

Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile (JP)

Training Manual

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Preface

Juvenile Profile (JP) research and development began in 1996 and has continued to the present. The proprietary JP and JP database insures continued future research and development.

By merging the latest in psychometrics with computer technology the JP accurately assesses client behavior and identifies client risk as well as need. Staff can now objectively gather a vast amount of relevant information, identify client problems and formulate specific intervention and treatment strategies.

JP contains copyrighted software programs and all rights are reserved. Users are cautioned not to attempt to copy JP software, nor attempt loading these programs on a hard disk drive, as these tests are copyright protected. Attempts to copy these programs is also a violation of federal copyright law.

The JP is a self-report test that is completed by the client, either individually or in group settings. There are no forms or questionnaires to be completed by the staff. JP's are scored and interpreted by the computer which generates printed JP reports on-site within minutes of test completion. These reports eliminate the need for tedious, time consuming and error prone hand scoring. Staff report writing, substantiation of decision making and record keeping needs are met with JP reports.

Evaluators are typically not clinicians or diagnosticians. Their role has been to identify driver risk and related substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse prior to recommending intervention. For example, intervention could include an education program, further clinical evaluation or treatment, court-related sanctions or levels of supervision. The evaluator could also obtain important information from another source, e.g., interview with the victim, police report, court records, etc., and this additional information should not be overlooked or ignored.

Present, Past or Future Tense

Juveniles should answer questions as the questions are stated -- in present tense, past tense or future tense. Questions are to be answered literally as they are presented. **There are no trick questions.** If an item wants to know about the past, it will be stated in the past tense. If the item inquires about the present, it will be stated in the present tense. And, if an item asks about the future, it will be stated in the future tense. Just answer each question as it is stated.

Table of Contents

Product Description	1	JP Reports	6
Five Empirically Based Measures	1	Oral Instructions.....	6
Risk Level Classification	2	Test Data Input Verification	7
Significant Items	2	Delete Client Names	7
Multiple Choice Items	2	Control of JP Reports.....	8
Evaluator’s Recommendations	3	Audio (Human Voice) Option.....	8
Expanding Database	3	Check Answer Sheet for Completeness	8
Gender Specific Norms.....	3	Special (99% Report) Scores	9
Truthfulness Scale.....	3	Accurate – Inaccurate Profiles	9
Validity	4	Retest.....	10
Truth-Corrected Scores.....	4	Focused Interview	10
Court-Related Information.....	4	Time Savings.....	10
Alcohol Scale	4	Database	10
Drug Scale.....	5	Technical Support	11
Stress Coping Abilities Scale.....	6	Staff Orientation.....	11

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Product Description

The **Juvenile Profile (JP)** is a brief, easily administered and automated (computer scored and interpreted) test specifically designed for juvenile offender risk assessment and screening.

Within minutes after test completion, the JP can generate a comprehensive report presenting five empirically based measures (scales), explaining attained risk levels and making specific recommendations. JP reports also summarize multiple choice items, set forth “significant items” and provide space for staff recommendations.

The JP is a test designed specifically for use with juveniles. It can be completed in 30 minutes and reports can be printed on-site within 3 minutes of test completion. The JP has been researched and normed on the juvenile offender population.

Tests can be given directly on the computer screen or in paper-pencil test booklet format. Regardless of how the tests are administered, all tests are computer scored on-site and reports are available within minutes of test completion. Staff report writing, substantiation of decision-making and record keeping needs are met with these reports.

Five Empirically Based Measures

The JP includes five (5) empirically-based measures (scales):

- 1. TRUTHFULNESS SCALE:** The Truthfulness Scale is a measure of how truthful the client was while completing the JP. This scale identifies self-protective, recalcitrant and guarded people who minimize or even conceal information. The Truthfulness Scale detects faking.
- 2. ALCOHOL SCALE:** The Alcohol Scale is a measure of the client's alcohol proneness and alcohol-related problems. Juvenile evaluation and screening programs are based on the concept of an objective, reliable and valid measure of alcohol proneness and abuse. Alcohol refers to beer, wine or other liquor.
- 3. DRUG SCALE:** The Drug Scale is an independent measure of the client's other drug abuse proneness and drug-related problems. Without a Drug Scale many drug (marijuana, cocaine, crack, barbiturates, amphetamines, heroin, etc.) abusers would remain undetected. The JP differentiates between licit (legal) and illicit (illegal) drug use.
- 4. AGGRESSIVENESS SCALE:** The Aggressiveness Scale is a measure of the youth's risk-taking behavior, acting out potential and aggressiveness. Aggressiveness is an important trait in violent crimes. This scale helps detect the abstaining, yet irresponsibly aggressive client.
- 5. STRESS COPING ABILITIES SCALE:** The Stress Coping Abilities Scale is a measure of the client's ability to handle stress. Severely impaired stress coping abilities are indicative of other identifiable emotional and mental health problems.

Risk Level Classification

Each JP scale score is classified in terms of its severity or the risk range it represents. These risk level classifications are calculated individually for the five empirically based scales as follows.

PERCENTILE RANGE	RISK RANGE
0 to 39th percentile	Low Risk
40 to 69th percentile	Medium Risk
70 to 89th percentile.....	Problem Risk
90 to 100th percentile.....	Severe Problem Risk

It is recommended that staff members do not take the JP test. Staff members do not have the same mental set as a juvenile offender, consequently they may invalidate or distort "their" JP profile. Also, a person who does not presently engage in alcohol or other drug abuse may score above zero, but would score in the low risk range. In addition, an elevated score (above the 70th percentile) on the Alcohol or Drug Scale could be obtained by a recovering alcoholic or drug abuser, consequently the client should be asked if he or she is recovering, and if recovering, "how long have they been abstaining" from alcohol or other drug use.

Significant Items

Significant Items represent self-admissions or important self-report responses. They are provided for reference and do not by themselves determine the respondent's scale score. For example, **a person could have a high scale score and few significant items.** Significant Items are printed on page 3 of the JP report for the **Alcohol, Drugs and Aggressiveness** scales. Significant Items augment scale scores and sometimes provide a more complete understanding of the client. Multiple Choice Items permit comparison of the client's beliefs and attitude with their objective scale scores.

When no significant items are answered in a negative direction the following statement is printed under that scale heading: "No significant items were reported for this scale."

Multiple Choice Items

Section 3 (multiple choice items) responses reflect important self-report motivational, attitudinal and perceptual information. Responses to these items (or the last sequence of test items) include multiple choice items. These client responses are always printed on page 3 of the JP report. They represent the client's perception of his or her situation and needs; therefore, they may differ from empirically based and objective scale scores. **This enables further comparison of client's motivation and attitudes with the client's objectively attained scale scores.** For example, persons may report "no problem" with regard to their alcohol-related drinking pattern, even though their score on the Alcohol Scale is above the 90th percentile (severe problem) range. On the other hand, it is also important to note when the multiple choice items responses are consistent with their corresponding objective scale scores.

Evaluator's Recommendations

In some instances the evaluator will have an observation or recommendation that differs from the JP report. This is OK! The evaluator may obtain important information from another source (offender, relative, records, etc.) which influences their recommendations. In these situations it is recommended that the evaluator document in writing this additional source in the space provided for "Observations and Comments" in the JP report.

Expanding Database

Copyrighted JP software was designed with the capability of "**saving**" the data from each test in a confidential (no names) manner for ongoing research and analysis. No client names appear in JP research or annual program summary reports. Users are encouraged to use the Delete Names option before returning diskettes.

The expanding JP database is statistically analyzed each year. This feature represents a unique advantage of the JP. The database ensures ongoing research at no additional cost to the JP user. As the JP database continues to grow, new and exciting research discoveries and innovative software remedies are anticipated. Gender (male/female) differences have already been identified (and remedies developed) by this procedure.

Gender Specific Norms

Research identified significant gender (male/female) differences on three of the JP scales. Based on this research, gender specific norms (separate male and female scoring procedures) have been established in the JP software program for the **Truthfulness Scale**, **Alcohol Scale**, and the **Aggressiveness Scale**. Significant gender differences were not observed on the Drug Scale or the Stress Coping Abilities Scale. It is important to note that these gender differences may vary from state to state. Thus, it is very important that gender specific research continues. This is an example of how the annual analysis of database research is important.

Truthfulness Scale

Self-report tests and interviews are subject to the danger of respondents not telling the truth. An important advance in testing is the Truthfulness Scale, which measures how honest the client is while completing the test. It would be naive to believe that all people taking tests always answer questions truthfully. Truthfulness Scales identify self-protective and guarded people who attempt to deny, minimize or even conceal information. This feature is of special importance in court-related settings, since the outcome of a person's test results could affect their level of supervision, nature of intervention and life situation. **The Truthfulness Scale identifies attempts to fake or under report problems and concerns.**

Validity

Definition: Within the context of assessment, **validity** is a general term for accuracy of measurement. Valid test results are essentially free from error.

They are accurate. In contrast, invalidity refers to distortion of test results due to the youth's attitude and test taking behaviors. Invalidity may be due to guardedness, denial, faking, reading things into questions, emotional instability, reading impairments, etc. An invalid test means test results are distorted and not accurate.

When reviewing a JP report, staff should check the Truthfulness Scale score. If the Truthfulness Scale score is below the 70th percentile--test results are valid and accurate. Truthfulness Scale scores between the 70th and 89th percentile are likely valid, but should be interpreted cautiously. Truthfulness Scale scores above the 90th percentile are invalid.

When the Truthfulness Scale score is at or above the 95th percentile, all other JP scale scores (Alcohol, Drugs, Aggressiveness and Stress Coping Ability) automatically are assigned the percentile score of 99. This procedure helps distinguish invalid JP reports. When all scale scores are 99, that youth's Truthfulness Scale score was at or above the 95 percentile.

Truth-Corrected Scores

Another sophisticated psychometric technique involves "truth-corrected" scores which are individually calculated for each JP scale every time a test is scored. The Truthfulness Scale establishes how truthful the client was while completing the JP. Correlations between the Truthfulness Scale and all other scales were statistically determined. This procedure enables the JP to identify and add back into each scale score the amount of error variance associated with a person's untruthfulness, resulting in "truth-corrected" scores. Raw scores may only reflect what the client wants you to know. Truth-corrected scores reveal what the client is trying to hide. Truth-Corrected Scale scores are more accurate than raw scores because they account for the measured amount of untruthfulness of the client while completing the JP.

Court-Related Information

For maximum screening effectiveness, test results and prior court-related records are used jointly. Juvenile Profile (JP) research (from 1996 to the present) supports this conclusion. Whenever court history, such as alcohol or drug priors affect the Alcohol or Drug Scale, the following printouts are included in the JP report.

*Score due to alcohol arrests

*Score due to drug arrests

This procedure is intended to alert the JP user as to important contributing factors affecting an offender's score. For reference these factors are discussed in more detail below.

Alcohol Scale

The Alcohol Scale measures a youth's alcohol proneness and alcohol-related problems. This is an important area of inquiry when evaluating alcohol abuse and predicting risk. Similarly, alcohol-related arrests are important when predicting risk.

**ALCOHOL-RELATED ARRESTS AND ALCOHOL SCALE
(MINIMUM SCORES)**

NUMBER	PERCENTILE
1	40%
2	60%
3	70%
4+	89%

Discriminant validity of the Alcohol Scale is demonstrated by the fact that no other JP scale correlates significantly with alcohol-related arrests. Only the Alcohol Scale correlates significantly with alcohol-related arrests.

When the number of alcohol-related arrests is not available, the Alcohol Scale is scored in the usual manner, i.e., adding up the number of deviant responses. **When the Scale score exceeds the minimum alcohol-related arrests score, the higher Alcohol Scale score is reported.**

Drug Scale

Discriminant validity of the Drug Scale is determined by the fact that no other JP scale correlates significantly with other drug-related arrests. Drugs refers to marijuana, cocaine, crack, barbiturates, amphetamines, heroin, etc., or illicit (illegal) drugs.

NOTE: Since state laws vary, the "Drug-Related Arrests" minimum scores cited below, are established on a state-by-state basis to ensure compliance with state statutes and procedure.

The Drug Scale measures a client's drug proneness and drug-related problems. This is becoming an increasingly important area of inquiry when evaluating drug abuse and risk.

**DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS AND DRUG SCALE
(MINIMUM SCORES)**

NUMBER	PERCENTILE
1	40%
2	60%
3	70%
4+	89%

When the number of drug-related arrests is not available, the Drug Scale is scored in the usual manner, i.e., adding up the number of deviant responses on the Drug Scale. **When the Drug Scale score exceeds the drug-related arrest minimum score, the Drug Scale score is reported.**

Stress Coping Abilities Scale

The Stress Coping Abilities Scale correlates significantly (.001 level of significance) in predicted directions with the following MMPI scales: Psychopathic Deviate (Pd), Psychasthenia (Pt), Anxiety (A), Manifest Anxiety

(MAS), Ego Strength (ES), Social Responsibility (RE), Social Alienation (PD 4A), Social Alienation (SCIA), Social Maladjustment (SOC), Authority Conflict (AUT), Manifest Hostility (HOS), Suspiciousness/Mistrust (TSC-III), Resentment/Aggression (TSC-V), and Tension/Worry (TSC-VII). **Stress exacerbates other symptoms of emotional problems.** A high risk (90 to 100th percentile) Stress Coping Abilities score is indicative of markedly impaired stress coping abilities and very likely reflects identifiable emotional and mental health problems.

JP Reports

JP reports are designed to meet the needs of risk evaluation and screening programs. The standard three page JP report concisely summarizes test data in an accurate and easily understood manner. **Staff needs for report-writing, substantiation of decision-making, and record-keeping are all met with JP reports.** Also, a one page "summary report" can be printed in addition to the standard JP report.

JP reports have been individualized to be in compliance with each state and agencies' needs. Recommendations desired in one city or state may not be appropriate in another.

Oral Instructions

It is now clear that offenders in court-related settings minimize their alcohol and other drug-related problems. They also substantially under-report their alcohol and other drug use. However, the oral instructions to the offender before he or she begins the JP are important. A straightforward approach is recommended. For example:

"This test contains a truthfulness measure to determine how cooperative and truthful you are while completing it. Please answer all of the questions honestly. It is also important that you do not read anything into the questions that is not there. Your court records may be checked to verify the accuracy of your answers. Just answer each question truthfully."

Giving the client an example often helps them understand. The example that you use will be influenced by your client population, experience, and intent. It should be individualized to your situation and needs. The following example is presented for clarification as to how an example might be included in your oral instructions to the client.

Last week a client told me while taking the MMPI that he could not answer this true-false question, "I am attracted to members of the opposite sex." When asked why, the client replied, "If I answer True, you will think I am a sex maniac. If I answer False, you will think I am a homosexual." I told the client that "this test item does not ask you about being a sex maniac or a homosexual.

It simply asked if you are attracted to members of the opposite sex. When you interpreted it to refer to sex maniacs or homosexuals, you were answering a different question. Do not read anything into these questions that isn't there, because if you do, you will invalidate the test and may have to take it over. Simply answer the questions True or False. There are no trick questions or hidden meanings. If you misinterpret or change the questions in the test, you will invalidate the test."

A few minutes of oral instructions can put the client at ease while providing structure and clarifying expectations. Such procedures can greatly reduce your invalidity ratio while making the assessment procedure more acceptable to the client. Some agencies type out oral instructions for the staff so that they can have them as a ready reference.

Test Data Input Verification

This procedure allows the person that is inputting the test data from the answer sheet to verify the accuracy of their data entries. In brief, the test data is input twice and any inconsistencies between the first and second data entry are highlighted until corrected. When the first and second data entries match (or are the same) you may continue. This data verification feature is optional.

You may enter client test data and print reports continuously until the diskette is filled, or if you wish, you may check to verify that data entries from the answer sheet were accurate. You have the option of verifying any data that you enter, whether you wish to verify all tests or randomly pick one or a few tests that were entered from a diskette. The choice is yours! There are two ways in which you may perform the test data input verification procedure: 1) after a new test has been entered, or 2) by choosing the option from the Supervisor Options menu. The verification procedure compares test items entered the first time with entries made the second time. If the test data entry is the same the first and second (verification) times -- then the test data was accurately entered. However, if there is a discrepancy between the first and second (verification) data entries -- then there is a data error or input discrepancy that should be checked. Keep in mind that an error could be made either time, i.e., the first or second time data was entered. To know which is the correct data you will need to refer to the answer sheet.

Delete Client Names

You have the option to delete client names. This is optional. **This option is provided for you to protect client confidentiality.** If you want to use this option, remember that once you delete the client names -- they are gone and can not be retrieved. Deleting client names does not delete demographic information or test data. It only deletes client names when you use this option.

Control of JP Reports

The standard JP report is designed for juvenile offender risk evaluation. It is not recommended that this JP report be given to the juvenile offender. It is not recommended that the offender takes any JP materials, including the report out

of the office. **Do not give the JP report to the youth to read or take out of your office.**

In summary, if a juvenile reads his or her JP report, that client will likely pick out a word or term that they will question or object to and then perseverant in their thinking. This is counterproductive, as no one question or response will significantly alter their score. Scale scores are based on the client's pattern of responding. **Juveniles should not take any JP report or materials out of the office.**

Audio (Human Voice) Option

Audio (Human Voice) Reading: This JP test administration mode is new and innovative. The client sits before the computer with earphones on. Earphones ensure clarity while eliminating distractions. The “arrow keys” allow the client to switch back and forth between questions and answers. As each question or answer is highlighted it is read to the client. The client can go back and forth as many times as needed. When the client selects an answer the program advances to the next question. **Reading can be in any language**, e.g., English, Spanish or Native American. To make other languages available Behavior Data Systems, Ltd. would need the translator and reader provided for recording. This innovative approach to reading impaired screening resolves most bilingual, cultural and reading impaired screening problems. Yet, it does require earphones and computer audio capability. The JP can be programmed for human voice test administration in most, if not all languages. We prefer to limit Automated (Human Voice) Reading options to a maximum of three languages per computer.

Check Answer Sheet for Completeness

Check the client's answer sheet for completeness when it is turned in and before the client leaves. No items should be skipped and both true and false should not be answered for the same question. In these instances the clients should be informed that each question must be answered in accordance with the instructions, and be given the opportunity to correct or complete their answer sheet. **Skipped answers are scored by the computer in the deviant direction, since it is assumed that these items were omitted to avoid admitting a "negative" response.**

Staff should verify the information provided by the client on the answer sheet. The information concerning other court history may be used in the JP report to establish minimum scores.

Special (99% Score) Reports

When the Truthfulness Scale score is at or above the 95th percentile all other scale scores are automatically set to the 99th percentile. In other words the JP report is modified due to the extremely inaccurate test protocol. And in place of the scale descriptions or paragraphs explaining scale scores, a one-page explanation of validity - invalidity or accuracy - inaccuracy is printed. **A test protocol is inaccurate and invalid when the Truthfulness Scale score is at or above the 90th percentile.** This modified report dramatizes the extremely high Truthfulness Scale score (95th percentile or higher). We will

await user feedback before deciding to implement this 99th percentile procedure for Truthfulness Scale scores at the 90th and above percentile score.

Accurate - Inaccurate Profiles

Invalidity is defined in terms of a client attaining a Truthfulness Scale score in the 90 to 100 percentile range. Yet, even with this type of a Truthfulness Scale score you can identify different accurate-inaccurate test profiles. Four examples are given for clarification.

Example #1

An elevated (at or above the 90th percentile) Truthfulness Scale score with all other JP scale scores at or above the 90th percentile. This profile is often associated with impaired reading skills, acute emotional turmoil, or a deviant response set (answered all questions true or all false). Further inquiry is needed with the client before deciding whether to retest. If impaired reading abilities are evident, you might consider the JP-audio human voice option. If emotionally upset, you might want to settle the client down before retesting. Although relatively rare, some clients may not take the testing situation seriously and might randomly respond to test questions. Regardless of the reason, this JP test profile is invalid.

Example #2

An elevated Truthfulness Scale score with at least one other scale score above the 69th percentile and at least one other scale score below the 40th percentile. This may be a valid profile where the client was either inadvertently "reading things into the questions" or attempting to be "absolutely honest." After reviewing the instructions, this client would likely be retestable. However, a "focused interview" may be all that is needed to complete this assessment.

Example #3

An elevated Truthfulness Scale score with all other scale scores at or below the 39th percentile. This client was attempting to minimize problems and "look good" but was detected by the Truthfulness Scale. This is a classically invalid profile. This client can be expected to be defensive, guarded and manifest denial. A direct approach is recommended, e.g., "you were either attempting to minimize your problems or you were reading things into the questions that weren't there." Retest would be contingent upon the client's attitude.

Example #4

A low risk Truthfulness Scale score with other scale scores variable is usually considered a valid profile. However, in very rare instances, this could represent a "test wise" client or staff member playing "beat the test." Earlier it was noted that staff do not have the same mental set as an offender and it was recommended that staff do not take the JP. It would be unusual and rare for a client to be that "test wise." First year college students in psychology classes were asked to "lie but don't get caught" and were detected. The respondent's motivation should be established on the basis of the overall assessment.

Retest

If clients invalidate their JP, it is recommended that they be given the opportunity to be retested. Prior to retesting, the oral instructions should be reviewed. If the retest is still invalid, the person may be untestable at that time. The alternative to formal testing is the interview.

Focused Interview

The JP is specifically designed for juvenile offender risk evaluation and screening. It provides a vast amount of relevant information quickly and accurately. The JP facilitates a "focused" interview that can result in significant savings in time with no compromise in the quality of the service being provided. JP results are to be augmented with an interview.

Time Savings

The JP provides relevant self-report information in a timely (within minutes) manner, thereby facilitating a "focused interview." The focused interview may require 15 to 30 minutes to complete, with no compromise in effectiveness or quality. **Focused interviews "zero in" on client's problems and concerns. Problem areas are identified so the interview can focus on these areas of concern.**

Database

A database of client information and test data is very useful. It makes possible ongoing cost-effective research and also provides the capability to summarize results for administrative, budgeting and planning purposes. **BDS's proprietary built-in expanding database provides both a research and program summary capability.** Copyrighted software "saves" the test data from each test that is administered in a confidential (no names) manner.

The JP database provides a cost effective approach to ongoing research. The JP database is analyzed annually. This means that on an annual basis the JP is essentially restandardized. This ensures accuracy and fairness. JP databases are established on a state-by-state basis.

These same databases provide a cost effective means by which testing programs can be summarized--again in a confidential (no names) manner. Annual summary reports describe the population that was tested. Population statistics, demographics, emerging trends and much more can be provided in these reports on an annual basis.

Technical Support

If you have problems or questions, call Professional Online Testing Solutions, Inc.: **(602) 234-3506**. This number is operational from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Standard time). Support is also available via E-mail, our E-mail address is **info@online-testing.com**.

Staff Orientation

Please distribute this document to staff that participates in juvenile offender evaluations. There are modifications between JP and the current or updated JP staff should be aware of.
