

Risk-Need-Responsivity: Managing Risk & Mental Health For Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth

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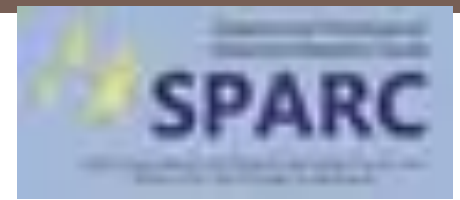
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MacArthur Foundation



ModelsforChange
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice



Outline

- Describe risk assessment
- Why would we use risk assessment (research evidence on what works)
- Risk-Need-Responsivity
 - ▣ Risk principle - results
 - ▣ Need principle – results
- Mental/behavioral health (responsivity principle)
- Conclusions

Risk Assessment (RA)

- **Risk** = for serious delinquent offending or violence
- **Brief Risk Assessment:** Instrument developed to help answer the question: “Is this youth at relatively low or relatively high risk for reoffending or engaging in violent behavior?”
- **Comprehensive Risk Assessment:** also identify what is most likely to be driving the youth’s risk for reoffending
 - “**criminogenic needs**”

Meaning of 'Risk'

- **Low risk:**
 - ▣ Have few relevant risk factors present, or
 - ▣ Require minimal or no intervention in order to decrease likelihood of reoffending
- **High risk:**
 - ▣ Higher likelihood than their peers of engaging in continued offending or violence
 - ▣ Has many risk factors associated with their delinquency
 - ▣ Require more intensive intervention in order to decrease likelihood of reoffending
- **Moderate risk:**
 - ▣ Who are neither high nor low risk as described above

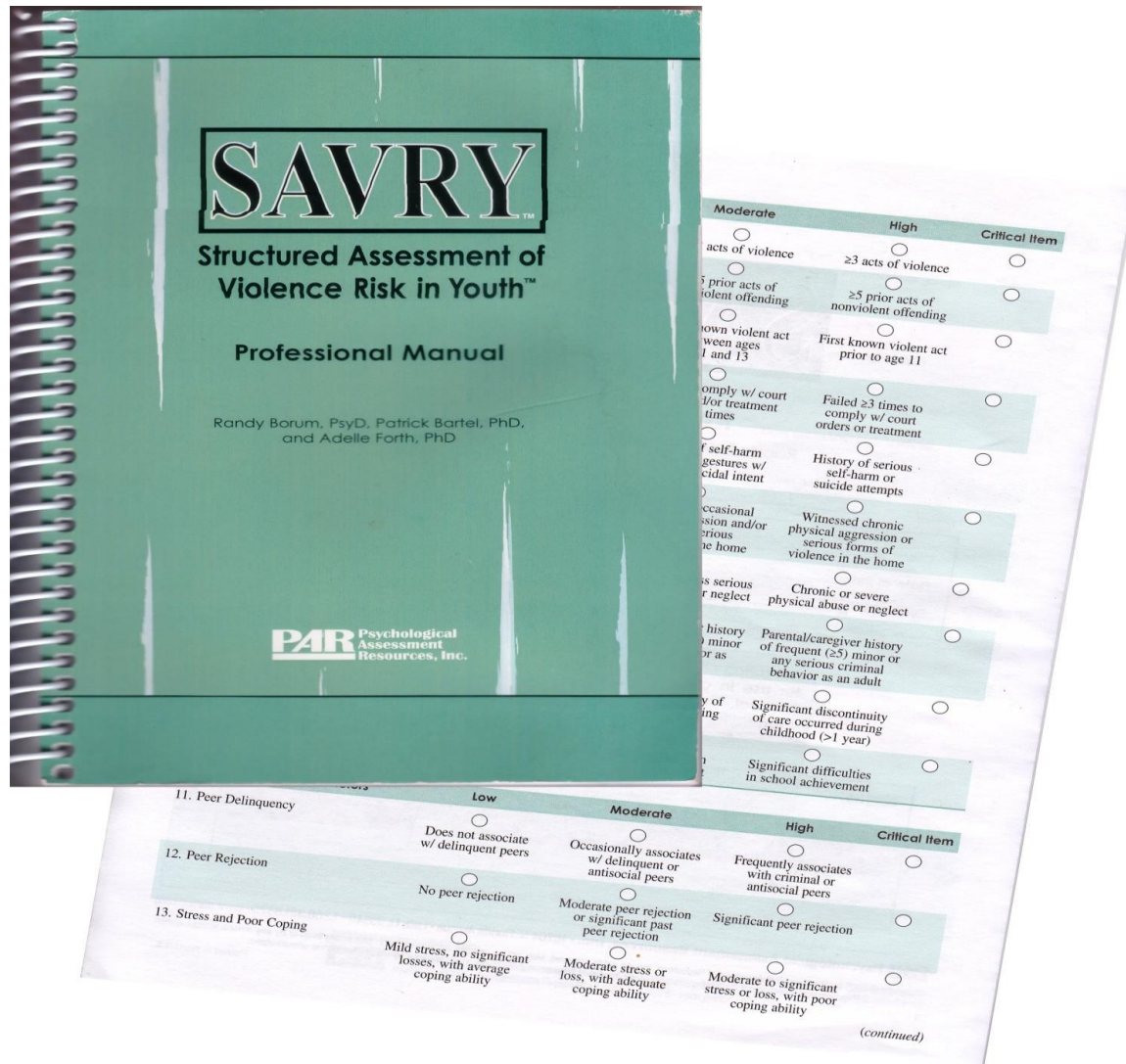
Risk Assessment Comes in Different Forms

- Different purposes and different decision-points where it is used.....
 - Diversion eligibility
 - Appropriateness for Pre-trial detention
 - Dispositional and case planning/treatment needs
 - Release/re-entry
- Actuarial (formuliac) vs. Structured Professional Judgment
- “Off-the-shelf” vs. “home-grown”

Risk Factors

- A **risk factor** is anything that increases the probability that a person will cause harm to others or will re-offend.
 - ▣ **Static risk factors** – do not change
 - ▣ **Dynamic risk factors** (similar to criminogenic *needs*) – changeable, targets for services & intervention. Enable reassessment
- A **protective factor** - something that decreases the potential harmful effect of a risk factor - *buffer*

SAVRY: Evidence-Based Risk Assessment Structured Professional Judgment



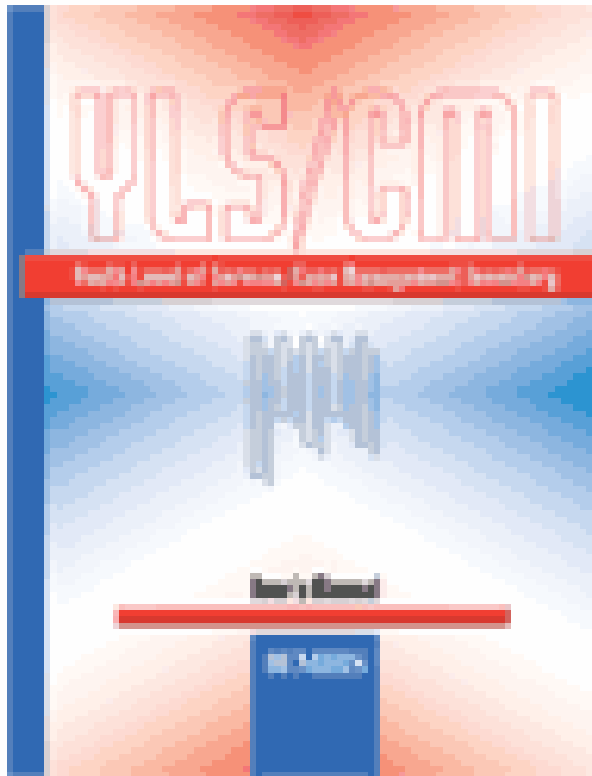
24 Risk Items
- 10 Static
- 14 Dynamic

+ 6 Protective Items

Items rated a on 3-pt scale using interview + all available info

YLS/CMI:

Evidence-Based Risk/Needs Assessment



42 Risk Items

8 Domains

- Family
- Attitude/orientation

+ Strengths

Items rated present/
absent using interview
+ all available info

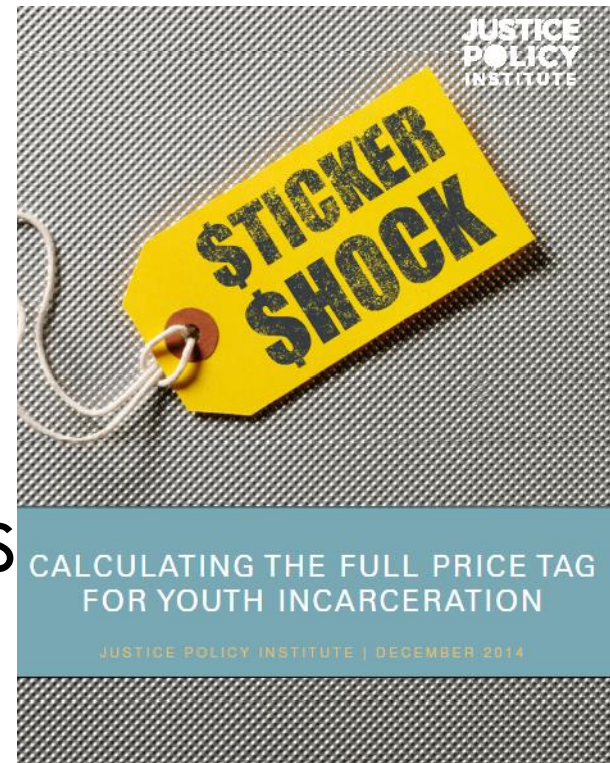
PART I:
WHY USE RISK ASSESSMENT
IN JUVENILE JUSTICE?



Confinement is Expensive

Justice Policy Institute (2014)

- Direct costs of confinement in the US per youth per year = up to \$148,767
- Total costs of youth confinement in US per year = \$8 to \$21 bil
- Confinement has diminishing returns after 6 months
(MacArthur, Pathways to Desistance S



Cost of Evidence-Based Services Is Less: Benefits Per Dollar Invested

- **For every \$1.00 spent on the following services, you save (Aos, 2001):**
 - Functional Family Therapy: \$28.34
 - Multisystemic Family Therapy: \$28.81
 - Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care: \$43.70
 - Adolescent Diversion Project: \$24.92
 - Juvenile Boot Camps: \$0.81
 - Scared Straight: **-\$477.75 (NET LOSS)**

Research Evidence

There is emerging consensus on characteristics of effective programming for young offenders:

- ▣ Punitive sanctions **do not** have a significant effect on re-offending (Gatti et al., 2009) when we implement treatment as usual.
- ▣ Severity of a youth's offense is not a strong indicator of the future pattern of offending (Mulvey et al., 2010). But tested static and dynamic risk factors for offending are (Lipsey & Derzon, 1998 ---and many others)

Research Evidence cont.

- ▣ Most low-risk youth are unlikely to re-offend even if there is no intervention (Lipsey, 2009). But mixing them with high risk youth can make them worse.
- ▣ When services are **matched** to youth's level of risk and what might be driving their delinquency (*criminogenic needs*), the lower the chance of offending.
- ▣ GOAL: Individualized case planning

Recommendations For Reform & Preventing Youth Reoffending

National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (2013).

Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach

- Use structured risk and need assessment instruments to identify low-risk youths who can be handled less formally in community-based settings, to match youths with specialized treatment, and to target more intensive and expensive interventions toward high-risk youths.



Recommendations For Reducing Youth Reoffending

Council of State Government (Seigle et al., 2014). *Core Principles for Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System*

- *Principle 1: Base supervision, service, and resource-allocation decisions on validated risk and needs assessments*

PART II: WHAT IS RISK-NEED-RESPONSIVITY?



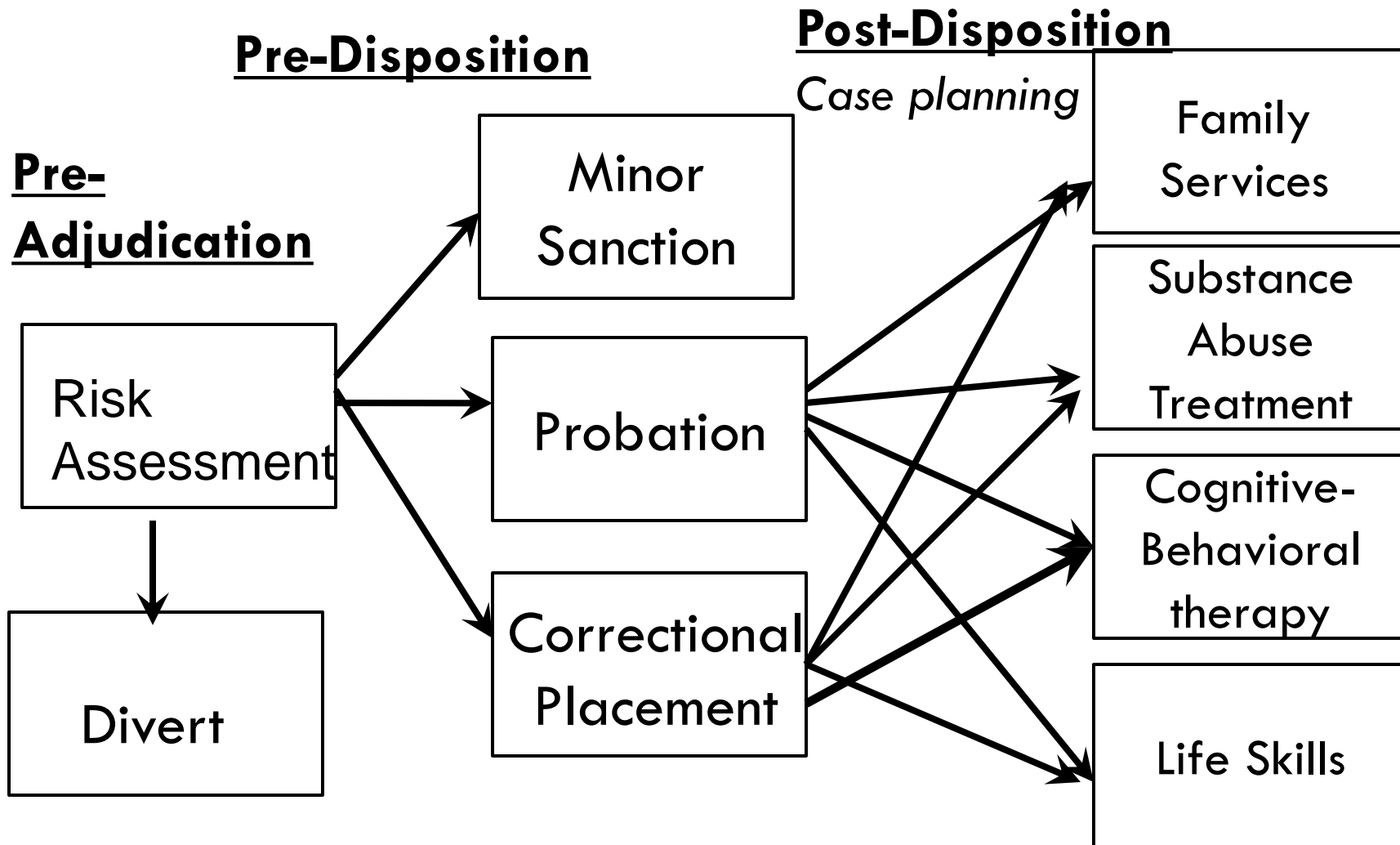
Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR)

Case Management

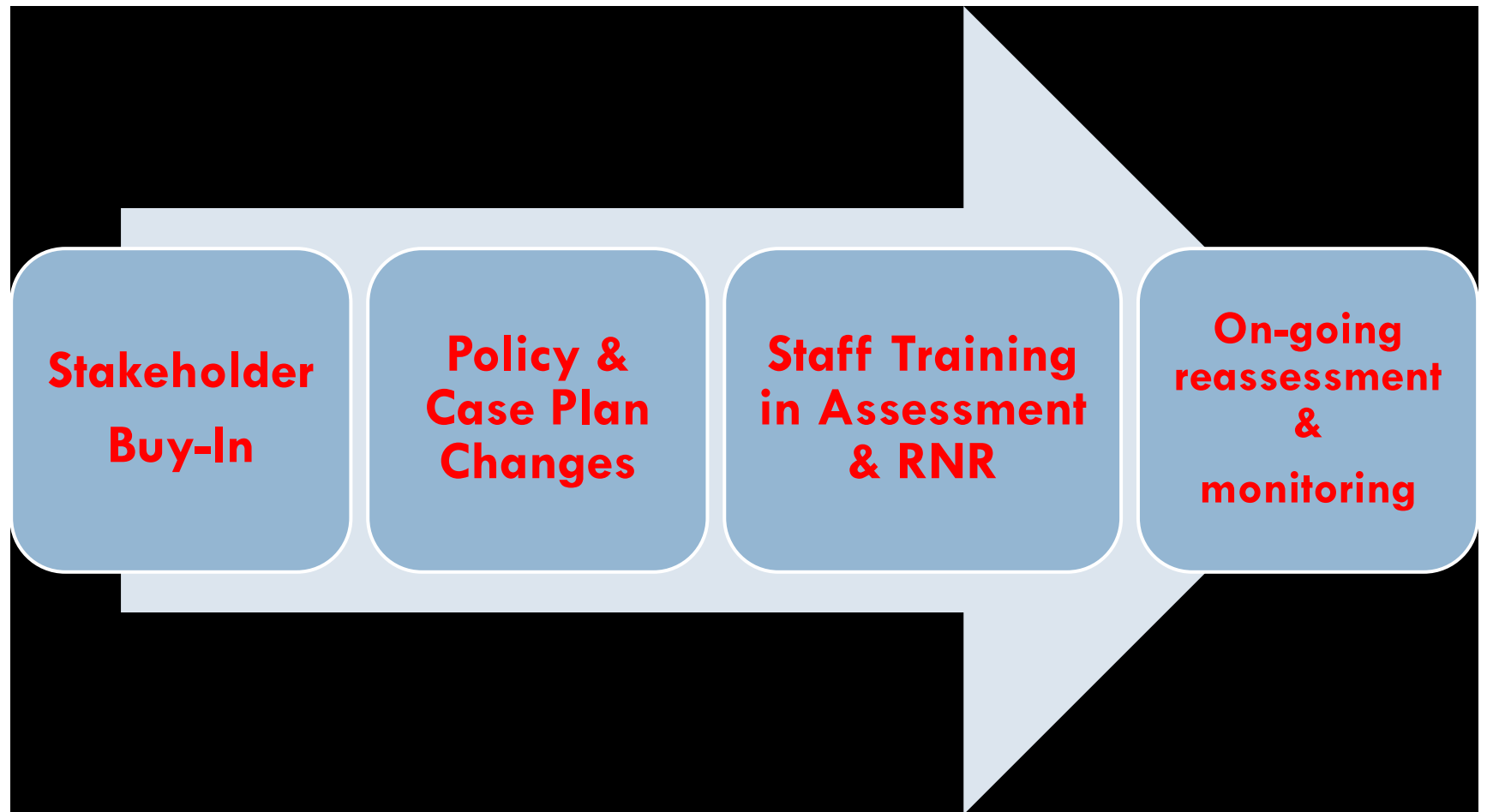
Effective and individualized case management requires valid assessment & RNR principles

- **Risk** – Match the intensity of the intervention with one's level of risk for re-offending
- **Need** – Target dynamic or changeable risk factors (aka *criminogenic needs*)
- **Responsivity** – Match the mode & strategies of services with the individual

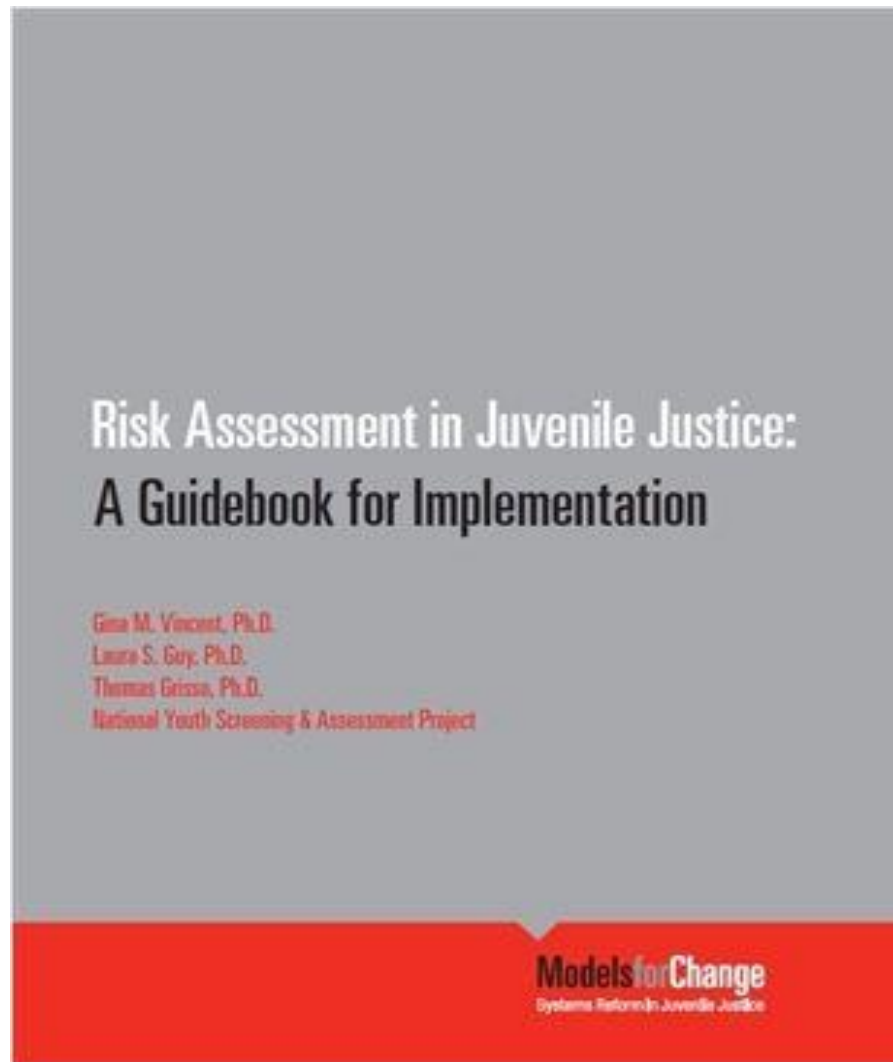
Starts With Valid Identification: Risk Assessment As Early As Possible



Nothing Changes Without Effective Implementation of RA



Risk Assessment in Juvenile Justice: Guidebook to Implementation



8 Steps to Implementation

Vincent, Guy, & Grisso
(2012)

Funded by the MacArthur
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RISK/NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN JUVENILE PROBATION: IMPLEMENTATION STUDY

Demonstration of the Risk Principle

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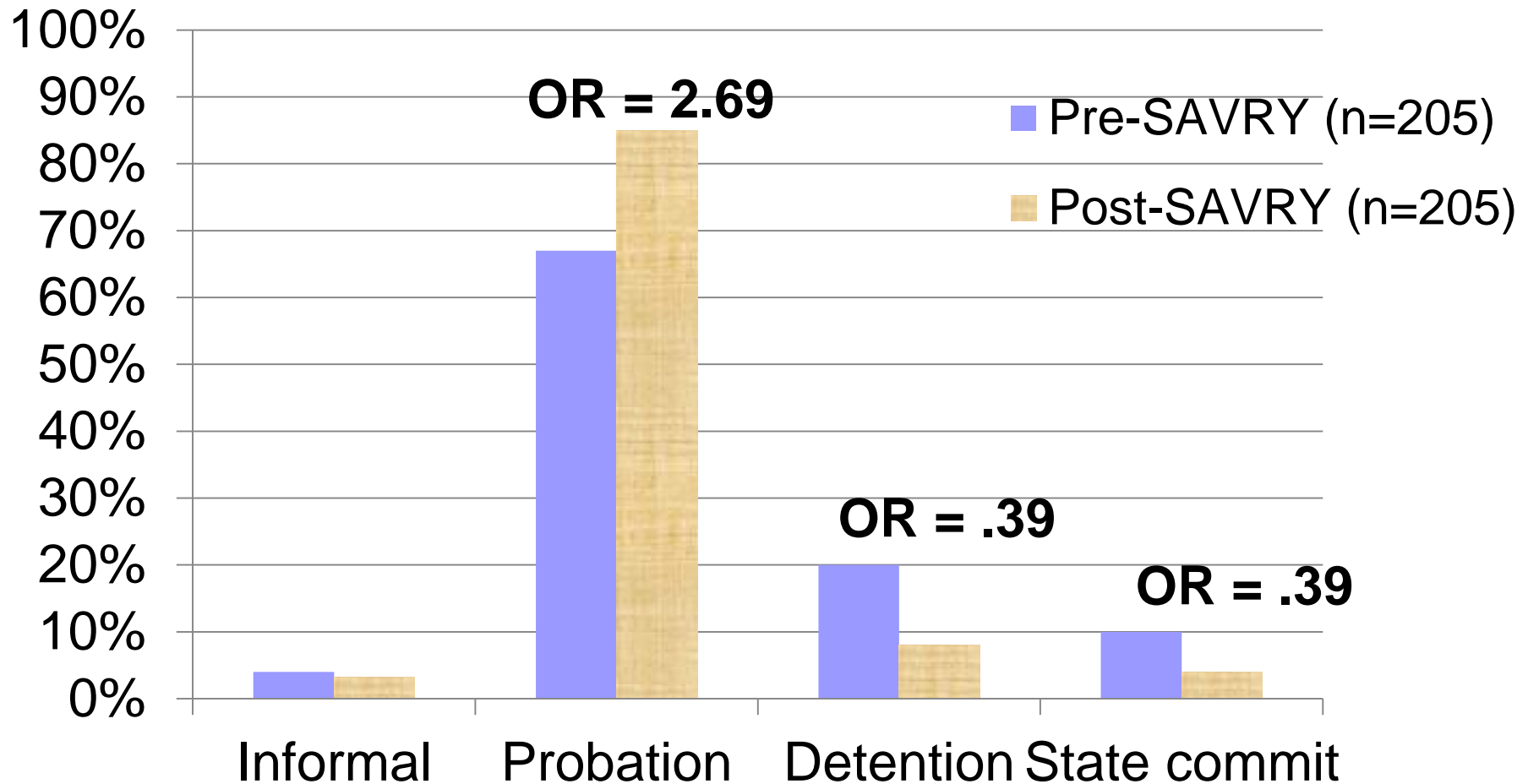
References

- Vincent, G. M., Guy, L. S., Fusco, S.L., & Gershenson, B.G. (2011). Field reliability of the SAVRY with probation officers: Implications for training. *Law and Human Behavior, 36*, 225-236.
- Guy, L. S., Vincent, G. M., & Perrault, R. T., & Gershenson, B. (2012, April). *The relation between field reliability and predictive validity: Use of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory in juvenile probation*. Paper presented IAFMHS, Miami, FL.
- Vincent, G. M., Paiva, M., Cook, N. E., Guy, L. S., & Perrault, R. (2012). Impact of Risk/Needs Assessment on Juvenile Probation Officers' Decision-Making: Importance of Implementation. *Psychology, Public Policy, & the Law, 18*, 546-576.
- Vincent, G. M., Guy, L. S., Gershenson, B. G., & McCabe, P. (2012). Does Risk Assessment Make a Difference? Results of Implementing the SAVRY in Juvenile Probation. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 30*, 487-505.
- Guy, L., Nelson, R., Morin, S., & Vincent, G.M. (2014). What do juvenile probation officers think of using the SAVRY and YLS/CMI for case management, and do they use the instruments properly? *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health, 13*(3), 227-241.

Briefs

- *Can Risk Assessment Improve Juvenile Justice Practices?* (Dec, 2011) Models for Change Knowledge Brief
- *Using Risk Assessment to Meet Needs and Reduce Recidivism.* (Dec, 2012). Models for Change Innovation Brief
- <http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications>

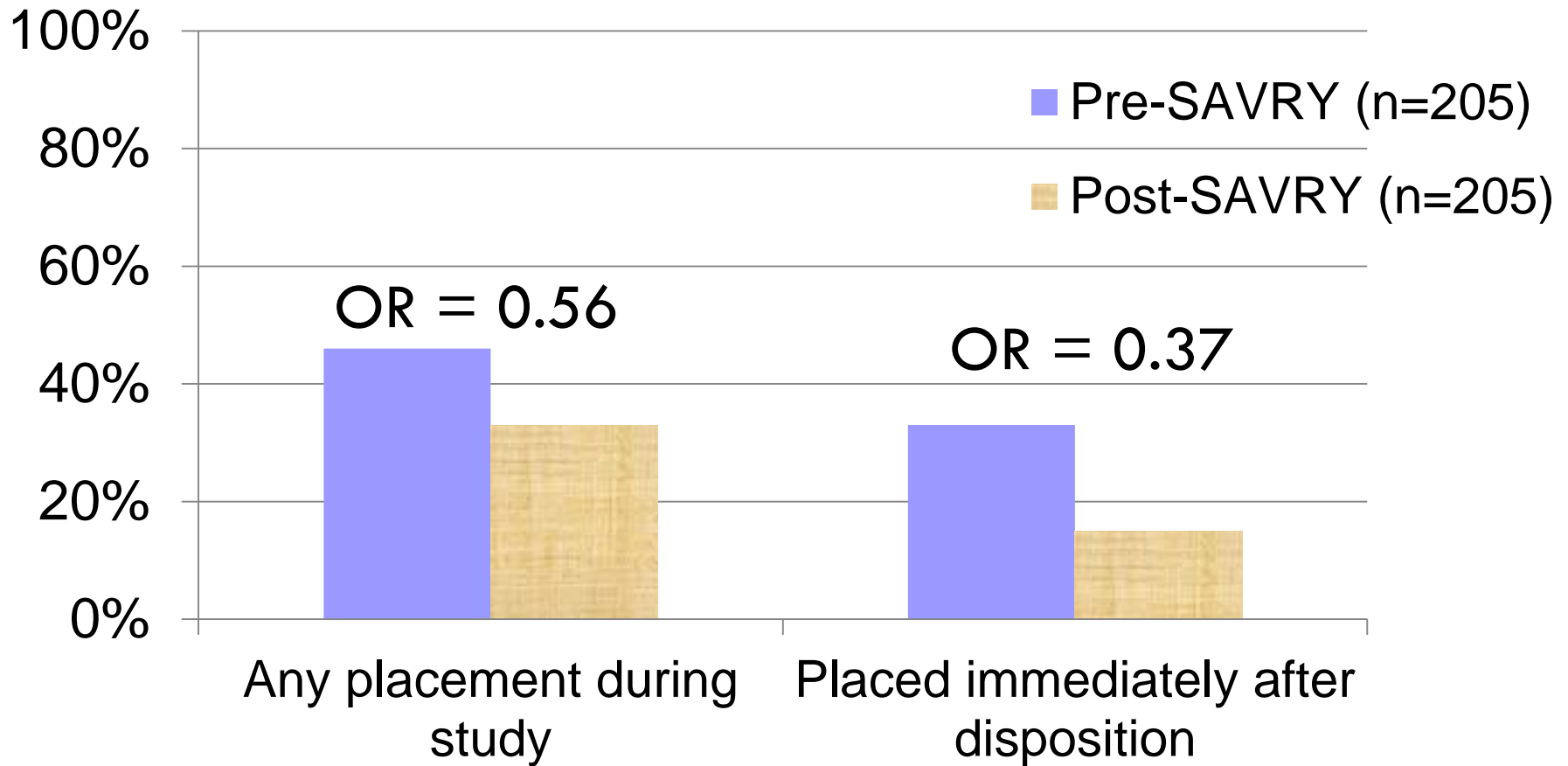
Risk Principle In Disposition Decisions: Implementation Post-Adjudication/Pre-Disposition (Vincent, Guy, et al., 2012)



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- A few slides containing unpublished data were removed prior to dissemination

Risk Principle in Placement Decisions

(ave 10 mths probation) (Vincent, Guy, et al., 2012)

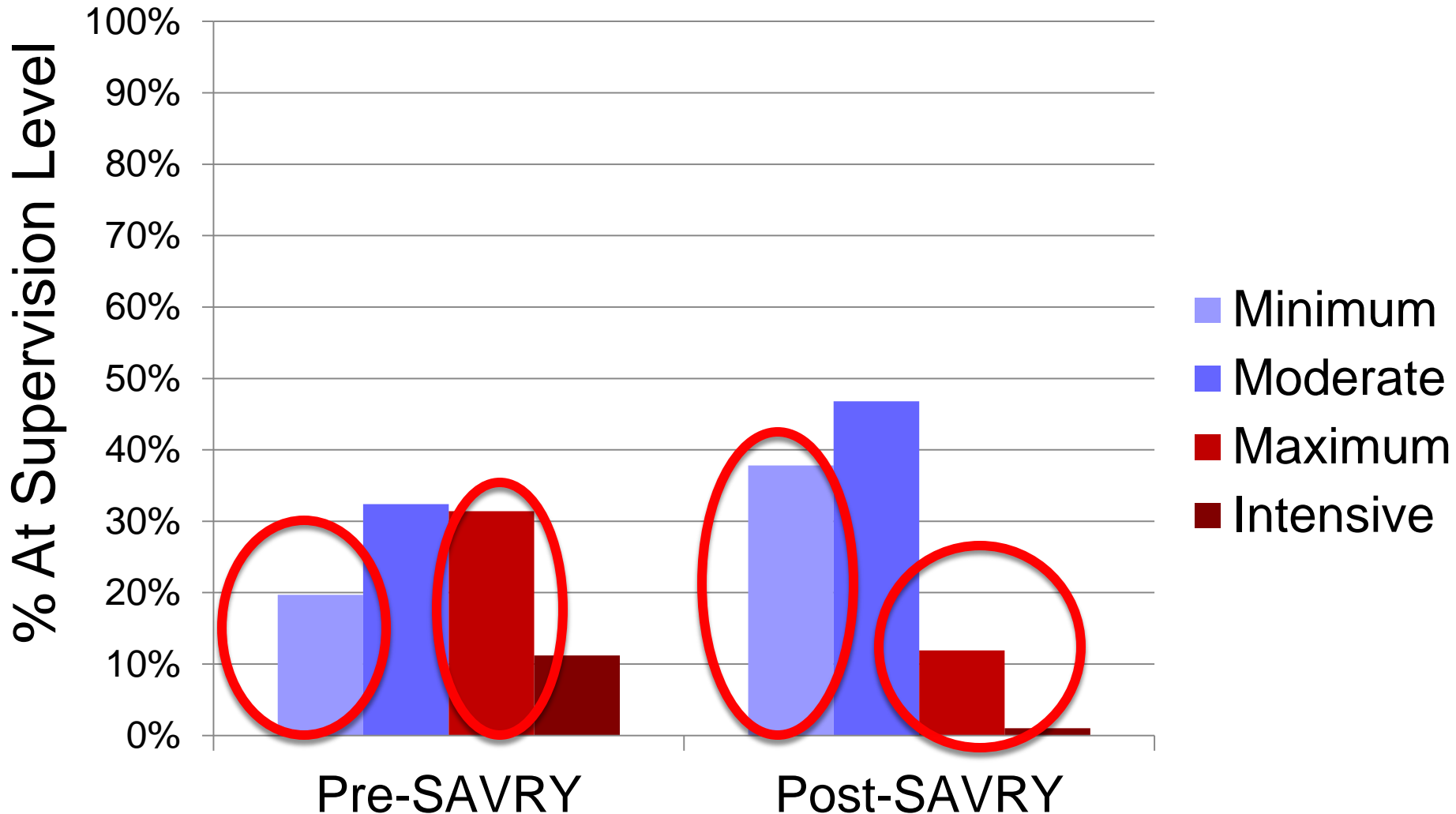


High risk – 60% placed
Low risk - 22% placed

Moderate risk – 36% placed

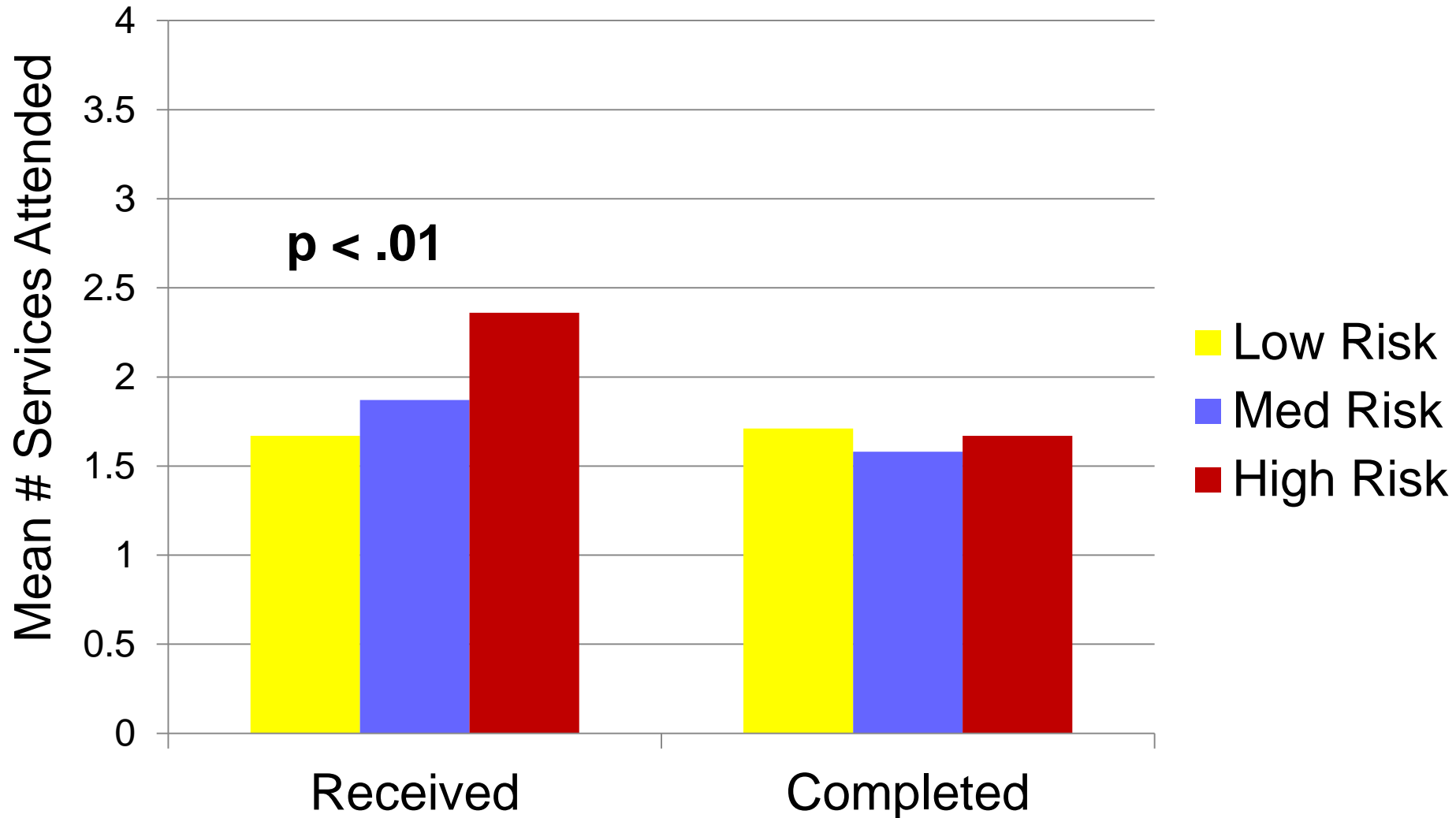
Risk Principle in Probation Supervision

(Vincent, Guy et al., 2012)



Risk Principle in Service Allocation

(Vincent, Guy, et al., 2012)



Summary Across 6 Sites

- Impact of RNA will depend on the quality and nature of implementation and on some characteristics of the site
- Disposition
 - ▣ Significant shift to less severe dispositions in 4 sites
 - ▣ More severe in 1 site but not a result of RA tool
 - ▣ The shift will depend on the decision-point where the RA is implemented

Summary Across 6 Sites

□ Placements

- The change depends on the jurisdictions current rate of placement
 - High placement rates ($\geq 40\%$) decreases
 - Low placement rates ($\leq 15\%$) increase
 - Moderate placement rates (20%) no change

□ Probation supervision

- Significant shifts to lower levels of supervision in all sites that implemented the policy and completed RA before disposition

Summary Across 6 Sites

- Service Referrals
 - ▣ Significant shift in service allocation by risk in most sites
 - ▣ Again, will depend on quality of implementation and staff training
- Recidivism (new petitions & adjudications)
 - ▣ Will likely depend on current recidivism rates
 - ▣ One site cut new petitions and adjudications in half
 - ▣ No change in all other sites

NEED PRINCIPLE IN ACTION

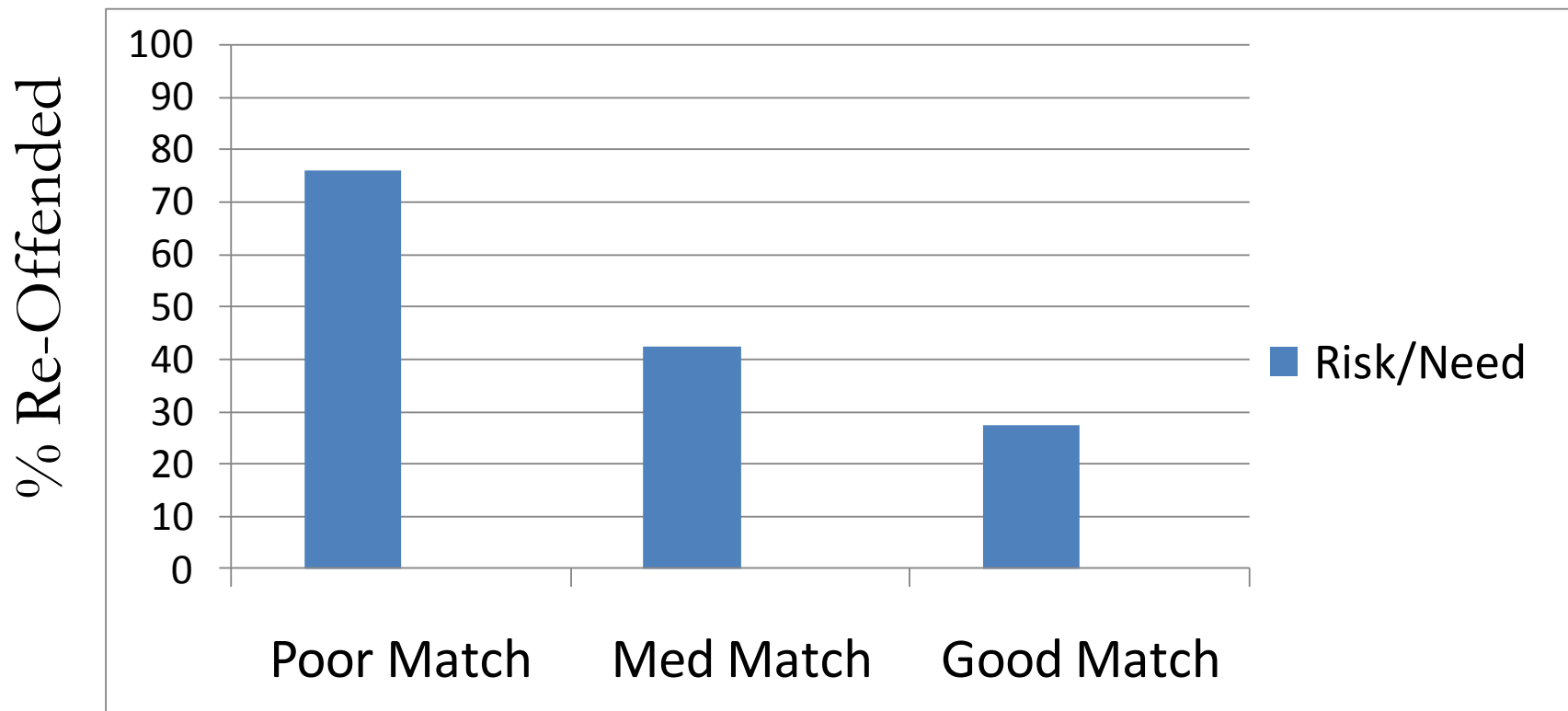


Primary Criminogenic Need Areas (aka Criminogenic Risk)

- The “Big 8”
 - Criminal history
 - Family/Poor Parental Monitoring
 - Pro-criminal attitudes
 - Behavioral problems/personality traits
 - Negative or Deviant Peers
 - Substance Abuse
 - Education/Employment
 - Leisure/structured activities

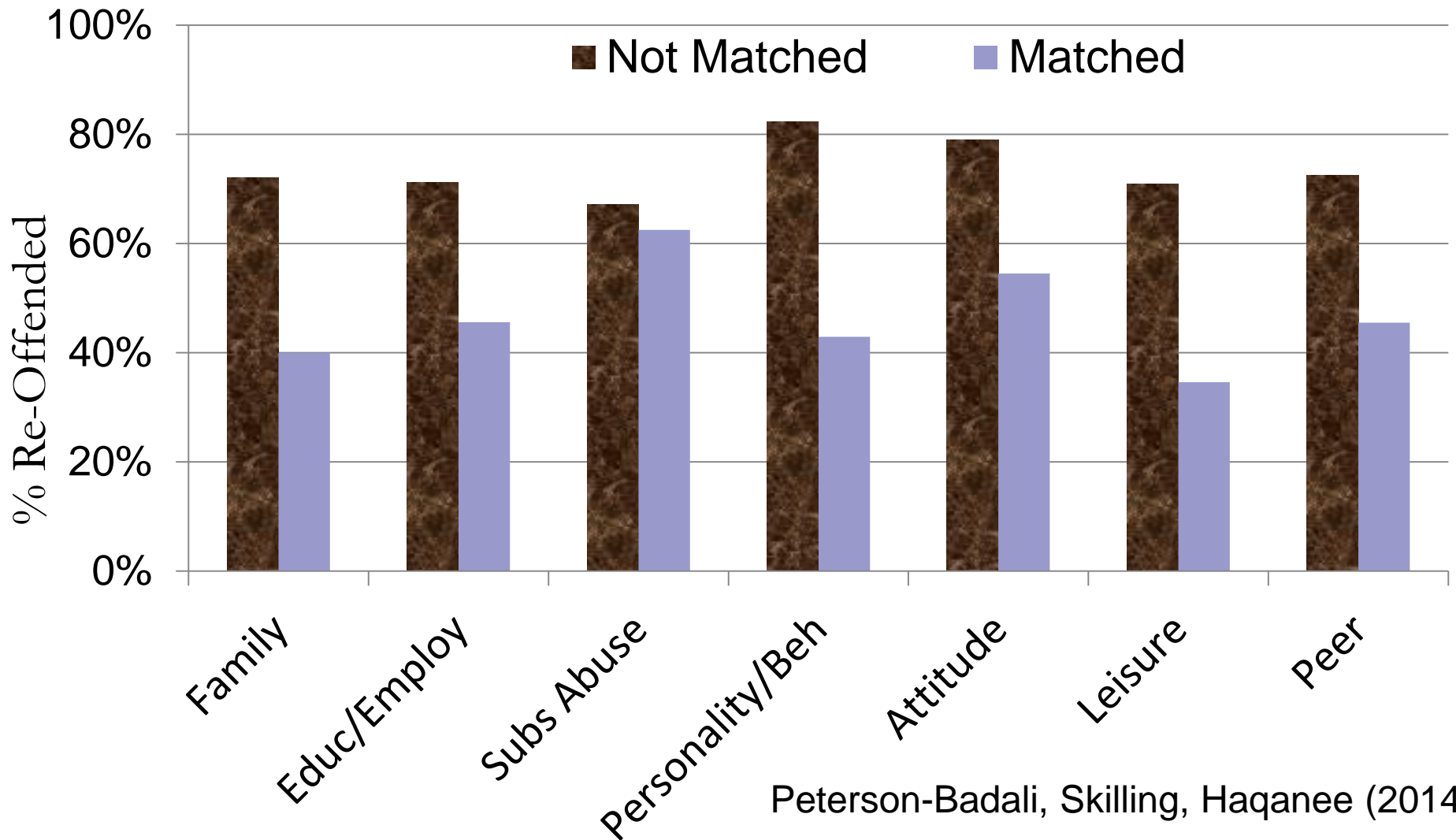
Using Risk Assessment to Match Services With Needs: Risk Reduction

(Vieira et al., 2009)



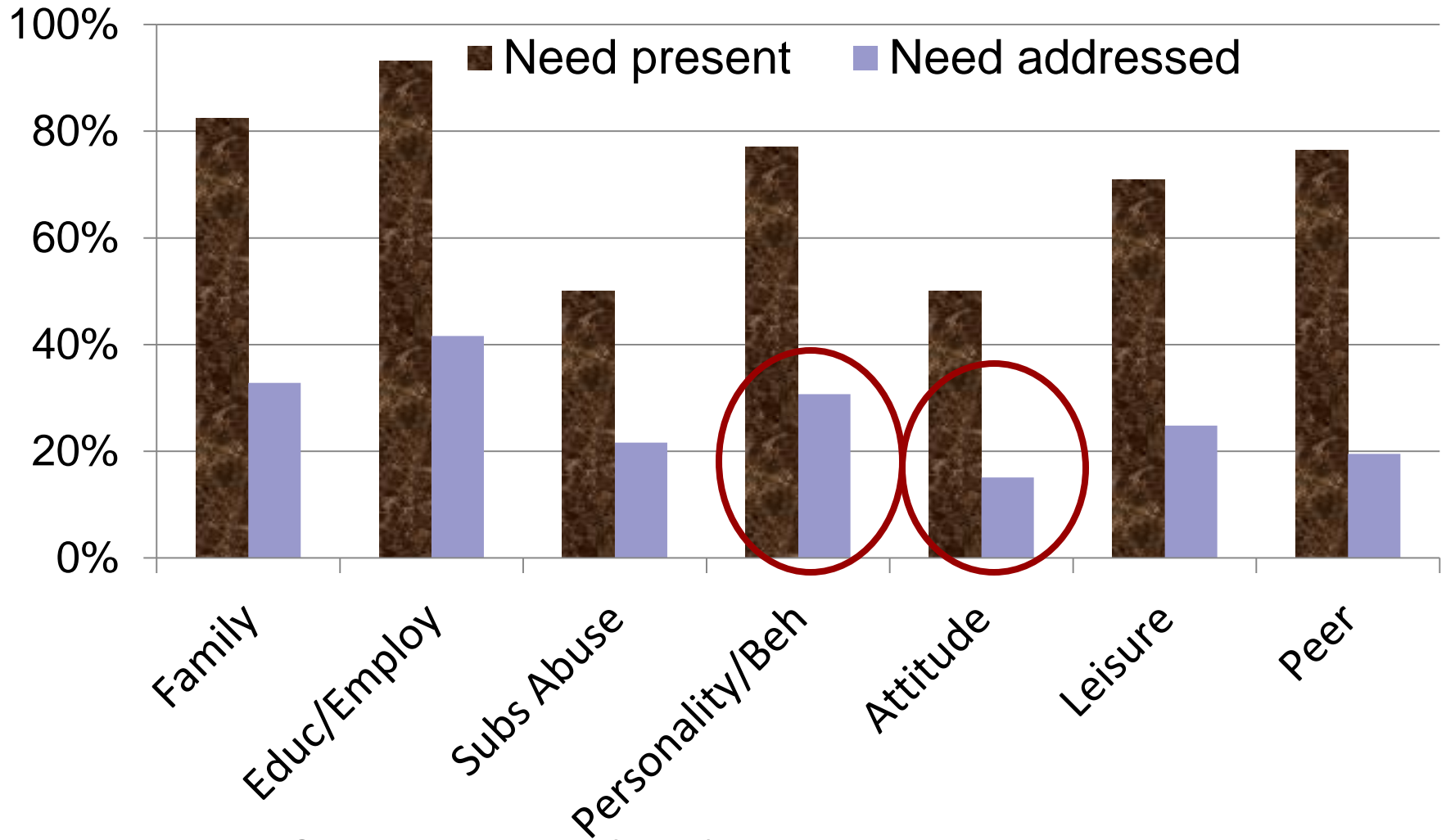
Match based on # of services given in response to a youth's criminogenic needs

Service-to-Need Match & Reoffending



Service-to-Need Match (YLS/CMI)

% of Youth With Need That Actually Received a Service (n = 148)



Peterson-Badali, Skilling, Haqanee (2014)

Implementing Need Principle Service Matrix (partial)

Criminogenic Need Areas

Risk Level

	Substance Abuse	Family/ Parenting	Disruptive Beh/Person
Low risk	None	Support family to monitor youth	None
Moderate	Outpatient Individual counseling	Strengthening families Active parenting	Courage2Change Thinking for a Change
High risk	Intensive outpatient Inpatient if needed	FFT MST (if other risk factors too) Therapeutic foster care if serious	CBT ART, MRT MST Possible residential

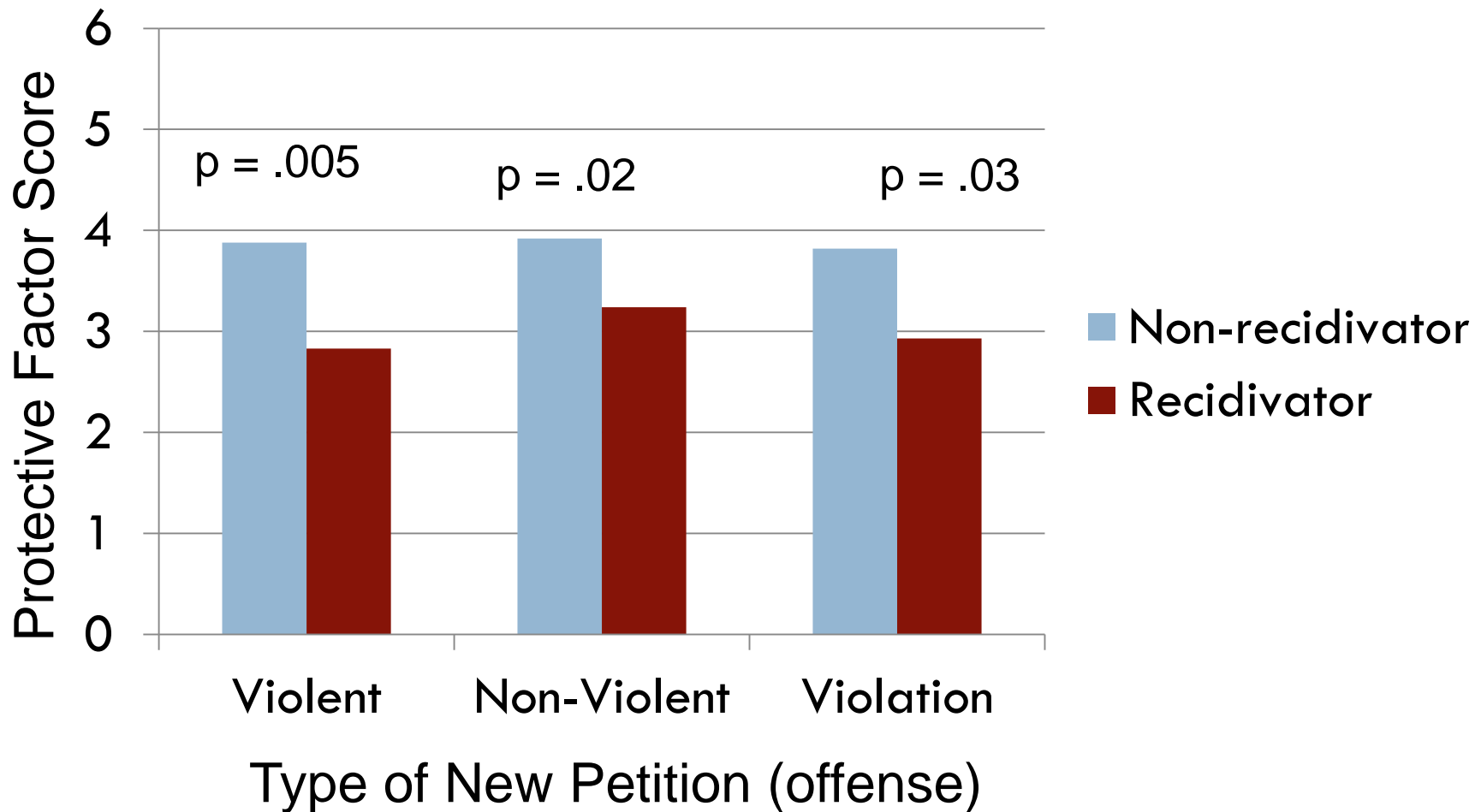
Protective Factors – Buffer Risk

- Increasing protective factors can also be an effective means of decreasing risk – particularly when services for crim needs are limited

- Focus on the positives/strengths in addition to treating the risks
 - Pro-social activities
 - Attachment to school
 - Attachment to pro-social adults
 - Positive social support

Recidivator's vs. Non-recidivator's Mean SAVRY Protective Factor Scores

(Vincent, Guy et al., 2012)



RESPONSIVITY PRINCIPLE:
WHAT ABOUT BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH?



What About Mental Health?



- Among adults - criminogenic risk factors account for more of the variability in reoffending than mental health factors (Silver et al., 2008), and
- Treatment of criminogenic risk factors has a larger impact on reoffending than mental health-related treatments (Skeem et al., 2011).

What About Mental Health? (cont.)

- ▣ Among youth - presence of a behavioral health problem appears to be related to higher levels of criminogenic risk (Schubert et al., 2011; Guebert & Olver, 2014)
- ▣ BUT – it depends on the ‘behavioral health’ problem. These increase the likelihood of other criminogenic needs being present
 - Conduct Disorder
 - ADHD
 - Disruptive behavior disorders in general
 - **Comorbidity – definitely**
 - **Substance abuse problems - definitely**

CONCLUSIONS



Take Home Messages

- Risk assessment + RNR can be used to conserve resources and improve outcomes for youth while still protecting public safety
 - ▣ Impact will vary based on the quality of implementation & site characteristics
- Implement the risk principle in all areas of case management
- Implement the need principle while also considering protective factors and strengths (may help buffer lack of RNR-related services)

Take Home Messages

- Presence of some mental health problems and serious substance abuse problems greatly elevate the likelihood of having other criminogenic needs
- Try not to treat mental/behavioral health in isolation w/o treating the risks
- **Caveat:** Quality implementation, quality assurance and buy-in from stakeholders is crucial for success
 - **Track your data**