Abstract

Re-entry into society presents a wide array of complex challenges for individuals who have

served jail time. There are many basic needs that are commonly left unmet for these former

inmates upon their release into society. To address the challenges that inmates experience, a

local county government agency has created a re-entry assistance program that will provide

services tailored to each individual's needs. The goals of the program are to increase self-

sufficiency and assist individuals in setting goals to succeed in re-entry. Local county corrections

hypothesizes that the new re-entry assistance program is effective at creating smaller rates of

recidivism compared to those who are not receiving the assistance. Data was gathered on

inmates who received the re-entry program (RAP) and those who did not receive the

assistance. A formal statistical analysis has been performed and found that there is no evidence

to conclude there is a significant difference among recidivism rates among those receiving RAP

services. Other variables were collected to investigate further who should be

provided/awarded the Re-entry assistance program to.

Introduction

In today's society, the process of re-entry into society for someone who has served jail time is challenging. There are numerous things that inmates may not have in their possession upon their release, such as housing, insurance and family support, to name a few. In a local county in the state of Minnesota, a government agency has put forth effort to try to make the re-entry process into society for inmates as seamless as possible. Agencies have put together a program called the Re-entry Assistance Program (RAP) that is available to all local county residents upon their release from jail/prison. This new program gives hope that recidivism rates will decrease in the county due to the assistance of re-entry into society. The Re-entry assistance program will be analyzed to determine whether there is a significant difference in recidivism rates among those who choose to receive that re-entry assistance and those who do not receive the re-entry assistance. Three separate time periods will be used in this analysis to illustrate how recidivism rates change over time. Additionally, inmates risk to society will be evaluated and analyzed in the form of an LS-CMI risk score. The LS-CMI assessment gives a quantitative score that is used to label the inmate on their risk to society upon release. The purpose of the analysis will be to see if there is a significant difference in recidivism rates among those of different risk levels.

Re-entry Assistance Program:

All inmates come into society with different circumstances that are assessed by the Re-entry Assistance Program (RAP) program, and services that will be provided by the program are planned prior to the release of the inmate. The RAP program tailors the needs for each individual differently. The needs of each inmate are classified into four separate sections as identified below.

Pillar 1: Housing stability	Provide former offenders with housing supports to prevent homelessness and support community re-entry
Pillar 2: Employment and Economic Opportunities	Provide former offenders with opportunities to improve their economic situations through employment or support services
Pillar 3: Healthy Living	Promote a sustainable, healthy lifestyle addressing chemical, mental, and physical health needs for all former offenders
Pillar 4: Basic Needs	Support former offenders' paths towards self-sufficiency through provision of basic supports

While serving their jail time, each inmate is assessed to decide what pillars they will need assistance in. There is no limit on how many services each inmate can receive; it all depends on the results of the assistance assessment.

In order to assist inmates with re-entry, RAP has established guiding principles that the program demonstrates every day:

1. Help offenders with the basics to get them back on their feet and stable: RAP is a focused program dedicated to providing offenders with the foundational supports that are necessary for long-

term success and self-sufficiency. Providing additional services above and beyond those that are core to re-entry is not within RAP's mission.

2. Encourage participants to do the next thing right: RAP utilizes cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), an evidence-based practice that is focused on enabling participants to learn how to think rather than what to think. CBT is commonly used for general offenders as well as domestic violence and sex offenders, and it includes anger comparison and interpersonal problem solving.

3. Serve the multiple needs of offenders through wraparound services in the community: RAP combines the expertise and insight of the Community Services Division, as well as other local County government partners, to create a multi-faceted response to each individual's needs. Each participant has individualized, unique needs that require intensive support, which is provided in this coordinated delivery of diverse services across the local County.

4. Provide positive support: The Community Corrections Department utilizes positive, evidence-based principles to prepare offenders for successful re-entry into their communities. The department uses strategies such as positive reinforcements and other messaging so that offenders respond positively to demands for accountability. By doing this, RAP assists participants in effectively utilizing the lessons that they learned in the program so that they are better able to make smart, long-term decisions that benefit the community.

The re-entry assistance program is not awarded/provided to all inmates who apply for the services, and there are multiple reasons as to why an inmate may be declined of these services. If inmates have pending charges, have a current warrant, are a non-local county resident or have less than 30 days of their sentence, inmates will automatically be declined of the re-entry assistance program. Not all inmates who qualify and apply for the program are accepted for the services, selection of those who applied for the program was not random. The process of how the RAP program is carried out is illustrated in the table below.

Phase 1: Promotion and Marketing	Communicate the requirements and benefits of the RAP program to solicit applications from currently incarcerated Dakota County residents. (60 days prior to release)
Phase 2: Application Evaluation	Determine applicants' eligibility and fit for RAP, and select those that demonstrate motivation to develop their self-sufficiency. RAP Services Awarded/Begin. (30 days prior to release)
Phase 3: Discharge Planning	Assess the needs and strengths of RAP participants and create customized discharge plans to meet those needs and capitalize on strengths both pre- and post-release.
Phase 4: Post-Release Support	Upon discharge from custody, provide support and resources to enable participants' self-sufficiency in the community. RAP services end. (90 days post release)

The program as seen above has four basic parts. Inmates first are presented with the optional assistance program 60 days before there release from jail/prison, the inmates will then apply for these services if they have interest in it. Thirty days before they are released they are notified if they have been accepted into the assistance program. Services start immediately

upon their notification of acceptance, and then assistance programs are carried out for the next

120 days. Services stop after this period are inmates are then on their own in society.

LS-CMI Assessment

LS-CMI, or Levels of Services/ Case Management Inventory is an assessment given to

inmates before their release from jail/prison. The purpose of this assessment is to help target

the specific needs of inmates upon re-entry to society. The exam helps the Re-entry Assistance

Program tailor the needs of each individual. This exam is also used to generate a quantitative

score that measures the inmate's risk to society upon release, and are binned into different

levels of risk. Each offender is either labeled as a very low, low, medium, high or very high risk

to society. It is noted that these risk assessments are given by professional probation officers.

An example assessment is given in Appendix A. There are eight subgroups that the assessments

touches on, eight categories help the assistance program decide on how they can help the

inmates re-enter society.

These scored are from the assessment are tallied together and evaluated based off preset

numbers that define an inmate's overall risk. Figure 1 below gives an example LS-CMI score.

LS/CMI Profile Chart:
Central Eight Criminogenic Needs

	Avg. Coefficients
	Red = .20
	Orange = .10
	Yellow = .05

	Criminal History	Educ Emplmnt	Family Marital	Leisure Rec	Peers	Alcohol Drugs	Attitude	Anti-social	Total Score Risk Levels
Very High	8	8-9	4	-	4	7-8	4	4	30+
High	6-7	6-7	3	2	3	5-6	3	3	20-29
Medium	4-5	4-5	2	1	2	3-4	2	2	11-19
Low	2-3	2-3	1	-	1	1-2	1	1	5-10
Very Low	0-1	0-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-4
Domain Score:	8	1	2	2	2	2	4	3	24
Strength:									

Figure 1: LS-CMI Results

Figure 1 above shows that the inmate who took this test scored a 24 on their LS-CMI assessment. This inmate was then labeled as a high risk to society because the LS-CMI score fell in the 20-29 range.
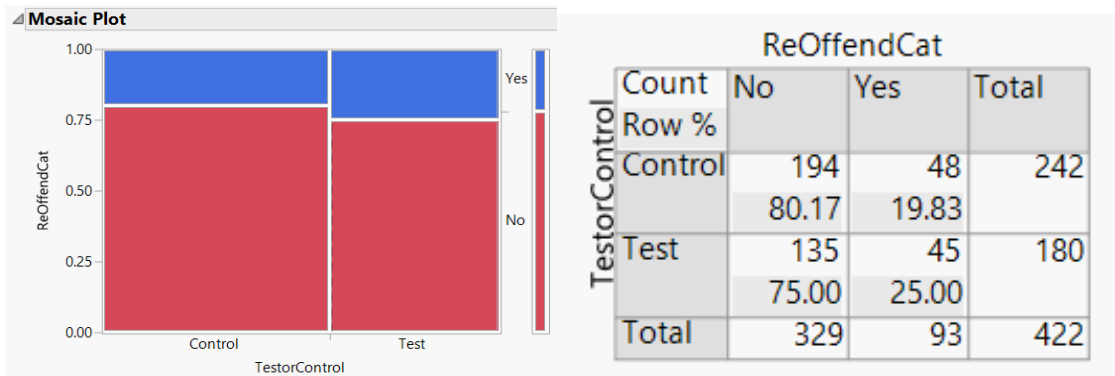
Results

RAP Program

The first part of the analysis was to assess whether there is a difference in recidivism rates among those who received re-entry assistance and those who did not.
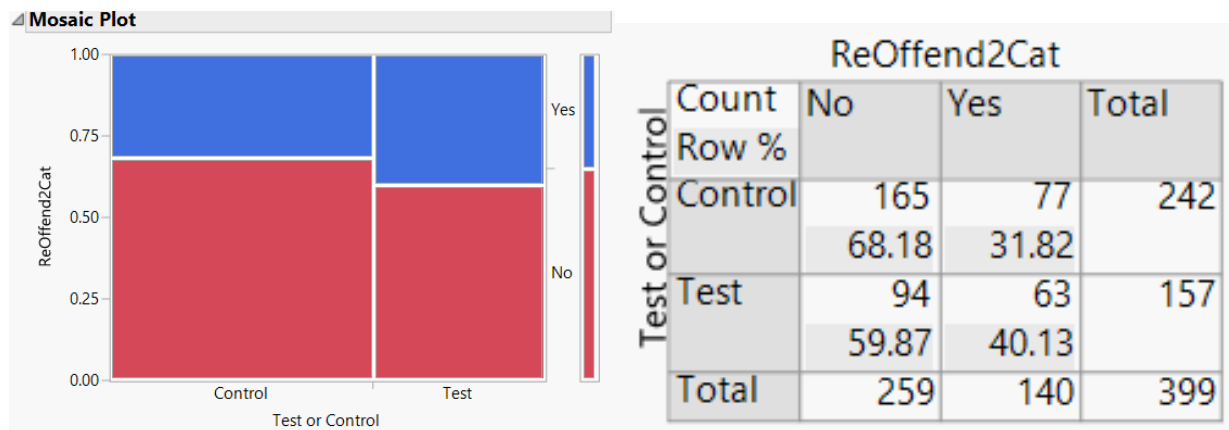
6 Month Period:

<center>Figure 2</center>

Looking at figure 2 the mosaic plot shows that the two lines running horizontal are not equal. This is initially telling us that the two recidivism rates are not the same. Next, looking at the contingency table on the right, the two true recidivism rates can be found. The recidivism rate for those who received the reentry assistance is at 25%. The recidivism rate for those who did not receive the reentry assistance was only at 19.8%. This was an unexpected outcome; the recidivism rate for those who received help was worse compared than those who did not receive any help. A Chi-Squared test was performed to see if there was any significant difference between the two rates. A p-vale of 0.2055 leads us to conclude that there is no evidence of a significant difference among these rates.
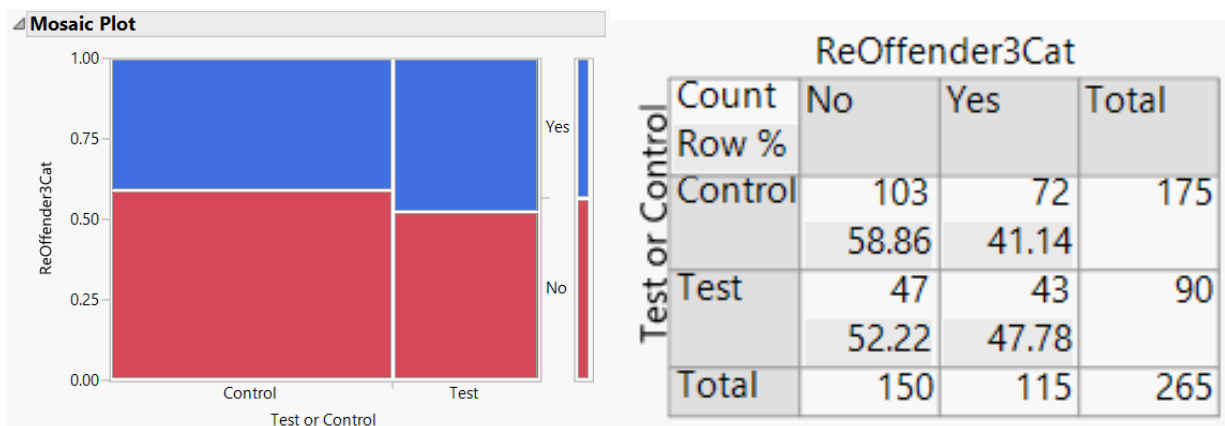
1 Year Period:

Figure 3

Similarly, when looking at the 6-month period results, in figure 3 there also appears to be a difference in the rates. The recidivism rate for those who received reentry assistance is at 40.1%, an increase from the 6-month period. The recidivism rate for those who did not receive the reentry assistance was at 31.8%, also an increase from the 6-month time. The recidivism rate is higher for those who have received the reentry assistance. These are unexpected results considering that you would guess the rate to be smaller if inmates are receiving help. A Chi-squared test was performed to see if there is a significant difference in recidivism rates between the two groups. The p-value of 0.089, leads me to conclude that there is no evidence of a significant difference in recidivism rates between the two groups at the 1-year period.

2 Year Period:

Figure 4

ReOffender3Cat			
Count Row %	No	Yes	Total
Control	103 58.86	72 41.14	175
Test	47 52.22	43 47.78	90
Total	150	115	265

The mosaic plot in Figure 4 illustrates there is a difference in the recidivism rates between the

two groups. Looking at the contingency table in Figure 4, it can be found that the recidivism

rate for those with reentry assistance is 47.7% and 41% for those without assistance. These

rates have increased from the 1-year period to the 2-year period as predicted. A Chi-Squared

test has been performed to see if there is a significant difference between the two groups, and

a p-value of 0.302 would lead me to conclude that there is no evidence of a significant

difference in recidivism rates between those receiving reentry assistance and those who are

not receiving the assistance.

Overall, the results were unexpected being that recidivism rates are worse for those who are

receiving the reentry assistance. Based on the results, a suggestion to the local county would

include reformatting the program to try to help inmates in another fashion, decide who

receives the RAP services in a different manner. Considering how much money this reentry
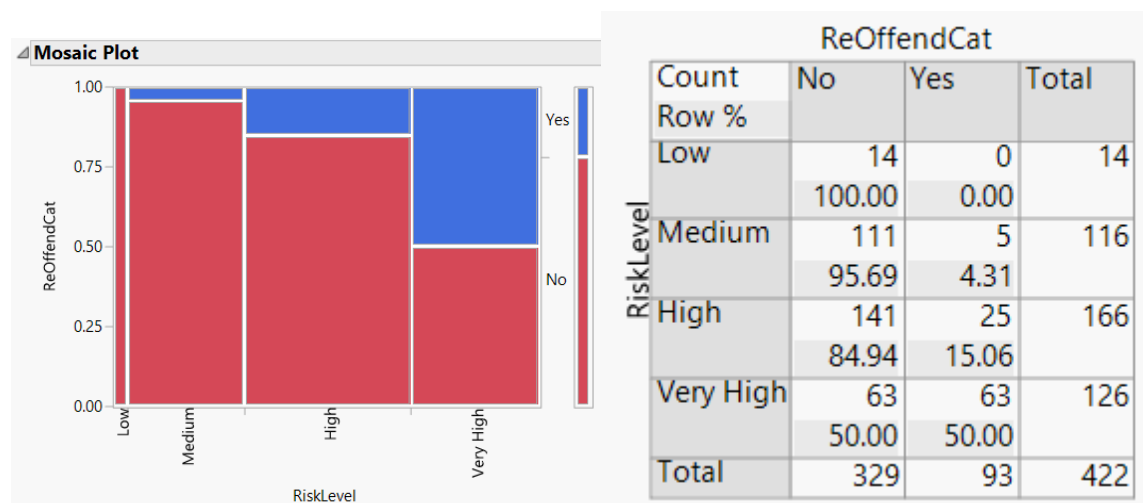
assistance program is costing taxpayers, something needs to be changed within this program so that the money is going to good use.

LS-CMI Assessment Results

LS-CMI assessment scores have been compiled for each inmate in the study, and grouped into the five different levels of risk to society. Recidivism rates were calculated separately for each group, and were compared to see if a significant difference in rates exist.

6 Month Period:

Figure 5

ReOffendCat			
Count	No	Yes	Total
Row %			
Low	14	0	14
	100.00	0.00	
Medium	111	5	116
	95.69	4.31	
High	141	25	166
	84.94	15.06	
Very High	63	63	126
	50.00	50.00	
Total	329	93	422

In Figure 5 the mosaic plot shows that the recidivism rate gets worse as the risk level increases. Those who are in the very high-risk level group have the highest recidivism rate at 50%. A Chi-squared test was conducted to see if there is a significant difference between these recidivism rates. The resulting p value of less than 0.001 leads to the conclusion that there is a significant difference between the recidivism rates.
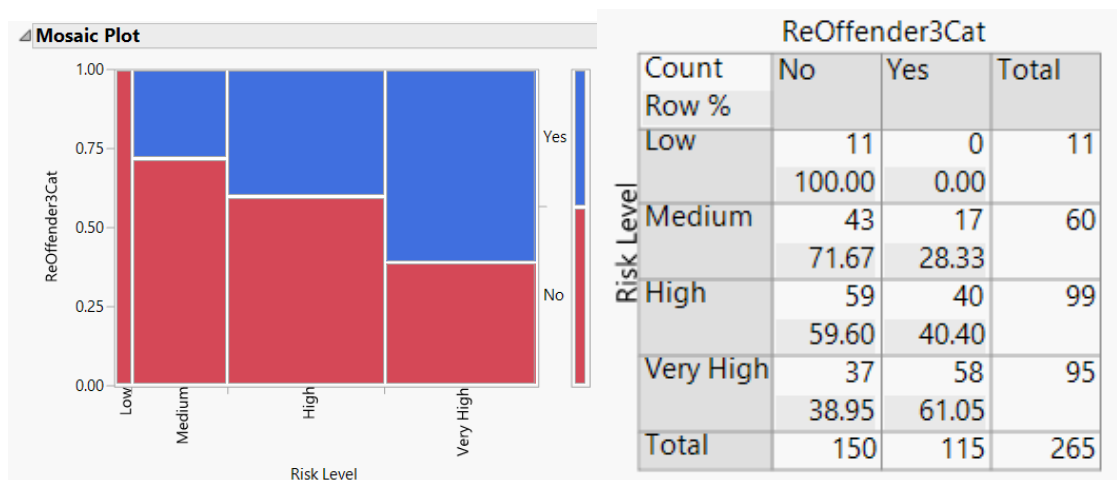
1 Year Period:

Figure 6

Count Row %	ReOffend2Cat		
	No	Yes	Total
Low	13	1	14
	92.86	7.14	
Medium	76	16	92
	82.61	17.39	
High	118	46	164
	71.95	28.05	
Very High	52	77	129
	40.31	59.69	
Total	259	140	399
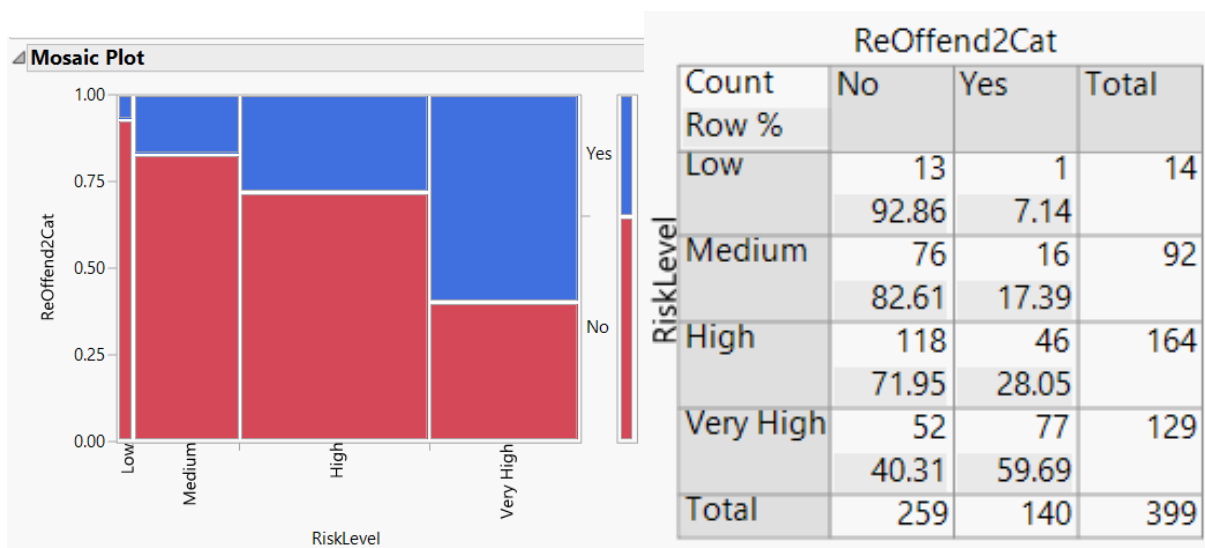
The Mosaic plot in Figure 6 shows that the recidivism rate gets worse as the risk level increases. It can be seen from the contingency table that those labeled as a very risk to society have the worst recidivism rate at 59.69%. These results are intuitive because you would expect those inmates who are more troubled to be the ones more likely to recommit a crime and return to the jail system. A Chi-Squared test was performed to determine whether there is a significant difference in recidivism rates among the five risk levels, and a p-value of less than 0.001 leads to the conclusion that there is a significant difference in recidivism rates between the different risk levels.

2 Year Period:

<div align="center">Figure 7</div>

Lastly, at the two-year period it is again seen in Figure 7 that the recidivism rates get worse as the risk level increases. As shown in Figure 7 it can be seen that those in the very high-risk level have a recidivism rate of 61.05%. These rates get smaller each time the risk level drops by one group. A Chi-squared test was performed to determine if there is a significant difference of recidivism rates among the different risk level groups, and a p-value of less than 0.001 leads to the conclusion that there is a significant difference among these rates.

<div align="center">Conclusion</div>

The results of the analysis have lead me to conclude the new reentry assistance program is not successful thus far. It has been found that the recidivism rates are better for those who have not received the reentry assistance, and could be hard to move forward with this program considering its costs. Taxpayer's money is currently going towards a program that appears to be not helping inmates with the reentry into society, as intended.

If this program continues, I would consider targeting those who are in the high-risk level group. They are the ones who have the highest recidivism rate, and returning to the jail system most often. I think that instead of just targeting every inmate in the system for these services, they should be targeting those who are of high risk. After these analysis' I would suggest some kind of reformatting of the program so that the recidivism rates will improve for those receiving the help. After this has been completed, I would suggest for the local county to promote these services to those who have a high score on the LS-CMI score.

Future Work

My future work with this project will be to consider additional variables that may help explain the difference in recidivism rates. In my analysis, I was limited to looking only at recidivism if they had committed a crime after their release from jail/prison. There are many more factors that go into recidivism than just this, and it would be interesting to look into this.

Appendix A

interviewee is an inmate - Yes

Section 1: General Risk/Need Factors

1.1 Criminal History

Yes	1. Any prior youth dispositions or adult convictions? (E)	Comment:	
8	1(a). Youth Number:		
26	1(b). Adult Number:		
Yes	2. Two or more prior youth/adult dispositions/convictions? (E)	Comment:	
Yes	3. Three or more prior youth/adult dispositions/convictions? (E)	Comment:	
Yes	4. Three or more present offenses? (C)	Comment:	Domestic Assault, Interfere w/911, Violate DANCO
3	4(a). Number:		
1	7(a). Number:		
Yes	5. Arrested under age 16? (E)	Comment:	Arrested at age 14
Yes	6. Ever incarcerated upon conviction? (E)	Comment:	
Yes	7. Ever punished for institutional misconduct or a behavior report? (E)	Comment:	
Yes	8. Charge laid, probation breached, or parole suspended during prior community supervision? (E)	Comment:	numerous violation for using drugs, drinking and not remain law abiding.
	Strength?	Comment:	

1.2 Education/Employment

When in the labor market (in community or long-term imprisonment w/work opportunities):

No	9. Currently unemployed? (C, IN2)	Comment:	Currently incarcerated. Was employed prior to be arrested and stated he can return to his job after he is released.
No	10. Frequently unemployed? (YR, IN2)	Comment:	
No	11. Never employed for a full year? (E)	Comment:	

School or when in school:

No	12. Less than regular grade 10 or equivalent? (E)	Comment:	
No	13. Less than regular grade 12 or equivalent? (E)	Comment:	
Yes	14. Suspended or expelled at least once. (E)	Comment:	Stated he "may have been suspended" for skipping school.

For the next three questions, if the offender is a homemaker or pensioner, complete #15 only.
If the offender is in school, working, or unemployed, complete 15, 16 and 17.
If the offender is available for labor market but is unemployed and not in school, rate 0 for 15-17.

2	15. Participation/Performance. (YR)	Comment:	
2	16. Peer interactions. (YR)	Comment:	
2	17. Authority interaction. (YR)	Comment:	
	Strength?	Comment:	

1.3 Family/Marital

1	18. Dissatisfaction with marital or equivalent situation. (YR)	Comment:	Stated the relationship is going well; however, all of pending offenses are against his girlfriend.
2	19. Nonrewarding, parental. (YR)	Comment:	
2	20. Nonrewarding, other relatives. (YR)	Comment:	
Yes	21. Criminal - family/spouse. (E)	Comment:	girlfriend convicted of trespassing and DWI.
	Strength?	Comment:	

LS/CMI Assessment Summary for Patrick Michael Tchida

1.4 Leisure/Recreation

Yes	22. Absence of recent participation in an organized activity. (YR, IN2)	Comment:	Not involved in organized activities
1	23. Could make better use of time. (YR)	Comment:	
	Strength?	Comment:	

1.5 Companions

Yes	24. Some criminal acquaintances. (YR)	Comment:	
1	25. Some criminal friends. (YR, IN2)	Comment:	Best friend is Jeremy Ammerman who has a long criminal history. Is currently in prison.
No	26. Few anticriminal acquaintances. (YR)	Comment:	
2	27. Few anticriminal friends. (YR)	Comment:	
	Strength?	Comment:	

1.6 Alcohol/Drug Problem

Yes	28. Alcohol problem, ever. (E)	Comment:	History of abusing alcohol. Stated he has been sober since 2010.
Yes	29. Drug problem, ever. (E)	Comment:	He reported having issues with marijuana in the past.
2	30. Alcohol problem, currently. (YR, IN2)	Comment:	
2	31. Drug problem, currently. (YR, IN2)	Specify type of drug(s):	

If a current alcohol/drug problem exists, complete the following:

No	32. Law Violations. (YR)	Comment:	
No	33. Marital/Family. (YR)	Comment:	
No	34. School/Work. (YR)	Comment:	
No	35. Medical or other clinical indicators? (YR)	Specify:	
	Strength?	Comment:	

1.7 Procriminal Attitude/Orientation

1	36. Supportive of crime. (C)	Comment:	Angry and hostile feelings, not sensitive to the victims of his crimes and does not accept responsibility for his actions.
1	37. Unfavorable toward convention. (C)	Comment:	Stated that the police are out to get him, runs from the police and does not show up for court dates. Numerous warrants. Dishonest about his history during the PSI interview.
Yes	38. Poor, toward sentence/offense. (C)	Comment:	Stated he only pled guilty the offenses so that he could get out of jail. Does not take responsibility for any of his actions.
Yes	39. Poor, toward supervision/treatment. (C)	Comment:	Violated the conditions of his release by having contact with the victim, did not comply with the PSI while in the community, and did not show up for court.
	Strength?	Comment:	

1.8 Antisocial Pattern

Items 41, 42, and 43(c)-(h) are filled from previous pages. Click help icon above for more info.

Yes	40. Specialized assessment for antisocial pattern.	Comment:	long history of assaultive behaviors, impulsive, disregards right and wrong and no shame or guilty for his behaviors.
Yes	41. Early and diverse antisocial behavior. (E)	Item a, plus at least one of b, c, or d. Indicate all that apply.	A - Severe problems of adjustment in childhood as indicated by school, records or arrests < age 16
Yes	41. Early and diverse antisocial behavior. (E)	Item a, plus at least one of b, c, or d. Indicate all that apply.	B - Official record of assault/violence
Yes	41. Early and diverse antisocial behavior. (E)	Item a, plus at least one of b, c, or d. Indicate all that apply.	D - Charge laid, probation breached, or parole suspended during prior community supervison
Yes	42. Criminal attitude.	At least one of the following items. Indicate all that apply.	A - Supportive Of Crime