The Treatment and Programming Assessment Instrument (TPAI)

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Presentation Outline

- Describe the Original Purpose of the TPAI
- Describe its Methodology and Predictive Validity
- Limitations of the Original TPAI
  - Unintended use of the TPAI
  - Limitations of Midrange Discrimination
  - TPAI & Women
- Changes in the Scoring of the TPAI
- Predictive Validity and Midrange Discrimination
- Predictive Validity for Women
- Caveat about **Screening** versus **Assessment**
- TPAI and DOC's Overall Assessment Strategic Plan

Original Impetus to Create the TPAI

- DOC had been experiencing unacceptably high levels of waiting lists for its programs.

- Research indicates that the lowest risk offenders are less likely to benefit as much from participating in programs in comparison to higher risk offenders.

- A decision was made to identify core programs that addressed criminogenic needs and to prioritize these programs for these offenders.

- **This necessitated an efficient, valid, and cost-effective way to calculate risk for DOC offenders.**

Creation of the Original TPAI

- Based on the Pennsylvania DOC approach.
- Due to data limitations some proxies were used to approximate the Pennsylvania model:
  - Age at sentencing to the DOC (proxy for age of first sentence to incarceration)
  - Age at first entrance into the DOC (proxy for age at 1st arrest)
  - Number of incarcerations as an adult (used the Sentence ID in DOC).
  - Gender
  - Violation of CJ Supervision (Based on CT DOC data)
  - Convictions for Violent Offenses (modified version of DOC Classification).
- OPM's Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division tested the proposed system on our inmate population

Proxies Can Effectively Assess Risk

- CSSD conducted a validation survey as a part of its introducing the Level of Service Inventory-Revised.

- This study compared the ability of the LSI-R to assess risk with a score derived from 3 static variables:

  - Age at first arrest.

  - Number of prior arrests.

  - Age at the time of the assessment.

- These static variables had the same predictive validity as the LSI-R.

Original Scoring of the TPAI

- Age
  - 50+   0 points
  - 40-49   1 point
  - 25-39   2 points
  - < 25   3 points
- Gender: Male = 1;   Female = 0.
- Prior Adult Convictions to Incarceration

  0-1 priors = 0; 2 or more priors = 1.
- Any violent conviction (excluded Assault 3rd) = 1.
- Age at first conviction to incarceration as an Adult <16 = 1.
- Violated CJ Supervision = 1.

New CTDOC Prison Sentence within 3 Years by TPAI Score

TPAI Group	N in each Group	N to Prison	%
1 (0-3)	3456	647	18.7%
2 (4-5)	8499	3181	37.4%
3 (6-8)	4517	2225	49.4%
	16,472	6053	36.7%

Here you can see that offenders who scored 0-3 on the TPAI had a considerably lower rate of returning to the CTDOC with a new sentence.

Violence and the TPAI

TPAI Score	N	Violent Crimes	%
0	28	0	0%
1	283	1	0%
2	911	5	1%
3	2234	30	1%
4	3804	133	3%
5	4695	298	6%
6	3794	333	9%
7	704	97	14%
8	19	4	21%
Total	16,472	901	5%

This confirmed that the TPAI also does a good of identifying individuals with a very low risk of violent re-offending.

TPAI: introducing the 10-point scale

- Because people were using the TPAI for more than triaging to programs we wanted to improve its predictive ability in 2 ways:
  - We wanted to improve mid-risk discrimination;
  - We wanted to improve its predictive validity with women.
- Recognition that number of prior terms of incarceration had a large effect on recidivism we refined this area:

Original TPAI: 0 or 1 priors = 0 points; 2 or more priors = 1.

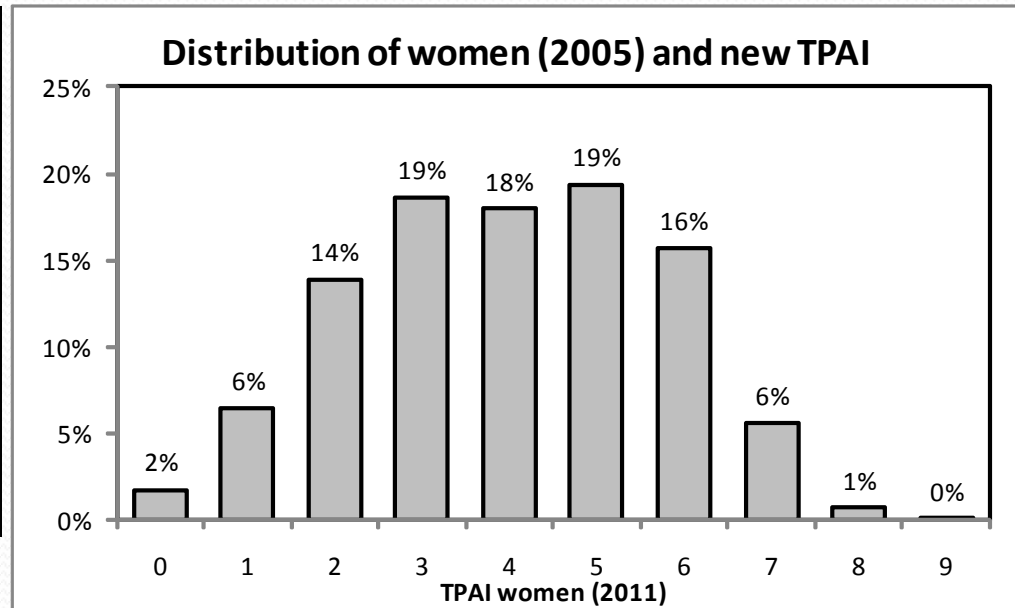New: 0 or 1 priors = 0; 2 priors = 1; 3-5 priors = 2; >5 priors = 3.

It did, in fact, do a better job with women:
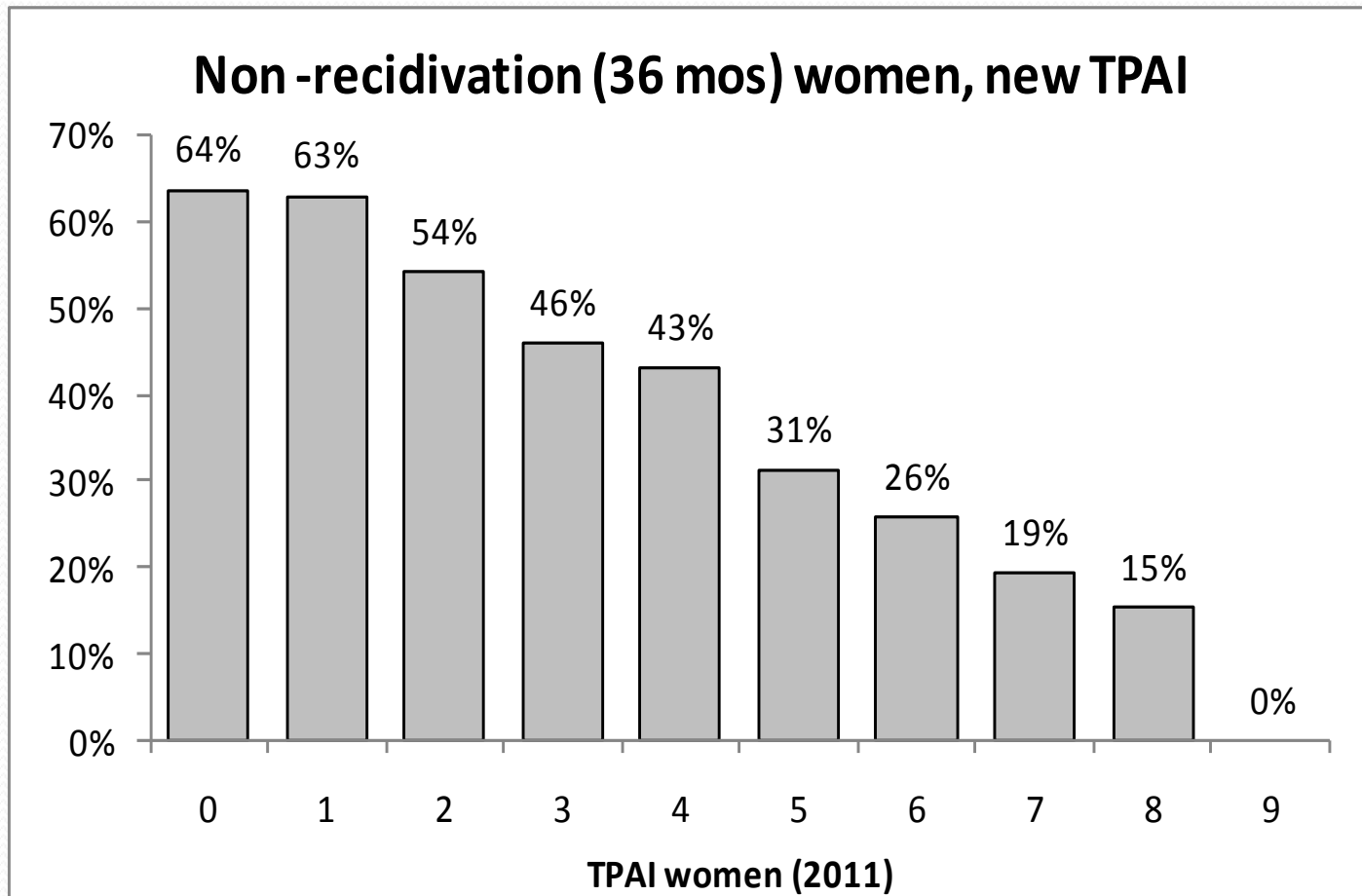
Distribution of TPAI-Women Women's Score Increased to 9

TPAI (2011)

	2005 WOMEN	PERCENT
0	33	2%
1	119	6%
2	257	14%
3	344	19%
4	332	18%
5	358	19%
6	290	16%
7	103	6%
8	13	1%
9	1	0%
	1850	100%

Distribution of women (2005) and new TPAI

New Incarceration Rates-Women

New Incarceration Rates-Men

Recidivism - males, 2008 cohort, return to prison with new sentence												
		TPAI										
	males 2008	no score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
offenders	14420	12	166	444	1045	1598	2097	2647	3140	2241	890	140
12 month return	2001	3	0	5	20	82	194	405	605	453	194	40
12 month rate	14%	25%	0%	1%	2%	5%	9%	15%	19%	20%	22%	29%
24 month return	4062	3	0	5	43	153	401	790	1195	970	422	80
24 month rate	28%	25%	0%	1%	4%	10%	19%	30%	38%	43%	47%	57%

The TPAI score was changed to reflect more discrimination in the Sentence ID. For males the TPAI score now ranged from 1 to 10 instead of 1 to 8. The difference between TPAI 5 and TPAI six seems to be a break point.

Thus, capturing those with a large number of priors increased our assessment of risk to recidivate.

Male Inmates 24 month recidivism rate
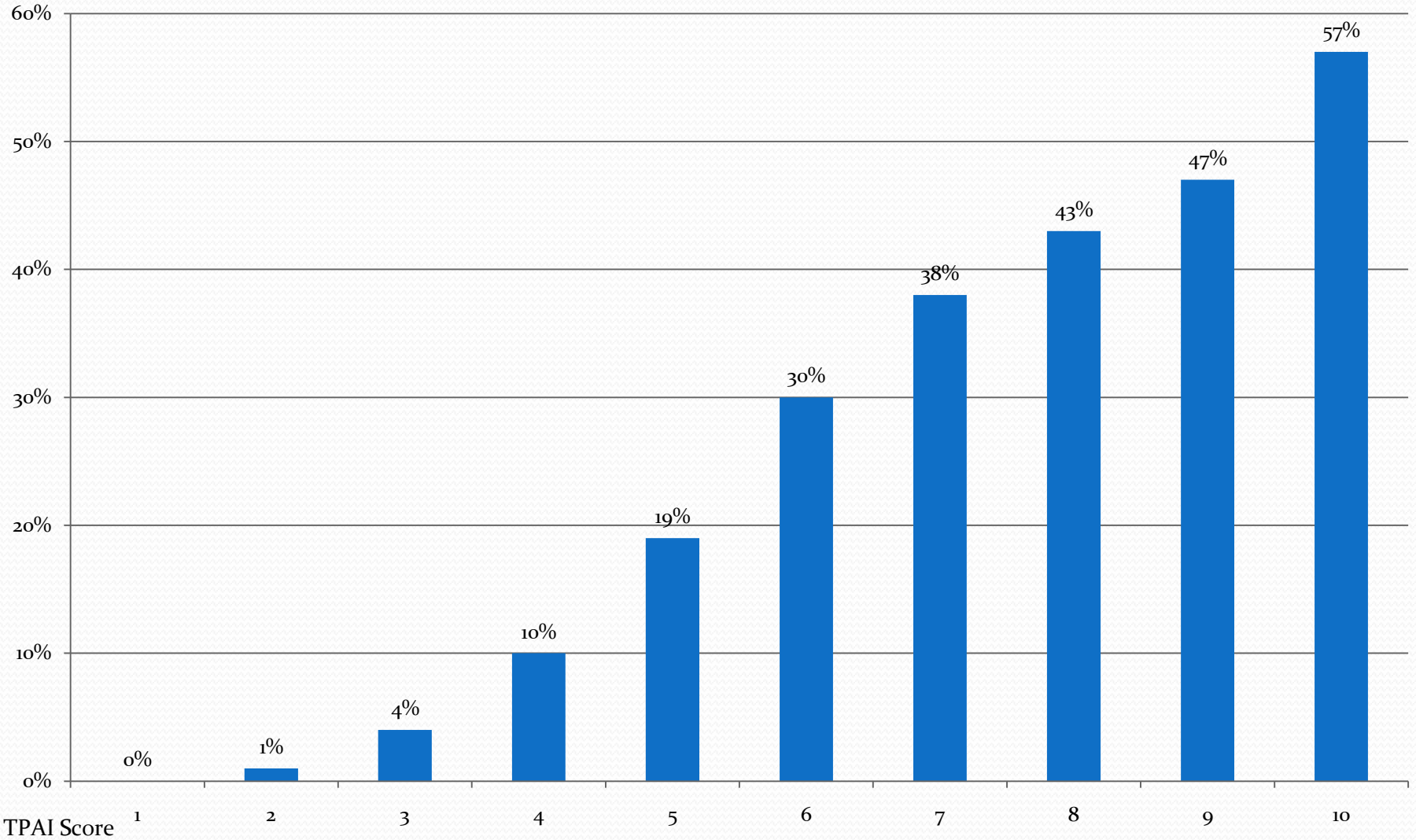
Summary

- The original goal of the TPAI changed from only identifying low risk offenders to placing all offenders into risk categories.

- Capturing those with multiple incarcerations increased our mid-range discrimination as we had hoped.

- The new TPAI work as well with women and for the reason we suspected it would work:

- The issues that lead women to incarceration are sometimes different than men, but the DOC Sentence ID doesn't assess **why,** only **how many times** the person has terms of incarceration.

- The TPAI is now automated which saves time, money, and eliminates scoring error.

- As we have always emphasized, the TPAI is a **screening** tool that can help in **individualized assessment** of risk.