 31-37-5.
- (2) IC 31-37-8-1 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: (a) A person may give an intake officer or a prosecuting attorney written information indicating that a child is a delinquent child. (b) If the information is given to the intake officer, the intake officer shall: (1) immediately forward the information to the prosecuting attorney; and (2) complete a dual status screening tool on the child, as described in IC 31-41-1-3; and (3) complete a risk screening tool on the child. (c) If the prosecuting attorney has reason to believe the child has committed a delinquent act, the prosecuting attorney shall instruct the intake officer to make a preliminary inquiry, which includes the use of a risk screening tool, to determine whether the interests of the public or of the child require further action.
- (3) IC 31-37-17-6.1 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: (a) The predispositional report prepared by a probation officer must include the following information: (1) A validated risk and needs assessment as described in section 1 of this chapter.