

DENVER SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



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Risk/Need Screening and Assessment Pilot Overview

This report is a joint effort between the Denver Sheriff Department and the Crime Prevention and Control Commission (CPCC) and is an overview of the Risk/Need Screening and Assessment Pilot which took place between the months of July and October, 2009.

In an effort to develop a method for screening and assessing the risk and needs of the Denver County Jail population, the Denver Sheriff Department is in the process of testing the Proxy tool, developed by Justice System Assessment and Training, Inc. (Boulder, CO) and used in the state of Hawaii and LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, and other jurisdictions around the country to screen offenders for the risk of reoffending and to identify the subset of offenders appropriate for in-depth assessment of criminogenic risks and needs using the Level of Service Inventory (LSI); the LSI assesses a client's risk to re-offend taking into account static risk factors such as past criminal history and dynamic criminogenic needs for use in targeted interventions.

The model and research used by the state of Hawaii for the Proxy screen was adjusted with statistical data from the Denver County Jail, Denver, Colorado and completed on 286 incoming sentenced misdemeanants.

Proxy Pilot Results

Overview: The Proxy tool will be utilized in conjunction with the Denver Sheriff Department Jail Management System to create a score based on answers to 3 self-reported questions. This score allows the department to triage offenders prior to conducting full assessment with a third generation comprehensive risk and needs assessment tool.

Process: The Denver Sheriff Department followed the process below, as recommended by the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division.

1. A sample of 286 sentenced misdemeanor inmates were selected from the Denver County Jail.
2. To determine Proxy score, the following questions were asked to each inmate (all questions are offender self-report):
 - a. Current Age: A value of 0, 1, or 2 is assigned based on the offender's age, relative to that of the remainder of the sample. Where a score of 2 = within the

first third of the sample (youngest), 1 = within the middle third of the population, and 0 = within the last third of the sample (oldest).

- b. Age of First Arrest (AFA): A value of 3, 2, or 1 is assigned based on the offender's age at first arrest (including juvenile arrests). Where a score of 3 = within the first third of the sample (youngest), 2 = within the middle third of the population, and 1 = within the last third of the sample (oldest).
- c. Prior Arrests: A value of 3, 2, or 1 is assigned based on the number of times an offender has been arrested (including juvenile arrests). Where a score of 3 = within the last third of the sample (highest number of priors), 2 = within the middle third of the population, and 1 = within the first third of the sample (least number of priors).

The following conclusions were drawn from the data collected from our inmate sample, using the formulas described above.

Current Age	Age of First Arrest	Number of Prior Arrests
(18-30) = 2	(9-18) = 3	(0-3) =1
(31-44) = 1	(19-22) = 2	(4-9) =2
(45-67) = 0	(23+) = 1	(10+) =3

Current Age: The sample concluded the following breakdown of current age:

- 1/3 were 45 years old or older
- 1/3 were between 31-44 years old
- 1/3 were 30 years old or younger

Age at First Arrest (AFA): The sample concluded the following breakdown of reported age of first arrest:

- 1/3 reported they were 23 years old or older at their first arrest
- 1/3 reported they were between 19 -22 years old at the first arrest
- 1/3 reported they were 18 years old or younger at their first arrest

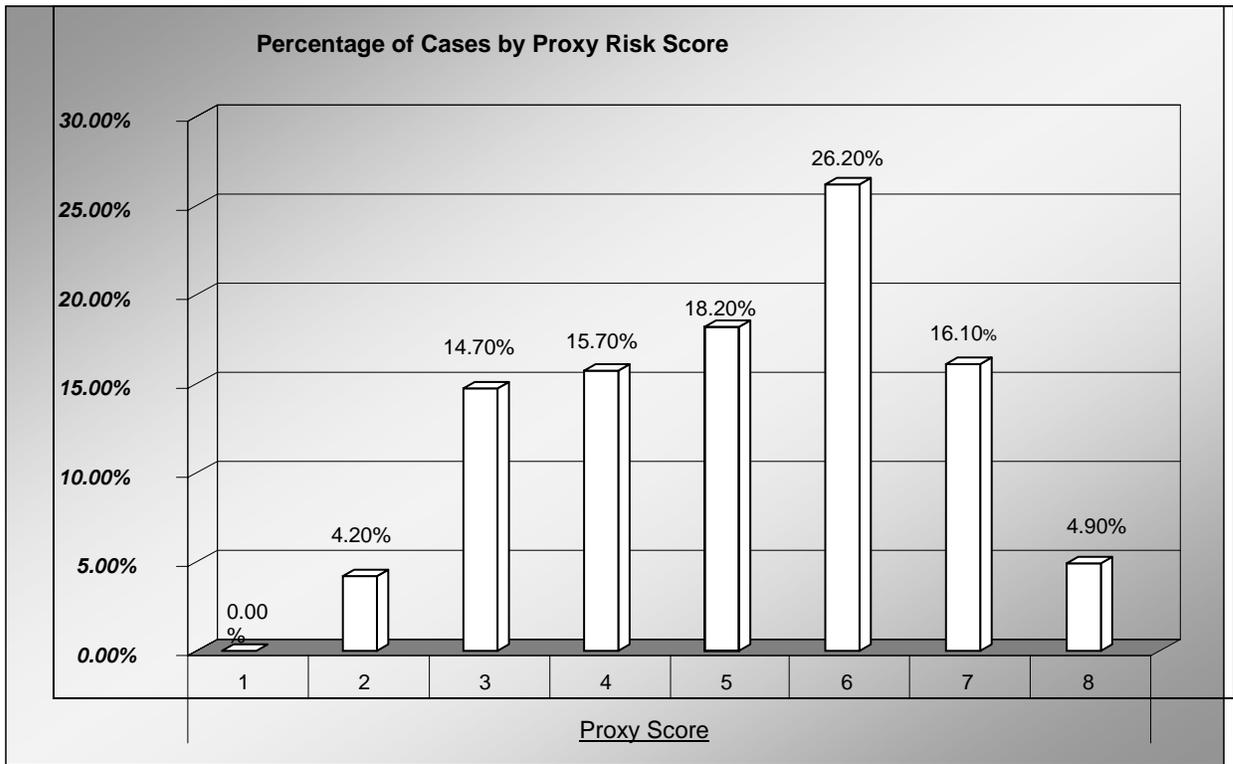
Prior Arrests: The sample concluded the following breakdown of prior arrests:

- 1/3 reported 3 or less prior arrests
- 1/3 reported 4-9 prior arrests
- 1/3 reported 10 or more prior arrests

3. Scoring criteria: Based on the identified scoring criteria, scores were applied to the values within each of the three fields (Age, AFA, and Priors) and totaled for a proxy score. The below chart is a representative sample of the data array:

Name	Current Age	Score	AFA	Score	Prior Arrests	Score	Proxy Score
XXXXXXXXXX	50	0	25	1	8	2	3
XXXXXXXXXX	33	1	32	1	2	1	3
XXXXXXXXXX	45	0	32	1	6	2	3
XXXXXXXXXX	38	1	32	1	4	2	4
XXXXXXXXXX	45	0	23	1	3	1	2
XXXXXXXXXX	44	1	18	3	3	1	5
XXXXXXXXXX	67	0	25	1	1	1	2
XXXXXXXXXX	32	1	27	1	3	1	3
XXXXXXXXXX	55	0	20	2	8	2	4
XXXXXXXXXX	41	1	27	1	8	2	4
XXXXXXXXXX	35	1	20	2	1	1	4
XXXXXXXXXX	46	0	19	2	6	2	4
XXXXXXXXXX	31	1	23	1	12	3	5
XXXXXXXXXX	43	1	20	2	5	2	5
XXXXXXXXXX	50	0	25	1	5	2	3
XXXXXXXXXX	40	1	25	1	2	1	3
XXXXXXXXXX	46	0	20	2	30	3	5
XXXXXXXXXX	39	1	24	1	3	1	3
XXXXXXXXXX	51	0	32	1	9	2	3

The following table illustrates the distribution of the Proxy scores from the sample group:



From this graph, we were able to place the sample inmates in the following risk categories:

	Long Term	Short Term	CTS / WR
High Risk	58 (9)	2	No Data
Medium Risk	124 (26)	3 (1)	No Data
Low Risk	98 (33)	1	No Data

286 total = 100% of sample collected

CTS = Credit for Time Served

WR = Work Release

() = Current Life Skills Client

- High Risk = Proxy Score of 7 and 8
- Medium Risk = Proxy Score of 5 and 6
- Low risk = Proxy Score of 2, 3, and 4
- Long Term = Sentence of 30 days or longer
- Short Term = Sentence of 29 days or shorter
- Credit Time Served = Released at sentencing (court ordered)

The inmates that are determined to be High Risk in the Short Term Category, Medium Risk in the Short Term category and the Low Risk in the Long Term, Short Term, or Credit Time Served categories would receive informational services and/or referrals to community providers. This would represent 104 inmates of the sample group.

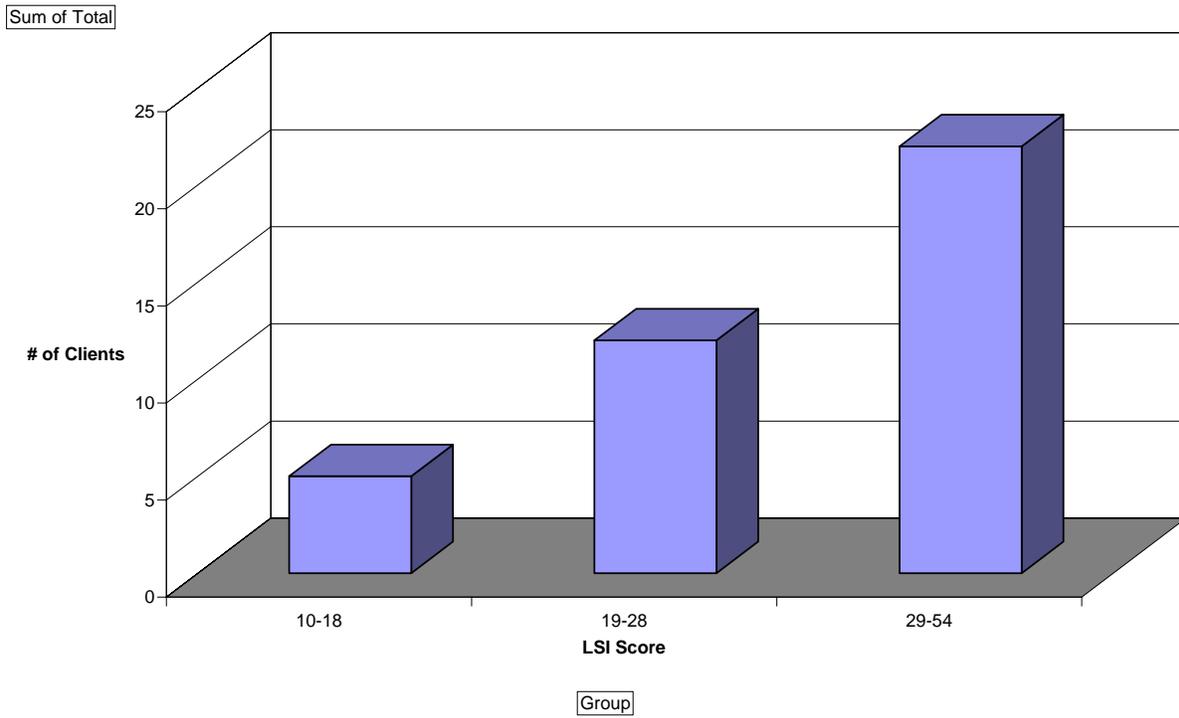
The inmates that are determined to be High Risk and Medium Risk, Long Term categories would receive the Level of Service Inventory (LSI) assessment. The results of this assessment would allow for referrals, treatment, programs, services, mental health evaluations, etc. This would represent 182 inmates of the sample group.

Level of Service Inventory (LSI)

The LSI is an objective, quantifiable, 54-item risk/need classification instrument. The instrument is composed of ten subscales that contain both “static” (criminal history) and “dynamic” (drug and alcohol, companions, family) risk factors. Although the static risk factors generally cannot be changed, they are still predictive of re-offending. The dynamic risk factors are changeable and provide direction for focusing the intervention or change process. For the purpose of this report, the overall LSI score will be referred to as the client’s risk to re-offend, and the subscale scores will be addressed as criminogenic needs, or needs.

Overview: The Level of Service Inventory (LSI) was administered to 39 inmates from the sample population of 286 sentenced misdemeanor inmates previously selected from the proxy study. Due to the elapsed time during this study, only 39 inmates of the sampled 286 inmates

LSI Distribution

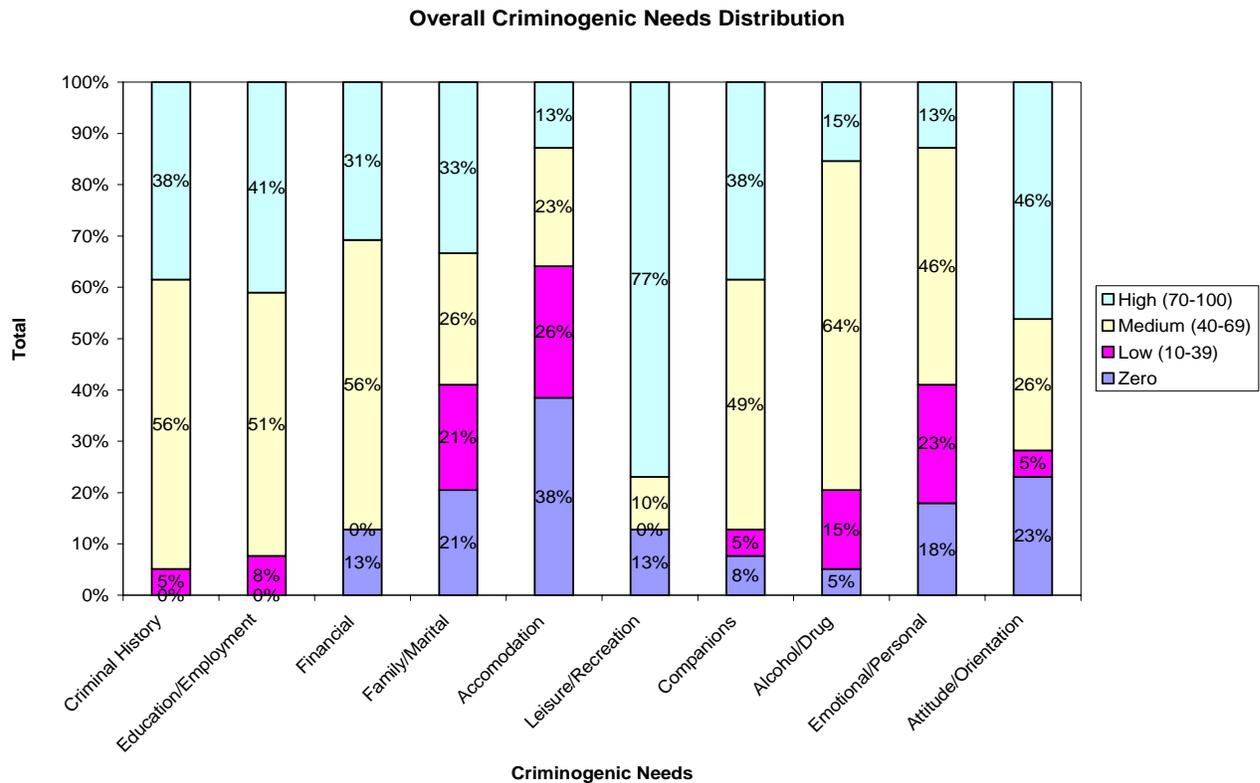


The chart below is a representative sample of the data array depicting the inmate's time to complete LSI, original proxy score and total LSI score:

First Name	LSI Time	LSI + Score	Wait Time	Score and Interview Time	Total Time	Proxy Score	Total LSI Score
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	5 min.	45	50	5	32
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	5 min.	45	50	5	34
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	5	26
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	5	26
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	5 min.	50	55	5	20
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	10 min.	50	60	5	36
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	10 min.	40	50	5	33
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	10 min.	45	55	5	22
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	10 min.	45	55	5	30
XXXXX	20 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	5	13
XXXXX	25 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	5	13
XXXXX	35 min.	65 min.	10 min.	65	75	5	26
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	10 min.	50	60	6	36
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	5 min.	50	55	6	31
XXXXX	30 min.	35 min.	10 min.	35	45	6	15
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	6	14
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	5 min.	45	50	6	39
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	6	34
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	6	28
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	5 min.	45	50	6	44
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	5 min.	45	50	6	40
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	15 min.	50	65	6	39
XXXXX	35 min.	45 min.	5 min.	45	50	6	33
XXXXX	30 min.	40 min.	15 min.	40	55	6	20
XXXXX	30 min.	70 min.	10 min.	70	80	6	33
XXXXX	30 min.	75 min.	10 min.	75	85	6	34
XXXXX	45 min.	75 min.	5 min.	75	80	6	31
XXXXX	45 min.	75 min.	10 min.	75	85	6	30
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	5 min.	50	55	7	41
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	7	28
XXXXX	35 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	7	28
XXXXX	40 min.	45 min.	5 min.	45	50	7	39
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	10 min.	50	60	7	31
XXXXX	45 min.	50 min.	20 min.	50	70	7	44
XXXXX	40 min.	55 min.	15 min.	55	70	7	32
XXXXX	30 min.	65 min.	10 min.	65	75	7	22
XXXXX	35 min.	65 min.	5 min.	65	70	7	24
XXXXX	35 min.	65 min.	5 min.	65	70	8	22
XXXXX	25 min.	40 min.	5 min.	40	45	8	16

The graph below represents an overall distribution of the ten subscales for the sample group of 39 clients including Criminal History, Education/Employment, Financial, Family/Marital,

Accommodation, Leisure/Recreation, Companions, Alcohol/Drug, Emotional/Personal, and Attitude/Orientation.



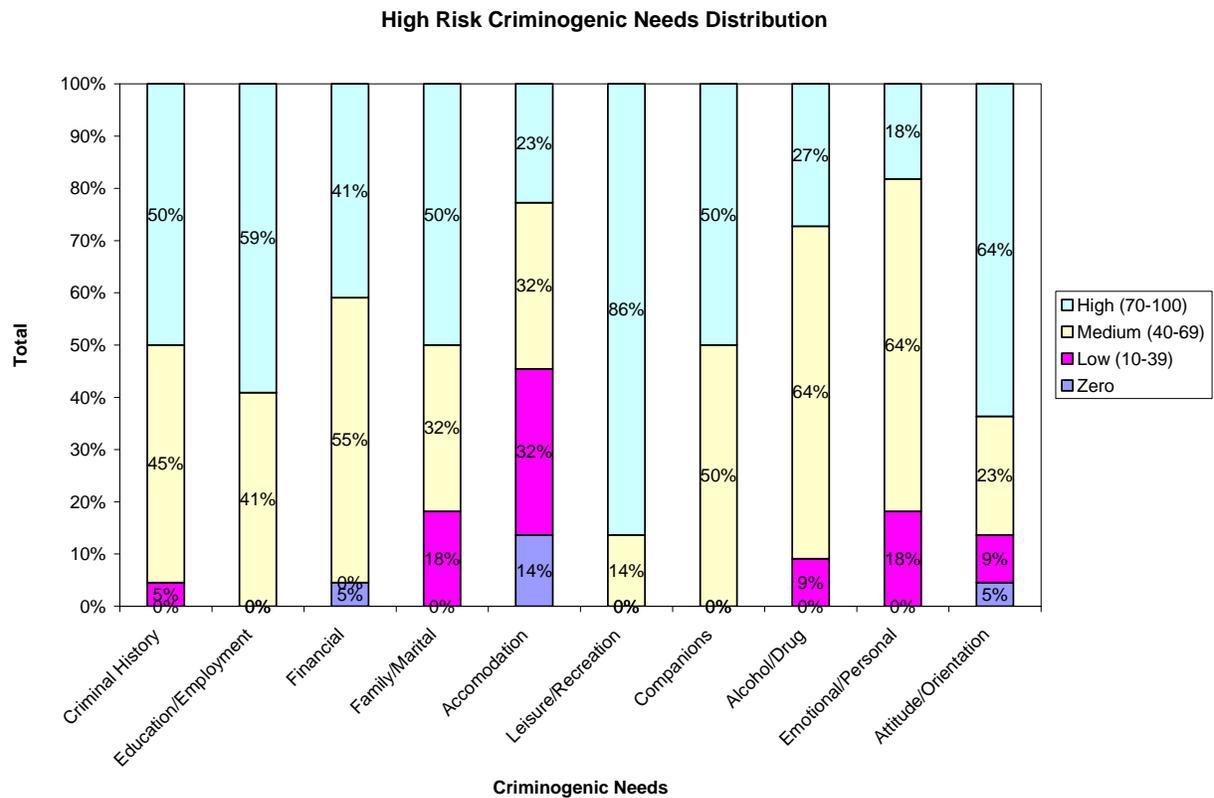
Based on the information above, the top 5 areas of highest reported need for the overall sample are:

- Leisure/Recreation
- Attitude/Orientation
- Education/Employment
- Criminal History
- Companions

Of these 5 areas of high need, Criminal History cannot be changed through training or education; however, providing services in the other 4 areas could prevent further criminal history. Services provided for these areas are:

- Cognitive Behavior Training - Leisure/Recreation
Attitude/Orientation/Impulsivity
- GED - Companions
Education
- Job Readiness I and II Classes - Employment

Twenty-two of the 39 clients fell into the “high risk” category as defined by an overall score of 29 to 54 on the LSI. The highest areas of need are detailed below for this subgroup:

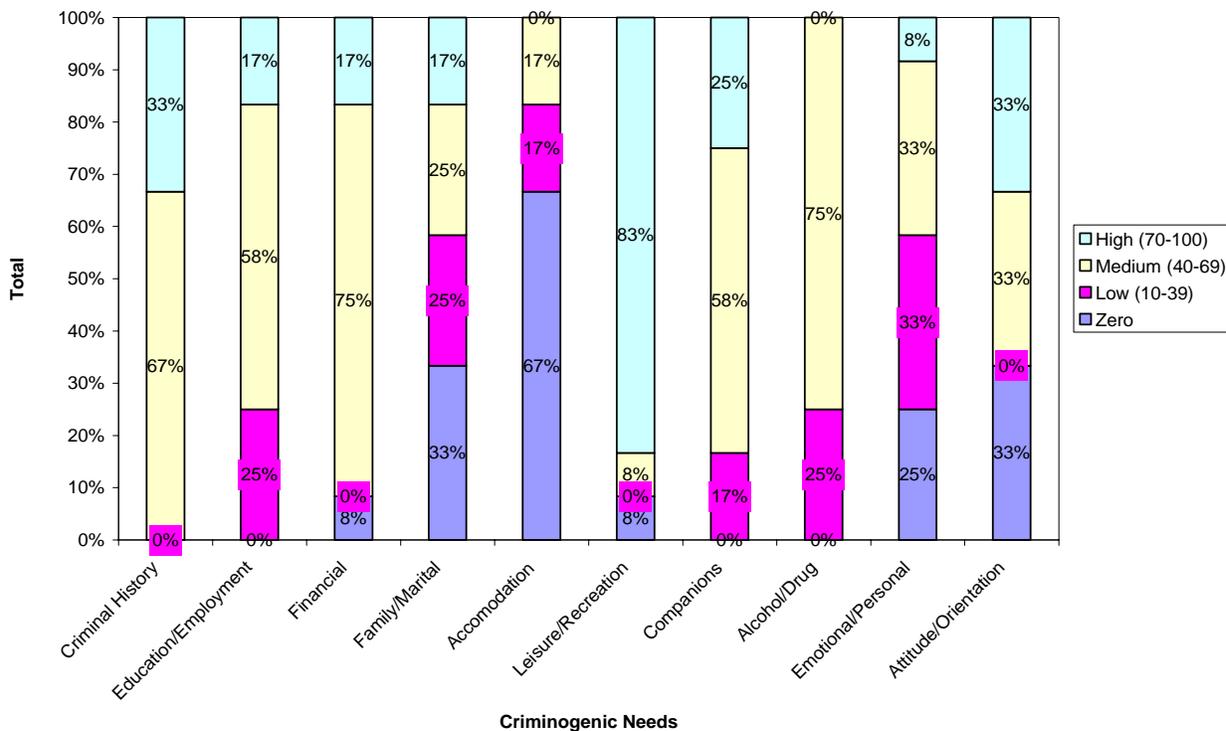


As depicted above, the top 5 highest needs for this group were:

- Leisure/Recreation
- Attitude/Orientation
- Education/Employment
- Family/Marital
- Companions

Twelve of the 39 clients fell into the “medium risk” category as defined by an overall score of 19 to 28 and detailed below for this subgroup:

Medium Risk Criminogenic Needs Distribution



As depicted above, the highest needs for the medium risk subgroup are:

- Leisure/Recreation
- Attitude/Orientation
- Criminal History
- Companions

Summary

The results of the screening and assessment pilots demonstrate that the Proxy tool, using 3 self reported questions can provide the jail a pre-screen assessment of an individual’s risk to reoffend. Assessment results are reported in three (3) categories; high, medium and low risk, and can be utilized by the jail to establish eligibility for further assessment. Persons who scored in the low risk category were eliminated from consideration for additional assessment as research data would indicate that little if any value would be gained by focusing on this group and would drain limited resources from those most needing services. The LSI, when administered to those who scored as medium or high risk on the Proxy, provided the jail with more detailed

information on the areas of specific risk and narrowed our focus to interventions and programs that were most likely to be effective in diminishing the inmate's subsequent offending behavior. The combined process will assist staff in developing client case/transition plans, efficiently focus services to those most likely to reoffend, and maximize the use of agency resources.

In summary, 286 clients were identified for the Proxy screen pilot, and 39 of those clients who scored between 5 and 8 on the Proxy were selected for further assessment using the LSI. Based on the results of this testing, the Denver Sheriff Department has elected to administer the LSI to clients who score a 5 or 6 (medium risk) or a 7 or 8 (high risk) on the Proxy screen and who have a projected length of stay of 30 days or more. Inmates who scored low risk on the Proxy (2,3, or 4), or medium and high risk with a projected length of stay of 30 days or less, will be provided community reentry resource information in the form of a reference guide published by the Denver Sheriff Department.

A shorter screening version called the LSI-SV was initially considered for a primary screening tool for medium risk clients established by the Proxy with the full version LSI used for only the high risk population. Our evaluation of the licensing cost, revealed that the cost to implement to LSI-SV on this segment of the inmate population prohibitive and existing resources could accommodate the full version LSI on both medium and high risk inmates identified under the Proxy.