

RISK INSTRUMENT DEFINITIONS

1. **Age at First Referral to CSU** - Determine the youth's age at the time he/she was first referred to the CSU for a delinquent or status offense. Do not include referrals for dependency or custody. The outcome (e.g., diverted, petitioned) of the first referral does not matter.
2. **Number of Adjudicated Offenses Disposed of at Current Disposition** - This is a count of the number of ADJUDICATED OFFENSES that were/are to be disposed of at the current dispositional hearing. Do not include any offenses/charges that were not adjudicated. In counting adjudicated offenses, count only those that represented separate incidents. If a youth was adjudicated for two burglaries that occurred on two different nights that is two adjudications. However, if a youth was involved in a robbery and got charged/adjudicated for multiple counts of lesser included offenses (e.g., robbery, assault, theft) that should be counted as one offense, not three.
3. **Total Petitions for Violent Offenses** - This is a count of all PETITIONS for violent offenses in the youth's record. Be sure to count any and all petitions for violent offenses that occurred up to the date of the current disposition (even if they have not yet been adjudicated or disposed of). The petitions must reflect separate incidents, not multiple charges arising from the same incident. Violent offenses include all offenses against persons that are assaultive in nature including felony and misdemeanor assaults, kidnapping, murder, armed robbery, and robbery, carjacking, sexual assaults, etc.
4. **Total Petitions for Drug or Conspiracy Offenses** - This is a count of all PETITIONS in the youth's record for drug charges (sales, possession with intent to sell, use, possession) or for conspiracy charges. Count only those petitions arising from separate incidents, not multiple charges arising from the same incident. If a youth gets arrested for drug sales and gets three separate petitions alleging sales and possession, that is one incident (not two) and should be counted as one petition. Be sure to count any and all drug or conspiracy petitions that occurred up to the date of the current disposition.
5. **Types of Petitions for Property Offenses** - This is a count of the number of different TYPES of property offense petitions. It is not a count of the total number of petitions for property offenses. There are a total of five different types of property offenses that are considered: burglary; larceny; fraud; arson; and trespass/vandalism. Check the youth's entire record to determine how many of these different types the youth has been petitioned for. As above, only count petitions arising from separate incidents. If a youth committed one burglary during which he stole something, and was petitioned for burglary and theft, that's one petition. In such cases, count the most serious type. Be sure to count any and all property offense petitions that occurred up to the current disposition.
6. **Substance Abuse** - Indicate the degree to which drug/alcohol involvement has affected youth's normal functioning in the two years prior to the current disposition. Consider both frequency (e.g., "occasional", "frequent") and effect of use ("some" or "serious disruption/interference").
 - No Problem/experimentation:** no use or occasional use that does not result in disruption of functioning. Uses less than once per month; OR more frequent use but relationships with parents not strained over use or involvement with using peers; AND no school problems associated with use; AND no arrests for D/A related offenses (within past two years).
 - Problematic:** use of substances is associated with some or major disruption of functioning. Family relationships may have become strained over use; OR strong ties to D/A involved peers; OR deterioration in school performance believed to be drug/alcohol related; OR one or more school disciplinary actions related to substance abuse; OR one or more substance abuse-related arrests (past two years); OR any referral in past two years for out-patient or in-patient treatment for D/A abuse; OR admitted or diagnosed dependency.
7. **School Status** - Indicate whether the youth is enrolled and attending school, or has been expelled or has dropped out. If the youth has truancy problems, but is still going to school, he/she should be given a score of "0". However, if the youth has been truant for more than half the days in the last 9 months of school, consider them to have "dropped out" (and score "2").
8. **Peer relationships** - Use the definitions below to guide the scoring of this Item.
 - No negative associations or youth is a loner:** friends not known to be delinquent or to have influenced youth's involvement in delinquent behavior- no more than one referral involving co-defendants; OR youth has no/few friends; engages in solitary pursuits and/or spends most time with much younger children.
 - Some delinquent peers:** some companions involved in delinquent behavior. Has had co-defendants in 2-3 arrests and/or some friends have been referred to juvenile court.
 - Mostly delinquent peers:** primary peer group has a strong delinquent orientation and/or most friends have been referred to juvenile court, and/or four or more arrests involving codefendants; and or youth is a gang or posse member or affiliate.
9. **History of Runaways/Escapes** - Indicate whether the youth has a history of multiple runaways from home (defined as being gone for 24 hours or more) OR had ever runaway or escaped from a placement facility (secure or non-secure). The time frame for this question is "ever".
10. **Referred to DSS** - Indicate whether the youth was ever referred to DSS as a victim of child abuse of neglect. It does not matter if the allegation was founded/substantiated or not.
11. **Family Functioning Characteristics**- Use the definitions below to determine the extent of family disorganization.
 - No Problem:** family functioning was basically stable and supportive. Physical and emotional needs of youth were being met. Parental discipline and control were generally effective.
 - Some Disorganization:** family problems interfered with youth functioning (or youth problems interfered with family functioning). Parent-parent or parent-child conflict occurred frequently and at times was disruptive, OR parental discipline and control were often ineffective or inconsistent, OR there was residential instability or financial problems, or there had been; recent disruptive event such as divorce, remarriage or a death in the family.
 - Major Disorganization:** problems severely inhibited the youth's ability to function. Youth's physical or emotional needs were not being met, OR parent rejecting of, or refused responsibility for youth, OR chronic, serious parental problems (financial, mental health, illness, criminality), OR parent-parent or parent-child conflict occurred consistently and created turmoil, OR repeated instances of family violence, OR parental discipline and control were almost non-existent, OR parents contributed to youth's delinquency.
12. **Family Criminality** - Indicate whether a parent figure or sibling (or both) was on probation/parole or incarcerated during the three years prior to the current disposition. Incarcerated means sentenced to incarceration (do not include pre-trial jail or detention.) If a parent OR a sibling had been on probation or incarcerated, score "1". If BOTH had been, score "2". Parent figure includes natural parents, step-parents and live-in boyfriends/girlfriends. Do not include aunts, uncles, or other relatives unless they are caretakers/parent figures.