

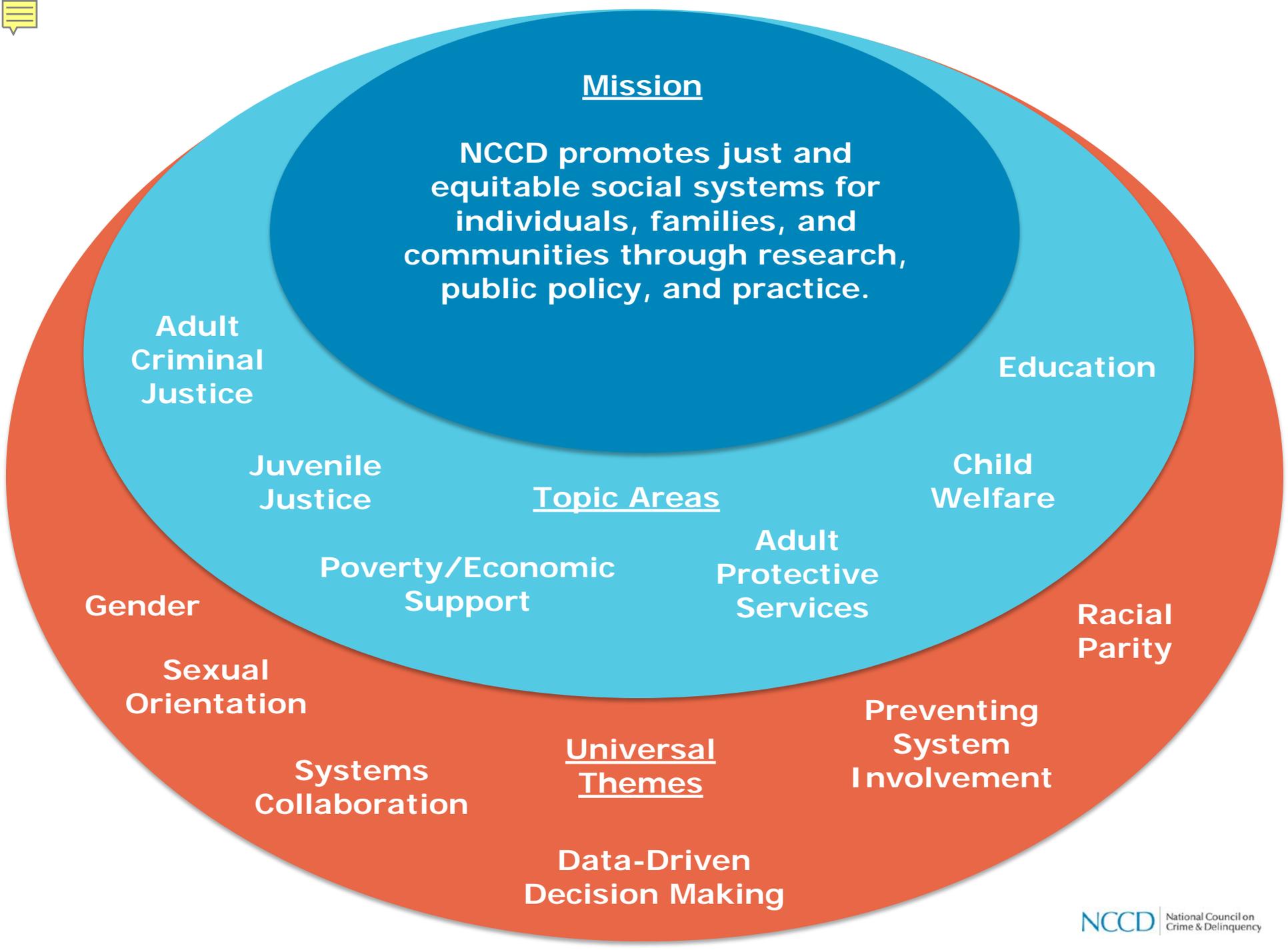


National Council on  
Crime & Delinquency

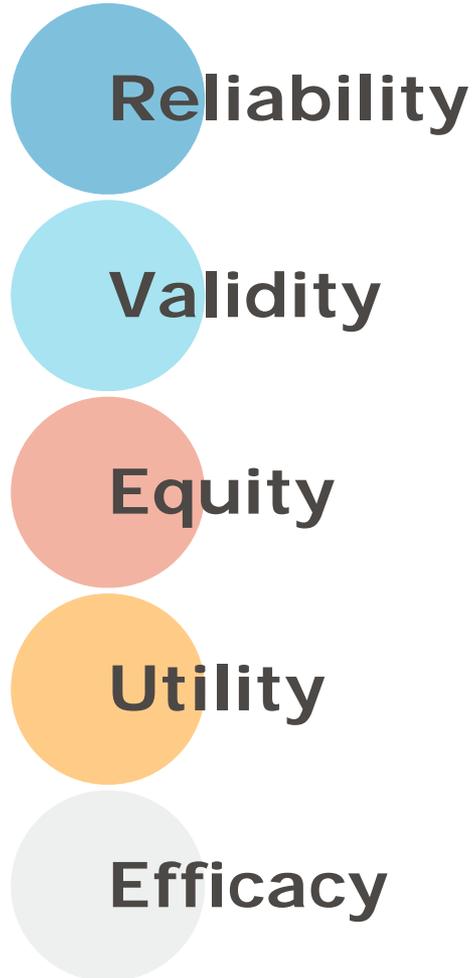
# Using the APS Structured Decision Making<sup>®</sup> System in the Context of NAPSA's APS Program Standards

September 29, 2015





# SDM<sup>®</sup> Principles



# SDM<sup>®</sup> System Goals

- Promote safety
- Identify needs
- Reduce harm

# Adult Protective Services Projects

- California
  - » Riverside County
  - » San Diego County
  - » Orange County
  - » Yolo County
  - » San Luis Obispo County
- New Hampshire
- Minnesota
- Norfolk, Virginia
- Nebraska
- Texas
- National projects
  - » National Institute of Justice grant
  - » National Adult Protective Services Resource Center partnership

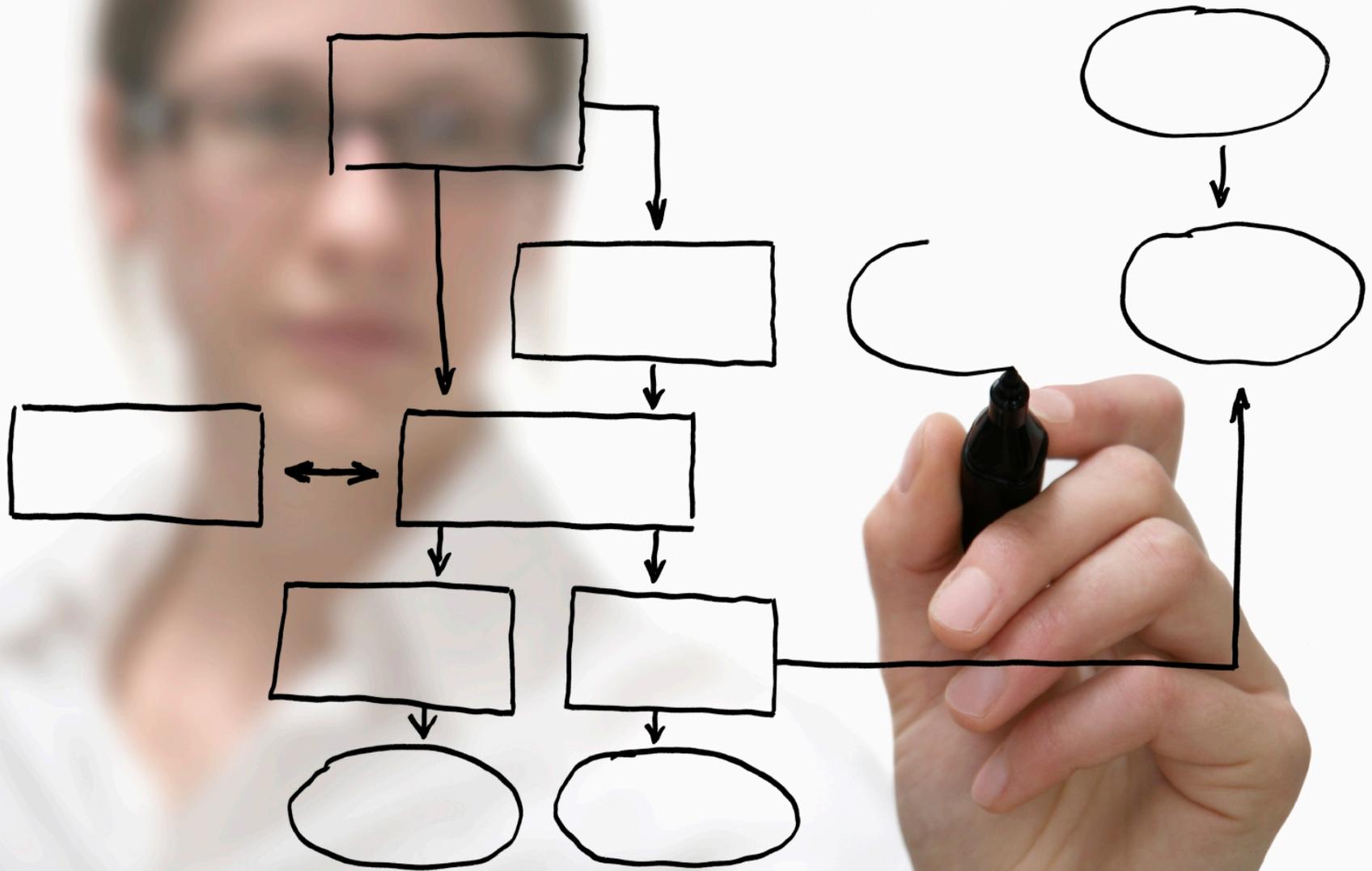
# Objectives

Provide workers with **simple, objective, reliable** assessment tools to support their decisions.

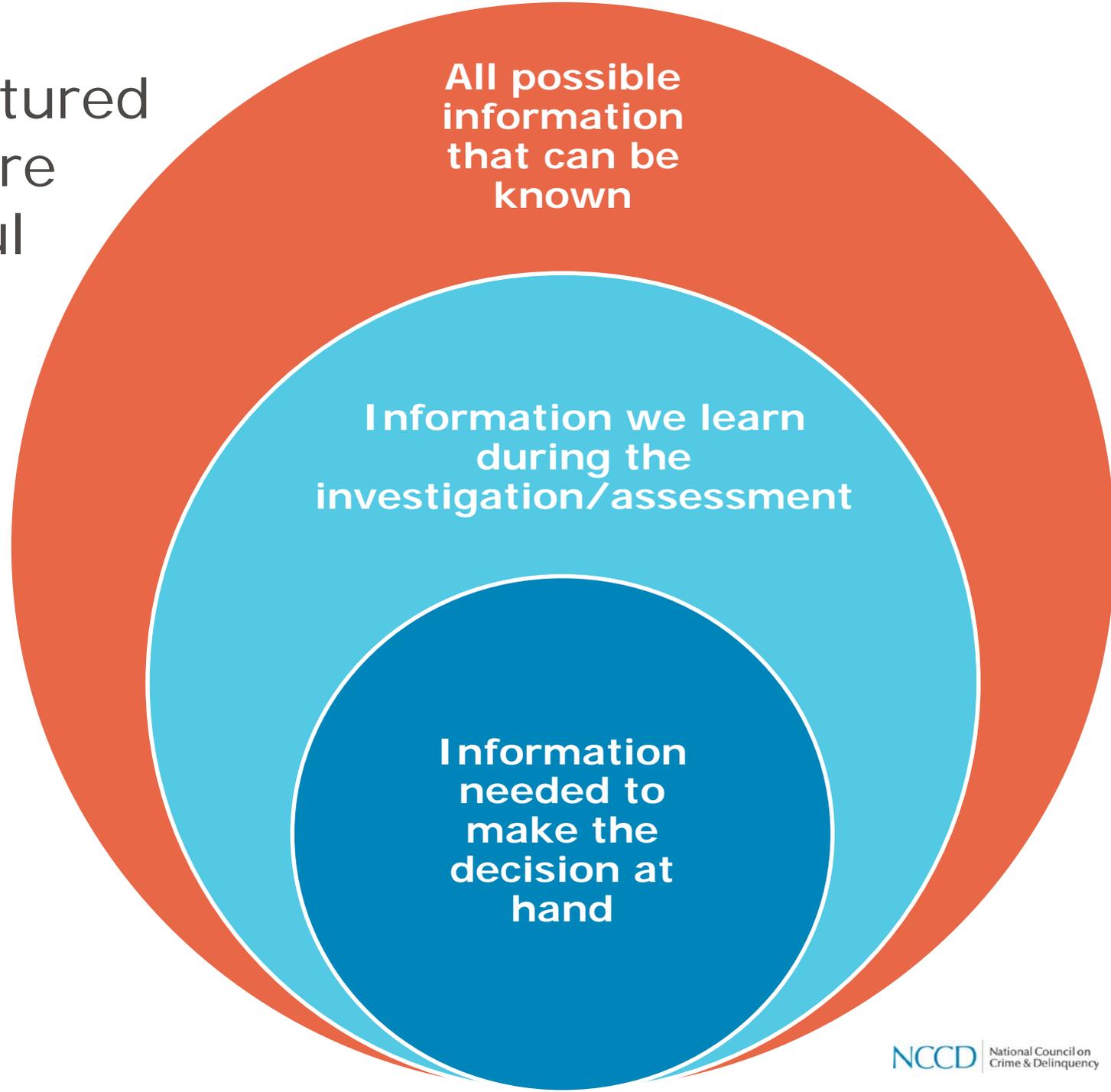
Increase **consistency** and **accuracy** in decision making.

Provide managers and administrators with **management information** for improved program planning, evaluation, and resource allocation.

# Why structure decisions?

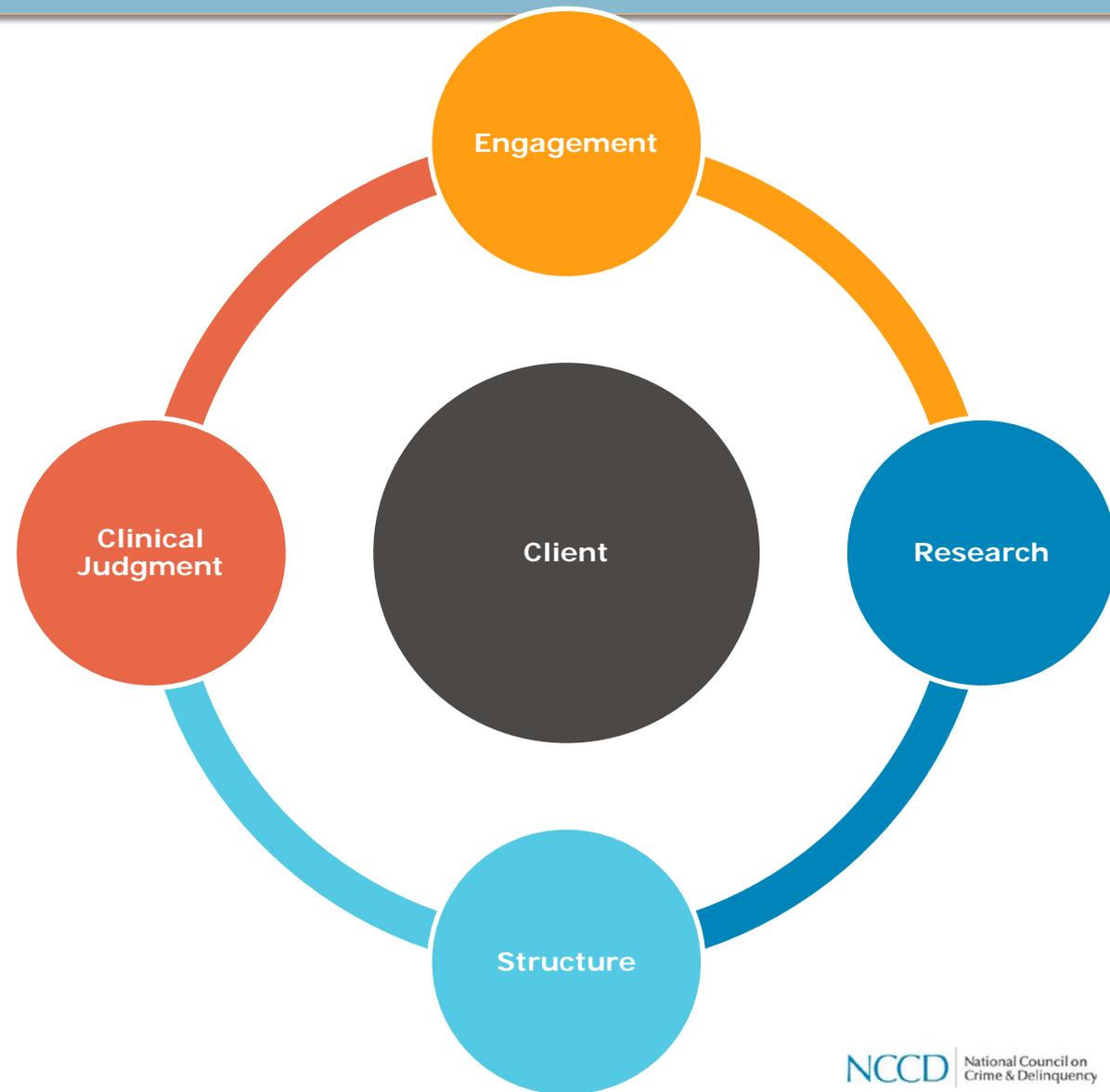


# How Structured Tools Are Helpful



# The SDM<sup>®</sup> Model as Part of a Broader, Client-Centered Practice Framework

- Assessments do not make decisions... people do.
- Research and structured assessments can help guide and support decision making to improve outcomes.
- The SDM<sup>®</sup> model should be integrated within a context of client engagement strategies and strong social work practice approaches.



# NAPSA Program Standards (Adopted by NAPSA Board in October 2013)



# Why Have Program Standards?

- Adults have the right to be safe.
- Adults have the right to retain their civil and constitutional rights.
- Adults have the right to make decisions on their own, including the right to accept or refuse services.

Source: NAPSA APS Recommended Minimum Program Standards, October 2013, page 5

What Does  
Best Practice  
Look Like?

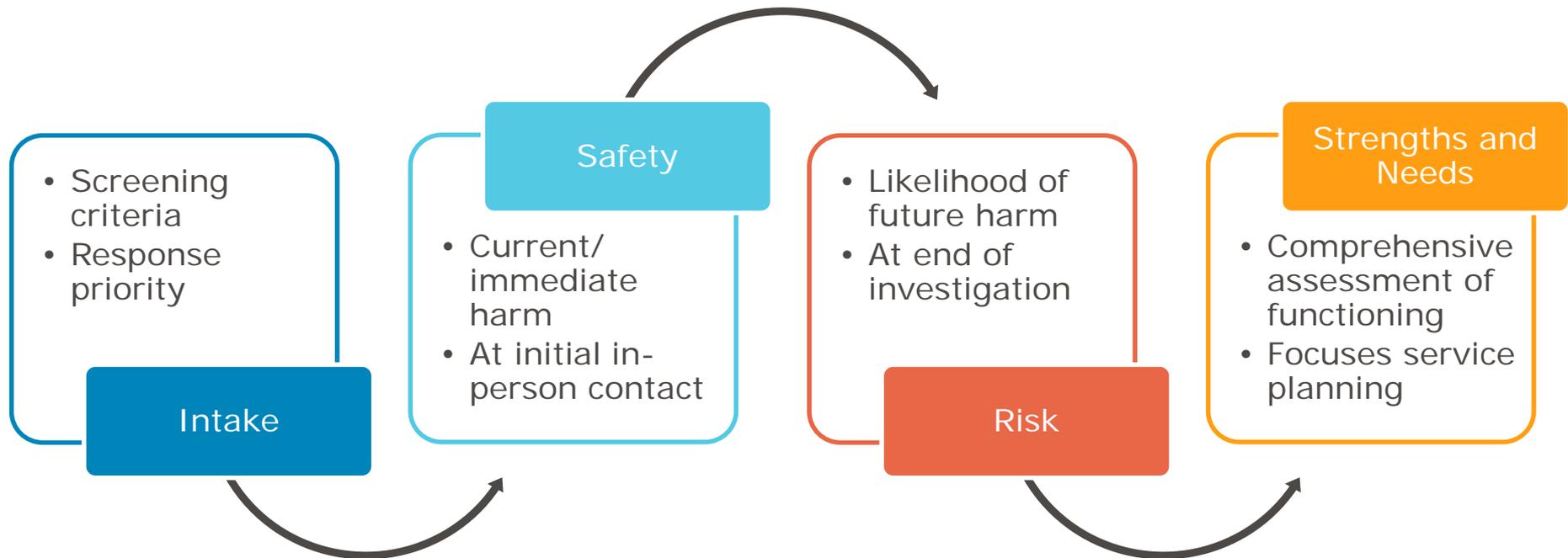


# Best Practice in APS Systems

Best practice should be:

- Coordinated
- Have a guiding set of principles, with specific policies and procedures
- Evidence-based
- A system that captures and aggregates data to inform decisions at all levels of the agency
- Unbiased—does not discriminate

# The SDM<sup>®</sup> Assessments



# Inter-Rater Reliability: Consistency

- Basis for consistency: Definitions and training
- Inter-rater reliability: Testing to see the extent to which multiple raters agree
- Inter-rater reliability results:
  - < 75% agreement
  - > 75% agreement

# Meeting or Exceeding NAPSA Standards Through Use of the SDM<sup>®</sup> System

## Putting the pieces together



# NAPSA's Core Activities

- Intake
- Investigation
- Needs and risk assessment
- Case findings
- Service planning and monitoring
- Case closure

# NAPSA Standards Organized by Core Activity

## **Standard for Intake**

APS programs have a systematic method, means, and ability to promptly receive and screen reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and/or financial exploitation.

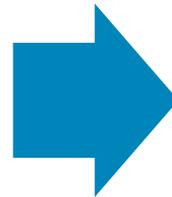
Source: NAPSA APS Recommended Minimum Program Standards, October 2013, page 6

# The SDM<sup>®</sup> Intake Assessment

## Components

- Determination of eligibility
- Allegations criteria
- Overrides
- Screening decision

Screening assessment:  
Do we investigate?



Response priority:  
How quickly?

## **Standard for Investigation**

APS programs have a systematic method, means, and ability to conduct and complete an investigation in a timely and efficient manner, to determine if the reported abuse has occurred, and to determine if services are needed to reduce or eliminate the risk of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

# How the Investigation Process is Operationalized in the SDM<sup>®</sup> System

SDM system: Different tools used to help workers with critical decisions during the investigation

- Safety assessment: At first face-to-face contact
- Risk of recidivism assessment: Prior to closing the investigation
- Strengths and needs assessment: Prior to closing the investigation

Together, these meet the NAPSA standards for investigation.

Note: The SDM tools are not meant to be used as substantiation decision-making tools themselves. However, information gathered during the course of the investigation using the SDM tools can inform the substantiation decision.

# The SDM<sup>®</sup> Safety Assessment

## Components

- Factors influencing vulnerability
- Current danger factors
- Interventions
- Safety decision

Is there a current threat of serious harm to the alleged victim?



What interventions are recommended to address threats to safety?



Based on client and caregiver acceptance of interventions, what is the safety decision?

# The SDM<sup>®</sup> Risk of Recidivism Assessment

## Components

- Self-neglect index
- Maltreatment by another person index
- Scored risk level
- Overrides

What is the likelihood of future harm?

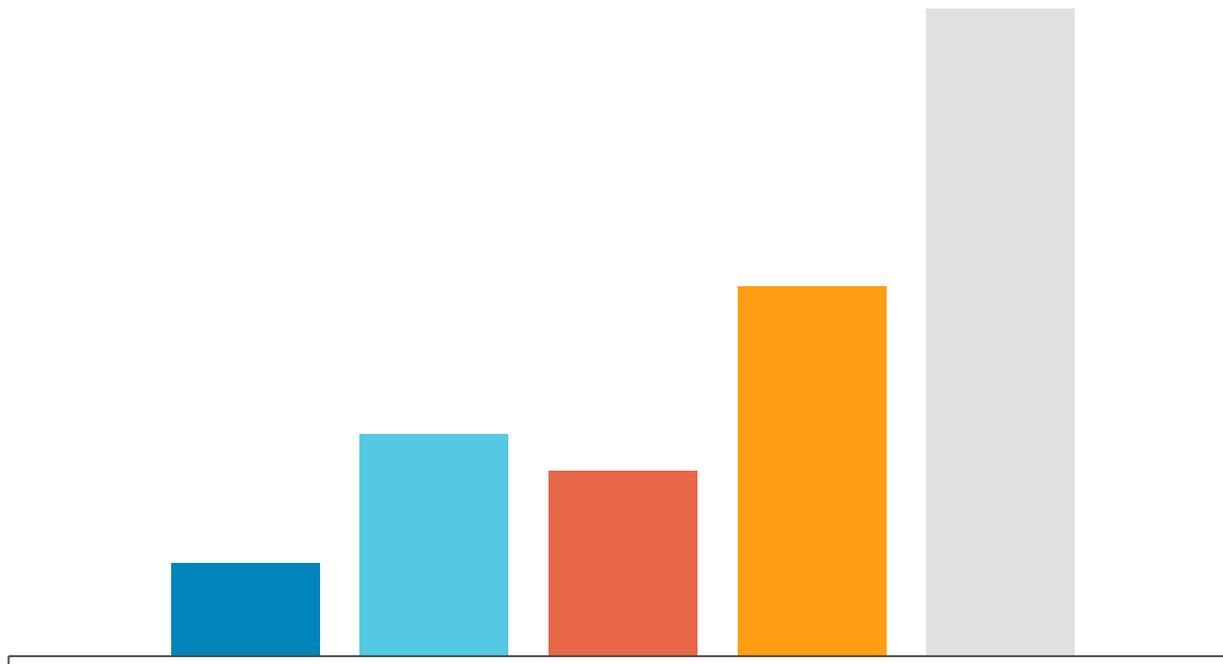


Should ongoing intervention services be provided?

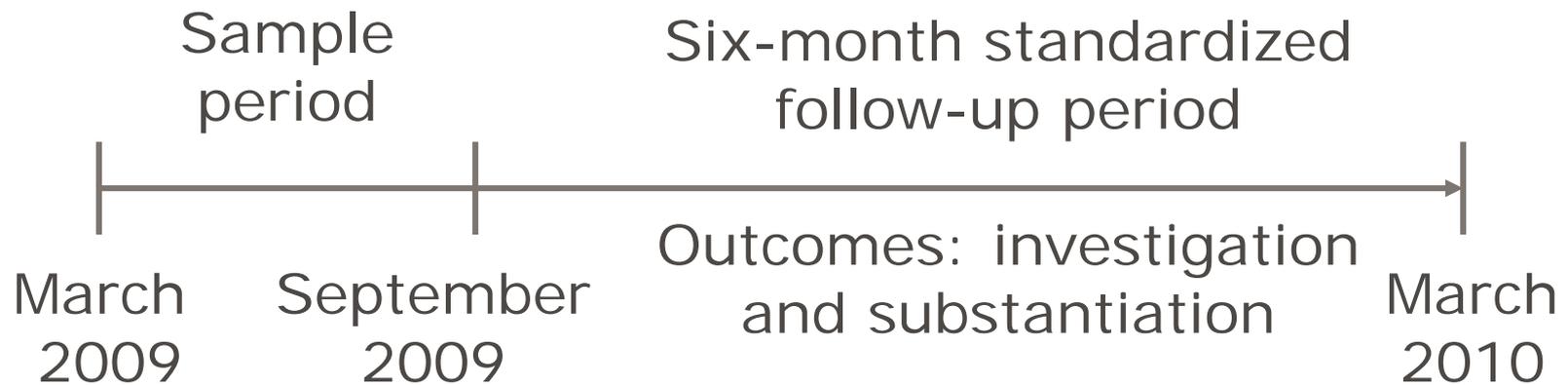


What level of service/engagement is required?

# What is actuarial risk research?



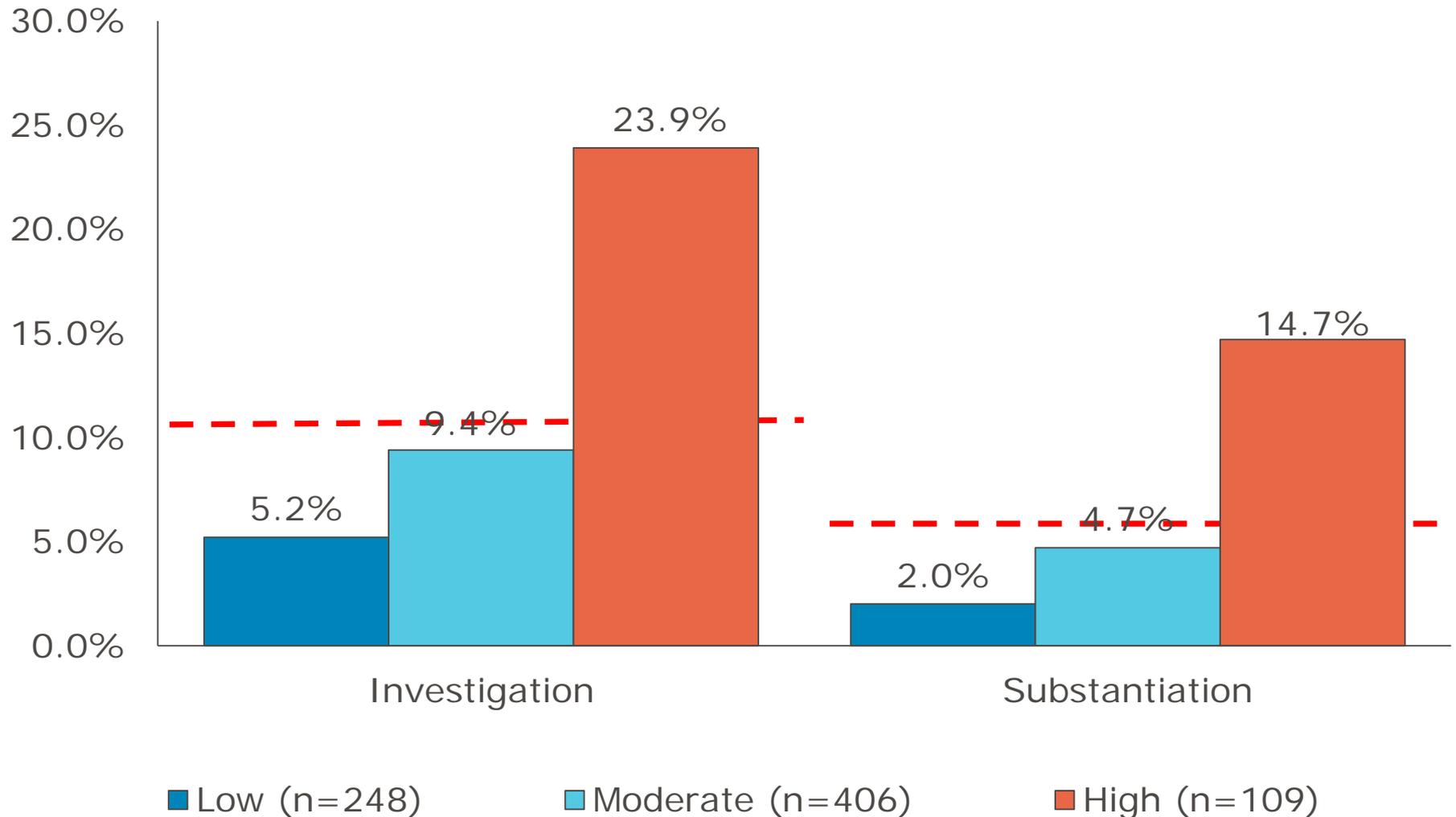
# Prospective Sample Timeframe



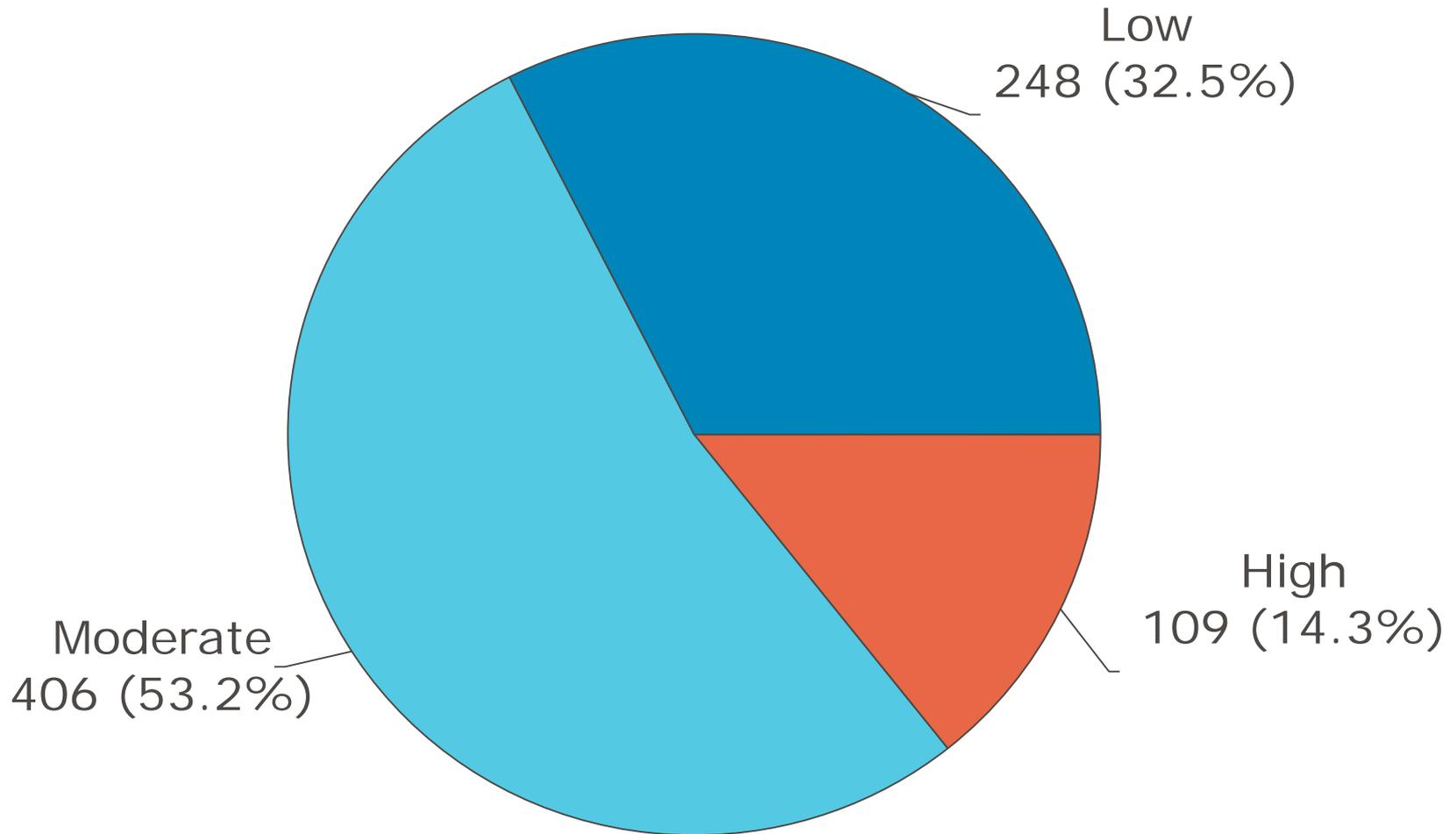
# Development of Risk Indices

- Look at the relationship of all possible risk factors to the self-neglect or abuse/neglect outcomes.
- Select the characteristics with the strongest statistical relationship to each outcome (self-neglect and mistreatment by another person).
- The result is one score for self-neglect and one score for abuse/neglect by another person.
- Defined cut points translate these scores into risk classifications (low, moderate, high).
- The higher of the two risk classifications becomes the overall risk level.

# Overall Outcomes by Overall Risk Level



# Overall Risk Level Distribution



# Limitations of Actuarial Risk Assessment



# Use Of The Term "Risk"



# NAPSA Core Activities

## Standard for Needs and Risk Assessment

APS programs have in place a systematic screening method, means, and ability to conduct and complete a needs/risk assessment including clients' strengths and weaknesses. This assessment needs to include criticality or safety of the client in all the significant domains.

Source: NAPSA APS Recommended Minimum Program Standards, October 2013, pages 10-11

*Please note: unless specifically qualified or authorized by state law, an APS worker does not carry out clinical health or capacity assessments, but rather screens for indications of impairment and refers the client on to qualified professionals (physicians, neuropsychologists, etc.) to administer through evaluations.*

# The SDM<sup>®</sup> Strengths and Needs Assessment

## Components

- Client domains
- Caregiver domains
- Prioritization

What priority needs should be addressed in service planning?



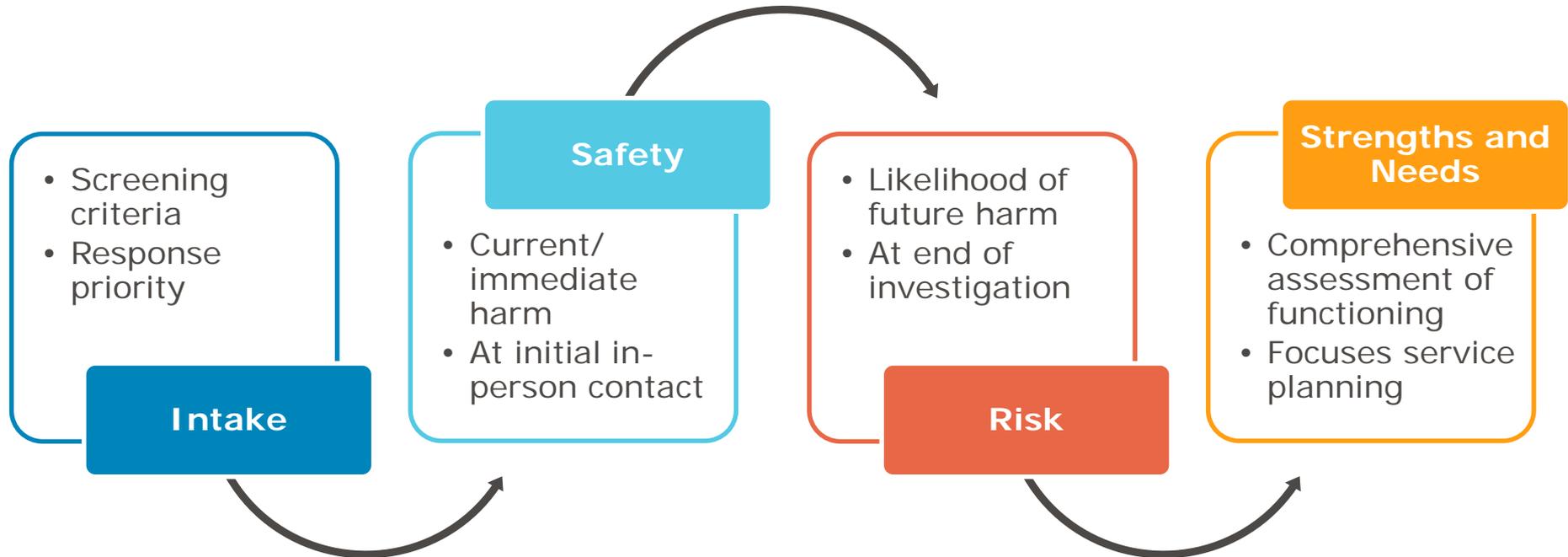
What existing strengths can be used to address those needs?

# Additional Core Activities

## Case Findings, Service Planning and Monitoring, Case Closure and Documentation



# The Full SDM<sup>®</sup> System





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Crime & Delinquency

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