The RNR Simulation Tool: Knowledge Translation for Health Services Criminology

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The Risk Need Responsivity (RNR) Model
The Risk-Need-Responsivity framework suggests that improved offender outcomes will result when justice-involved individuals are linked to programming based on their static criminal justice risk and dynamic treatment needs (e.g., substance use disorders, antisocial cognitions, mental health disorders).

- Three core RNR principles:
  - Risk – match level of service to offender’s risk to reoffend
  - Need – target key behaviors we know will have an impact via specific responses (evidence-based practices)
  - Responsivity – treatment effects are maximized when interventions are cognitive-based and tailored to offender’s risk, needs, & strengths

The Goal of the RNR Simulation Tool
The goal of the RNR Simulation Tool is to assist justice agencies in determining what forms of programming will be most effective in reducing recidivism and improving offender outcomes within their population. The tool is also designed to guide resource allocation and help criminal justice agencies identify service provision gaps. The proper utilization of these knowledge translation tools can have a significant impact on recidivism at a system level.

Knowledge translation is a term increasingly used in health-care fields to represent the process of moving what we have learned through research into practice.

Validation Findings

- Three web-based portals housed on the CJ-TRAK website:
  - Assess an Individual – makes programming recommendations for individual offenders based on inputted information about their risk, criminogenic needs, and other clinically relevant factors; estimates a percent reduction in recidivism that may be expected if the offender is matched to the level of programming that is consistent with their needs.
  - The RNR Program Tool – classifies programs into one of six categories based on treatments offered; program content, quality, dosage, and other factors; provides recommendations for how the program can be refined to better achieve responsivity.
  - Assess Jurisdiction’s Capacity – uses population-level data to assess a jurisdiction’s capacity to provide responsivity; based on inputted data about the prevalence of risk and needs and the programming that is available within each jurisdiction, this portal identifies system-level service provision gaps.

Guiding Responsivity

- Individual client profiles
  - Recommendation based on risk level, primary need(s), and stabilizers/stabilizers
  - Problem severity considered for SUDs
- Program profiles
  - Appropriateness, content, dosage, implementation fidelity

For More Information:
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