

Individuals with mental health or substance use disorders often spend more time in custody and face a higher risk of re-incarceration after release. The GAIN-Short Screener (GAIN-SS) offers a fast, reliable way to identify individuals who need additional support—helping agencies make informed decisions, connect people to care, and reduce repeat offenses.

The GAIN assessment system provides a flexible range of tools, from brief screening to comprehensive assessment. It supports early identification of major clinical concerns, co-occurring disorders, and risk of re-offending. Used across a wide range of justice and institutional settings, the GAIN informs diagnosis, placement, and treatment planning while also generating data for program evaluation and research.

Why use the GAIN-SS?

The GAIN-SS is a brief screening tool that takes just 5–15 minutes to administer. It identifies mental health, substance use, and behavioral issues that may require further assessment and categorizes risk as Low, Moderate, or High—clearly indicating when no intervention is needed. Designed for ease of use, the GAIN-SS can be implemented in any setting, even by staff with minimal training, making it an efficient first step toward better outcomes.

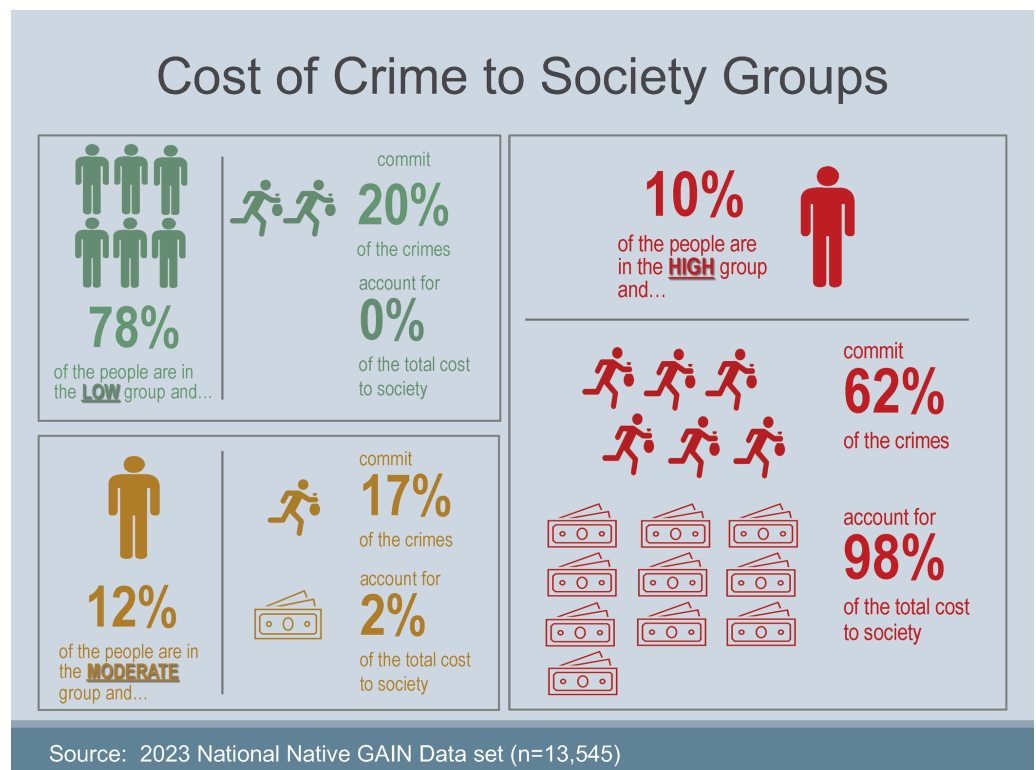
Using the GAIN's Cost Measures

Cost measures can be used to gain valuable insights into your cost of crime to your community and society.

In 2023 National GAIN data, 10% of people committed 62% of the crimes reported and accounted for 98% of the total cost of crime to society.

These findings highlight how important effective screening options are to the field. Any attempts at reducing re-arrest or costs must focus on identifying and concentrating on the subset that costs the most.

These cost measures can also be used to examine the cost of doing nothing, failing to intervene, or failing to offer appropriate services for those in need.

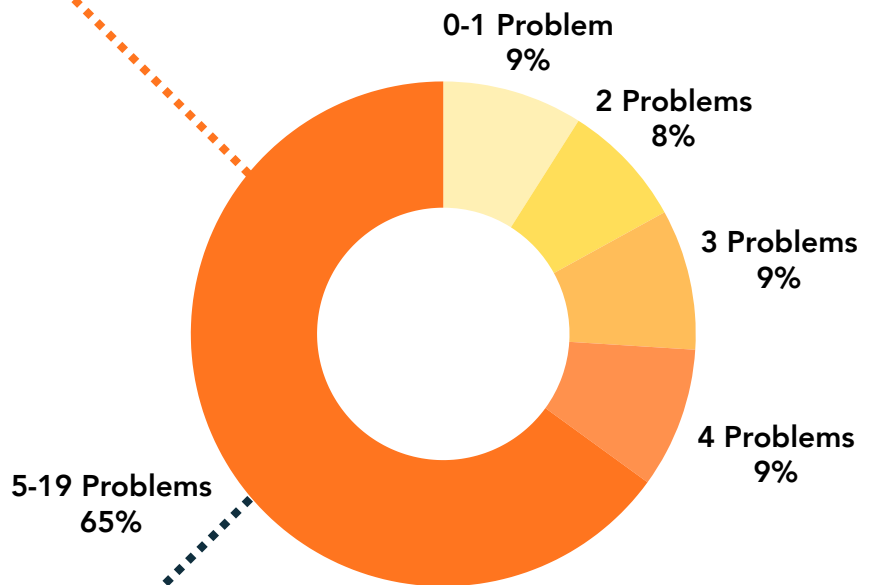


Impact of Co-Occurring Problems on Recidivism

Individuals with more co-occurring issues face higher recidivism rates. Early screening ensures proper treatment during legal involvement, reducing recidivism and societal costs.

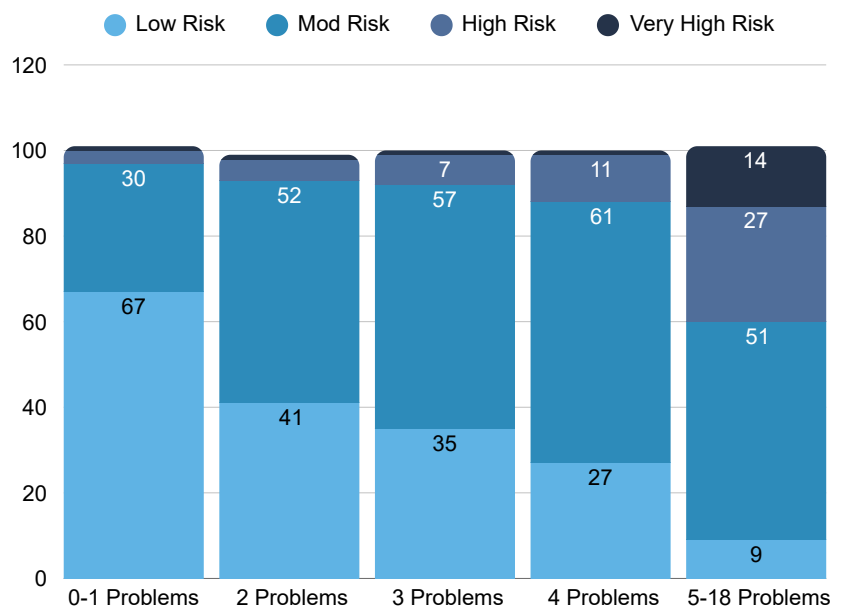
Distribution of Major Clinical Problems

Of the 517,043 cases in the 2023 National GAIN Data Set, nearly two-thirds presented with five or more clinical problems out of 19 major clinical problems in the year prior to intake (65% have five or more problems).



Prevalence of Major Clinical Problems

- 90% alcohol or other drug use disorder
- 56% mental health disorder
- 48% internalizing disorder
- 31% externalizing disorder
- 44% crime or violence problem
- 65% history of physical, sexual, or emotional victimization
- 76% moderate to severe physical health problems



All graph information was taken from the 2023 National GAIN Data Set