VALIDITY AND ACCURACY OF THE PACT RISK ASSESSMENTS

Myths vs. Facts
(Updated: August 2013)

Myth: *The risk assessments used by DJJ (the C-PACT and R-PACT) are not valid predictors of risk*

Fact: Both the C-PACT and the R-PACT are validated assessments of risk to re-offend

The risk assessment (C-PACT) administered to all youth referred (equivalent of an adult arrest) to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has been validated in three separate empirical evaluations. An independent research organization completed a validation study (2012) and the Department has two published articles (2009, 2013) in peer-reviewed academic criminological journals, all documenting the higher the risk score on the PACT, the more likely the subsequent offending. The C-PACT was validated across race/ethnicity and gender subgroups, as well as across different community-based placement types.

The Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice completed a validation study of the Residential PACT (R-PACT) in June 2013. Findings indicate the risk factors are decreasing and protective factors increasing throughout youths’ residential placement. Furthermore, the more positive change (risk reduction, protective factor increase) a youth experienced, the lower the likelihood of subsequent offending within one year of release. Findings held across race/ethnicity and gender subgroups, and age.

REFERENCES


