Public Safety Assessment: How It Works

The Public Safety Assessment (PSA) is an actuarial assessment that uses nine factors to predict three pretrial outcomes: Failure to Appear (FTA), New Criminal Arrest (NCA), and New Violent Criminal Arrest (NVCA). Use of the PSA, in combination with other pretrial improvements, is associated with improved pretrial outcomes. The PSA does not replace judicial discretion. The PSA provides judicial officers with research-based information that they weigh, along with other information, to make more informed pretrial decisions.

PSA Factors and Pretrial Outcomes

This table shows the nine factors used by the PSA and which factors are used to predict each outcome.

PSA FACTORS AND PRETRIAL OUTCOMES			
PSA FACTOR	**FTA**	**NCA**	**NVCA**
1. Age at current arrest		✓	
2. Current violent offense			✓
2A. Current violent offense and 20 years old or younger			✓
3. Pending charge at the time of the arrest	✓	✓	✓
4. Prior misdemeanor conviction		✓	
5. Prior felony conviction		✓	
5A. Prior conviction (misdemeanor or felony)	✓		✓
6. Prior violent conviction		✓	✓
7. Prior failure to appear in the past 2 years	✓	✓	
8. Prior failure to appear older than 2 years	✓		
9. Prior sentence to incarceration		✓	