Applying an Equity Lens to Risk Assessment

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Please provide one word describing a risk assessment that gets it right.
What We Are Going to Talk About Today

When it’s appropriate to use risk

How risk assessments are developed

What it means to be “valid”
The Difference Between Risk, Need, Safety

Risk

Need

Safety
Risk Classification

Likelihood of future outcome

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

Purpose must balance potential opportunity with unintended consequences
Getting it Right

Useful

Accurate

Fair

Consistent
Is Risk Assessment Useful?
Is Risk Assessment Accurate?

Time goes by . . .
Is Risk Assessment Fair?

Equal ✓

Equitable ✓
Is This Risk Assessment Valid?

All Families

- Low: 17%
- Moderate: 31%
- High: 43%
- Very High: 49%

Native American Families

- Low: 28%
- Moderate: 42%
- High: 49%
- Very High: 47%

Categories:
- Low: blue
- Moderate: gray
- High: red
- Very High: brown

Percentage distribution for All Families:
- 23%
- 25%
- 7%

Percentage distribution for Native American Families:
- 38%
- 16%
- 12%
Is the risk distribution useful?

Yes  A

No   B

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Is the risk classification accurate?

Yes

No
Is the risk classification fair?

Yes

No
Risk Continuous Quality Improvement: Revalidation

\[ Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots + \beta_n X_n + \epsilon \]

where \( Y \) is the dependent variable

\( \beta_0 \) is the intercept term

\( \beta_n \) are the \( n \) coefficients for independent variables

\( \epsilon \) is the error term

NCCD
Children’s Research Center
California Example: Refining the Risk Assessment

All Families

- Low: 16%
- Moderate: 30%
- High: 46%
- Very High: 58%

Native American Families

- Low: 21%
- Moderate: 38%
- High: 52%
- Very High: 69%
Modeling Exercise
What Did We Learn?
The right risk model may not always be the most statistically accurate risk model.
Key Questions for Ethical Risk Assessment
Please provide one word describing a risk assessment that gets it right.
Thank you!

For more info, visit www.nccdglobal.org
or call (800) 306-6223