

Kent County Office of Community Corrections (OCC) staff collaborate with a variety of criminal justice stakeholders to collect a variety of data outside of the sentencing data provided to OCC on a monthly basis. One example of this data are the results of the risk/needs assessment completed by 17th Circuit Court Probation staff during the presentence investigation that occurs prior to sentencing. COMPAS – the risk/need assessment tool utilized by the Michigan Department of Corrections – assists decision making in several areas including supervision and programming decisions. More specifically related to community corrections, OCC staff utilize the results of COMPAS for strategic planning and establishing program eligibility criteria for funded agencies in Kent County.

The following information is compiled from the COMPAS risk/need assessment results provided to Kent County OCC staff by Circuit Court Probation. The first table provides information for the top five needs for those that are sentenced to community-based sanctions that includes probation supervision. Percentages represent the percentage of those that scored medium to high on the assessment for that given scale. Evidence-based practice tells us that strategic planning and services should focus on those that score medium to high on the COMPAS scales. Data is provided for Calendar Years (CY) 2019 through 2021.

Top Five Need Scales – CY 2019 through CY 2021		
Percentage Medium/High Need		
CY 2019	CY 2020	FY 2021
Substance Abuse 71.3%	Substance Abuse 72.8%	Substance Abuse 71.7%
Criminal Involvement 65.5%	Criminal Personality 67.7%	Criminal Personality 69.3%
Criminal Personality 61.7%	Criminal Involvement 60.1%	Criminal Involvement 59.6%
History Non-Compliance 59.4%	History Non-Compliance 60.1%	History Non-Compliance 56.4%
Cognitive Behavior 52.5%	Cognitive Behavior 54.2%	Cognitive Behavior 50.8%

COMPAS also provides a number of need scales indicate the unique needs of women sentenced by the 17th Circuit Court. Utilizing this information, in addition to taking into consideration evidence-based practices which call for services tailored to the unique needs of this population of women in Kent County, allows the Kent County CCAB and OCC staff to tailor and support programming specifically for these residents. Using the same guidelines as above, the top five needs for women change when compared to the overall population in the previous table. An example of interpreting this table can be found in the Self-Efficacy need scale. Being an inverse

scale, medium to higher levels of need on this scale are a positive rather than a concern. Self-Efficacy, in short, is an individual's belief in their ability to engage in behaviors that assist in the attainment of specific goals related to performance and activities.

Top Five Need Scales – CY 2019 through CY 2021 – Women		
Percentage Medium/High Need		
CY 2019	CY 2020	FY 2021
Self-Efficacy 87.9%	Self-Efficacy 89.5%	Self-Efficacy 86.6%
Substance Abuse 65.5%	Substance Abuse 76.1%	Substance Abuse 70.0%
Criminal Involvement 64.5%	Criminal Personality 65.4%	Criminal Personality 69.5%
Criminal Personality 63.9%	Criminal Involvement 64.4%	Criminal Involvement 67.0%
Criminal Thinking Self Report 58.5%	Experience Abuse as an Adult 64.6%	Criminal Thinking Self Report 65.8%

An example of how Kent County OCC staff may use this information to craft service recommendations to Kent County Community Corrections Advisory Board members is to examine these top five needs to see a) what services are needed in Kent County and b) what agencies may be able to provide evidence-based programming to address those specific needs. Using the data in these two tables, Kent County OCC staff may recommend that the CCAB approve and support funding for substance abuse treatment as well as cognitive-behavioral thinking related services. Additionally, Kent County OCC staff may advocate for female-specific programming that provides substance abuse treatment and cognitive-behavioral treatment services in a gender-specific manner and environment.