

Evidence Based Practices Glossary

Revised: 5/9/2011

Anti-social attitudes

A major criminogenic need characterized by attitudes, values, beliefs, and rationalizations supportive of crime, and cognitive emotional states of resentment and defiance.

Anti-social behavior

Continuing involvement in anti-social acts that may be rewarding to the actor but inflict pain or loss on others.

Anti-social friends and peers

A major criminogenic need characterized by close association with criminal others and relative isolation from anti-criminal others.

Anti-social personality

A major criminogenic need, characterized by adventurousness, pleasure seeking behavior, weak self control, restlessly aggressive behavior, callousness, and disagreeableness.

Appropriate responses to positive and negative behavior

Appropriate responses are: 1) proportional to the behavior (a minor infraction is met with a minor sanction), 2) proportional to the risk level of the probationer (a minor infraction from a high-risk probationer should be responded to with more controls than the same infraction from a low-risk probationer).

Banked, administrative, or low-supervision caseloads

A caseload with more than 300 people, and/or a caseload where the probationer is not required to meet with his or her probation officer. Probationers may be required to check in through an electronic or phone system.

Batterer Intervention Program (BIP)

A program aimed at reducing domestic violence and holding batterers accountable

without resorting to incarceration. There are several models of BIP, with the most common being the Duluth model which focuses on power and control issues. Other models use psychosocial curriculum and/or cognitive-behavioral therapy. (Source: [National Institute of Justice](#))

Booster training

Shorter training sessions that follow up on a major training.

Boot camp program

A program for offenders that resembles military basic training. Boot camp programs emphasize physical activity and discipline. Correctional officers take the role of drill instructors. (Source: [National Institute of Justice](#))

Case file reviews

A systematic review of a sample of offender case files to assess the thoroughness of both the implementation of department policies (case planning, use of EBP) and its documentation. (Source: [Crime and Justice Institute](#))

Change process

The ultimate goal of EBP is to change offender behavior to prevent re-offense. This change usually does not happen easily or overnight. The change process refers to a series of actions and responses that eventually move offenders toward pro-social behavior. See: stages of change. (Source: [National Institute of Corrections](#))

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)

Cognitive behavioral therapy combines a focus on a person's thought-patterns and their behavior, strengthening the thoughts that lead to positive behavior and then reinforcing that behavior with positive consequences. In criminal justice, CBT targets anti-social thoughts, attitudes, and behavior patterns that lead people into criminal behavior. CBT uses skills-training, role playing, and other hands-on activities to reinforce lessons. (Source: [National Institute of Corrections](#))

Collaborative court

Specialized courts that address underlying issues among offenders through collaboration and treatment. Often used as an alternative to jail or straightforward

probation. Can include drug courts and mental health courts.

Community Corrections Partnership

A local body to be formed pursuant to Senate Bill 678 for the purpose of advising the chief probation officer on the development and implement of community corrections evidence-based programs. By law, the Community Corrections Partnership is to be chaired by the chief probation officer and comprised of:

- (A) The presiding judge of the superior court, or his or her designee
- (B) A county supervisor or the chief administrative officer for the county.
- (C) The district attorney
- (D) The public defender.
- (E) The sheriff.
- (F) A chief of police.
- (G) The head of the county department of social services.
- (H) The head of the county department of mental health.
- (I) The head of the county department of employment.
- (J) The head of the county alcohol and substance abuse
- (K) The head of the county office of education.
- (L) A representative from a community-based organization with experience in successfully providing rehabilitative services to persons who have been convicted of a criminal offense.
- (M) An individual who represents the interests of victims. (Source: [Senate Bill 678, chaptered](#))

Controls

Strategies and tools used to control offender behavior, such as electronic monitoring, home detention, day reporting, and incarceration.

Criminal associates

A major criminogenic need. See: anti-social friends and peers.

Criminal thinking

A major criminogenic need. See: anti-social attitudes.

Criminogenic needs

Dynamic risk factors, or predictors of re-offense that can be changed. In other words, these are needs that make an individual more likely to commit a new crime. The most

predictive factors are anti-social thinking, anti-social associates, dysfunctional families, and anti-social personality pattern.

Data-driven decision making

A continuous process through which collection and review of data informs policies and practices.

Day Reporting Center

A place where select offenders must report while on probation or parole and where the offender receives an increased intensity of services. Day reporting centers may include educational services, vocational training, treatment, and other service deliveries. Please mark the specific services available from the Day Reporting Center on the survey as well as the Center itself.

Drug court

A specialized court docket that supervises offenders with substance abuse problems through collaborative, wraparound services and intensive judicial supervision. Often an alternative from jail or straightforward probation.

Dynamic risk factors

Predictors of re-offense that can be changed. See: criminogenic needs.

Dysfunctional family

A major criminogenic need characterized by weak nurturance/caring and poor monitoring/supervision.

GED/literacy program

A program aimed at improving reading skills and general level of education, including preparing people to take a General Education Development (GED) test.

High risk probationer

A probationer with a high risk of committing a new crime as assessed using a validated risk assessment tool.

Intensive supervision

Probation supervision with very small caseloads and the use of high levels of management and control.

Inter-rater reliability

The degree to which different people filling out an assessment tool come to the same answer for the same question. (Source: [Crime and Justice Institute](#))

Intrinsic motivational skills

Practices that promote the intrinsic (or internal) motivation of others, such as motivational interviewing. (Source: [National Institute of Corrections](#))

Low risk probationer

A probationer with a low risk of committing a new crime as assessed using a validated risk assessment tool.

Leisure and recreation

A minor criminogenic need characterized by low levels of involvement and satisfactions in anti-criminal leisure pursuits.

Medium risk probationer

A probationer with a medium risk of committing a new crime as assessed using a validated risk assessment tool.

Mental health court

A specialized court docket that deals with mentally ill offenders through collaborative, wraparound services and intensive judicial supervision. Often an alternative from jail or straightforward probation.

Motivational interviewing

An approach to talking with offenders in a way that builds up their internal motivation to change. (Source: [National Institute of Corrections](#))

Needs assessment tool

An actuarial tool that uses information about the offender to identify the dynamic risks/ criminogenic needs that drive the offender's risk of re-offense.

Needs principle

The targets for interventions should be those offender characteristics that have the most effect on the likelihood of re-offending. The most significant criminogenic needs are anti-social thinking, anti-social associates, dysfunctional families, and anti-social personality pattern.

Outcome measures

Quantifiable measures of outcomes of interest, for example the percentage of individuals rearrested within three years when the outcome of interest is rate of re-offense.

Pre-sentence investigation report

Report created and presented to the court regarding the background of the offender and including recommendations on sentencing and conditions of probation. Can include risk and needs information to help the judge determine appropriate conditions of probation.

Probation conditions

Conditions set by the court that must be met by the probationer to reduce risk of re-offense, and avoid further sanction or revocation.

Responsivity principle

Characteristics of the individual offender must be matched to: 1) the intervention, treatment, program, or supervision and 2) the personnel delivering the service to the offender.

Risk

The likelihood that an offender will commit another crime.

Risk assessment tool

An actuarial tool that uses information about the offender to predict the risk of re-offense.

Risk principle

The level of supervision or services should be matched to the risk level of the offender: i.e., higher risk offenders should receive more intensive supervision and services.

Sex offender treatment program

A treatment program aimed at reducing deviant sexual behavior.

Stages of change

A model for how people change their behavior in six stages: pre-contemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, maintenance, and relapse. See: change process.
(Source: [National Institute of Corrections](#))

Static risk factors

Predictors of whether someone re-offends that do not change, for example: age at first arrest, gender, prior criminal history, and seriousness of last crime.

Substance abuse

A criminogenic need characterized by abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs.

Substance abuse treatment program, outpatient or residential

A program addressing the substance abuse problems of probationers which may consist of individual and/or group activities. During an outpatient program, the probationer continues to live in the community while attending treatment. During a residential program, the probationer lives in a treatment facility.

Subsidized slots in programs

Free or reduced-price slots in programs that normally require probationers to pay for participation. These slots can be subsidized by anyone, not only the probation department.

Thinking errors

A distortion in how an individual appraises or interprets events and experiences. For example, a depressed person who experiences rejection may think "I'm no good," but

this is due to a thinking error rather than the event itself. Thinking errors may be one cause of anti-social thought patterns and thus anti-social behavior. (Source: [National Institute of Corrections](#))

Treatment

A program or course of action that addresses an individual's needs in such a way as to help, or try to help, that person change. Can address criminogenic or non-criminogenic needs.

Treatment principle

The most effective services in reducing recidivism among higher risk offenders are cognitive behavioral interventions based on social learning principles.

Unmet treatment needs

A probationer has unmet treatment needs if that person has a high level of a criminogenic need that could be addressed through a program or some other kind of treatment and is not being addressed.

Validation

Actuarial risk-assessment tools are based on a particular offender population. To use them in another jurisdiction, they should be validated on the local offender population. Validation involves tracking offenders to see if low- medium- and high-risk offenders as defined by the tool re-offend at differentiated rates. Validation can also focus on use with sub-populations of offenders.

Very high risk probationer

A probationer with a very high risk of committing a new crime as assessed using a validated risk assessment tool. These probationers may not be amenable to standard treatments and may need intensive controls.

Vocational training/job readiness

A program aimed at increasing people's job skills in general or for a specific occupation.

Work program for offenders

A program that places and supports offenders in jobs or requires offenders to do temporary work during the day in lieu of other penalties such as jail.

Prepared by the Community Corrections Program, The California Administrative Office of the Courts