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Defendant Questionnaire

2002 Annual Summary Report

Abstract

This report summarizes Defendant Questionnaire (DQ) test data for **2,059** drug court defendants. Test data was a compilation of the DQ built-in database from users throughout the United States. The DQ test data was gathered between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002. The DQ is described on the Risk and Needs Assessment website at **www.riskandneeds.com**. This report is provided by Risk and Needs Assessment, Inc., P.O. Box 44828, Phoenix, AZ 85064-4828.

Defendant Questionnaire

The Defendant Questionnaire (DQ) is designed for defendant (misdemeanor or felony) assessment in court settings. The DQ is particularly useful in substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse-related cases. It is also used in probation and community corrections program screening. The DQ has 162 items and takes 35 minutes, on average, to complete. It has a 5th to 6th grade reading level. DQ reports are computer-scored and printed on-site within 2½ minutes of test completion. The DQ has 7 measures (scales) which are defined below. The DQ integrates DSM-IV substance abuse/dependency criteria with alcohol and drug severity measures and recommendations for intervention in accordance with American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) guidelines.

Seven DQ Scales

1. **Truthfulness Scale:** Measures how truthful the defendant was while completing the DQ. It would be naive to assume that defendants always tell the truth -- particularly in court-related settings. Defendants usually attempt to minimize their problems and concerns. The Truthfulness Scale detects denial and faking.

2. **Alcohol Scale:** Measures alcohol use and **severity** of abuse. "Alcohol" refers to beer, wine and other liquors. This scale measures the **severity** of alcohol abuse while identifying alcohol-related problems.

3. **Drugs Scale:** Measures the **severity** of drug (marijuana, crack, ice, LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin) use and abuse while identifying drug-related problems. This scale is independent of the Alcohol Scale.

4. **Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale:** Classifies substance (alcohol and/or other drugs) users as abusers, dependent users or non-pathological users according to DSM-IV criteria.

5. **Violence (Lethality) Scale:** Measures the defendant's propensity for using force to injure, damage or destroy. This scale identifies people that are dangerous to themselves or others.

6. **Antisocial Scale:** Measures antisocial attitudes and behavior. It identifies defendants that are opposed to society and are aggressive, destructive and irresponsible. In general, antisocial people are opposed to existing social organization and moral codes.

7. **Stress Coping Abilities Scale:** Measures the defendant's ability to cope effectively with stress, tension and pressure. Stress exacerbates emotional and mental health symptoms. This is a non-introversive way to screen diagnosable mental health problems.

This report summarizes DQ test results for 2,059 defendants (male and female) tested in the year 2002. The data was obtained from DQ users throughout the United States on returned diskettes. The purpose of this report was to present summaries of the defendants tested and the statistical analyses of the DQ test data. The statistics contained herein support the reliability, validity and accuracy of the DQ. The DQ is an accurate assessment test for adult defendants.

Number of Defendants Tested_____
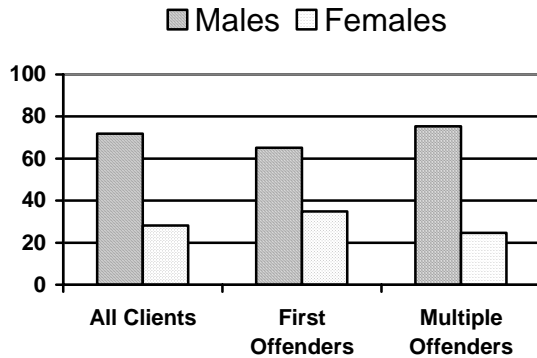

Report data collected in the year 2002.

- **2,059 defendants** were tested

- 1,480 defendants were male

- 579 defendants were female

- 707 or 34.3 percent were first offenders (1 or no arrest),
  460 (65.1%) were male, 247 (34.9%) were female.

- 1,352 or 65.7 percent were multiple offenders (2 or more arrests),
  1,020 (68.9%) were male, 332 (57.3%) were female.

- Demographic and court history for the 2,059 adults tested are presented in the Appendix of this report.

Over 65 percent of the defendants tested (N=1,352) reported having two or more arrests. Having a second and subsequent arrest is indicative of a pattern of problematic behavior. Over half (50.4%) of the defendants had more than two arrests. 68.9 percent of the males and 57.3 percent of the females were multiple offenders (2 or more arrests).
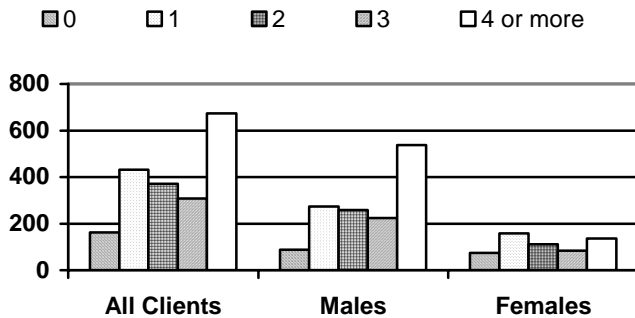
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Percent of the Total Population_____

When number of defendants tested is analyzed as percentages, it was found that:

- 71.9 percent were male

- 28.1 percent were female

- 65.1 percent of first offenders were male

- 34.9 percent of first offenders were female

- 75.4 percent of multiple offenders were male

- 24.6 percent of multiple offenders were female

Males   Females

(Bar chart: categories "All Clients", "First Offenders", "Multiple Offenders"; y-axis 0 to 100)

Number of Arrests _____

0   1   2   3   4 or more

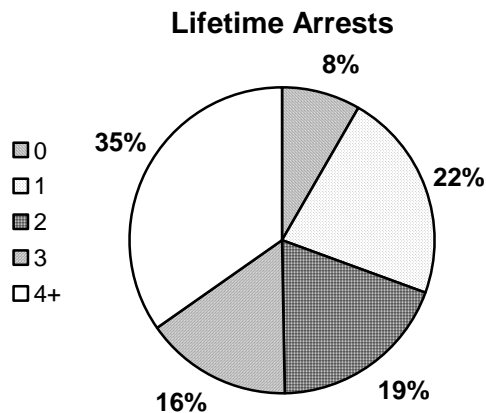(Bar chart: categories "All Clients", "Males", "Females"; y-axis 0 to 800)

- 162 reported no arrest

- 431 reported 1 arrest

- 371 reported 2 arrests

- 308 reported 3 arrests

- 673 reported 4 or more arrests

Note: There were 114 tests with missing number of arrests information.

First offenders are defined as those people tested who had 1 or no arrest and include any person who had missing information for number of arrests. This was only done so that the count of first and multiple offenders would equal the total number of defendants tested. None of the statistical analyses presented herein contain missing information. **The majority (65.7%) of the defendants tested were multiple offenders (2 or more arrests).**

Arrests as a Percentage _____

Lifetime Arrests

When number of arrests is converted to percentages, it was found that:

- 8.3 percent reported no arrest

- 22.2 percent reported 1 arrest

- 19.1 percent reported 2 arrests

- 15.8 percent reported 3 arrests

- 34.6 percent reported 4 or more arrests

The percentage of multiple offenders in this population was 65.7 percent. Over half (50.4%) of the defendants reported having 3 or more arrests. These percentages do not include the 114 cases with missing number of arrests information.

Court History and DQ Scale Scores _____

Correlation coefficients between court history such as, number of arrests, age at first arrest, etc., and DQ scale scores are presented in the table below (N=2,059). These results demonstrate that **total number of arrests is significantly correlated with all DQ scale scores**. These correlations demonstrate that there is a positive relationship between number of arrests and DQ scale scores. As the number of arrests increase defendants' scale scores increase. However, some first offenders do score high on DQ scales and these defendants would be "missed" if only court records were used to determine defendant risk. In other words, court records alone are not sufficient to predict defendant risk. DQ scale scores are needed for accurate prediction.

The correlation between age at 1st arrest and DQ scale scores indicate that there is a significant "negative" relationship with the Drugs, Antisocial and Violence scales. This means that the younger a defendant is at the time of first arrest the higher DQ scale scores are. Age of 1st arrest correlations are highest for the Antisocial Scale.

DQ Scales and Court History Correlations (N = 2,059, 2002)

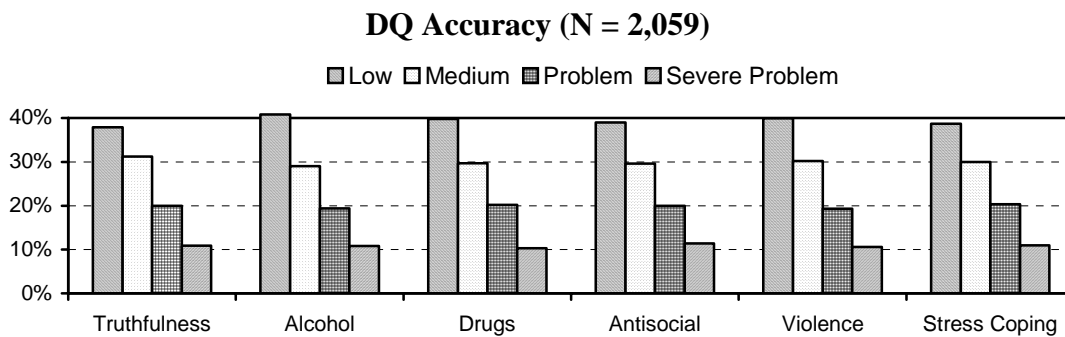|	Truthfulness	Alcohol	Drugs	Antisocial	Violence
Total Number of Arrests	-.136*	.289*	.217*	.597*	.508*
Age at 1st Arrest	.043	-.032	-.154*	-.210*	-.187*
Felonies	-.044	.108*	.161*	.257*	.321*
Probation	-.066**	.207*	.099*	.466*	.361*
Sentenced to Jail	-.121*	.288*	.188*	.464*	.355*
Alcohol Arrests	-.085*	.387*	.057**	.321*	.199*
Drug Arrests	-.073*	.112*	.375*	.379*	.284*
DUI/DWI Arrests	-.003	.514*	-.003	.296*	.120*

Significant at * p<.001, ** p<.01.

Alcohol arrests are correlated highest with Alcohol Scale scores. **Drug arrests** are correlated highest with the Drugs and Antisocial scales. Some of the highest correlations are with the Antisocial and Violence scales. Many arrests and other court history are antisocial, violence, alcohol and drug related. These results support the **discriminant validity** of the Alcohol, Drugs, Antisocial and Violence scales.

In summary, over 65 percent of the defendants tested had previous arrests. Number of arrests is correlated with DQ scores. Many multiple offenders (having multiple arrests) have established drinking, drugs, antisocial and violence problems. Court history correlates most with antisocial and violence-related problems and to a lesser degree with alcohol and drug problems.

The following pages present test statistics for the DQ. Statistics support the DQ as a reliable, valid and accurate defendant test. A test cannot be valid without being reliable, and test accuracy is required for accurate referrals for intervention and treatment.

DQ Accuracy _____

DQ Accuracy (N = 2,059)

Scale	Low Risk (39%)		Medium Risk (30%)		Problem Risk (20%)		Severe Problem (11%)	
Truthfulness	37.9	**(1.1)**	31.2	**(1.2)**	20.0	**(0.0)**	10.9	**(0.1)**
Alcohol	40.8	**(1.8)**	29.0	**(1.0)**	19.4	**(0.6)**	10.8	**(0.2)**
Drugs	39.8	**(0.2)**	29.7	**(0.3)**	20.2	**(0.2)**	10.3	**(0.7)**
Antisocial	39.0	**(0.0)**	29.6	**(0.4)**	20.0	**(0.0)**	11.4	**(0.4)**
Violence	39.9	**(0.9)**	30.2	**(0.2)**	19.3	**(0.7)**	10.6	**(0.4)**
Stress Coping	38.7	**(0.3)**	30.0	**(0.0)**	20.3	**(0.3)**	11.0	**(0.0)**

The four risk ranges (low, medium, problem and severe) and the predicted percentages for each risk range category are shown in bold print in the top row of the above table. The percentages for each DQ scale and risk range category were obtained from the cumulative distribution of defendants scale scores. The difference between predicted and actual risk range percentages is shown in parentheses to the right of each risk range score for each DQ scale. **All defendant obtained risk range percentages were within 1.8 percentage points of the predicted percentages. Accuracy of the DQ is shown by the small differences between obtained risk range percentages and predicted percentages. Defendants' scores can be considered 98% accurate. The DQ is an accurate defendant assessment test.**

DQ Reliability _____

Reliability coefficient alphas for the DQ. All alphas are significant at p<.001.

DQ Scale	Alpha Coefficient
Truthfulness Scale	**.90**
Alcohol Scale	**.94**
Drugs Scale	**.93**
Antisocial Scale	**.85**
Violence Scale	**.87**
Stress Coping Abilities Scale	**.94**
Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale	**.94**

All DQ scales have very high reliability coefficients and are statistically reliable. The professionally accepted reliability standard is .75 and higher.

DSM-IV Substance Abuse/Dependency_____

The Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale classifies defendants according to their responses to DSM-IV substance abuse and substance dependency criteria. If one or more of the four abuse criteria (symptoms) is answered (admission) positively the defendant is classified as substance abuse. If three or more of the seven dependency criteria (symptoms) are answered positively the defendant meets the classification of substance dependency.

DSM-IV Classification	Males	Females	Total
Neither Abuse nor Dependency	30.7%	38.0%	32.7%
Substance Abuse	36.2%	23.3%	32.6%
Substance Dependency	33.1%	38.7%	34.7%

The results of this analysis show that 34.7 percent of the defendants (33.1% of males and 38.7% of females) met the criteria for substance dependency as defined by the DSM-IV items contained in the DQ. There were 32.6 percent of the defendants (36.2% of males and 23.3% of females) classified as substance abuse. 32.7 percent of the defendants (30.7% of males and 38.0% of females) did not meet the criteria of substance dependency or abuse. There were 18.3% of the defendants (16.4% of males and 23.0% of females) who reported having been diagnosed dependent in the past. In the DSM-IV if a person is once diagnosed "dependent" they are always considered dependent thereafter.

Over two-thirds of the defendants were classified as substance abuse or substance dependent by the Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale. A higher percentage of the females were classified dependent than were males. More females were classified as neither abuse nor dependent than males. These results demonstrate that many defendants have identifiable substance abuse problems and that male/female differences exist. The DQ has built-in male/female scoring procedures that correct for these gender differences.

DQ Alcohol and Drugs Scales identify the severity of defendants' alcohol and drug problems. According to ASAM guidelines substance abuse severity can override DSM-IV classifications so that recommendations for treatment are commensurate with substance abuse severity.

DQ Validity _____

DQ validity results demonstrate that the Alcohol Scale accurately identified **100 percent** of the defendants who had been treated for drinking problems. All of the defendants who had alcohol treatment scored in the

problem range on the Alcohol Scale. Similarly, the Drugs Scale identified **98 percent** of defendants who had been treated for drug problems. The Violence Scale accurately identified **100 percent** of defendants who had been arrested for a violent crime, and the Antisocial Scale correctly identified **98.5 percent** of defendants who admitted they were antisocial. These criteria of problematic behavior were used because database analysis in real time settings does not lend itself to administering more that one test. Earlier DQ research did use other tests for criterion validity.

Summary _____

Data for this report was obtained from diskettes that were returned in the year 2002. The DQ was administered to **2,059 defendants**. There were 1,480 males (71.9%) and 579 females (28.1%). The defendant population is broadly defined as Caucasian (67.7%), 20 through 39 years of age (63.9%), High School Graduate or better (65.5%) and single (58.7%).

DQ Accuracy, Reliability and Validity

- DQ scale risk range percentile scores are **98 percent accurate**.

- All DQ scales reliability coefficients were .85 or higher. This compares favorably with the professionally accepted reliability standard of .75 or better.

- Validity analyses demonstrate that DQ Alcohol, Drugs, Violence and Antisocial Scales identified nearly all defendants who were problem drinkers, drug abusers, violent and antisocial.

Defendants' measured "risk" is shown to be **98 percent** accurate. Defendants with low risk range (0 to 39th percentile) or even medium risk (40 to 69th percentile) scores on the Alcohol Scale do not represent drinking problems, whereas, defendants who scored in the problem risk range (70th percentile and above) have identifiable drinking problems. Correct identification of alcohol, drugs, antisocial and violence problems corroborates these findings. The DQ is a reliable, valid and accurate test for defendant assessment.

Arrests (Defendant self-report)

- There were 707 (34.3%) First Offenders (1 or no arrest) and 1,352 (65.7%) Multiple Offenders (2 or more arrests).

- 75.4% (1,020) of the males and 24.6% (332) of the females were Multiple Offenders.

- 38.8% (757) of the defendants had one or more felony arrest.

Nearly two-thirds (65.7%) of the defendants tested had previous arrests. More males than females were multiple offenders. If the cases with missing arrests information were removed, there were 593 (30.5%) first offenders. Over one-third of the defendants had one or more felony arrests.

Defendant Questionnaire (DQ) scales are valid. They significantly correlate with court history. The DQ also has the criminogenic needs scales to identify defendant risk. This was discussed on page 4 under the Court History and DQ Scale Scores heading.

Appendix

Defendant data contained on DQ diskettes returned to Risk and Needs in 2002 are summarized.

Defendant Demographics and Self-reported Court History

Population				
Males		Females		Total
N	%	N	%	N
2,059	71.9	579	28.1	2,059

Age Group				
	Males	Females	Total	
Age	N	N	N	%
20 & Under	319	100	419	20.4
21 - 25	293	94	387	18.8
26 - 30	208	100	308	15.0
31 - 35	174	97	271	13.2
36 - 40	178	103	281	13.7
41 - 45	138	35	173	8.4
46 - 50	84	36	120	5.8
51 - 55	45	10	55	2.7
56 - 60	24	1	25	1.2
61 & Over	12	3	15	0.7

Race/Ethnicity				
	Males	Females	Total	
Race	N	N	N	%
Caucasian	952	413	1,365	67.7
Black	126	74	200	9.9
Hispanic	309	66	375	18.6
Asian	4	2	6	0.3
Native American	33	9	42	2.1
Other	19	10	29	1.4

Education				
	Males	Females	Total	
Grade	N	N	N	%
8th grade or Less	67	43	110	5.4
Some High School	391	163	554	26.9
HS Graduate/GED	719	260	979	47.6
Some College	174	71	245	11.9
College Grad	86	37	123	6.0

Marital Status				
	Males	Females	Total	
Status	N	N	N	%
Single	832	295	1,127	58.7
Married	371	130	501	26.1
Divorced	117	67	184	9.6
Separated	33	52	85	4.4
Widowed	5	16	21	1.1

Defendant Reported Court-Related History

Age at First Arrest				
	Males	Females	Total	
Age	N	N	N	(%)
13 & Under	89	28	117	6.0
14-15	109	26	135	6.9
16-17	288	48	336	17.2
18-19	321	86	407	20.8
20-21	142	43	185	9.5
22-23	91	45	136	7.0
24-25	84	35	119	6.1
26-30	90	75	165	8.4
31-35	56	58	114	5.8
36-40	51	55	106	5.4
41 & Over	92	41	133	6.8

Defendant Reported Court-Related History, continued

Number	Number of Times Arrested			
	Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)
0	88	74	162	8.3
1	273	158	431	22.2
2	259	112	371	19.1
3	224	84	308	15.8
4	133	36	169	8.7
5	109	32	141	7.2
6	59	20	79	4.1
7 – 9	85	21	106	5.4
10 or more	151	27	178	9.2

Number	Times on Probation				Probation Revocations			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	482	283	765	38.4	1,171	497	1,668	85.3
1	552	195	747	37.5	173	47	220	11.3
2	261	61	322	16.2	38	11	49	2.5
3	96	17	113	5.7	10	3	13	0.7
4	18	4	22	1.1	1	0	1	0.1
5	11	3	14	0.7	0	0	0	0.0
6 +	7	1	8	0.4	4	0	4	0.2

Number	Times on Parole				Parole Revocations			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	1,278	532	1,810	91.9	1,351	553	1,904	96.7
1	101	24	125	6.3	44	4	48	2.4
2	23	2	25	1.3	5	1	6	0.3
3	6	1	7	0.4	7	2	9	0.5
4	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1	0.1
5	1	0	1	0.1	0	0	0	0.0
6 +	1	0	1	0.1	0	0	0	0.0

Number	Times Sentenced to Jail				Times Sentenced to Prison			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	764	374	1,138	57.6	1,272	531	1,803	91.1
1	286	101	387	19.6	106	21	127	6.4
2	160	49	209	10.6	31	5	36	1.8
3	74	21	95	4.8	7	1	8	0.4
4	37	2	39	2.0	1	0	1	0.1
5	27	8	35	1.8	1	1	2	0.1
6 +	65	6	71	3.6	2	0	2	0.1

Defendant Reported Court-Related History, continued

	Alcohol Arrests				Drug Arrests			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
Number	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	569	354	923	46.5	937	392	1,329	67.2
1	375	107	482	24.3	323	125	448	22.6
2	222	67	289	14.6	99	19	118	6.0
3	108	15	123	6.2	33	12	45	2.3
4	44	3	47	2.4	11	2	13	0.7
5	25	6	31	1.6	4	3	7	0.4
6 +	80	8	88	4.4	10	8	18	0.9

	DUI/DWI Arrests				Felony Arrests			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
Number	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	679	395	1,074	53.9	848	346	1,194	61.2
1	377	87	464	23.3	349	163	512	26.2
2	212	57	269	13.5	117	33	150	7.7
3	88	14	102	5.1	37	7	44	2.3
4	33	3	36	1.8	14	2	16	0.8
5	18	3	21	1.1	19	2	21	1.1
6 +	24	1	25	1.3	12	2	14	0.7

The information presented in the above tables is what was reported by defendants on their DQ answer sheets. Many defendants have histories of criminal behavior. Over one-third (38.8%) of the defendants had been arrested for a felony. Nearly two-thirds (61.6%) had been placed on probation. Over half (53.5%) of the defendants had one or more alcohol-related arrests. These statistics show that defendants have multiple problems. DQ scales identify these defendants' problems.

Data on the percentages of first offenders and multiple offenders shows that there were over 34 percent first offenders. Nearly two-thirds of the defendants had been arrested two or more times. Nearly one-third (30.1%) of the defendants had their first arrest before the age of 18 and nearly two-thirds (60.4%) had been arrested by the age of 21. Over one-third (38.8%) of the defendants had one or more felony arrests.

DQ scale score risk ranges show that the DQ accurately assess defendant risk. High statistical reliability is maintained in the DQ. Discriminant validity is supported by correlations between court history variables and DQ scale scores. Number of arrests is correlated with DQ scale scores. Alcohol arrests correlate best with Alcohol Scale scores. Drug arrests correlate best with Drugs Scale scores. Many arrests and other court history are correlated with violence-related problems and to a lesser degree with alcohol and drug problems. These statistics support the scientifically sound methodologies of the DQ. The DQ is a reliable, valid and accurate test.

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