

Comparison of CORE Norm Groups

(DRAFT)

The most recent report from Northpointe compares the Wisconsin DOC (WIDOC) CORE DAI and CORE DCC Sample to the COMPAS norm group. Up until this point COMPAS has used the CORE Composite Norm Group as the comparison group for both the DCC and DAI CORE assessments. The purpose of this report is to choose the best comparison group for the WIDOC CORE assessments in the future.

Groups

WIDOC CORE DCC

The WIDOC CORE DCC study sample consists of COMPAS CORE DCC assessments conducted from July 2012 through August 2013. The sample consists of 17,593 assessments.

WIDOC CORE DAI

The WIDOC CORE DAI study sample consists of COMPAS CORE DAI assessments conducted from July 2012 through August 2013. The sample consists of 3,546 assessments.

CORE COMPOSITE GROUP

The COMPAS CORE Composite group is sampled from a group of 30,000 assessments conducted between January 2004 and November 2005 at prison, parole, jail and probation sites in New York, Michigan, Ohio, Georgia, Wyoming and California. The CORE group was compiled to obtain proportions of prison, parole, jail and probation assessment data that reflect proportions of adult correctional populations in the criminal justice system. The CORE Composite group thus consists of assessments from state prisons and parole agencies (33.8%); jails (13.6%); and probation agencies (52.6%). However, the data from New York is only from those on probation, from Michigan and Ohio on jails, from Georgia on prisons, from Wyoming on prison and parole, and from California on reentry and parole. The final sample used for the CORE Composite group is 7,381. The data from California on those on parole was taken from assessments given when the offenders were about to be released from prison onto parole.

Demographic Comparisons

The demographic makeup of the WIDOC DCC and DAI CORE samples as well as the CORE COMPOSITE groups are described in the table below.

Table 1. Demographics for CORE Comparison Groups			
	WIDOC CORE DCC	WIDOC CORE DAI	CORE COMPOSITE
<i>Total N</i>	17,593	3,546	7,381
Males	19,774	3,300	5,681
Females	5,999	246	1,700
<i>Age</i>			
Median	29.4	32.1	31.0
Mean	32.4	34.6	32.6
<i>Racial Composition</i>			
Caucasian	69.70%	47.90%	61.60%
Black	21.20%	39.90%	24.90%
Native American	4.20%	3.30%	.
Latino	3.40%	7.90%	10.30%
Other Racial Groups	1.60%	1.00%	3.20%

Match of Scale Distributions

When comparing the scale scores of the WIDOC CORE DAI and CORE DCC groups to the CORE Composite group we find a common pattern. For the CORE DCC group all of the scores are shifted downward compared to the comparison group and for the CORE DAI group all of the scores are shifted upward compared to the comparison group. This is because the comparison group is composed of people who are on probation, parole, in prison and in jail. Thus when we are comparing them to a group that is only made up of one of these categories the scores are shifted.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the WIDOC comparison group be used to norm from for future WIDOC CORE DAI and CORE DCC assessments. This will allow for WIDOC offenders to be compared to previous WIDOC offenders when their risk and needs levels are determined in future assessments. Each August any reentry assessments which were completed in the last year could be added to the norm group, thus creating an ever-growing WIDOC comparison group.