

June 14, 2023

Effectively Applying Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Tools to Accomplish our Mission



RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice
<https://rfknrcjj.org/>



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Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice

Step-by-Step Decision Making to Achieve Positive Youth Justice Transformation



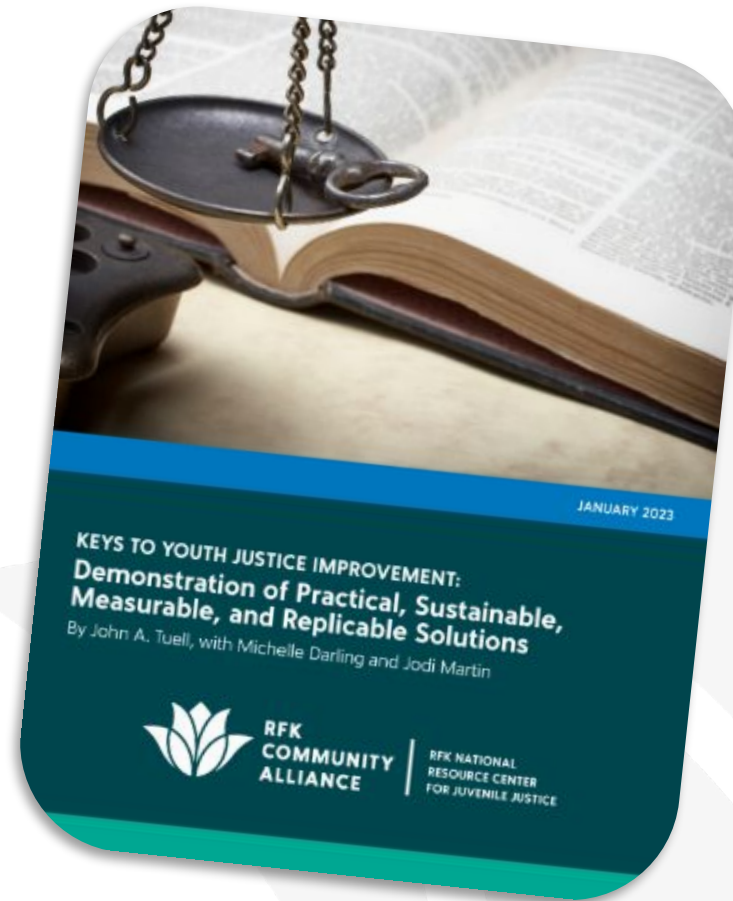
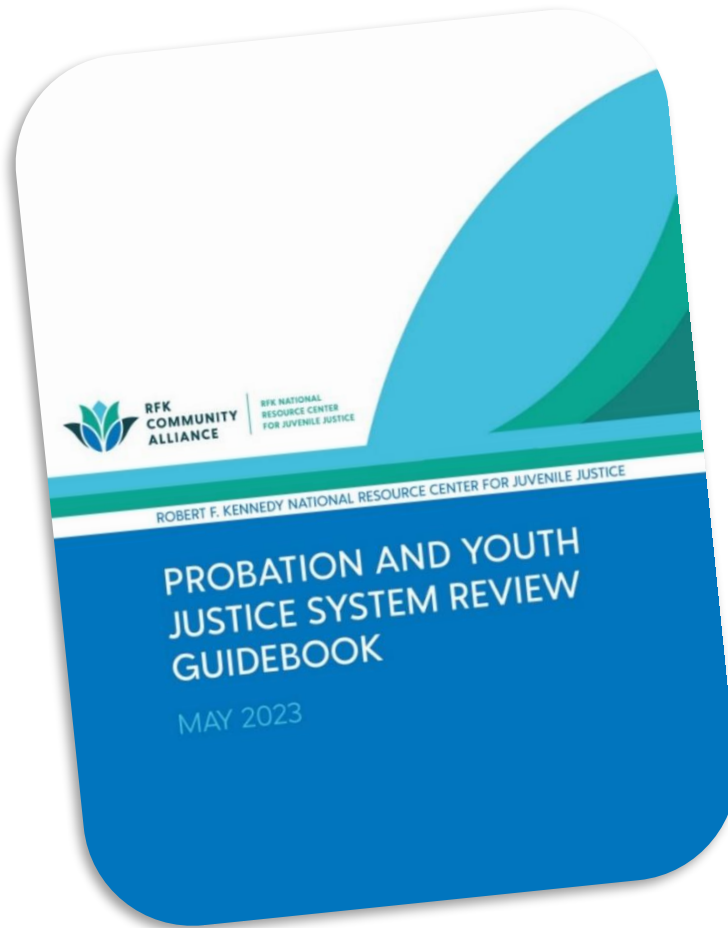
The Dennis M. Mondoro Probation and Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Project is supported by Grant #2018-CZ-BX-K002 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. DOJ. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this announcement are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.



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Probation and Youth Justice System Guidebook



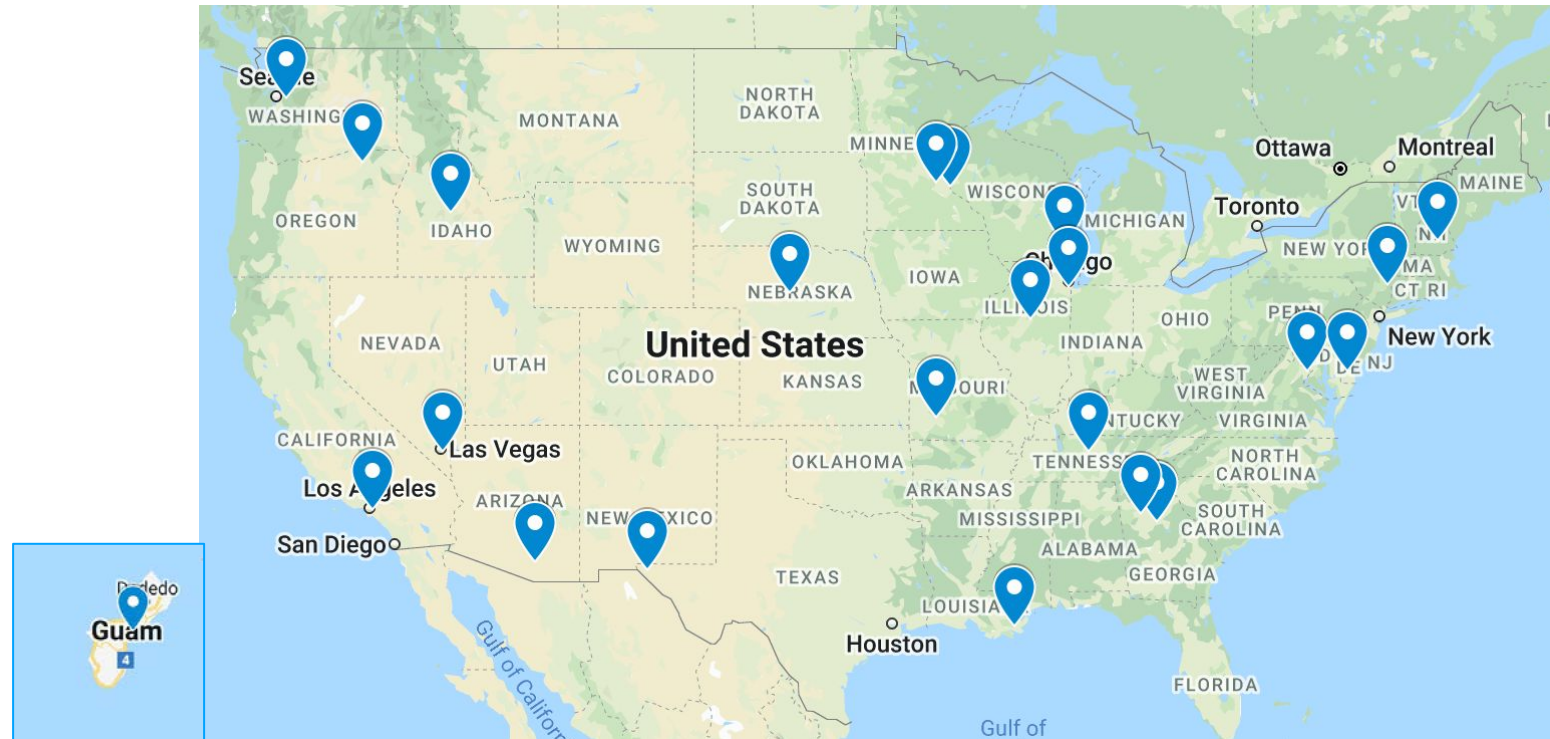
<https://rfknrcjj.org/our-work/probation-system-review/>



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PROBATION and JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM REVIEW



2005 Los Angeles Co., CA
 2010 Newton Co., GA
 2010 Jefferson Parish, LA
 2012 New Hampshire
 2014 Hammond Region, LA
 2015 Territory of Guam
 2015 Illinois (3 sites)
 2016 Idaho (2 sites)

2016 Arkansas (3 sites)
 2017 Milwaukee Co., WI
 2017 El Paso Co., TX
 2017 Clark Co., NV (Las Vegas)
 2017 Fairfax Co., VA
 2017 Davidson Co., TN
2017 Lancaster Co., NE
 2018 Delaware

2018 Cook Co., IL (Chicago)
 2018 Cobb Co., GA
 2018 Washington Co., MN
 2018 Pascua Yaqui Tribe, AZ
 2019 Hennepin Co. MN
 2019 Umatilla Indian Tribes, OR
 2019 Dutchess Co., NY
 2019 Greene Co., MO

2019 King Co., WA (Seattle)
 2020 Hennepin Co., MN - Implementation
 2020 Cobb Co., GA – Implementation
 2020 Milwaukee Co., WI – Implementation
2021-24 Nebraska
 2022-24 Arkansas



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Youth Justice / Probation System Best Practices Alignment

Adolescent **Development**

Collaborative Leadership

Risk-Need-Responsivity (Structured Professional Judgement)

Trauma Screening & Treatment

Alternative Responses to System Involvement (Status & Low-Moderate Risk)

Graduated Response/Sanctions and Dispositional Matrix

Positive Youth Development

Family Engagement

Quality Assurance – Youth Outcomes *and* System Performance

Implementation Science – Change Management



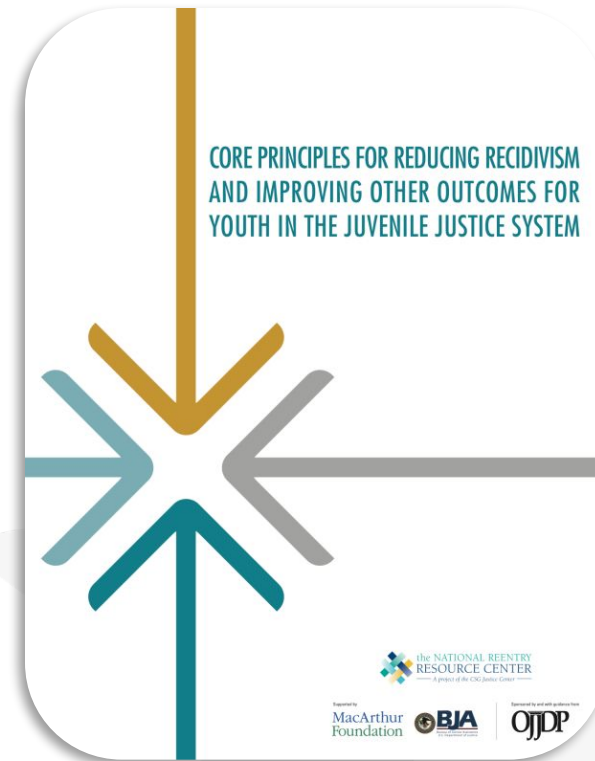
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Reducing Recidivism and Improving Well-being Outcomes

Core Principle 1:

Base supervision, service, and resource-allocation decisions on the results of validated risk and needs assessments



Weber, Josh and Nastassia Walsh and Elizabeth Seigle. *Core Principles for Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System*. New York: Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2014. Retrieval at: csgjusticecenter.org/youth/publications/juvenile-justice-white-paper/.



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Risk, Need, and Responsivity – Definition and Purpose

Risk Principle

Identify and focus supervision and services on those youth most likely to reoffend

Need Principle

Identify and address the key needs that are the primary causes of youth's delinquent behaviors

Responsivity Principle

Match youth to services based on their strengths and how they respond to treatment

A **risk assessment** is an evaluation of both dynamic and static factors that predict risk of recidivism. A risk assessment is considered **validated** if it has been statically proven through multiple research studies to demonstrate a high probability of predicting whether youth will reoffend.



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Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) Case Planning and Management

Risk factors — the likelihood a youth will endanger public safety and come into future contact with the juvenile justice system.

Criminogenic needs or dynamic risk factors — individual, familial, and environmental circumstances that, when resolved through intervention with services and treatment (or naturally as a youth matures), are thought to lead to reduced juvenile offending behaviors.

Protective factors — buffers that decrease the influence of risk factors and support prosocial development.

Responsivity factors — characteristics and circumstances that may affect a youth's response to services and treatment.



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Inventory of Validated Instruments

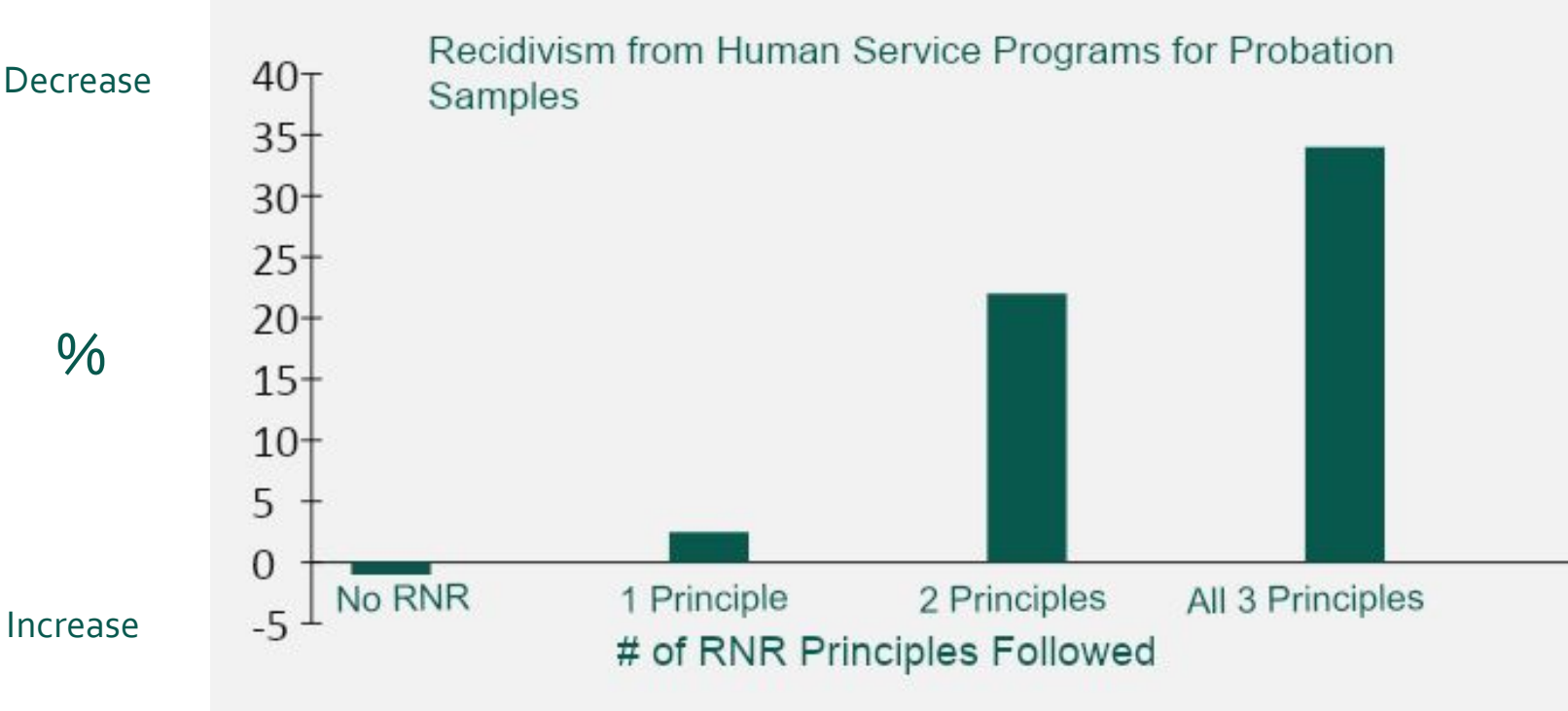
RNR Assessment	Screen for Risk to Reoffend	Detention Screening	Behavioral Health Screening	Trauma Screening
SAVRY	NCAR	JRAI	MAYSI-II	UCLA PTSD RI
YASI	YASI Pre-screen	DRAI	SASSI	TESI-C
OYAS	OYAS Diversion Screen		GAIN-SS	ASC-KIDS
YLS-CMI	YLS Pre-screen			TSQ
PACT	PACT Pre-screen			CPSS
				STRESS



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Research Evidence – RNR and Recidivism



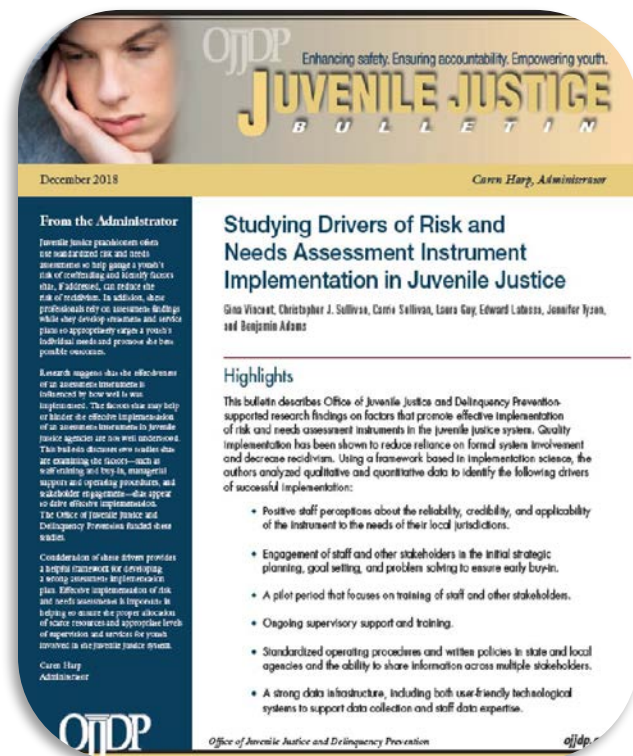
(Andrews & Bonta, 2010;
meta-anlaysia of 374 studies)



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Studying Drivers of Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument Implementation in Juvenile Justice



Implementation Challenges

1. Inconsistent assessment practices across staff/agencies
2. Inconsistent scoring and frequent overrides
3. Case plans are not based on assessment results
4. Assessment results are not shared with and used by all parties to guide supervision/service decisions
5. Lack of service matching to targeted community interventions and/or placement options

Gina Vincent, Christopher J. Sullivan, Carrie Sullivan, Laura Guy,
Edward Latessa, Jennifer Tyson, and Benjamin Adams
(OJJDP, December 2018)



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Risks-Needs-Responsivity / Quality Assurance

- Do you have a quality assurance protocol?
- Who is responsible for implementing this protocol?
- Who is responsible for facilitating the review and approval of the documented summary recommendations?
- What does your booster training/ coaching process look like?

Risk Screening Tool Implementation Checklist		
1. What decision will the risk screening tool be used to inform?	<input type="checkbox"/> Diversion/alternative response <input type="checkbox"/> Filing / Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Comments:
2. Who will administer the risk screening tool?	<input type="checkbox"/> Prosecutor's Office <input type="checkbox"/> Intake Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Comments:
3. What is the timeframe for staff to complete the tool?	<input type="checkbox"/> Within 24 hours of referral <input type="checkbox"/> Within 48 hours of referral <input type="checkbox"/> Within 72 hours of referral <input type="checkbox"/> Within 5 business days of referral <input type="checkbox"/> Within 1 week of referral <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Comments:
4. In what form are the results compiled?	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand-written <input type="checkbox"/> Computerized <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Comments:
5. Where are the results maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard copy in case file <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic database (name: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Comments:
6. Who receives the risk level results of the screening tool? Please note after each relevant entity the form in which they receive the results. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary sheet• Full report• Verbal summary• Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Prosecutor: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Defense Counsel: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Probation Department: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Judge: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Court Clerk: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion Coordinator / Board: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Youth: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Guardian: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Comments:
7. Have the staff persons that will be administering the screening tool received training from a qualified trainer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> To be completed by: _____	Comments:
8. Have the entities that will use the results of the screening tool been trained on how the tool is administered and how the results will be used?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> To be completed by: _____	Comments:
9. How often is staff provided or required to complete "booster" training?	<input type="checkbox"/> Every 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> Every 24 months <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Comments:
10. Who will be responsible for managing the quality assurance of the administration and use of the tool?	Name: _____ Title: _____ Agency: _____	Comments:
11. Has a protocol for the administration and use of the tool been developed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> To be completed by: _____	Comments:
12. Is there a protocol for regular data reporting about the risk levels of youth and the outcomes of their case (e.g., disposition, diversion)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> To be completed by: _____	Comments:

30 Probation System Review Guidebook

*Probation and Youth Justice System
Review Guidebook - Appendix (2023)*



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Traumatic Event Exposures in Juvenile Justice

Decisions need to be made with an understanding of how adversity and traumatic event exposures affect youth.



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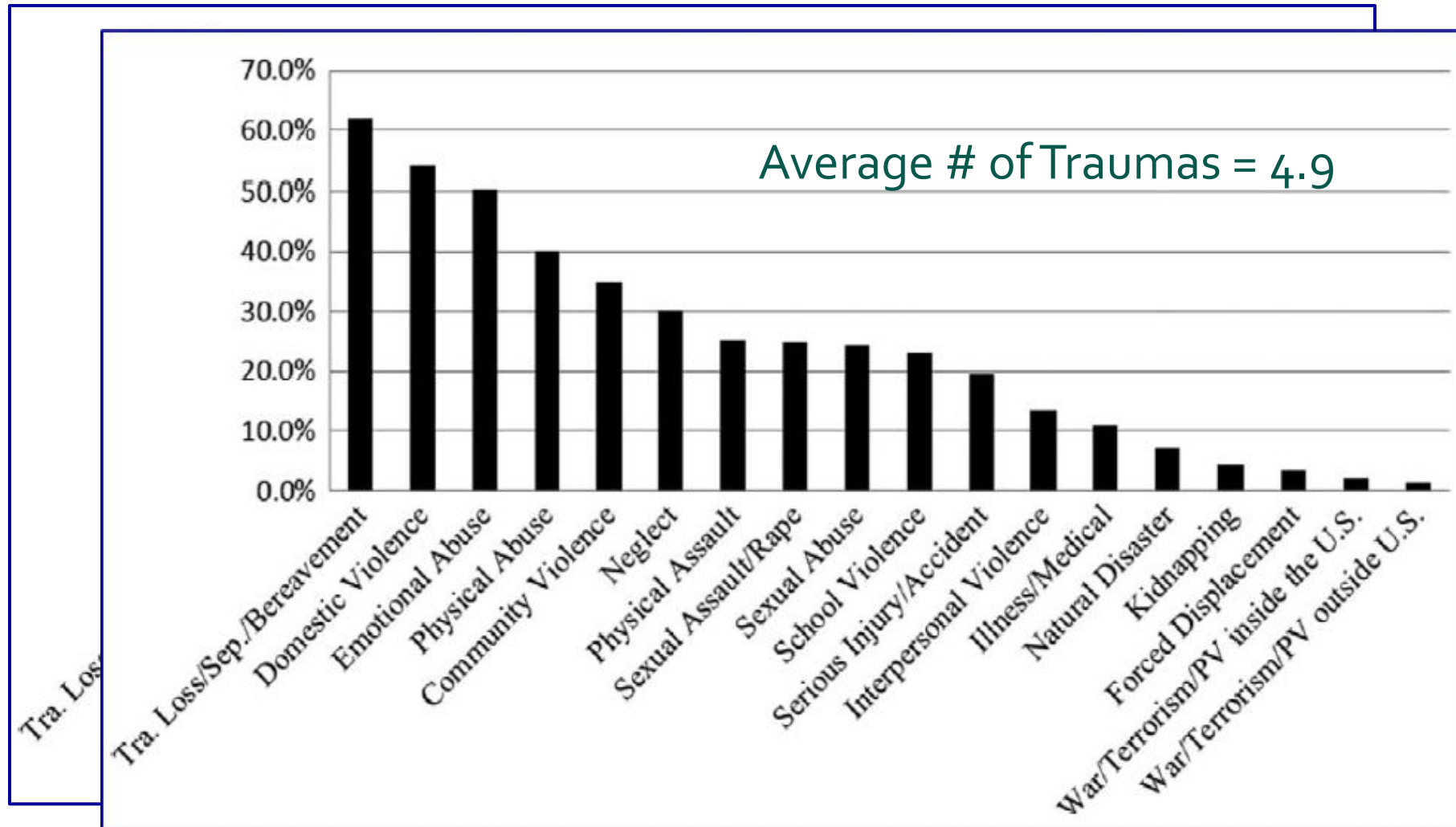
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Traumatic Event Exposures from Justice-Involved Youth



Dierkhising et al., (2013)



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PTSD Symptom Domains - Reactions in Juvenile Justice Youth

PTSD Symptom Cluster	Possible Reactions
Intrusive Symptoms	Sleep difficulties, rapid change in affect and behavior with no apparent external prompt/trigger; attention problems; distractibility; acting out behavior
Avoidance Symptoms	Youth avoids/refuses to respond to questions about their history; Noncompliance with milieu or treatment activities; Youth engages in distracting behaviors
Negative Alterations in Mood/Cognition	Youth who distances from peers and staff; Youth who seems aloof, cold, uncaring; Youth who distrusts peers and staff; Youth who self-harm
Arousal and Reactivity	Youth seems zoned out OR tense/on-edge; Youth with anger problems including verbal and physical aggression; Youth shows poor concentration OR does not initiate or complete tasks
Dissociation	Youth who appears to be in their own world most of the time; spaced out or nonresponsive; or over reacts to apparently small triggers



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YLS-CMI	YLS Pre-screen			TSQ
PACT	PACT Pre-screen			CPSS
				STRESS

Step 1: Purpose and Context

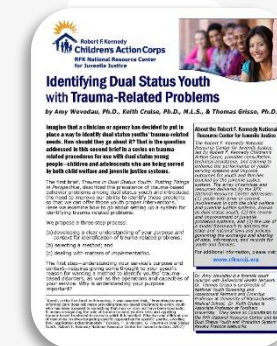
What do you want to learn? How will results be used to inform case planning?

Step 2: Select a Screening Method

What type of screen? When will it be conducted? Who will/can conduct the screen?

Step 3: Develop an Implementation Plan

What are your training needs? What policies need development? How will outcomes be tracked?



Wevodau, Cruise, & Grisso, 2015
<https://rfknrcji.org/resources/trauma/>



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Positive Youth Development

Positive youth development is an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive.

In Practice:

1. Erodes the deficit based approach for case management
2. Acknowledges that youth are capable of stabilizing maladaptive behaviors if attached to a variety of social resources that facilitate healthy development
3. Reducing offending means not simply restricting opportunities to offend but expanding opportunities to grow
4. Supports development of more mature patterns of thinking, reasoning, and decision-making given that during adolescence, youth are highly susceptible to the acquisition of cognitive skills and new relationships



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Positive Youth Development

"not just a theory or concept, but a practice"

Operates with 3 primary assumptions to achieve impact:

1. Focus on strengths and assets rather than deficits and problems. In case planning and management, emphasize the building of youth assets, skills and competencies.
2. Strengths and assets are usually acquired through positive relationships with pro-social and caring adults and peers.
3. The acquisition and development of youth assets occurs in schools, workplaces, community organizations, social programs, and neighborhoods through involvement in mentoring, cross-age tutoring, community development projects, career opportunities, etc.



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Growth Focused Case Management



Jonathan I. Cloud, Independent Consultant
RFK National Resource Center, 2021.

<https://rfknrcjj.org/resources/growth-focused-case-management/>



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Balanced Approach

Building an Effective Case Plan and Case Management Strategy

From the start,
encourage youth to
succeed, not just
“comply”

Anticipate
challenges and plan
strategies to
address them with
youth and families

Provide ongoing
reinforcement for
positive behavior
and swift,
proportionate
responses to
negative behavior

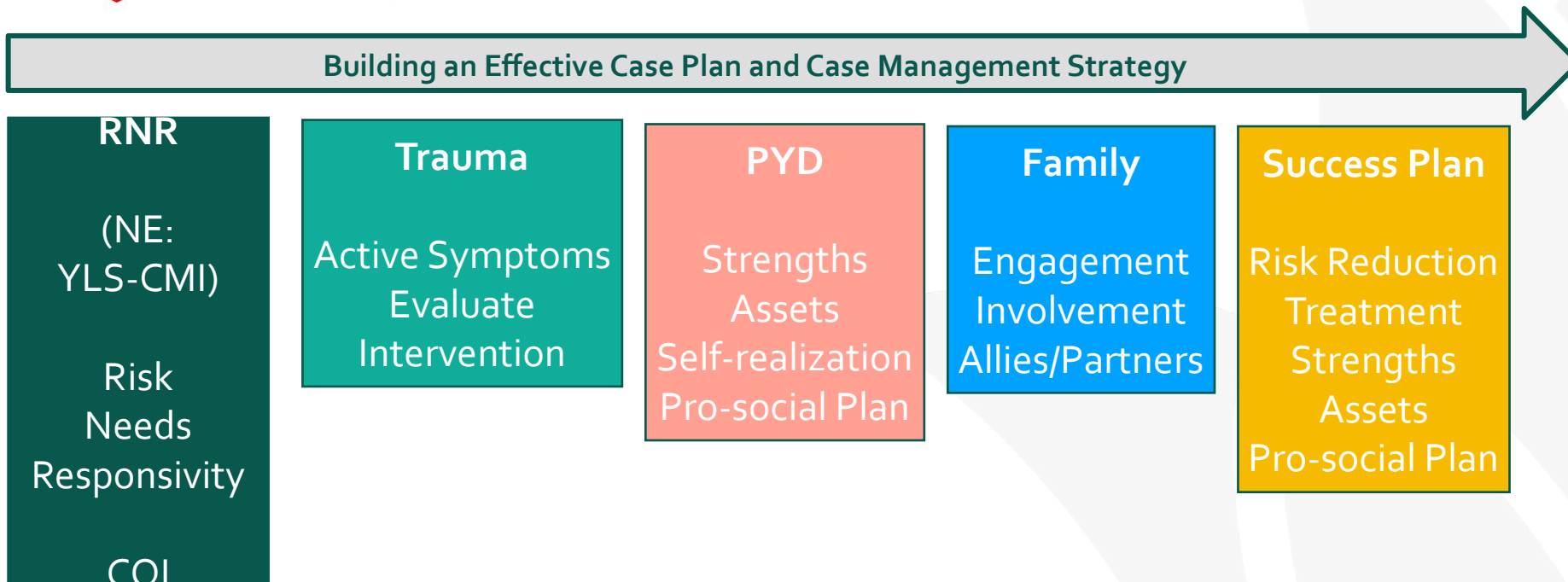
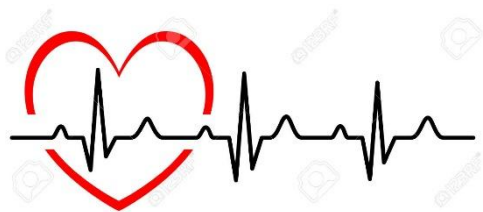
If youth are
struggling, identify
effective tools to
hold youth
accountable and
improve behavior



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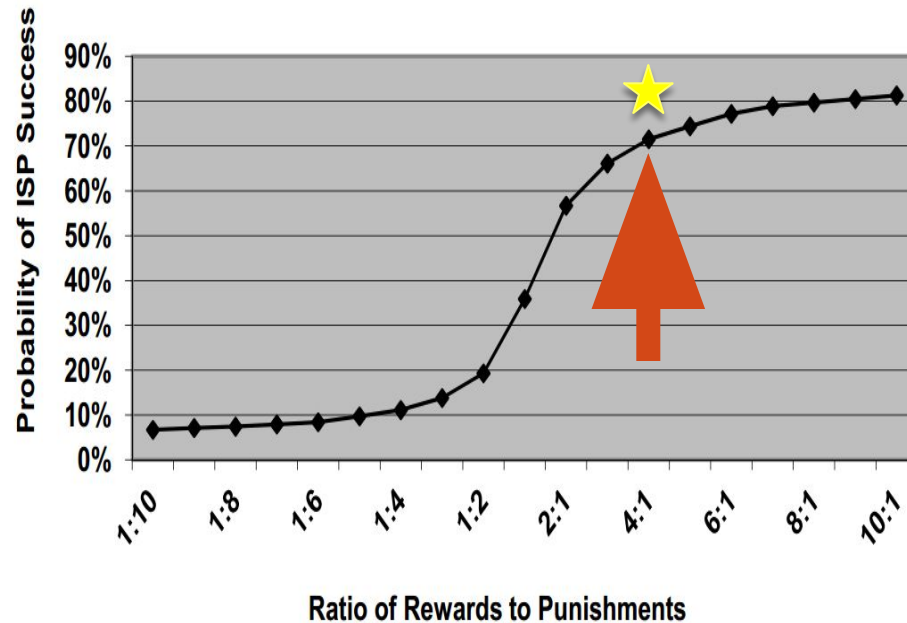
RNR is the Heartbeat



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What Happens if We Do?



Research reflects that a ratio of **4 rewards to every sanction** continued to increase the chance of successful probation completion



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Early and Successful Probation Closure/Release:



Early and Successful Probation Closure (baseline rate of 15%; project goal was 20%).

2021 – APR of 28%

2022 – APR of 29% (*In one quarter of 2022, the rate was as high as 36%).

Assignment of Incentives to Sanctions in Q4 (baseline was 2.6 to 1)

2021 – 3.4 to 1

2022 – 4.6 to 1

Recidivism in 3J Probation (per Nebraska Supreme Court Definition; baseline rate of 24%).

2021 – 17%

2022 – 16%

* Mondoro Project began tracking data in Q4 of 2020



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Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice

<https://rfknrcjj.org/>

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