

Thurston County- Public Safety Assessment (PSA) Implementation

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INFO: Thurston County Law & Justice Council

Today's Presentation

1. Background
2. Pretrial assessments tools
3. PSA overview
4. Release Conditions Matrix
5. PSA Implementation in Thurston County

Background

Thurston County- How did we get here?

- In 2019, Thurston County became a Research Action Site for Arnold Ventures' Advancing Pretrial Policy & Research (APPR) project.
- Overall project is overseen by *APPR Advisory Committee*.
- Implementation of the Public Safety Assessment is one (significant!) element of Thurston County's APPR work.
 - PSA is a locally & nationally validated pretrial risk assessment tool.

Thurston APPR Advisory Committee

- District and Superior Courts
 - Chair: Judge Christine Schaller
- Sheriff's Office
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Pretrial Services Department
- Public Defense
- City of Lacey Police Department
- City of Olympia Police Department
- City of Tumwater Police Department
- Thurston/Mason Behavioral Health Services
- Board of County Commissioners
- Administrative Office of the Courts

Thurston County- Where are we headed?

- PSA will be completed prior to the Preliminary Appearance
 - Provides consistent, standard information to judicial officers & attorneys
- Release/detain decision made by judicial officer
- If released, PSA scores map to Release Conditions
- PSA implementation to include ongoing quality assurance and review of data

Pretrial Assessment Tools

Purpose of Pretrial Assessment

- Why do we do pretrial assessment?

To Predict

- Helps identify who is likely to succeed or fail on pretrial release
- Why predict? Provides an opportunity to intervene and assist before failure occurs

How Do All Pretrial Tools Work?

- **Use information from people's past to predict future behavior**
 - Other pending cases
 - Prior FTAs
 - Prior convictions (types)
 - Prior sentences
- **Might also use other information**
 - Person's age
 - Current charges

Pretrial assessment results, along with other information, can help inform pretrial decisions.

What do Pretrial Assessment Tools Measure?

- **They answer two important questions:**
 1. Risk of what?
(What is the person at risk of?)
 2. How much risk?
(What is the amount of risk?)
- **We must always keep both in mind**

Bias in Pretrial Assessment

- Bias is inherent in all methods of assessment because they all rely on data/information from the past to predict the future
- All methods of assessment reflect implicit or systemic bias
- Actuarial pretrial assessment tools have advantages:
 1. Promote consistency
 2. Increase transparency
 3. Provide data for evaluation & improvement

Public Safety Assessment Overview

What Makes the PSA Unique?

Arnold Ventures sought to develop a pretrial assessment that would:

- Predict the likelihood of failure to appear and new criminal arrest separately.
- Predict the likelihood of new violent criminal arrest.
- Assess factors that did not depend on interviews.
- Improve overall predictive accuracy.
- Be applicable anywhere in the United States.
- Be available without cost.

PSA Factors

PSA FACTORS
1. Age at current arrest
2. Current violent offense
2A. Current violent offense and 20 years old or younger
3. Pending charge at the time of the arrest
4. Prior misdemeanor conviction
5. Prior felony conviction
5A. Prior conviction (misdemeanor or felony)
6. Prior violent conviction
7. Prior failure to appear in the past 2 years
8. Prior failure to appear older than 2 years
9. Prior sentence to incarceration

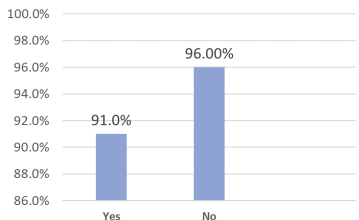
PSA Factors

PSA FACTORS AND PRETRIAL OUTCOMES			
PSA FACTOR	FTA	NCA	NVCA
1. Age at current arrest		✓	
2. Current violent offense			✓
2A. Current violent offense and 20 years old or younger			✓
3. Pending charge at the time of the arrest	✓	✓	✓
4. Prior misdemeanor conviction		✓	
5. Prior felony conviction		✓	
5A. Prior conviction (misdemeanor or felony)	✓		✓
6. Prior violent conviction		✓	✓
7. Prior failure to appear in the past 2 years	✓	✓	
8. Prior failure to appear older than 2 years	✓		
9. Prior sentence to incarceration		✓	

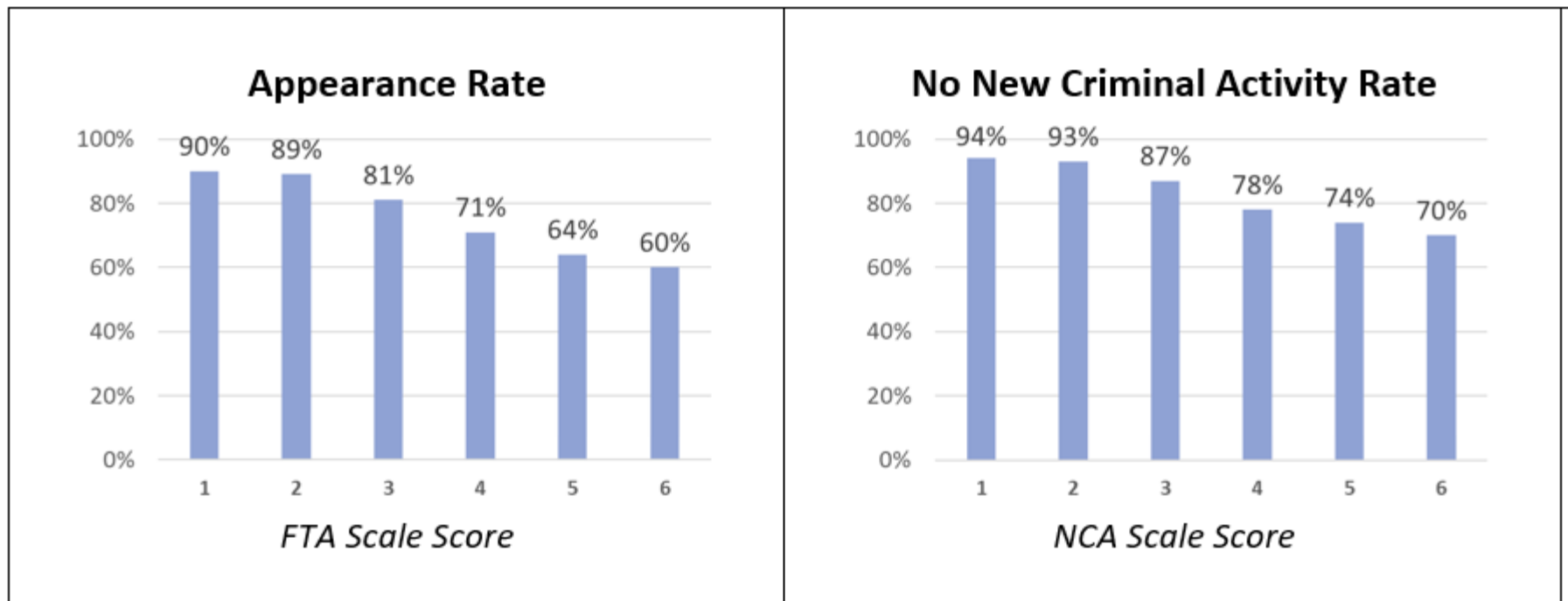
PSA Scores

Factor Weights & Score Construction

- Strongest predictive factors are given higher weights.
- Factor weights differ by outcome (FTA, NCA, NVCA).
- The scores reflect two scales and a potential flag:
 - Failure to Appear: Scale of 1 – 6
 - New Criminal Arrest: Scale of 1 – 6
 - New Violent Criminal Arrest: Yes or No “flag”

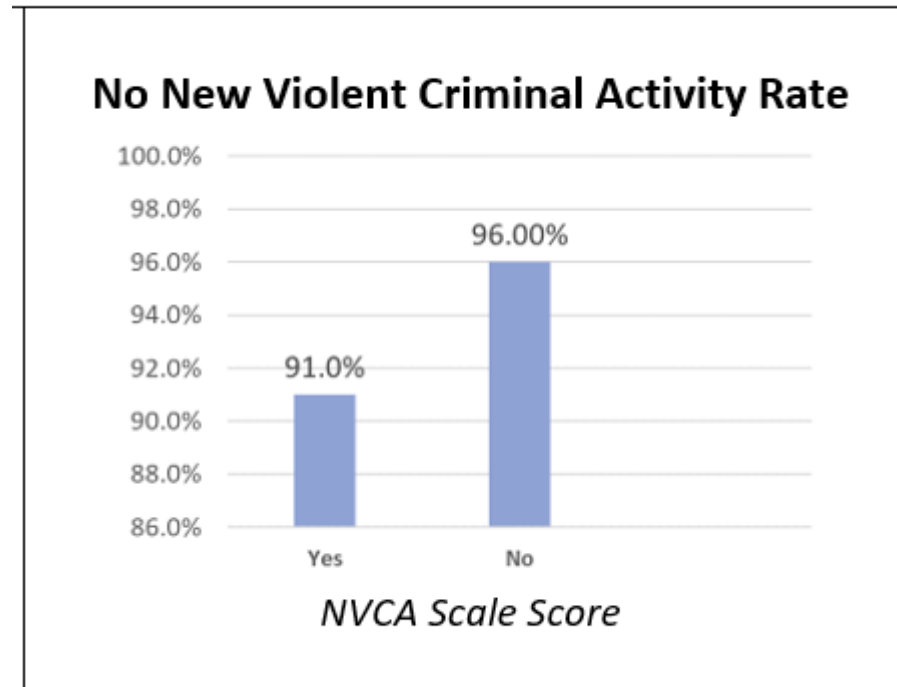


ood of Success by PSA Score



Based on Thurston County PSA validation.

Likelihood of Success by PSA Score



Success Rates

People on pretrial release succeed in the vast majority of cases

People are very unlikely to be arrested for a new violent offense while on pretrial release

Release Conditions Matrix

Release Conditions Matrix

The PSA is used to **assess** people

The Release Conditions Matrix is used to **assist** people

Matrix matches PSA scores to pretrial release conditions

Enables pretrial staff to concentrate its limited resources on the people least likely to succeed

Release Conditions Matrix

- People should be released with the least-restrictive conditions necessary to reasonably assure court appearance and law-abiding behavior.
- Pretrial release levels should be commensurate with the likelihood of pretrial success.
- People with lower scores should be released with minimal conditions, if any.
- People with higher scores can be released with conditions that help them appear in court and remain law-abiding.

Thurston's Release Conditions Matrix

	New Criminal Activity (NCA) Scaled Score					
Failure to Appear (FTA) Scaled Score	1 94% Likely Arrest-Free	2 93% Likely Arrest-Free	3 87% Likely Arrest-Free	4 78% Likely Arrest-Free	5 74% Likely Arrest-Free	6 70% Likely Arrest-Free
1 90% Likely to Appear	1	1				
2 89% Likely to Appear	1	1	1	2	3	
3 81% Likely to Appear		1	2	2	3	4
4 71% Likely to Appear		1	2	2	3	4
5 64% Likely to Appear		1	2	3	4	4
6 60% Likely to Appear				4	4	4

Thurston's Release Conditions Table

	Pretrial Release Level			
Release Activities and Conditions	1	2	3	4
Mandatory Statutory Conditions	X	X	X	X
Court Date Notifications	X	X	X	X
Criminal History Checks Once per Month		X	X	X
Once Per Month Electronic or In-Person Contact with PTS		X		
Twice Per Month Electronic or In-Person Contact with PTS			X	
Weekly Electronic or In-Person Contact with PTS				X
After Court In-Person PTS reporting				X
Additional Case Specific Monitoring by PTS when allowed by Statute and/or Court's discretion; Private Party transdermal Confirmation/Monitoring, Drug Testing Upon Reasonable Suspicion, Private Party Electronic Home Monitoring Confirmation/Monitoring		X	X	X

PSA Implementation in Thurston County

Thurston County PSA Implementation

- April 2023– training & education for:
 - Judicial officers, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, Pretrial Services
- Current activities
 - Assessor practice period and soft launch
 - Quality assurance reviews throughout this period; booster trainings as needed
 - Other implementation preparation
- Full implementation- summer 2023
 - Quality assurance process will be ongoing

Closing

