

# The Young Offender Risk Identification (YORI) Screening Tool

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# Overview

- Background to the 'YORI'
- Developing the YORI
- A snapshot of results
- Piloting the YORI
- Refining the YORI
- The future of YORI



# How it came about...

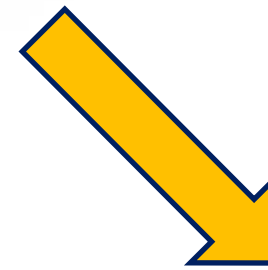
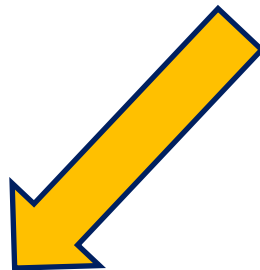
- Collaboration between
  - Department of Corrective Services WA
  - School of Law & Justice, ECU
  - The Department of the Attorney General (data collection)
- Building a profile of juvenile offenders
- Designing a tool for case workers
  - Brief
  - Valid
  - User-friendly
- Screen out little/low risk of recidivism
- Screen in medium/high risk of recidivism

# Acknowledgement

- Already have instruments available
  - Designed to identify young offenders at risk
  - To help guide the selection of appropriate interventions
- Limitations for busy frontline workers
  - Too lengthy
  - Too detailed
  - Too time consuming

# Background

Case Worker  
Interview + discretion



No further intervention

Some further investigation

Intensive intervention

# Aims

- The major aim of this project was to develop a screening tool for young offenders based on a review of the risk factors involved in youth offending
- To plan for ways to test that the psychometric properties of the screening tool
- To design a long term study to test the predictive validity of the screening tool

# Known risk factors

- Family



(Bor, McGee & Fagan, 2004; Weatherburn & Lind, 1997 & 1998)

# Known risk factors

- Family
- Education



(Bor, McGee & Fagan, 2004; Weatherburn & Lind, 1997 & 1998)

# Known risk factors

- Family
- Education
- Substance Use



(Bor, McGee & Fagan, 2004; Weatherburn & Lind, 1997 & 1998)

# Potential predictors of re-offending

Weatherburn, Cush & Saunders, 2007 p.5

Male gender

Aged less than 14 years

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Non-English speaking background

Parent deceased

Parents divorced

Living with both natural parents

At school

Suspended or expelled from school

Experienced trauma

Associates with delinquent peers

Neglected or abused

Drug use

3+ address changes in 5 years

Placed in out-of-home care



## Materials

Final instrument used to retrospectively record the court report data

No	Item	Circle one number		
		F = 0	M = 1	N/A = 9**
1	Gender?	F = 0	M = 1	N/A = 9**
2	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
3	One or both parents deceased?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
4	Currently living with both natural parents?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
5	Non English speaking background parent/s?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
6	Young person, parent/s or guardian/s negatively affected by event in the previous five years (eg death of a family member, divorce/separation of parents, witness domestic violence, sexual or emotional abuse)?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
7	Current illicit drug use?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
8	Current risky alcohol use? (eg more than two standard drinks per day and/or more than four standard drinks on any one occasion)?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
9	Offence committed in the company of other youths or known to associate with other offenders or antisocial peers?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
10	Subject of a confirmed report of neglect and/or abuse prior to court appearance?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
11	Out-of-home care prior to court appearance?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
12	Suspended or expelled from school/training at time of offence?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
13*	Regular attendance at school/training at time of offence?	No = 0	Yes = 1	N/A = 9
<b>No</b>	<b>Enter number for each item below or circle N/A if information unavailable</b>			
14	Current age?			N/A = 9
15*	Age at first contact with justice system?			N/A = 9
16	Principal offence for which convicted at first court appearance?			N/A = 9
17*	Number of previous convictions?			N/A = 9
18*	Total number of previous contacts with the justice system (ie police caution, referral to a youth justice conference or conviction)?			N/A = 9
19	Number of address changes in past 5 years?			N/A = 9

\*Key predictors

\*\*Information not available

- Participants/sample size
  - 100 cases
  - 1994; 1999; 2004; 2009
  - Adequate to conduct correlation and regression analysis
  - Random selection using a stratified sampling procedure
- Procedure
  - 2 research assistants
  - Confidentiality agreements
  - Only personnel with access to the complete Court Reports
  - No reports left Perth Children's Court
  - No record of names or addresses
- Analysis
  - T-tests
  - ANOVA's + post hocs
  - Chi squares
  - Mann Whitney

# Significant relationship with # convictions

1. Age at first contact with the CJS
2. Illicit drug use
3. Risky alcohol use
4. Indigenous status
5. Not living with both natural parents
6. Multiple address changes in the previous five years
7. No regular attendance at school/training at time of offence

# Important points!

The experience of trauma was not associated with the number of convictions but given that almost all court reports included references to the experience of trauma in the previous five years there were insufficient cases without trauma to conduct reliable statistical tests!!!

# Piloting the YORI

- YORI was printed by Department of Corrective Services WA
- Staff directed to still use discretion
- Carbon copies retained and sent to ECU
- 392 YORI forms returned from 10 offices (4 month period)

# Staff comments/feedback

- The majority of clients rated 'high'
  - Medium/high relatively equal – 12.5% low
- Define 'risky' drug/alcohol use
  - Use defined in specifications
  - Area of 'discretion' important
- Minor changes to case management referrals
  - 'referral changed to 'referral/engagement with'
- Easy to use / good to have record
  - Good to have them help develop it!

# YORI (REVISED 1)

Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Client's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

IFS ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Referral source: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander  No  Yes  Male  Female



## Revised YORI Screening Tool.

Developed  
and again  
given to DCS  
& YJO's for  
consideration  
&  
confirmation

No	Item	NO	YES
1	Fourteen years of age or less at first contact with the justice system?	0	1
2	Currently not living with both natural parents?	0	1
3	Three or more address changes in past five years?	0	1
4	Attending school/training/employment infrequently or not at all?	0	1
5	Suspended or expelled from school/training/employment?	0	1
6	Current risky alcohol and/or illicit drug use? (see the YORI Specifications)	0	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>Low (0)</b>	<b>Medium (1-2)</b>	<b>High (3+)</b>	

*\*The YORI is designed to help identify the level of intervention needed by YJS clients.  
Results of the YORI should be used to support the judgement of YJO/PDO/JIT.*

Outcome (Circle all that apply)		Details
<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> No further intervention deemed necessary <input type="checkbox"/> Client declined referral	
<input type="checkbox"/> External referral/or engaged with;	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance use <input type="checkbox"/> Parental education <input type="checkbox"/> Education/training/employment <input type="checkbox"/> Counselling <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention/Diversion Services <input type="checkbox"/> DCP <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Internal referral/or engaged with	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth & Family Support Services <input type="checkbox"/> YPOP <input type="checkbox"/> JIT Youth Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Case Management	By:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Further Assessment	By:	

# The YORI (Revised)

## YORI (REVISED 1)

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# The future of the YORI

- Carbon copy prints
- 2 year study
- To test key independent predictors
- Aim to identify protective factors
- Evidence based policy development & intervention strategies