

Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) **Profile and Associated Costs**

Background Information: The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction (DRC) hired the University of Cincinnati Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR – Dr. Edward Latessa) in 2006 to develop a system of offender risk, needs, and responsivity assessment tools to use statewide. The goal was to create a consistent, reliable, standardized system of tools that could be used at various decision points in the criminal justice system (i.e. pretrial, community supervision, prison intake, reentry) to facilitate communication and continuity across criminal justice agencies. CCJR's work resulted in the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS), an automated fourth generation (see Appendix A to learn about 3rd and 4th generation instruments). The developers designed ORAS to generate case plans that prioritize needs and treatment domains and work with existing IT systems.

A major goal of the ORAS project was to develop assessments that abided by the principles of effective classification by constructing assessments that: (1) separated offenders into risk groups based on their likelihood to recidivate; (2) identified dynamic risk factors that can be used to prioritize programmatic needs; and (3) identify potential barriers to treatment. The ORAS was also designed to aid in decision-making regarding the allocation of financial, rehabilitation and supervision resources.

The ORAS was created using a prospective design that involved conducting in-depth structured interviews of over 1,800 offenders at the following stages in Ohio's justice system: pretrial, community supervision, prison intake, and community reentry. After interviews were conducted, offenders were tracked for approximately one year to gather follow-up information on recidivism. Five assessment instruments were created using items that were related to recidivism: the Pretrial Assessment Tool, the Community Supervision Tool, the Community Supervision Screening Tool, the Prison Intake Tool, and the Reentry Tool.

Instrument Administration Requirements

No specialized education is necessary to administer the ORAS. However, researchers at CCJR have assembled a mandatory training package for those interested in using the ORAS. Officers must complete a standard training program before implementing the tool. According to the ORAS user manual, practitioners use a combination of structured interviews, official records, interview guide (highly recommended as an aid in this process) and other collateral sources to complete the assessment tools. They also administer a self-report questionnaire to the offender for three of the tools (CST, PIT and RT) to supplement this information. A file review of police reports and other relevant data should be used to confirm information obtained from

the offender. Interviews with the offender's friends and family members can complement the assessment process.

Instrument Content

All six ORAS tools contain both static and dynamic factors. Risk classification cutoff values differ by tool and between males and females.

- Pre-Trial Assessment Tool (PAT): 7 items
- Community Supervision Screening Tool (CSST): 9 items
- Community Supervision Tool (CST): 35 items to assess the following:
 - a. Criminal History (6 items)
 - b. Education, Employment and Financial Situation (6 items)
 - c. Family and Social Support (5 items)
 - d. Neighborhood Problems (2 items)
 - e. Substance Use (5 items)
 - f. Peer Associations (4 items)
 - g. Criminal Attitudes and Behavioral Patterns (7 items)
- Prison Screening Tool (PST): 4 items
- Prison Intake Tool (PIT): 31 items
- Prison Re-entry Tool (RT): 20 items

Probation and Parole Departments would utilize the Community Supervision Tool (CST) of ORAS. It was designed to assist in both the designation of supervision level as well as to guide case management for offenders in the community. These goals are accomplished by establishing priorities in the management of dynamic risk factors, based on the likelihood of recidivism. The priorities essentially disaggregate overall risk level into risk levels by domain, placing each offender at low, moderate or high risk to re-offended for each domain. To provide optimal risk levels, males and females are given different cutoff scores to categorize risk groups.

Obtaining the ORAS

All ORAS assessment tools are non-proprietary. However, again, officers must complete a standard end-user training program before implementing the tool. This training program and other contracted technical assistance and research services (e.g. automating the tool, validation research services, advanced training) are offered by the instrument developers. To obtain the ORAS and estimate for the costs of technical assistance and research services, contact the Center of Criminal Justice Research (Jennifer Lux at luxjl@uc.mail.uc.edu).

Training and Implementation Costs

The ORAS is a non-proprietary instrument, therefore, there is no cost to administer (no per use fee) any of the assessment tools. Training and Information Technology for the ORAS is the only cost.

End-user training costs are as follows: The two-day end-user training for the ORAS is \$6,500 for up to 30 people. This price is all inclusive of salaries, benefits, travel, training materials, administrative costs, etc. (for UC staff to come to PA). UC staff can train folks on all of the tools in each system or adapt the training to fit with staff needs.

Train the trainer costs are as follows: Training for trainers (T4T) option, trainees need to be certified end-users and need to have actual experience conducting the assessments with real clients. There is no magic number, but UC recommend 15-20 "true assessments" be completed by each of the trainers before they conduct a T4T. T4T training at a maximum of 12 individuals. This option is conducted over a 5-day period and includes the following: The first 3 days are spent with the UC trainers practicing and delivering the training material. The last 2 days are reserved for the new trainers (i.e., your staff that were trained by the UC staff) to deliver the ORAS training to end-users. If necessary, we will split up the group into two separate trainings (6 and 6) and they can train up to 30 staff in each session (i.e., a total of 60 end-users). The cost of the 5 day train the trainer training for up to 12 staff is \$19,750 or \$11,250 for up to 6 staff. This includes everything but materials for the end-user session(s). As such, the agency will be responsible for making the materials. We will send electronic files with instructions for doing this at least 2 weeks before the T4T occurs. (See Appendix C for UC required MOU for T4T)

Information Technology Solution through UCM: Cost will be \$10,700. This includes Online delivery/Webinar based Training. Additional hours for onsite training and custom county reports beyond the agreed upon common reports will be billed at \$130 per hour, plus travel and will be approved via a work order (or purchase order) for each county making the request.

Information Technology Solution through University of Cincinnati: Please contact Center of Criminal Justice Research (Jennifer Lux at luxjl@uc.mail.uc.edu)

PA Counties Currently Using the ORAS: Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin and York. Please feel free to contact these counties for further information and/or questions.