

ATTACHMENT 4

TESTING OF ERROR-PRONE CHARACTERISTICS

The prevention error-prone profile is not a static document. It is expected to change over time as the county or tribal conditions change. Changes to the profile may involve the deletion of those characteristics that no longer identify the primary error conditions or generate referrals. Profile changes may also involve the addition of new characteristics that identify current or new primary error conditions.

To test the validity of current or new error-prone case characteristics for possible inclusion in or removal from the agency's the error-prone profile, the following method for testing the validity of error-prone characteristics is recommended.

Develop a worksheet to record the number of referrals made for each characteristic in the agency's error-prone profile. See the sample below. It is suggested that the agency maintain this worksheet on a continuing basis. As each referral is completed, record on the worksheet if that referral was successful in identifying an error in the case. Compare the number of successful referral for each characteristic to the number of referral made based on the characteristic. The outcome is the characteristic's success rate. The standard for a valid prevention referral characteristic is 30%.

Agencies that have few referrals or have characteristics that generate few referrals will need to test the characteristics for a longer period of time to get a sufficient number of referrals to get a valid sample. It is recommended that a referral characteristic be retained until 10 or more referrals have been made to establish a valid success rate. However, a characteristic that generates no referrals over time should be eliminated from the profile unless the agency can justify its inclusion due to a seasonal applicability. For seasonal characteristics, the agency may use two or three seasons to collect validation data.

On a regular basis, we recommend yearly with the completion of the agency's annual Fraud Plan, the agency should review the data from its prevention referral worksheet. Those characteristics generating a reasonable number of referrals, and demonstrating error-prone results, should remain or become a part of the agency's error-prone profile.

SAMPLE VALIDATION WORKSHEET For FEV Referral Characteristics

FEV Characteristics From 1/1/04 to 12/31/04	Number of Referrals per Characteristic	Number with Errors Found from Referrals	Percentage of Successful Referrals (errors/referrals=)
Expenses exceed income	10	5	50% (a)
Recent interstate move to Co.	8	2	25% (b)
Previous IPV/fraud convictions	7	0	0% (c)
Landlord has same address	1	1	100% (d)
Apparent separation of convenience	0	0	0% (e)

Key:

- (a) Valid characteristic, retain on profile
- (b) Potential valid characteristic, retain and continue validation testing
- (c) Invalid characteristic, delete from profile
- (d) Questionable characteristic, too few referrals to demonstrate validity, retain and continue validation testing
- (e) Invalid characteristic, generates no FEV referrals, delete from profile

Column 1 – List of the referral characteristics and the time period the referrals were drawn from.

Column 2 – Total number of referrals in the selected time period for each characteristic.

Column 3 – Total number of errors/fraud found in the referrals for each characteristic, that affects case eligibility or benefits.

Column 4 – The success rate as a percentage for each characteristic.

For information about error-prone profiles, the validation process, and submission of the prevention referral criteria validation information, contact:

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