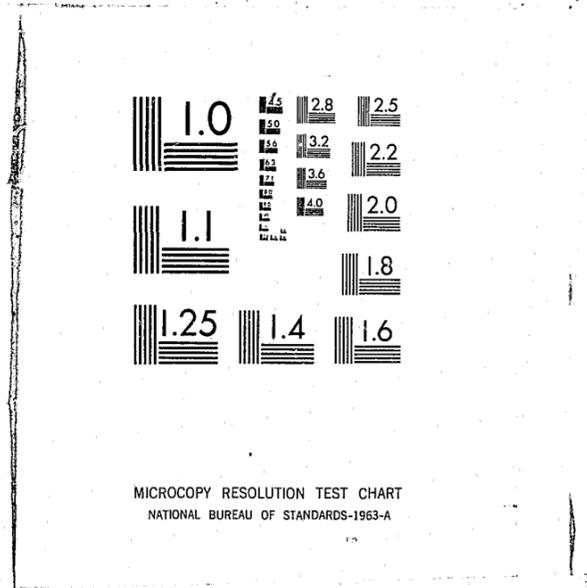


National Criminal Justice Reference Service



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National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

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MANUAL FOR SCORING THE FEDERAL PROBATION SYSTEM
RISK PREDICTION SCALE 80

January 1981

Prepared by Probation Division, Administrative
Office, U. S. Courts, in cooperation with the
Federal Judicial Center

The instructions which follow serve as a guide in developing a risk score on the Risk Prediction Scale (RPS 80). The RPS 80 was originally developed by the United States Probation Office for the District of Columbia. The scale has been revalidated by the Federal Judicial Center on the basis of actual supervision outcome of a sample of Federal probationers from a representative number of Federal probation offices. This prediction scale is a guide to how others with similar scores have done while on supervision. The Committee on the Administration of the Probation System of the Judicial Conference has directed that the scale be used to determine the supervision level of every probationer received for supervision. The RPS 80 score remains unchanged. However, the probation officer, in particular circumstances and with the approval of a supervisor, may "override" the RPS 80 and assign a higher level of supervision activity than that indicated by the scale. In all such cases, the officer must set forth in the case record the specific reasons for overriding the prediction scale. Standards for overrides are set forth in chapter II of Monograph 106.

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NCJRS
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ACQUISITIONS

AUTOMATIC RISK ASSIGNMENT COMPONENT

The RPS 80 contains a risk component which automatically places an individual in low activity supervision if two conditions are satisfied:

- (A) He or she has a twelfth grade education or better; and
- (B) The individual has a history free of opiate usage.

ITEM A: EDUCATION: Individual has completed a high school education

Check this item "yes" if: (1) the individual has completed 12 full years of education and has received a high school diploma; or (2) the individual has actually completed the twelfth grade, but has not received the high school diploma.

Persons with only a Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED) should not be considered as having satisfied the education requirement. It has been found that the GED is not related to successful outcome on supervision. If the individual, however, has a GED and has also completed at least 1 year or more (equivalent to 30 semester hours) of formal education at a college, university, technical, or post secondary school, then he or she is to be considered as having a twelfth grade education or better.

In all situations where the individual's education cannot be verified, the remaining RPS 80 items ("C" to "G") should be scored.

ITEM B: History Free of Opiate Usage

History free of illegal opiate usage means that the individual is not currently using nor has he or she ever used opiates in the past. For purposes of scoring this item, "opiate" means opium or any opium derivative or synthetic substitutes for morphine as defined in section 802(17) of title 21 of the U. S. Code. Some common opiates, opiate derivatives, or synthetic substitutes are: opium, morphine, heroin, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), codeine, Thebaine, oxycodone (Percodan), meperidine (Demerol), methadone (Dolophine), and pentazocine (Talwin). If there is evidence indicating (or if the individual states) that he or she has ever abused opiates (even if addiction did not apparently result) the individual is to be considered as having a history of opiate usage.

ITEM C: Twenty-eight Years of Age or Older at Time of Instant Offense ("7" points)

If the individual was 28 years or older at the time he or she was convicted of the offense for which the present period of probation or parole is to be served, this item should be scored as "7." Time of conviction is defined as time at which a guilty plea was entered or verdict of guilty was rendered.

If the individual was less than 28 years old at the time of conviction then this item is to be scored as "0."

In most instances the offender's age at the time of conviction can be determined from information that should appear on Probation Form 3. Both the date of birth and conviction should appear on the face sheet of each presentence report. Use age in years on client's last birthday.

ITEM D: Arrest-Free Period of Five (5) or More Consecutive Years ("4" points)

If the conviction for which the offender received the present term of probation or parole represents the first arrest, he or she is automatically assigned "4" points for this item. Otherwise, a score of "4" points is assigned only if an arrest-free period of five (5) years or more occurred at any time during the individual's life after the first arrest. Periods of arrest-free probation or parole supervision are to be counted. Credit, however, is not given if the arrest-free period occurs during confinement in any institution, including a mental hospital.

Assign a score of "0" if the individual does not have an arrest-free period of at least 5 or more consecutive years.

Any clear indication of an arrest for a criminal offense which appears on the individual's FBI "rap sheet," local police department records, or other official records such as a Bureau of Prisons classification study should be counted.

For purposes of scoring this item, consider any of the following (whether juvenile or adult) as arrests:

- (a) arrests for probation or parole violations even if other charges were not involved;
- (b) recaptures after escapes including escapes from state hospitals or other mental institutions;
- (c) civilian arrests while in military service;
- (d) arrests for driving while drunk or under the influence of narcotics, as well as arrests for hit and run and manslaughter resulting from the use of an auto.

Do not count arrests for petty offenses, suspicion, investigation, vagrancy, loitering, public drunkenness, or juvenile status offenses such as runaway, truancy, or incorrigibility. Similarly, do not count arrests for purely military type offenses such as insubordination.

ITEM E: Few Prior Arrests (none, one, or two = "10" points)

If the client has three or more arrests prior to the arrest leading to the conviction for which the present probation was imposed, a score of "0" is to be given for this item. Otherwise a score of "10" is given if the individual has less than three such prior arrests.

Again, arrests (as defined for Item D) may be considered when they appear on the FBI "rap sheet," official police department arrest records, or other such authentic records.

ITEM F: History Free of Opiate Usage ("9" points)

For the purpose of scoring, opiate means opium or any opium derivatives or synthetic substitutes for morphine as set out in Item B above. The person receives "0" on this item if he has ever used an opiate, even if on a once or twice experimental basis that did not result in addiction. If the individual has no history of illegal opiate usage, this item is scored as "9."

All other drug usage (e.g., marijuana, cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, etc.) is not considered as opiate usage.

ITEM G: At Least Four (4) Months of Steady Employment Immediately Prior to Arraignment for Present Offense ("3" points)

If the individual worked during the full 4 months immediately preceding his or her arraignment for the present offense, assign "3" points. Three points should also be assigned if the individual was a full-time student, or a part-time student and worked part-time, or was in the military. If the individual was unable to work due to disability or hospitalization, give "3" points only if immediately prior to the disability or hospitalization there was a period of 4 months of steady employment.

Do not give credit merely for past years of experience at a certain job or trade unless there were 4 or more months of consecutive full-time work immediately prior to arraignment.

For self-employed individuals, assign "3" points if there is a period of at least 4 months employment with verified income.

Exclude all employment while the individual was confined in any institution as an adult or as a juvenile.

Sum of Points

Calculate the points scored on items C through G and enter the total on the appropriate line of the scoring form.

All questions pertaining to scoring this scale should be directed to:
The Probation Division, Administrative Office of the United States
Courts, Washington, D. C. 20544.

