USER'S MANUAL

YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE/CASE MANAGEMENT INVENTORY: SCREENING RESEARCH VERSION©

YLS/CMI: SRV

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INTRODUCTION

The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory: Screening Research Version (YLS/CMI: SRV) is a shortened version of Part I: Risk/Need Assessment of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMI 2.0; Hoge & Andrews, 2011). The screening research version is designed to provide a preliminary estimate of the level of risk for antisocial behavior and an indication of areas of need that can be addressed to reduce the risk level.

The YLS/CMI: SRV is a cost and time efficient screener for assisting in decisions about the level of supervision or intervention appropriate for the youth and the kinds of intervention he or she requires. *It is not designed as the sole basis for decisions, but it can be an aid in the preliminary classification of the client*. Additional information may be required for final decisions, and, with higher risk cases, an assessment with the full YLS/CMI 2.0 will be indicated.

The YLS/CMI: SRV is primarily designed for use within juvenile justice and correctional systems. However, it may also have some utility for youth who have not come into contact with the law. This would include schools and mental health settings. The instrument was originally developed for use with youth between 12 and 18 years, but it may also have some value as a screening instrument for younger children.

The parent instrument, the YLS/CMI 2.0, was derived from the Level of Service Inventory–Revised (LSI–R; Andrews & Bonta, 1995). Considerable psychometric support is available for these instruments and both are widely used in judicial and correctional settings throughout the world.

The YLS/CMI: SRV contains 8 items corresponding to the eight risk/need domains of the YLS/CMI 2.0: (a) history of delinquency/conduct disorders; (b) current school or employment problems; (c) antisocial peer associations; (d) substance abuse problems; (e) leisure/recreation problems; (f) personality/behavior disorders; (g) antisocial attitudes/values. These domains were selected to reflect the major correlates of juvenile antisocial behavior as identified in the theoretical and empirical literatures (Cottle, Lee, & Heilbrun, 2001; Hawkins, Herrenkohl, Farrington, Brewer, Catalano, & Harachi, 1998; Hoge, 2001; Lipsey & Derzon, 1998).

The eight domains of the YLS/CMI: YV include both static and dynamic risk factors. Static risk factors refer to factors predictive of future antisocial activity that are historical and not subject to change. Criminal history is one such example. Dynamic risk factors refer to risk factors that are amenable to change, and, if changed, reduce the level of risk. Antisocial attitudes and dysfunctional family functioning are two examples of dynamic risk factors. We also refer to dynamic risk factors as need factors.

The identification of the level of risk represented by the client is important because of the risk principle of case classification that states the level of intervention provided the client should reflect risk level. In other words, intensive levels of service, whether represented by supervision or treatment, should be provided high risk clients, while lower risk clients should receive less intensive services or none at all.

The identification of need factors is important because of the need principle of case classification that states that the targets of service should be matched with the needs of the client. For example, if antisocial peer associations and drug abuse problems are the

primary needs exhibited by the youth, interventions should target those specific areas of need.

While the assessment of both risks and needs is critical to many decisions made about youth in juvenile justice and correctional settings, the assessments are generally based on informal and unsystematic clinical assessments or on instruments focusing narrowly on static risk factors (Hoge, 1999; Hoge & Andrews, 1996; LeBlanc, 1998). Both the YLS/CMI 2.0 and YLS/CMI: SRV are designed to respond to the need for standardized instruments focusing on a broad range of risk and need factors.

USES OF THE YLS/CMI: SRV

The YLS/CMI: SRV is designed for situations in which preliminary assessments of large numbers of youth are required. This situation will often arise at the initial apprehension or initial processing stages where a decision must be made about further judicial processing. The instrument can help to identify low risk, low need youth who may need no further intervention and higher risk/needs youth who require more intensive assessments. It can also help in identifying needed targets of intervention for the youth.

The instrument has particular value in those juvenile justice systems with pre-charge or pre-adjudication diversion systems. In these cases the instrument can help to guide decisions about the level of intervention required, as well as the types of needs to be targeted in the intervention. For example, a young person apprehended for shoplifting may emerge as relatively low risk for continued criminal activity, but with needs associated with leisure/recreation activities. Appropriate diversion activities could then be recommended. On the other hand, if the youth exhibits relatively high levels of risk and need at the initial assessment, then more intensive assessments would be indicated.

Data collected with the YLS/CMI: SRV can also have value for management and policy decisions. Information about the levels of risk exhibited by youths dealt with by the agency and the types of needs they exhibit are important for decisions about the allocation of agency resources. The information is also required in accounting for agency activities to the funders of agency activities.

PRINCIPLES OF USE

The YLS/CMI: SRV is not intended as the sole basis for decisions about a youth. Final decisions about actions within the juvenile justice or other child care system must rest with the professional worker responsible for the young person, and they should base their professional judgment on a variety of sources of information. The YLS/CMI: SRV is designed as one source of information.

The YLS/CMI: SRV may be completed by psychologists or social workers or by other professionals such as police officers, probation officers, child intake workers, and residential youth workers. All individuals who use the instrument should be familiar with the material in this User's Manual and be trained by an authorized trainer. It is also desirable for agencies employing the measure to have a resource person in place with some background in psychological testing and a familiarity with the major ethical guidelines associated with the use of psychological assessments. This resource person would be responsible for monitoring the completion of the measure and for answering questions about its use.

Both the YLS/CMI 2.0 and YLS/CMI: SRV are designed to encourage the use of the least restrictive judicial sanction and of rehabilitative strategies (Hoge, 2005; Hoge &

Andrews, 1996, 2002). The use of these measures simply to identify high risk youth and expose them to punitive sanctions is contrary to our intentions.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ADMINISTRATION

As indicated above, the YLS/CMI: SRV should only be completed by an individual familiar with the material in this User's Manual and trained in its administration. The instrument can be administered and scored in paper-and-pencil form using the YLS/CMI: SRV form. The instrument will normally be completed on the basis of an interview with the youth. Where possible, this client interview information should be supplemented with information from files and interviews with collateral sources of information (e.g., parents, teachers).

YLS/CMI: SRV Form

The YLS/CMI: SRV Form is where ratings are recorded. The form contains a summary of the rating criteria for each item, and allows for the ratings to be scored and profiled. The items and rating criteria are also described in more detail later in this section.

Scoring Procedures

Scoring of the first six items is based on a yes/no rating. The last 2 items (Family Circumstances/ Parenting and Attitudes/Orientation) require a rating of 0 to 3 reflecting the severity of the problem. When the answer to a given item is unknown, then 0 (Omit) should be circled. When an item is omitted, it is not counted when calculating the total score. No more than two items should be omitted. The omission of more than two items results in a profile that should be considered invalid. Where this occurs, you should search out the missing information. The YLS/CMI: SRV total score is obtained by adding

one point for each Yes response on items 1 through 6 and one point for each 2 and 3 response on items 7 and 8. Scores may range from 0 to 8.

YLS/CMI: SRV ITEMS

The following are guidelines for scoring individual items of the YLS/CMI: SRV. For convenience, these instructions also appear on the form.

History of conduct disorders: Score Yes if there are two or more prior adjudications or other evidence of earlier conduct problems.

Current school or employment problems: Score Yes if the youth is exhibiting serious behavioral or achievement problems in school; is suspended or expelled; also score if out-of-school and not employed or seeking employment.

Some criminal friends: Score Yes if the youth has some friends who have a history of delinquency or are currently exhibiting conduct problems or antisocial attitudes.

Alcohol/drug problems: Score Yes if the youth is frequently or chronically using drugs/and or alcohol; drugs/alcohol affecting school work, social life, etc.

Leisure/recreation: Score Yes if the youth is <u>not</u> engaged in organized or otherwise positive leisure time activities; few interests, poor use of time.

Personality/behavior: Score Yes if the youth exhibits serious personality or behavioral problems (e.g., physical/verbal aggression; short attention span; hyperactive; poor controls).

Family Circumstances/parenting: 0 indicates a positive and supportive family/ Parenting situation, while 3 indicates a very poor situation (e.g., abuse, frequent conflicts, inadequate supervision). In calculating the total score, score one point for a 2 or 3 response.

Attitudes/orientation: 0 indicates that the youth exhibits a positive and prosocial attitude/value system, while 3 indicates an extreme antisocial and procriminal attitude/value system. In calculating the total score, score one point for a 2 or 3 response.

PSYCHOMETRIC ANALYSES

Preliminary reliability and validity analyses are available for the YLS/CMI: SRV based on a Ph.D. dissertation study (Van de Ven, 2004). Additional analyses are in progress.

Reliability

The internal consistency score for the total YLS/CMI: SRV score is adequate: Cronbach alpha = .85. Interrater reliability of the total YLS/CMI: SRV score based on a sample of 34 cases was .53. Interrater reliabilities for the individual items were lower, but this is not a particularly good test given the small sample size.

Validity

Construct validity was evaluated by correlating YLS/CMI: SRV scores with parallel scores from the more comprehensive YLS/CMI 2.0 instrument. The latter was completed on the basis of file information reviews and interviews with the youth conducted by assessors unaware of the YLS/CMI: SRV scores. Satisfactory correlations were obtained between parallel scores from the two instruments: Family Circumstances/ Parenting ($r = .42$, $p < .001$), Education/Employment ($r = .70$, $p < .001$), Peers ($r = .41$, $p < .001$), Substance Abuse ($r = .78$, $p < .001$), Leisure/Recreation ($r = .39$, $p < .001$), Personality/Behavior ($r = .64$, $p < .001$), Attitudes/Orientation ($r = .25$, $p < .001$). The first item on the two instruments, Criminal History and Conduct Disorder were not

parallel and could not be compared. The Total Score from the two instruments were also significantly correlated, $r = .69$, $p < .001$.

The construct validity of the YLS/CMI: SRV Total Score was also evaluated by correlating the score with other standardized measures of risk and needs. These included the parent version of the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL/6-18; Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001) and the following self-report measures: Criminal Sentiments Scale-Modified (CSS-M; Shields & Simourd, 1991, How I Think Questionnaire (HIT; Gibbs, Barriga, & Potter, 2001), Jesness Inventory (JI; Jesness, 1998), and Youth Self Report (YSB; Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001). Significant correlations were obtained between parallel scores (see Appendix A).

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APPENDIX A

Correlations of YLS/CMI:SRV Total Score With Other Measures

Measure	YLS/CMI:SRV
Child Behavior Checklist: Total Problem Score	.51***
Youth Self-Report: Total Problem Score	.46***
Criminal Sentiments Scale: Total Problem Score	.46***
How I Think Questionnaire: Total Problem Score	.49***
Jesness Inventory Asocial Index	.50***

*** $p < .001$