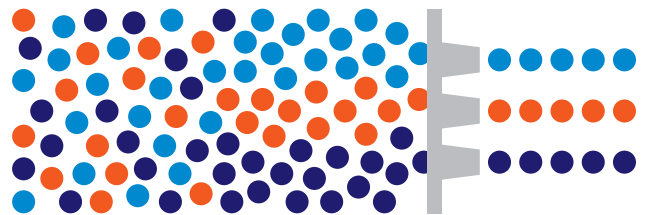


# Getting It RIGHT

## THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTING RISK ASSESSMENT SUCCESSFULLY

Ensuring the correct implementation of risk and needs assessment tools, while often overlooked, is one of the most pressing issues facing state corrections agencies today.

**RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS**, implemented properly and confirmed in their accuracy, allow corrections officials to understand the likelihood of a person under their supervision to commit a new crime. That assessment informs the programming and interventions a person receives to ultimately reduce recidivism and increase public safety in a cost-effective way.



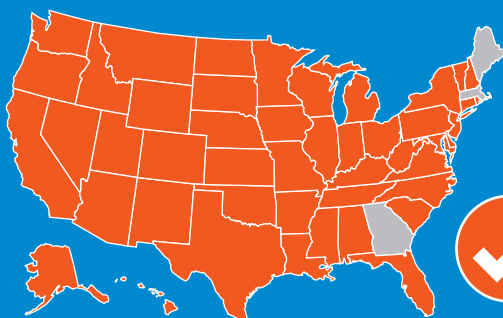
### WHEN RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED WELL

- The chances of people reoffending can increase. Research shows placing people with a low risk of reoffending in programming for high-risk people can increase their risk of recidivating.
- Racial and gender bias can occur. Poor implementation can lead the tool to over-predict for some groups and under-predict for others.

### TO DO RISK ASSESSMENT RIGHT

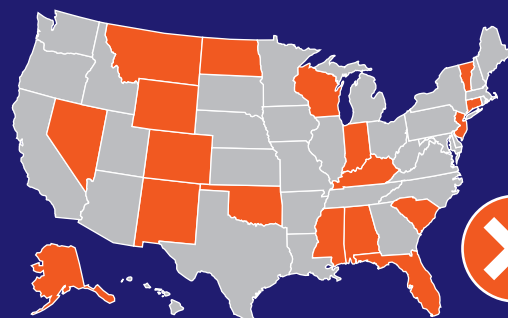
- Corrections agencies should initiate an independent review to determine how the assessments are facilitated, scored and utilized.
- Agencies should regularly train their staff to conduct and score risk and needs assessments consistently and in accordance with current best practices.
- An independent contractor should conduct a validation study that examines the results of the risk assessments every 3–5 years, and the agency should implement necessary improvements.

### THE GOOD NEWS



Nearly every state in the U.S. uses a risk and needs assessment tool for people on supervision after prison.

### THE BAD NEWS



Since 2012, almost half of U.S. states have failed to validate or revalidate their tool for people on supervision after prison.