

AZYAS

Arizona Youth Assessment System

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Risk/Needs Statutory Requirement

ARS 8-246.C

The supreme court in cooperation with the department of juvenile corrections and other state agencies shall develop a common risk needs assessment instrument to be used for each juvenile who is referred to the juvenile court. The juvenile court shall update the risk needs assessment on each subsequent referral of the juvenile to the juvenile court, and the court shall use the risk needs assessment to determine the appropriate disposition of the juvenile. The supreme court in cooperation with the department of juvenile corrections shall develop guidelines to be used by juvenile court judges in determining those juveniles who should be committed to the department of juvenile corrections.

Prior to AZYAS

- ▶ Multiple previous instruments used statewide
- ▶ Pre AZYAS Needs Assessment
 - ▶ 123 questions, not research based
 - ▶ No meaningful reports or case plan
 - ▶ Initial training, but no on-going training program
- ▶ Necessity for new Needs instrument
 - ▶ Workgroup established criteria to evaluate existing instruments
 - ▶ Decision to adopt the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)
 - ▶ Referred to as AZYAS in Arizona

OYAS Risk/Needs Assessment Instrument

- ▶ Developed and validated by University of Cincinnati
- ▶ Actuarial Assessment
 - ▶ Based on research by University of Cincinnati
 - ▶ Just under 2,500 juveniles surveyed on about 400 items to develop series of instruments
- ▶ Predicts group behavior
 - ▶ Group most/least likely to reoffend
- ▶ Combination of dynamic and static factors
 - ▶ Dynamic factors assess progress or regression
 - ▶ Static factors validated to identify juvenile needs
 - ▶ i.e. Age at first offense, age at first drug use
- ▶ Includes strength and barriers

Arizona Youth Assessment System

Tool	Diversion Tool	Detention Screening Instrument	Disposition Screening Tool	Disposition Tool	Residential Tool	ReEntry Tool
Phase	Conducted at entry into the Juvenile Justice System (Non Court)	Conducted at Detention screening	Conducted at Pre-Adjudication	Conducted at Post-Adjudication	Conducted at Post-Adjudication/Intake at Residential (Used by ADC)	Conducted at Residential re-assessment/release/ post-release supervision (Used by ADJC)
Domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •6 items •Prior history •Current offense •Age at 1st contact •Prior probation •Family criminality •Supervision 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •6 items •Prior history •Age at 1st contact •Education •Substance use •Peers •Antisocial attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Justice History (2 items) • Family and Living Arrangements (6 items) • Peers and Social Support (6 items) • Education/Employment (4 items) • Pro-social Skill Set (3 items) • Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Personality (6 items) • Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs (5 items) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Justice History (3 items) • Family and Living Arrangements (3 items) • Peers and Social Support (7 items) • Education/ Employment (3 items) • Pro-social Skill Set (4 items) • Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Personality (8 items) • Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs (5 items) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Justice History (7 items) • Family and Living Arrangements (4 items) • Peers and Social Support (9 items) • Education/Employment (4 items) • Pro-social Skill Set (4 items) • Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Personality (7 items) • Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs, (6 items)
Number of Variables	N= 6		N = 6	N= 32 New items = 26	N= 33 New items = 15	N= 41 New items = 15

Total Number of Variables (N=63) Overlapping Variables (N=24)

AZYAS Implementation

2011

- September - Statewide AZYAS Certification classes began
- December - Officers began administering AZYAS Disposition instrument

2012

- Collaboration with ADJC
 - Residential and ReEntry Instruments

2013

- Juvenile EBP Administrative Code adopted
 - Diversion, Pre Disposition Screener and Disposition instruments mandatory for probation departments

2014 through current

- On-going User Certification and Recertification classes

Consistent Certification Process

- Training conducted by Certified AZYAS trainers
- Participants must attend 2 consecutive, full days of training
 - Class agenda includes:
 - Presentation
 - Group activities
 - Review questions and scoring
 - Practice videos
- Participants must pass certification test
 - Within 3+/- actual score
 - AND No more than 5 questions incorrect
- Recertification class required

Consistent Information Gathering

- File Review
 - Known juvenile record(s) reviewed prior to interview
- Self-Report Form
 - Provided to youth to complete
 - Reviewed prior to interview
- Interview
- Collateral Information
 - Used to confirm and/or support information gathered in the interview
 - Can be reviewed post interview

Consistent Assessment of Youth

Resource guides available to staff

- ▶ Interview Guide
 - ▶ Used as a structure for the interview
 - ▶ Assists to ensure questions are asked consistently
- ▶ Scoring Guide
 - ▶ More than a guide – explains scoring factors in detail
 - ▶ Consulted by staff when entering juveniles response to questions
 - ▶ Automated instrument provides on-line access to scoring guide

AZYAS Risk/Need

- ▶ Static and dynamic factors that are associated with new criminal/delinquent behavior
 - ▶ Criminogenic Needs
 - ▶ When dynamic factors addressed and changed affect a probationer's risk for recidivism
- ▶ Higher and Moderate risk = more intensive services
- ▶ Lower risk = lesser intensive services

(Identified in research by Lowenkamp and Latessa)

Domains for the Disposition Tool

1. Juvenile Justice History
2. Family and Living Arrangements
3. Peers and Social Support
4. Education/Employment
5. Pro-Social Skill Set
6. Substance Abuse, Personality and Mental Health
7. Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs

Criminogenic Needs

“The Big Four”

- Antisocial/pro-criminal attitudes, values, beliefs, and cognitive emotional states (rage, anger, defiance, and criminal identity)
- Pro-criminal associates and isolation from pro-social others
- Temperamental & anti social personality pattern conducive to criminal activity including: weak socialization, impulsivity, adventurous, pleasure seeking, restless aggressive, egocentrism, below average verbal intelligence, a taste for risk, weak problem solving/lack of coping a self regulation skills
- A history of antisocial behavior: evident from a young age, in a variety of settings, and involving a number and variety of different acts.

STATIC

(Identified in research by Andrews and Bonta)

Criminogenic Needs Cont'd

“The Lesser Four”

- Family factors that include criminality and a variety of psychological problems in the family of origin including: low levels of affection, caring and cohesiveness, poor parental supervision and discipline practices, out right neglect and abuse
- Low levels of personal education, vocational or financial achievement
- Low levels of involvement in pro-social activities
- Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs

(Identified in research by Andrews & Bonta)

YOUTH REPORTS - WINDOWS INTERNET EXPLORER

http://azyastest/offender/109/reports/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

YOUTH REPORTS

AZYAS
Arizona Youth Assessment System

Log Out

Dashboard Administration Assessments Reports

Manage Youths

Youth Reports

Name	Jamie L. Swift
Date of Birth	10/11/1985

Assessments

Disposition Instrument

Summary Report **Full Report** Referral Report

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System Administrator

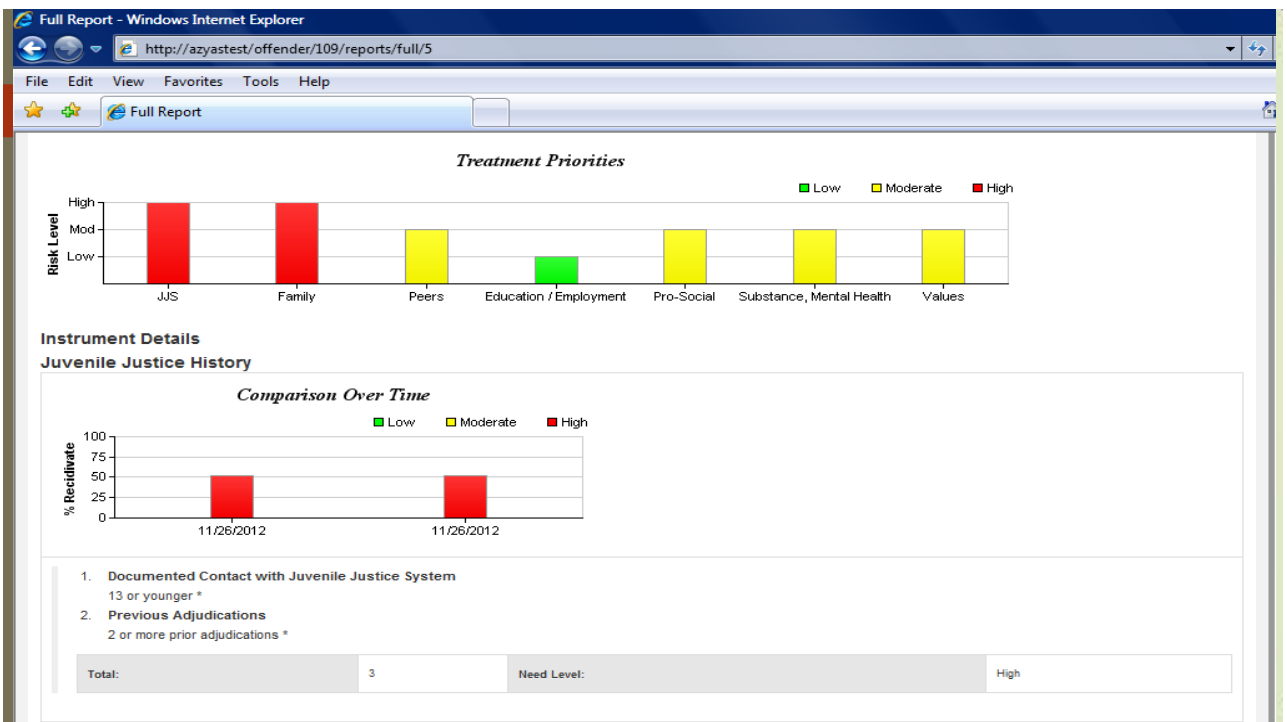
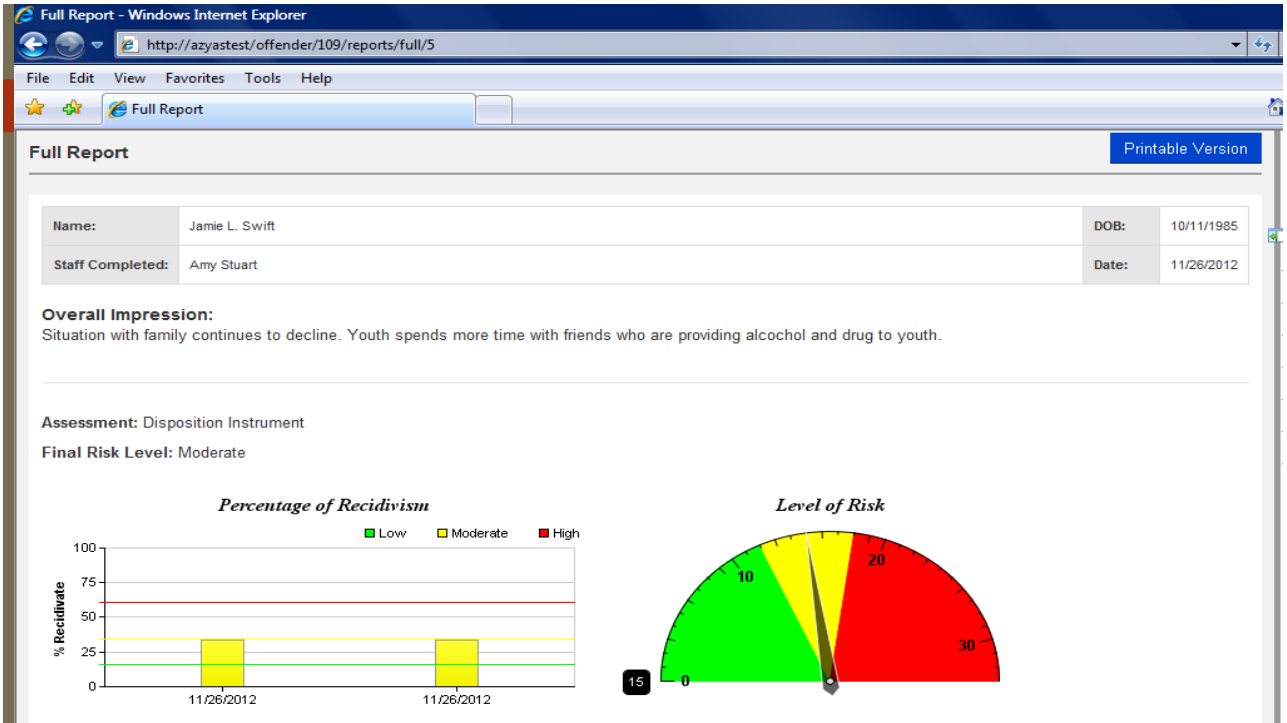
- Youth Face Sheet
- Assessments
- Complaints
- Petitions
- Programs
- Youth Reports**
- Case Plan

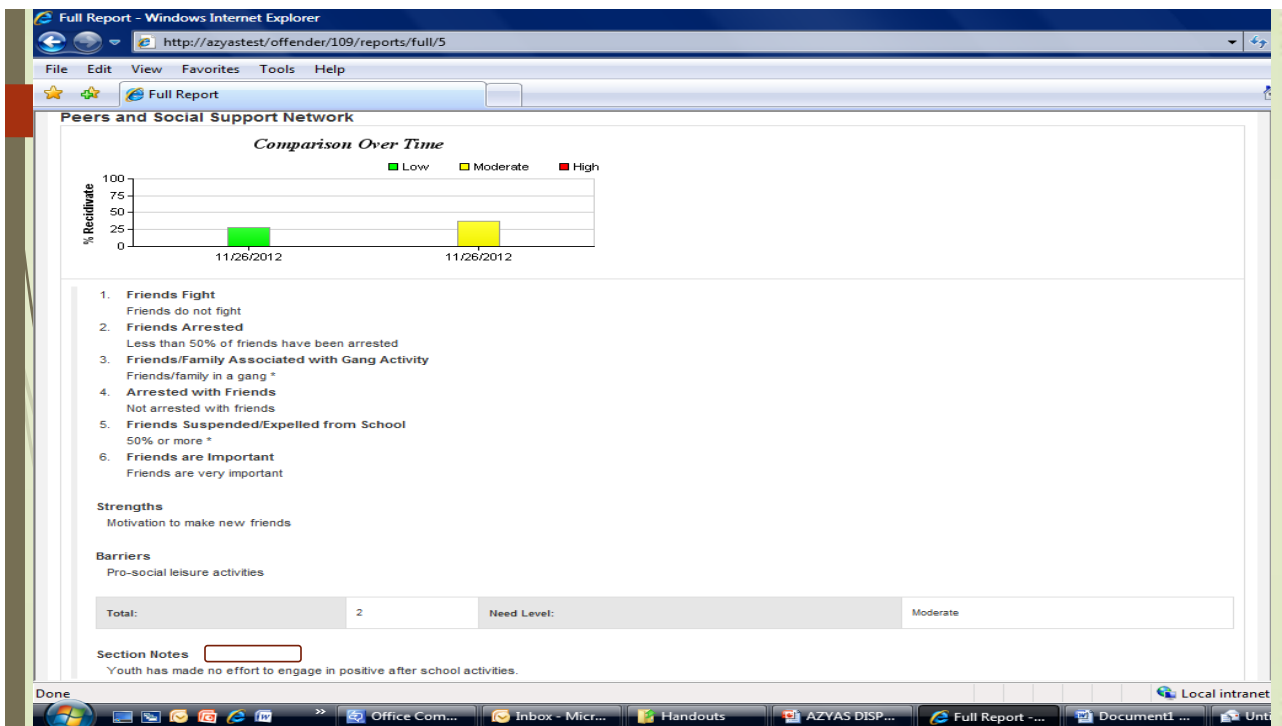
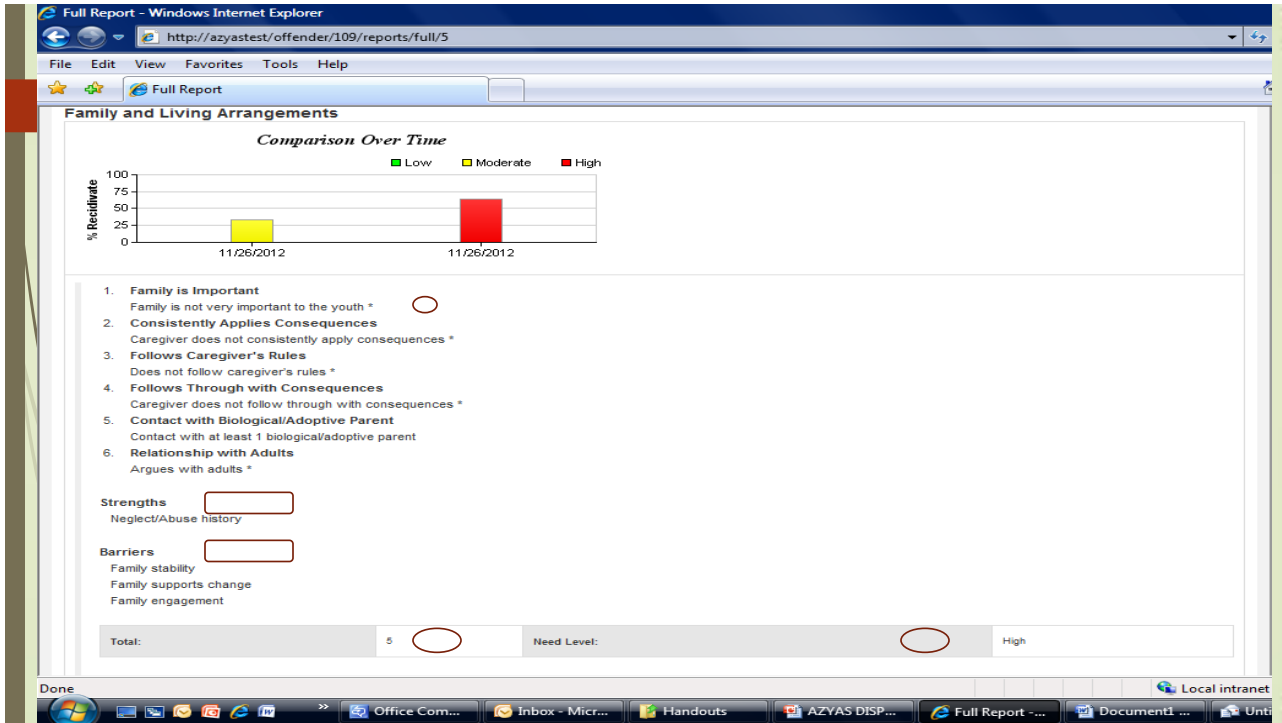
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Office Co... Inbox - ... Handouts AZYAS DL... AZYAS DL... DISPOST... Youth Re... Docume...

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Research References

- The Ohio Youth Assessment System - Final Report
https://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/ccjr/docs/reports/project_reports/OYAS_final_report.pdf (Latessa, E.; Lovins, B. & Ostowski, K. (2009)
- Understanding the Risk Principle: How and Why Correctional Interventions Can Harm Low-Risk Offender (Lowenkamp, C. & Latessa E (2004)
https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/media/31357/risk_principle.pdf
- The Risk Need Responsivity Model of Offender Rehabilitation: Is There Really a Need For a Paradigm Shift? (Looman, J. & Abracen, J. 2013)
<http://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2014-12592-007.html>