

# The Design and Validation of the Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment (NPRA)

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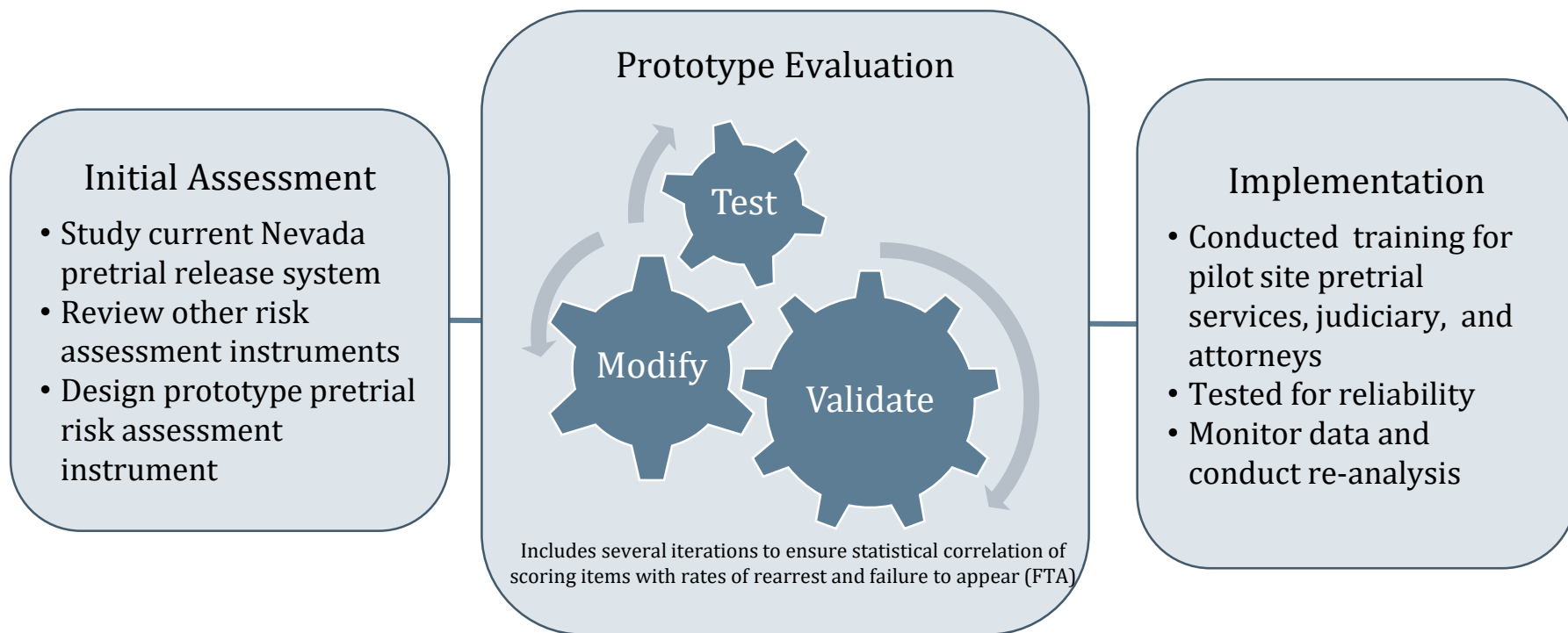
JFA Institute

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# Overview

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- Under the leadership of Justice James W. Hardesty of the Nevada Supreme Court, the Committee to Study Evidence-based Pretrial Release was convened in 2015



**Results :** *A customized pretrial risk instrument that incorporates all the positive attributes of nationally-recognized risk assessments, but has the advantage of being tested and normalized using local data on defendants being release in the State of Nevada*

## Prototype Development and the Sampling Process

### Create a sample of defendants released from custody in the four pilot sites to:

1. Capture descriptions of the types of defendants currently being released in pretrial status in terms of their demographics, offense(s), and criminal histories;
2. Collect data on the methods of release and time in custody prior to release;
3. Assess rearrest and FTA rates;
4. Test the prototype instrument's validity; and,
5. Identify methods for improving the NPRA predictive qualities.

**Original and Final Sample Sizes**

Pilot Site	2014 Pretrial Releases	Original Sample	Final Sample
Clark County			
Detention Center	7,172	416	406
Municipal Jail	5,419	259	179
Washoe	5,982	421	410
White Pine	63	63	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,636</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>1,057</b>

*The two key dependent variables in each sampled case were: (1) whether the released defendant was **rearrested** for a new crime, and (2) whether there was a bench warrant issued for a **FTA** for any scheduled court hearing.*

# Key Risk Factors

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1. Age at first arrest
2. Prior FTAs Past 24 Months
3. Prior Violent Crime Conviction
4. Prior Felony/Gross Misdemeanor Convictions
5. Prior Misdemeanor Convictions
6. Pending Pretrial Cases at Arrest
7. Repeat Prior Arrests for Drug Crimes
8. Stability Factors (employment, residency)

# Two Versions Are Available

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## **NPR\_Assessment\_Revised\_V2**

- Notable Differences

- Uses prior convictions, not prior arrests
- 10 scoring items
- Risk levels – Low (0-4 pts.); Mod (5-8pts.); Higher (9+pts)
- Interview required

- **NRR\_Assessment\_Revised\_V3**

- Notable Differences

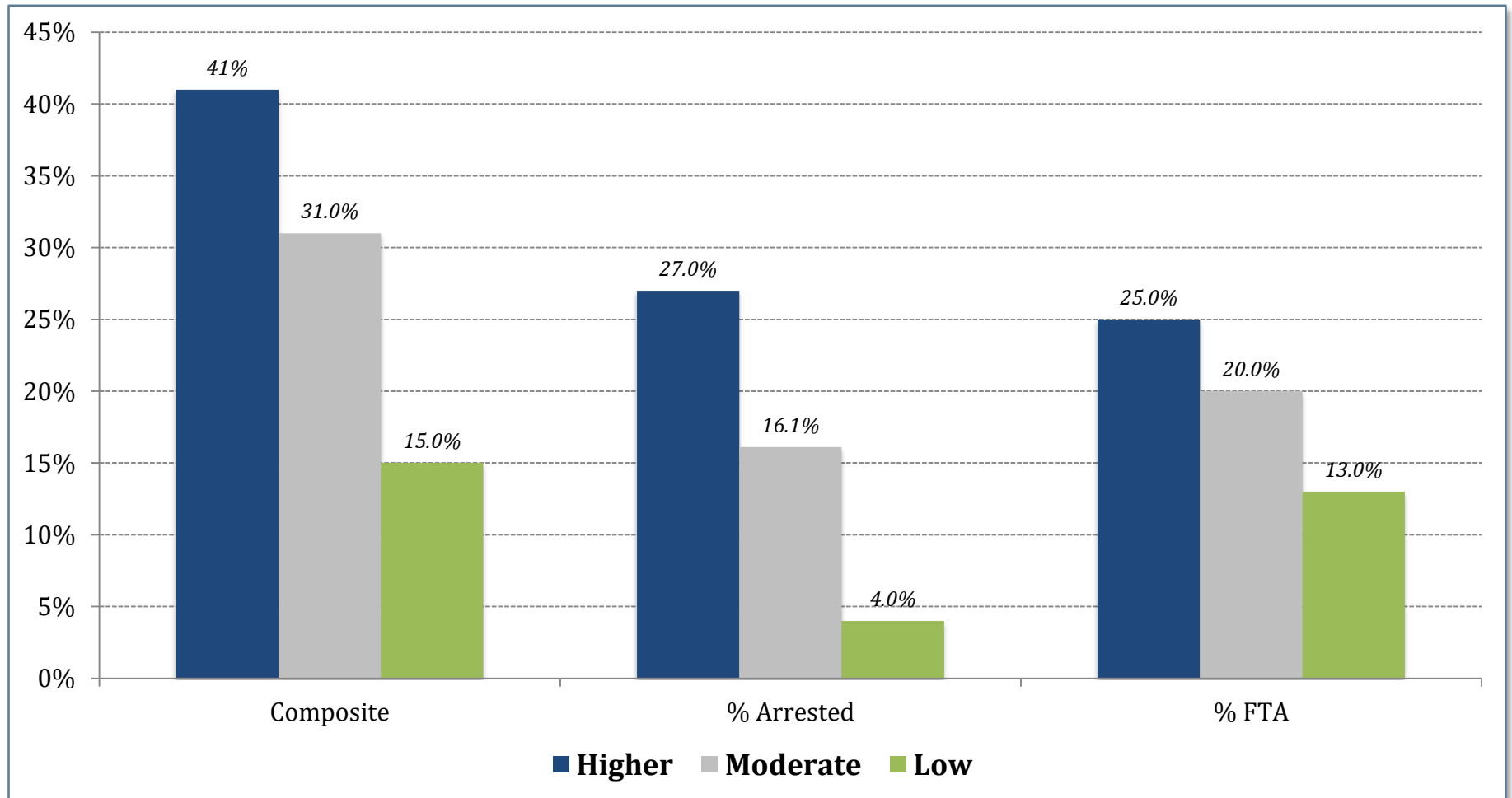
- Uses prior convictions, not prior arrests
- 8 scoring items;
- Risk levels – Low (0-3 pts.); Mod (4-8pts.); Higher (9+pts)
- Interview *not* required, but preferred

**Version 2 is used in Washoe and White Pine;**

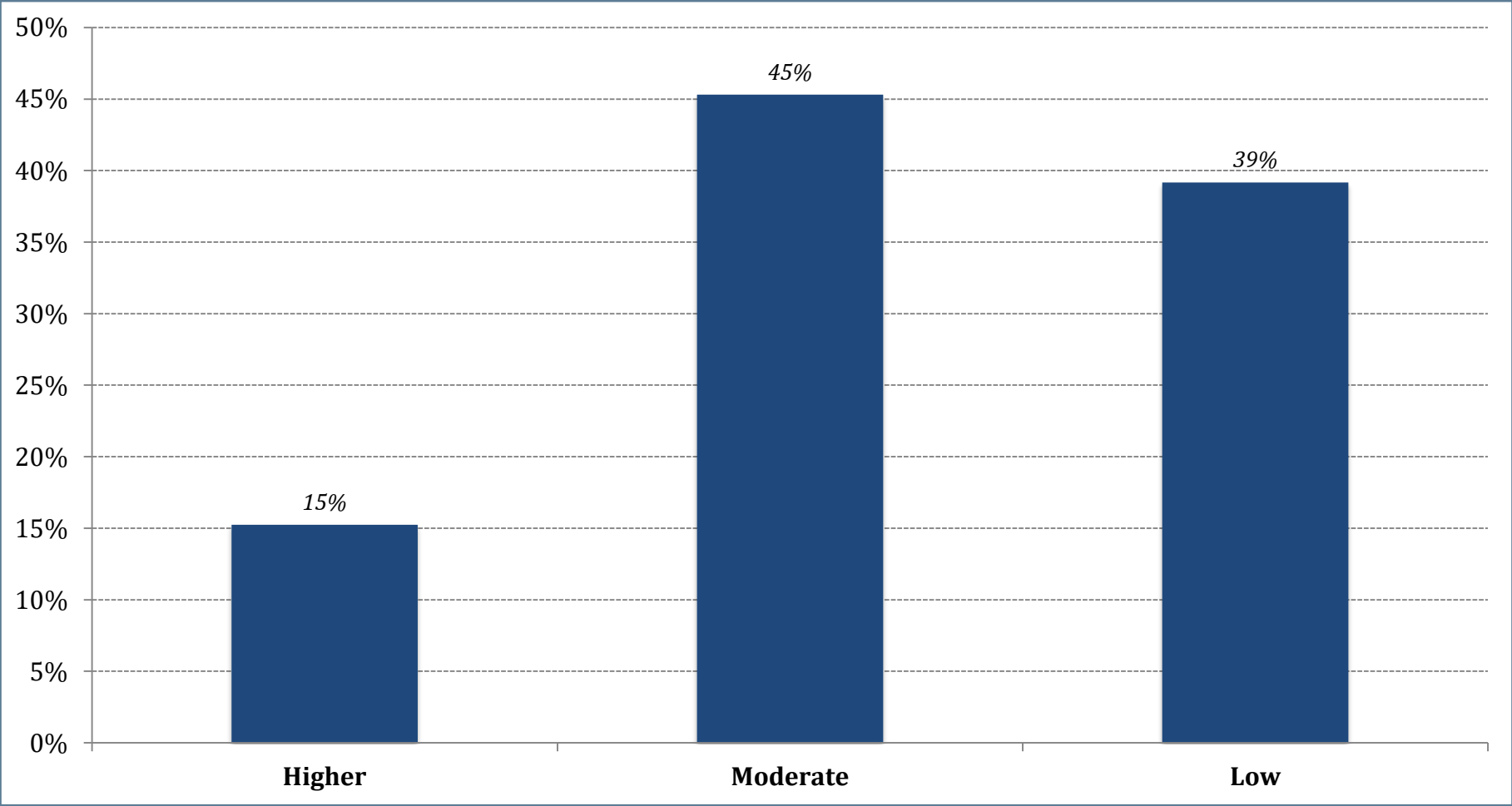
**Version 3 is used in Las Vegas Muni and Las Vegas Justice Courts**

## Analysis and Results (continued)

**Figure 1. Rearrest, FTA and Composite Rates by Risk Level**



**Figure 2. Risk Levels**



## Summary and Key Takeaways

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### **The NPRA is:**

- A statistically valid pretrial risk instrument that meets industry standards for evaluation factors and overall predictive accuracy
- Tested and proven to perform well on local populations in Nevada
- Designed to statistically measure probability of success/failure of two legal purposes judges can consider for release:
  - Appearance in court
  - Community safety
  - Has been tested for racial and ethnicity bias

### **Basing decisions on assessed risk:**

- Minimizes unnecessary pretrial detention
- Maximizes public safety
- Minimizes failures to appear in court
- Supports appropriate pretrial release and detention decisions and does not detract from judiciary discretion
- Makes wise use of justice system resources



## Contact Information

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