The validity of offender needs identification and analysis in community corrections (R-34, 1993)

This research examines the validity of an enhanced case management approach to offender needs identification and analysis in community corrections.

The Case Needs Identification and Analysis (CNIA) portion of the offender intake (front-end) assessment process was adapted and piloted in the Ontario region for community corrections. While the CNIA protocol had collapsed the 12 need areas of the Community Risk/Needs Management Scale into seven need areas, the individual ratings for both criminal risk (low, high) and case need levels (low, medium, high) were retained as well as the individual ratings for each target domain. In addition, the community version of CNIA was enhanced to capture current employment status, level of motivation for intervention and whether there is a special National Parole Board condition which could be used to effect intervention.

A sample of 604 federally sentenced adult offenders (573 males, 31 females) released from institutions in the Ontario region over a six-month period was gathered for study.

The results of the CNIA pilot validated previous findings regarding the operational value of systematically assessing and re-assessing offender risk and need as one part of the process in the successful reintegration of male and female offenders to the community. Both male and female offenders on conditional release were easily differentiated by case managers as to the nature and level of criminal risk and case needs presented.