



MEASUREMENT & TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS OF ADULT COMPAS SCALES

July 21, 2008

Measurement & Treatment Implications of Adult COMPAS Scales

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INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide users of Adult COMPAS with a meaningful and practical understanding of each scale incorporated into the assessment. Adult COMPAS is comprised of a total of twenty-five scales, including four higher order scales (i.e., scales that use items from other scales that crosscut several domains). Each scale included in the Adult COMPAS assessment is listed below with an explanation of the themes and constructs measured, the treatment implications for high scores on the scale, and a listing of the items or questions in the assessment that are used to score the scale.

The Adult COMPAS assessment is designed to be customizable for the user at various decision points within the local criminal justice system and with various populations (i.e., women, men, institutional, community). Users may choose scale sets (or groups of scales) relevant to their needs for assessing an offender at various stages of the criminal justice process. For example, Pre-trial Services may choose to use only the Failure-to-Appear scales to make recommendations to the court regarding pre-trial release. Probation may then use the Violence and Recidivism scales to “triage” their caseloads by risk of re-offense and violence, and choose to only complete the full assessment (i.e., all scales) on the higher risk offenders to gain a holistic view of the offender in order to appropriately address supervision and treatment needs for rehabilitation. In addition, different scale sets are available for women and men.

This customization option makes cross-referencing, by item number, the items included in each scale difficult because each time a scale set is altered the item number for each question changes. Therefore item numbers are not used to identify items from the questionnaire for each scale in the following tables. If the user creates a scale set with only select scales for an assessment, the same items will be used to compute the score for the scale, but the item numbers for each item might vary.

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SCALE NAME: FAILURE TO APPEAR (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This scale is based largely on prior history of a failure to appear, current charges for failure to appear, prior recidivism on community placement, general criminal involvement, and unstable residential ties and transience. A high-scoring person would exhibit multiple combinations of these kinds of features.</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: Percentile scores 1-4 may be regarded as <u>low risk</u> since they are clearly lower than “average”. Decile Scores from 5-7 may be regarded as medium risk since they are in the middle of the distribution and represent cases that are very close to “average” for the total population of the agency. Decile Scores of 8 and above may be regarded as <u>high risk</u> since they are in the top third of the distribution.</p> <p>Key stakeholders for each agency and/or community will need to find their “comfort levels” (risk decile score) for each risk scale. Our experience has shown, for example, that rural community criminal justice systems in general have a lower comfort level (tolerance) for risk of violence or recidivism than urban criminal justice systems. In addition, it is likely that the cutting point (community placement comfort level) for risk of violence will be less than that for the risk of recidivating or risk of flight/FTA. These two scales in turn may have lower cutting points (risk thresholds) than the risk of community non-compliance (technical rules violations).</p> <p>The supervision implications of these four risk potential scales will be driven by each individual’s highest risk factor score e.g. if the selected cutting point for high risk is 8 and above, those respondents who score 8 and above, will be supervised at levels agreed by policy for such offenders. The exact degree of supervision and control may be influenced also by the case management resources available to each local agency, as well as contact type and frequency associated with each. These can only be established by each local agency. Recording outcomes data over time for each supervision level by risk level will assist in determining the optimum supervision level for each case.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Charge – Is the current charge Failure to Appear? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • How many times has the offender been arrested before as an adult or juvenile (criminal arrests only)? <input type="checkbox"/> Number • How many times has this person been sentenced to jail for 30 days or more? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ • Has this person ever received serious or administrative disciplinary infractions for fighting/threatening other inmates or staff? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • How many times has this person been sentenced to probation as an adult? <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6+ • How many times has this person had a new charge/arrest while on probation? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ • How many times has this person failed to appear for court appearances? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ • How many times has the offender been arrested/charged w/new crime while on pretrial release (includes current)? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ • How often do you have contact with your family (may be in person, phone, mail)? <input type="checkbox"/> No family <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once/month <input type="checkbox"/> Once per week <input type="checkbox"/> Daily • How often have you moved in the last twelve months? <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ • Do you have a regular living situation (an address where you routinely stay and can be reached)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • How long have you been living at your current address? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 5 mos <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 12 mos <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 6+ yrs • Is there a telephone at this residence (a cell phone is an appropriate alternative)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Can you provide a verifiable residential address? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • How long have you been living in that community or neighborhood? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 2 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 5 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 11 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 1+ yrs • Do you live with family—natural parents, primary person who raised you, blood relative, spouse, children, or boy/girl friend if living together for more than 1 year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Do you live with friends? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Do you live alone? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Do you have an alias (do you sometimes call yourself by another name)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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SCALE NAME: GENERAL RECIDIVISM RISK (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)
HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: The primary factors making up this scale involve prior criminal history, criminal associates, drug involvement, and early indicators of juvenile delinquency problems. Each of these risk factors are well known predictors of recidivism.
NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: Percentile scores 1-4 may be regarded as <u>low risk</u> since they are clearly lower than “average”. Decile Scores from 5-7 may be regarded as medium risk since they are in the middle of the distribution and represent cases that are very close to “average” for the total population of the agency. Decile Scores of 8 and above may be regarded as <u>high risk</u> since they are in the top third of the distribution. Key stakeholders for each agency and/or community will need to find their “comfort levels” (risk decile score) for each risk scale. Our experience has shown, for example, that rural community criminal justice systems in general have a lower comfort level (tolerance) for risk of violence or recidivism than urban criminal justice systems. In addition, it is likely that the cutting point (community placement comfort level) for risk of violence will be less than that for the risk of recidivating or risk of flight/FTA. These two scales in turn may have lower cutting points (risk thresholds) than the risk of community non-compliance (technical rules violations). The supervision implications of the four risk potential scales will be driven by each individual’s highest risk factor score e.g. if the selected cutting point for high risk is 8 and above, those respondents who score 8 and above, will be supervised at levels agreed by policy for such offenders. The exact degree of supervision and control may be influenced also by the case management resources available to each local agency, as well as contact type and frequency associated with each. These can only be established by each local agency. Recording outcomes data over time for each supervision level by risk level will assist in determining the optimum supervision level for each case.
SCALE ITEMS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal Involvement Scale• Vocational/Education Scale• Drug Problem Component Items

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SCALE NAME: VIOLENT RECIDIVISM RISK (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)

HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:

This scale uses a set of items covering a history of juvenile violence, history of assaultive offenses, history of weapons offenses, history of injury, arrest for a current assaultive offense, a tendency to fail while on probation/parole, and affiliating with criminal peers. Thus the central themes involve history of violence, current violence, criminal associates, and probation/parole failure.

NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Percentile scores 1-4 may be regarded as low risk since they are clearly lower than “average”. Decile Scores from 5-7 may be regarded as medium risk since they are in the middle of the distribution and represent cases that are very close to “average” for the total population of the agency. Decile Scores of 8 and above may be regarded as high risk since they are in the top third of the distribution. Please see the “Violence Risk Explanation” document for further discussion of the scoring for the Violence Risk scale, especially regarding cases that appear to have an inflated risk of violence score.

Key stakeholders for each agency and/or community will need to find their “comfort levels” (risk decile score) for each risk scale. Our experience has shown, for example, that rural community criminal justice systems in general have a lower comfort level (tolerance) for risk of violence or recidivism than urban criminal justice systems. In addition, it is likely that the cutting point (community placement comfort level) for risk of violence will be less than that for the risk of recidivating or risk of flight/FTA. These two scales in turn may have lower cutting points (risk thresholds) than the risk of community non-compliance (technical rules violations).

The supervision implications of these four risk potential scales will be driven by each individual’s highest risk factor score e.g. if the selected cutting point for high risk is 8 and above, those respondents who score 8 and above, will be supervised at levels agreed by policy for such offenders. The exact degree of supervision and control may be influenced also by the case management resources available to each local agency, as well as contact type and frequency associated with each. These can only be established by each local agency. Recording outcomes data over time for each supervision level by risk level will assist in determining the optimum supervision level for each case.

SCALE ITEMS

- Violence History Scale
- Non-Compliance History
- Vocational/Education Scale

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<p>SCALE NAME: COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)</p> <p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This is a higher order scale that incorporates the concepts and items included in the Criminal Associates, Criminal Opportunity, Criminal Thinking, Early Socialization, and Social Adjustment scales.</p> <p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: Scores of 7 and above may suggest a need for cognitive restructuring intervention as part of the case management plan. A high score in this scale may also indicate the need for close supervision of the case. For very high scoring cases, cognitive interventions, coupled with substance abuse treatment (for example), may best begin in a controlled setting that is separated from all of the community/peer distractions. This might be sequenced prior to other community placement/probation program conditions.</p> <p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Associates Scale • Criminal Opportunity Scale • Criminal Thinking Scale • Early Socialization Scale • Social Adjustment Scale
<p>SCALE NAME: CRIMINAL ASSOCIATES/PEERS (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)</p> <p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This scale assesses the degree to which a person associates with other persons who are involved in drugs, criminal offenses, gangs, and whether they have a history of arrests and incarceration. A high score would identify persons who are involved in a network of highly delinquent friends and associates.</p> <p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: A high score for this scale may indicate the need to restrict the offender's contact with current friends and associates. This would typically associate with case management strategies for minimizing criminal opportunity.</p> <p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the screener's observations, is this person a suspected or admitted gang member? ___Yes ___No ___Unsure • How many of your friends/acquaintances have ever been arrested? ___None ___Few ___Half ___Most • How many of your friends/acquaintances served time in jail or prison? ___None ___Few ___Half ___Most • How many of your friends/acquaintances are gang members? ___None ___Few ___Half ___Most • How many of your friends/acquaintances are taking drugs regularly (more than a couple times a month)? ___None ___Few ___Half ___Most • Have you ever been a gang member? ___Yes ___No • Are you now a gang member? ___Yes ___No

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SCALE NAME: CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)

HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:

This scale is defined by the extent of involvement in the criminal justice system. A high score indicates a person who has had multiple arrests, multiple convictions, and prior incarcerations. The items centrally defining this scale are the number of arrests and number of convictions. A low score identifies the person who is either a first-time arrest or has minimal criminal history. Thus the central meaning of this scale is the extensiveness of the criminal history.

NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Scores of 8 and greater suggest an extensive criminal history. High scores on criminal history scales will be linked to certain patterns of risk factors.

SCALE ITEMS

- How many times has the offender been arrested before as an adult or juvenile (criminal arrests only)? ___
- How many times has this person been sentenced to jail for 30 days or more? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+
- How many times has this person been sentenced (new commitment) to state or federal prison? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+
- How many times has this person been sentenced to probation as an adult? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+

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SCALE NAME: CRIMINAL OPPORTUNITY (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)

HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:

This higher order scale assesses criminal opportunity by using items that represent a combination of the following: time in high crime situation, affiliating with high risk persons who often engage in illegal activities an absence of pro-social or constructive activities (e.g. working, spending time with family, etc.), an absence of social ties, high boredom, high restlessness and being in a high risk age group. The central items include: being unemployed, living in a high crime area, having friends who engage in drug use, and having no constructive activities.

NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Scores of 7 and above suggest a person who has a fairly high risk lifestyle and for whom it may be important to have increased involvement in more positive and socially constructive activities. Idleness, boredom, unemployment, high-risk friends, drug use, and so on, are all candidates for interventions. Helping these persons to seek more positive role models, more socially productive activities, and the development of almost any positive social bonds may gradually have a positive impact. Case plans may call for highly structuring the offender's idle time.

SCALE ITEMS

- How often have you moved in the last twelve months? ___Never ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+
- Do you have a regular living situation (an address where you routinely stay and can be reached)? ___Yes ___No
- Is there a telephone at this residence (a cell phone is an appropriate alternative)? ___Yes ___No
- How many of your friends/acquaintances are taking drugs regularly (more than a couple times a month)? ___None ___Few ___Half ___Most
- Is there much crime in your neighborhood? ___Yes ___No
- Do some of the people in your neighborhood feel they need to carry a weapon for protection? ___Yes ___No
- Are there gangs in your neighborhood? ___Yes ___No
- Do you have a job? ___Yes ___No
- Can you verify your employer or school (if attending)? ___Yes ___No
- How much have you worked or been enrolled in school in the last 12 months?
___ 12 Months Full Time ___ 12 Months Part Time ___ 6+ Months Full Time ___ 0 to 6 Months PT/FT
- Right now, do you feel you need more training in a new job or career skill? ___Yes ___No
- How often did you feel you have nothing to do in your spare time? ___Never ___Several times/month ___Several times/wk ___Daily
- Do you often become bored with your usual activities? ___Yes ___Unsure ___No

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<p>SCALE NAME: CRIMINAL PERSONALITY (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)</p>
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: The items in this scale cover the main dimensions identified as components of the criminal personality (e.g. impulsivity, no guilt, selfishness/narcissism, a tendency to dominate others, risk-taking, and a violent temper or aggression.)</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: Personality factors are important primarily for their linkage to responsivity. There seems to be much consensus that very high or extreme scores may identify persons with a psychopathic tendency who are often seen as highly resistant to treatment. However, impulsive decision-making may be amendable to some form of Cognitive Therapy. Effective interventions have been reported in regard to training programs focused on modifying thoughtless or impulsive decision-making. A more in-depth mental health assessment may also be appropriate.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much do you agree or disagree with the following – You are often restless and bored? ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “I am seen by others as cold and unfeeling.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “The trouble with getting close to people is that they start making demands on you.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “I have the ability to "sweet talk" people to get what I want.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “I'm really good at talking my way out of problems.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “I have gotten involved in things I later wished I could have gotten out of.” ___Never ___Sometimes ___Often ___Very Often ___All the Time • “I feel bad if I break a promise I have made to someone.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “To get ahead in life you must always put yourself first.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “I have a short temper and can get angry quickly.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “I get into trouble because I do things without thinking.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “I almost never lose my temper.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “If people make me angry or lose my temper, I can be dangerous.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • “Some people see me as a violent person.” ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree

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SCALE NAME: CRIMINAL THINKING SELF-REPORT (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:</p> <p>This scale brings together several cognitions that serve to justify, support, or provide rationalizations for the person’s criminal behavior. These dimensions include moral justification, refusal to accept responsibility, blaming the victim, and rationalizations (excuses) that minimize the seriousness and consequences of their criminal activity. These include items such as: seeing drug use as harmless because it doesn’t hurt anybody else, excusing criminal behavior because of social pressures, they won’t miss what was taken, etc.</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:</p> <p>Scores of 7 and above may suggest a need for cognitive restructuring intervention as part of the case management plan. Failure may be high if the offender continues to excuse and rationalize his behaviors. A high score in this scale may also indicate the need for close supervision of the case. For very high scoring cases, cognitive interventions, coupled with substance abuse treatment (for example), may best begin in a controlled setting that is separated from all of the community/peer distractions. This might be sequenced prior to other community placement/probation program conditions.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A hungry person has a right to steal.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “When people get into trouble with the law it's because they have no chance to get a decent job.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “When people do minor offenses or use drugs they don't hurt anyone except themselves.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “If someone insults my friends, family or group they are asking for trouble.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “When things are stolen from rich people they won't miss the stuff because insurance will cover the loss.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “Some people must be treated roughly or beaten up just to send them a clear message.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “I won't hesitate to hit or threaten people if they have done something to hurt my friends or family.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “The law doesn't help average people.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “Some people get into trouble or use drugs because society has given them no education, jobs or future.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “Some people just don't deserve any respect and should be treated like animals.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree

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<p>SCALE NAME: CURRENT VIOLENCE (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)</p> <p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This short scale measures the degree of violence in the present offense. The central item that defines the scale is whether the present offense is an assaultive felony. Other key items involve whether or not a weapon was used, injury to person, etc.</p> <p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: A high score indicates an assaultive offense with a probable victim (s). This may bring victim notification, restraining orders, etc. into the case plan.</p> <p>SCALE ITEMS Current Charge Category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the current offense assault? ___Yes ___No • Is the current offense sex with force? ___Yes ___No • Is the current offense homicide/manslaughter? ___Yes ___No • Is the current offense robbery? ___Yes ___No • Is the current offense weapons? ___Yes ___No • Is the current offense domestic violence? ___Yes ___No • What category represents the most serious current offense? ___Misdemeanor ___Non Violent Felony ___Violent Felony
<p>SCALE NAME: FAMILY CRIMINALITY (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)</p> <p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This scale assesses the degree to which the person’s family members (mother, father, and siblings) have been involved in criminal activity, drugs, or alcohol abuse. The items cover: arrests of each family member, whether they have been in jail or prison, and whether the parent or parental figure has a history of alcohol or drug problems.</p> <p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: A high score in this scale may indicate the need to minimize or structure the contact with certain members of the family to minimize adverse sibling or parental influence and/or exposure to inappropriate substance use. It may further assist in understanding the clients own criminal involvement.</p> <p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was your father (or father figure who principally raised you) ever arrested? ___Yes ___No • Was your mother (or mother figure who principally raised you) ever arrested? ___Yes ___No • Were your brothers or sisters ever arrested? ___Yes ___No • Was your wife/husband/partner ever arrested? ___Yes ___No • Did a parent or parent figure who raised you have a drug or alcohol problem? ___Yes ___No • Was one of your parents (or parent figure who raised you) ever sent to jail or prison? ___Yes ___No

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<p>SCALE NAME: FINANCIAL (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)</p>
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This scale assesses the degree to which a person experiences poverty and financial problems. It assesses whether the person worries about financial survival, has trouble paying bills, and has conflicts with friends or family over money.</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: Scores of 6 and above (given the overall frequency) on this scale may suggest a strong need for a focus on financial management, finding and keeping jobs, negotiating social assistance, welfare, and so forth. The person may require help in understanding the use of food stamps, unemployment compensation, and other ways of negotiating government social assistance. Counseling on money management and addressing outstanding child support issues may be required. Coupled with vocational/employment information, the case plan may call for priority in stabilizing the person's income, and developing budgeting skills.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How frequently do you have conflicts with friends/family over money? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never • How many times do you have barely enough money to get by? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never • How often do you have trouble paying bills? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never • Do you frequently get jobs that don't pay more than minimum wage? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never • How frequently do you worry about financial survival? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never
<p>SCALE NAME: HISTORY OF NON-COMPLIANCE (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)</p>
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This scale focuses on the number of times the offender has failed when he or she has been placed in a community status. The central defining item is the number of times probation or parole has been suspended or revoked. Related items include the number of times the offender has failed to appear for a court hearing, the number of times a new charge/arrest or technical rules violation has occurred while on probation, parole and prior community corrections program placement failures (i.e. electronic monitoring, community service work, day reporting, etc.) Thus the scale involves the risk of technical rules violation failure leading to revocation of probation, pretrial release, or community corrections placement status.</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: Scores of 8 and above indicate a high risk of rules infractions, or technical violation if placed in the community. These offenders have failed multiple times in the past and have other failure characteristics present. A highly structured supervision and case management plan may be in order.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was this person on probation or parole at the time of the current offense? ___Probation ___Parole ___Both ___Neither • How many times has this person's parole been violated? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+ • How many times has this person been returned to custody for a parole violation? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+ • How many times has the offender had a new charge/arrest while on probation? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+ • How many times has this person's probation been violated or revoked? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+

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SCALE NAME: HISTORY OF VIOLENCE (Cut Points: Low 1-4, Medium 5-7, High 8-10)
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:</p> <p>The aim of this scale is to reflect the seriousness and extent of violence in an offender’s criminal history. It focuses on the frequency with which violent felony offenses have occurred, the use of weapons, and the frequency of injuries to victims. The frequency of several specific violent offenses are also included in the scale e.g. robbery, homicide, and assaultive offenses.</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:</p> <p>Multiple episodes of violence may suggest the need for more detailed psychological evaluation. Additionally, if the offender is to be released to the community, requirements regarding victim notification may be important. Anger management training and problem-solving skills may be relevant. Programs regarding social cognition to reduce feelings of hostility etc. may also be relevant.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many prior juvenile violent felony offense arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2+ • How many times has this person been arrested for a felony property offense that includes an element of violence? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+ • How many prior murder/voluntary manslaughter arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3+ • How many prior felony assault offense (not murder, sex, or domestic violence) arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3+ • How many misdemeanor assault offense (not sex, or domestic violence) arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3+ • How many prior family violence arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3+ • How many prior sex offense (with force) arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3+ • How many prior weapons offense arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3+ • Has this person ever received serious or administrative disciplinary infractions for fighting/threatening other inmates or staff? ___Yes ___No

SCALE NAME: LEISURE AND RECREATION (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:</p> <p>This scale assesses the degree to which the person experiences feelings of boredom, restlessness, feeling scattered in their leisure time, and an inability to maintain interest in a single activity for any length of time. Thus, this scale may be regarded as reflecting a psychological dimension rather than representing the amount of constructive opportunities in the person’s community environment.</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:</p> <p>High scores in this scale may require a highly structured case management strategy similar to that mentioned for the criminal opportunity scale as well as consideration, in conjunction with other scales, the need for a cognitive therapy program. Increasing pro-social activities may be emphasized.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often did you feel bored? ___Never ___Several times/month ___Several times/week ___Daily • How often did you feel you have nothing to do in your spare time? ___Never ___Several times/month ___Several times/week ___Daily • Do you often become bored with your usual activities? ___Strongly Disagree ___Disagree ___Not Sure ___Agree ___Strongly Agree • Do you feel that the things you do are boring or dull? ___Yes ___Unsure ___No • Is it difficult for you to keep your mind on one thing for a long time? ___Yes ___Unsure ___No

Measurement & Treatment Implications of Adult COMPAS Scales

SCALE NAME: RESIDENTIAL INSTABILITY (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)
<p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: The items in this scale focus on whether the offender has a stable and verifiable address, local telephone and long term local ties, as opposed to drifting and temporary living situations. A high-score would indicate a person with various features such as: no regular living situation, has lived at the present address for a short time, is isolated from family, has no telephone, and frequently changes residences.</p>
<p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: This scale may signal weak social ties and stress due to a changing, unstable, and disorganized lifestyle. A high score would suggest a focus on obtaining more stable living arrangements, and building more conventional social ties. The case plan may call for stabilizing the living situation, reestablishing family contacts, etc. Referral to financial supports or subsidized housing may be relevant.</p>
<p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often do you have contact with your family (may be in person, phone, mail)? <input type="checkbox"/> No family <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once/month <input type="checkbox"/> Once per week <input type="checkbox"/> Daily • How often have you moved in the last twelve months? <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ • Do you have a regular living situation (and address where you routinely stay and can be reached)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • How long have you been living at your current address? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 5 mos <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 12 mos <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 6+ yrs • Is there a telephone at this residence (a cell phone is an appropriate alternative)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Can you provide a verifiable residential address? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • How long have you been living in that community or neighborhood? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 2 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 5 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 11 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 1+ yrs • Do you live with family—natural parents, primary person who raised you, blood relative, spouse, children, or boy/girl friend if living together for more than 1 year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Do you live with friends? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Do you live alone? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Measurement & Treatment Implications of Adult COMPAS Scales

SCALE NAME: SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)

HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:

This scale is higher order in the sense that it uses items from other scales that crosscut several domains. It aims to capture the degree to which a person is unsuccessful and conflicted in his/her social adjustment in several of the main social institutions (school, work, family, marriage, relationships, financial.) A high score indicates a person who has been fired from jobs, had conflict at school, failed at school or work, has conflict with family, exhibits family violence, cannot pay bills, has conflicts over money, etc. Thus, the common theme is problematic social relationships across several key social institutions.

NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Good social skills and social supports have been linked to stress and anxiety reduction, and the reduction of both violent and criminal acts. Therefore, high scores (8 and above) may be regarded as a signal that supervision should focus on building stronger social skills and social supports. It is particularly important that social support be built around pro-social companions and pro-social activities (e.g. work colleagues, sports team members, teachers, & family members, if pro-social). A cognitive program may also be appropriate.

SCALE ITEMS

- Current Charge – Is the current charge domestic violence? ___Yes ___No
- How many prior family violence offense arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3+
- How often have you moved in the last twelve months? ___Never ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+
- Did you graduate from high school? ___Yes ___No
- What were your usual grades in high school? ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E/F ___Did Not Attend
- Were you ever suspended or expelled from school? ___Yes ___No
- Did you fail or repeat a grade level? ___Yes ___No
- How often did you have conflicts with teachers at school? ___Never ___Sometimes ___Often
- Do you have a job? ___Yes ___No
- Have you ever been fired from a job? ___Yes ___No
- Right now, do you feel you need more training in a new job or career skill? ___Yes ___No
- How frequently do you have conflicts with friends/family over money? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never
- How many times do you have barely enough money to get by? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never
- Has anyone ever accused you of not paying child support? ___No ___Yes
- How often do you have trouble paying bills? ___Often ___Sometimes ___Never

Measurement & Treatment Implications of Adult COMPAS Scales

<p>SCALE NAME: SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)</p> <p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This scale focuses on the amount of crime, disorder, and victimization potential in the neighborhood in which a person lives. High crime is indicated by the presence of gangs, ease of obtaining drugs, the likelihood of being victimized, a belief that a weapon is needed for protection, and so on.</p> <p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: Offenders with scores of 7 and above may require help in relocating to a lower risk neighborhood if this is possible, or finding safety in their residential area. This scale often links to other high risk factors (e.g. residential instability, poverty, criminal opportunity, etc.) Therefore, the multi-modal treatment approach may be appropriately aimed at improving residential arrangements, lifestyle issues, and to upgrade conventional skills (i.e. employability).</p> <p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there much crime in your neighborhood? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Do some of your friends or family feel they must carry a weapon to protect themselves? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • In your neighborhood, have some of your friends or family been crime victims? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Do some of the people in your neighborhood feel they need to carry a weapon for protection? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Is it easy to get drugs in your neighborhood? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Are there gangs in your neighborhood? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>SCALE NAME: SOCIAL ISOLATION (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)</p> <p>HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED: This scale assesses the degree to which the person has a supportive social network and is both accepted and well integrated into this network. The scale is scored such that a high score represents an <u>absence</u> of supports and feelings of social isolation and loneliness. The defining items include: feeling close to friends, feeling left out of things, the presence of companionship, having a close best friend, feeling lonely, etc</p> <p>NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS: The case management strategy for offenders scoring high in this scale may include emphasis on working within the family and community (i.e. church, support groups, etc.), to mend or strengthen bonds. Social skills improvements may be appropriate; and work on social cognitions related to negative perceptions and rejection may be important.</p> <p>SCALE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I have friends who help me when I have troubles.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “I feel lonely.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “I have friends who enjoy doing things with me.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “No one really knows me very well.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “I feel very close to some of my friends.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “I often feel left out of things.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “I can find companionship when I want.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree • “I have a best friend I can talk with about everything.” <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree

Measurement & Treatment Implications of Adult COMPAS Scales

SCALE NAME: **SOCIALIZATION FAILURE** (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)

HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:

This scale combines items reflecting family problems, early school problems, and early delinquency, all of which suggest socialization failure, (how the offender was socialized growing up). The intent is to examine socialization breakdown through its early indicators in school, delinquency, and family problems. A high score would represent a person whose parents were jailed or convicted or had alcohol or drug problems. In addition, a high score is associated with early behavior problems in school (being expelled, failing grades, skipping classes, fighting) and would also manifest serious delinquency problems.

NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:

A high score on this scale may suggest long term, and stable patterns of criminality, and deep-seated attitudes, and values linked to impaired socialization. Responsivity to treatment may be a problem given the long term nature and stable nature of some of the risk factors. High scoring cases may also require specialized supervision to improve responsivity. A cognitive program may be needed.

SCALE ITEMS

- How many prior juvenile felony offense arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2 ___3 ___4 ___5+
- How many prior juvenile violent felony offense arrests? ___0 ___1 ___2+
- How many prior commitments to a juvenile institution? ___0 ___1 ___2+
- Was your father (or father figure who principally raised you) ever arrested? ___Yes ___No
- Was your mother (or mother figure who principally raised you) ever arrested? ___Yes ___No
- Did a parent or parent figure who raised you have a drug or alcohol problem? ___Yes ___No
- Was one of your parents (or parent figure who raised you) ever sent to jail or prison? ___Yes ___No
- Did you graduate from high school? ___Yes ___No
- Were you ever suspended or expelled from school? ___Yes ___No
- Did you fail or repeat a grade level? ___Yes ___No
- How often did you have conflicts with teachers at school? ___Never ___Sometimes ___Often
- How many times did you skip classes while in school? ___Never ___Sometimes ___Often
- How often did you get in fights while at school? ___Never ___Sometimes ___Often

Measurement & Treatment Implications of Adult COMPAS Scales

SCALE NAME: SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Cut Points: Low 1-2, Medium 3-4, High 5-10)

HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:

The present scale is a general indicator of substance abuse problems. A high score suggests the person who has drug or alcohol problems and may need substance abuse treatment intervention. The items in this scale cover prior treatment for alcohol or drug problems, drunk driving arrests, whether the person blames drugs or alcohol for their present problems, using drugs as a juvenile, and so on.

NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Given the high incidence of alcohol and drug problems in offender samples, it is likely that offenders with scores of 6 and above have serious alcohol or drug problems. It will be important to assess the extent of previous treatments, current attitudes to treatment, and the responsivity of the offender. Relapse prevention plans may be critical for such offenders. Given the very high frequency of substance abuse problems among offenders, a score of 4 and above indicates a definite need for a more specialized substance abuse assessment inventory (i.e. ASI, SASSI, etc.).

SCALE ITEMS

- Current Charge – Is the current charge drunk driving: ___Yes ___No
- Do you think your current/past legal problems are partly because of alcohol or drugs? ___Yes ___No
- Were you using alcohol when arrested for your current offense? ___Yes ___No
- Were you using drugs when arrested for your current offense? ___Yes ___No
- Are you currently in formal treatment for alcohol or drugs such as counseling, outpatient, inpatient, residential? ___Yes ___No
- Have you ever been in formal treatment for alcohol such as counseling, outpatient, inpatient, residential? ___Yes ___No
- 64 Have you ever been in formal treatment for drugs such as counseling, outpatient, inpatient, residential? ___Yes ___No
- Do you think you would benefit from getting treatment for alcohol? ___Yes ___No
- Do you think you would benefit from getting treatment for drugs? ___Yes ___No
- Did you use heroin, cocaine, crack or methamphetamines as a juvenile? ___Yes ___No

Measurement & Treatment Implications of Adult COMPAS Scales

SCALE NAME: VOCATIONAL/EDUCATION (Cut Points: Low 1-5, Medium 6-7, High 8-10)

HOW IS THIS SCALE MEASURED:

This higher order scale assesses the degree of success or failure in the areas of work and education. A high score represents a lack of resources. Those who score high will present a combination of failure to complete high school, being suspended, or expelled from school, poor grades, no job skills, no current job, poor employment history, access only to minimum wage jobs, etc. Thus, the scale represents a lack of educational and/or vocational resources.

NOTES AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Scores of 6 and more may suggest that vocational, employability and educational skills training would be beneficial. Additionally, help may be required in both job seeking and job maintenance. It is important to establish the specific training that is required.

SCALE ITEMS

- Did you graduate from high school? Yes No
- What were your usual grades in high school? A B C D E/F Did Not Attend
- Were you ever suspended or expelled from school? Yes No
- Did you fail or repeat a grade level? Yes No
- Do you have a job? Yes No
- Do you currently have a skill, trade or profession at which you usually find work? Yes No
- Can you verify your employer or school (if attending)? Yes No
- How much have you worked or been enrolled in school in the last 12 months?
 12 Months Full Time 12 Months Part Time 6+ Months FT 0 to 6 Months PT/FT
- Right now, do you feel you need more training in a new job or career skill? Yes No
- Right now, if you were to get (or have) a good job, how would you rate your chance of being successful? Good Fair Poor
- How hard is it for you to find a job ABOVE minimum wage compared to others? Easier Same Harder Much Harder