

## **Utilizing Risk & Needs Assessments**

In Utah, a number of risk assessments and screening tools are utilized to better serve youth and families. Utah Juvenile Probation and Utah Juvenile Justice Services use two main risk assessment tools: the Pre-Screen Risk Assessment (PSRA) and the Protective and Risk Assessment (PRA). Both of these assessment tools are based on the Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment, and have undergone validation studies following adaption with Utah-specific populations. The Pre-Screen Risk Assessment is a brief risk and needs assessment designed to screen youth in the preliminary stages of involvement with the juvenile justice system and to determine if additional assessment is needed. The Protective and Risk Assessment is a more in-depth assessment that examines a wide variety of factors related to the youth's strengths and challenges in ten different life areas called domains. These domains include: delinquency history, school, employment, relationships, environment, current living arrangements, alcohol and drugs, mental health, attitudes and behaviors, and skills. The assessment of each domain is based on identification of protective factors that are related to the reduced likelihood of re-offending and risk factors that are related to the increased likelihood of reoffending.

In addition to these core assessments, Utah Juvenile Probation and Utah Juvenile Justice Services also utilize a number of specialty assessments for youth with specific needs. For example, the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool – II (JSORRAT-II) is used as a screening tool for juveniles who have offended sexually to determine if a more in-depth and comprehensive Sexual Behavior Risk Assessment (SBRA) is needed. The SBRA is a comprehensive assessment administered by a licensed therapist.

In Utah, assessments are an integral part of the case planning process and are used to identify and focus on addressing the factors that are related to the youth's involvement in the juvenile justice system. For more information on the application of the risk assessment results by juvenile probation officers and case workers into the case planning process, please visit [www.utcourts.gov/courts/juv/ebp/](http://www.utcourts.gov/courts/juv/ebp/).