

Criminal Court Assessment Tool

The C-CAT consists of ten (A1-A10) administrative items collected for data tracking purposes and 25 items that make up the core risk and needs assessment. Section one includes seven core items (R1-R7) that are based on a review of official criminal justice records. These items contribute to an overall risk score but do not concern the underlying needs of the defendant. Section two includes 13 items (R8-R20), which contribute both to the overall risk score and/or to an understanding of important needs. In Section three, the final five items (N1-N5) are exclusively used to understand clinical needs that may warrant further assessment or referral. They do not contribute to the risk score. Care should be taken not to count these items of the tool in the risk score.

Administrative/Case Information [Record the following information for the purpose of data tracking. This section is not a part of the formal risk and need screening tool.]

- A1.** First Name _____
- A2.** Last Name _____
- A3.** Date of Birth _____
MONTH DAY YEAR
- A4.** Interviewer Initials _____
- A5.** State Identifier _____
- A6.** Case Number _____
- A7.** Arrest Date _____
MONTH DAY YEAR
- A8.** Arrest Charge _____
- A9.** Charge Severity [] Felony [] Misdemeanor [] Violation/Other
- A10.** Program Name _____

Section I. Criminal Record Review

[Section I is where the scored risk assessment begins. Answers for Section I can be found on the official rap sheet or case record. For each question, select the appropriate answer and then write the corresponding number—the number in parentheses next to the answer—in the far right column. This can be done before or after the defendant interview portion of the assessment. If the requested information cannot be obtained with the rap sheet, select “u” for unknown. Add the numbers in the far right column and enter as the Section 1 Subtotal in the last row].

		CIRCLE ONE		POINTS
R1.	Top arrest charge.	Felony Drug Offense	(3)	
		Misdemeanor Property Offense	(2)	
		Weapons Offense	(1)	
		Other	(o)	
		Unknown	(u)	
R2.	<u>Prior Felony Conviction.</u>	No	(o)	
		Yes	(1)	
		Unknown	(u)	
R3.	Number of prior misdemeanor or violation convictions in the <u>past three years.</u>	Zero	(o) <i>Skip R4</i>	
		One	(1) <i>Skip R4</i>	
		Two	(2) <i>Skip R4</i>	
		Three+	(3) <i>Go to R4</i>	
		Unknown	(u) <i>Go to R4</i>	
R4.	<u>Ten or more</u> misdemeanor or violation convictions in <u>past three years.</u>	No (o)	Unknown (u)	
		Yes (3)	N/A (<i>Only if no</i>) (o)	
R5.	Any prior sentence to jail or prison.	No	(o)	
		Yes	(2)	
		Unknown	(u)	
R6.	Any prior warrant(s) for failure to appear in court.	No	(o)	
		Yes	(2)	
		Unknown	(u)	
R7.	Any open cases (not including the current case).	No	(o)	
		Yes	(2)	
		Unknown	(u)	
SECTION I SUBTOTAL				

Section II. Defendant Interview

[Section II is also part of the scored risk assessment. For each question, select the appropriate answer and then write the corresponding number or letter—the number or letter in parentheses next to the answer—in the far right column. If the interviewee declines to answer a particular item, select “r” for refusal. Add the numbers in the far right column and enter as the Section II Subtotal in the last row.]

Introduction: I’m going to ask you a number of questions—questions we ask everyone coming to this court [program]. The first set of questions will focus on demographics, your education and employment situation, and your current living situation.

		CIRCLE ONE		POINTS
R8.	What is your gender?	Male (1)		
		Female (o)		
		Trans-woman (o)		
		Trans-man (o)		
		Nonbinary (o)		
		Other (o)		
		Refuse to answer (r)		
R9.	What race or ethnicity do you identify with?	Black/African American (o)		Please circle the correct answer, but do not score.
		White/Caucasian (o)		
		Hispanic/Latino/Spanish (o)		
		Asian/Pacific Islander (o)		
		Native American (o)		
		Multiracial (o)		
		Refuse to answer (o)		
		Other (o)		
		Other/Multiracial (specify): _____ (o)		
R10.	How old are you today?	Up to 19 years old (7)		
		20-24 years old (6)		
		25-29 years old (4)		
		30-39 years old (3)		
		40-49 years old (2)		
		50-59 years old (1)		
		60+ years old (o)		
		Refuse to answer (r)		

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		CIRCLE ONE	POINTS
R11.	What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Choose One)	College or more (o) High-school or GED (o) Some high school (1) Grade school (1) Refusal to answer (r)	
R12.	Were you working (on or off the books) or enrolled in school or a vocational program at the time of arrest?	Yes, working (o) Yes, enrolled in school (o) Yes, full time caregiver (o) No (1) Refuse to answer (r)	
R13.	Are you interested in any educational or vocational training assistance?	No (o) Yes (a) Unsure (a)	
R14.	How would you describe your current living situation (the place you were living at the time of your arrest)? (Choose one)	Unhoused (on the streets, in a car, in a drop-in shelter) (2) Living in a long-term shelter (transitional housing) (2) Living in a halfway house (o) Living in an apartment, house, or room (own/rent) (o) Living in a group home (o) Other: (o) _____ Refuse to answer (r)	
R15.	Are you interested in any housing assistance?	No (o) Yes (a) Unknown (a)	

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Introduction: People cope with stress in many different ways and often say that using drugs or alcohol can be a way of dealing with life. So now I have a few questions about your drug and alcohol use.

		CIRCLE ONE	POINTS
R16.	Have you ever used drugs other than alcohol (marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or prescription pills without a prescription)?	Yes (o) No (o) Refuse to answer (r)	Please circle the correct answer, but do not score.
R17.	Do you drink alcohol?	Yes (o) No (o) Refusal to answer (r)	Please circle the correct answer, but do not score.
R18.	About how often do you <u>currently</u> use drugs?	Multiple times a day (i) About every day (i) (five or more times a week) One or a few times per week (o) One or a few times per month (o) Only a few times each year (o) Never (o) Refuse to answer (r)	
R19.	About how often do you have <u>four or more</u> drinks of an alcoholic beverage in a single day?	Never (o) About every day (a) One or a few times per week (a) One or a few times per month (o) Only a few times each year (o) Refuse to answer (r)	
R20.	Are you interested in drug or alcohol treatment?	No (o) Yes (a) Unsure (a)	
SECTION II SUBTOTAL			

Section III. Defendant Interview (Continued)

[Section III is not a part of the formal risk assessment. In other words, the following questions DO NOT contribute to the risk score, but the answers should be used to inform the selection of appropriate supervision, treatment, or diversion tracks. As in the previous sections, please select the appropriate answer and then write the corresponding number or letter—the number or letter in parentheses next to the answer—in the far right column. If the interviewee declines to answer a particular item, select “r” for refusal.]

Introduction: Now I have a few questions about your mental and emotional health. Some of these questions may be personal in nature and may bring up different feelings. If that happens, let me know and we can take a break.

		CIRCLE ONE	POINTS
N1.	Do you think your mental health has had an impact on your case or why you are here today?	Not at all (o) A little bit (o) Somewhat (1) Quite a bit (1) Extremely (2) Refuse to answer (r)	
N2.	Has your mental health interfered with other things in your life, like work, school, or relationships with friends or family?	Not at all (o) A little bit (o) Somewhat (1) Quite a bit (1) Extremely (2) Refuse to answer (r)	
N3.	Have you ever been given a mental health diagnosis?	No (o) Yes (1) If yes, specify: _____ Unsure (u) Refuse to answer (r)	

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N4.	Have you ever had an extremely stressful or frightening experience?	No (o) Yes (o) Refusal to answer (r)	Please circle the correct answer, but do not score.
N4 (a).	In the past month, how often have you had repeated disturbing memories, thoughts, or images of a stressful or frightening experience? (Choose one)	Not at all (o) A little bit (o) Somewhat (o) Quite a bit (a) Extremely (a) Refuse to answer (r)	
N5.	Have you been to a therapist, psychiatrist or a clinic for mental health services?	No (o) Yes (o) Unsure (o)	Please circle the correct answer, but do not score.
N5 (a).	Are you interested in mental health services?	No (o) Yes (a) Unsure (a)	

1. Calculating the Risk Score.

First, add the Section I subtotal and the Section II subtotal. This is the raw risk score. Next, count the of “u” responses indicated in the far right column for Section I and the number of “r” responses indicated in the far right column for Section II. If there are 3 OR more “u” responses or 4 or more “r” responses, a valid risk score cannot be calculated. DO NOT count any of the answers to Section III (N1-N5) in the risk score.

Raw Score: _____

Number of “u” responses in Section I: _____

Number of “r” responses in Section II: _____

Risk Classification. Circle the appropriate risk classification based on the raw risk score.

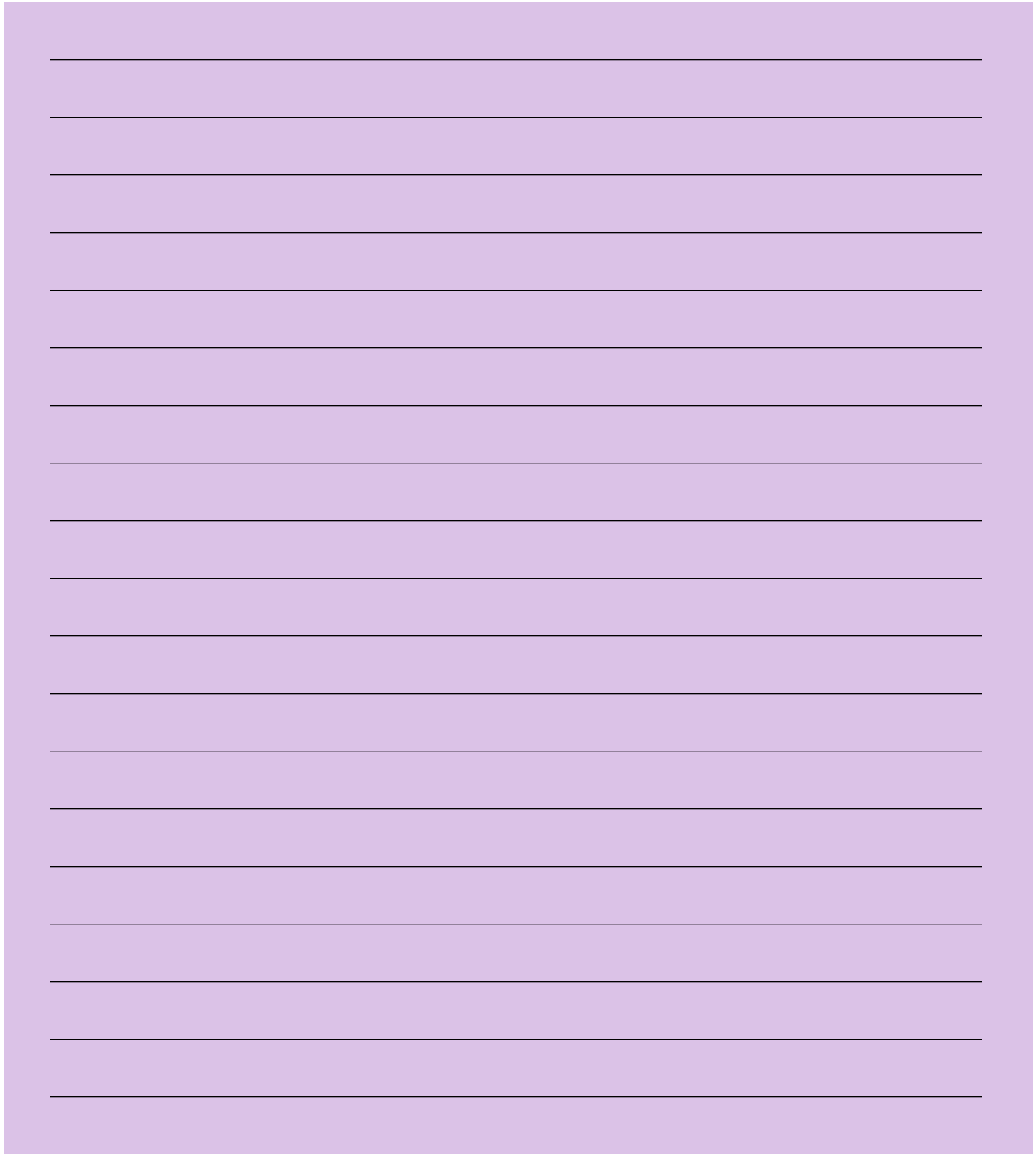
- Low Risk (0-6)
- Moderate Risk (7-10)
- Moderate-High Risk (11-15)
- High Risk (16-highest)

2. Need Flags.

Compute need flags as indicated below. Need flags indicate a possible need for further assessment, treatment, or social services. Positive need flags do not conclusively demonstrate the presence of the given problem or diagnosis.

- Education Yes (Circle if R11=1 or R13=a)
- Employment Yes (Circle if R12=1 or R13=a)
- Housing Yes (Circle if R14=2 or R15=a)
- Substance Use Yes (Circle if R18=1 or R19=a or R20=a)
- Mental Health Yes (Circle if N1+N2+N3=2 or more or N5a= a)
- Trauma Yes (Circle if N4a=a)

Interviewer Notes

A large purple rectangular area containing horizontal lines for writing notes. The area is filled with a solid light purple color and contains 20 horizontal black lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a template for an interviewer to take notes during an interview.

If you have questions, please email CJTTAinfo@innovatingjustice.org.