

Smart Justice: Using Data to Guide Pretrial Decisions

San Diego, California, October 22nd, 2025



Center for Effective Public Policy

Agenda

1

Welcome & Introductions

2

Basics of Pretrial Assessments

3

Overview of the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and Release Conditions Matrix (RCM)

4

Implementation Challenges

5

PSA Resources

Objectives

1.

Understand the development and intended use of the PSA.

2.

Learn how the RCM can assist in pretrial decision-making.

3.

Discuss common challenges in PSA implementation and ways to address them.

APPR ADVANCING PRETRIAL POLICY & RESEARCH

advancingpretrial.org

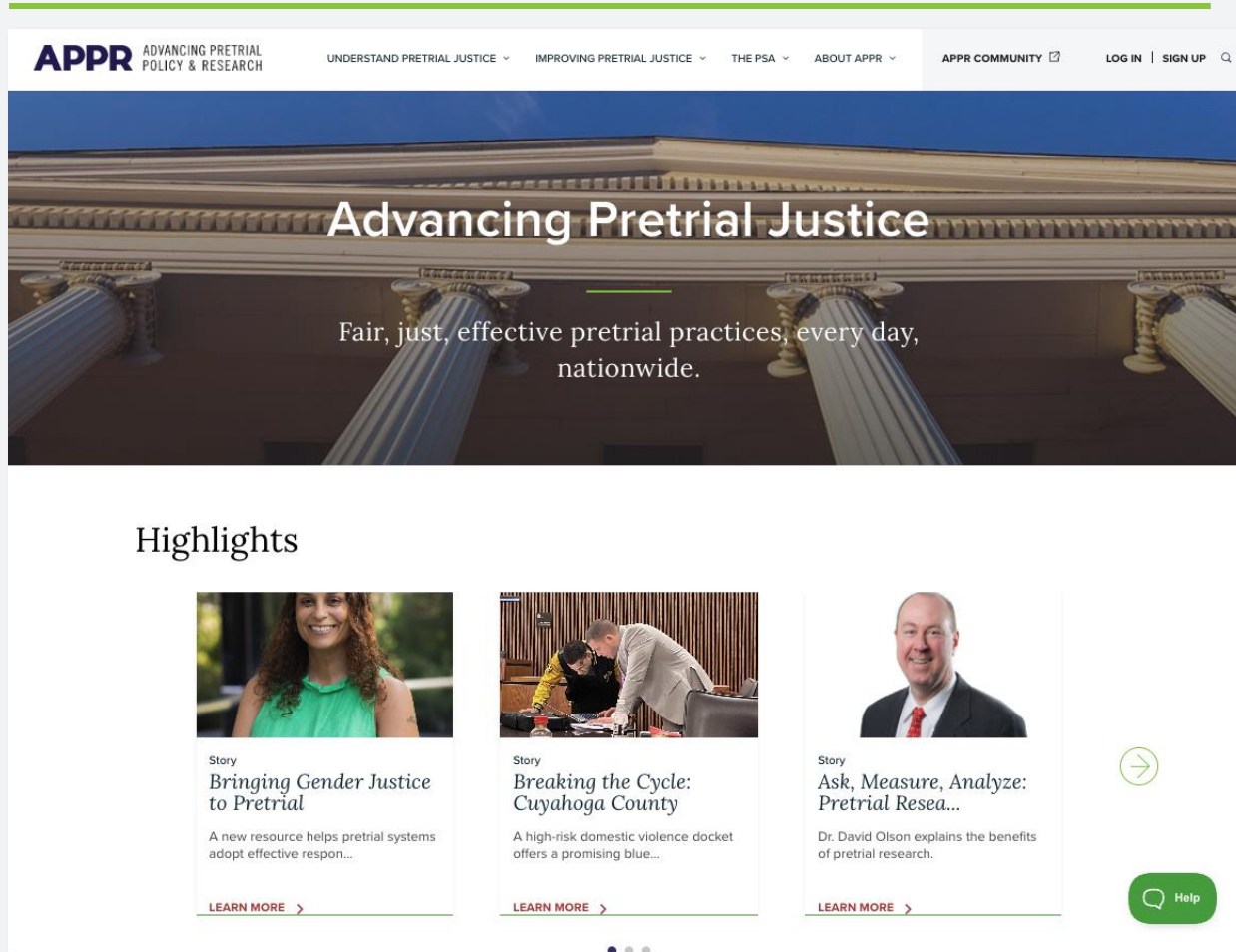
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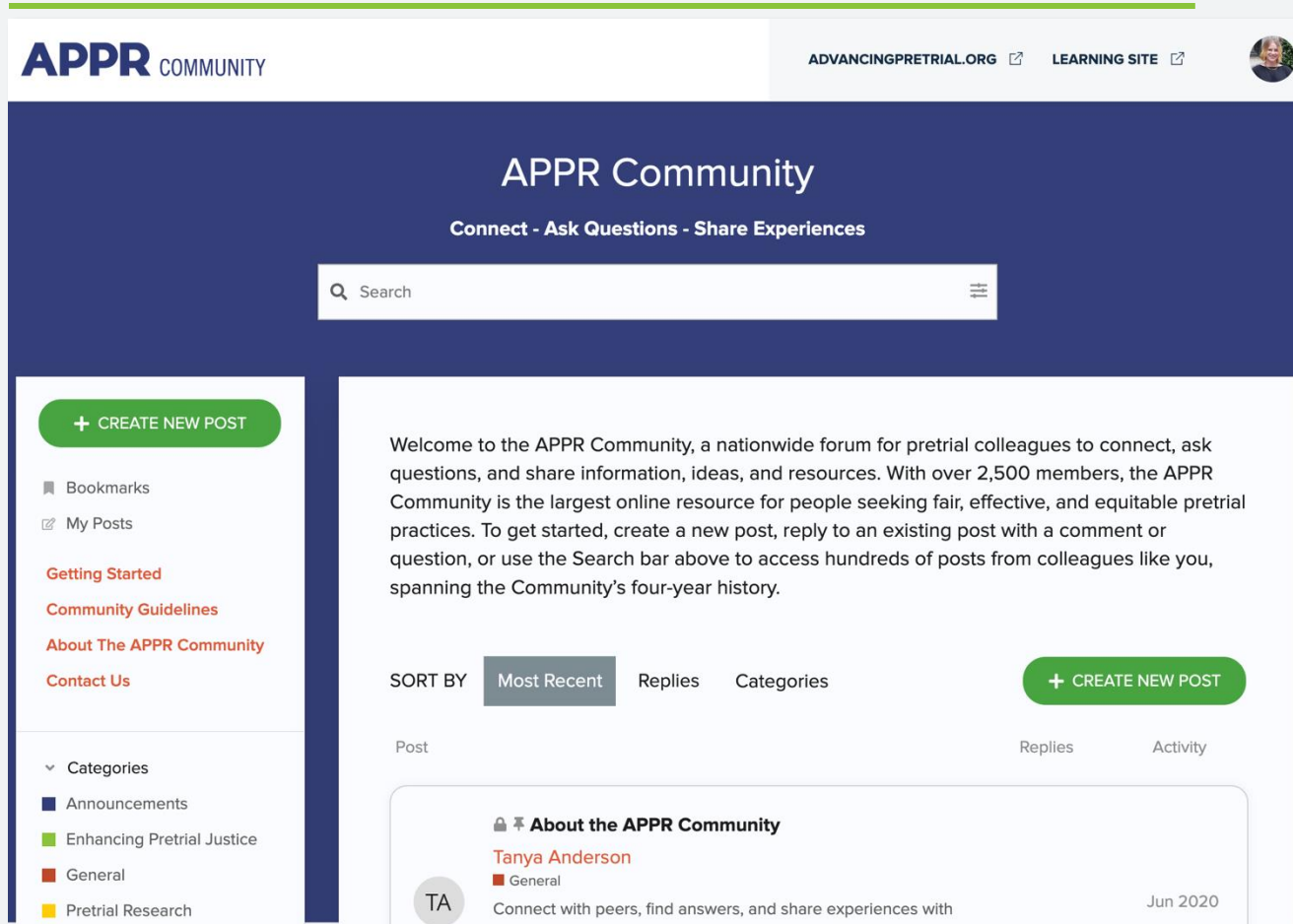


APPR Website



advancingpretrial.org

APPR Community



community.advancingpretrial.org

Faculty



Jessica Ireland

Senior Manager
Center for Effective Public Policy
(CEPP)



Kim Craddock

Chief Probation Officer
Calaveras County



Tim Bennett

Supervising Probation Officer
Mariposa County

Polling Question



What role do you serve in your respective jurisdiction?

1. Case Manager
2. Court Administrator
3. Judicial Officer
4. Pretrial Director/Manager/Supervisor
5. Pretrial Officer
6. Other

Polling Question



Is your jurisdiction currently using the PSA, or does it plan to do so?

1. Yes, my jurisdiction is currently using the PSA.
2. My jurisdiction is planning on using the PSA.
3. No, my jurisdiction is not using and not planning to use the PSA.
4. I am not sure.

Basics of Pretrial Assessments

Purpose of Pretrial Assessment

- Why do we do pretrial assessment?

To Predict

- Helps identify who is likely to succeed or fail on pretrial release.
- Why predict? Provides an opportunity to intervene and assist before failure occurs.
- Can *inform* pretrial decisions, but do not tell a judicial officer what to do.

Purpose of Pretrial Assessments

**Pretrial assessments are a tool, not a decision-maker.
Judges decide to release or detain.**



What Do Pretrial Assessment Tools Measure?

Risk of
What?

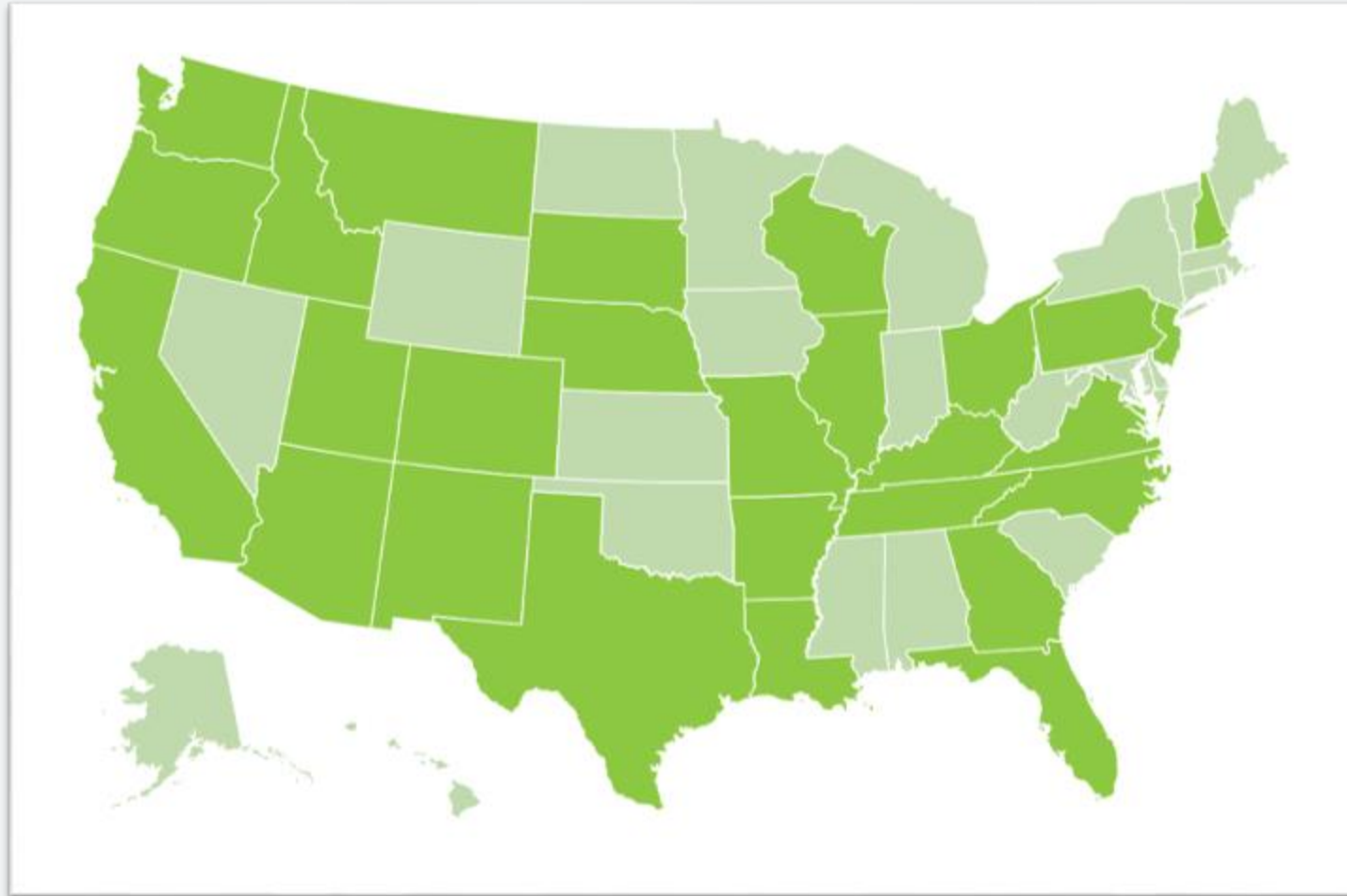
Appearing in court
Remaining arrest-free*

How Much
Risk?

On a continuum from 1% to 99%

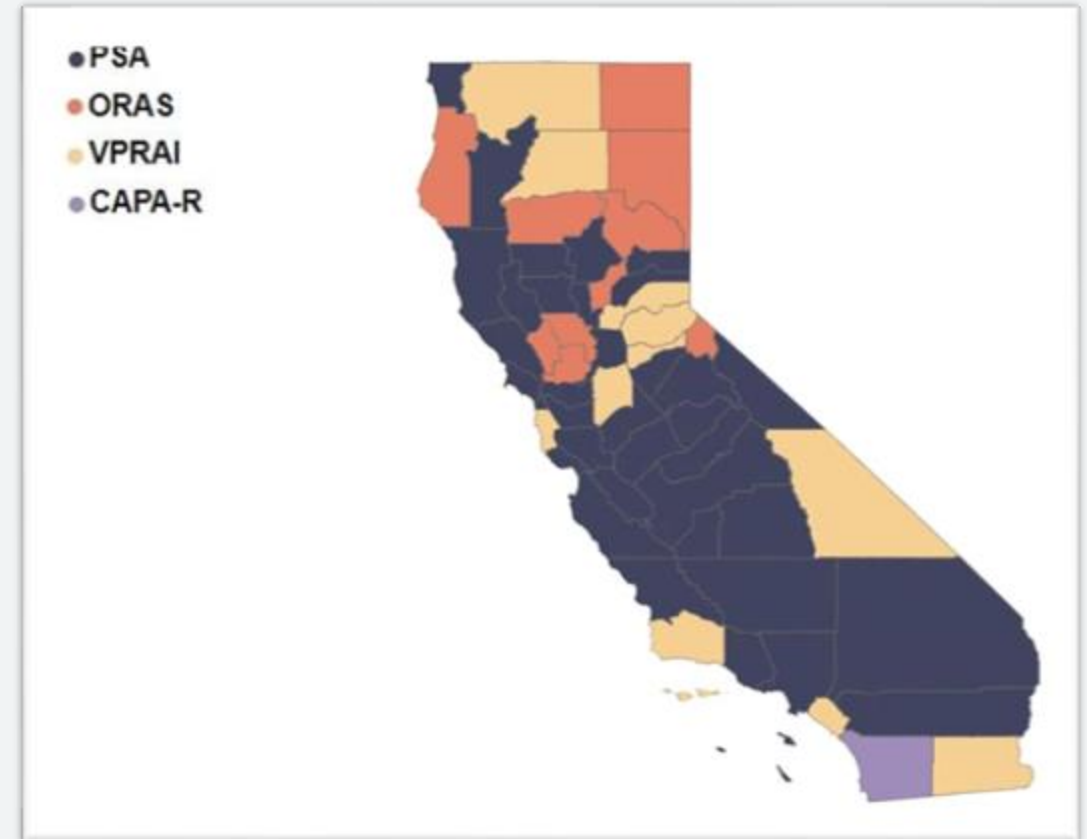
Overview of the PSA

PSA Map



PSA in California

- Used in *at least* 35 Counties
- In the process of being implemented in 2 counties
- Validated in the pretrial pilot sites



Source: Year 3 Report to the Legislature, 2025 (JCC)

Court	Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument	Court	Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument
Alameda	PSA	Orange	VPRAI
Alpine	ORAS	Placer	VPRAI
Amador	VPRAI	Plumas	ORAS
Butte	PSA	Riverside	PSA
Calaveras	PSA	Sacramento	PSA
Colusa	PSA	San Benito	PSA
Contra Costa	PSA	San Bernardino	PSA
Del Norte	PSA	San Diego	CAPA-R
El Dorado	VPRAI	San Francisco	PSA
Fresno	PSA	San Joaquin	VPRAI
Glenn	PSA	San Luis Obispo	PSA
Humboldt	ORAS	San Mateo	VPRAI
Imperial	VPRAI	Santa Barbara	VPRAI
Inyo	VPRAI	Santa Clara	PSA
Kern	PSA	Santa Cruz	PSA
Kings	PSA	Shasta	VPRAI
Lake	PSA	Sierra	PSA
Lassen	ORAS	Siskiyou	VPRAI
Los Angeles	PSA	Solano	ORAS
Madera	VPRAI	Sonoma	PSA
Marin	PSA	Stanislaus	PSA
Mariposa	PSA	Sutter	PSA
Mendocino	PSA	Tehama	ORAS
Merced	PSA	Trinity	PSA
Modoc	ORAS	Tulare	PSA
Mono	PSA	Tuolumne	PSA
Monterey	PSA	Ventura	PSA
Napa	ORAS	Yolo	ORAS
Nevada	PSA	Yuba	ORAS

Source: Year 3 Report to the Legislature, 2025 (JCC)

PSA Development and Characteristics

- **Built on a strong research base:** developed from data from 750,000 cases across the country
- **Research-driven:** tested hundreds of factors for their statistical relationship to pretrial outcomes
- **Focuses on key predictors:** used the most predictive factors from the research—current charge, criminal history, and age
- **Thoroughly validated:** validated on 500,000 new cases in different jurisdictions
- **Proven over time:** validated in dozens of jurisdictions over the past 10 years

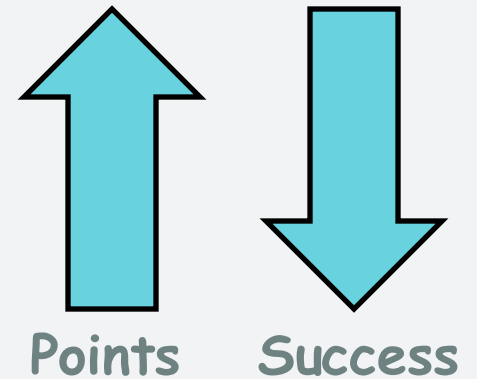
What Makes the PSA Unique?

- Predicts the likelihood of failure to appear and new criminal arrest separately.
- Predicts the likelihood of new violent criminal arrest.
- Assess factors that do not depend on interviews.
- Is applicable anywhere in the United States.
- Is available without cost.

PSA Scores

Factor Points & Score Construction

- Strongest predictive factors are given higher points.
- Factor points differ by outcome (FTA, NCA, NVCA).
- The scores reflect two scales and a potential flag:
 - Failure to Appear: Scale of 1 – 6
 - New Criminal Arrest: Scale of 1 – 6
 - New Violent Criminal Arrest: Yes or No “flag”



PSA Factors

PSA FACTORS AND PRETRIAL OUTCOMES				
	PSA FACTOR	FTA	NCA	NVCA
➡	1. Age at current arrest		✓	
➡	2. Current violent offense			✓
➡	2A. Current violent offense and 20 years old or younger			✓
➡	3. Pending charge at the time of the arrest	✓	✓	✓
➡	4. Prior misdemeanor conviction		✓	
➡	5. Prior felony conviction		✓	
➡	5A. Prior conviction (misdemeanor or felony)	✓		✓
➡	6. Prior violent conviction		✓	✓
➡	7. Prior failure to appear in the past 2 years	✓	✓	
➡	8. Prior failure to appear older than 2 years	✓		
➡	9. Prior sentence to incarceration		✓	

Failure to Appear (FTA)

FTA refers to a person missing a pretrial court hearing and the court, in response, issuing a warrant, capias, or other similar response.

The PSA converts the total number of FTA points to a final, scaled score ranging from 1 to 6.

Failure to Appear: Points

PSA FACTOR	RESPONSE	POINTS
Pending charge at the time of the arrest	No	0
	Yes	1
Prior conviction (misdemeanor or felony)	No	0
	Yes	1
Prior failure to appear in the past 2 years	No	0
	Yes, just 1	2
	Yes, 2 or more	4
Prior failure to appear older than 2 years	No	0
	Yes	1

Failure to Appear: Scaled Score

TOTAL FTA POINTS	SCALED FTA SCORE
0	1
1	2
2	3
3 or 4	4
5 or 6	5
7	6

New Criminal Arrest (NCA)

NCA refers to a person being arrested while on pretrial release. It includes both a custodial arrest and an arrest by citation or summons.

The PSA converts the total number of NCA points to a final, scaled score ranging from 1 to 6.

New Criminal Arrest Points		
PSA FACTOR	RESPONSE	POINTS
Age at current arrest	23 or older	0
	22 or younger	2
Pending charge at the time of the arrest	No	0
	Yes	3
Prior misdemeanor conviction	No	0
	Yes	1
Prior felony conviction	No	0
	Yes	1
Prior violent conviction	No	0
	Yes, 1 or 2	1
	Yes, 3 or more	2
Prior failure to appear in the past 2 years	0	0
	Yes, just 1	1
	Yes, 2 or more	2
Prior sentence to incarceration	No	0
	Yes	2

New Criminal Arrest: Scaled Score	
TOTAL NCA POINTS	SCALED NCA SCORE
0	1
1 or 2	2
3 or 4	3
5 or 6	4
7 or 8	5
9 to 13	6

New Violent Criminal Arrest (NVCA)

NVCA refers to a person being arrested for a violent offense while on pretrial release. It includes both a custodial arrest and an arrest by citation or summons.

New Violent Criminal Arrest: Points

PSA FACTOR	RESPONSE	POINTS
Current violent offense	No	0
	Yes	2
Current violent offense and 20 years old or younger	No	0
	Yes	1
Pending charge at the time of the arrest	No	0
	Yes	1
Prior conviction (misdemeanor or felony)	No	0
	Yes	1
Prior violent conviction	No	0
	Yes, 1 or 2	1
	Yes, 3 or more	2

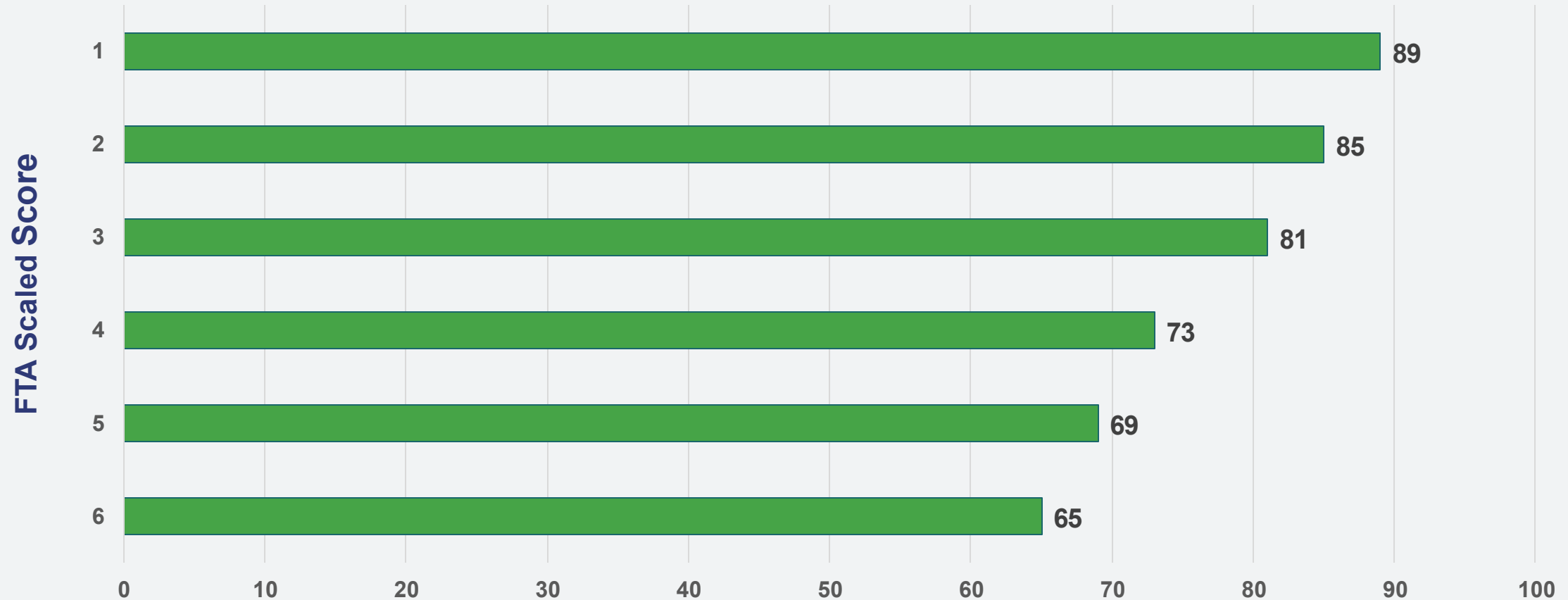
The PSA converts the total number of NVCA points to a scaled score and then to a “violence flag.”

New Violent Criminal Arrest Violence Flag

TOTAL NVCA POINTS	SCALED NVCA SCORE (VIOLENCE FLAG)
0 or 1	1 (NO)
2	2 (NO)
3	3 (NO)
4	4 (YES)
5	5 (YES)
6 or 7	6 (YES)

Appearance Rates

National Development and Validation

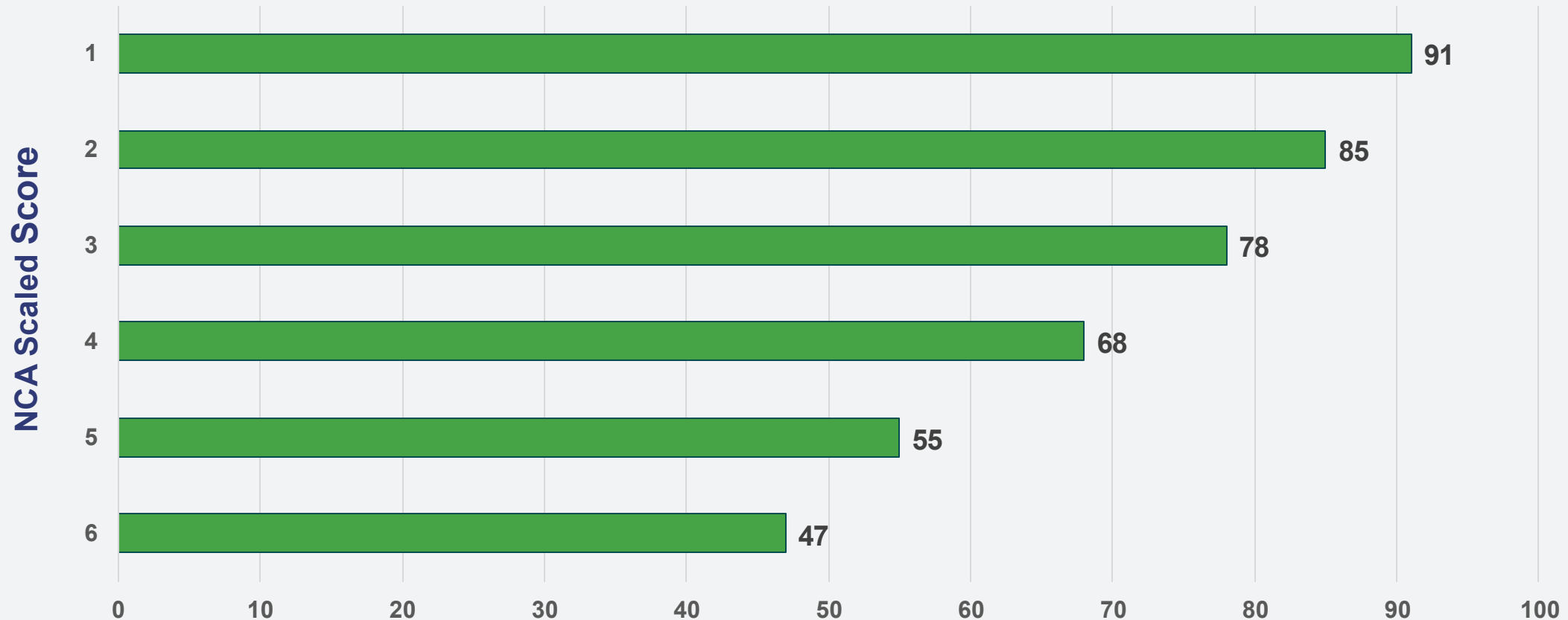


* Unweighted averages

% with No FTA

Arrest-Free Rates

National Development and Validation

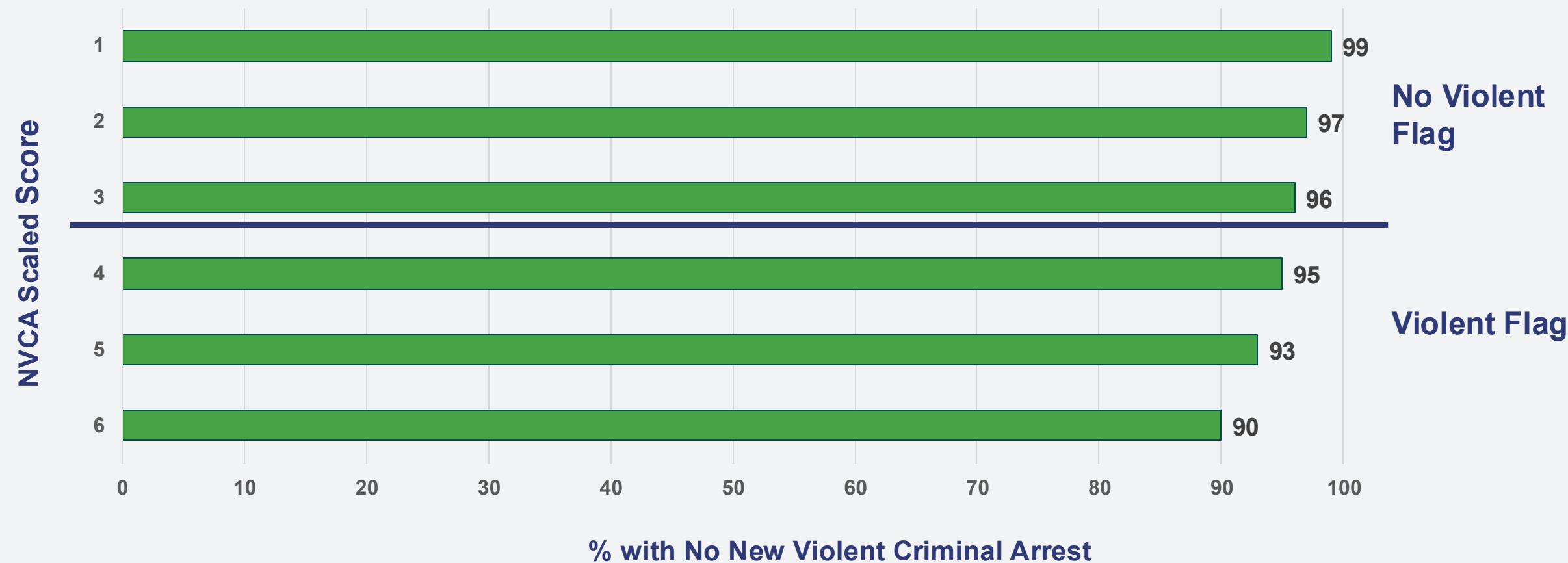


* Unweighted averages

% with No New Criminal Arrest

Violent Arrest-Free Rates

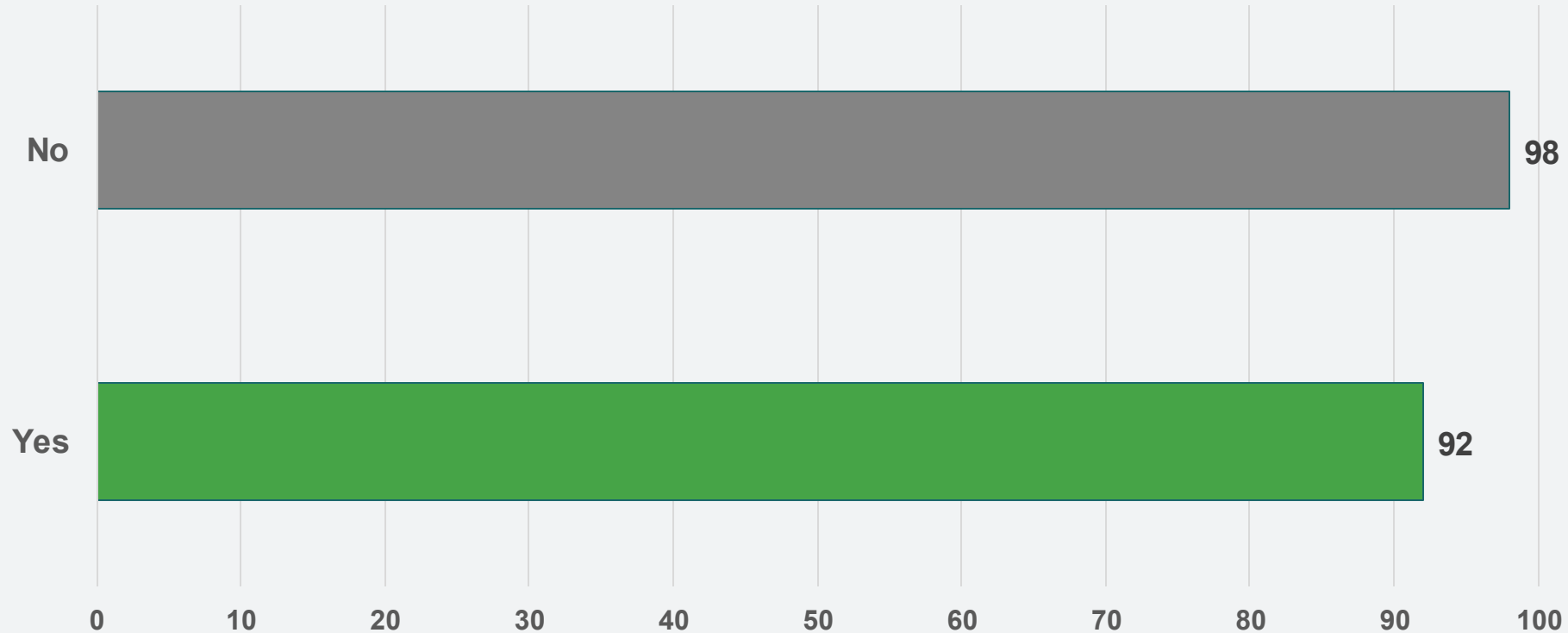
National Development and Validation



* Unweighted averages

Violent Arrest-Free Rates

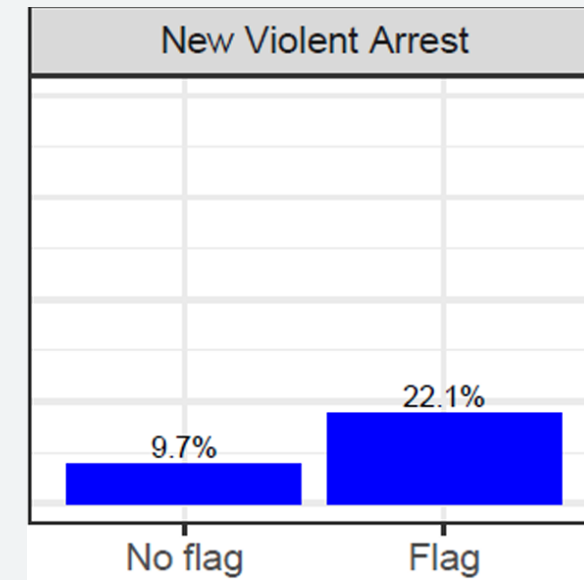
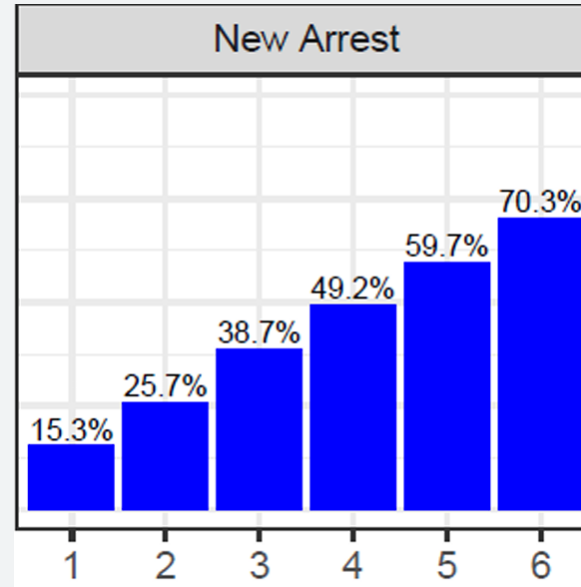
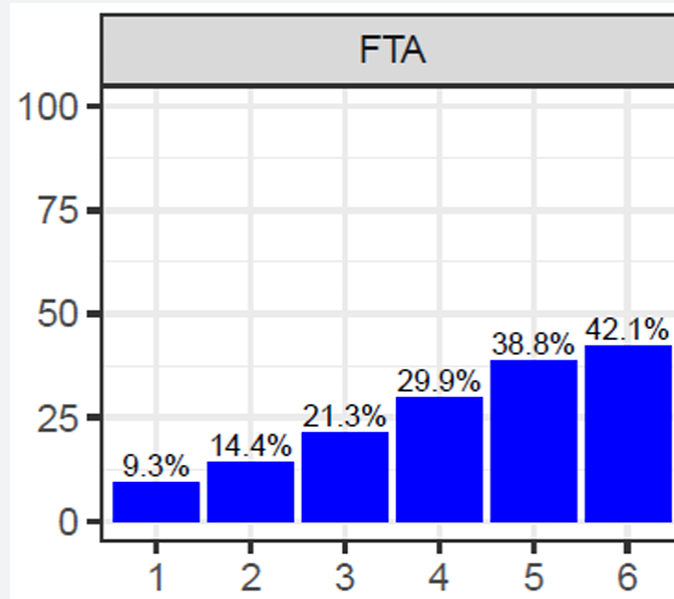
National Development and Validation



% with No New Violent Arrest

* Unweighted averages

California Pilot Program PSA Validation



Source: Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool Validation, 2022 (JCC)

Poll Question



Has your jurisdiction completed a local validation of the PSA?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not Sure

Release Conditions Matrix (RCM)

Release Conditions Matrix

- Matches pretrial release conditions to a person's scores on the PSA
- Developed locally with stakeholders
- Designed to help judicial officers use PSA results to make decisions that:
 - address people's PSA scores
 - align with state law and local policy
- Can help pretrial agencies assign appropriate monitoring levels that:
 - take into account available pretrial resources
 - are consistent with the risk principle and pretrial research

Release Conditions Matrix

The PSA
assess people

The Release
Conditions
Matrix **assists**
people

RCM: Calaveras

Failure to Appear (FTA) Scaled Score	1 91% Likely Arrest Free	2 85% Likely Arrest Free	3 78% Likely Arrest Free	4 68% Likely Arrest Free	5 55% Likely Arrest Free	6 47% Likely Arrest Free
1 89% Likely to Appear	Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 1		
2 85% Likely to Appear	Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 1		
3 81% Likely to Appear		Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 2	Release Level 3
4 73% Likely to Appear		Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 2	Release Level 3
5 69% Likely to Appear		Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 3
6 65% Likely to Appear				Release Level 3	Release Level 3	Release Level 3

	Release Level		
Release Activities and Conditions	1 Low	2 Moderate	3 High
Mandatory Statutory Conditions	X	X	X
Court Date Notification	X	X	X
Phone Check- In		X	X
Office Check-In Once a Month			X
Case-Specific Conditions		X	X

RCM: Mariposa

	New Criminal Activity (NCA) Scaled Score					
Failure to Appear (FTA) Scaled Score	1 91% Likely Arrest-Free	2 85% Likely Arrest-Free	3 78% Likely Arrest-Free	4 68% Likely Arrest-Free	5 55% Likely Arrest-Free	6 47% Likely Arrest-Free
1 89% Likely to Appear	Release Level 1	Release Level 1				
2 85% Likely to Appear	Release Level 1	Release Level 1	Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 3	
3 81% Likely to Appear		Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 3	Release Level 4
4 73% Likely to Appear		Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 2	Release Level 3	Release Level 4
5 69% Likely to Appear		Release Level 3	Release Level 3	Release Level 3	Release Level 3	Release Level 4
6 65% Likely to Appear				Release Level 4	Release Level 4	Release Level 4

Release Activities and Conditions	1	2	3	4
Mandatory Statutory Conditions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Court Date Reminders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Criminal History Checks		Yes	Yes	Yes
Check-Ins			Yes	Yes
EMP – SCRAM, Home Detention				If court ordered
Other Case-Specific Conditions		If court ordered	If court ordered	If court ordered

Mariposa County Pretrial Assessment Report

Assessment ID: Completed By:
Arrestee's Name: Date Completed
L Number: Booking Date:
Age at Assessment: 23 Booking Number:
Date of Birth: Agency Case Number:



Current Charges

Offense	Arrest Date	Violent
California Penal Code 182(a)(1) conspiracy to commit a crime (Felony)	10/23/2024	-
California Penal Code 4573 bringing controlled substance into jail facility (Felony)	10/23/2024	-

Presumptive Release Level

Level 1

Eligibility

Eligible for Pre-Arrestment Release: No

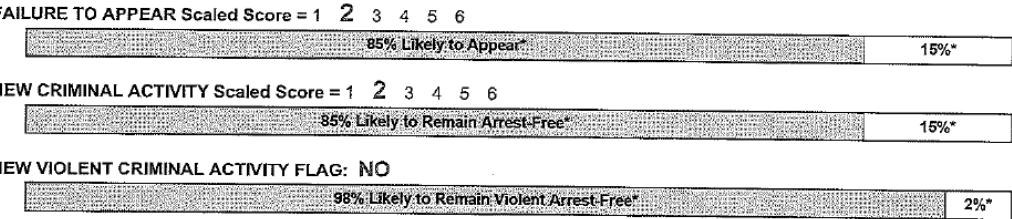
Notes:
Def picked up the new charges while in the Mount Bullion Conservation Camp

Local Warrant: Yes

Notes:
23-CRF-0018808B

Is the booking offense a violation of felony supervision? No

PSA Results



* Percentages reflect the likelihood or unlikelihood that a person in this group will experience a particular pretrial outcome. Percentages are estimates pending local PSA validation. Percentages are borrowed from the PSA development and validation sites.

Relevant Notes

Is there any additional information pertaining to the individual's release that the judicial officer should be aware of? No

PSA Factors

	Response
1. Age at current arrest	= 23 or older
2. Current violent offense	= No
2a. Current violent offense and 20 years old or younger	= No
3. Pending charge at the time of arrest	= No
4. Prior misdemeanor conviction	= No
5. Prior felony conviction	= Yes
5a. Prior conviction	= Yes
6. Prior violent conviction	= 1 or 2
7. Prior failure to appear pretrial in past 2 years	= None
8. Prior failure to appear pretrial older than 2 years	= No
9. Prior sentence to incarceration	= No

Additional Local Criminal History

Offense	Arrest Date	Violent	Disposition	Disposition Date
California Penal Code 211 first degree residential robbery (Felony)	9/28/2019	Yes	Qualified	5/31/2022



Fresno County Probation Department

Kirk Haynes, Chief Probation Officer
Fresno County Probation Pretrial Services



Public Safety Assessment - Court Report

The information contained in this report is not a recommendation for or against release

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Probation File#: _____
Case #: _____
DA #: _____
Court Date: 04/09/2025 Department: DEPT 30 Attorney: PUBLIC DEFENDER

New Violent Criminal Activity Flag: No

New Criminal Activity Scale

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

Failure to Appear Scale

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

Current Charge(s):

PC29800(a)(1) FELON/ETC POSS/ETC F/ARM F
PC25400(a)(3) CARRY CONCEALED WEAPON VEHICLE PASSENGER F
PC25850(a) CARRY LOAD F/ARM PUB PLACE F
PC30305(a)(1) PROHIBITED PERSON OWN/POSS FIREARM/AMMO F

Risk Factor

1. Age at Current Arrest 23 or older
2. Current Violent Offense(s) No
a. Current Violent Offense and 20 Year Old or Younger
3. Pending Charge(s) No
4. Prior Misdemeanor Conviction(s) Yes
01/30/2023 PC22810(a) - M M23XXXXXX Cond. Probation
5. Prior Felony Conviction(s) Yes
11/02/2017 PC29800(a)(1) - F F17XXXXXX State Prison
a. Prior Conviction(s) Yes
6. Prior Violent Conviction(s) 3 or more
11/11/1983 PC211 - F 28XXXXXX State Prison
01/16/2014 PC273.5(a) - M F13XXXXXX Jail
01/13/1982 PC245(a) - M 02XXXXXX Probation
7. Prior Failure to Appear in Past 2 Years 0
8. Prior Failure to Appear Older than 2 Years Yes
06/13/2014 F14XXXXXX
9. Prior Sentence to Incarceration Yes
11/02/2017 PC29800(a)(1) - F F17XXXXXX State Prison

Responses

Summary of Criminal History:

Misdemeanor Convictions: 1982-2023: PC22810(a), PC273.5(a), PC148(a)(1)x2, PC148.9(a)x2, VC23152(a), PC148(a), PC594(b)(3), PC245(a)

Felony Convictions: 1983-2017: PC29800(a)(1), PC30305(a)(1), HS11377(a), PC12021(a)(1), PC4532(B), PC12021, PC459/460(a), VC23153(b), PC4573.6, PC211

Additional Information:

Discussion Question



- Thinking about the PSA, RCM, and Pretrial Report, consider the following:
1. How can this information help guide judges' pretrial decisions?
 2. How can this information help pretrial staff provide effective pretrial monitoring?

Implementation Challenges

Frequency of Failure

Implementation experts note that up to **85%** of change initiatives fail to achieve their desired outcomes due to flawed implementation.



Implementation Challenges



OPERATIONAL



**ASSESSMENT
REPORTING**



ADMINISTRATIVE

Operational

- Integrating technology
- Reading criminal history and scoring the PSA
- Confirming pretrial failure to appears



Assessment Reporting

- Clarifying what the Court expects to ensure the report is meaningful and used
- Finalizing a standard report template
- Determining whether any additional (“other”) information should be included



The illustration shows a document titled "PRETRIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT" in white text on a dark purple header. Below the header, there is a checkbox with a checkmark inside, followed by several horizontal lines representing text input fields. The entire form is set against a light beige background with a subtle shadow.

Administrative

- Providing ongoing training for new judges, attorneys, and other key stakeholders
- Establishing consistent messaging so all stakeholders share the same understanding of the PSA
- Developing strategies to withstand funding cuts



Implementation Resources

Resources

California-Specific Violent Offense List

Public Safety Assessment Tool (PSA)
Violent Offense Flag
UPDATED FINAL VERSION
9/29/25

The schedule is for use when scoring the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) Risk Assessment Tool.

When the schedule refers to a section, it includes all subdivisions (e.g., PC 245 = 245(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), etc.). When the schedule refers to a specific subdivision within a section, only the subdivision is included (e.g., PC 368(b), (c) and (f) are on the schedule, but 368(d) and (e) are not).

For the purposes of completing the PSA, an offense is categorized as violent if a person causes or attempts to cause physical injury through use of force or violence against another person. To ensure fidelity to the PSA and consistency with its underlying research, this definition *must* be used. You may not use a different definition based on state law or local policy.

PC CODE	DESCRIPTION
69	Obstructing or resisting exec officer in performance of duty; threats, force, violence
136.1(c)(1)	Intimidating/threat witness/victim and act is accompanied by force
140(a)	Threatening witnesses, victims or informants.
146(e)	Offense against public workers/officials with intent to inflict bodily harm
148(b)	Removal or taking of weapon other than firearm from peace officer during commission of resisting offense
148(c)	Removal or taking of firearm from peace officer during commission of resisting offense
148(d)	Removal or taking of weapon firearm from peace officer engaged in performance of duty
148.10(a)	Resist PO: Cause death/SBI
149	Assault by a public officer
151	Advocacy to kill or injure peace officer
182	Conspiracy to commit a designated offense included in this schedule
186.26(c)	Use of coercion or violence to solicit or recruit another to actively participate in criminal street gang
187(a)	Murder first or second degree
191.5(a)	Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated
192(a)	Voluntary manslaughter
192(b)	Involuntary manslaughter
192(c)(1)	Vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence
192(c)(3)	Vehicular manslaughter
192.5(a)	Vehicular manslaughter in the operation of a vessel while intoxicated
192.5(b)	Vehicular manslaughter in the operation of a vessel while intoxicated
192.5(c)	Vehicular manslaughter in the operation of a vessel
203	Mayhem
205	Aggravated mayhem
206	Torture
207	Kidnapping
209	Kidnapping for ransom; commit rob/rape/etc
209.5	Kidnap during carjacking
210.5	False imprisonment of a hostage
211	Robbery: first or second degree
214	Train robbery
215	Carjacking
217.1	Assault on or attempted murder of a public official
218	Train wrecking; attempt
218.1	Obstructing railroad track
219	Train derailing or wrecking

Resources

PSA Implementation Guides

● Assessment

10. Guide to the PSA Violent Offense List

- Resources:
- 10A Violent Offense List Presentation
 - 10B Violent Offense Checklist

11. Guide to the PSA Factors and Outcomes

- Resources:
- 11A PSA Scoring Manual

12. Guide to the Pretrial Assessment Report

- Resources:
- 12A Template Pretrial Assessment Report

PSA Scoring Manual

APPR ADVANCING PRETRIAL
POLICY & RESEARCH

Public Safety Assessment

Scoring Manual

March 2022

Introduction	2
Suitability for Assessment	3
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Resources

PSA Scoring App

PSA Scoring App

The Public Safety Assessment (PSA) is an actuarial pretrial assessment that predicts failure to appear in court pretrial (FTA), new criminal arrest while on pretrial release (NCA), and new violent criminal arrest while on pretrial release (NVCA). The PSA generates scaled scores of 1 to 6 for FTA and NCA, and may generate a flag to indicate whether a person presents an elevated likelihood of NVCA. When used responsibly and with fidelity, the PSA promotes transparency and consistency, and supports improved pretrial outcomes.

The PSA Scoring App automates the PSA and integrates a jurisdiction's Release Conditions Matrix, which is used to associate release conditions with PSA scores. The PSA Scoring App also prepares a pretrial assessment report that includes a person's PSA results as well as the presumptive pretrial release level recommendation based on a jurisdiction's matrix.

New PSA

Create a new PSA.

Start >

Continue PSA

Continue a PSA that is in progress.

Continue >

Search PSA

Search for a completed PSA.

Search >

Training

TRAINING

Scoring the PSA Correctly: Factors and Definitions

Event / October 29, 2025

Scoring the PSA Correctly: Factors and Definitions

This training will provide an introduction to the PSA and then focus on the nine factors used to score the assessment, along with each scoring definition.

Any Questions?



Contact Us



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