Department of Corrections
WASHINGTON STATE

Statewide Family Council

Washington ONE Risk and Needs Assessment

Presentation – March 21st, 2026

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About the Washington ONE Risk & Needs Assessment & Case Plan

How RLC is determined

The Washington ONE contains **four unique risk assessment models** that predict the likelihood of recidivism. These 4 models are the foundation of the Risk Level Classifications.

Impacts of the risk assessment

Describe the areas the Washington ONE assessment impacts.

Answering questions raised

The Statewide Family Council members asked several questions they'd like us to answer.

About the Washington ONE Risk & Needs Assessment & Case Plan

6 Risk Level Classifications

HIGH VIOLENT

HIGH PROPERTY

HIGH DRUG

MODERATE

LOWER

HIGH VIOLENT PROPERTY DRUG

The Washington ONE contains **four unique risk assessment models** that predict the likelihood of recidivism. These 4 models are the foundation of the Risk Level Classifications (RLC):

Violent
Property
Drug
General felony

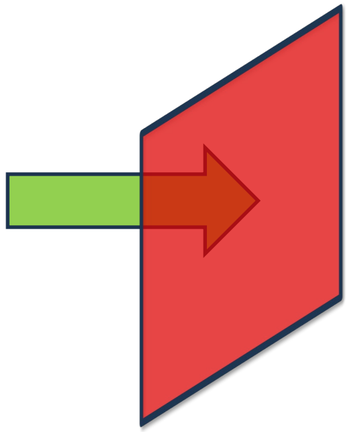
From these four models we get the (6) Risk Level Classifications (RLC):

High Violent Property Drug
High Violent
High Property
High Drug
Moderate
Low

About the Washington ONE Risk & Needs Assessment & Case Plan

Risk Level Classification (RLC)

The RLC does not affect the Custody Level Designation of an incarcerated individual.



- MAX
- Close
- Medium
- Minimum

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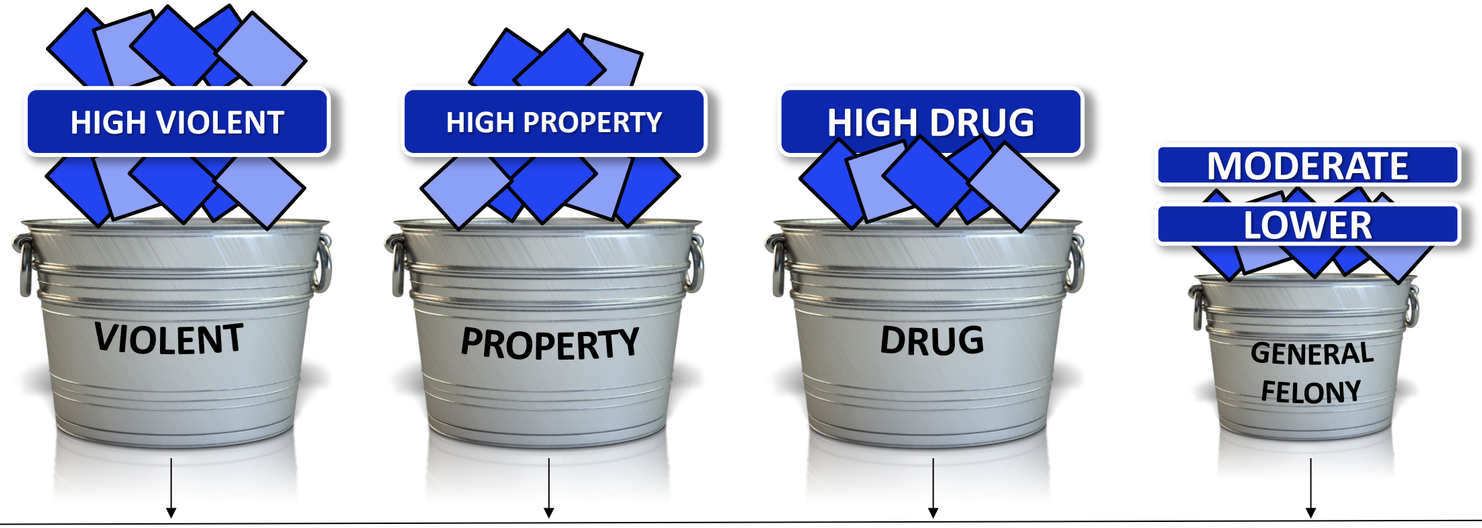
Dynamically Assessed



Case Managers review file material and the electronic record to familiarize themselves with the individual and the circumstances that brought the individual to the Department.

As individuals are being interviewed and assessed, dynamic information is collected.

Needs are generated when the Risk & Needs Assessment is completed.

8 Criminogenic Needs

- Residential
- Education
- Employment
- Social Influences
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Aggression
- Attitudes & Behaviors

About the Washington ONE Risk Assessment & Case Plan

Norming Period

= Frozen Risk (RLC)

+

(8) Dynamic Criminogenic Needs

- Residential
- Education
- Employment
- Social Influences
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Aggression
- Attitudes & Behaviors

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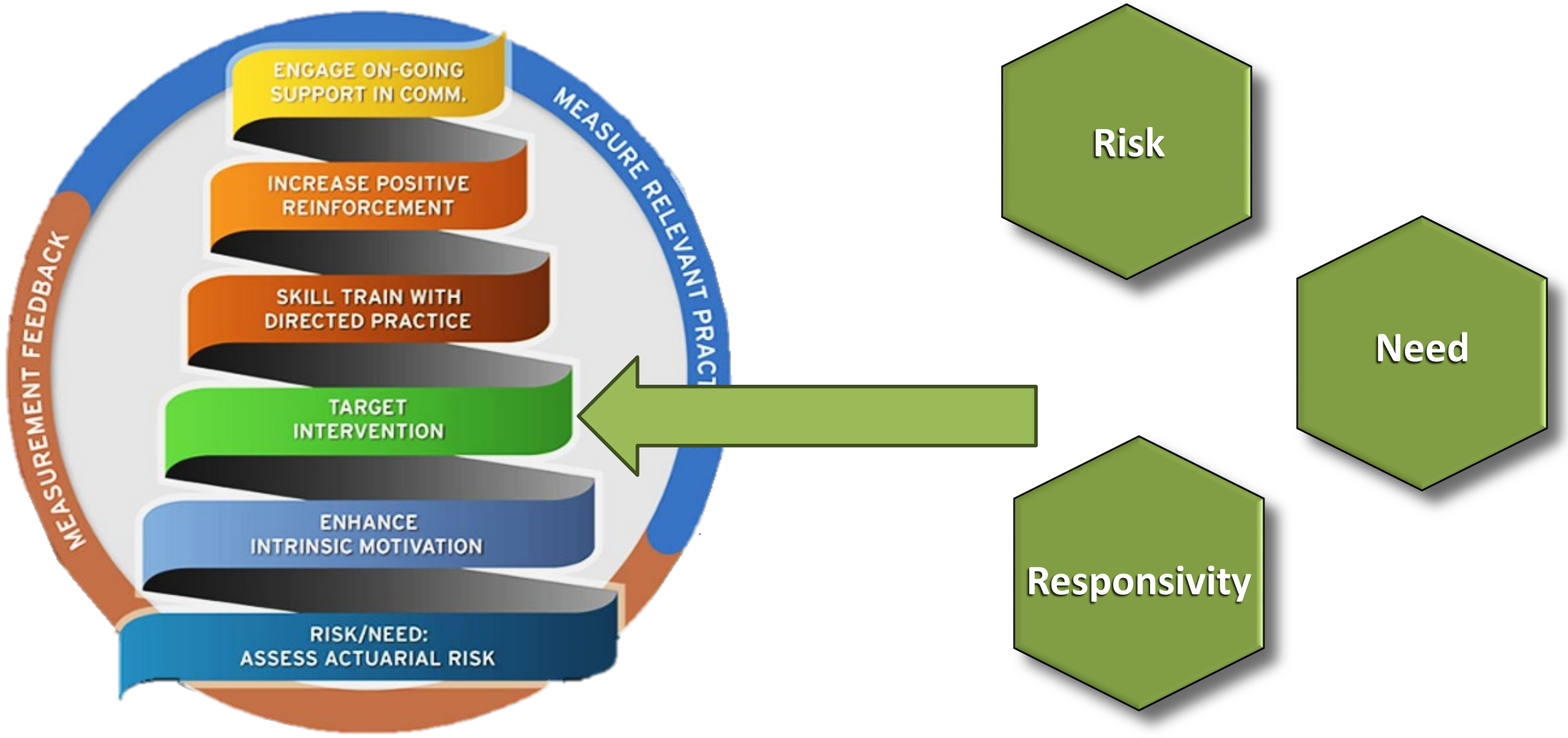
The Norming Period is a period during which assessment data will be monitored and tracked to determine the effects of the tool and how it is performing over time.

About the Washington ONE Risk Assessment & Case Plan

Principles of Effective Intervention



Transitioning from the Norming Period

What is the official status of ending this stabilization period?

We are continuing to review impacts of finalizing the norming period. We are working to determine how the updated assessment tool may align with the end of the norming period.

When will the department fully transition using the assessed Risk Level Classification so that an individual's current behavior actually dictates their classification level?

The department may align the transition to a dynamic risk assessment tool with the start of WA One 2.0.

Addressing the “Drift” and Misaligned Scores

For those individuals whose current behavior shows they are lower risk than their intake score suggests, what is the immediate process for correcting that “drift” and updating their classification?

While the Risk Level Classification is frozen during the norming period, the need domains are dynamic. Seeing a change in the RLC from the initial to most recent assessment is an expected result of a dynamic tool and helps DOC plan for this change when the tool is truly dynamic.

There is a process for seeking reduced contacts while on supervision based in part on behavior. This determination is separate from the Risk Level Classification.

The Static Nature of a “Dynamic” Tool

If the tool is intended to be dynamic, why are the results remaining static for individuals who have completed years of successful programming and positive behavior growth?

As noted above, the need domains have been dynamic throughout the norming period. The reason the results for the RLC have remained static was due to the need to collect data during the norming period. It is the agency’s intention to end the norming period and use the tool as a dynamic risk assessment in the future.

How does the system design ensure that current behavior eventually outweighs the original inputs from the initial intake assessment?

The tool accounts for dynamic changes right now in a person’s situation including their behavior and is reflected in the dynamic need domains. The process is complex and accounts for many factors in a person’s situation when determining the Risk Level Classification.

The Development of Washington v2.0

How will version 2.0 specifically rebalance scoring weights to ensure that positive growth over many years is accurately captured and rewarded with a lower risk score?

The updated tool addresses bias and changes to predictive validity. While DOC does not plan on having a norming period for the updated assessment tool, it is good practice to review validity of the tool over time.

Process Transparency and Individual Review

What does the step-by-step process look like from initial intake to the annual reassessment?
The individual is assessed at initial intake through an in-person interview. Reassessments are conducted at certain intervals based on the person's pathway. The reassessment is conducted in the same manner as the initial interview. It is done in-person.

Are the results and the specific weights of the eight "need domains" reviewed with the individuals?
The need domains levels are discussed with the person during the collaborative goal setting process. They are categorized as Low, Mod or High. The case manager will prioritize the High need(s) first unless a barrier exists and/or another need can be worked on that the individual is motived to work on.

Is there a formal sign-off process or an appeal pathway for an individual who believes the assessment results are contradictory with their current reality?
The individual signs the notification of contact Risk Level Classification (form 07-057). Individuals may appeal the result in writing within 7 days to the Superintendent/Reentry Center Administrator or the Field Administrator.

Thank you!

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