OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT:
THE IOWA MODEL

1984 VERSION

CODING SPECIFICATIONS
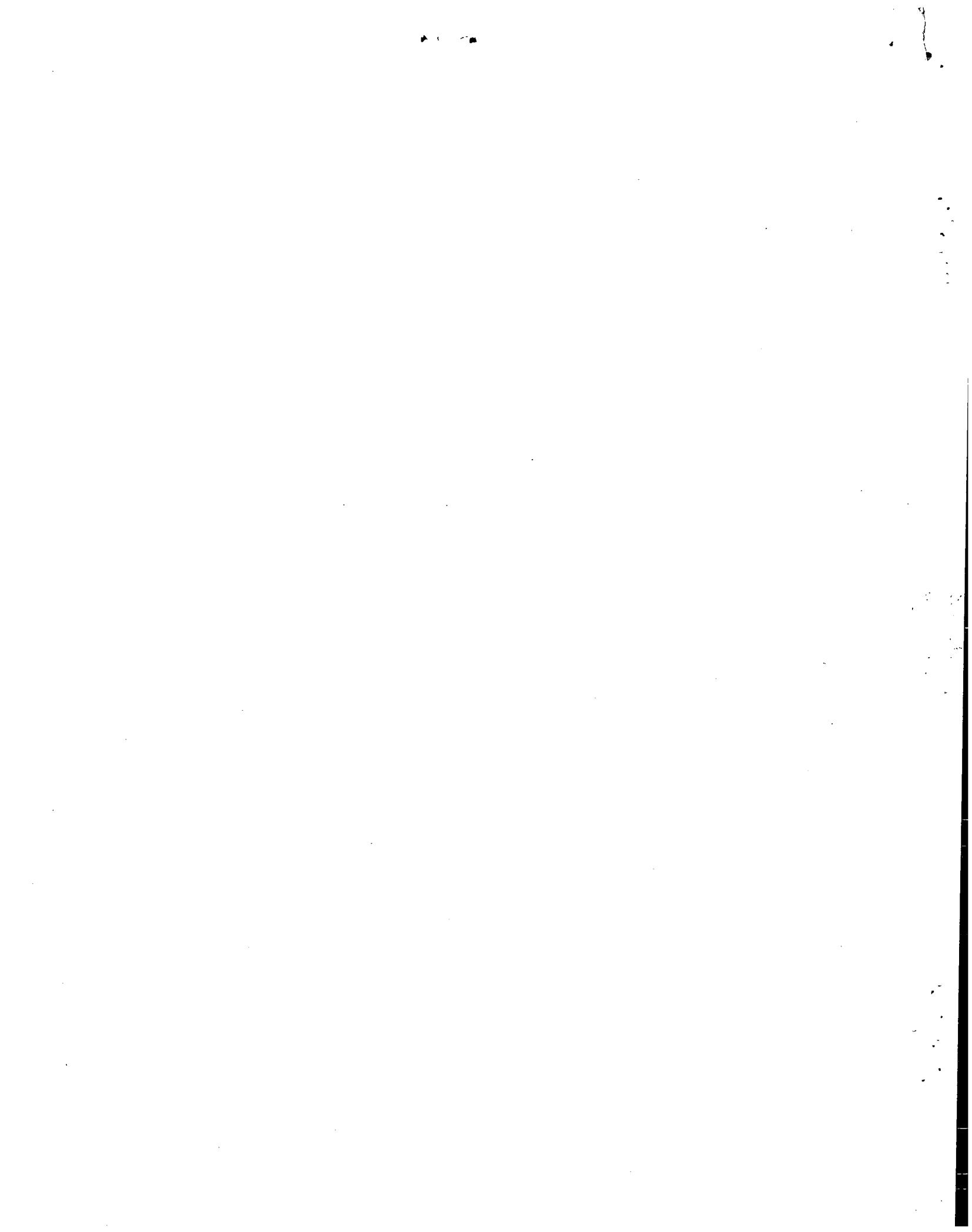
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OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT
THE IOWA MODEL

G	V	CURRENT OFFENSE SCORE (A)
2	3	Robbery/Attempted Robbery
2	3	Larceny from a Person
2	3	Aggravated Burglary
2	3	Arson/Attempted Arson
1	3	Murder/Attempted Murder
1	3	Manslaughter
1	3	Kidnapping
1	3	Rape/Attempted Rape
1	3	Sodomy
2	1	Burglary/Attempted Burglary
2	1	Selling Narcotics
2	1	Motor Vehicle Theft
2	1	Forgery/Bad Checks/Fraud
1	1	Aggravated Assault/Terrorism
1	1	Extortion
1	1	Going Armed with Intent
1	1	Conspiracy to Commit a Violent Felony
1	1	Larceny/Stolen Property
1	0	Vandalism
1	0	Weapons Offense
1	0	Conspiracy to Commit a Non-Violent Felony (above)
0	0	None of Above

G	V	PRIOR VIOLENCE SCORE (B)
4	5	91+
2	3	11-90
0	0	0-10

G	V	STREET TIME SCORE (C)
3	3	0-6 Years
2	2	6-11 Years
1	1	11-14 Years
0	0	14+ Years

G	V	CRIMINAL HISTORY SCORE (D)
6	6	140+
3	5	41-139
1	1	16-40
0	0	0-15

G	V	CURRENT ESCAPE SCORE (E)
3	4	Convicted
1	2	Arrested/Charged Only
0	0	Not as Above

G	V	SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCORE (F)
5	7	History of PCP Use
5	7	History of Non-Opiate Injections
5	7	History of Sniffing Volatile Substance
4	4	History of Opiate Addiction
3	4	History of Heavy Hallucinogen Use
2	1	History of Drug Problem
1	1	History of Opiate or Hallucinogen Use
1	1	History of Alcohol Problem
0	0	No History as Above

SERIOUS OFFENDER CLASSIFICATION

Yes	Current Conviction for Violent Felony
Yes	Current Conviction for Escape/Jailbreak/Flight
Yes	Prior Conviction for Felony Against Persons in Last Five Years Street Time
Yes	Prior Violence Score 35+
Yes	Substance Abuse Score 7
No	No Factor as Above

G V

___ ___ X-SCORE = A + B + C

___ ___ Y-SCORE = D + E + F

GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT

	X-SCORE				
Y-SCORE	0-1	2-3	4	5	6+
0	E	E	E	E	P
1	E	E	G	G	P
2	E	G	G	P	P
3-4	E	G	P	P	P
5	E	P	P	P	VP
6	P	P	P	P	VP
7	P	P	P	VP	VP
8+	P	P	VP	VP	VP

VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT
(Higher Rating for Serious Offender)

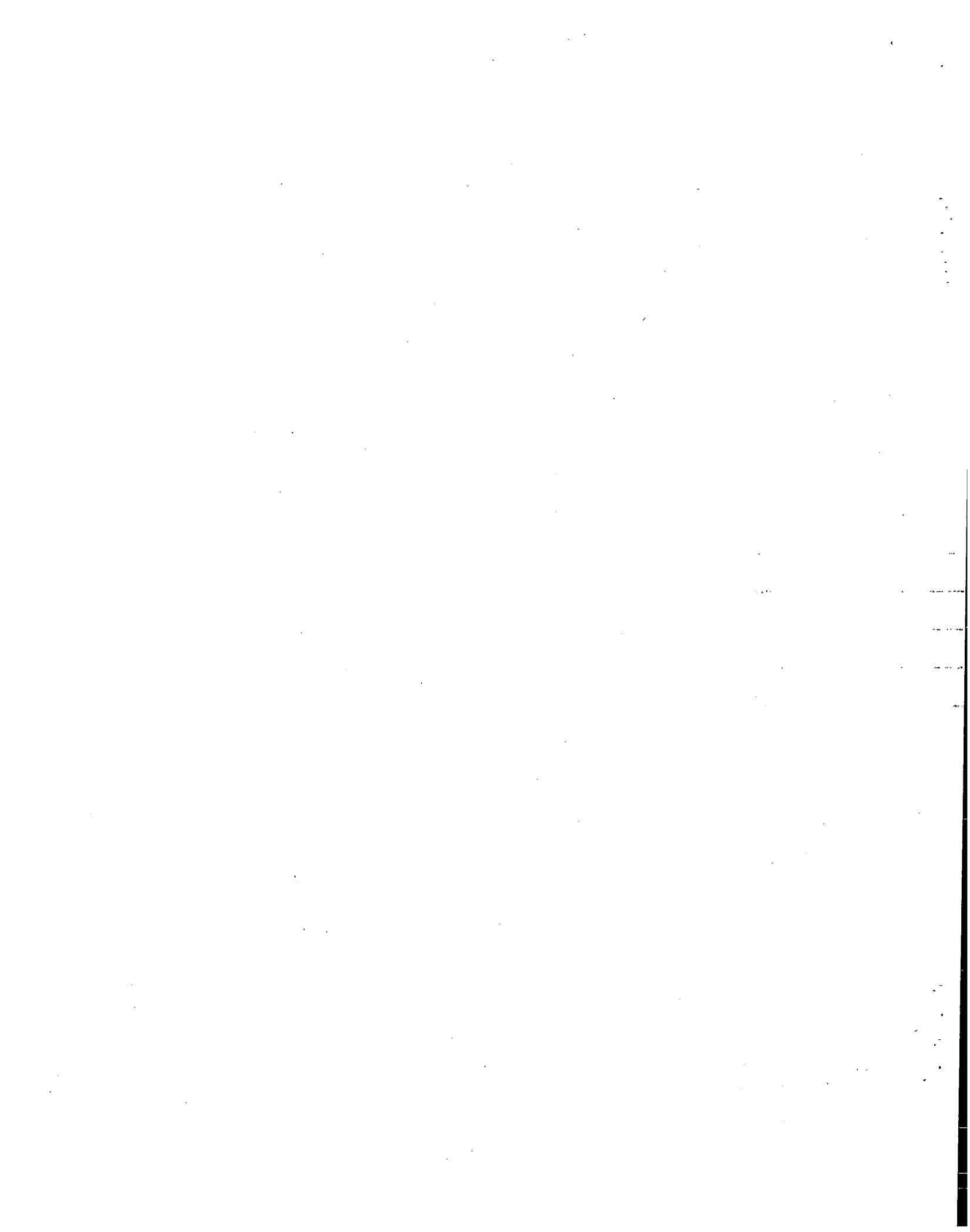|	X-SCORE						
Y-SCORE	0	1-2	3	4-5	6-7	8	9+
0	E	E	E	E	G	G	F/P
1	E	E	E	G	G/F	F/P	F/P
2-3	E	G	G	G	F/P	F/P	F/P
4-6	E	G/F	F	F/P	F/P	F/P	F/VP
7-8	F	F	F/P	F/P	F/P	F/VP	F/VP
9+	F	F	F/P	F/P	F/VP	F/VP	F/VP

E = EXCELLENT   G = GOOD   F = FAIR   P = POOR   VP = VERY POOR

OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT
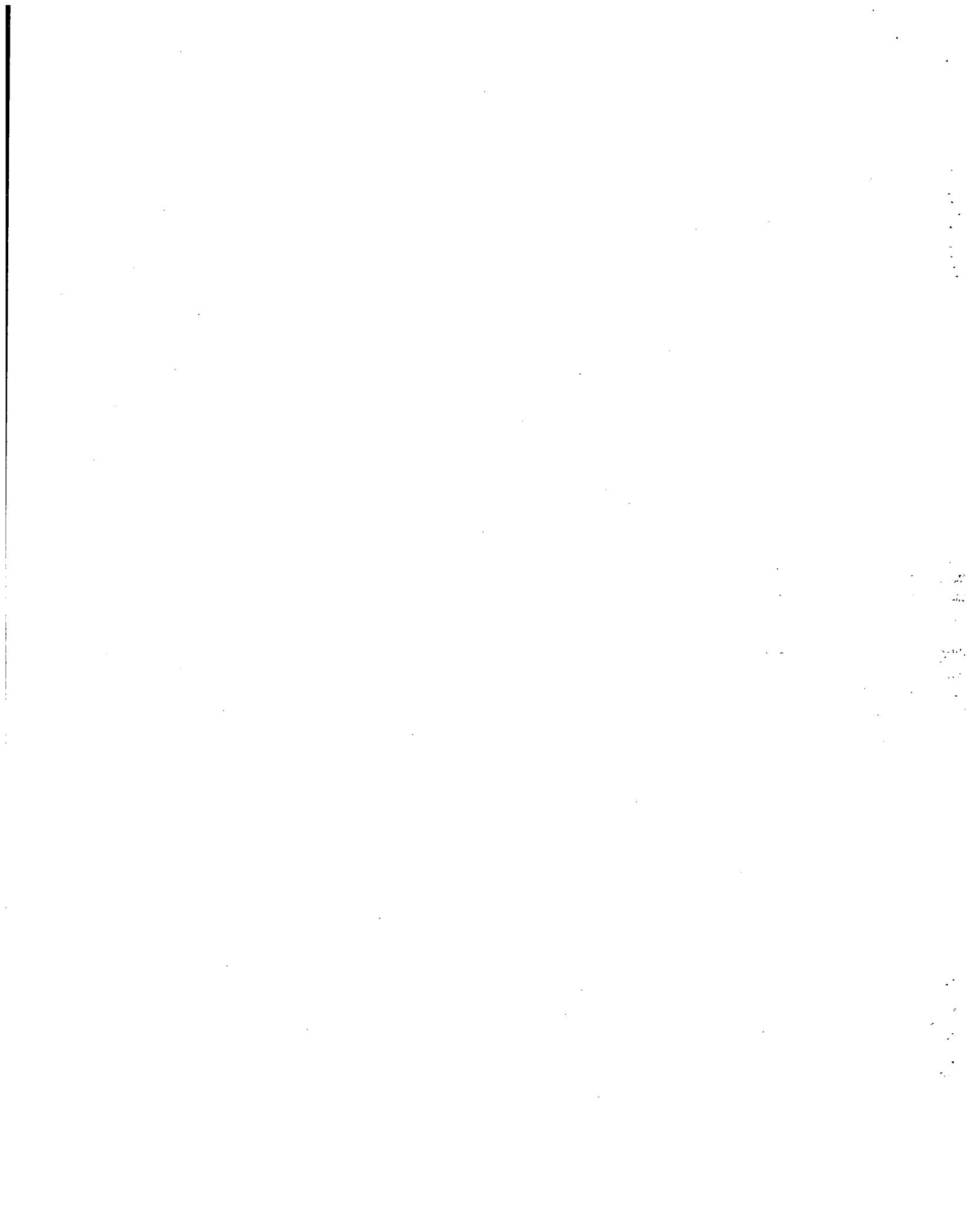## DATA COLLECTION

OFFENDER NAME _____ NUMBER _____

DATE OF BIRTH ___/___/___   DATE OF COMMITMENT ___/___/___
           Mo. Day Yr.   Mo. Day Yr.

FELONY RECORD

Date of Arrest	Offense	Disposition	Dates In/Out
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

SUBSTANCE ABUSE HISTORY

____ PCP Use

____ Non-Opiate Injections

____ Sniffing Volatile Substance

____ Opiate Addiction

____ Heavy Hallucinogen Use

____ Drug Problem

____ Opiate Use

____ Hallucinogen Use

____ Alcohol Problem

RISK SCORING

	G	V
A.	___	___
B.	___	___
C.	___	___
D.	___	___
E.	___	___
F.	___	___

Serious Offender   YES   NO

G	V	
___	___	X-SCORE = A + B + C
___	___	Y-SCORE = D + E + F

RISK ASSESSMENT

General: _____

Violence: _____

DEFINITIONS OF CODING CATEGORIES

The Iowa model of Offender Risk Assessment provides two assessments of risk, one a measure of general risk to society, and the second a measure of the specific risk of new violence. The scoring system uses the same risk factors for assessing the two types of risk, but applies distinct point schedules for these two purposes. On the coding form, the symbol G refers to the General Risk Scoring and the symbol V to the Violence Risk Scoring.

The scoring system is set up to provide two intermediate assessments of risk (both for general and for violence risk), the first referred to as the X-SCORE and the second as the Y-SCORE. The X-SCORE is the sum of the scores from three risk factors: CURRENT OFFENSE, PRIOR VIOLENCE, and STREET TIME, and the Y-SCORE the sum of the scores for three additional factors: CRIMINAL HISTORY, CURRENT ESCAPE, and SUBSTANCE ABUSE. The X-SCORE and Y-SCORE are then matrixed to obtain the final General and Violence Risk Assessments. The final Violence Risk Assessment is based also on what is referred to as the Serious Offender Classification, which identifies offenders who are prone to a higher Violence Risk Assessment.

The following is an item-by-item description of the elements that must be considered to obtain an offender's risk assessment classification.
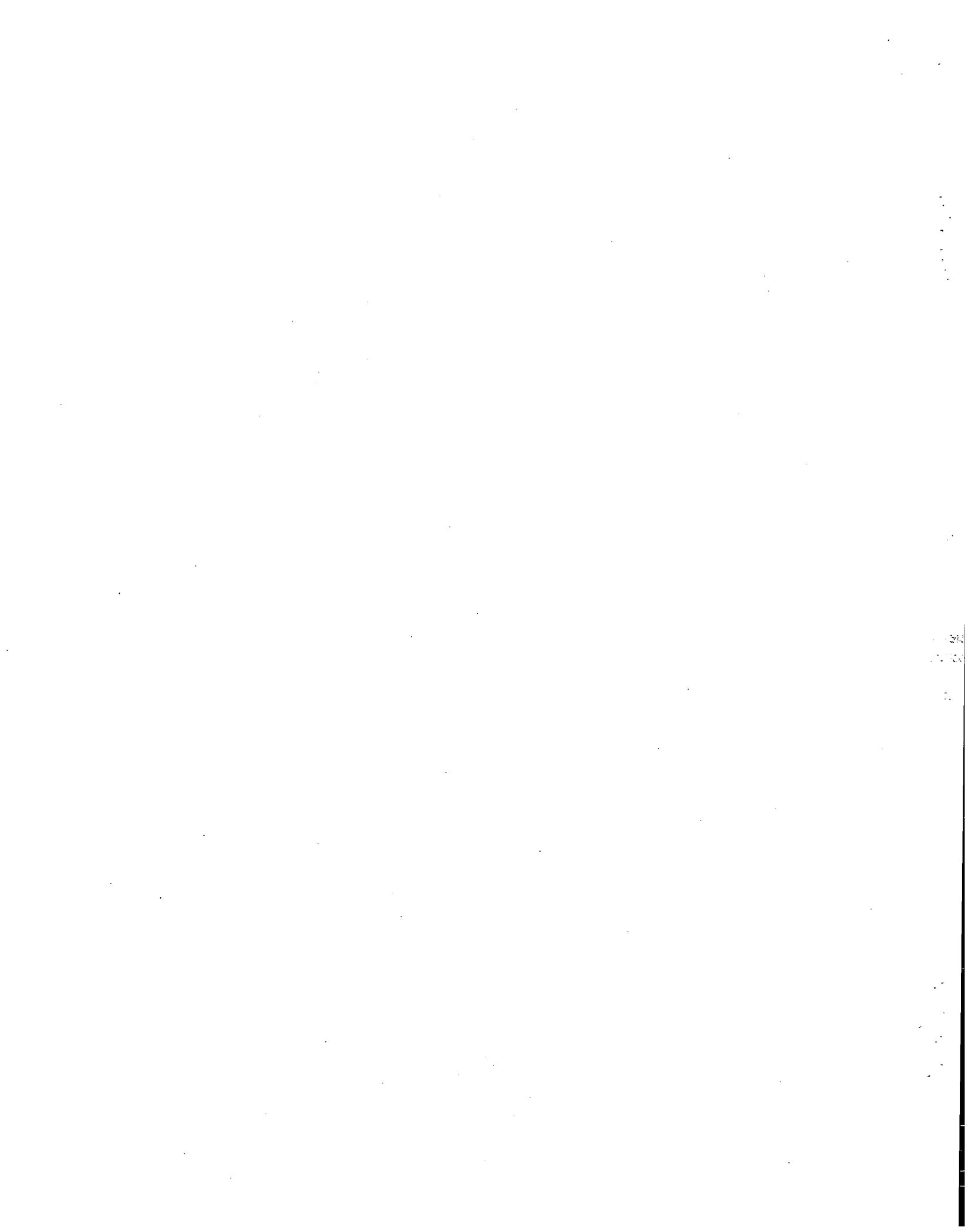
Current Offense Score

The Current Offense Score (G/V) is the highest score applicable to current arresting (charged) or convicting offenses. Score an offense even if the charge is dropped, dismissed, reduced, or otherwise modified, e.g., score a robbery charge even if the charge is reduced to larceny.

An offense is counted as current if the offender: 1) is currently awaiting adjudication or sentencing for the charge, 2) is currently serving a sentence (prison, jail, probation, parole, etc.) for conviction of the offense, 3) was charged for the offense on or after the date of arrest for any offense satisfying 1) or 2), or 4) was awaiting adjudication or sentencing for the charge at the time of arrest for any current offense. For example, if John Doe is currently convicted of larceny, and in the meantime has been arrested for robbery, then the robbery charge is scored as a current offense. Also, if Sam Smith was awaiting adjudication of a robbery charge when arrested for a current burglary, then the robbery charge is again scored as current.

Prior Violence Score

The Prior Violence Score (G/V) attaches a weight to the offender's history of prior arrests for violent felonies (those listed below). An arrest is scored under this item if the date of arrest was prior to the date of the most recent arrest counted as current according to above definitions. Thus, if the offender was originally convicted of robbery, was placed on probation, was subsequently convicted of larceny, and is now serving time for both offenses (probation revoked), then the robbery charge is scored as prior under this item. Also score any arrest for a violent felony which satisfies the definition of current, but which does not constitute the most recent arrest resulting in a conviction for which the offender is currently sentenced. Thus, if John Doe was originally convicted of larceny, and then was arrested for, but not convicted of, robbery, then the robbery arrest is scored as prior under this item.

For each arrest scored under this item, up to eight separate counts of violent felonies may be scored. Each such count is scored according to the following severity of offense scale, and according to the age of the arrest.

80	Murder	60	Larceny from a Person
70	Attempted Murder	60	Felony Assault
70	Rape	60	Terrorism
70	Kidnapping for Ransom	60	Arson
70	Aggravated Robbery	50	Involuntary Manslaughter
70	Aggravated Burglary	50	Attempted Robbery
70	Arson of a Dwelling	50	Extortion
60	Voluntary Manslaughter	50	Going Armed with Intent
60	Attempted Rape	40	Aggravated Assault
60	Sodomy	40	Attempted Arson
60	Kidnapping	40	Conspiracy to Commit a
60	Robbery		Violent Felony

The age of a prior arrest for a violent felony is scored as the number of months from the arrest in question to the current reference date used for scoring this system. The reference date may be the current arrest date, conviction date, or commitment date, depending on just which stage of the justice system the model is applied to.

For each prior violent felony (count), we then have a severity score S and an age score A. These two scores are combined as follows to arrive at a single age-adjusted severity score S':

$$S' = \frac{24 \times S}{12 + A}$$

S' takes on a maximum value of 2S when A = 0, and decreases to 0 as A grows indefinitely. Note also that S' = S when A = 12, i.e., when the arrest is one year old.

When each prior violent felony is scored as above, the resulting values of S' are added to arrive at a single measure P of the seriousness and recency of the offender's history of violence.
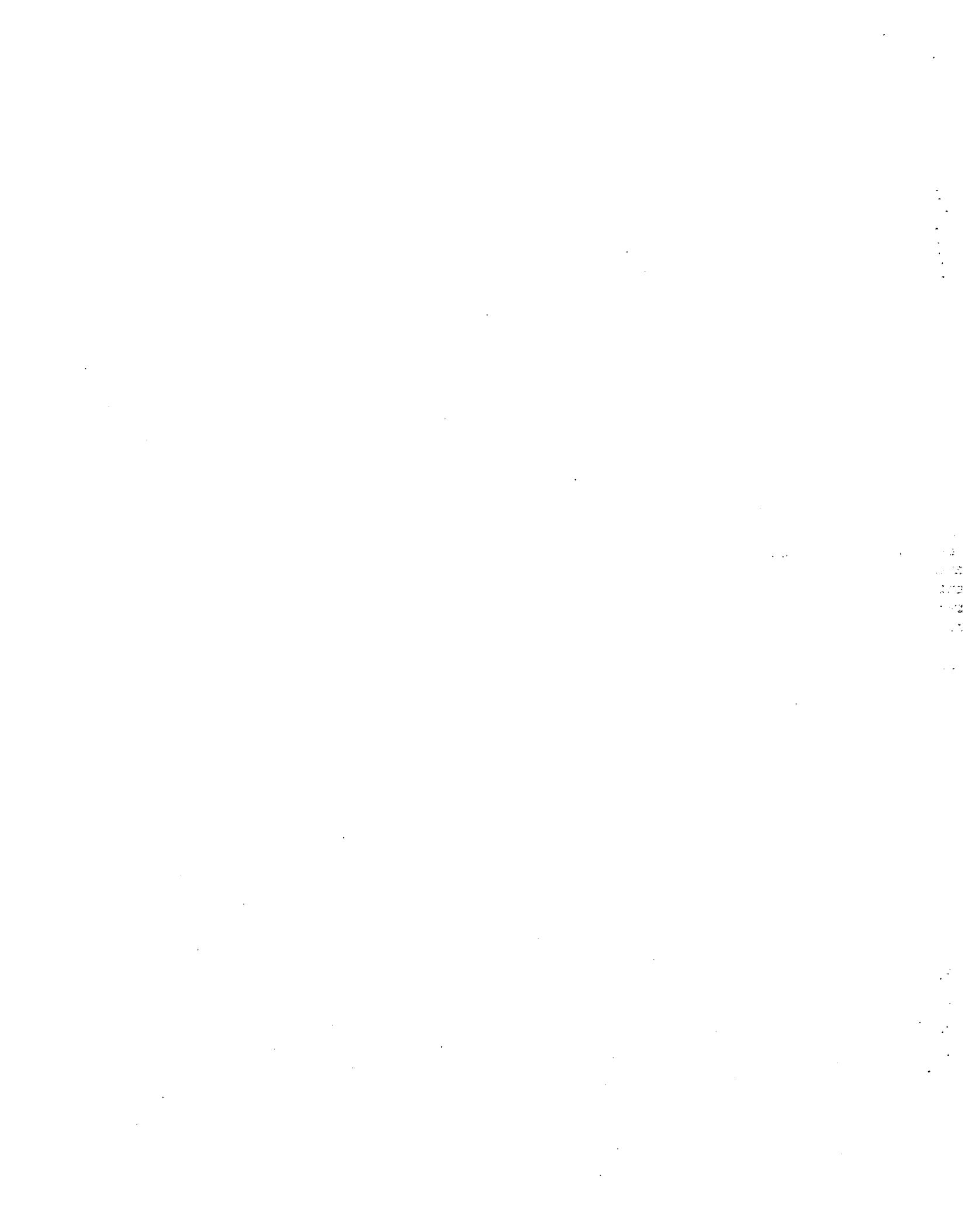
$$P = Sum(S')$$

Prior Violence Score (raw)

The offender's Prior Violence Score P is then collapsed as follows to obtain the risk assessment scoring for this item:

Prior Violence Scoring		
G	V	Range of P
4	5	91+
2	3	11-90
0	0	0-10

Street Time Score

The Street Time Score (G/V) attaches a weight to the amount of street time that the offender has experienced since turning age 14. First the number of years from age 14 to the current reference date is calculated (to one decimal). Then the total number of years that the offender has been incarcerated (prison, jail, or juvenile) on prior felonies (see specifications for prior felony scoring under the next item) is determined. Finally, the latter is subtracted from the former to obtain the raw street time score T.

The offender's Street Time Score T is then collapsed as follows to obtain the risk assessment scoring for this item:

Street Time Scoring

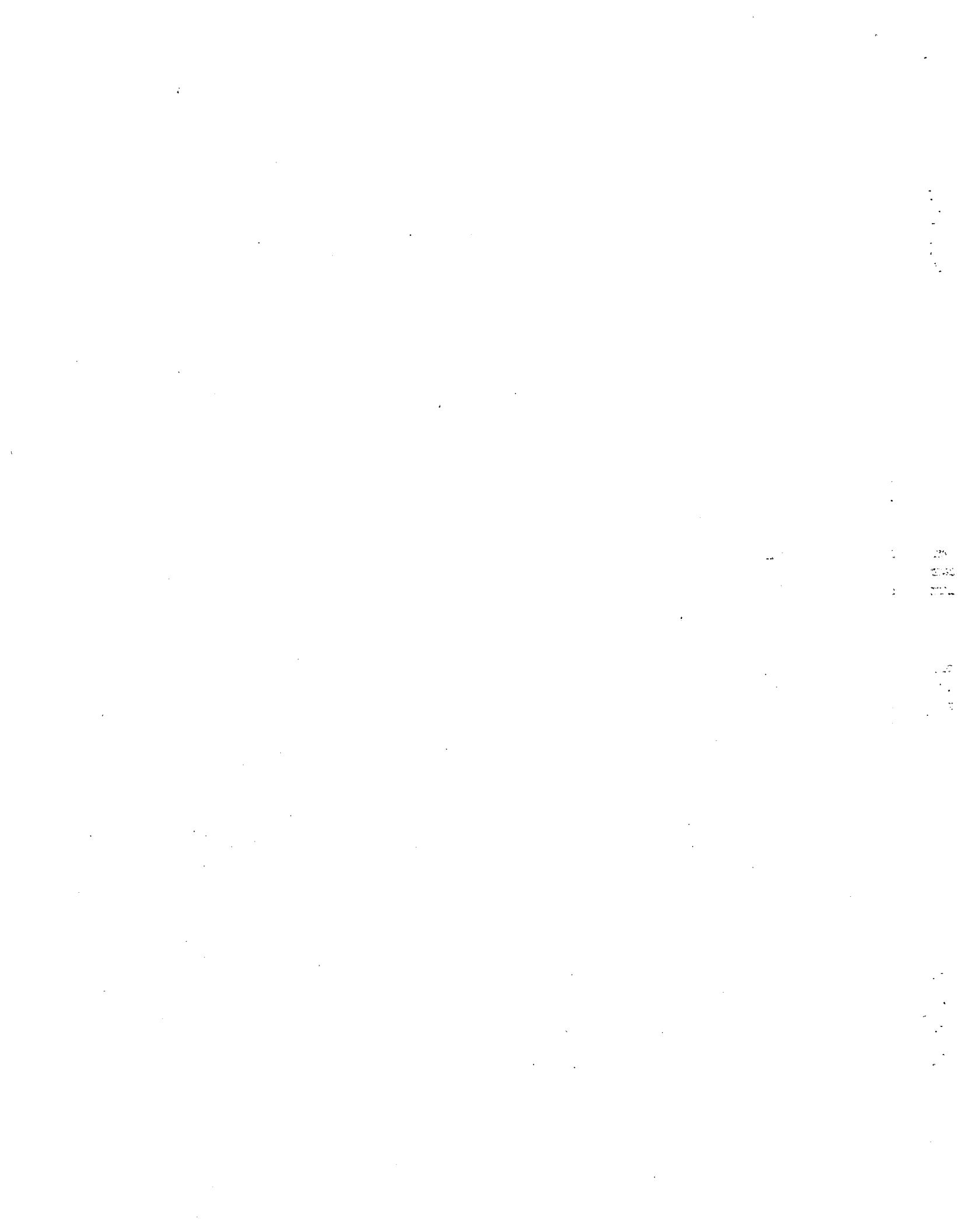| G	V	Range of T
3	3	0-6 Years
2	2	6-11 Years
1	1	11-14 Years
0	0	14+ Years

Note In the above scoring, the high end of each range is scored into the subsequent category. Thus 6.0 years of street time is scored as 2/2, while 5.9 is scored as 3/3.

Criminal History Score

In a fashion similar to the Prior Violence Scoring, this item attaches a weight to the offender's history of prior felony convictions and incarcerations. To calculate the raw score for this item, it is necessary to collect information on all prior adult felony convictions, all juvenile felony adjudications, and all returns of release violators (juvenile or adult) upon rearrest for felonies. As indicated, we refer to the target group of such incidents as "prior felony convictions and incarcerations." A felony conviction or incarceration is counted as "prior" for coding under this item if it occurred prior to the most recent felony conviction for which the offender is sentenced. Thus, if the offender is sentenced on two felonies, with convictions occurring on separate dates, then the first of the two is counted as prior for scoring under this item. The one exception to the rule on prior felonies arises in the situation in which the offender receives a new conviction for escape or jailbreak. In this case, the original convicting felony is not counted as prior.

For each felony conviction or incarceration scored under this item, up to eight counts may be scored. Each such count is scored according to the following severity of offense scale, according to the sentence imposed (committed or not), and according to the amount of street time following conviction or incarceration (to the current reference date).

80	Murder	50	Going Armed with Intent
70	Attempted Murder	50	Escape
70	Rape	50	Jailbreak
70	Kidnapping for Ransom	40	Aggravated Assault
70	Aggravated Robbery	40	Attempted Arson
70	Aggravated Burglary	40	Conspiracy to Commit a Violent Felony
70	Arson of a Dwelling		
70	Selling Narcotics to Minors	30	Burglary
60	Voluntary Manslaughter	30	Motor Vehicle Theft
60	Attempted Rape	30	Forgery
60	Sodomy	30	Selling Narcotics (opiates or cocaine)
60	Kidnapping	20	Larceny
60	Robbery	20	Stolen Property
60	Larceny from a Person	20	Vandalism
60	Felony Assault	20	Bad Checks/Fraud
60	Terrorism	20	Weapons Offense
60	Arson	20	Conspiracy to Commit a Non-Violent Felony (above)
50	Involuntary Manslaughter		
50	Attempted Robbery	10	All Other Offenses, e.g., lascivious acts, selling drugs, drunken driving
50	Extortion		

For each individual count, in addition to the severity of offense score S, a disposition multiplier D is assigned, as well as a street time score M. The disposition multiplier takes on the value 1.25 if the disposition of the offense involved commitment to a juvenile or adult institution, and 0.75 otherwise. The street time score M for the count is determined as the number of months of street time from the conviction or incarceration (the latter takes precedence) to the current reference date, where street time is calculated as time not incarcerated as the result of a felony conviction or incarceration. Alternately, this quantity may be calculated as the age of the conviction or incarceration in months, minus the total number of months incarcerated for the indicated offense and all subsequent prior felony convictions and incarcerations (no current incarceration time included). Note that the calculations here overlap those for the previous item (Street Time Score).

If S is the severity of offense score, D the disposition multiplier, and M the number of months of street time following conviction or incarceration, then the adjusted severity score S' for an individual count is calculated as follows:

$$S' = \frac{24 \times S \times D}{12 + M}$$

As with the adjusted severity score for prior violent felonies, S' takes on a maximum value of 2SD when M = 0, and decreases to 0 as M grows indefinitely. Note again that S' = SD when M = 12.

When up to eight counts each for all prior felony convictions and incarcerations are scored as above, the resulting values of S' are added to obtain a single measure C of the volume, seriousness, and recency of the offender's prior felony record.

$$C = Sum(S')$$

Since this measure of the offender's prior record is associated with the amount of street time available for acquiring such a record, a final adjustment is made to the value C to obtain a measure C' which is independent of street time. To this effect, C is divided by one-tenth the raw Street Time Score T calculated under the previous item.

$$C' = \frac{C}{T/10}$$

The offender's Criminal History Score C' is then collapsed as follows to obtain the risk assessment scoring for this item:

Criminal History Scoring

G	V	Range of C'
6	6	140+
3	5	41-139
1	1	16-40
0	0	0-15

The above scores are assigned according to the rounded value of C'. Thus, 14.6 is rounded to 15 and the values 1/1 assigned for risk assessment scoring. Note The same rounding convention applies to Prior Violence Scoring.

Current Escape Score

The Current Escape Score (G/V) assigns a score to the fact of the presence of a current arrest or conviction for escape (from prison), jailbreak, or flight (absconding prior to or following conviction or sentencing). A higher score is assigned if the offender was convicted as the result of the escape, etc, while a lower score is assigned if the offender was arrested or charged with escape, etc., but was not convicted of same. An escape should not be counted under this item if the incident was handled administratively without the recording of an arrest on the offender's record.

Substance Abuse Score

The Substance Abuse Score (G/V) is based on information concerning the offender's history of use (abuse) of drugs and alcohol. All types of drugs are considered in the scoring with the exception of cocaine and marijuana (not found to be predictive). All possible sources of information on substance abuse should be consulted in scoring this item, including historical records of treatment, known abuse, etc., self-reporting by the offender, and other documented indications of abuse.

The scoring for this item considers several types of substance abuse, including a history of opiate addiction, a history of problem use of drugs (amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, etc.), a history of an alcohol problem, a history of heavy use of hallucinogenic drugs (LSD, mescaline, etc.), any history of PCP use, a history of sniffing of glue or any other volatile substance (e.g., lighter fluid, gasoline, etc.), and a history of injecting non-opiate substances (e.g., cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, quinine, water, aftershave, etc.). In addition, a simple history of use or experimentation with opiates or hallucinogens is considered (although such receives less weight than other coded drug use). Opiates include heroin, morphine, opium, and other opium derivatives.

Use or abuse need not be current to score under this item. Likewise statements to the effect that the offender has "kicked the habit" with regard to a specific type of abuse should not be considered in scoring this item. The emphasis is again on any history of specific types of substance abuse.

Following the collection of information as described above on the offender's history of substance abuse, the offender's Substance Abuse Score (G/V) is assigned based on the highest applicable category of abuse (highest in order listed on form).

Serious Offender Classification

The Serious Offender Classification is a Yes/No indicator based on the presence or combined absence of any one of five easily identifiable factors of the types previously collected. If any such factor is present, then the offender is classified as a Serious Offender, which makes the assignment of a Poor or Very Poor Violence Risk Rating more likely. Offenders falling in the non-serious category show low rates of violence without regard to appearance of other high risk factors in the record.

The first "special" factor considered under the Serious Offender Classification is "Current Conviction for Violent Felony." This factor refers to the fact that the offender is currently convicted of a crime which is classified as a violent felony in the Prior Violence section of this document. If this instrument is being applied prior to the final adjudication of current charges, then this item is scored according to the nature of the charges still effective as of the date of coding.

The second special factor "Current Conviction for Escape/Jailbreak/Flight" is scored in an identical fashion to the Current Escape Score.

The third special factor "Prior Conviction for Felony Against Persons in Last Five Years of Street Time" is based on the type of information on prior felonies considered in the section on the Criminal History Score. If the offender has a prior conviction for a felony against persons, where the total amount of street time following conviction and up to the current reference date is less than or equal to five years, then this item is scored as yes. Felonies against persons include violent felonies, sex offenses such as lascivious acts and incest, and other crimes in which a person was either threatened or harmed in some way.

The fourth special factor "Prior Violence Score 35+" is based strictly on the size of the raw Prior Violence Score P. If the rounded value of that score is at least 35, then this item is scored as yes.

The fifth and last special factor "Substance Abuse Score 7" is based on the Substance Abuse Scoring section of the risk assessment. If the offender scores 7 under the violence column of the scoring form under the Substance Abuse section, the this item is scored as yes. This occurs if the offender has a history of PCP use, a history of sniffing of a volatile substance, or a history of injecting a non-opiate substance.

The X-Score

The X-Score is an intermediate assessment of risk based on the combination of the first three risk scores, the Current Offense Score (A), the Prior Violence Score (B), and the Street Time Score (C). The X-Score (G/V) is simply the sum A + B + C of these three component scores.

The Y-Score

In a similar fashion to the X-Score, the Y-Score is an intermediate assessment of risk based on the combination of the last three risk scores, the Criminal History Score (D), the Current Escape Score (E), and the Substance Abuse Score (F). The Y-Score (G/V) is, again, simply the sum D + E + F of these three component scores.

General Risk Assessment

The General Risk Assessment is the next to the last step in the risk assessment process, and entails the combination or matrixing of the X and Y-Scores to obtain a single measure of the overall threat to society posed by release of the offender in question. It is obtain by simply consulting the matrix indicated on the form to determine the General Risk Rating (E, G, P, or VP) corresponding to the calculated X and Y-Scores.

Violence Risk Assessment

The Violence Risk Assessment is the final step in the overall procedure, and entails the same process as the General Risk Assessment, only with a separate matrix of X and Y-Scores, and with the additional convention that if the offender is classified as a Serious Offender, then the Risk Rating to the right of the slash (where applicable) is coded. Risk Ratings to the left of the indicated slashes apply to Non-Serious Offenders.