

**YOUTH LEVEL OF
SERVICE/CASE MANAGEMENT
INVENTORY (YLS/CMI) IN PA
JCJC CONFERENCE 2009**

**GINA M. VINCENT, PH.D. UNIV OF MASS MEDICAL SCHOOL
SAM MILLER, CHIEF PROBATION, CUMBERLAND COUNTY
BETH FRITZ, CHIEF PROBATION, LEHIGH COUNTY
BEN REA, PROBATION, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY**

**National Youth Screening & Assessment
Project (NYSAP)**

Models for Change

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

- A juvenile justice systems reform initiative
 - ▣ Pennsylvania – Washington
 - ▣ Louisiana – Illinois

- Assisted by a “national resource bank” of technical assistance centers

- **National Youth Screening and Assessment Project** is a funded member of the NRB to provide assistance on
 - ▣ Evidence-based screening and assessment
 - ▣ Legislative efforts to clarify juveniles’ competence to stand trial

Outline



- Potential usefulness of Risk/Needs Assessments in Probation
- Description of the YLS/CMI
- Making the Decision to Adopt the Tool (A Chief's Perspective) – Sam Miller
- Implementation in Pennsylvania – Northampton County Example – Ben Rea

Research Evidence: Best Practices

Emerging consensus on the characteristics of effective programming for young offenders. What we know:

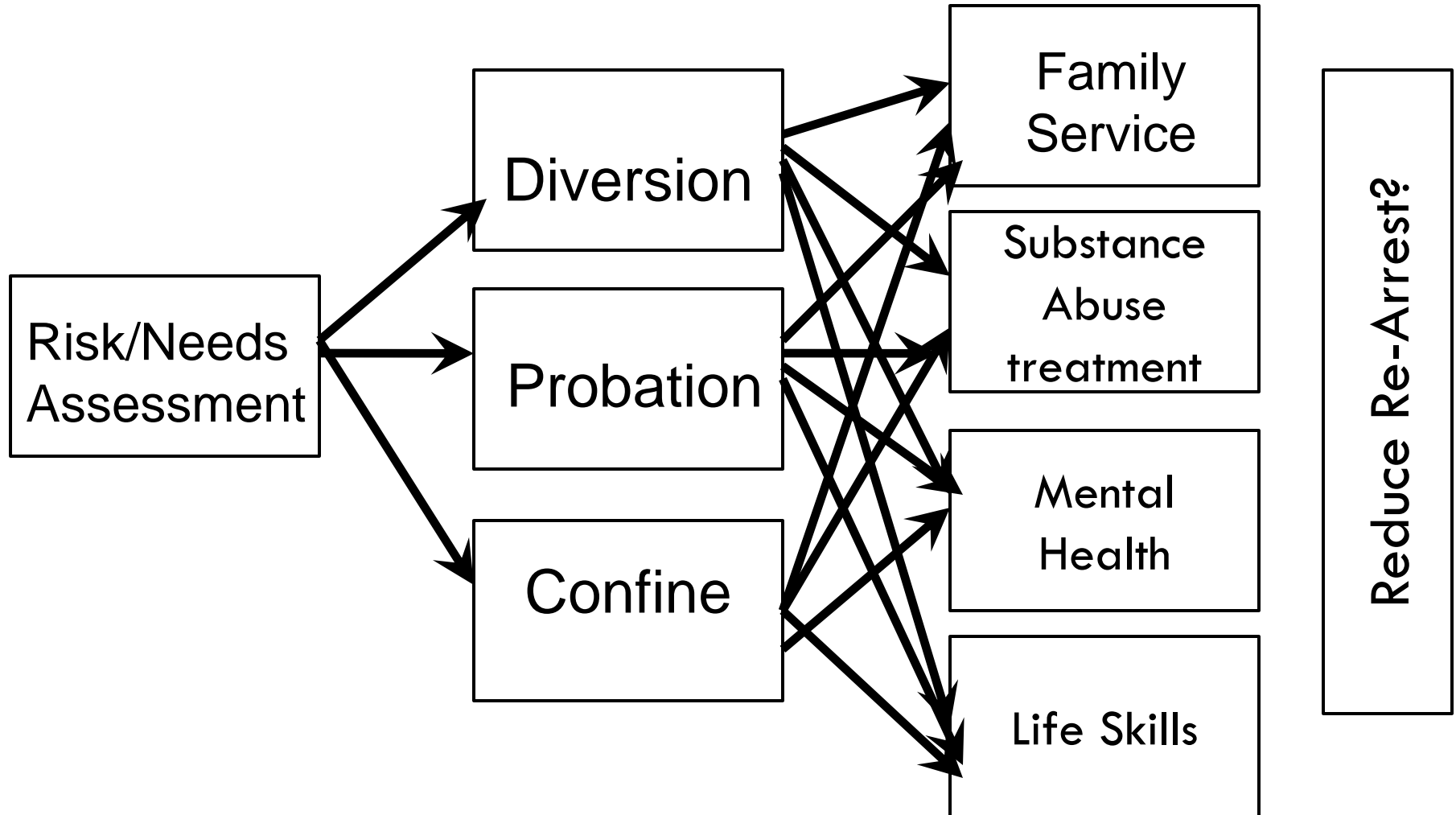
- ❑ Incarceration **does not** have a significant effect on re-offending (Gatti, Tremblay et al., 2009)
- ❑ Mixing more antisocial youth with lower risk youth can turn lower risk youth into better criminals
- ❑ When community services are **matched** to youths' crime-producing (criminogenic) needs – the lower the chance of repeat offending
- ❑ In other words, the **right** services for the **right** youths

RESULTS OF COST/BENEFIT RESEARCH

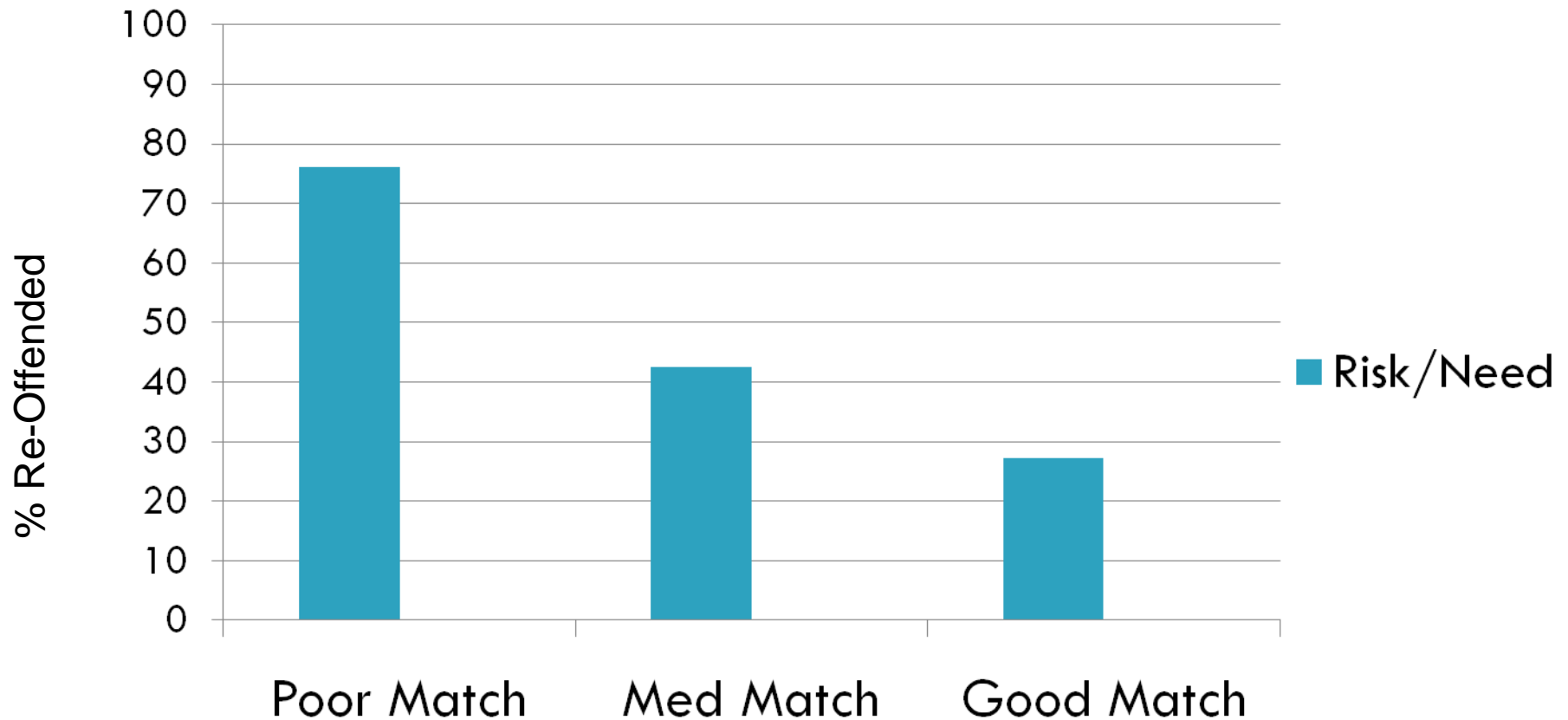
BENEFITS PER DOLLAR INVESTED

- **For every \$1.00 spent on the following services, you save ---**
 - **Functional Family Therapy - \$28.34**
 - **Multisystemic Family Therapy- \$28.81**
 - **Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care- \$43.70**
 - **Adolescent Diversion Project- \$24.92**
 - **Juvenile Boot Camps- \$0.81**
 - **Scared Straight - \$-477.75 (NET LOSS)**

Matching the Right Youth to the Right Disposition/Services



YLS/CMI: Effects of Matching the Right Youth to the Right Services (Vieira et al., 2009)



Match based on # of Services Given in Response to a Youths' Risk/Need Factor

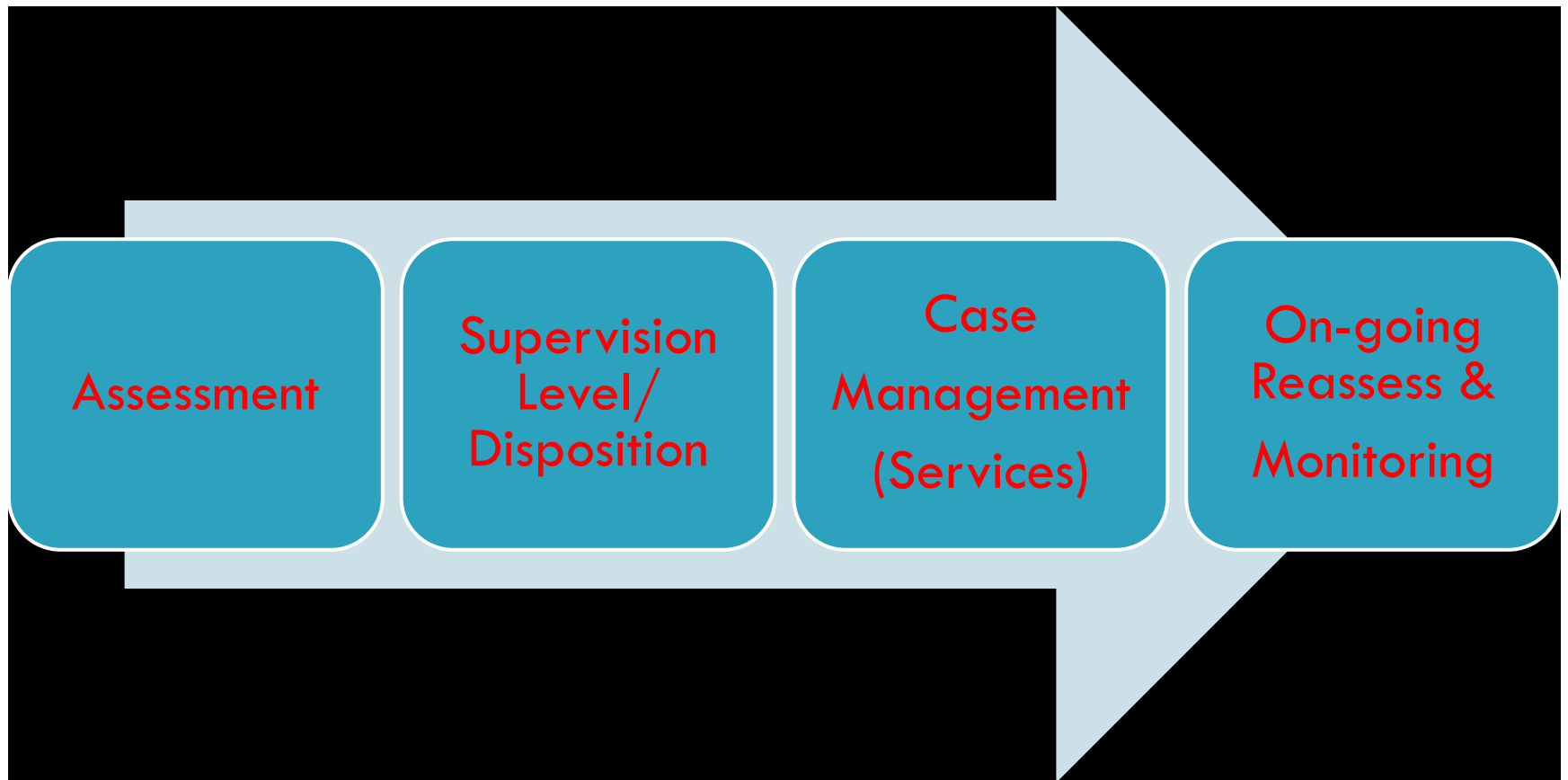
How Risk/Needs Assessment can Help

- Identify youth at highest risk for re-offending and *guide intervention* efforts that could
 - ▣ *Prevent* later violence and reoffending
 - ▣ *Reduce risk of future harm* among youths who have recently engaged in harmful aggressive behavior
 - ▣ *Reduce costs* to: victims, service providers, JJ system
- **Intervention efforts** include:
 - ▣ Placement/disposition decisions
 - ▣ Referral to appropriate services/programs
 - ▣ Monitoring/supervision level

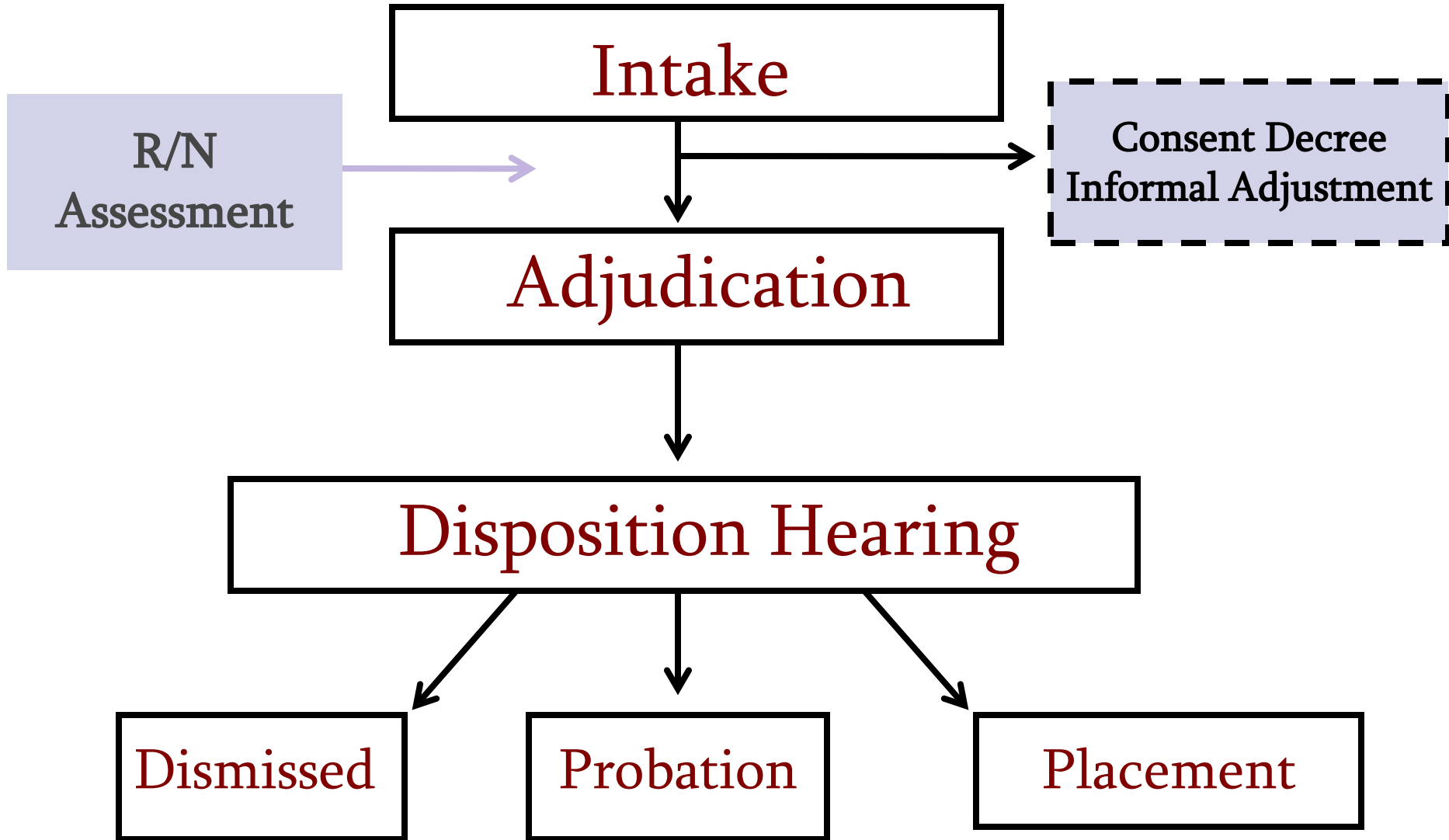
Cost-Savings

- Proper implementation of a risk/needs assessment can save costs by...
 - ▣ Reducing the number of more costly assessments when these aren't warranted,
 - ▣ Not recommending services for youth who **do not** need them,
 - ▣ Reducing costly out-of-home placement when it is unnecessary for addressing the risks and needs of the youth, and
 - ▣ Guiding case plans to reduce chances of re-offending

Four-Step Process



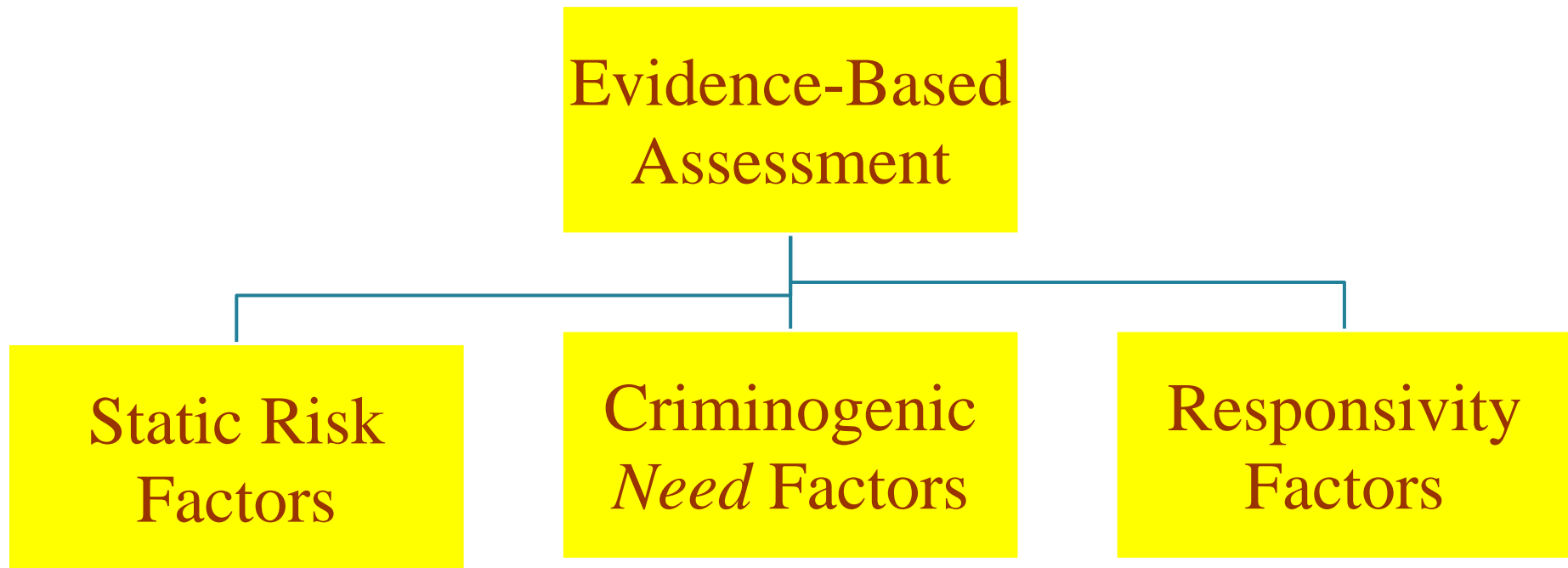
YLS/CMI Assessment Point



**YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE/
CASE MANAGEMENT INVENTORY
(YLS/CMI)**



Components of YLS/CMI Assessment



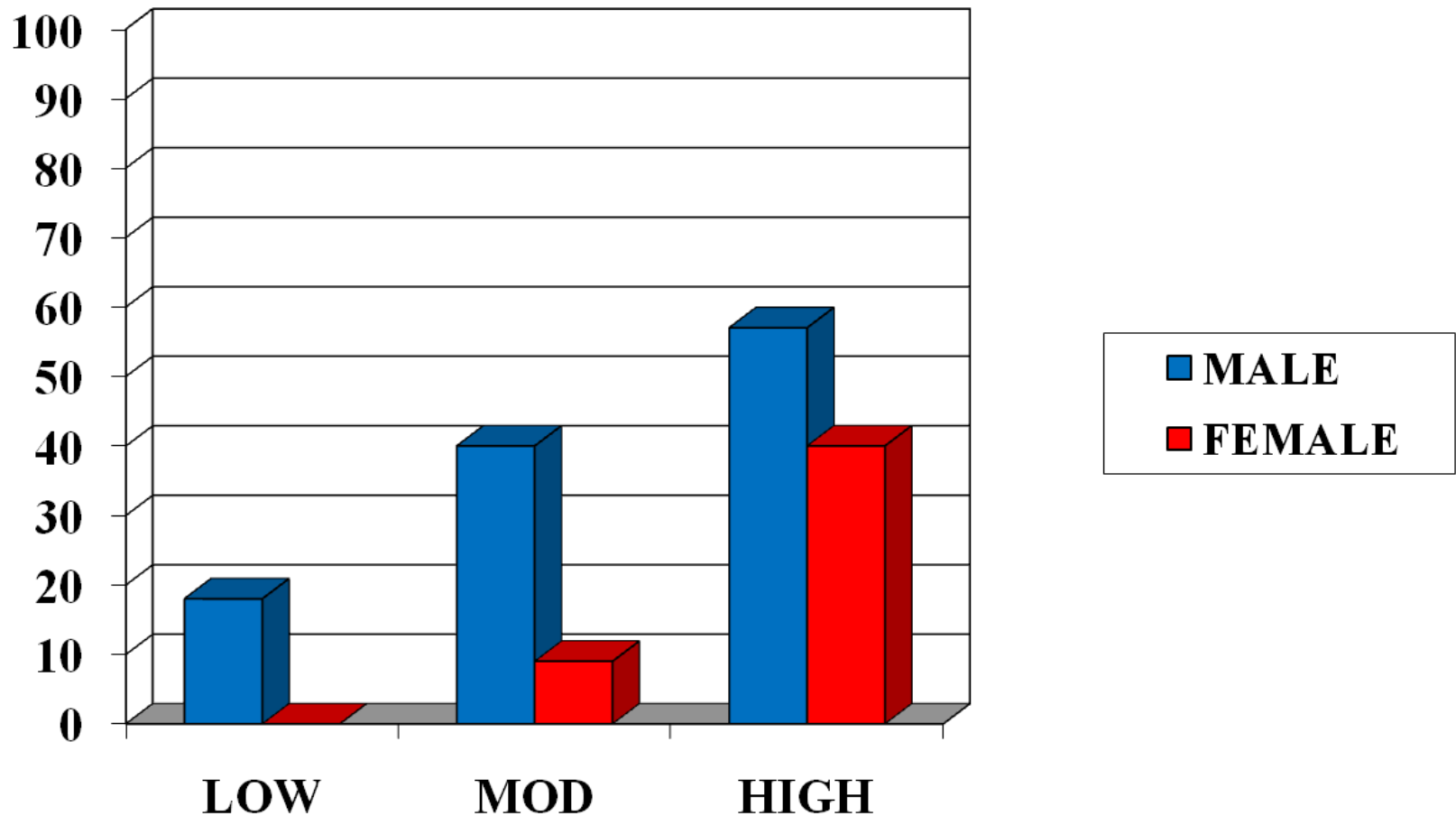
Some Terms

- **Risk** – likelihood of future offending
- A **risk factor** is anything that increases the probability that a person will cause harm or will re-offend.
 - ▣ Static Risk Factors – do not change
 - ▣ Dynamic Risk Factors (criminogenic *needs*) – changeable, targets for services & intervention
- A **Responsivity factor** - something that affects the way a youth will respond to services/treatment (can include **Strengths/protective** factors)

YLS/CMI Domains

- Produces a Score and an **Overall Risk Categorization**: Low, Moderate, High or Very High risk for re-offending
- Also produces a **Level of Risk or Need** categorization in each of the following areas:
 - ▣ Education/Employment
 - ▣ Attitudes/Orientation
 - ▣ Peer Relations
 - ▣ Leisure Activities
 - ▣ Substance Abuse Treatment
 - ▣ Personality/Behavior
 - ▣ Family Circumstances/Parenting

EXAMPLE OF PREDICTIVE VALIDITY DATA: % CASES WITH SERIOUS NEW OFFENSE BY YLS RISK LEVEL



Summary: Potential Benefits to Courts and the System

- Connecting youth to the most appropriate disposition and services that target ONLY specific needs at the proper intensity may lead to:
 - ▣ Improved chance of reducing risk = reducing recidivism
 - ▣ Cost-Savings
- Data gathering and reporting
 - ▣ Service provider & JJ accountability
 - ▣ Resource allocation

MAKING THE DECISION TO ADOPT THE YLS/CMI



IMPLEMENTING THE YLS/CMI IN PENNSYLVANIA



Embracing the Future



- Getting all on board
 - ▣ Training of all members of the department for a smooth transition
 - Historical overview
 - Statistics of evidence based assessment tools
 - Acknowledging change is easier for some than others

Development of Department



- Getting all on board
 - ▣ Understanding the language of the YLS/CMI
 - Appendix A
 - PA definitions
 - Developing a department-wide understanding of what it all means

COMPONENTS OF THE YLS/CMI



- PART I ASSESSMENT OF RISK AND NEEDS
- PART II SUMMARY OF RISK/NEEDS
- PART III ASSESSMENT OF OTHER NEEDS/
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
- PART IV CASE MANAGER ASSESSMENT
- PART V CONTACT LEVEL
- PART VI CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN

YLS/CMI



Purpose:

The instrument is designed to assist the professional worker in the collection and synthesis of risk, need, and responsivity information and the linking of that information with case planning. It is not designed to replace professional judgments or to dictate decisions.

Pieces of Development



- Supervision Plan
- Service Matrix
- County Protocol/Policy

Supervision Plan

- Open to other county's plans
- Acknowledge what will work for your county
- Benefits
 - Many plans are circulating throughout state
 - A shell is ready to be melded into what makes sense to each county
 - Easy to make additions/corrections
 - Northampton County Example

Service Matrix

- Developing a comprehensive document that adheres to the services that are being provided in your county
- Benefits
 - If the appropriate treatment services are being delivered with integrity, this can be effective in reducing juvenile delinquency
 - Individuals delivering treatment are selected with care and provide meaningful support

Service Matrix



□ Benefits

- Probation Department has a clear guideline regarding treatment of clients
- Provides a working document that can be provided to other agencies for combined case management
- Aftercare services can be sought out following a treatment setting
- Program delivery & impact can be closely monitored
- Northampton County Example

Protocol/Policy

- Set standard from county to county for implementation purposes
- Determines supervision level – minimums set by county
 - ▣ **Low – One (1) face-to-face contact every three (3) weeks.**
 - ▣ **Moderate – One (1) face-to-face contact every two (2) weeks.**
 - ▣ **High/Very High – One or more (1+) face-to-face contact per week.**

Final Goals



- Facilitate communication among professionals across the state/country
- Ensure we are all speaking the same language across the Juvenile Justice System
- Synergy