

Douglas County Sheriff's Office

Corrections Division

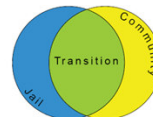
Reentry Program

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Douglas County Proxy Fact Sheet 11.20.2009

Douglas County conducted a "pilot" test of the Proxy screening tool¹ in late September 2009 in order to develop a facility-specific scoring range. The Proxy screen is designed to measure risk of re-offending, and to target resources for transition planning². A risk score is generated based on three data points: Current Age, Age at First Arrest, and Number of Prior Arrests.

Data for the Douglas County Proxy scoring range were gathered at a single point in time (one-day count) from all inmates housed in the Douglas County Correctional Facility on a designated day. Tables on the following pages highlight both the Douglas-specific scoring scheme and the distribution of Proxy scores for the facility population based on the one-day count.

Douglas County Proxy "Cut Points"

Proxy score ranges are determined based on the distribution of data for the specified local population (i.e., in this instance, facility inmates). Cut-points for scoring are established based on how the population falls into thirds. For example, scoring for Current Age is determined based on the overall age distribution of the specified offender population and assigned relative to the remainder of the population. In Douglas County, the current age of the inmate population ranged from 18 to 67 years of age for the 139 inmates included in the one-day count, with individuals aged 18 to 26 representing the youngest third of the population. With this in mind, a value of "2" was assigned to the youngest third of the population for a Current Age score. The remaining thirds were scored accordingly as indicated in the table below.

| <u>Current Age</u> | <u>Age at First Arrest *</u> | <u># of Prior Arrests * **</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 = 26 & younger | 3 = 15 & younger | 3 = 12 or more |
| 1 = 27-38 | 2 = 16-21 | 2 = 6-11 |
| 0 = 39 & older | 1 = 22 & older | 1 = 5 or fewer |

* Arrest is usually defined as *not free to leave the contact with police* and includes *juvenile arrests*.

** Priors does *not* include instant offense.

Table 1. Douglas County Total Proxy Score by Judicial Status and Classification

On September 28th, 2009, 139 inmates were screened by the Proxy screening tool. 61% of the population on this date were held pre-sentence; 39% post-sentence. The range of age at arrest was 18 to 67; the range of age at *first* arrest was 10-61, with 46% (64) of the inmates being first arrested as a juvenile. Prior arrests ranged from 0 to 100 or more.

Interestingly enough, more pre-sentence inmates scored higher risk than post-sentence (22% versus 11%). Work release inmates scored lower risk than other classifications, but only 1% point off from non-classified inmates (booking, pre-classification and unknown). Special management inmates scored moderate risk (64%), second only to minimum inmates (72%). Maximum inmates scored the highest risk (50%).

¹ See <http://community.nicic.org/forums/storage/69/8444/UsingAProxyScoretoPrescreen071105.pdf>.

² Research findings suggest high risk offenders should be targeted for in-depth assessment of criminogenic risk and needs, and the kind of intensive transition case planning that in-depth assessment is designed to inform. Research also suggests that offenders at low risk for re-offending do not benefit from intensive interventions like transition planning.

| | Score 7-8 HIGH | Score 6 | Score 4-5 | Score 2-3 LOW |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Pre-Sentence (85) | 19 (22%) | 16 (19%) | 38 (45%) | 12 (14%) |
| Post-Sentence (54) | 6 (11%) | 12 (22%) | 28 (52%) | 8 (15%) |
| Booking/Pre-Class/Unk (7) | 0 | 2 (29%) | 3 (43%) | 2 (29%) |
| Work Release (30) | 2 (7%) | 4 (13%) | 15 (50%) | 9 (30%) |
| Inmate Workers (8) | 2 (25%) | 3 (38%) | 3 (38%) | 0 |
| Minimum (21) | 0 | 5 (24%) | 15 (72%) | 1 (5%) |
| Medium (48) | 13 (27%) | 10 (21%) | 19 (40%) | 7 (15%) |
| Maximum (14) | 7 (50%) | 3 (21%) | 4 (29%) | 0 |
| Special Management (11) | 2 (18%) | 1 (9%) | 7 (64%) | 1 (9%) |

Table 2. Douglas County Total Proxy Score Distribution

Proxy scores are summed to generate a total Proxy score. Total Proxy scores range from a low of '2' to a high of '8'. Scores of 2-3 generally denote *low* risk. Scores between 4 and 6 designate *medium* risk and scores of 7 to 8 generally indicate *high* risk of re-offending.

Table 2 provides the distribution of total Proxy scores for the 139 inmates included in the Douglas County correctional facility's one-day count.

The distribution of these scores suggests roughly 18 percent of the population is at high risk for re-offending; 25 of the 139 individuals comprising the one-day count scored a 7 or 8. About 67 percent of the inmate population scored between 4 and 6 suggesting medium risk for re-offending. Consistent with the TJC model, in-depth assessment for criminogenic needs and risks with a validated tool like the LSI-R would be most appropriate for the roughly 18 percent of the inmate population identified by the Proxy as high risk. Some additional medium risk individuals (those scoring a 6, for example) may also be targeted for assessment, depending on local resources and priorities.

| Total Proxy Score | #/% of Douglas County Population (one day count) |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2 | 4 (2.87%) |
| 3 | 16 (11.5%) |
| 4 | 33 (23.7%) |
| 5 | 33 (23.7%) |
| 6 | 28 (20%) |
| 7 | 21 (15%) |
| 8 | 4 (2.87%) |

Table 3. Douglas County Average Total Proxy Score by Classification Unit

Table 3 provides the average Proxy score for individuals within the correctional facility's classification units. The average Proxy score was calculated by adding the total scores for each individual within the classification scheme and dividing by the total number of individuals in the specific classification unit. The total number of individuals within the unit is noted in parentheses in the table below.

| Classification Unit | Average Total Proxy Score (N) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Booking/PC/Unk | 4.3 (7) |

| | |
|------|-----------|
| IWP | 5.75 (8) |
| MIN | 4.8 (21) |
| MED | 3.8 (48) |
| MAX | 6.57 (14) |
| SPMG | 4.8 (11) |
| WR | 4.4 (30) |

Table 4. Douglas County Distribution of Total Proxy Scores by Sentencing Status

Roughly 39 percent of the population included in the one-day count is sentenced to the facility. The remaining population (61%) is pre-sentence. These figures suggest that about one quarter (N=19) of the pre-sentence population are at high risk for re-offending (scores of 7 to 8). In turn, about 11 percent of the post-sentence population scored as high risk. Again, Douglas County may choose to include some cases scoring a '6' in the range qualifying for further assessment of criminogenic risk and needs and transition case planning.

| Total Proxy Score | Pre-Sentence (N=85) | Post-Sentence (N=54) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | 2% (2) | 4% (2) |
| 3 | 12% (10) | 11% (6) |
| 4 | 24% (20) | 24% (13) |
| 5 | 21% (18) | 28% (15) |
| 6 | 18% (15) | 22% (12) |
| 7 | 18% (15) | 11% (6) |
| 8 | 5% (4) | N/A |