
Pretrial Release Risk Scale II

Research & Development Division

MAY 26, 2015



List of Tables

1.1	Pretrial Release Risk II	6
1.2	Decile cut points for the Pretrial Release Risk Scale II.	8

© 2015 Northpointe, Inc., d.b.a. equivant. All rights reserved.

Change Log:

- 05/26/15: Submitted Pretrial Release Risk Scale II requirements in JIRA for development.
- 02/12/15: Minor edits to introduction (generalizability vs overfitting)

© 2015 Northpointe, Inc., d.b.a. equivant. All rights reserved.

Chapter 1

Pretrial Release Risk Scale II

1.1 Pretrial Release Risk Scale II Scale Set

Table 1.1 shows the items that enter the Pretrial Release Risk Scale II. The Pretrial Release Risk Scale II is a modified version of the Pretrial Release Risk Scale. This version drops age at assessment, d_current (using drugs when arrested), skill, haveemps (verified employment or school), l_drift (no regular living situation), mnth_local (how long living in area), res_moves (times moved in last year), skill, ever_rx_a (ever in treatment for alcohol addiction), and larceny (top charge felony property or fraud). The calculation of the Pretrial Release Risk Scale II requires four additional items, including one existing Core item (*cc_crime_cat*) and three new items (*cc_drug_hx*; *cc_residence_length*; and *cc_employ_status*).¹ The 8-item version uses the felony indicator (recode of *crime_cat*) in place of the larceny indicator, which makes the scale more relevant to pretrial caseloads composed of both misdemeanor and felony defendants.

This model closely resembles a pretrial release risk model in the public domain that has been validated in several jurisdictions (VanNostrand, Rose, & Weibrecht, 2011). The revisions should improve the generalizability of the model to new jurisdictions, because the original model may have included predictor variables that were specific to the Kent County sample.

The following steps were taken to develop the Pretrial Release Risk Scale II.

1. Several items in the original scale, including age-at-assessment were dropped from the candidate set. The changes in the candidate set were designed to meet policy requirements in some jurisdictions and to improve face validity.

¹Note that *cc_drug_hx* is a new item on the standard Pretrial Release Risk Scale.

2. A lasso survival model was fit with data from Kent County Michigan to obtain regression weights for the variables. This same data set was used to develop the original model. All offenders in the Kent County sample were felony defendants(Dieterich, 2010).
3. An item coding misdemeanor defendants (2) and felony defendants (1) was added to the model. The weight for this item was chosen to have approximately the same degree of influence on the scores that it has in the VPRAI model of VanNostrand.

Pretrial-specific tool tips have been added and are required for the Pretrial Release Risk Scale II.

Note that if Pretrial Release Risk Scale II is used in combination with the General Recidivism Risk Scale *cc_employ_status* item will be somewhat redundant with Voted *cc_haveemp_school*. If used with the Residential Stability Scale, *cc_residence_length* will be somewhat redundant with *cc_mnth_local*.

© 2015 Northpointe, Inc., d.b.a. equivalent. All rights reserved.

Table 1.1: Pretrial Release Risk II (ScaleID = new
scale pretrialcore8)

Item	Information
cc_n_pending	Number of pending charges or holds? [<i>PRETRIAL</i>] (<i>ToolTip</i> : A pending charge is a charge for which the defendant was previously arrested and for which a future court date is pending at the time of arrest in the current case. Sum the number of separate charges, not the number of counts. For example, if the pending case against the defendant includes a charge of drug possession (1 count) and a charge for fraud (3 counts) this would be counted as two pending charges.) [Answers: 0=0; 1=1; 2=2; 3=3; 4+=4] QuestionID=260 Tab: Official Records / Current Charges
cc_crime_cat	Which offense category represents the most serious current offense? [<i>PRETRIAL</i>] (<i>ToolTip</i> : Of the offenses recorded above what is the most serious offense by type: Misdemeanor (non-felony, civil, etc.), Non-violent Felony or Violent Felony (causing harm or direct threat to victim).) [Answers: Misdemeanor=2; Non-violent Felony=1; Violent Felony=1] QuestionID=50 Tab: Official Records / Current Charges
cc_n_jail	How many times has this person been sentenced to jail for 30 days or more? [<i>PRETRIAL</i>] (<i>ToolTip</i> : Include pretrial custody if 30 days or more and sentenced to time served.) [Answers: 0=0; 1=1; 2=2; 3=3; 4=4; 5+=5] QuestionID=63 Tab: Official Records / Criminal History
cc_n_fta	How many times has this person failed to appear for a scheduled criminal court hearing? [<i>PRETRIAL</i>] (<i>ToolTip</i> : This question refers to failure to appear for a scheduled court hearing in a criminal case. The occurrence of prior failure to appear is typically determined by observing a prior bench warrant that was issued for failure to appear. Include the current case) [Answers: 0=0; 1=1; 2=2; 3=3; 4=4; 5+=5] QuestionID=73 Tab: Official Records / Non-Compliance
cc_n_arrest_on_- bail	How many times has the person been arrested/charged w/new crime while on pretrial release (includes current)? [<i>PRETRIAL</i>] (<i>ToolTip</i> : Record the total number of new criminal charges or arrests of the person while they were on pre-trial release or pre-sentence community status. Count one arrest per court case regardless of the number of charges associated with the case. Include current case.)
Continued on next page	

Table 1.1 – continued from the previous page

Item	Information
cc_drug_hx	<p>[Answers: 0=1; 1=2; 2=2; 3+=2] QuestionID=74 Tab: Official Records / Non-Compliance</p> <p>Does the offender have a history of drug abuse? [<i>PRETRIAL</i>] (<i>ToolTip:</i> Consider the offender's history of drug abuse of any illegal or prescription drugs, including prior drug charges and treatment for drug abuse. Do not include alcohol abuse.)</p>
cc_residence_length	<p>[Answers: No=1; Yes=2] QuestionID=new core item</p> <p>How long have you been living at your current residence? [<i>Pre-trial</i>] (<i>ToolTip:</i> This question measures the person's residential stability. A residence is where the defendant currently lives and does not include non-residences such as a jail, prison, halfway house, hospital, or shelter.)</p>
cc_employ_status	<p>[Answers: 0-2 mo.=2; 3-5 mo.=2; 6-11 mo.=2; 1+ yrs.=1] QuestionID=new core item</p> <p>Employment status (check one) [<i>PRETRIAL</i>] (<i>ToolTip:</i> If you are conducting a pretrial release risk assessment, only designate unemployed offenders as "not in labor force" if they are a primary caregiver (child or adult), student, retired, or disabled; otherwise, designate as unemployed.)</p> <p>[Answers: Full time = 1; Part time = 1; Unemployed actively seeking employment = 2; Unemployed failing to seek employment = 2; Not in the labor force: student, inmate, disabled, retired, homemaker, etc. = 1] QuestionID=new core item</p>

Notes on new items and test items.

- *cc_drug_hx*; *cc_residence_length*; and *cc_employ_status* are new items that are scored and included in the scale calculation. Note that *cc_drug_hx* is also a new item on the standard Pretrial Release Risk Scale.
- The new items will cause redundancy problems (duplicate headings, redundant questions) if the PRRS II is combined with General Recidivism Risk, Violent Recidivism Risk, Voced, ResInst, or SubAbuse Scales in the same scale set.

After Applying the Recodes In Table 1.1, Use the Following Equation to Calculate the Pretrial Release Risk Scale II:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{raw score} &= 0.272 \times n_{\text{pending}} \\
 &- 0.328 \times \text{crime_cat} \\
 &+ 0.039 \times n_{\text{jail}} \\
 &+ 0.084 \times n_{\text{fta}} \\
 &+ 0.125 \times n_{\text{arrest_on_bail}} \\
 &+ 0.180 \times \text{drug_hx} \\
 &+ 0.585 \times \text{residence_length} \\
 &+ 0.249 \times \text{employ_status}
 \end{aligned}$$

NOTE: The Pretrial Release Risk Scale II Is Rounded to Two Decimal Places.

The Pretrial Release Risk Scale II deciles are cut at D5 and D8 (0-4 = Low; 5-7=Medium; 8-10=High). Refer to the deciles tables.

1.2 Pretrial Release Risk Scale II Decile Table

Decile cut points were calculated from a large probation sample from Wisconsin DCC ($N = 31,247$). There were 5,990 (19%) and 25,257 (81%) females and males in the sample, respectively. There were 15,257(49%) and 15,990 (51%) misdemeanants and felons in the sample, respectively.

Table 1.2 displays the decile cut points that were calculated from the Wisconsin probation sample. Note that the same cut points are used for both males and females.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0.69	0.85	1.03	1.14	1.29	1.42	1.58	1.77	1.98	3.65

Table 1.2: Decile cut points for the Pretrial Release Risk Scale II.

References

- Dieterich, W. (2010). *Kent County Pretrial Services outcomes study: Developing and testing the COMPAS pretrial release risk scale.* (Tech. Rep.). Traverse City, MI: Northpointe.
- VanNostrand, M., Rose, J., Kenneth, & Weibrecht, K. (2011). *State of the science of pretrial release recommendations and supervision.* (Tech. Rep.). Pretrial Justice Institute.

© 2015 Northpointe, Inc., d.b.a. eQuivant. All rights reserved.