

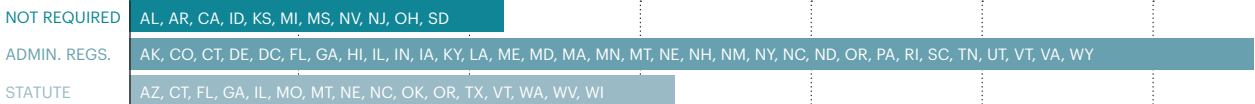
# EVALUATING WHETHER RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS ARE PRODUCING EXPECTED RESULTS



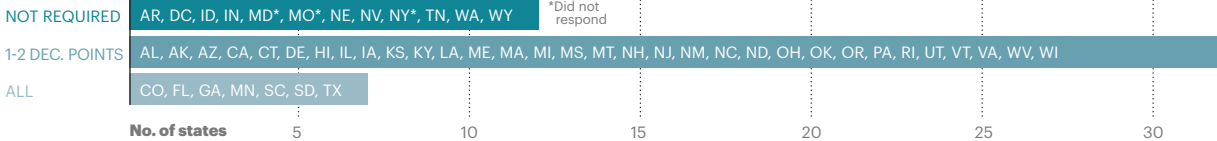
## SUCCESSSES

States have adopted validated screening and assessment tools to identify youth's risk of reoffending and service needs

### States that Require the Use of Risk Assessments



### States that Require the Use of Mental Health Screening



Source: jggs.org



## CHALLENGES

States struggle to ensure that assessment results are actually used to inform key decisions



# USING THE RESULTS OF RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS TO MAKE EFFICIENT SUPERVISION AND SERVICE DECISIONS



## QUESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

How to use the results of validated risk and needs assessments to guide system decisions and improve outcomes for youth

### KEY QUESTIONS POLICYMAKERS AND AGENCY LEADERS SHOULD ASK

- » Are risk screening and assessment tools used to divert youth who are at a low risk of reoffending from formal system supervision and to ensure that incarceration is used sparingly?
- » Are limited resources for services prioritized for youth who are at a moderate or high risk of reoffending?
- » What is the average length of stay for incarcerated youth and time spent on supervision for youth in the community, and are these decisions based on objective risk and need criterion?

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING YOUTH OUTCOMES

- » Establish statutory requirements on the use of risk screening and assessment results to guide diversion, disposition, and length of stay decisions.
- » Require that funding for services is used for primarily moderate- and high-risk youth.
- » Track the use and costs of community supervision, incarceration, and services by youth's risk level, and require that an annual report on this data is submitted to the legislature.

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