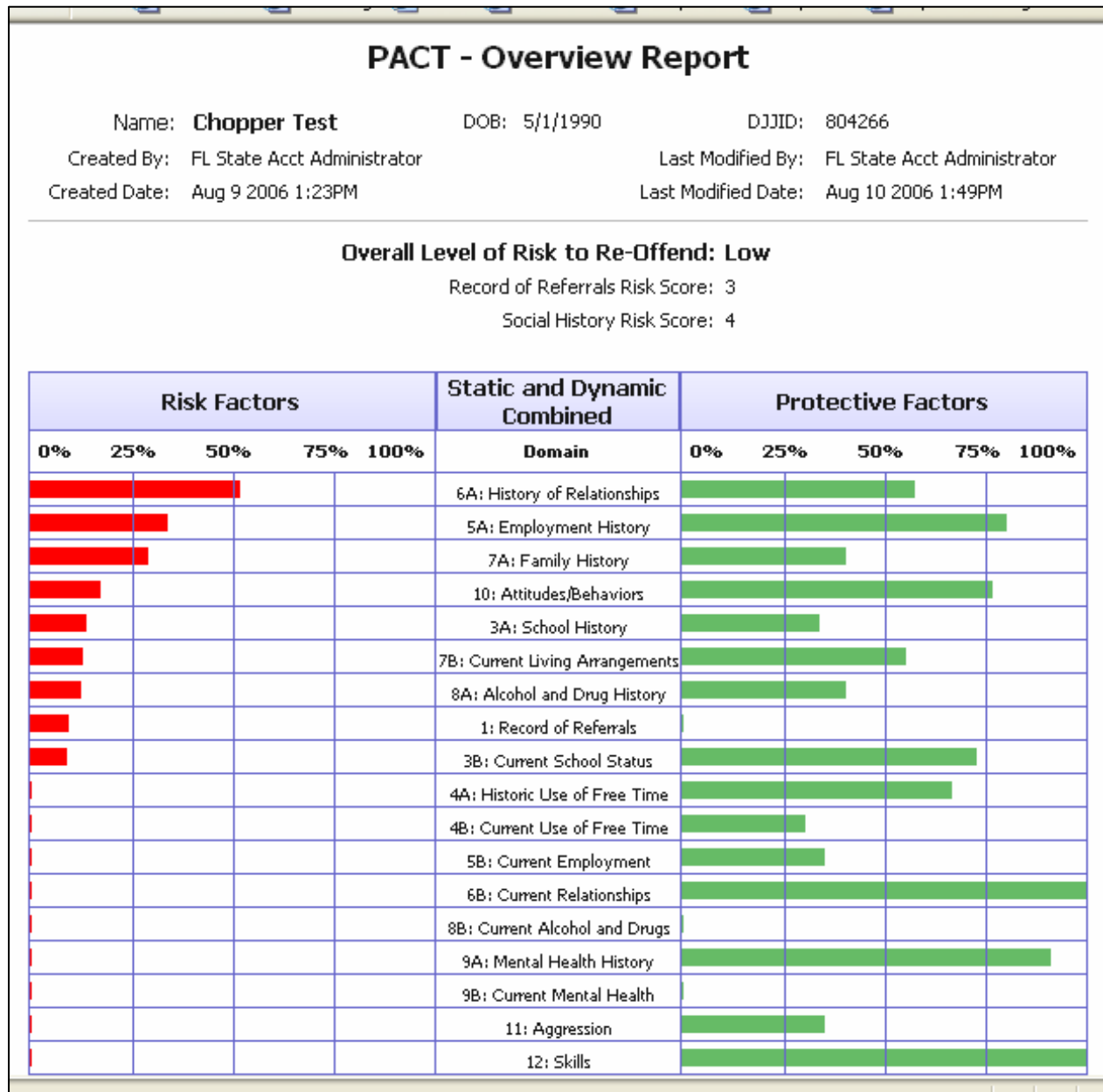


HOW TO READ AND INTERPRET THE PACT OVERVIEW AND THE YES CASE PLAN REPORTS



The PACT (*Positive Achievement Change Tool*) is designed to accomplish four basic objectives:

1. Determine a youth's level of risk for re-offending as a way to target resources to higher-risk youth.
2. Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the youth's unique assessment profile.

3. Develop a case management approach focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
4. Allow managers to determine if targeted factors change as a result of the court's intervention.

The Overview Report helps Florida's juvenile justice practitioners accomplish those objectives by showing, at-a-glance:

Overall level of risk to re-offend. In simple terms, a youth with a low overall level of risk is much less likely to commit another crime than a youth with a high overall level of risk. Indeed, according to the Pre-Validation Study of the PACT by the Florida Justice Research Center conducted in September 2005, recidivism rates for higher-risk youth are 57% compared to 17% for low-risk youth. This is key information because the research literature is clear that "what works" in reducing recidivism is matching the levels of treatment with the risk levels of offenders. High-risk offenders require intensive interventions to reduce recidivism, while low-risk offenders benefit most from low intensity interventions or no intervention at all.

Risk factors are the circumstances or events in the youth's life that increase the likelihood that the youth will start or continue criminal activities. In the Overview Report, they are prioritized from highest to lowest; [the higher the risk score, the more risk in that area](#). They can be static or dynamic. *Static factors* are circumstances in a youth's life that are historic and cannot be changed, such as a history of physical abuse. In the Overview Report, Domain 1, Record of Referrals, and the other domains labeled with an "A" are static. All the others are dynamic. *Dynamic factors* are circumstances or conditions in a youth's life that can potentially be changed, such as the youth's friends or school performance. Dynamic factors are used to guide the rehabilitative effort.

Protective factors are circumstances or events in the youth's life that reduce the likelihood of the youth committing a crime, those positive things that help the youth overcome adversity.

Domains. The PACT full assessment includes 12 major domains related to juvenile delinquency and continued criminal activity based on the research literature: (1) Criminal History; (2) Gender; (3) School; (4) Use of Free Time; (5) Employment; (6) Relationships; (7) Family/Current Living Arrangements; (8) Alcohol and Drugs; (9) Mental Health; (10) Attitudes/Behaviors; (11) Aggression; and (12) Skills.

Pre-Screen vs. Full Assessment. The PACT implementation consists of a two-stage process. The first stage is a pre-screen assessment completed for all youth placed on probation. The pre-screen is a shortened version of the full assessment that quickly indicates whether a youth is of low-, moderate-, moderate-high-, or high-risk to re-offend. Each of these levels is presumed to have distinctly different recidivism rates.

The second stage, a full assessment, is required by DJJ business rules, for youth assessed as moderate-high or high-risk on the pre-screen. The full assessment identifies a youth's risk and protective factor profile and then forwards only those factors that are dynamic to the YES Case Plan to guide rehabilitative efforts.

Juvenile Case Plans

You are currently working with Juvenile "Chopper Test" [[Return to JJIS](#)]

Goals for Youth Empowered Success (YES) Case Plan Based on Prioritized Criminogenic Needs

Name: **Chopper Test**

Created By: FL State Acct Administrator

Created Date: Aug 9 2006 1:23PM

DOB: 5/1/1990

Last Modified By: FL State Acct Administrator

Last Modified Date: Aug 10 2006 1:49PM

DJJID: 804266

Last Modified By: FL State Acct Administrator

Last Modified Date: Aug 10 2006 1:49PM

Scores from PACT Full Assessment completed 8/10/2006

Risk					Protective			
Low	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	Domain <i>Click on domain name to add a goal</i>	Low	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
				Attitudes/Behaviors				
				Current Alcohol and Drugs [Skip]				
				Current Mental Health [Skip]				
				Current School Status				
				Current Use of Free Time				
				Current Employment				
				Current Living Arrangements				
				Current Relationships				
				Aggression				
				Skills				

[View Risk Factors](#)
[View Protective Factors](#)

The **YES Case Plan Report** displays the dynamic factors which are influencing the youth's anti-social behavior, and it provides the facts (evidence) needed to develop a Case Plan to effectively address these prioritized criminogenic needs. In a very focused way, the PACT and the YES Case Plan help JPOs and judges define the youth's unique behavioral problems and create goals and actions to resolve those problems.

The responsivity principle.¹ The Assessments.com software simplifies and organizes this process and provides a critical reporting function for monitoring individual and systemic progress toward the desired positive outcomes. However, it is up to the case workers to use their professional judgment to choose which behavioral problems to work on based on responsivity issues; and to choose those actions which the youth and the parents are most ready, willing and able to take to help turn the youth's life

around. If implemented successfully, the Case Plan will increase the youth's protective factors and lower the risk factors, and will result in lower overall recidivism.

The risk principle. It is important, of course, to target all this effort, not at the low-risk, but at higher-risk youth. The PACT provides the facts (evidence) for judges to focus their resources on higher-risk youth and assign lower-risk youth to minimum-supervision caseloads, bringing savings and more effectiveness to the entire juvenile justice system.

Re-assessments. Either the pre-screen or the full assessments can be re-administered to measure changes in risk and protective factors as interim outcomes for court interventions. This comparative-over-time information can help a judge make good sentencing decisions. For example, a youth who at intake is not attending school, but who returns to school as a result of court-ordered sanctions and then performs well as measured by a PACT re-assessment can be expected, on average, to be associated with reduced recidivism.

¹ The responsivity principle focuses on client and program characteristics that influence the offender's ability to learn in a therapeutic situation. Treatment is a learning experience and individual factors that interfere with, or facilitate, learning are termed responsivity factors. These factors can also be understood as contextual variables, which may influence treatment outcome. These variables make a difference to the skills, strategies or identities that individuals develop and to the support available when transitions are made. Factors such as age, ethnicity, gender, disability and socioeconomic status can be considered key responsivity factors. (Andrew Day, Kevin Howells and Debra Rickwood, *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice, No. 284: Current trends in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders*, October 2004)