

Center for Court Innovation: Digest of Evidence-based Assessment Tools

Comprehensive Risk Needs Tools ¹							
Name	Validated to Predict Recidivism (Yes/No)	Proprietary?	Pros	Cons	More Information	Screening Version Available?	
The Level of Services Inventory-Revised	Yes	Yes	Oldest of the comprehensive tools (most often validated); is open-ended and allows for interviewer discretion in rating risk; can be incorporated into existing data tracking systems or a the LSI standard system can be purchased	Requires in-depth clinical training; may take longer to administer than close ended tools; requires that the user pay per completed assessment	https://www.assessments.com/catalog/LSI_R.htm	Yes	
The Level of Services Inventory-Case Management Inventory	Yes	Yes	Oldest of the comprehensive tools (most often validated); is open-ended and allows for interviewer discretion in rating risk; contains an administrative/ case management component; can be incorporated into existing data tracking systems or a the LSI standard system can be purchased	Requires in-depth clinical training; may take longer to administer than close-ended tools; requires that the user pay per completed assessment	http://www.mhs.com/product.aspx?gr=saf&id=overview&prod=ls-cmi	Yes	
The COMPAS	Yes	Yes	Close-ended questions only and does not require clinical knowledge or extensive training; Quicker to administer than some open-ended tools; Comes in a web-based, self-scoring format;	Close-ended questions mean less discretion on part of the interviewer to assess risk; Less clinically focused than some other comprehensive tools; may need to be supplemented with clinical tools; scoring system is proprietary	http://www.northpointeinc.com/products/northpointe-software-suite	Unknown	
The Ohio Risk Assessment System	Yes	No	Only comprehensive system in the public domain; Contains tools specifically for different stages of processing (pre-trial; prison intake; community supervision; reentry)	Requires some clinical training at a cost; may take longer to administer than close-ended tools	https://www.assessments.com/purchase/detail.asp?SKU=5252	Yes	
The RANT (Risk and Need Triage)	Yes	Yes	Specific to drug-involved populations; Allows for a simple treatment matching based on four categories (high risk/low need; low risk/high need; high risk/high need; low risk/low need)	Validation literature is new compared to other tools; relatively expensive; may not include all eight criminogenic needs; scoring system is proprietary	http://www.trirant.org/	Unknown	
Short RNR Screeners							
The Criminal Court Assessment Tool	Yes	No	Brief and efficient for early case processing or overloaded dockets; Public Domain; Provides a raw score and risk category;	Provides needs "flags" but no in-depth information about treatment needs; still in early validation.	sfritsch@nycourts.gov	N/A	
Short Addiction Screeners							
Texas Christian University Drug Screen (TCUDS)	Yes	No	Based on DSM-IV criteria <i>and</i> validated to predict recidivism; In the public domain; easy to score and integrate in to existing data systems		https://www.assessments.com/catalog/TCUDS_II.htm	N/A	
Addiction Severity Index ²	Unknown	No	Covers addiction and related psychosocial factors; has been used extensively in correctional and other settings	Lengthy, but not a focused addiction screener or a comprehensive risk-need-responsivity tool	https://www.assessments.com/catalog/ASI_v5.htm	N/A	
GAIN Short Screener (GAIN-SS) ²	No	Yes	Very efficient combined short screener for addiction and mental illness (including internalizing and externalizing disorders)	Requires training at cost and is proprietary; Not originally designed for justice-system involved populations	https://www.assessments.com/catalog/GAIN_SS.htm	N/A	
Mental Health Screeners							

GAIN Short Screener (GAIN-SS) ²	No	Yes	Very efficient combined short screener for addiction and mental illness (including internalizing and externalizing disorders)	Requires training at cost and is proprietary; Not originally designed for justice-system involved populations	https://www.assessments.com/catalog/GAIN_SS.htm	N/A
Brief Mental Health Jail Screen ²	No		Public domain, no training required, easy to score; Looks at current active symptoms that may be related to justice system involvement	Not as accurate for female detainees than for male	http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/pdfs/disorders/bjmhsform.pdf	N/A
Trauma Screeners						
Texas Christian University Trauma Form	No	No	Covers the primary trauma symptoms without asking about specific traumatic experiences; Is close-ended and could be used without clinical training; Public domain	Not necessarily valid as a predictor of PTSD diagnosis Not explicitly involved for justice system populations	http://www.ibr.tcu.edu/pubs/datacoll/Forms/ShortForms/09(SF)TRMAFORM.pdf	N/A
Trauma Symptom Checklist ²	No	No			http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/pages/assessments/tsc-40.asp	N/A
Criminal Thinking Scales						
Texas Christian University CTS	No	No	Only separate criminal thinking scale that is not part of a separate comprehensive screener; public domain; easy	Statistically valid for predicting progress in treatment but not criminal recidivism	http://www.ibr.tcu.edu/pubs/datacoll/Forms/cjsurveyct.pdf	N/A

¹ Covers the eight criminogenic domains: Criminal History, Criminal Thinking, Antisocial Behavior, Antisocial Peers, Education/Employment, Family/Marital, Social Isolation, Substance Abuse

²Validated to accurately predict clinical diagnosis but not risk of recidivism