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ICON Data Download

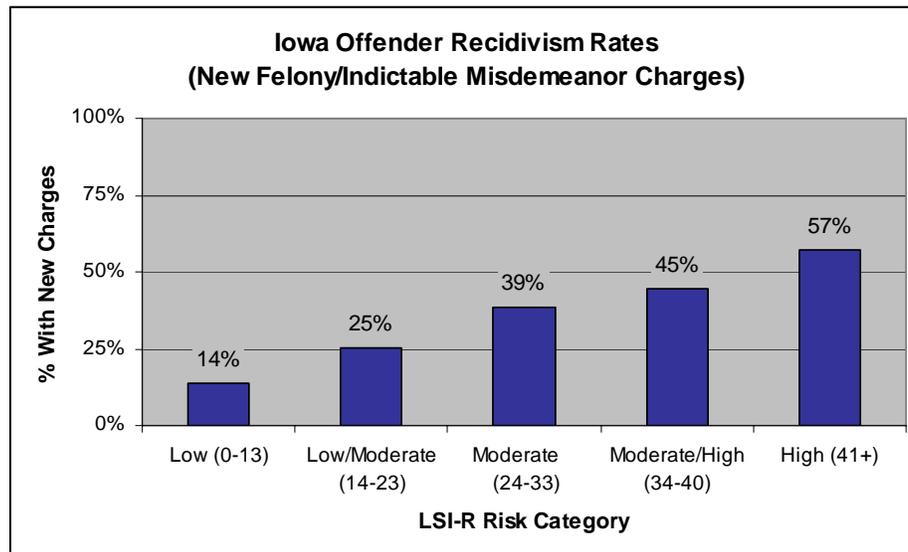


LSI-R Assessment is Valid for Iowa Offenders

Welcome to the first issue of the ICON Data Download, a periodic report intended to communicate findings relevant to those who work directly with offenders, as well as those involved in planning, policy and budgeting. This issue highlights work conducted by research partner Christopher Lowenkamp, Ph.D., of the University of Cincinnati and his research associate, Kristin Bechtel, M.S. Data for this analysis was provided from the Iowa Justice Data Warehouse – and takes advantage of the link between ICON and ICIS (the court database) to readily track offender recidivism.

Finding #1: The LSI-R is significantly related to predicting future criminal activity among Iowa probationers and parolees. The study tracked whether or not an offender had been charged with a felony or indictable misdemeanor, over a period that averaged two years and one month per offender, whether the offender remained under supervision or not. The sample was comprised of offenders receiving LSI-R initial assessments during 2003.

Finding #2: The risk categories in the chart below would be useful to implement treatment and supervision decisions for Iowa offenders.



What this means: You can use the LSI-R with confidence in reentry case planning and other activities within both the institutions and community corrections.

Practical example: Treating very low and very high risk offenders is not an effective use of resources. Setting priorities to treat Low/Moderate, Moderate and Moderate/High risk offenders makes sense.

The full report, *Validating the LSI-R on an Iowa Probation and Parole Sample* (Lowenkamp & Bechtel, University of Cincinnati, 2006) is available by contacting the DOC director of research (phone 515/725-5718 or email Lettie.Prell@iowa.gov).