

# **COLORADO ACTUARIAL RISK ASSESSMENT SCALE (CARAS):**

## **HANDBOOK TO COMPLETE THE INSTRUMENT ON MEN AND WOMEN**

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Office of Research and Statistics

Kim English, *Research Director*

Suzanne Gonzalez Woodburn, *Research Analyst*

Division of Criminal Justice

Ray Slaughter, *Director*

Colorado Department of Public Safety

C. Suzanne Mencer, *Executive Director*

700 Kipling Street, Suite 3000

Denver, Colorado 80215

Phone (303) 239-4442

Fax (303) 239-4491

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## **SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION**

## **Background**

The Division of Criminal Justice's (DCJ) Office of Research and Statistics (ORS) first developed and validated actuarial risk scales for the Parole Board in the mid-1980s. Several studies validated the accuracy of the original instrument (with minor revisions) for use on male prisoners. However, in 1998, the ORS conducted a study of 2235 offenders released onto parole between January 1997 and June 1998 and found that the scale significantly lost its ability to discriminate between offenders who were recommitted to DOC and those who were not. The ORS then developed a revised risk assessment scale and DOC began using it in August 2000.

A study to validate or improve the 2000 instrument was undertaken by the ORS the following year. To give cases in the study group "time to fail", the research focused on a sample of offenders released in 1998. Unlike previous studies, the current research included the development of a risk scale for women released from prison. This handbook describes the development of these scales and provides information necessary to accurately complete the instrument.

One of the current study's unexpected findings pertains to the risk scale for women. The ORS reviewed the literature on female offenders and collected additional information on the Colorado sample that might prove to be important for determining the risk of women leaving prison. Surprisingly, the risk factors that were predictive for men were also predictive for women, and no additional women-only factors proved statistically significant. Therefore, one scale may be used to assess the risk of recidivism for both men and women released from prison in Colorado.

This handbook begins with instructions for completing the assessment form. Section Two describes our research findings. Section Three explains actuarial scales generally, and then describes the research design for this study.

**SECTION TWO: INSTRUCTIONS**  
**How to Complete the Colorado Actuarial**  
**Risk Assessment Scale (CARAS)**

### **The Items**

Each of the eight items receives a score of 0 (no) or 1 (yes) to yield a *total* score on the scale. The total score correlates with a specific level of risk.

1. The offender has a 9<sup>th</sup> grade or lower reading ability according to the most recent TABE score.
2. The offender has three or more adult prison or jail incarcerations. (Do not include pretrial confinement.)
3. The offender has two or more adult probation supervisions or one or more diversion community corrections supervisions.
4. The offender has one or more documented escapes as an adult offender. (Include all escapes and walk-aways from prison and community corrections, whether they resulted in convictions or not.)
5. The offender has at least one Code of Penal Discipline (COPD) violation for every two years of the current incarceration.
6. The offender has one or more adult parole revocations, including sentences pertaining to the current offense.
7. The offender has one or more adult probation revocations, including sentences pertaining to the current offense.
8. The offender has one or more adult community corrections revocations, including sentences pertaining to the current offense.

<b>DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE          COLORADO ACTUARIAL RISK ASSESSMENT SCALE (CARAS)</b>		<b>CARAS</b> Revised 6-03
Pursuant to C.R.S. 17-22.5-404(6)		
<b>NOTE:</b> This instrument predicts the probability of re-arrest for men and women released from the Colorado Department of Corrections.		
<b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please check either the "Yes" or "No" box presented after each statement. In the event that the answer to a question is unknown, check the "No" box. Each item with a "Yes" response is scored 1 and each item with a "No" response is scored 0. These items include events that immediately precede the current incarceration. Many of the items require only one episode to score a "1" but Item 2 requires 3 episodes and Item 3 requires two episodes of probation OR at least one sentence to diversion community corrections.		
<b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1. The offender has a 9th grade or lower reading ability.</b> Use the most recent Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) score.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2. The offender has three or more adult prison or jail incarcerations.</b> Include time served for the offense for which the offender is currently sentenced ("current offense"). You may count multiple incarcerations of the current offense when the offender is revoked or regressed to prison again on the same offense. Do not include juvenile commitments. Do not count pretrial confinement.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>3. The offender has two or more adult probation supervisions or one or more diversion community corrections supervisions.</b> Include time served for the offense for which the offender is currently sentenced ("current offense"). You may count multiple supervision of the current case when the offender is revoked and resented to the community on the same case.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4. The offender has one or more escapes as an adult offender.</b> Include all documented escapes or walk-aways from jail, prison and community corrections, even if the offender was not charged or convicted. Include time served for the offense for which the offender is currently sentenced ("current offense"). You may count multiples of the current offense when the offender is revoked or regressed to prison again on the same offense.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5. The offender has at least one Code of Penal Discipline (CPD) violation for every two years of the current incarceration.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6. The offender has one or more adult parole revocations.</b> Include all adult revocations, including the current offense.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>7. The offender has one or more adult probation revocations.</b> Include the current offense.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8. The offender has one or more adult community corrections revocations.</b> Include the current offense.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Total COLORADO ACTUARIAL RISK ASSESSMENT SCALE Score</b> Add all YES answers and place in the box.	
<b>SCORE RISK LEVEL</b> 0-2 Low 3 Moderate 4-8 High		

### **Instructions**

Please check either the "Yes" or "No" box presented after each statement. In the event that the answer to a question is unknown, check the "No" box. Each item with a "Yes" response is scored 1 and each item with a "No" response is scored 0.

**Yes = 1 point.**

**No = 0 point.**

**Add up the points to obtain the total risk score.**

**Please note that this version of the CARAS is more complicated than past instruments.** This is because seven of the eight items pertain to the offender's criminal justice system placements, placement outcomes, and behavior in those placements. These items include episodes that are linked to the current crime.<sup>1</sup> Many of the items require only one episode to score a "1" but Item 2 requires three episodes and Item 3 requires two episodes of probation OR at least one sentence to diversion community corrections.

Calculating this information may be confusing, especially for offenders who have a lengthy record or significant activity on the current offense. Particular care must be taken when the offender has multiple prison admissions and releases related to a single conviction crime. See the examples below. It is helpful to *tally the offender's criminal, prison and release history concurrently prior to completing the CARAS*, as many of the categories overlap. Although these sections may appear to be straightforward, there are many different ways to count these items. Remember, for most of the items (except Items 1, 2 and 3), a single event will result in a score of "1".

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<sup>1</sup> For the CARAS, "current" includes incidents that immediately preceded this prison term. These include technical violations and revocations from parole that resulted in the present prison term. "Governing" offenses control the offender's sentence, but may not be the most recent sentence/crime that resulted in the present prison term. For example, if an offender serves one year in prison for theft, is released on parole and violates it, and is subsequently returned to prison for the technical parole violation, the theft constitutes the governing sentence and the parole violation represents the current offense.

Completing the instrument accurately is more difficult now compared to previous versions of the CARAS. We strongly encourage the use of this handbook to ensure that the score for each offender accurately reflects a specific level of risk.

**Please review the examples below.** These examples may help guide you with particularly challenging cases. It is vital that the instrument be completed consistently -- over time and by all case managers. This consistency is essential to ensure that the instrument score is reliable. Following these instructions and using the examples as guides will standardize the completion of the CARAS and minimize error.

***Item 1: The offender has a 9<sup>th</sup> grade or lower reading ability.***

Use the most recent Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) score.

***Item 2: The offender has three or more adult prison or jail incarcerations.***

Include time served for the offense for which the offender is currently sentenced ("current offense"). You may count multiple incarcerations of the current offense when the offender is revoked or regressed to prison again on the same offense.

Do not include juvenile commitments. Do not count pretrial confinement.

*For example,* if an offender commits a theft and is originally sentenced to prison, gets released, violates supervision and is returned to prison, (s)he has **2** prison supervisions.

*Another example,* if an offender commits a theft and is originally sentenced to prison, but serves 2 months in jail pretrial, **do not** count this as an additional confinement. Likewise, if (s)he serves time in jail post-conviction while awaiting prison placement, do not count this as an additional supervision.

***Item 3: The offender has two or more adult probation supervisions or one or more diversion community corrections supervisions.***

Include time served for the offense for which the offender is currently sentenced ("current offense"). You may count multiple supervisions of the current case when the offender is revoked or resented to the community on the same case.

*For example,* if an offender commits a theft and is originally sentenced to probation, violates probation and is resented to diversion community corrections, violates the placement conditions, and is resented to prison, this person has **1** probation, **1** probation revocation, **1** diversion community corrections, **1** community corrections revocation, and **1** prison supervision.

***Item 4: The offender has one or more escapes as an adult offender.***

Include all documented escapes or walk-aways from jail, prison and community corrections, even if the offender was not charged or convicted.

Include time served for the offense for which the offender is currently sentenced ("current offense"). You may count multiples of the current offense when the offender is revoked or regressed to prison again on the same offense.

*For example,* if an offender commits a theft and is originally sentenced to prison, gets released to community corrections, escapes, is returned to prison, gets released to community corrections again, escapes again and is returned to prison, (s)he has **2** transition community correction supervisions, **3** prison supervisions, **2** escapes, *and* **2** community corrections revocations.

***Item 5: The offender has at least one Code of Penal Disciplines (COPD) violation for every two years of the current incarceration.***

*For example*, if an offender is sentenced to prison, serves a year in prison, and during that time commits a class II COPD, gets released to community corrections, violates the placement conditions, returns to prison for one year and commits a class III COPD, (s)he has **only 1** COPD during the current incarceration.

*Another example* is if an offender is sentenced to prison for four years and commits a class II COPD in the first year. (S)he has 1 COPD during the current incarceration, *but* because there was only 1 COPD over a four year time span, the offender doesn't receive a point for this item.

***Item 6: The offender has one or more adult parole revocations.***

*Include* all adult revocations, including the current offense.

***Item 7: The offender has one or more adult probation revocations.***

*Include* the current offense.

***Item 8: The offender has one or more adult community corrections revocations.***

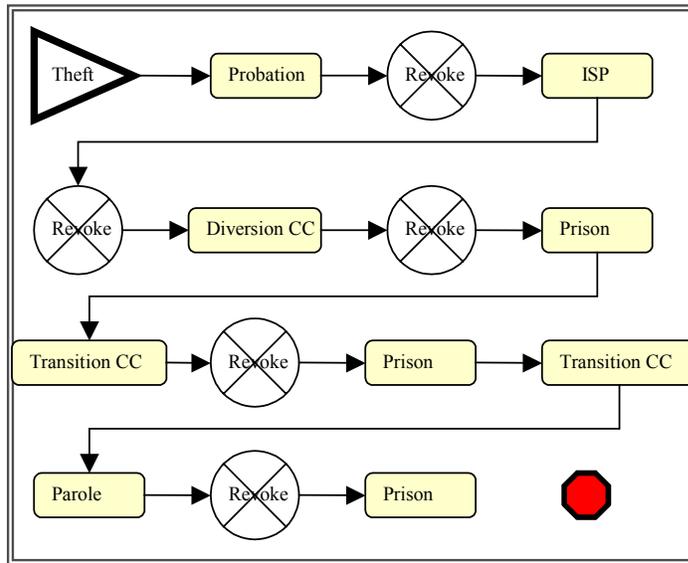
*Include* the current offense.

*For example*, an offender commits a theft, gets sentenced to probation, gets revoked, gets resentenced to intensive supervision probation, gets revoked, gets sentenced to diversion community corrections, gets revoked, gets sentenced to prison, gets released onto transition community corrections, gets revoked to prison, gets released back onto transition community corrections, gets released onto parole, gets revoked back to prison. This offender has **2** probations,

2 probation revocations, 3 community corrections supervisions, 2 community corrections revocations, 3 prison supervisions, 1 parole supervision, and 1 parole revocation *for the current offense* and this information can be used to answer Items 3,6,7 and 8.

While this example is complicated (please see Figure 1), it may not be uncommon. ORS researchers reviewed many files that contained very complex offender "pathways" to the present prison term. You may find it helpful to diagram the criminal history to tally the events. The diagram below details the previous example in picture form.

**Figure 1: Criminal History Diagram Example**



Offender cases can be quite complicated and lengthy. The above examples exist to assist in coding the CARAS accurately.

**Remember to count the rest of the criminal history!** Before you score an item 0, be sure you have factored in past adult criminal sentences. Figure 1 only describes the many events regarding the current crime. This process must be replicated for past offenses. For

example, if an offender has one prior nonviolent offense that resulted in a probation sentence *in addition to* the current offense, tally both offenses including all sentences, escapes and revocations. The examples listed above only tally the current offense, because ORS researchers found that it was usually the most difficult to track and often provided enough information to complete the form accurately.

### **Scoring**

The total score will determine within what risk category the offender falls. For both men and women, the risk categories are as follows:

<u>SCORE</u>	<u>RISK LEVEL</u>
0-2	Low
3	Moderate
4-8	High

Men scoring in the high-risk category have a 77 percent chance of failure, meaning that approximately 3 of every 4 high-risk men will get rearrested for a new crime or parole violation. Women falling in the high-risk category have a 68 percent chance of failure, meaning that approximately 2 of every 3 high-risk women will get rearrested for a new crime or parole violation. Overall, 72% of men and women in the high-risk category are predicted to be rearrested within 24 months of release.

**Two-thirds of low risk offenders are predicted to succeed; nearly three-fourths of high-risk offenders are predicted to fail.**

The scale significantly differentiates risk levels across the three categories. Both men and women scoring in the "high" risk category are 347 percent as likely to fail as those in the "low" category, meaning that the high-risk group has nearly three and one-half times the likelihood of rearrest compared to the low risk group.

**THIS SCALE DOES NOT APPLY TO SEX OFFENDERS. To assess the risk of a sex offender, please use DCJ's Sex Offender Risk Scale (SORS) and the accompanying handbook.**

**SECTION THREE:  
ACTUARIAL RESEARCH AND STUDY DESIGN**

## **ACTUARIAL RISK PREDICTION**

### **The Theory Behind Statistical Risk Prediction**

Statistical predictions of behavior sort offenders into subgroups that have different rates of future offending probabilities. This work in criminology is identical to research conducted by insurance companies that results in premium differentials across groups of drivers or patients. To obtain insurance probability estimates, research identifies *groups* of people with certain characteristics (driving and accident history, age, use of seat belts, etc.) who are statistically more likely to make an accident claim. Actuarial risk prediction of offenders works the same way: offenders with certain characteristics are more likely to reoffend and therefore may be poor candidates for parole (research also shows that interventions specifically targeted to an individual's service needs at the time of parole can help offenders stay crime free). A recent study by DCJ's Office of Research and Statistics found that individuals released onto parole after serving time in a halfway house placement (transition community corrections) were significantly more likely to stay crime-free in the following 24 months than individuals released from transition community corrections without parole supervision (for more information and access to this report visit our website at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/pdf/docs/2002COMCOREPORT.pdf>).

And, like insurance actuarial tables, *individual behavior* is not predicted. Rather an individual's *membership in a subgroup* is correlated with future offending. Thus, those who statistically fall into a high-risk group may be considered dangerous, whether or not the person actually re-offends upon release.

### **Actuarial Risk Research**

Risk prediction findings vary greatly across studies for many reasons usually related to differences in study design. One reason is the range of definitions used for *recidivism* including rearrest for any crime, rearrest for certain crimes (i.e., violent, felonies, etc.), court filing for a new crime or a new conviction, new conviction for certain crimes, and recommitment to prison. In this study, recidivism was defined as a new district court case filing and/or an arrest for a new crime. Other reasons study findings may vary include the use of

different samples and the availability and accuracy of the data important to the study. Finally, the *at-risk* study period, that is, the opportunity to commit a new crime or to obtain a new district court filing, varies across studies. The longer the at-risk period, the greater the opportunity, or likelihood, of failure. For these reasons, risk instruments vary across time and jurisdictions. The majority of recidivism studies' at-risk periods range from one to five years. This study had a 24-month follow-up period, meaning that recidivism data were collected for the 24 month period following prison release.

## **RESEARCH DESIGN**

### **Sample Description**

We randomly sampled 662 DOC offenders who were released onto parole between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998 (FY 98). The sample consisted of 288 adult males and 325 adult females. A total of 44 cases were missing file collection data and were eliminated from the analyses.<sup>2</sup> Another five cases had incomplete recidivism data, yielding a total of 613 valid cases.

### **Data Collection**

A wide variety of both static and dynamic data elements were hand-collected from DOC files. Data were collected on the following:

- ❑ Demographics
- ❑ Criminal History
- ❑ Adult and Juvenile
  - Severity (i.e., felony, misdemeanor)
  - Incarcerations/Supervisions
  - Crime Type
  - Revocation History
- ❑ Characteristics of Current Offense
  - Victim Information
  - Sentence Type and Length
  - Revocations
- ❑ Substance Use/Abuse History
  - Types and Age of Onset of Drug Use

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<sup>2</sup> ORS Researchers could not locate the file documents for these cases. Of the 44 missing cases, 25 were females and 19 were males.

- Substance Use Scores (LSI, ADS, DAST, SUHM, ASUS)
- Female-Specific
  - Children (number, in whose care, etc.)
  - Relationships
- Program Participation and Needs from the “Colorado Parole Guidelines Information and Action Form”
- Prison Infractions (write-ups, COPDs)
- Test of Basic Education (TABE) Scores

### **Recidivism Measures**

Recidivism measures included *both* new arrests and new court case filings for felonies and misdemeanors within 24 months of release from prison. Technical violations were only counted when they were associated with an arrest or case filing. Arrest data were collected from the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Filing data were obtained from the Colorado District Attorney’s Council’s database.

Technical violations were included as recidivism events only when they resulted in a new arrest or case filing.

ORS researchers collected detailed information about the type and severity of recidivism as well as the length of time from release to failure. Offenders were considered “failures” (recidivists) if they were arrested OR filed on within the follow-up period. All others were considered “successful.” These definitions served as the basis for the construction of the 2003 CARAS.

## **SECTION FOUR: RESEARCH FINDINGS**

## Demographics

Over half of offenders in this sample were non-Anglo and the remaining forty-five percent (45.0%) were Anglo. See Table One for ethnic breakdown of the sample. The majority of offenders (71.8%) were not married<sup>3</sup> although most (65.1%) had one or more children. While over half of the sample (56.4%) had at least a high school diploma or GED, over forty percent (43.6%) had less than a twelfth grade education.

**Table One**  
**Ethnic Breakdown of CARAS Sample Offenders Released from Prison in FY98 (n=576)**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
<b>Anglo</b>	44.9% (259)
<b>African American</b>	27.3% (157)
<b>Hispanic</b>	24.7% (142)
<b>American Indian</b>	2.4% (14)
<b>Asian</b>	0.7% (4)
<b>TOTAL</b>	100.0% (576) <sup>4</sup>

## Criminal History

The majority of offenders in this sample (75.1%) were under criminal justice supervision at the time of their current offense.<sup>5</sup> Over one-third (35.3%) of the sample was serving time for a governing sentence.<sup>6</sup> That is, these offenders were returned to prison under the governing sentence umbrella that held them in prison in the first place. Most often, offenders in this group committed technical or parole violations.

Most of the offenders in this sample (88.2%) had one or more prior adult nonviolent felony convictions and nearly one-third (31.3%) had prior adult violent felony convictions. Nearly thirty-one percent (30.7%) of the sample was convicted of one or more prior felonies

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<sup>3</sup> "Not married" includes divorcees, widows, and those who are single and never been married.

<sup>4</sup> Eighty-six cases had missing data on ethnicity.

<sup>5</sup> Fifty-five cases had missing data on this item.

<sup>6</sup> A large proportion of prisoners in the population were returned for parole and technical violations. To avoid overrepresentation in the sample, researchers over-sampled newly admitted, first-time prisoners. This sampling procedure ensured that the group of offenders studied better represents the range of cases that require parole board decisions.

and/or misdemeanor offenses as a juvenile (13.5% and 17.2%, respectively). Only eighteen percent (18.1%) of the sample received transitional community corrections supervision before release onto parole.<sup>7</sup>

### Drugs

Most offenders had a history of self-reported alcohol use (91.7%) and marijuana use (79.9%).<sup>8</sup> Over half of the sample reported using powder cocaine (59.0%). And nearly thirty percent (29.5%) of this group reported using drugs intravenously. The average self-reported age of onset of substance use ranged from 15 (marijuana) to 22 (crack cocaine). See Table Two for drug-specific information.

**Table Two**  
**Self-Reported Substance Use History and Age of Onset of Use (n=576)**

<b>Drug Type</b>	<b>Use History*</b>	<b>Average Age of Onset**</b>
Alcohol	91.7%	15.3
Marijuana	79.9%	15.5
Powder Cocaine**	59.0%	21.1
Crack**	21.5%	22.3
Hallucinogens	28.0%	16.8
Stimulants	13.2%	17.3
Amphetamines	28.8%	19.6
Depressants	5.7%	20.6
Opiates/Narcotics	20.7%	21.2
Inhalants	4.8%	14.8
IV Drug Use	29.5%	Not collected

\*Proportion of offenders reporting a history of using the substance.

\*\*When *type* of cocaine was unknown (i.e., missing from the file), researchers used "powder cocaine" as the default code. Consequently, the use of crack cocaine may be underrepresented here, while powder may be overrepresented.

The results indicate that the Level of Supervision Inventory (LSI) appears to be correctly identifying higher-risk offenders. On average, offenders with higher LSI scores failed significantly more often than those with lower LSI scores.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup>This figure only includes transition supervision for the last offense before paroling in FY98 (into our sample) and does *not* include previous community corrections supervisions.

<sup>8</sup> Substance use data were collected from offender case files.

<sup>9</sup>  $t_{239}=3.2, p=.001$ . Failure mean=29.2; success mean=25.8.

**Table Three**  
**LSI Scores and Risk Level (n=242)**

New CARAS Risk Level (Score)	LSI Mean Score
Low (0-2)	25.5
Moderate (3)	28.2
High (4-8)	29.0

**Table Four**  
**Outcome and Risk Level (n=260)\***

1998 CARAS Risk Level	No Recidivism	Recidivism
Low	64.5%	35.5%
Moderate	48.2%	51.8%
High	32.5%	67.5%

\*p<.001, df=2

## LSI score also predicts recidivism

### Recidivism

Overall, sixty percent (60.1%) of offenders exiting prison recidivated (that is, received a new arrest and/or court filing) within two years of release. Sixty-four percent (64.0%) of males and nearly fifty-seven (56.7%) of females recidivated.

As shown in Table Five, technical violations and petty offenses made up the majority of recidivating events, followed by other misdemeanors and other felonies.

Thirteen percent (13.2%) of men and 15.1% of women committed drug offenses within 24 months of release from prison. Another 6.5 percent of men and 4.3 percent of women logged a DUI within the follow-up period.

Offenders who failed did so in an average of eight months after release (247 days). This finding applies to both men and women. This means that intensive services in the first months following release are critical to assisting parolees to return to the community successfully.

**The average time to failure was eight months following release. Receiving services and assistance during this time period is critical to successful community reintegration.**

**Table Five**  
**Type of Rearrest by Gender of Offender\* (n=664)**

	Male	Female
<b>VIOLENT ARREST</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Sex Assault	1.3	0.0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Sex Assault	0.3	0.0
1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault	1.2	1.4
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Assault	14.8	4.8
Aggravated Robbery	0.3	0.0
Robbery	1.3	0.0
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Burglary	1.3	0.0
<b>NONVIOLENT ARREST</b>		
Drug Sale, Possession, Manufacturing	13.2	15.1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Burglary	2.3	0.3
Theft	9.3	9.7
Auto Theft	1.6	0.9
Forgery	3.9	3.7
Trespassing	3.5	2.6
Escape/Abscond	1.9	1.1
Fugitive	5.1	3.1
<b>OTHER FELONIES/ MISDEMEANORS</b>		
Technical Violation**/ Petty Offense	35.9	35.6
INS violation	3.9	1.1
Weapons	1.6	0.6
DUI	6.5	4.3
Inchoate Offenses	2.2	2.8
Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor	0.6	0.0
Violation of a Restraining Order	0.6	0.3
Prostitution	0.0	7.0
OTHER Felonies***	11.3	9.1
OTHER Misdemeanors***	33.1	21.4

\*Percentages do not total 100% because some offenders committed multiple offenses.

\*\*Only technical violations that resulted in a new arrest were included as recidivism events.

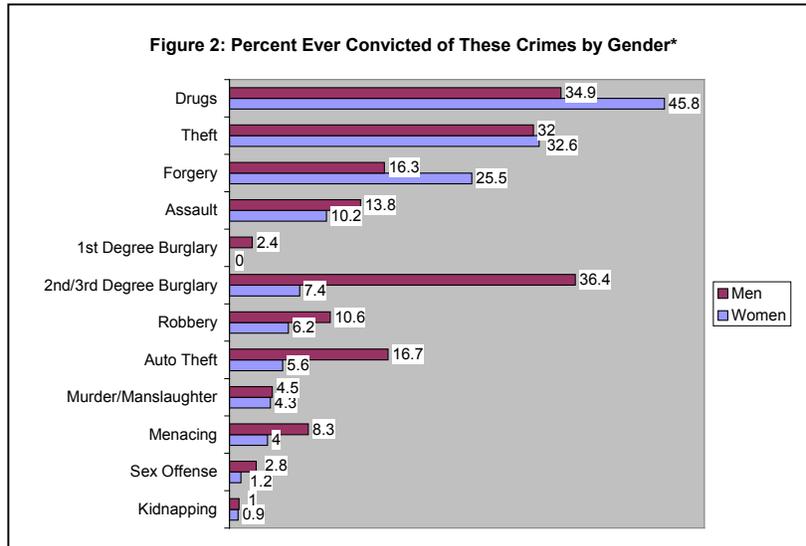
\*\*\*Other misdemeanors and other felonies included habitual traffic offender, arson, vehicular assault, third degree burglary, criminal mischief, criminal tampering, menacing, child abuse and vehicular assault.

## Females

Additional information was collected on the 325 women in the study. Although none of this information was found to statistically predict risk of rearrest, the data presented here may help inform practitioners about this population.

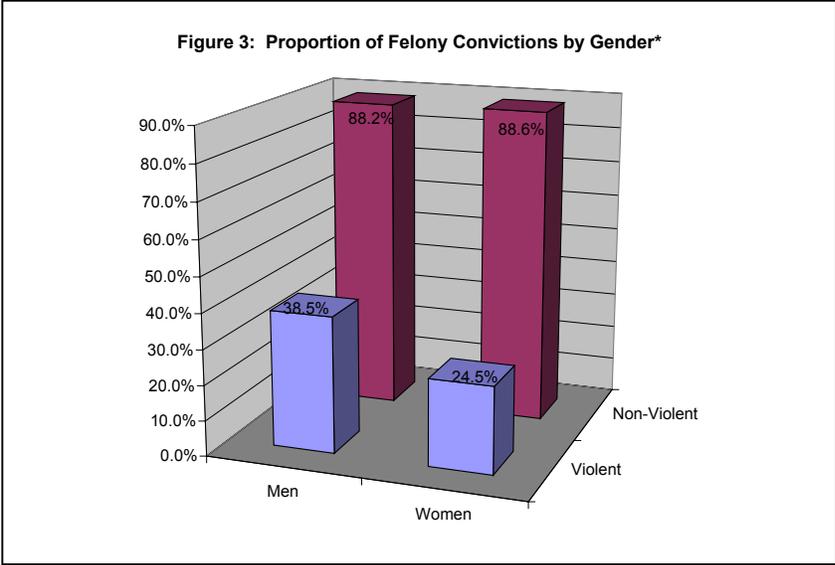
Crime patterns as measured by conviction crimes vary across gender. As can be seen in Figure 2, women in this study were more likely than men to have drug and forgery convictions; men were significantly more likely to have burglary convictions.

Nearly ninety percent (88.6%) of female offenders in this sample had one or more nonviolent felony convictions and nearly twenty five percent (24.5%) had one or more violent felony convictions as adults (see Figure 3). Note that this percentage includes the current offense. In addition, as shown in Figure 4, the majority of female offenders did not commit either the current or governing offenses<sup>10</sup> with a significant other (81.3%).

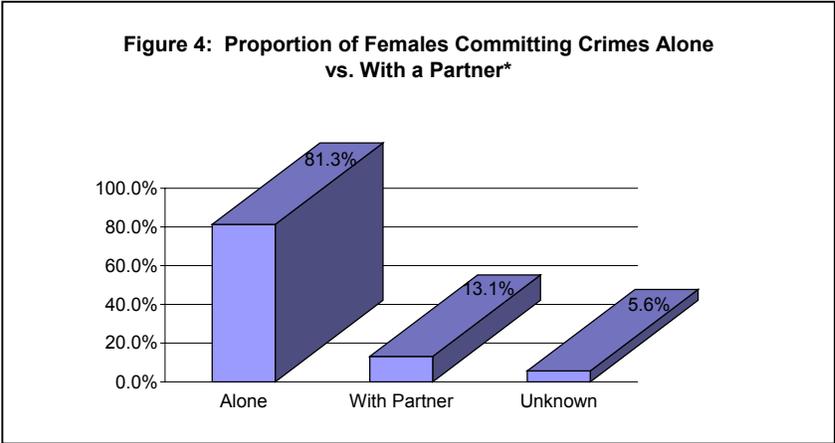


\*Includes current and past adult conviction crimes.

<sup>10</sup> See footnote 1 for "Current" offense definitions on page 12.



\*Percentages do not equal 100% because some offenders had more than one conviction.



\*This information was not collected on male offenders.

The majority (70.1%) of female offenders had at least one child. Less than one quarter (23.4%) of women supported at least one minor child. Table Six describes who cared for the children both at the time of the current offense and while the offender was in prison.

**Table Six: Who Cares for the Children of Female Offenders?\*( n=321)**

<b>Kids in Whose Care?</b>	<b>At Current Offense</b>	<b>In Prison</b>
<b>Offender</b>	17.4% (56)	NA
<b>Family Member(s)</b>	29.0% (93)	38.0% (122)
<b>Social Services</b>	9.3% (30)	12.5% (40)
<b>Father</b>	16.5% (53)	19.9% (64)
<b>Friend/Neighbor</b>	0.0% (0)	1.2% (4)
<b>Other**</b>	5.9% (19)	7.2% (23)

\*Categories are not mutually exclusive and so do not total to 100%. File data often indicated that multiple parties supervised children.

\*\*"Other" captured homeless juveniles, those adopted by strangers, and juveniles who were emancipated from their imprisoned mothers.

Almost one fourth (22.7%) of female offenders had a documented history of at least one suicide attempt.

Over one-quarter (27.1%) of females in this sample had a history of violent partners. Slightly fewer females (23.4%) had a history of partner(s) with substance abuse problems.

## **SUMMARY**

The information obtained from the risk assessment scale is entered into DCIS, DOC's automated data system, and analysis of this data becomes the first step in studying the accuracy of the scale. The Division of Criminal Justice is mandated by statute to review the parole risk scale at least every five years. When resources are available, DCJ researchers analyze the risk assessment data along with parole release decisions and feed this information back to the Parole Board. If you have questions or comments about the scale, or would like DCJ researchers to train a group of DOC staff on completing the scale, please contact our office at 303.239.4442 or DOC's Director of Offender Services.