

RISK/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

County probation and parole departments use assessments to assess a person's likelihood of being rearrested which guides the level of supervision intensity and focus of interventions. Risk/needs assessments are key tools in helping justice systems improve decision making and outcomes. To ensure that assessments accurately assess the likelihood of rearrest, they need to be validated, preferably with the local population on which they are being used.

OHIO RISK ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (ORAS)

The Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) consists of nine tools and is currently being used in 58 county probation departments. The original suite of tools was validated in 2009, and several states have subsequently validated to their populations. Most counties use both the Community Supervision Screening Tool (ORAS-CSST) and the Community Supervision Tool (ORAS-CST). They are both designed for people on probation and parole. Staff use file reviews, structured interviews, and self-report questionnaires to complete the tools.

ORAS-CSST

The ORAS-CSST quickly screens for people who are low risk from those who are moderate or high risk.

RISK CATEGORIES	
Scores	Rating
0-2	Low
3+	Moderate/High

ORAS-CSST

RISK CATEGORIES FOR MALES		RISK CATEGORIES FOR FEMALES	
Scores	Rating	Scores	Rating
0-14	Low	0-2	Low
15-23	Moderate	15-21	Low/Moderate
24-33	High	22-28	Moderate
34+	Very High	29+	High



9 SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS

- Community Supervision Screening Tool (ORAS-CSST)
- Community Supervision Tool (ORAS-CST)
- Misdemeanor Screening Tool (ORAS-MST)
- Misdemeanor Assessment Tool (ORAS-MAT)
- Pretrial Tool (ORAS-PAT)
- Prison Screening Tool ((ORAS-PST)
- Prison Intake Tool (ORAS-PIT)
- Reentry Tool (ORAS-RT)
- Supplemental Reentry Tool (ORAS-SRT)



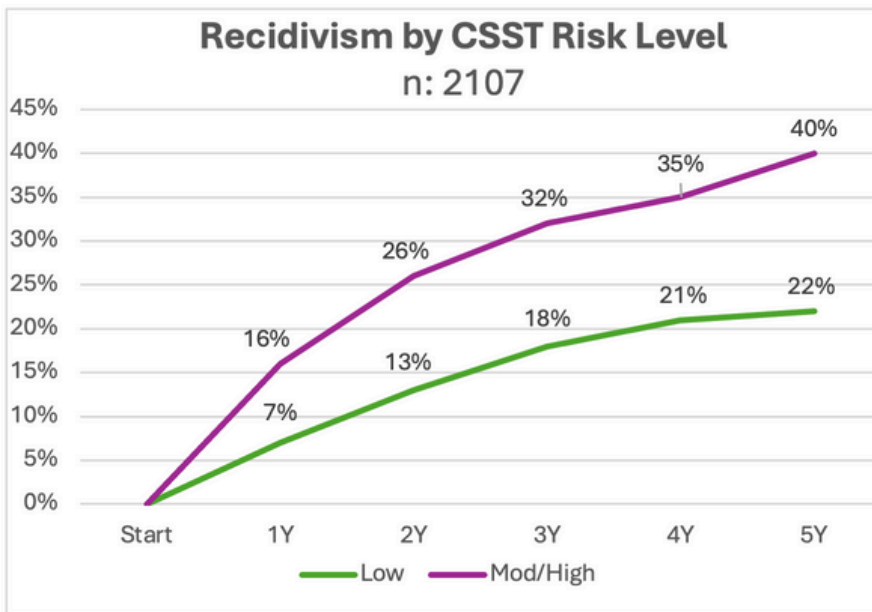
58 COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENTS USING ORAS TOOLS

ORAS SPOTLIGHT

Using Assessments to Determine Focus

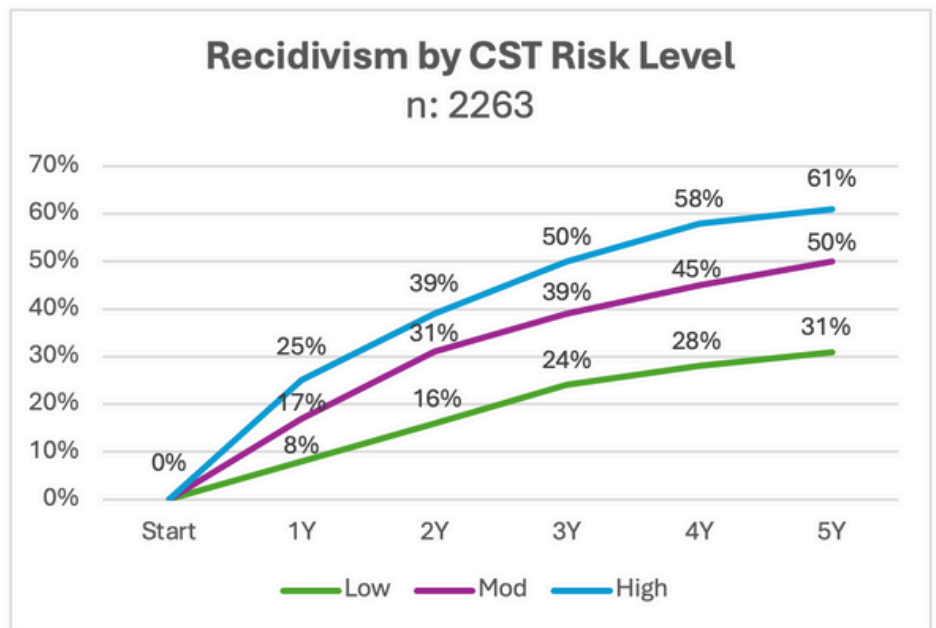
VALIDATING USE OF ORAS IN PENNSYLVANIA

In 2024, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) validated the ORAS-CSST & ORAS-CST in four counties (Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, & York) and looked at recidivism rates at 1, 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year intervals. Recidivism was defined as the first instance of rearrest for any new criminal charge following an individual starting county supervision. Their study found **strong, statistically significant, predictive validity for both the ORAS-CSST and ORAS-CST.**



Those assessed as moderate/high have 2.8 times the odds of recidivating by 1 year and 2.3 times the odds by five years compared to those assessed as low risk.

Those assessed as moderate-risk have 2.6 times the odds of recidivating by 1 year than low-risk individuals; high-risk individuals have 4.0 times the odds.



The ORAS-CSST and ORAS-CST were also predictive across demographic groups (gender, race, and age) and lead charge type.

Counties that are interested in validating the ORAS to their population are encouraged to contact PCCD.