

Introduction: The Risk Assessment Journey

1st Generation: professional judgement

2nd Generation: evidence based, mostly static

3rd Generation: static and dynamic factors

4th Generation: risk/need/responsivity

5th Generation: Where do we go from here?



Validation of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LSCMI) for Assessing Risk of Re-Offense

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Jessica Wildermuth, Ph.D., Senior Planning Analyst, Hennepin County
Debra Nonemaker, M.A., Research Consultant, Nonemaker Consulting
On behalf of
Operations & Innovation Services, Danette Buskovick, Area Director

Study Description

The Tool: Risk Section of the LSCMI

The Measurement – Risk for Re-offense

Predictive Study – Re-offense within three years.

The Sample – Over 5000 Initial LSCMI Assessments

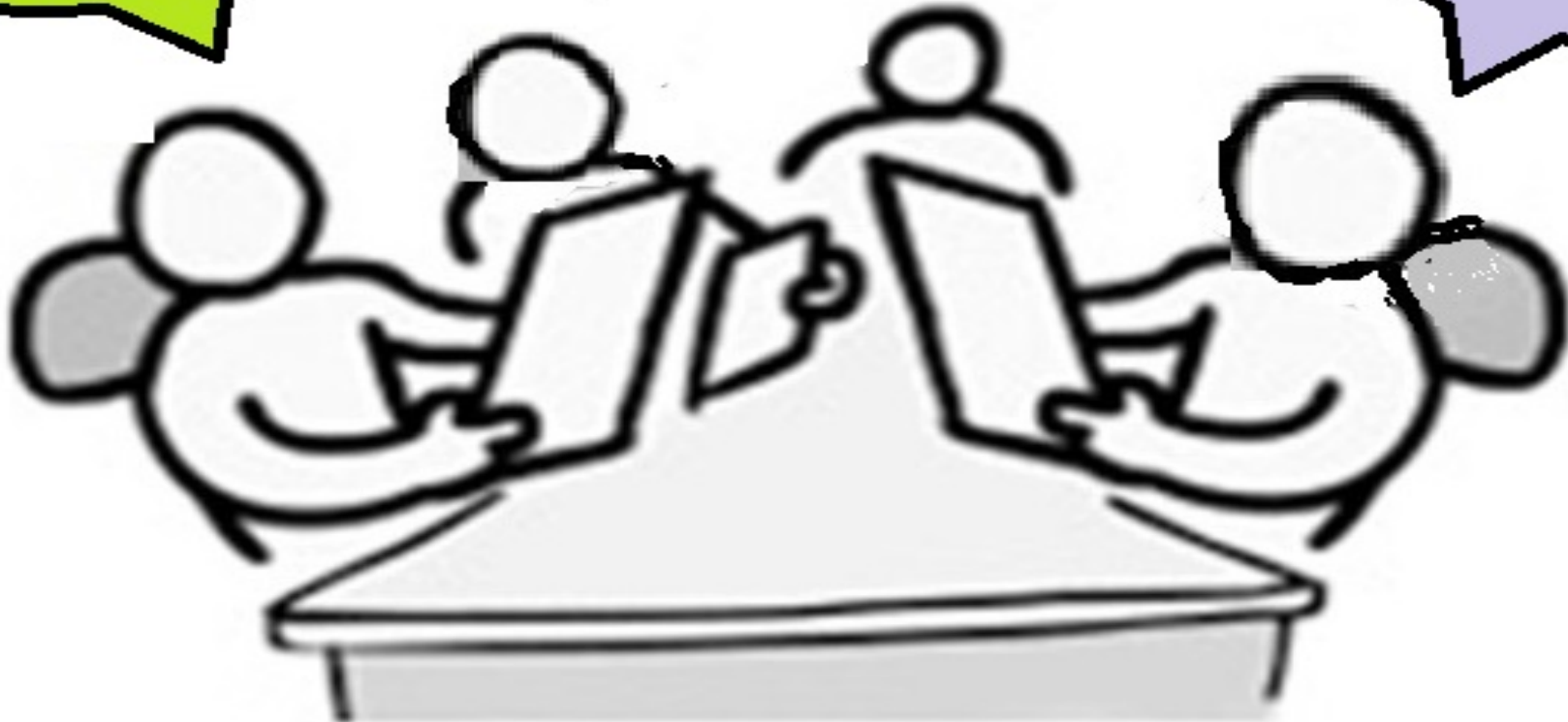
- Low Risk Clients screened out with Pre Screener

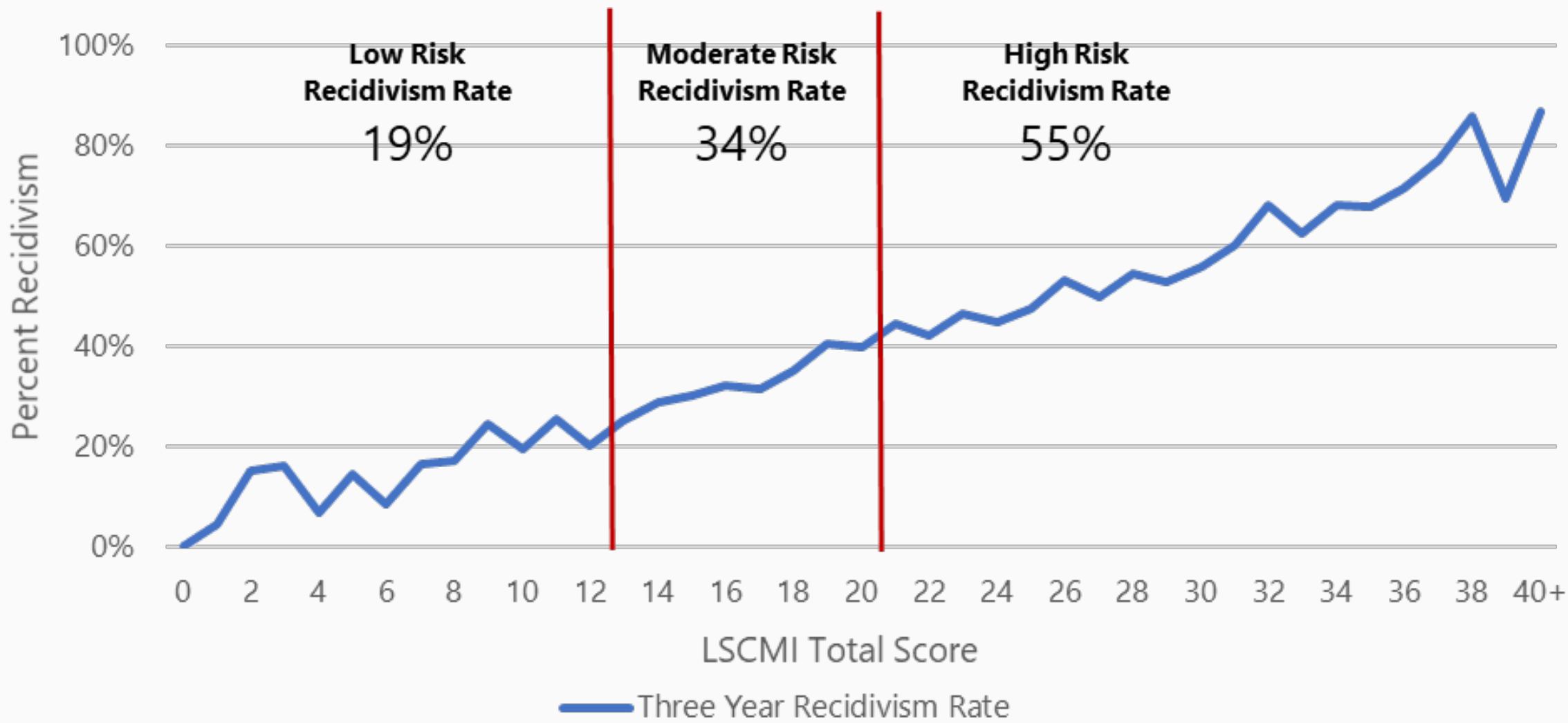
Questions to be answered

Is it Valid?

Is it accurate?

Is it fair?





What does fairness mean?

Validity – It actually measures risk for all groups.

Accuracy – It is just as accurate for all groups.

Measurement – The same score means the same thing.

Content – Items are not biased against one group.

Risk Classification – No disproportionality,
similar recidivism rates & error rates.

Gender Subgroups

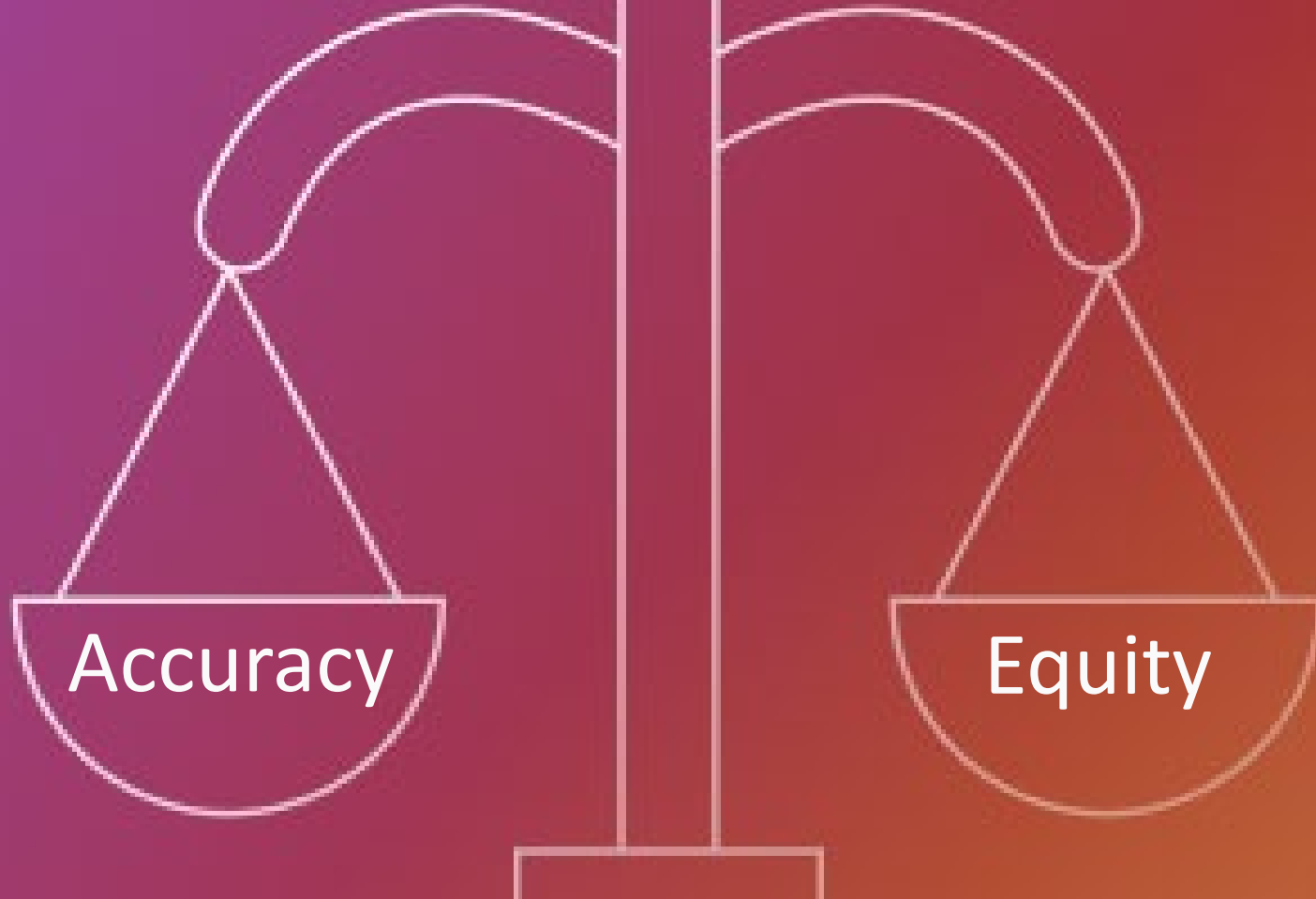
Validity – It measures risk to reoffend.

Accuracy – No significant difference.

Measurement – Some difference in measurement.

Content – Items are not biased against one group.

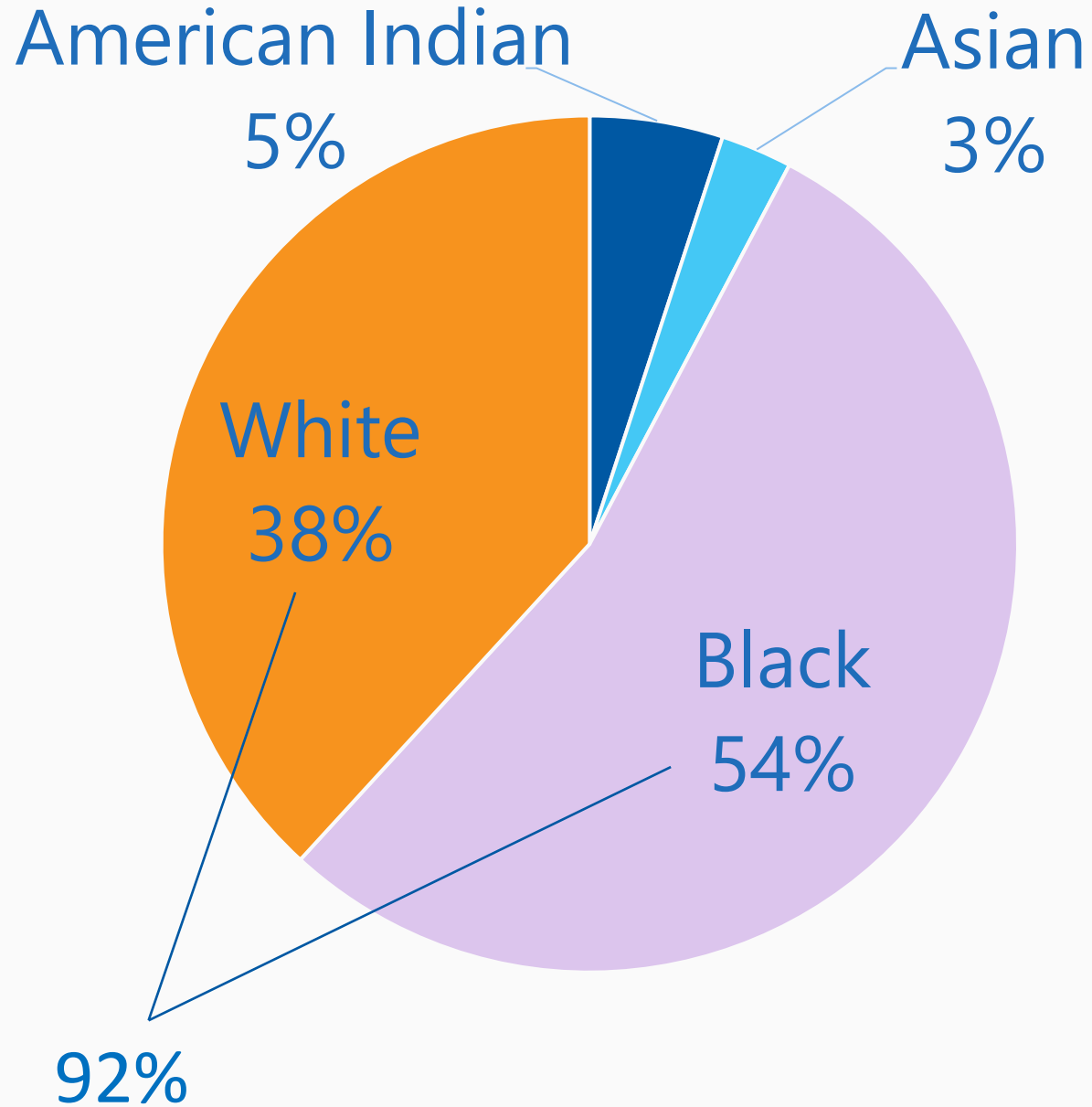
Risk Classification – tied to recidivism behavior.

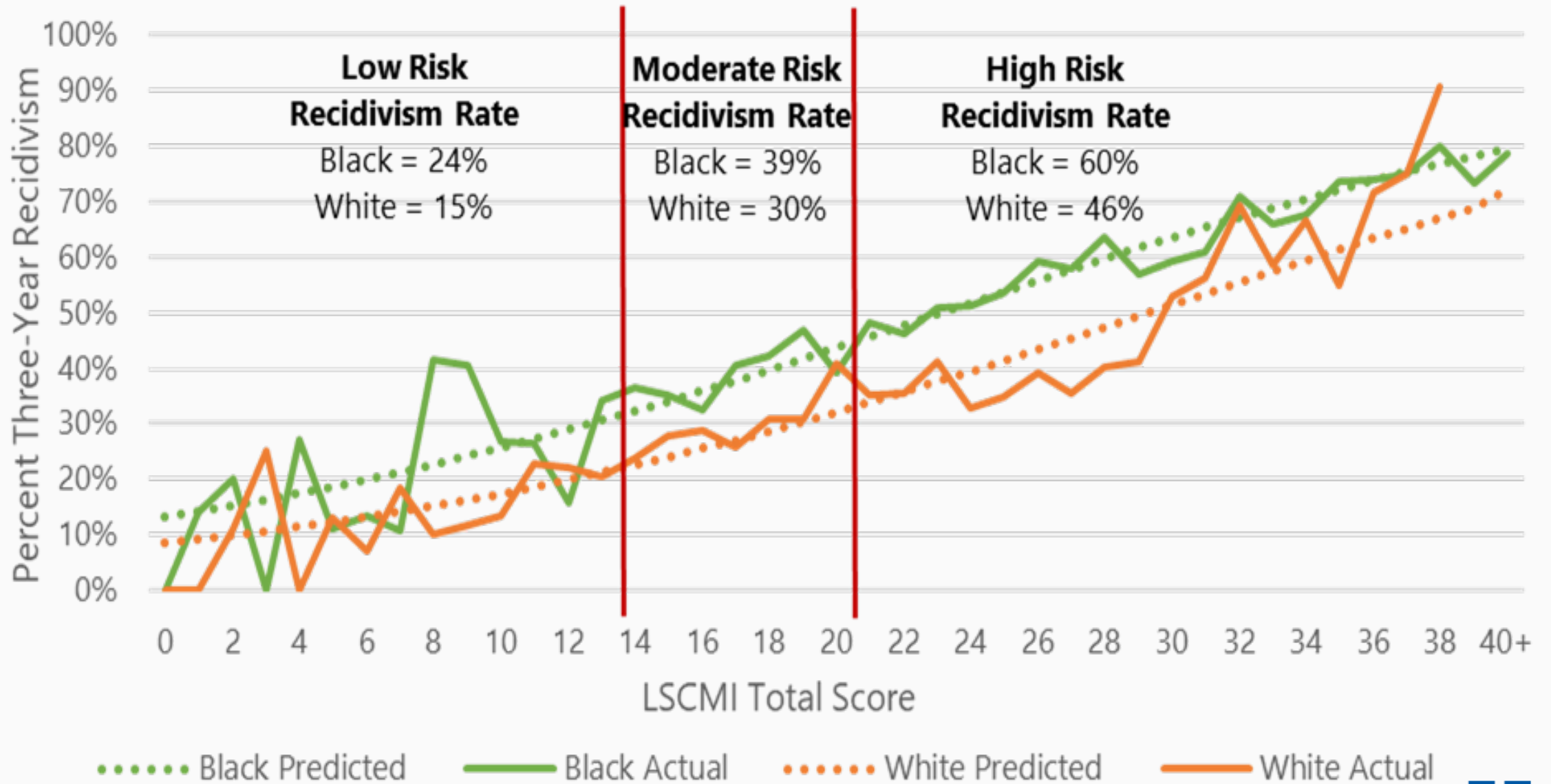


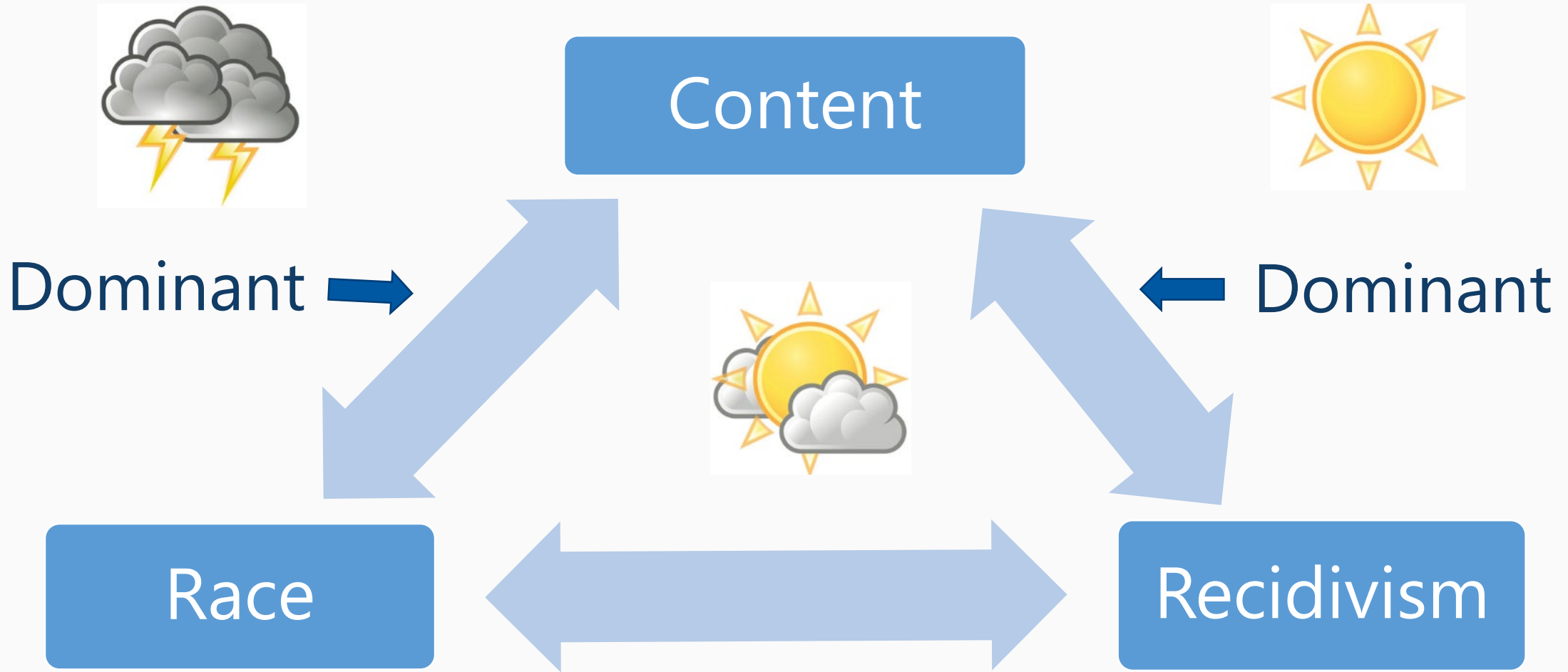
Compromise

LSCMI is valid for all major racial groups.

No statistical difference in accuracy for Blacks versus Whites.







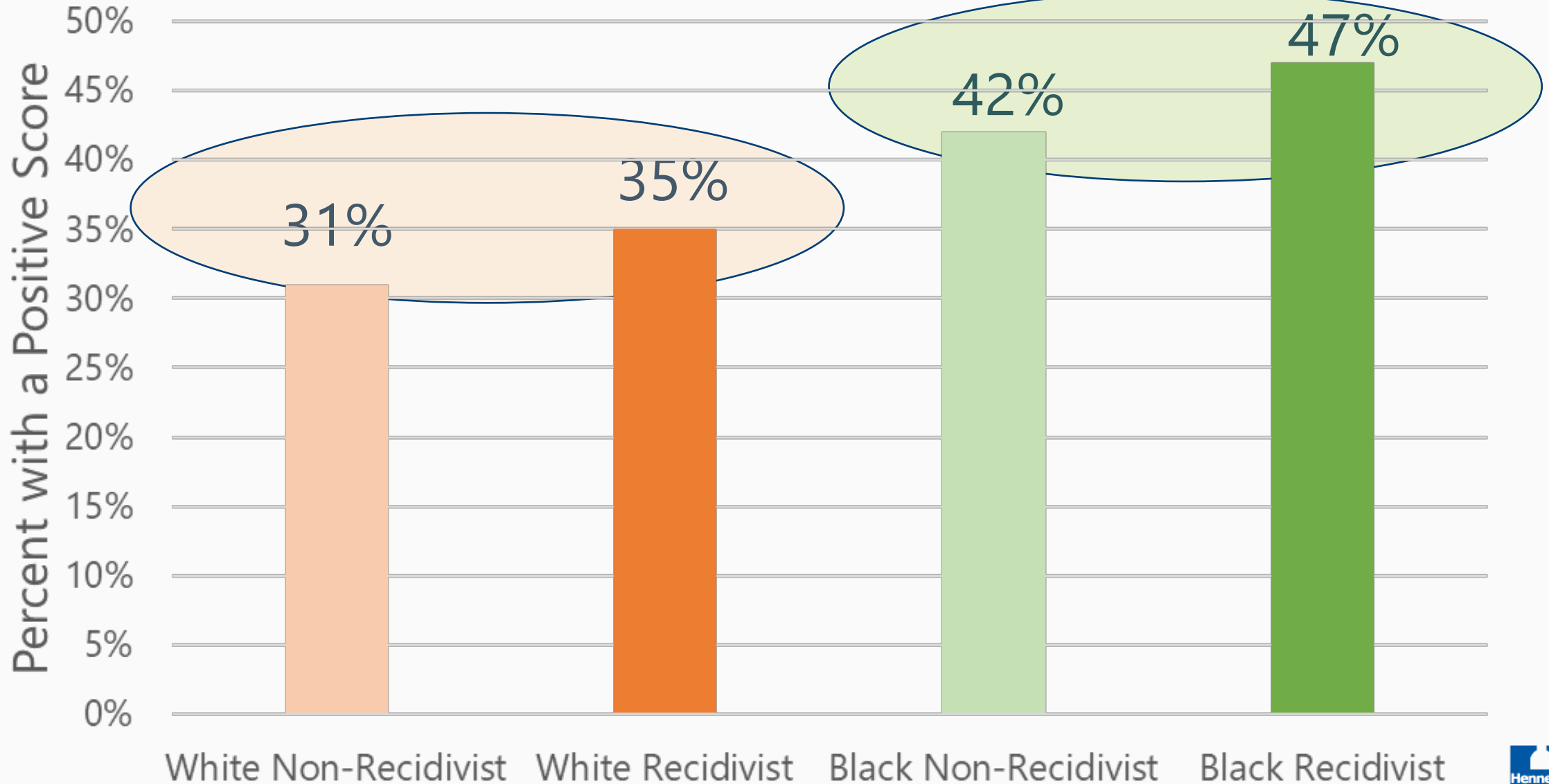
Racially biased items:

Items 12 and 13 – level of education
(less than grade 12/10)

Item 21 – Criminal Family/Spouse

Item 38 – Poor attitude toward
Sentence/Offense

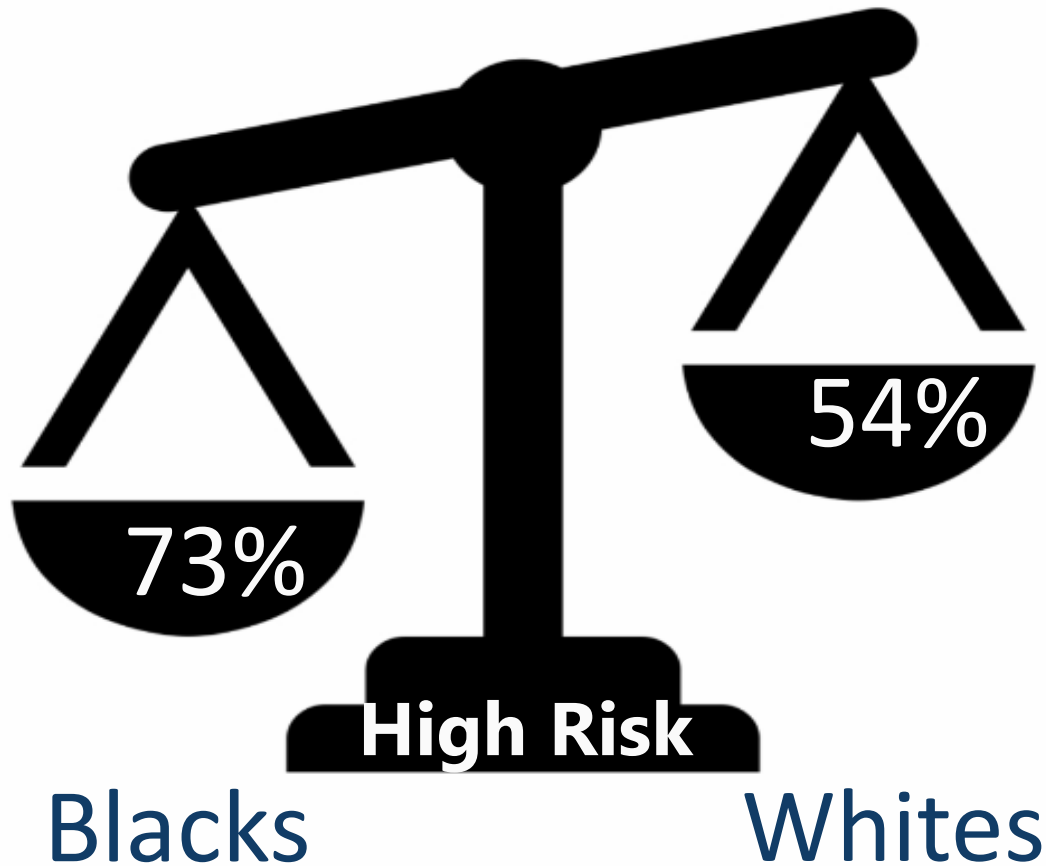
Item 38 Poor Attitude toward Sentence/Offense



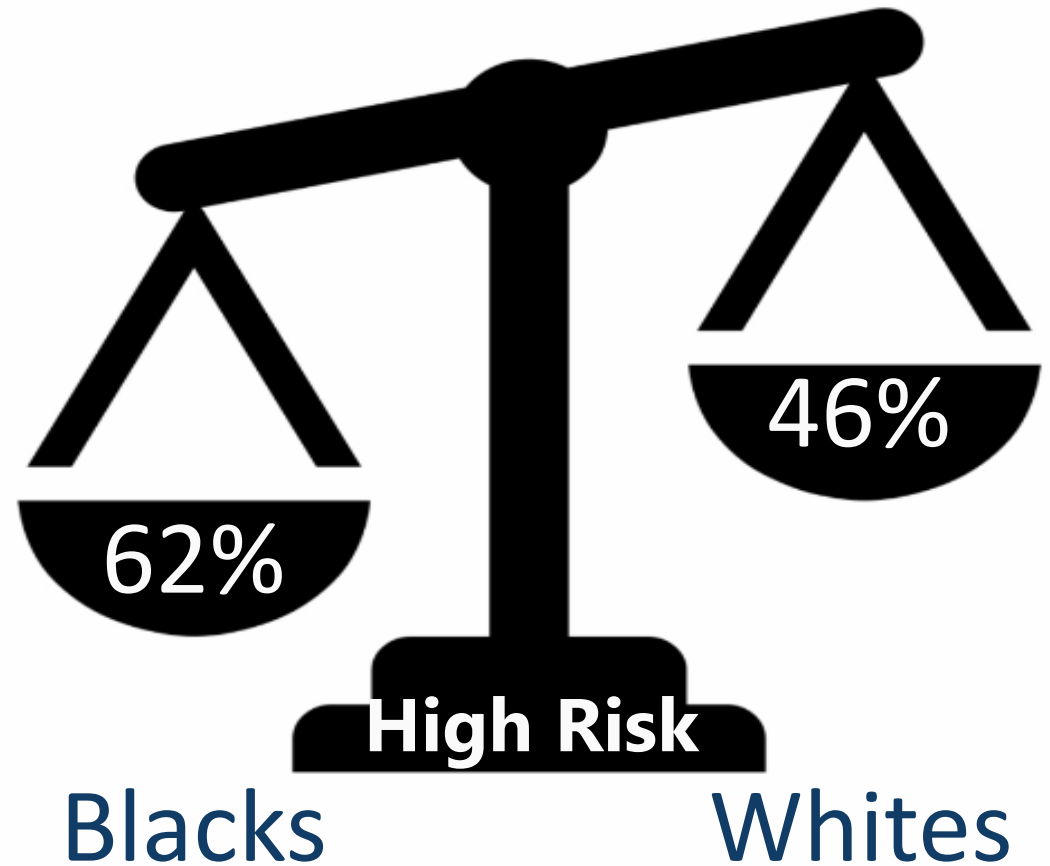
Improvements to Equity for American Indians and Blacks

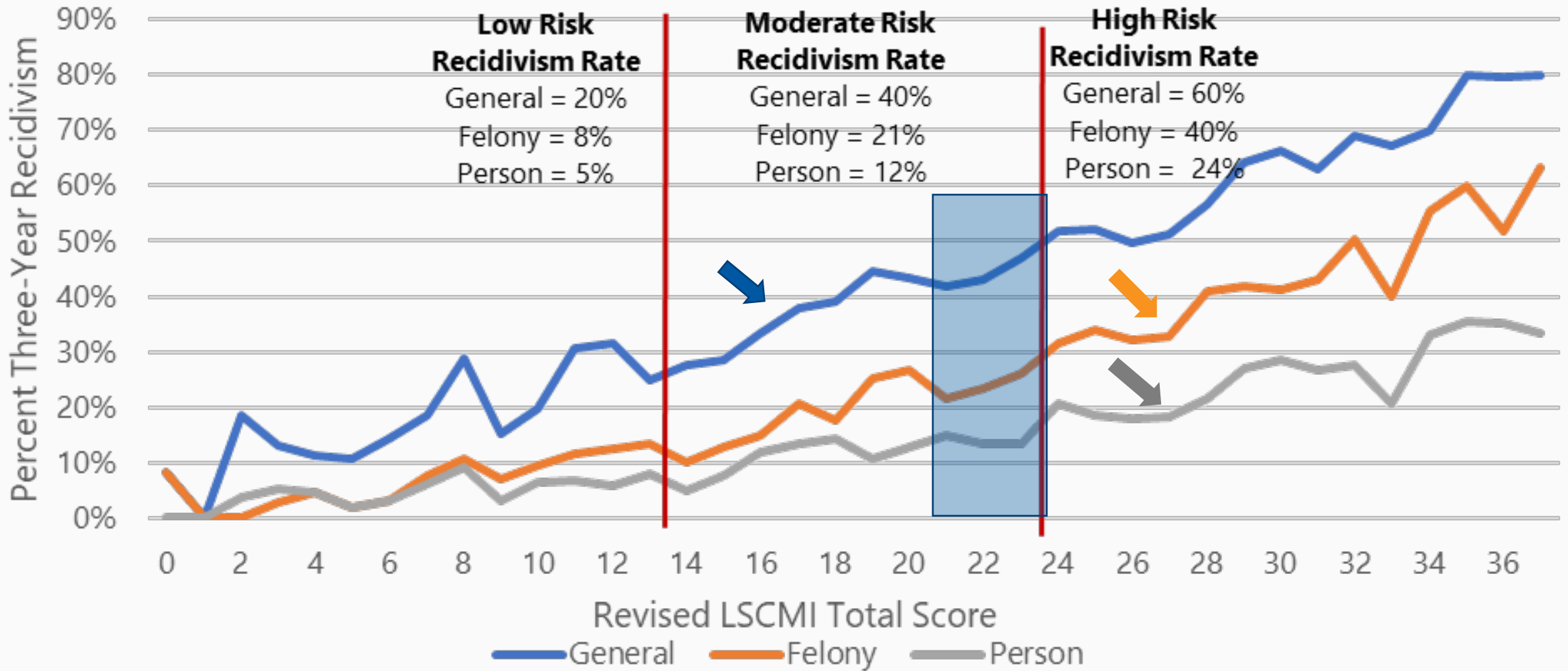
- Greater percentage with lowered scores
- Greater change in score
- More frequent shift to low-risk category
- More frequent shift to moderate-risk category

Disproportionality



Misclassification





Improvement to Disproportionality



Blacks

Whites

Current High Risk



Blacks

Whites

Proposed High Risk

Improvement to Misclassification



Blacks

Whites

Current High Risk



Blacks

Whites

Proposed High Risk

Where are we now?

- Confirmed validity and accuracy of LSCMI
- Removed biased items
- Adjusted Risk Classification
- Explore bias issues

Where do we go from here?

Balancing Concepts

Accuracy: measures risk to re-offend better than before.

Equity/fairness: functions similarly across sub-populations.

Equality: not over- or under-predicting risk groups.

Utility: ease of use, aligned with our goals, supports effective communication of results.



