

# **Implementation Assessment and Validation of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Supervision Risk Classification Instrument (SRCI)**

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Jeb Bush, Governor  
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## **The Supervision Risk Classification Instrument (SRCI)**

The Florida Legislature requires the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to utilize a risk classification instrument (F.S. 985.21 (1) (b) (2)) to determine the "... relative risk to the child and the community ...to classify the child's risk as it relates to placement and supervision alternatives..." In 2000, DJJ developed a new classification instrument to assist juvenile probation staff in determining youths' risk for future offending and to select the most appropriate placement option given risk levels and offense severity. The SRCI was designed by DJJ staff based on the research literature on correlates of delinquency, validated classification instruments used in other states, and reoffending rates of subgroups of juvenile offenders in Florida.<sup>1</sup> A copy of the instrument can be found in Appendix A.

A risk score is obtained by summing points assigned to 10 risk factors correlated with delinquency. Youth are classified into one of four risk levels based on this summed score: low, moderate, high, and very high.<sup>2</sup> Scores are categorized as follows: low-risk: 0-5 points; moderate-risk: 6-10 points; high risk: 11-15 points; and very high risk: 16-25 points. Risk level is then used in combination with the severity of the current offense to identify the most appropriate disposition choice (diversion, probation or commitment).<sup>3</sup>

Effective classification instruments further the Department's efforts to implement successful juvenile justice programming and services. The utility of the SRCI is dependent on the degree to which it accurately predicts recidivism. It is therefore important to assess the reliability and validity of this instrument. The following report presents the results of an implementation assessment and validation study of the SRCI conducted by the Justice Research Center (JRC). The report is separated into two sections, Implementation Assessment and Validity Assessment. Data and analyses vary for each section and are outlined within the corresponding sections.

### **Data Sources**

The primary source of data was the DJJ Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). JJIS contains demographic, delinquency referral and placement information, including a record of admission and release dates, and admission and release reasons for every youth admitted to a program. Arrest and disposition information for youth who reached age 18 or who had cases transferred to adult court was obtained from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC). Risk information was obtained directly from the SRCIs which were completed and maintained on the JJIS WEB system.

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the subgroups consisted of youth adjudicated delinquent and disposed to juvenile commitment programs.

<sup>2</sup> This classification of individual risk should not be confused with the use of the terms low, moderate, high and maximum risk to refer to program restrictiveness levels.

<sup>3</sup> The SRCI is designed to provide a basis for the Juvenile Probation Officer's (JPO) disposition recommendation to the state attorney. However, neither the state attorney nor the judge is obligated to follow the JPO's recommendation. Therefore, the case may be disposed in a way that is inconsistent with the SRCI.

Because SRCI data are maintained in a separate JJIS database from delinquency referral and placement information, a key to conducting this study was being able to successfully link SRCIs to their corresponding referral data. The SRCI forms are linked to these data by a unique referral number. It is the responsibility of the DJJ staff person completing the SRCI to link the SRCI to the correct referral, and their failure to do so could lead to inaccurate interpretations.

Complicating matters is the current structure of JJIS which limits the linking of an SRCI to a single referral, even if multiple referrals are received on the same date and are being considered as a group. For the Implementation Assessment component of this report, computer code was developed to link each SRCI to all referrals received on the same date. The same issue arises when tying placement data to SRCIs, which is necessary in order to determine the services youth received and the time period during which they were received. In identifying samples of youth who had been disposed to various placements, the referral number linked to the placement was used to identify the SRCI. Unfortunately, until the advent of the Bed Management System in October 2002, placements could only be tied to a single referral, even though multiple referrals may have been disposed together and resulted in a single placement. Therefore, while it is possible that multiple SRCIs were completed for the placement of interest, only the SRCI that was linked to the placement was used for this analysis.

## **Methods**

This is a retrospective study examining youth who had SRCIs completed since the instrument was implemented statewide in January 2001. As with any new procedure it has taken time to institutionalize the use of the tool for all youth and to ensure that the instrument is properly entered into JJIS. During the time period being studied, not all referrals had SRCIs completed and entered into JJIS. There is anecdotal evidence that youth who failed probation and were subsequently committed, were not re-assessed with the SRCI for the referral associated with that commitment. In addition, standard operating procedures in some areas of the state automatically dictate diversion of youth based on their offense (i.e., first time misdemeanants), so those youth are not assessed with SRCI. Given these issues, it is possible that the population of youth/referrals with SRCIs is not representative of the population of all youth referred to DJJ. The possibility of systematic bias in staff decisions to administer SRCIs must be kept in mind when interpreting the results.

## **Implementation Assessment**

The SRCI was implemented as part of DJJ's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) web-based application in January 2001. Between 2001 and June 30, 2003, over 300,000 SRCIs were completed on the JJIS Web. The forms represent 164,809 youth and 256,230 total referrals.

Initial examination of the data revealed a number of implementation issues. Among the practices observed were multiple SRCIs being completed on the same referral. Approximately 14% of all referrals had multiple SRCIs attached to them. In one instance, a single referral had 10 SRCIs linked to it. These SRCIs were examined to try and determine if there was any sort of pattern. It appeared that some staff filled out an additional SRCI after a youth was disposed to probation. However, staff did not do this consistently for all their clients. Given this inconsistent practice, it

is recommended that clarification be provided to staff regarding the policy as to when an SRCI should be completed.

There were also isolated instances of multiple SRCIs being completed on the same day (2.4% or 7,211 forms) including one instance in which 44 different SRCIs were completed on the same youth on one day because the youth came in with 44 different referrals and different charges.

Given the various data issues, one of the major tasks of the current assessment was to identify a sample of youth for study. It was determined that separate samples would be used for the Implementation Assessment and Validity Assessment, as the later required placement follow-up data with different tracking requirements. For the purposes of examining implementation issues, it was decided that the most relevant information would be gained from examining those forms completed during fiscal year (FY) 2002-03.

SRCIs were completed on a total of 84,514 youth during FY 2002-03. While official numbers for FY 2002-03 are not yet available, it is estimated that 101,836 youth were referred to DJJ during the fiscal year. Of those, 91,657 youth were referred for felonies and/or misdemeanors. It appears that for youth referred for felonies and misdemeanors, 92% had at least one SRCI completed during the year.

### **Prevalence of Risk Factors**

In assessing prevalence of SRCI risk factors for youth referred in FY 2002-03, a total of 312 youth were excluded, as there was a strong indication that their SRCI had been tied to the incorrect referral. The remaining 84,202 youth were used in the Implementation Assessment analysis that follows.

For the youth referred in FY 2002-03, the SRCI assessment data on risk factors revealed:

- 55% have no prior referrals,
- 77% had never been placed on probation or committed,
- 47% were 16 years or older,
- 72% had no drug use,
- 64% were regularly attending school or had graduated,
- 55% had primarily negative peers,
- 1% were involved in a gang or had peers in a gang,
- 53% were judged to have parents who provided only limited control or supervision,
- 9% had a history of neglect or abuse,
- 27% were judged to be in need of a mental health assessment,
- 7% had a current mental health diagnosis or were taking prescription medications, and
- 9% were 16 years or older and not employed or in school.

### **Distribution of Risk Levels**

As noted above, probation staff use the SRCI to assess youth on 10 risk factors and the score from each factor is summed and categorized into one of four risk levels. Possible SRCI scores

range from 0-25, with individual category scores noted below. In FY 2002-03 youth were assessed as follows:

<u>Risk Level</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Number</u>
Low (0-5)	54%	45,428
Moderate (6-10)	36%	30,562
High (11-15)	9%	7,459
Very high (16-25)	1%	753

Slightly over one-half of the youth screened in FY 2002-03 were rated as low risk. Only 10% of the youth were rated as high or very high risk.

### **Supervision Category**

The risk level is combined with the seriousness of the current offense (second degree misdemeanor through first degree violent felony) in a matrix that is used to identify the most appropriate disposition choice (diversion, probation or commitment) (see Appendix A for the instrument and matrix).

For youth screened in FY 2002-03, the SRCI indicated that diversion was the appropriate disposition for slightly more than half the youth, while commitment was determined to be the appropriate disposition for only seven percent of the youth.

<u>Supervision Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Number</u>
Diversion	55%	46,083
Probation (total)	39%	32,522
<i>Minimum Probation</i>	(17%)	(14,177)
<i>General Probation</i>	(15%)	(12,309)
<i>Intensive Probation</i>	(7%)	(6,036)
Commitment	7%	5,597

### **Comparing First-time Offenders and Repeat Offenders**

The SRCI distinguishes between first time offenders and repeat offenders. While most first-time offenders were rated as low risk (73%), close to half of the repeat offenders were rated as moderate risk (48%). No first-time offenders were rated as very high risk and only one percent were rated high risk. Twenty-one percent of the repeat offenders were rated as high or very high risk.

<u>Risk level</u>	<u>First-time Offenders</u>	<u>Repeat Offenders</u>
Low (0-5)	73%	31%
Moderate (6-10)	27%	48%
High (11-15)	1%	19%
Very high (16-25)	0%	2%

### **Examining Error Rates in SRCI Scores**

Of the 10 risk factors, it was possible to use other data sources available in JJIS to validate the accuracy of four of the factors (prior referrals, prior disposition, age and employment). Using

the JJIS information, a risk score was re-calculated for each SRCI based solely on the JJIS data. Of the SRCIs completed in FY 2002-03, 20% had an incorrect risk score. While this appears at first to be a substantial problem, in fact errors on individual risk factors only impact the outcome if they result in the youth's risk level being identified incorrectly. This occurred on only 5% of the SRCI forms. Thus the SRCI error rate, as can be determined with JJIS cross-validation data, is relatively low. Data were not available to determine the accuracy of scoring on drug or alcohol use, school adjustment, peer relationships, parental control, abuse/neglect, or mental health.

In the section that follows, a discussion of the error rate on the four risk factors is presented. In determining the accuracy of the data, the *Supervision Risk Classification Form Users Guide* was referenced.

Risk Factor: Prior Referrals

The Users Guide states:

The number of prior referrals is calculated using the JJIS referral ID number. All charges contained within a referral ID number are counted as one referral regardless of disposition, i.e., count nolle prosequi, closed without sanctions, judicial warning, and other judicial handling. Do not count pick-up orders or detention orders. Do count violations of probation.

Of the youth with SRCIs in 2002-03, 10% had a score that was inconsistent with what was calculated based on JJIS. A breakdown of the differences between SRCI scores and scores re-calculated based on JJIS data is presented below.

<u>Number of Priors</u>	<u>Prior Referrals</u>	
	<u>Per SRCI</u>	<u>Per JJIS</u>
7 or more	6.5%	5.9%
5 or 6	4.3%	4.1%
3 or 4	8.6%	8.2%
1 or 2	25.4%	26.4%
None	55.2%	55.5%

Risk Factor: Prior Disposition

The Users Guide states:

Score the youth in relation to the highest level of court ordered disposition PRIOR to this referral number. For example, a previously committed youth who has been released and is now on probation would score 2 points based on the prior commitment. NOTE: If the form is being filled out after disposition, DO NOT count the disposition associated with the referral number this form is for. In other words, if the youth was just put on probation and you are using the form to



determine level of probation, do not give points for probation unless there was a previous probation sentence.

Of the youth with SRCIs in 2002-03, six percent had a score that was inconsistent with the calculations based on JJIS. A breakdown of the differences between SRCI scores and scores re-calculated based on JJIS data is presented below.

Highest Level of Prior Disposition or Current Status

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Per SRCI</u>	<u>Per JJIS</u>
Commitment	6.1%	6.9%
Probation	17.2%	17.2%
Neither	76.7%	75.9%

Risk Factor: Age at Current Offense

The Users Guide states:

Score the youth's age on the date of the arrest associated with the referral number.

There was a low error rate on this risk factor. Only four percent of the SRCIs appeared to have the wrong age. A breakdown of the differences between SRCI scores and scores re-calculated based on JJIS data is presented below.

Age at Current Offense

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Per SRCI</u>	<u>Per JJIS</u>
13 or under	20.3%	20.9%
14 or 15	33.2%	33.0%
16 or over	46.6%	46.1%

Risk Factor: Employment

The Users Guide states:

- Score 2 points for youth 16 and older who are not employed or not in a vocational or academic educational setting. Even youth with a GED or high school diploma who are not pursuing additional education, vocational training and are not employed should be awarded 2 points.
- Score 0 points all others.

It was only possible to identify those SRCIs where the score indicated the youth was 16 or older when he/she was in fact under 16 years of age. Just 0.3% (235) of the SRCIs had this error.

## **Administering the SRCI**

Completing the SRCI involves three steps:

1. Calculating a risk score and identifying the risk level;
2. Identifying the most serious charge and classifying it by level (felony or misdemeanor) and degree (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>); and
3. Using the matrix to identify the most appropriate supervision category.

As the user selects the correct score for each risk factor, JJIS WEB automatically computes a total and identifies the risk level. This prevents mistakes in addition, and ensures the identification of the corresponding risk level.

The second step requires the user to pull up the charge screen in JJIS in order to identify the most serious charge associated with the referral. The charge screen contains information on offense level (felony or misdemeanor) and degree (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) allowing the user to determine the most serious charge. In addition, the matrix requires an identification of crimes as violent or non-violent. It should be noted that there are no guidelines for staff to follow in identifying crimes as violent.

The third step requires the user to view the 4 x 4 matrix, (risk levels by categories of most serious charge) to select the most appropriate supervision category. Each of the cells contains one or more of the following supervision categories:

1. Diversion
2. Minimum Probation
3. General Probation
4. Intensive Probation
5. Commitment

Of the 16 cells, 11 contain two supervision categories. Staff are instructed to use their professional judgment to choose the most appropriate of the two categories.

### **Assessing the Accuracy of the Supervision Category Chosen**

JJIS data were used to determine the category and level of the current referral, and examine it in relation to the SRCI risk score to determine into which cell on the matrix the youth should have fallen (i.e., what the supervision category should have been).

In examining the 84,202 SRCI forms, it was not possible to determine whether the correct supervision category had been chosen for six percent of the instruments. This was due to the lack of information in JJIS about the category and level of the crime. For example, when SRCIs were tied to a referral where the only charge was *prosecution previously deferred*, it was not possible to determine the original charge.

There appeared to be a high rate of error in choosing the supervision category. One in 5 forms was not consistent with calculations based on JJIS. This suggests that staff may need to be trained on using the matrix. The problem may lie in determining level and degree of the most serious offense. As this information is not always readily available to staff, they may be guessing. A list of violent crimes should be delineated and made available to staff to ensure that offenses are being accurately categorized.

### **SRCI Overrides**

There is a procedure for overriding the instrument that allows staff to use their professional judgment to select a different supervision category than indicated. A justification for the override must be provided and the JPO supervisor must agree to the override and sign the form.

In examining overrides, the first pattern that stood out was that on 44% of the forms where an override was indicated, the override was, in fact, the same as the original supervision category. JRC notified DJJ's Probation and Community Corrections staff of these findings and after discussions, notification was sent to all JPO supervisors to clarify that the override field should only be filled in if the supervision category generated from the matrix is felt to be inappropriate for the youth. During these discussions it was reported that at least in one area, staff were using the override to identify the alternative choice on the matrix. Out of 16 cells on the matrix, 11 allow staff to employ their professional judgment to select one of two choices (e.g. commitment or intensive probation). Instead of choosing one, staff were listing one choice in the Juvenile Supervision Category and the other in the Override Category.

Ten percent (8,259) of the forms contained actual overrides. Interestingly, in 710 instances the staff had indicated an incorrect supervision category and the override category that was selected was actually the supervision category that the SRCI would have indicated had it been completed correctly. Given the information received about some staff filling in the override box with the alternative supervision choice, the real rate of overrides might be slightly lower.

Most overrides were in the direction of a higher level of supervision (68%). Over half the overrides were youth for whom the matrix indicated diversion, but for whom staff selected probation. There were very few instances of extreme overrides. For example, there were only 134 instances where diversion was the category indicated by the SRCI and staff overrode the instrument to select commitment. There were 55 instances where commitment was the category indicated by the SRCI and staff overrode the instrument to select diversion. Although rare events, further examination of these extreme cases might shed light on how the instrument is being used.

Nineteen percent of the overrides (1,507 of 8,259) did not include a justification as required. It may be that some of these are instances where staff members were using the override field to indicate the alternative choice when the matrix provided two supervision choices.

The justification field is a text field and is therefore difficult to analyze. However, a random review of the justifications provides some issues related to implementation. One problem is staff having to fill out the SRCI when they have had no contact with the youth. There are a number of instances where the justification given for overriding the instrument indicated that the youth did

not attend the intake conference. The JPO may have given the youth scores of zeros on items for which they had no information, and then “overrode” the instrument based on prior history to recommend a higher supervision level. Another problem was instances in which the justification given added no information, such as when the override indicated probation and the justification stated “recommend probation.” This should be addressed in future training.

### **The Timing of the Administration of the SRCI**

Of the 84,202 youth with SRCIs in 2002-03, a total of 72,455 had their case disposed by the time this study was performed. Of these, 75% of the SRCIs had been completed prior to the disposition date, 6% had been completed on the disposition date and 20% were completed after the disposition date. There appeared to be confusion about when and how often the SRCI was supposed to be completed. There are two QA standards related to the SRCI. One states:

I5.05 Supervision and risk classification instruments are completed for each youth within 30 calendar days of the youth’s placement on supervision or post commitment community control. The JPO/contracted case manager conducts formal reclassifications every 60 calendar days as well as whenever there is:

- a new law violation,
- major or numerous technical violations,
- or there is significant improvement based on completion of treatment plan interventions.

In discussions with DJJ staff, it was determined that this QA standard is not consistent with the Intervention Services Manual. Further confusion may occur because the standard mentions doing reclassifications every 60 days and shows a picture of the SRCI, while failing to mention that there is a separate Reclassification Instrument. One of the central implementation issues that should be clarified in policy is when the SRCI should be completed.

### **Implementation Recommendations**

Based on the implementation assessment, the following recommendations are offered to improve administration of the SRCI.

1. The major issue to be addressed is the timing of administering the SRCI. This should be determined and fully explained to all staff responsible for its administration.
2. The SRCI Users Guide, developed as part of a pilot, should be reviewed, corrected as needed, and disseminated to all users.
3. Guidelines for when overrides are appropriate should be developed and added to the Users Guide. An explanation of the type of information that should be included as a justification for overriding the instrument should also be provided.
4. Within JJIS it should be possible to associate a SRCI with more than one referral in a way similar to how the new bed management system ties multiple referrals to one placement. It needs to be determined if MIS has plans to make such a change.

5. Ease of use, as well as accuracy of the SRCI, could be improved if the most serious charge was identified on the SRCI form in JJIS WEB once the user selected a referral. This would require reprogramming by MIS. Ideally the programming would automatically identify the appropriate supervision category based on the risk score and the most serious charge. Given the historical difficulties getting changes made to JJIS, this may not be achievable in the near future.

## Validity Assessment

The utility of the SRCI is dependent on the degree to which it accurately predicts recidivism. To track youth's reoffending after administration of the SRCI a variety of follow-up periods can be examined including:

- 1) From the date of the SRCI
- 2) From the date of disposition of the referral
- 3) During the placement period - Offenses during supervision (ODS)
- 4) From the date of release from a placement

For the final two measures it is necessary for youth to have completed their sentence. For the fourth measure the youth must also have been back in the community for a period of time. To balance the desire for a large sample size with a reasonable follow-up period, a six-month period was chosen.<sup>4</sup> In order to capture conviction information, it is the established DJJ procedure to examine data that are at least three months old. This restriction limits our sample to youth whose six-month follow-up period ended prior to October 1, 2002.

When youth who met the date criteria were matched to the available SRCIs, a main sample of all youth with an SRCI was obtained, along with three sub-samples of youth based on case disposition. As such, the following four samples were created:

- 1) Youth with a completed SRCI
- 2) Youth disposed to diversion
- 3) Youth released from probation
- 4) Youth released from commitment

The details of each selection process are described below.

SRCI 2002 sample: The most straightforward way to select a sample is to identify all youth for whom there was a six month follow-up period following administration of the SRCI (i.e., a period of at least six months have passed since risk level was assessed). For youth who had more than one SRCI that met these criteria, the first SRCI was selected for the study. This produced a sample (referred to henceforth as SRCI 2002) of 24,140 youth. The drawback to this approach is that time at risk (i.e., time in the community) varies due to detention stays and possibly

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<sup>4</sup> While a one-year follow-up period would have been preferable, this would have reduced the sample size significantly. Furthermore, DJJ's studies of recidivism have repeatedly shown that approximately 75% of the youth rearrested within one year are arrested within the first six months after release.

commitment placements that occur during the six-month follow-up period. In addition, services received such as diversion, probation or commitment services vary and could impact the likelihood of reoffending.

Diversion sample: The second sample consists of youth who had a disposition to diversion prior to October 1, 2002, and for whom an SRCI was administered prior to the date of disposition.<sup>5</sup> These youth were tracked for six months from the date of their disposition to diversion. Since diversionary placements are not completely and accurately captured in JJIS it was not possible to track these youth from the end of their diversionary service. The drawback to this approach is that any arrests that occurred between the date of the SRCI and the date of disposition are not captured.

Probation sample: The third sample consists of youth released from probation prior to October 1, 2002, and for whom an SRCI was administered prior to the date of disposition. Outcome measures covering two different time periods were collected on these youth. Offenses during supervision (ODS) measures new offenses occurring during the time youth received probation services. The second measure is readjudication/conviction for an offense that occurred within six-months of release and ultimately resulted in readjudication in juvenile court or conviction as an adult. A third measure combines these two measures of total re-conviction rate from the time they are admitted to probation through six-months after release (ODS/Reconviction). The total time varies by youth depending on the length of their term of probation.

Commitment sample: The fourth sample consists of youth released from residential commitment prior to October 1, 2002, and for whom an SRCI was administered prior to the date of disposition. The same outcome measures were collected for these youth as for the probation sample. Offenses during supervision (ODS) however are significantly reduced by the incapacitation effect of commitment.

### **Relationship Between Risk Factors and Reoffending**

The first step in validating the SRCI is to examine the relationship between the risk factors and reoffending.<sup>6</sup> Table 1 illustrates the relationship for all four samples.

Prior Referrals: Generally, there is a linear pattern exhibited between prior referrals (as categorized on the SRCI) and reoffending, such that as the number of priors increases, the percent of youth who reoffend also increases. The exception to this is youth with seven or more prior referrals who had slightly lower reoffending rates than youth with five or six referrals. This suggests that the specificity of the instrument may be unwarranted and that five or more referrals would distinguish youth as effectively than the current categories of five or six, and seven or more priors. It should be noted that there is evidence that staff may be miscalculating priors. It

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<sup>5</sup> Although seemingly in violation of DJJ procedures, a number of youth had SRCIs completed after their case was disposed. These cases were excluded from all analyses as it can reasonably be concluded that risk level was not used in the case processing decision.

<sup>6</sup> Reoffending is defined for each sample as described previously.

**Table 1: Reoffending Rates by Risk Factors**

<b>Risk Factors and Scoring</b>	<b>SRCI Score</b>	<b>SRCI 2002</b>	<b>Diversion Sample</b>	<b>Probation Sample</b>	<b>Commitment Sample</b>
Prior Referrals		$\chi=0.22$ **	$\chi=0.16$ **	$\chi=0.13$ **	$\chi=0.07$
None	0	9.1%	6.9%	32.4%	18.4%
One or two	1	20.0%	14.1%	40.5%	24.0%
Three or four	2	26.0%	23.4%	48.0%	26.9%
Five or six	3	30.0%	28.4%	50.7%	26.9%
Seven or more	5	29.7%	25.9%	50.6%	29.9%
Highest Prior Disposition		$\chi=0.16$ **	$\chi=0.09$ **	$\chi=0.03$ **	$\chi=0.05$
None	0	13.3%	8.5%	38.8%	23.0%
Probation	1	27.8%	22.1%	41.6%	26.5%
Commitment	2	25.0%	22.7%	45.8%	29.3%
Age Current Arrest		$\chi=0.05$ **	$\chi=0.04$ **	$\chi=0.16$ **	$\chi=0.15$ **
16 or older	0	15.7%	8.2%	31.3%	20.0%
14 or 15	2	19.5%	10.6%	46.7%	30.0%
13 or under	4	15.5%	8.2%	47.9%	37.3%
Drug Alcohol Use		$\chi=0.09$ **	$\chi=0.09$ **	$\chi=0.10$ **	$\chi=0.06$
No use	0	14.6%	7.7%	35.7%	28.7%
Occasional use w/some disruption	1	21.9%	12.2%	45.1%	26.5%
Chronic use w/serious disruption	2	23.5%	16.1%	46.7%	22.2%
School Adjustment		$\chi=0.11$ **	$\chi=0.09$ **	$\chi=0.14$ **	$\chi=0.03$
Regular Attendance or Graduated	0	13.8%	7.4%	33.0%	24.9%
Chronic Tardiness or Truancy	1	23.3%	14.3%	48.0%	27.7%
Suspended, Expelled Dropped out	2	22.0%	12.4%	45.5%	25.9%
Peer Relationships		$\chi=0.13$ **	$\chi=0.08$ **	$\chi=0.14$ **	$\chi=0.01$
Primarily positive peers	0	11.2%	7.1%	31.3%	26.0%
Primarily negative peers/no peers	1	20.9%	11.3%	44.6%	26.1%
Gang involvement or peers are in a gang	2	27.1%	21.6%	51.1%	27.5%
Parental Control		$\chi=0.13$ **	$\chi=0.09$ **	$\chi=0.15$ **	$\chi=0.08$ **
Effective Control or supervision	0	10.6%	6.8%	31.1%	18.8%
Limited control or supervision	1	19.2%	11.0%	42.8%	27.9%
No control or supervision	2	24.3%	15.9%	52.9%	27.5%
History of Abuse/neglect		$\chi=0.05$ **	$\chi=0.05$ **	$\chi=0.07$ **	$\chi=0.03$
None	0	16.3%	8.6%	38.4%	25.7%
History of neglect	1	22.4%	13.6%	48.9%	30.7%
History of physical or sexual abuse	2	21.5%	14.1%	49.0%	26.5%
Mental Health		$\chi=0.07$ **	$\chi=0.06$ **	$\chi=0.10$ **	$\chi=0.07$ *
All others	0	15.0%	8.0%	35.8%	23.8%
Assessment needed	1	19.8%	11.2%	45.2%	26.7%
Current diagnosis, in treatment, or prescribed medication	2	21.7%	13.4%	47.1%	32.2%
Employment		$\chi=0.04$ **	$\chi=0.02$ **	$\chi=0.02$	$\chi=0.02$
All others	0	16.4%	8.9%	40.0%	26.6%
16 or over, not employed, and not pursuing an education	2	21.6%	11.7%	37.8%	25.0%
<b>N</b>		<b>24,140</b>	<b>35,048</b>	<b>11,718</b>	<b>1,726</b>

Chi-Square Based Statistic: Cramer's V \*\* $p<.01$  \* $p<.05$

was determined that of the youth with SRCIs completed in 2002-03, 10% were scored in a way that was inconsistent with what JRC calculated based on data in JJIS.

Prior Disposition: While reoffending rates are higher for youth with prior dispositions, there is little difference between youth with only a prior probation disposition and those with a prior commitment disposition. There is a roughly three percentage point difference between the two categories for the probation and commitment samples. In the SRCI 2002 sample, youth with prior commitments reoffended at slightly *lower* rates than those with only prior probation dispositions. In the diversion sample there is virtually no difference. It is possible that this may be due in part to errors in the classification of youth' prior dispositions. Of the youth with SRCIs in 2002-03, 6% had a score that was inconsistent with what was calculated based on JJIS.

Age at Current Arrest: This risk factor has varying effects depending on the sample. For the SRCI 2002 and the diversion sample, youth who were 14 or 15 at the time of their current arrest had a greater reoffending rate than youth who were younger (13 and under) or older (16 and over). For the probation sample the youngest youth (13 and younger) exhibited the higher reoffending rates, although there was little difference between this group and those who were 14 or 15 at the time of their arrest. Only for the commitment sample was there a clear linear relationship between age at current arrest and reoffending.

Questions have been raised about the relationship between reoffending and age at first offense and whether this would be a better variable to include in the SRCI. Table 2 presents the relationship between reoffending and the two age variables. The results are mixed. There is little difference in the relationship between the two age variables and reoffending for the SRCI 2002 sample, however for the diversion and probation samples age at first offense distinguishes between the youngest youth better than age at current arrest. For the commitment sample, age at current arrest distinguishes among the three groups more clearly than age at first offense.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 2: Comparison of Re-offending Rates  
by Age at First Offense and Age at Current Arrest**

<b>Risk Factors and Scoring</b>	<b>SRCI 2002</b>	<b>Diversion Sample</b>	<b>Probation Sample</b>	<b>Commitment Sample</b>
Age at first offense	$\chi=0.05$ **	$\chi=0.06$ **	$\chi=0.17$ **	$\chi=0.11$ **
16 or older	15.8%	6.5%	25.0%	18.9%
14 or 15	19.4%	9.5%	38.7%	20.6%
13 or under	15.4%	10.9%	47.1%	30.1%
Age at current arrest	$\chi=0.05$ **	$\chi=0.04$ **	$\chi=0.16$ **	$\chi=0.15$ **
16 or older	15.7%	8.2%	31.3%	20.0%
14 or 15	19.5%	10.6%	46.7%	30.0%
13 or under	15.5%	8.2%	47.9%	37.3%
N	24,133	35,030	11,718	1,726

\*\*  $p < .01$

Drug and Alcohol Use: For the SRCI 2002, diversion and probation samples, chronic drug and/or alcohol users had greater rates of reoffending than those classified as non-users or only occasionally users (though the percentage differences were small). This pattern does not hold

<sup>7</sup> The SRCI was developed based on the data that was available which was limited to commitment youth. Age at current offense was chosen as it demonstrated greater predictive power for this group than age at first offense.



true for the commitment sample. In fact for the commitment sample, youths' reoffending was actually inversely related to drug use. Youth in residential placement who were classified as non-users or occasional drug users exhibited the largest reoffending rates. This finding is not supported in the research literature. The reliability of staff scores with regard to youths' drug and alcohol usage may be at issue.

School Adjustment: In all four samples, youth who regularly attended school or who had graduated, reoffended at lower rates than other youth. The differences were smallest for the commitment sample. The results however do not support distinguishing between youth who are chronically tardy/truant, and those who have been suspended, expelled, or dropped out.

Peer Relationships: A very clear pattern emerges with regard to youths' peer relationships. The more negative the peers are rated, the higher the reoffending in the SRCI 2002, diversion, and probation samples. For the commitment sample, peer relationships do little to explain subsequent reoffending rates.

Parental Control: Youth with effective parental control or supervision reoffended at lower rates than youth with limited control in all four samples. Youth with no parental control or supervision reoffended at the highest rates. However, for the commitment sample distinguishing between parents with limited control or supervision and parents with no control or supervision did not improve the ability to predict reoffending rates.

History of Abuse/Neglect: There is little to no difference in reoffending patterns between youth who have experienced abuse and those who have been neglected. While youth who were neglected or abused reoffended at substantially higher rates than those who experienced no abuse or neglect, combining abuse and neglect in the scoring appears warranted.

Mental Health: Youth scored as having no mental health issues reoffended at lower rates than youth with mental health issues. Youth who had a current mental health diagnosis, were in treatment, or had been prescribed medication reoffended at higher rates than youth who were rated as needing a mental health assessment. The differences between these last 2 categories were largest for youth in the commitment sample (26.7% of those needing an assessment reoffended versus 32.3% of those with a current diagnosis, treatment or prescription).

Employment: For the SRCI 2002 and the diversion samples, those who were 16 or older, not employed and not pursuing education reoffended at greater rates than those not falling into this category. However, for the probation and commitment samples, youth 16 or older who were not working or pursuing an education, actually recidivated at slightly lower rates. These differences were not statistically significant however.

Overall, the 10 risk factors appear to be linearly related to reoffending, with a few exceptions and anomalies. As the number of prior referrals increases, the rate of reoffending increases. However, the data suggest that it would be more effective to collapse the current categories into none, one to two, three to four, and five or more prior referrals, as very little variation existed between those with five or six priors and those with seven or more. Youth with prior probation or commitment dispositions likewise typically reoffended at higher rates than youth with no prior

dispositions. There was very little difference, however, between youth with prior probation dispositions and those with prior commitments in terms of reoffending patterns. Again, this finding suggests that it is unnecessary to distinguish prior disposition *type* and rather classification on the basis of whether they have ever had *any* prior disposition may be a more functional measure.

Positive relationships between reoffending and negative peers, lack of parental control, and mental health problems, were evident in all four samples. However, for a number of risk factors, the data would suggest that collapsing categories is warranted. In addition to prior referrals as noted above, school adjustment, abuse or neglect, and mental health could all be collapsed into binary or dichotomous measures of yes (presence of indicator) and no (absence of indicator).

The next steps involved examining the distribution of youth by risk levels and the predictive power of risk factors when combined into a risk score.

### Distribution of Risk Level by Sample

Figures 1 through 4 illustrate the percent of youth classified in each risk level for the four samples. For the SRCI 2002 sample, the majority of youth were classified as low risk, a finding that is consistent with previous research indicating that over one-half of youth referred each year are first time offenders.<sup>8</sup> The diversion sample exhibits similar results with most youth considered a low risk (70%) or moderate risk (28%), and very few considered high or very high risk (2% combined). While on the face of it having high and very high risk kids on diversion seems questionable, it is not possible to tell whether the disposition was appropriate without an in-depth examination of their records. The probation sample was almost evenly split between low (42%) and moderate risk (47%) levels. Again, without an in-depth examination of their records, it is not possible to tell whether the disposition to probation of 1,360 high and very high risk youth was appropriate. The final sample of committed youth is comprised of almost equal

Figure 1: Distribution of Youth Within Risk Levels for SRCI 2002

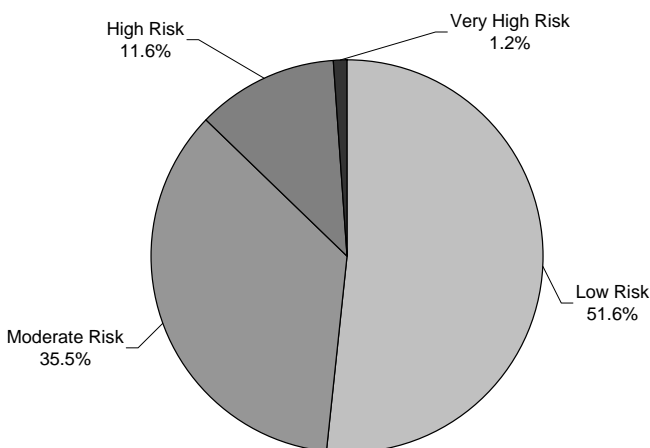
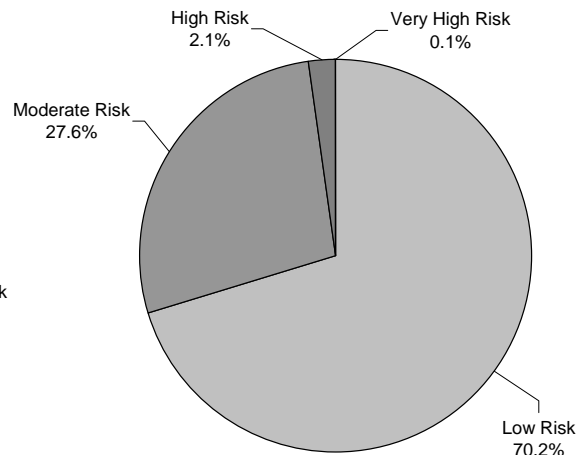
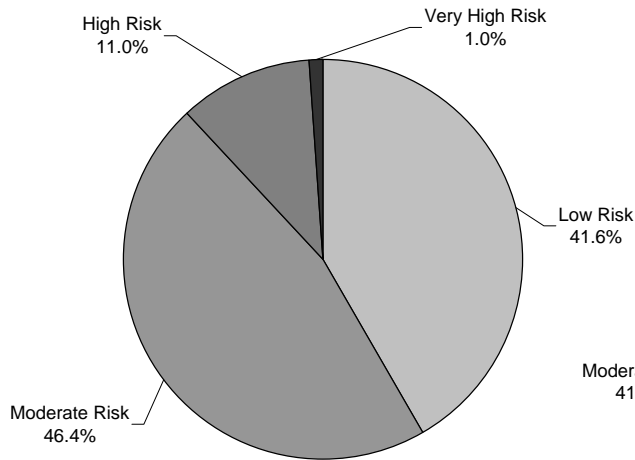


Figure 2: Distribution of Youth Within Risk Levels for Diversion Sample

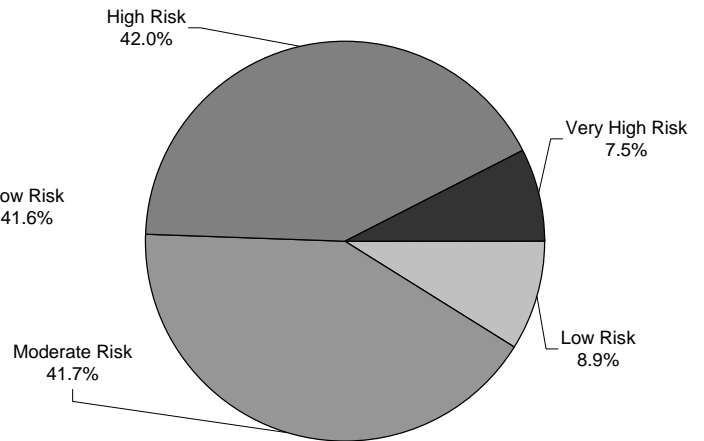


<sup>8</sup> Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. *A Three-Year Longitudinal Analysis of the FY 1992-93 Cohort of First Time Offenders* (February, 1998). Management Report 75.

**Figure 3: Distribution of Youth Within Risk Levels for Probation Sample**



**Figure 4: Distribution of Youth Within Risk Levels for Commitment Sample**



numbers of moderate (41.7%) and high risk youth (42%). Low risk and very high risk youth comprised a combined total of 16% of the remaining commitment sample. The fact that 9% of the commitment sample was comprised of low risk youth is perhaps not surprising, as the matrix directs that low risk youth who commit very serious crimes (1<sup>st</sup> degree or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree violent felonies) be recommended for commitment.

### Correlations between SRCI Score and Outcome Measures

Table 3 reports the correlations between SRCI scores and the four outcome measures of ODS, re-arrest, re-conviction, and ODS/reconviction combined.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 3: Correlations between Total SRCI Scores and Outcome Measures**

	SRCI 2002	Diversion Sample	Probation Sample	Commitment Sample
ODS	n/a	n/a	.20*	.09*
Arrest	.26*	.19*	.14*	.12*
Conviction	.21*	.15*	.13*	.08*
ODS/Reconviction	n/a	n/a	.25*	.11*
N	24,140	35,048	11,718	1,726

*n/a=not applicable \*p<.05*

For each of the samples, correlations were significant and positively related to the outcome measures, indicating that as risk increases the rate of re-arrest, reoffending or offending during supervision likewise increases. The correlations varied from 0.08 to 0.26, which would be

<sup>9</sup> For some samples, certain outcome measures were not possible to calculate. These cases are marked n/a. For example, not all youth in the SRCI pool were sentenced to probation or commitment, and therefore, it is not possible to calculate offenses during supervision. This applies to the diversion sample as well.

considered weak to moderately weak by conventional standards. Interestingly, correlations below 0.20 were also found by Lowenkamp and Latessa (2002)<sup>10</sup> in their study of 2,030 adult offenders' assessed with the Level of Service Inventory (LSI) in Ohio. The LSI is considered the "recommended measure to date" according to Gendreau, Goggin and Paparozzi (1996).

The strength of the correlations varied by outcome measure examined and sample. For all four samples the highest correlations were between the SRCI score and rearrest. This may be attributable to the lag time in conviction data being added to JJIS and FDLE's databases.<sup>11</sup> Also extra-legal factors or local legal cultures may intervene between arrests and convictions in a way that is not related to risk levels.

The correlation between SRCI score and reoffending was lowest for the commitment sample for all four measures. The correlation between the SRCI score and ODS/Reconviction was higher for the probation sample (0.25) than the commitment sample (0.11). Interestingly, this pattern is not observed when reoffending rates are examined by risk level in the next section.

### **Reoffending Rates by Risk Level**

In this section, the conviction rate is used as the outcome measure for the SRCI 2002 and diversion samples as offenses during supervision cannot be calculated. The ODS/Reconviction measure is employed as the outcome measure for the probation and commitment samples.<sup>12</sup> Figures 5 through 8 illustrate the percentage of youth in each risk category who subsequently reoffended. In general the results indicate that as risk level increases, so does the percentage of youth reoffending. The increases are substantial in most cases from low risk to moderate risk and from moderate to high risk. Notably, the very high risk youth had the highest reoffending rates in only the diversion and commitment samples (the SRCI was initially normed on the latter population). However, for the diversion and commitment samples the outcome differences between high and very high risk youth were arguably not large enough to be of benefit in making placement decisions. For both the SRCI 2002 and the probation samples, the very high risk youth actually had lower ODS/reconviction rates than the high risk youth. Further investigation of this pattern is warranted. An examination of case files might provide insight and affirm the decision to rate these youth as "very high risk" or may alternatively suggest that the need to collapse the risk levels into three categories.

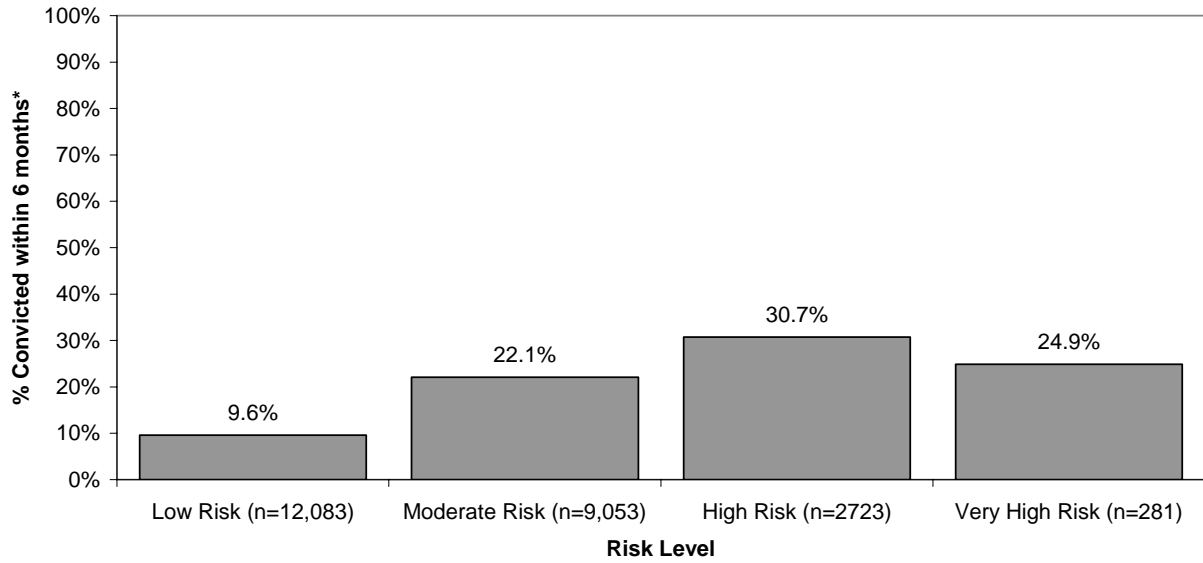
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<sup>10</sup> Lowenkamp, Christopher and Latessa, Edward. (unpublished manuscript, 2002). *Validating the Level of Service Inventory Revised in Ohio's Community Based Correctional Facilities*.

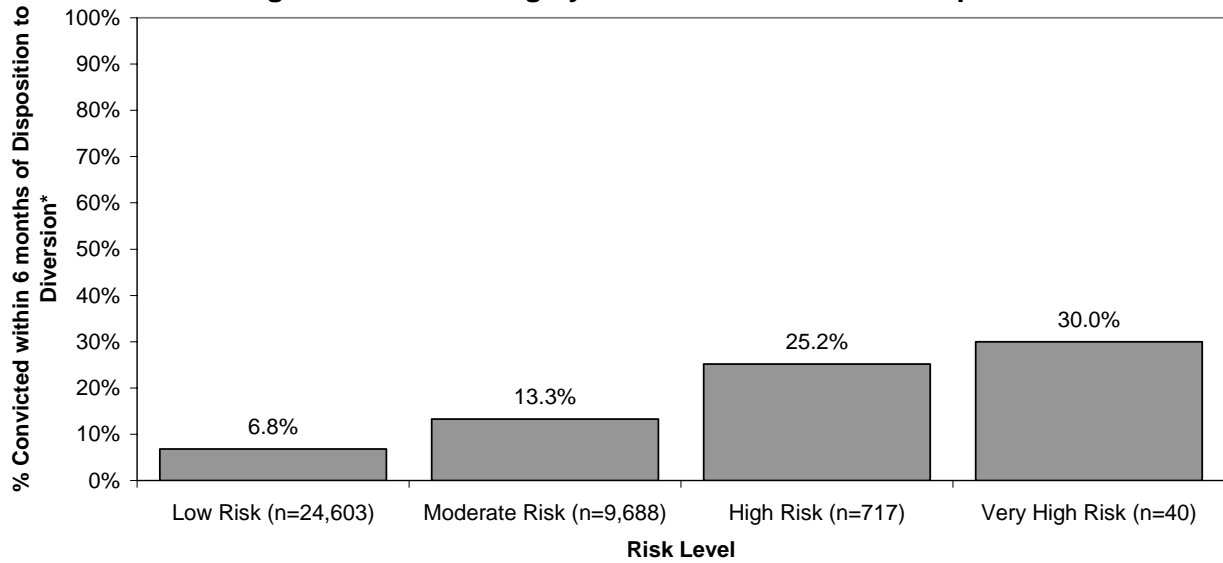
<sup>11</sup> Although a three month window was designed into this study to account for the known lag in cases being processed and disposition data being entered into the databases, it is possible that missing data still impact the results.

<sup>12</sup> Appendix B presents the data on rearrest. The same patterns are observed.

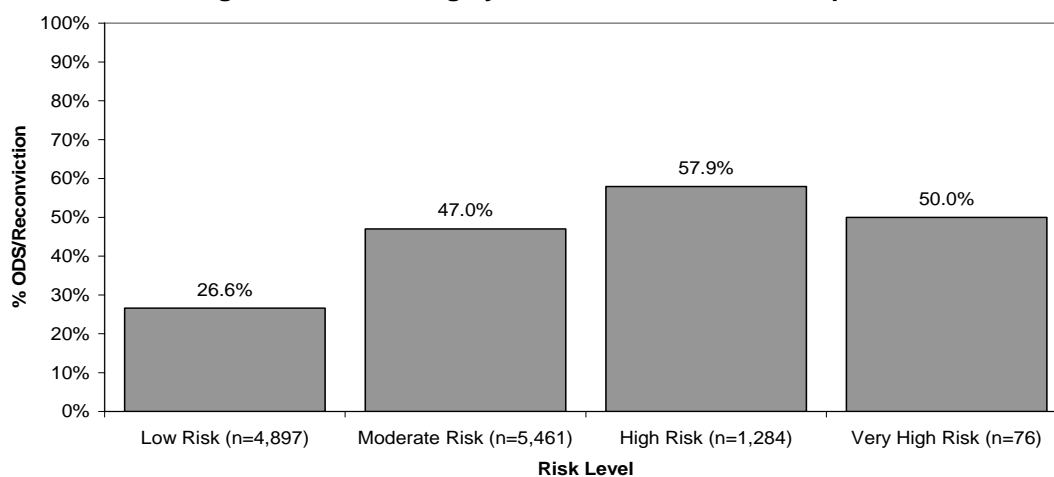
**Figure 5: Reoffending by Risk Level: SRCI 2002 Sample**



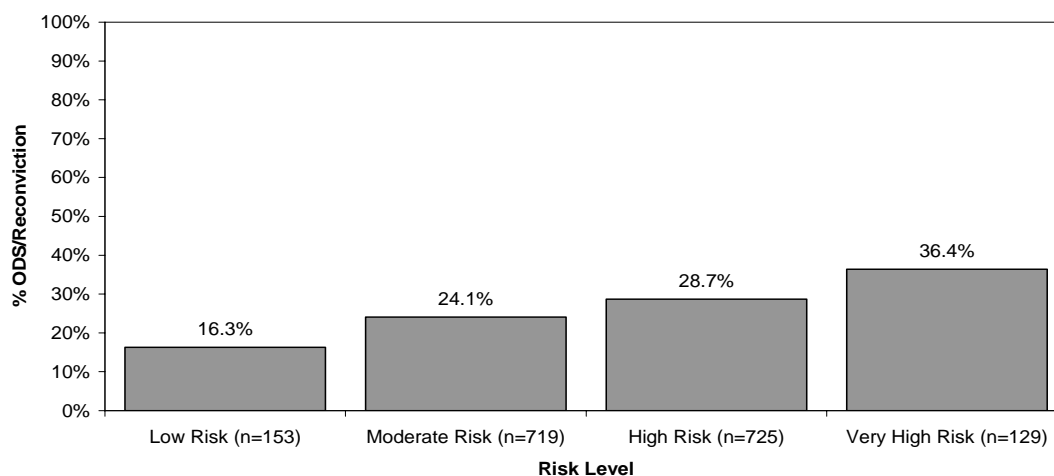
**Figure 6: Reoffending by Risk Level: Diversion Sample**



**Figure 7: Reoffending by Risk Level: Probation Sample**



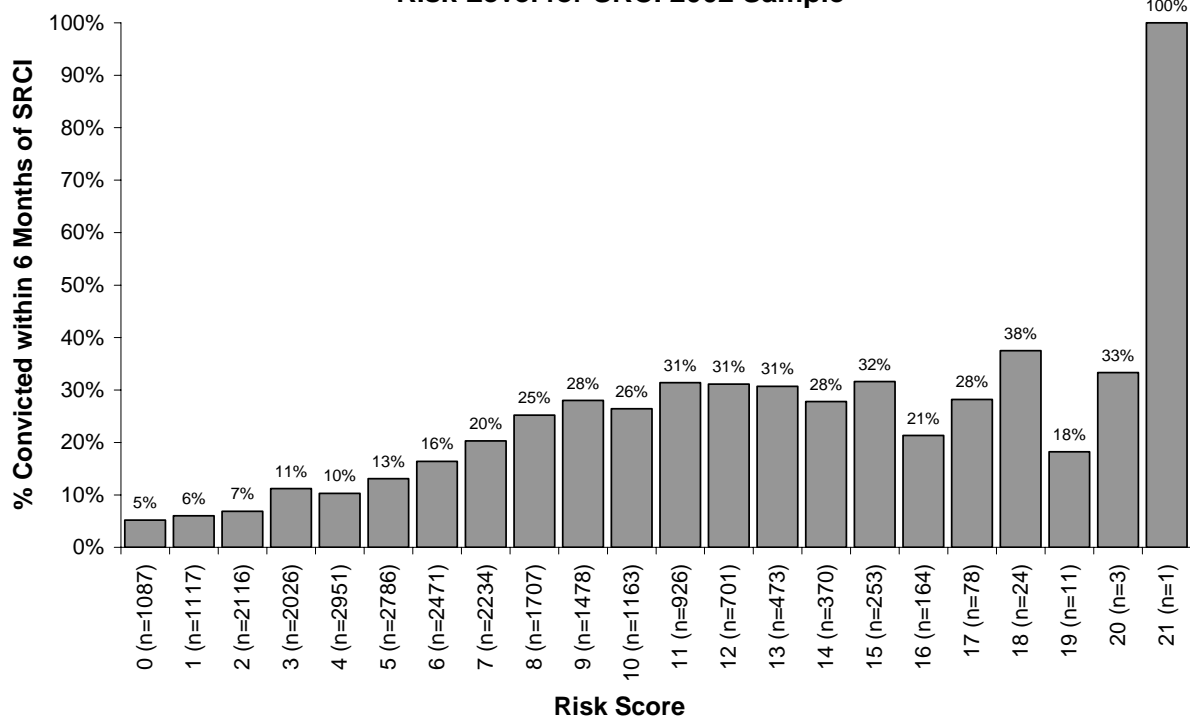
**Figure 8: Reoffending by Risk Level: Commitment Sample**



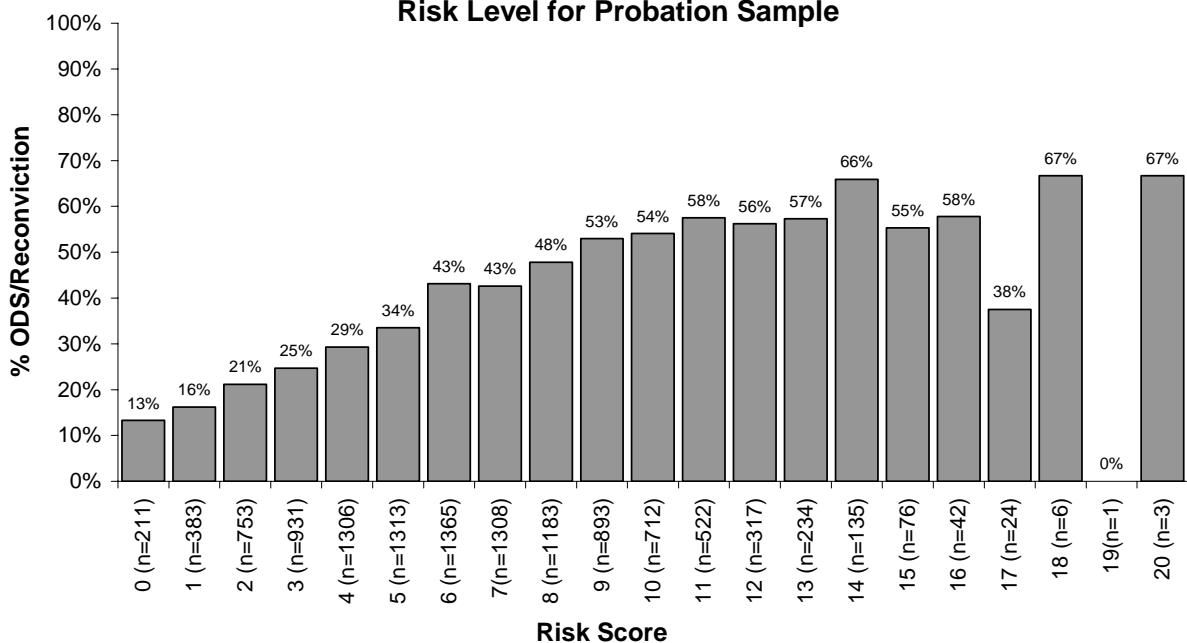
### **Outcome Measures by Risk Score**

To further examine the unexpected relationship between very high risk youth and reoffending, the results were broken down by risk score. In examining the reoffending rates of the youth in the SRCI 2002 and probation samples, Figures 9 and 10 illustrate an unexpected pattern in which youth with scores that fall within the very high risk range reoffend at similar or even lower rates than youth in the high risk range. This is especially true for youth with scores of 19 in the SRCI 2002 sample and youth with scores of 17 in the probation sample. Both groups reoffended at rates much lower than would be expected. However, given the small number of youth (n=11 and n=24, respectively), no definitive conclusions can be drawn.

**Figure 9: Percent Reconviction by Risk Level for SRCI 2002 Sample**

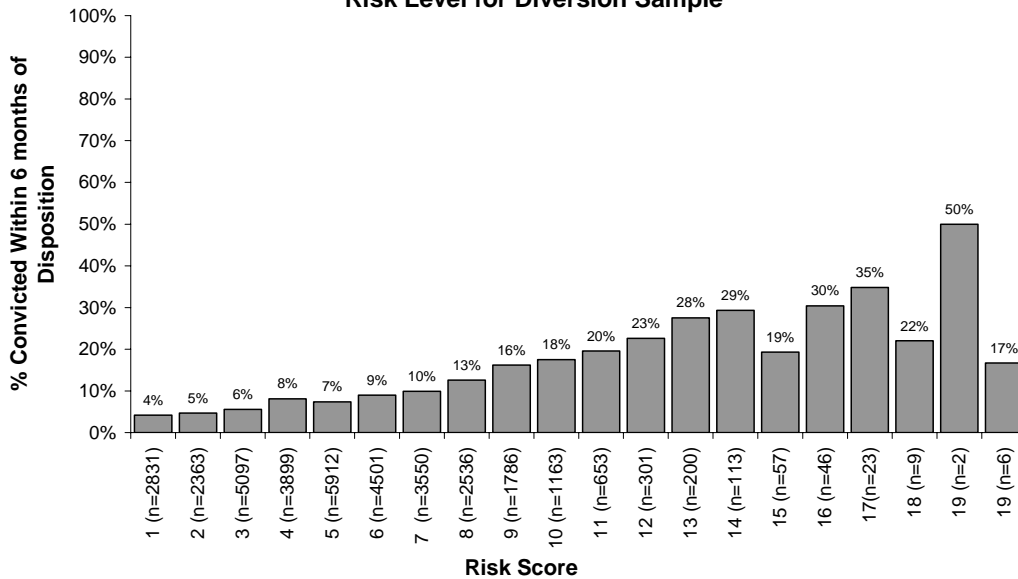


**Figure 10: Percent ODS/Reconviction by Risk Level for Probation Sample**

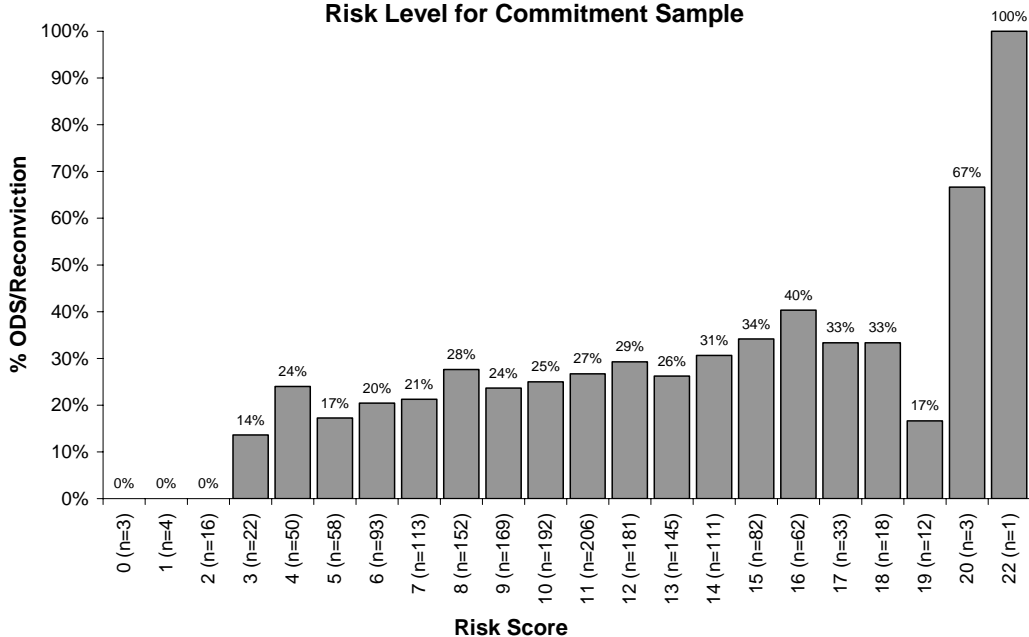


The same data were examined for the diversion and commitment samples (see Figures 11 and 12). In general, as risk scores increase reoffending increases. While the same unexpected pattern was observed with regard to very high risk youth and reoffending, when aggregated into levels (as depicted in Figures 6 and 8) the very high risk youth exhibited greater rates of reoffending than the high risk youth across these samples. Overall, these results do not seem to support differentiating between high and very high risk when attempting to appropriately classify and place youth. For the probation and commitment samples there were no significant differences between males and females.

**Figure 11: Percent Reconviction by Risk Level for Diversion Sample**



**Figure 12: Percent ODS/Reconviction by Risk Level for Commitment Sample**





## Risk Factors by Gender

The issue of whether the same risk factors predict reoffending for both males and females has been raised in the research literature (Funk, 1999, Mazerolle, 1998). An analysis of mean scores for each of the risk factors for males and females enables us to examine whether the pattern of results for the 10 risk factors is similar for males and females (see Table 4). For all four samples, males had higher mean scores on prior referrals and prior dispositions. For all four samples, females had higher scores on abuse/neglect and mental health. Males had higher drug/alcohol abuse and school adjustment scores for all samples, except the commitment sample. For the other risk factors mean scores varied by gender across the four samples.

**Table 4: Mean Risk Factor Scores by Gender**

Risk Factors	SRCI 2002		Diversion Sample		Probation Sample		Commitment Sample	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Prior Referrals	1.2	0.8 **	0.4	0.2 **	1.1	0.9	2.6	2.2
Highest Disposition	0.4	0.2 **	0.1	0.0 **	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.9
Age Current Arrest	1.4	1.5 **	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.6
Drug Alcohol Use	0.4	0.3 **	0.3	0.2 **	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.9
School Adjustment	0.7	0.5 **	0.5	0.4 **	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.2
Peer Relationships	0.6	0.5 **	0.5	0.4 **	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0
Parental Control	0.8	0.7 **	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.3
History of Abuse/neglect	0.1	0.2 **	0.1	0.1 **	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
Mental Health	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9
Employment	0.2	0.2 **	0.1	0.1 *	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4
Total Risk Score	5.3	6.3 **	4.4	4.1 **	6.4	6.5	10.3	10.9
N	17,522	6,618	23,038	12,010	2,953	8,765	1,447	229

Means Test: Mann-Whitney U \*\*p<.01 \*p<.05

Table 5 illustrates the differences in the distribution of risk levels for males and females. In the SRCI 2002 and diversion samples the majority of females were classified as low risk. This may be an indication that females are entering the system with lower risk levels than males. The differences between males and females in the probation sample were slight and did not reach the level of statistical significance. A greater percentage of females than males were classified as high and very high risk in the commitment sample.

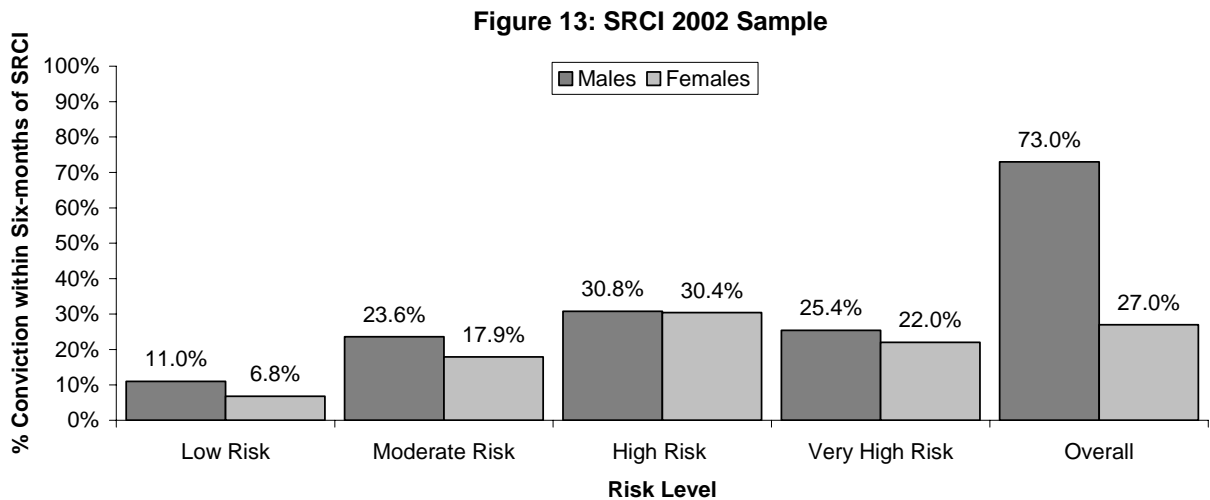
**Table 5: Percent of Male and Female Juvenile Offenders by SRCI Risk Level Classification**

	SRCI 2002		Diversion Sample		Probation Sample		Commitment Sample	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Low Risk	47%	58%	69%	73%	42%	41%	10%	5%
Moderate Risk	39%	34%	29%	25%	46%	47%	43%	37%
High Risk	13%	7%	2%	2%	11%	11%	41%	50%
Very High Risk	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	7%	9%
Overall	73%	27%	66%	34%	25%	75%	84%	16%
N	17,522	6,618	23,038	12,010	2,953	8,765	1,447	279

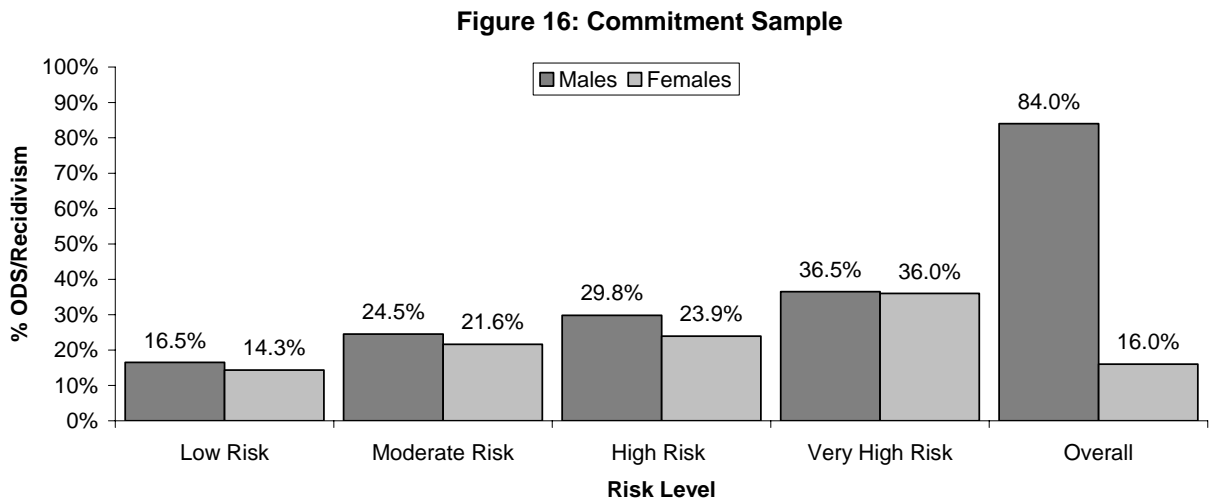
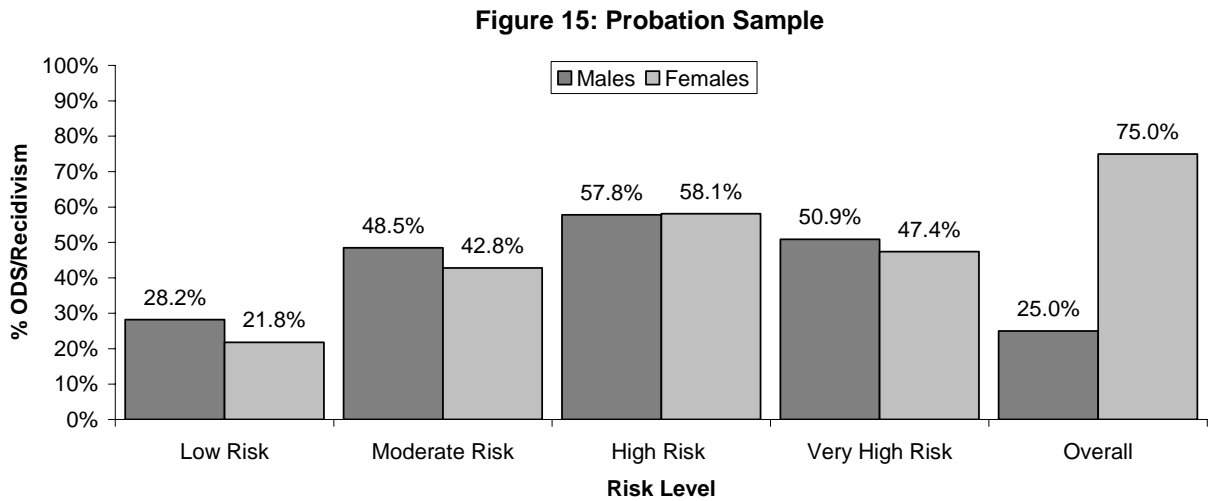
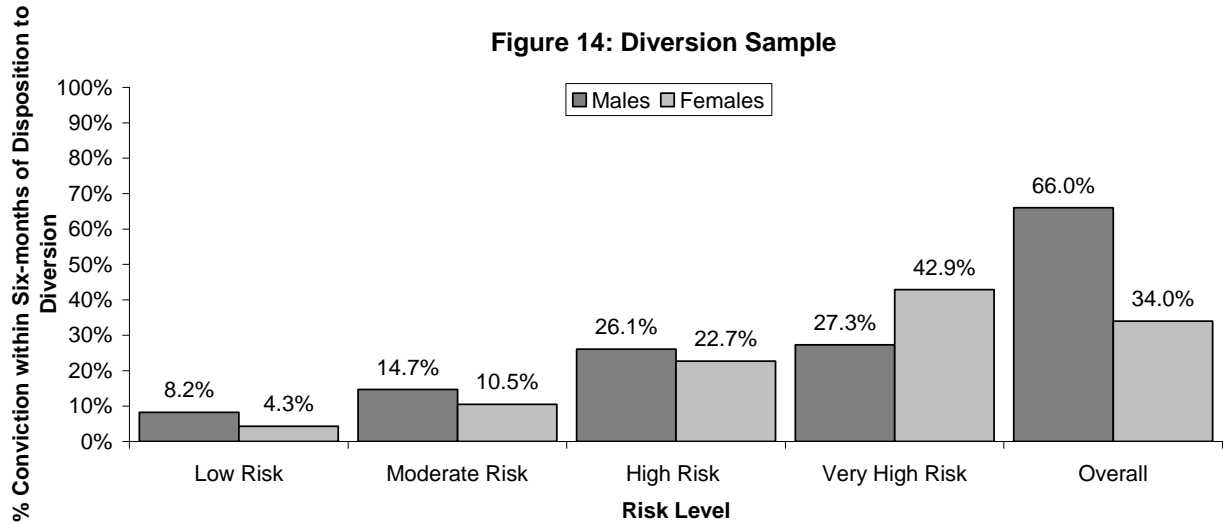
## SRCI Validity by Gender

It is important that the SRCI accurately predicts reoffending for both males and females. Figures 13 through 14 illustrate reoffending for each risk group broken down by gender for all four samples. In general, as risk level increases, rates of reoffending increase for both males and females, with the exception of the very high risk youth who reoffended at slightly lower rates in the SRCI and probation samples.<sup>13</sup>

When the data for males and females were compared within each sample, some interesting relationships between risk and reoffending emerged. As would be expected, males generally reoffended at higher rates than females, however there were some important exceptions. For example, among the youth in the SRCI 2002 and probation samples, the reoffending rates for high risk males and females are nearly identical. Among youth in the diversion sample, very high risk females actually reoffended at much higher rates than males, however the sample sizes were so small that the results may be unreliable (7 and 33 respectively). Among youth in the commitment sample, very high risk females and males reoffended at nearly identical rates. However small sample sizes (19 and 57 respectively) again raise questions regarding the reliability of the findings. These findings should be viewed with caution.



<sup>13</sup> It should be noted that the differences in reoffending rates between males and females for the probation and commitment samples were much smaller than typically found in DJJ's annual one year recidivism study. It was hypothesized that this could be due to the current follow-up period being limited to six months, but an examination of time to failure rates for males and females in the 2003 Outcome Evaluation study did not support this hypothesis.



## Conclusion

This study looked at the implementation of the SRCI since its inclusion on the JJIS WEB in January 2001. In examining youth assessed with the SRCI during FY 2002-03 it was possible to get a snapshot of the type of youth in the system. In FY 2002-03 slightly over half (54%) of all youth assessed were low risk while only one percent were assessed as very high risk. When risk was combined with the seriousness of the current offense to select a disposition, 55% were recommended for diversion.

The error rate on the instrument was examined by comparing four of the risk factors to data in JJIS. While errors on the specific risk factors ranged from less than 1% to 10%, these errors impacted the resulting risk level in only five percent of the SRCI forms. Data were not available to determine the accuracy of scores on the dynamic (non-static) risk factors.

There was a 10% override rate for the SRCI with the majority (68%) of overrides being in the direction of recommending a higher level of supervision than was indicated by the SRCI. Most overrides were associated with youth for whom the SRCI matrix indicated diversion, but for whom staff selected probation.

The timing of the completion of the SRCI needs to be addressed. Issues include:

- The point(s) during case processing during which the SRCI should be administered (about 20% of the SRCIs completed during FY 2002-2003 appeared to have been administered after the case had been disposed).
- The development of clear guidelines for completing SRCIs when multiple referrals are received within a short period of time.

Additional recommendations for improving implementation appear on page 10 of the report.

The second section of the report examined the predictive validity of the SRCI. Four samples of youth were examined. Across the four samples (SRCI 2002, diversion, probation and commitment) the distribution of youths' risk levels was as expected. While youth disposed to diversion were overwhelmingly low risk (70%), youth on probation were almost equally divided between low and moderate risk. Youth in the commitment sample were primarily categorized as either moderate risk or high risk.

The correlations between reoffending measures and SRCI scores ranged from .09 to .26. These findings are similar to other studies of assessment instruments and generally provide support for the predictive validity of the SRCI (Lowenkamp and Latessa, unpublished).

The relationship between each of the risk factors and reoffending was examined. Overall, the risk factors were generally linearly related to reoffending. Positive relationships between reoffending and negative peers, lack of parental control, and mental health problems, were evident in all four samples. However, for a number of risk factors the data would suggest that

collapsing categories is warranted. School adjustment, abuse or neglect, and mental health could all be collapsed into dichotomous measures of yes (presence of indicator) and no (absence of indicator).<sup>14</sup> In addition, the analyses suggest that it would be more effective to collapse the two highest prior referral categories as reoffending varied little between youth with five or six priors and those with seven or more.

Finally, the predictive validity of the SRCI was determined by examining the relationship between risk level and reoffending for all four samples. For the diversion and commitment samples a linear relationship between risk level and reoffending was observed; as risk level increased so did reoffending. For the diversion sample, the reoffending rate doubles from low risk to moderate risk and again for high risk. Very high risk youth exhibited only slightly higher reoffending rates (5%) as compared to high risk youth.

In the commitment sample the differences in reoffending rates were not as substantial, but followed the same pattern of higher risk youth reoffending at higher rates. For the other two samples, SRCI 2002 and the probation sample, a linear relationship between risk level and reoffending is observed for three of the four risk levels. The exception is very high risk youth who reoffended at rates only slightly higher than moderate-risk youth and at lower rates than high risk youth. The data suggest that reducing the risk categories to three would improve the instrument. The instrument was found to be predictive for both males and females.

This study has identified a number of implementation issues that should be addressed with revised and expanded policies and procedures. In addition, recommendations have been offered for improving the predictive validity of the instrument by collapsing risk factor categories. An in-depth review of selected case files might provide additional insight into some of the anomalies observed. The analysis represents an important step in continuing to ensure that sound, empirically-based services are provided to Florida's delinquent youth.

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<sup>14</sup> See Gottfredson and Synder's (2003) recommendation regarding the use of binary risk factors in screening instruments.

## Appendix A: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Supervision Risk Classification Instrument (SRCI)

<p>1. <u>      </u> <b>Prior Referrals</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">5= 7 or more</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">3= 5 or 6</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= 3 or 4</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= 1 or 2</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= None</p>	<p>6. <u>      </u> <b>Peer Relationships</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= Gang involvement or peers are gang members</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= Primarily negative peers/no peers</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= Primarily positive peers</p>
<p>2. <u>      </u> <b>Highest Level of Prior Disposition or Current Status</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= Committed</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= Community Control</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= None of the above</p>	<p>7. <u>      </u> <b>Parental Control</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= No control or supervision</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= Limited control or supervision</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= Effective control or supervision</p>
<p>3. <u>      </u> <b>Age at the Time of Current Arrest</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">4= 13 or under</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= 14 or 15 years old</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= 16 or over</p>	<p>8. <u>      </u> <b>History of Abuse/Neglect</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= History of physical or sexual abuse of youth</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= History of neglect of youth</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= None</p>
<p>4. <u>      </u> <b>Drug or Alcohol Use</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= Chronic use w/serious disruption of functioning</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= Occasional use w/some disruption of functioning</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= No use or no interference with functioning</p>	<p>9. <u>      </u> <b>Mental Health</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= Current Diagnosis, in treatment or prescribed medication</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= Mental health assessment needed</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= None</p>
<p>5. <u>      </u> <b>School Adjustment</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= Suspended, Expelled, Dropped Out (or history of)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1= Chronic Tardiness or Truancy</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= Regular attendance, GED or H.S. Diploma</p>	<p>10. <u>      </u> <b>Employment</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2= 16 or over, not employed, and not pursuing an education</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0= All others</p>

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:  
**0-5 = Low Risk**  
**6-10 = Moderate Risk**  
**11-15 = High Risk**  
**16 + = Very High Risk**

**Juvenile Supervision Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Override Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Justification:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

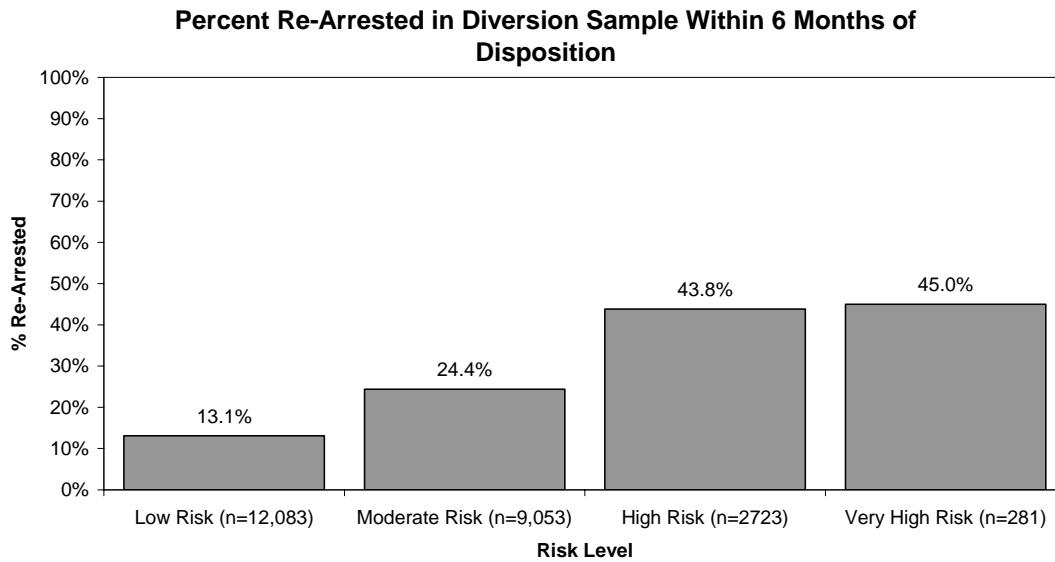
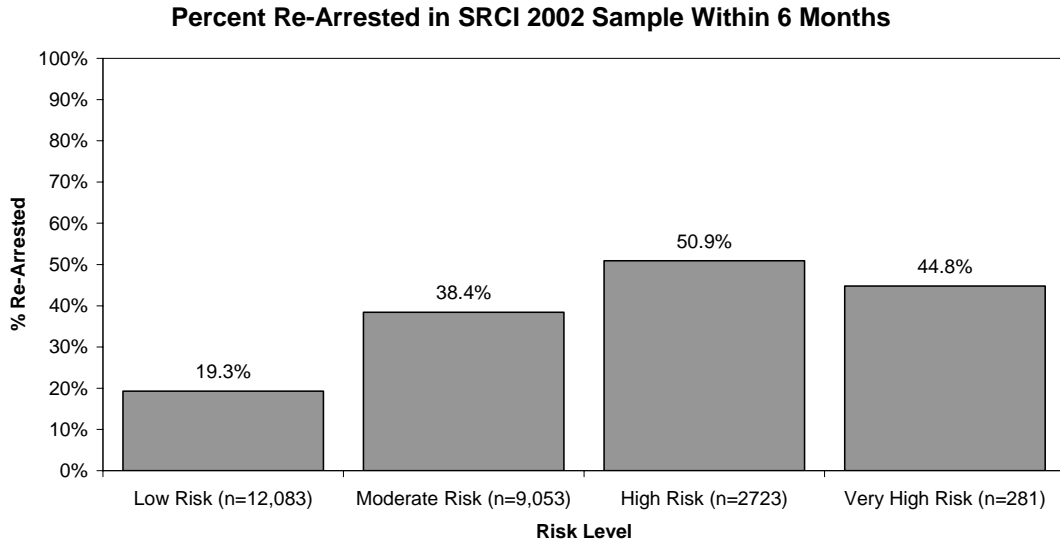
**Supervisor's Signature:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix A (continued): Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's  
Supervision Risk Classification Matrix**

<b>MOST SERIOUS CURRENT CHARGE</b>	<b>LOW RISK (0-5)</b>	<b>MODERATE RISK (6-10)</b>	<b>HIGH RISK (11-15)</b>	<b>VERY HIGH RISK (16+)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Felony or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Violent Felony	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment	Recommend Commitment
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Violent Felony	Intensive Probation or General Probation	Intensive Probation or General Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony or 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Violent Misdemeanor	Diversion or Minimum Probation	General Probation or Minimum Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Misdemeanor or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Misdemeanor	Diversion	Diversion	General Probation or Minimum Probation	Recommend Commitment or Intensive Probation

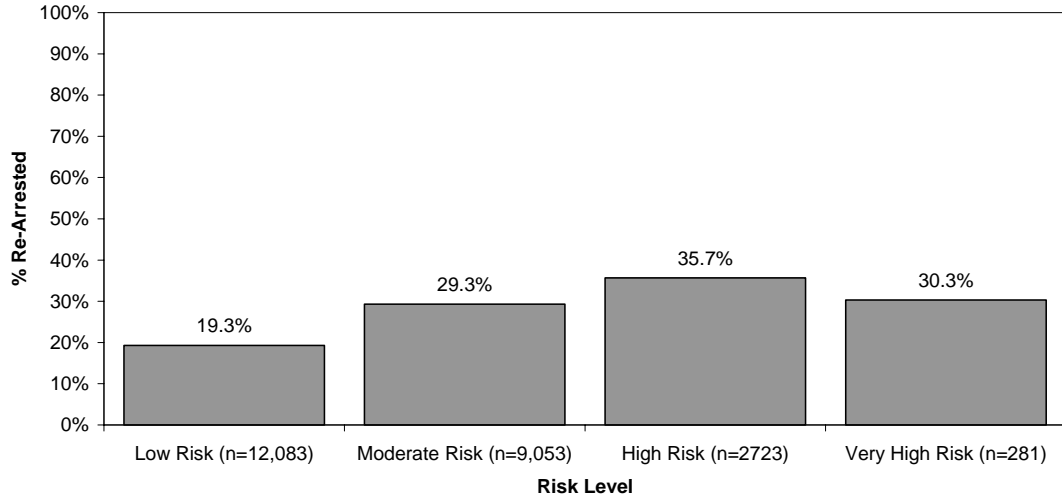
Staff should use professional judgment to choose the most appropriate level of supervision when a cell offers more than one choice.

## Appendix B: Rearrest Rates by Risk Level

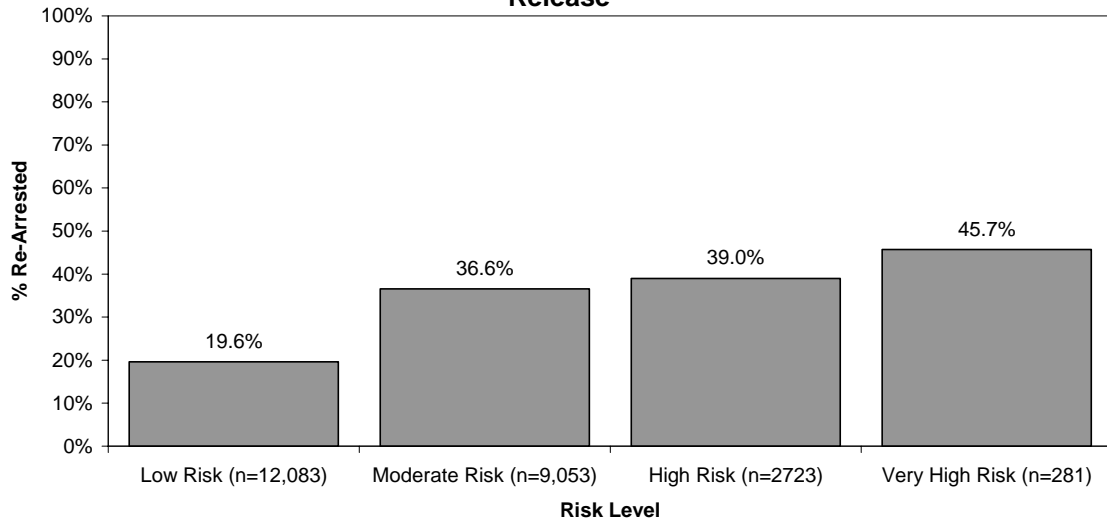




**Percent Re-Arrested in Probation Sample Within 6 Months of Release**



**Percent Re-Arrested in Commitment Sample Within 6 Months of Release**



## References

- Funk, S. J. (1999). "Risk Assessment for Juveniles on Probation." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. 26: 44-68.
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