laura and john arnold foundation®

Public Safety Assessment (PSA)

Research and Development

- PSA Research
  - Sample
    - Largest most comprehensive multi-jurisdictional dataset of pretrial information
      - 1.5M cases – from approximately 300 different cities, counties, and federal judicial districts
      - 7 state court systems: CO, CT, FL, KY, ME, OH, VA
      - Federal pretrial system (all 50 states)
      - Washington, D.C.
  - Analysis
    - Conducted on 750K cases suitable for analysis
      - Defendants released pretrial with risk factors and outcome information

Research and Development

- PSA Research
  - Analysis
    - Research database included risk factors derived from pretrial risk assessments nationally
      - Demographics
      - Current offense
      - Criminal history
      - Substance use
      - Mental health
      - Education
      - Employment
      - Residence
      - Community ties

Research and Development

- PSA Research
  - Analysis
    - Examined hundreds of risk factors
    - Identified the strongest predictors for FTA, NCA and NVCA, which were all charge or criminal history related and consistent with studies conducted
      - *Identifying the Predictors of Pretrial Failure: A Meta-Analysis* (2011)
      - *Assessing Pretrial Risk Without a Defendant Interview* (2013)
    - Interview dependent risk factors (e.g., employment, residence) did not increase predictive power of the risk assessment when added to the strongest predictors

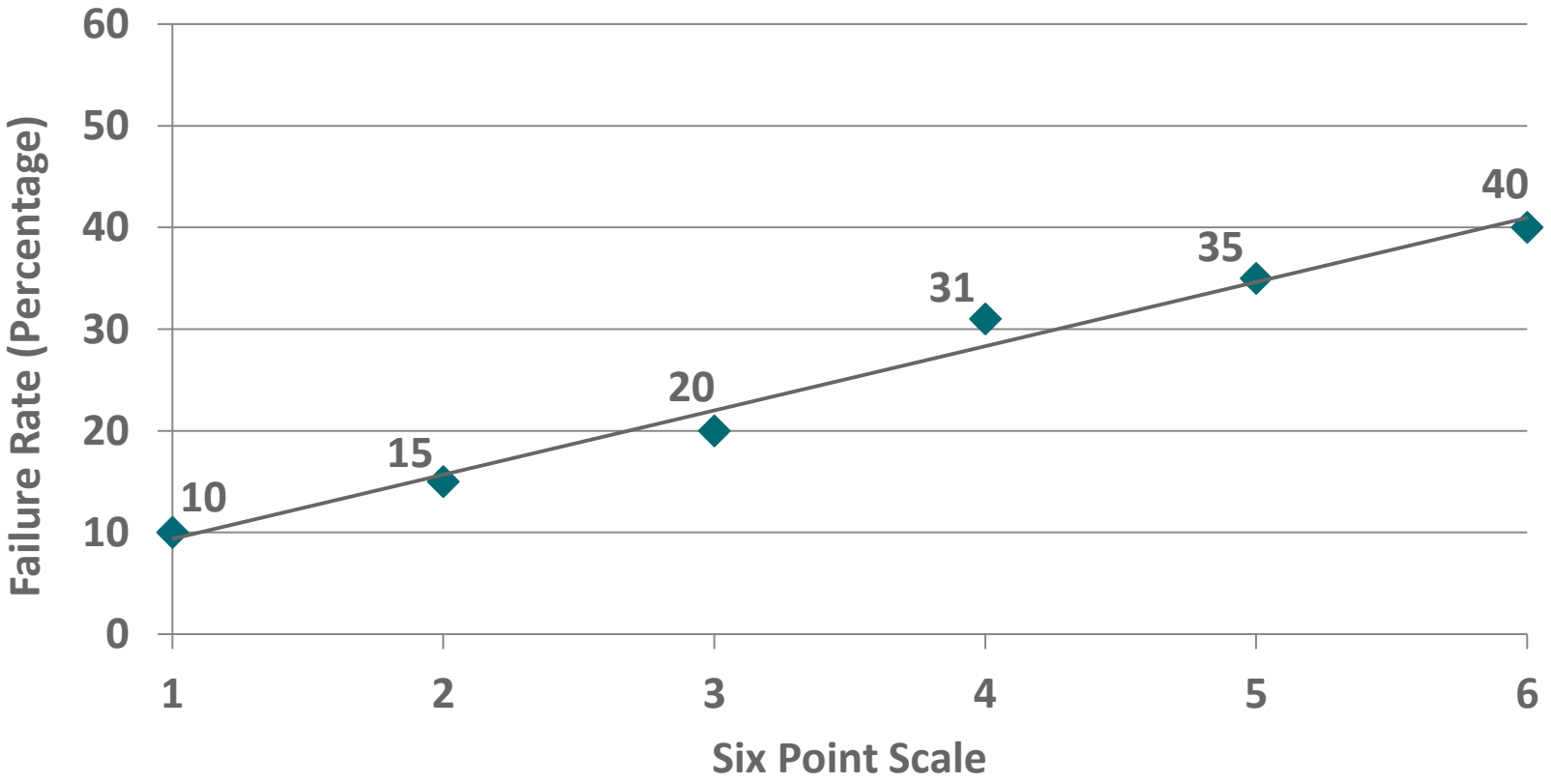
Research and Development

» PSA Description

- Relies on administrative data (charge, criminal and court appearance history, and criminal justice status) to predict three pretrial failure types
  - Failure to Appear (FTA)
  - New Criminal Activity (NCA)
  - New Violent Criminal Activity (NVCA)
- Generates two 6 point scales (FTA & NCA) and a flag that identifies an elevated risk of NVCA
- The tool is race and gender neutral - it accurately classifies defendants' risk levels regardless of their race or gender, it does not have a discriminatory impact

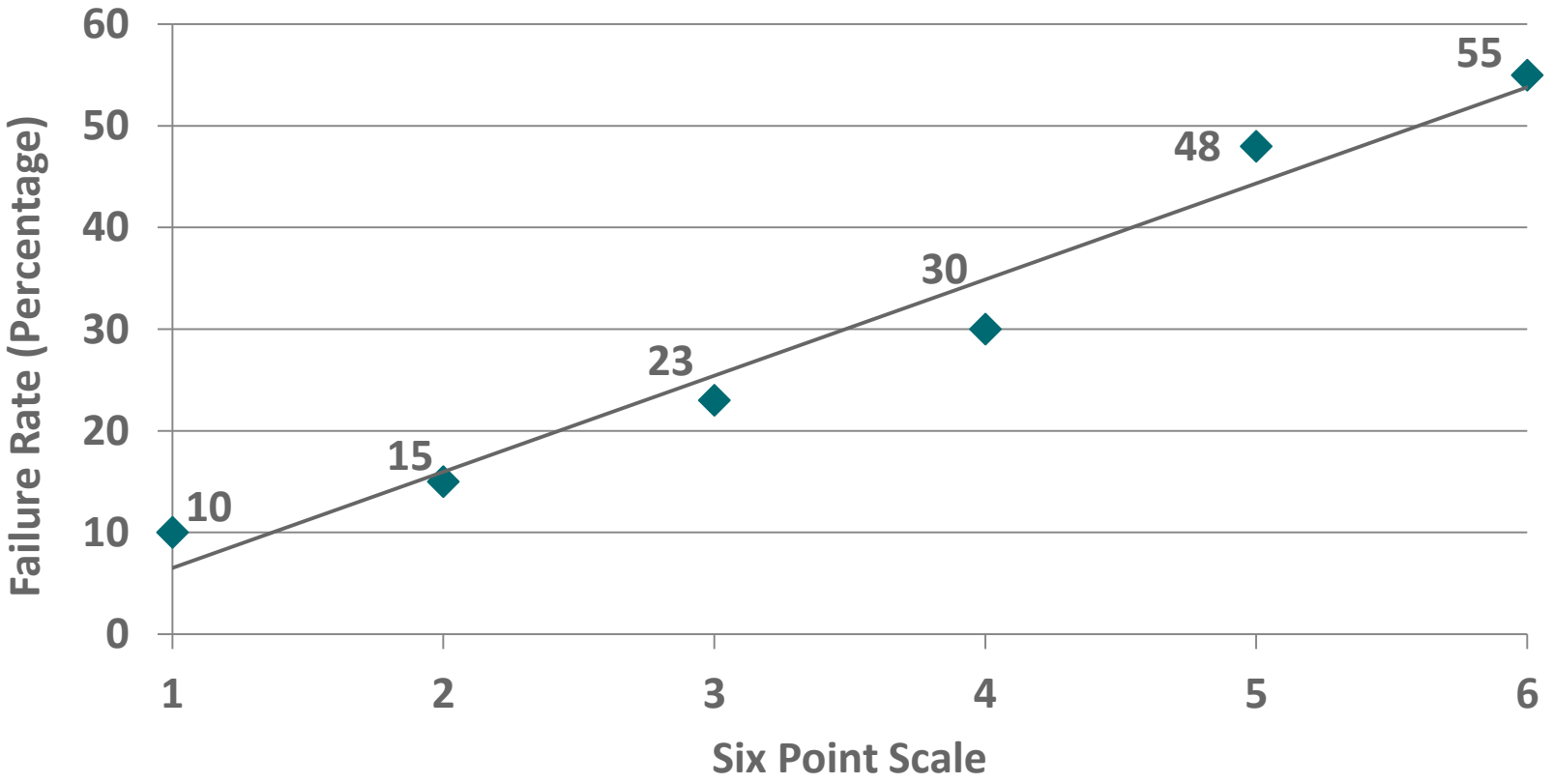
Research and Development

» PSA – Failure to Appear



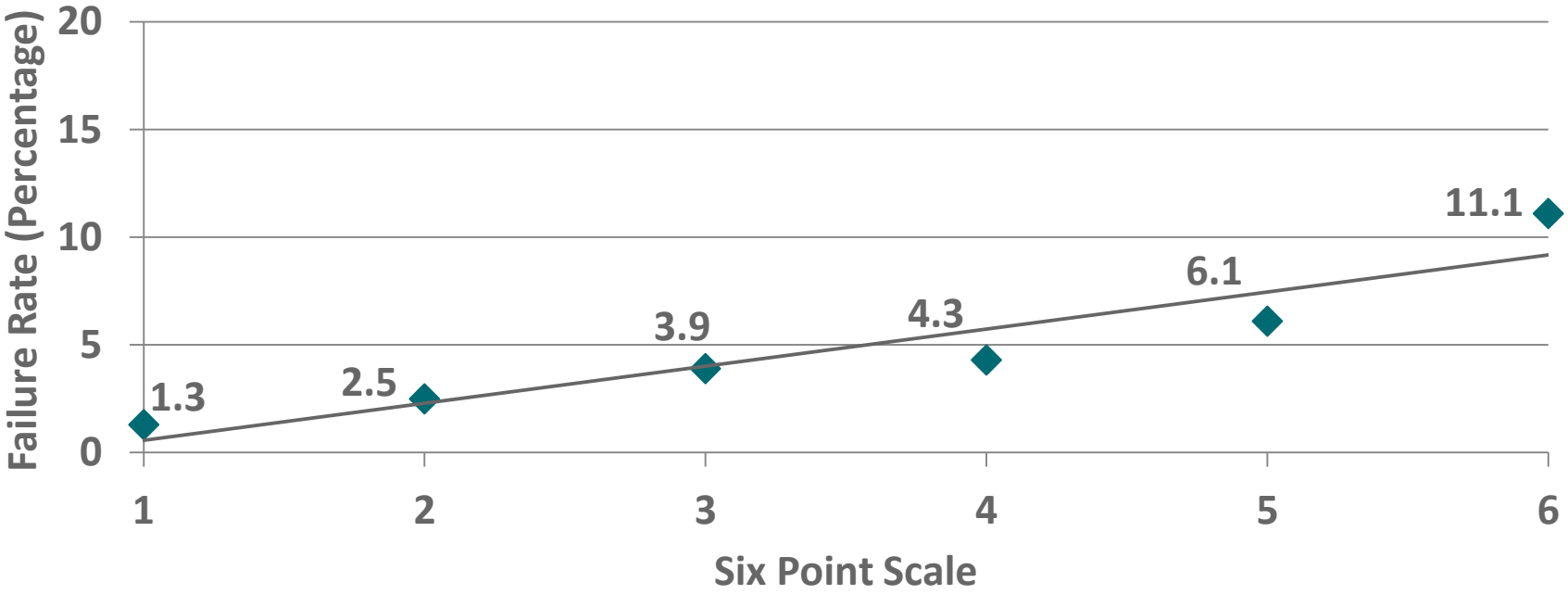
Research and Development

» PSA – New Criminal Activity



Research and Development

» PSA – New Violent Criminal Activity



Flag	%	Rate
Yes	7	7.2%
No	93	2.4%
Average NVCA		2.8%

Validation and Implementation

- PSA Validation
  - Validated on over 500,000 cases
    - Locality in Northeast
    - Locality in Southwest
    - Locality in Midwest
    - Two states
  - PSA – Validation studies in process for first round of pilot sites (prospective)
- PSA Implementation
  - Pilot site implementation beginning in July 2013: Kentucky; 5 AZ jurisdictions; Charlotte, NC; and Santa Cruz, CA
  - Implementation currently being expanded to 21 additional sites in states across the country – including Chicago, Phoenix, and the state of New Jersey.

Pretrial Assessment Dashboard

New Criminal Activity (NCA) Score

STOP

Elevated risk of violence

Failure to Appear (FTA) Score

Current Charge(s)

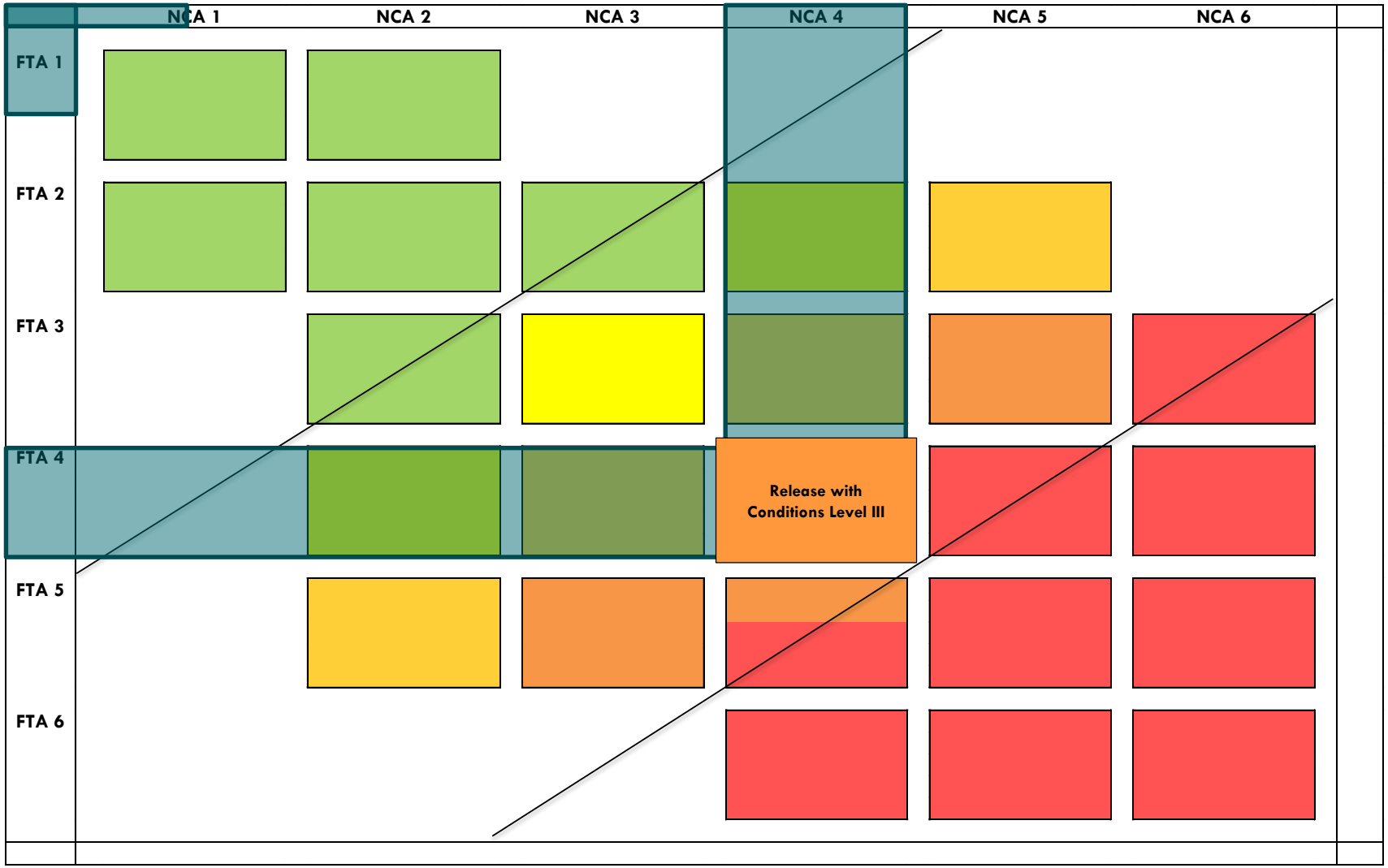
- Aggravated assault, first degree
- Poss. marijuana

Recommendation

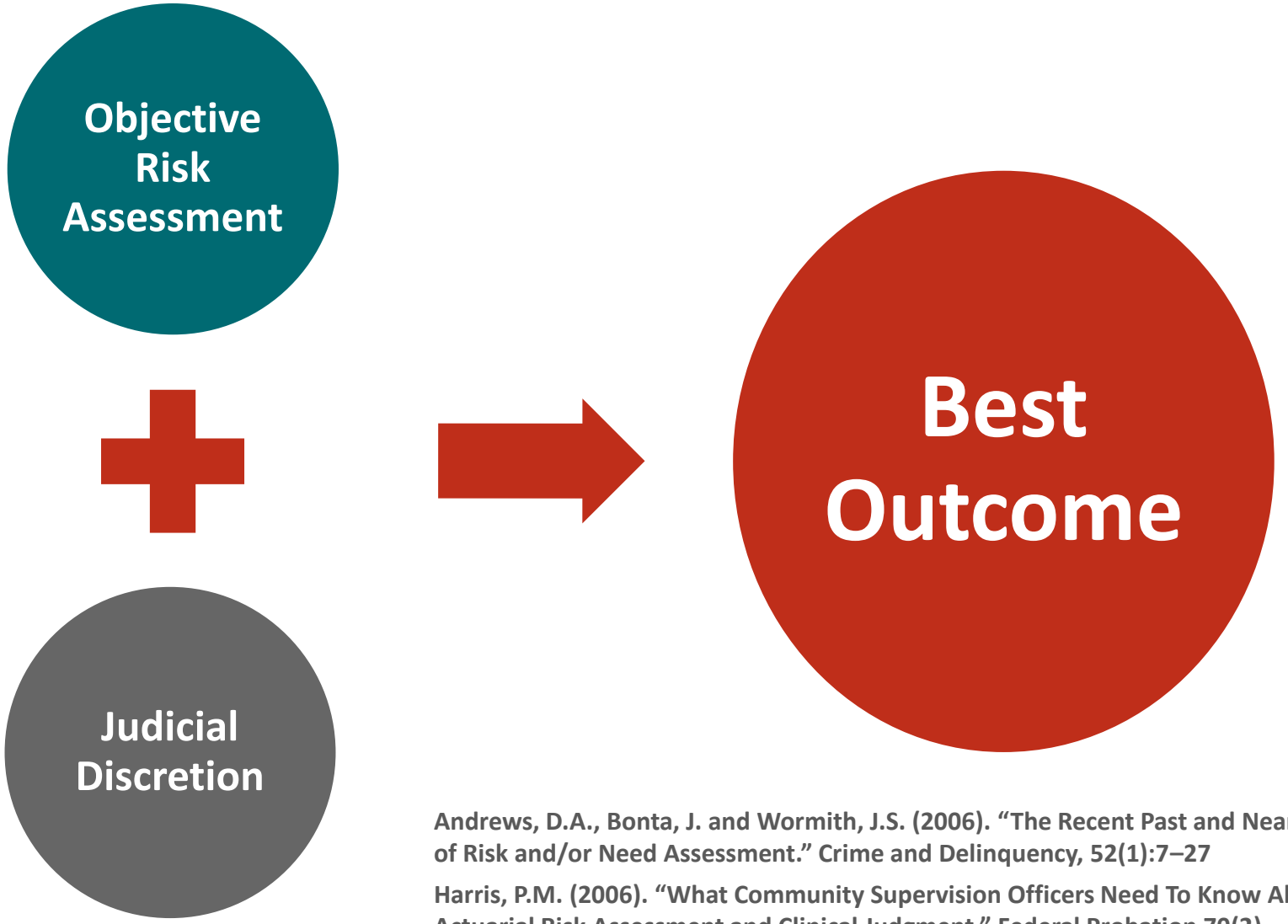
Release not recommended

Decision Making Framework

» DMF Matrix



Decision Making Framework



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Harris, P.M. (2006). "What Community Supervision Officers Need To Know About Actuarial Risk Assessment and Clinical Judgment." Federal Probation 70(2)