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Components of the Risk Principle

Let us learn more about the two risk principles.

The Need Principle

It denotes the targets for change. The originators of the model refer to these needs as “problematic circumstances,” though other authors refer to these as criminogenic needs. Criminogenic needs are dynamic aspects of an individual, such as drug use, and their circumstances, such as family supervision, that when changed can help reduce recidivism rates.

The Responsivity Principle

This is the “how” of responding to individuals and weighs both individual and specific responsivity, characteristics specific to individual offenders like verbal intelligence, and “general” responsivity, such as techniques and processes. Research supports that offender treatment programs are most effective when based on a cognitive-behavioral or social-learning theoretical orientation.



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