

The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is an actuarial based assessment tool that assists juvenile justice professionals with the identification of risk/need/responsivity factors. Research has shown that addressing these factors can promote long term behavior change (Andrews & Bonta, 2006). This protects the community and facilitates the development of competencies that make it possible for youth to become productive, connected, and law-abiding members of the community. The YLS is designed to aid probation officers in assessing youth in a fair, objective and evidence-based manner. The tool measures 42 risk factors organized around the eight domains listed below.

## 8 Domains for Identifying Risk

<i>Prior and Current Offenses/Dispositions</i>	<i>Family Circumstances</i>	<i>Education/ Employment</i>	<i>Peer Relations</i>
<i>Substance Abuse</i>	<i>Leisure/ Recreation</i>	<i>Personality/ Behavior</i>	<i>Attitudes/ Orientation</i>

The **eight** risk domains are made up of static and dynamic risk factors.

- Static risk factors are those that have occurred in the past and cannot be changed (Prior and Current Offenses/Dispositions).
- Dynamic risk factors, also called criminogenic needs, are those linked to recidivism that can be improved to reduce the likelihood of reoffending (remaining seven domains).

## The YLS Provides an Overall Score that Indicates a Youth's Risk to Recidivate

<b>Low</b> <i>Female 0-8</i> <i>Male 0-9</i>	<b>Moderate</b> <i>Female 9-19</i> <i>Male 10-21</i>	<b>High</b> <i>Female 20-28</i> <i>Male 22-31</i>	<b>Very High</b> <i>Female 29-42</i> <i>Male 32-42</i>
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## Strongest Predictors of Reoffending Behavior

Although Prior and Current Offenses/Dispositions, a static risk factor, is the primary predictor of reoffending behavior; the following four dynamic risk factors are also strong predictors of recidivism. When present, these domains must be prioritized for interventions and treatment in order to maximize risk reduction potential.

- Attitudes/Orientation (Thinking/Beliefs)
- Personality/Behavior
- Peer Relations
- Family Circumstances

## Responsivity Factors

**R**esponsivity factors are individual characteristics that can impact how youth react to services. Initial identification can occur through the YLS and additional screening and assessment instruments. This information should be used in the development of the case plan to individualize interventions. Responsivity factors can include, but are not limited to:



## YLS and Case Plan Connection

**T**he YLS lays the foundation for the youth's case plan. Youth that score moderate or high on the YLS should identify goals, activities, and interventions to develop competencies and reduce risk/need in their identified YLS domains. The case planning process should be collaborative and include a discussion between the probation officer, the youth, and their family on the YLS results and the selection of identified needs to be addressed.

## Best Practice Principles to Remember

- **Overrides** - Overrides should not exceed 5-10% of the total YLS assessments completed in a given year.
- **Assessment Sharing** - The YLS is most effective when the results of the assessment are shared with the youth, their family, the courts, providers, and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Strengths** - The YLS allows for identification of the youth's strengths, which should be considered when case planning.
- **Item Selection Justification** - The probation officer should provide justification for scoring decisions for each item that is selected, or not selected, in the comment section of each domain.
- **Booster Training** - Booster Training should occur a minimum of twice a year, to ensure fidelity of the tool.
- **Quality Assurance/Continuous Quality Improvement** - jurisdictions should develop QA and CQI practices to ensure policy adherence. This includes but is not limited to inter-rater reliability, data collection and analysis, and fidelity of the tool. Fidelity monitoring shall occur through Master Trainer oversight.
- **Service Matrix** - Service Matrices are used in conjunction with the YLS to help categorize services according to risk level and each criminogenic need. This helps match the needs of youth with proper services.

**The Foundation for Behavior Change is Sound Risk Identification**