

# The Public Safety Assessment (PSA)

Following a person's arrest, a judge must decide whether that person should:



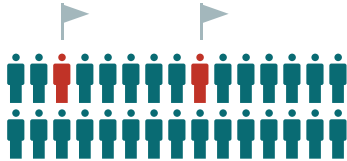
A judge considers many factors in making this decision. One tool that judges may use to help make this decision is the PSA.



The PSA produces a score that represents the likelihood that a defendant who is released before trial will commit a new crime or will fail to appear for a future court appearance.



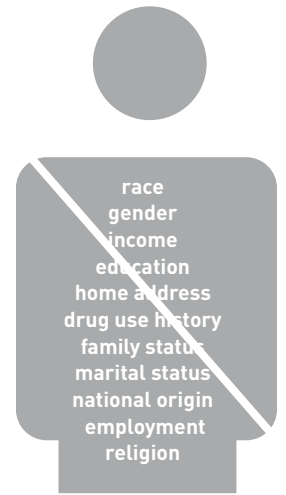
The PSA also flags the small number of defendants who pose an elevated risk of committing a crime of violence if released before trial.



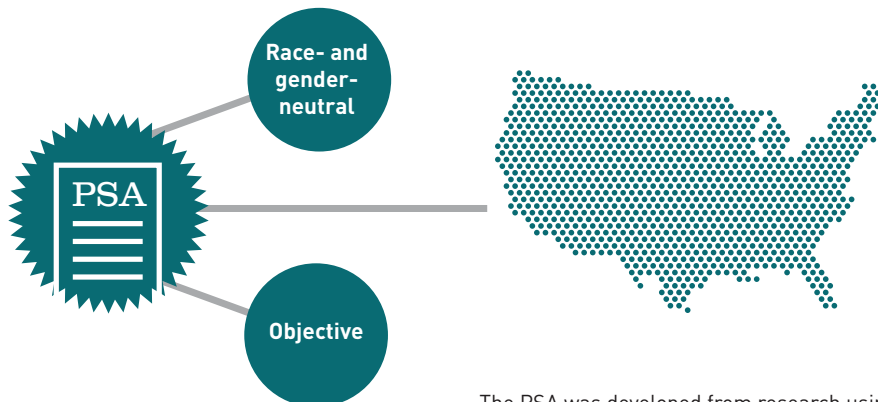
The PSA score is calculated based on nine factors.

Current violent offense	Pending charge at the time of the offense	Prior misdemeanor conviction
Prior felony conviction	Prior violent conviction	Prior failure to appear pretrial in past 2 years
Prior failure to appear pretrial older than 2 years	Prior sentence to incarceration	Age at current arrest

The PSA does NOT look at any of the following factors:



The PSA provides information that is race- and gender-neutral. It helps guide pretrial decision making in an effort to increase safety, reduce taxpayer costs, and enhance fairness and efficiency in the system.



The PSA was developed from research using data from across the United States.

The PSA score is not the only information that a judge considers, and the final decision will always be made by a judge.

