



The Public Safety Assessment – Court Analysis of Race and Gender

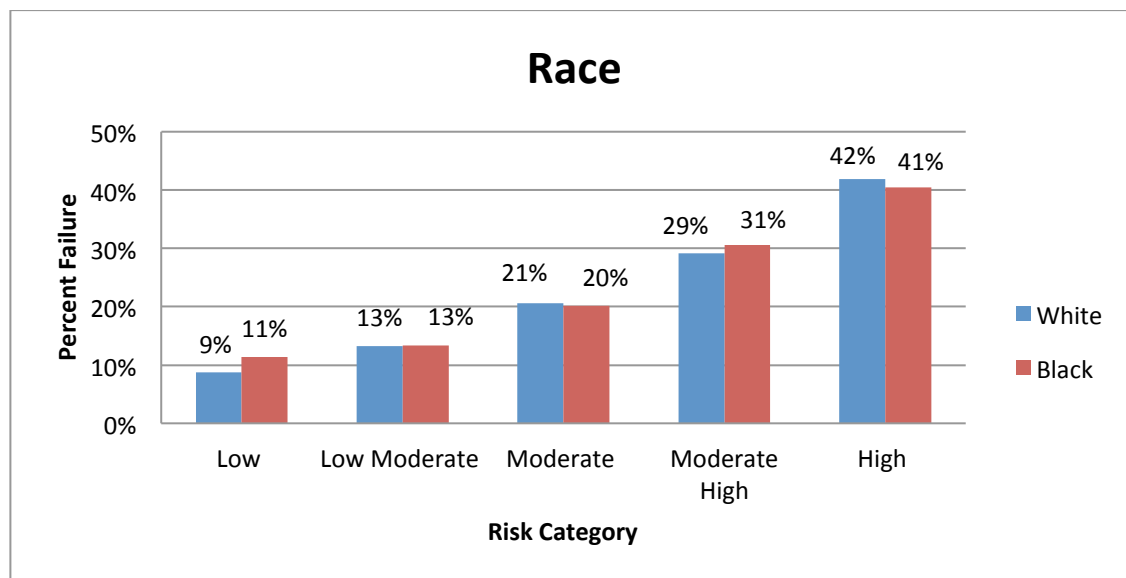
We have looked closely at whether the Public Safety Assessment – Court (PSA-Court) risk assessment has a discriminatory impact on minorities and women. What we have found is that the tool is both racially neutral and gender neutral. In other words, it accurately classifies defendants’ risk levels *regardless* of their race or gender and does not have a discriminatory impact on any of these groups.

The charts below are based on an analysis of the 56,866 defendants who were booked into jail and released during the first six months that the PSA-Court was used throughout the state of Kentucky (July – December 2013). Kentucky puts defendants into five risk categories – low, low/moderate, moderate, moderate/high, and high – based on the PSA-Court’s assessment of the likelihood that they will commit a new crime or fail to appear for court if they are released.

The charts below show the percentage of defendants in each risk category that “failed” (meaning they were rearrested, skipped court, or both), broken down by race and gender. What we see is that failure rates increase with each increase in risk level; that low-risk defendants fail at about half the average rate; and that high-risk defendants fail at more than twice the average rate. And all of these things are true *regardless* of gender or race.

Race¹

Some have questioned whether risk assessment instruments discriminate against minorities by categorizing them as being higher-risk than they actually are. As we see in the chart below, this is not the case with the PSA-Court. Indeed, black and white defendants at each risk level fail at virtually indistinguishable rates, which means that the PSA-Court is assessing risk equally well for both whites and blacks, and is not discriminating on the basis of race.



¹ In Kentucky, over 96% of the population is either black or white. As a result, other racial groups are not sufficiently represented in the sample to perform the analysis.

Gender

Similarly, when we look at gender, we see that men and women in the same risk category fail at almost exactly the same rate. What this indicates is that the PSA-Court is assessing risk accurately for both genders and is not discriminating on the basis of gender.

