



Youth Reformation System

Using knowledge to improve outcomes

Youth typologies (male) FAQs/talking points

What are typologies?

As part of the Youth Reformation System, the Oregon Youth Authority and its community partners have developed a set of research-based “typologies” to help inform decision making about best placement and treatment strategies for youth who are part of the juvenile justice system. This set of typologies serves as an important tool in helping guide decisions about the right placement, right treatment and right time for the youth we serve.

How are typologies derived?

Within the first 30 days a youth enters the juvenile system, a Risk Needs Assessment is developed based on data such as criminal history, drug or alcohol use, family history, physical and mental health status, skills, level of aggression and many other factors. Based on information derived from 10 factors within the RNA, each youth is determined to contain the characteristics of a certain typology or a blend of two or more typologies.

How are typologies used?

Typologies – along with other tools such as the OYA Recidivism Risk Assessment (ORRA) and OYA Recidivism Risk Assessment-Violent Crime (ORRA-V) – are combined with staff’s professional judgment to best meet the needs of each youth and to help youth go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.

At present, there are six typologies for male youth in OYA’s system:

Typology A:

- Few or no protective factors (i.e., family and/or support system) present
- High history of, and current alcohol or drug (AOD) use
- Poor relationships and relationship skills
- High level of aggression and attitude issues
- Prominent educational issues
- High need of mental health follow up

Typology B:

- Moderate protective factors present
- High history of AOD use and moderate current AOD use
- Poor relationships and relationship skills
- Moderate level of aggression and attitude issues
- Prominent educational issues Low need of immediate mental health follow up

Typology C:

- Moderate protective factors present
- Low to moderate AOD use, both currently and historically
- Moderate difficulty with relationships and relationship skills
- Moderate level of aggression and attitude issues
- History of mental health issues
- Prominent educational issues
- High need of immediate mental health follow up

Typology D:

- Few or no protective factors present
- Low to no current or history of AOD use
- No obvious needs factors present
- Further assessments needed
- Determine eligibility for community placement or close custody if stabilization is required

Typology E:

- High protective factors present
- Low current or historical AOD use
- Little difficulty with relationships and relationship skills
- Low to moderate level of aggression and attitude issues
- Low need for immediate mental health follow up
- Moderately prominent educational issues
- Responsivity issues that affect the youth's ability and motivation to improve from particular interventions

Typology F:

- Few or no protective factors present
- Moderate current and historical AOD use
- Moderate difficulty with relationships and relationship skills
- High level of aggression and attitude issues
- Prominent educational issues
- Responsivity issues
- Moderate need for immediate mental health follow up

At present, there are four typologies for female youth in OYA's system:

Typology 1:

- Low to moderate protective factors present
- High history of and current AOD use
- Poor relationships and relationship skills
- High level of aggression and attitude issues
- Education issues are very prominent
- High need of mental health follow-up

Typology 2:

- Moderate protective factors present
- Moderate history of AOD use and moderate current AOD use
- Some issues with relationships and relationship skills
- Low level of aggression and attitude issues
- Education issues are moderate
- High need of immediate mental health follow-up

Typology 3:

- Few or no protective factors present
- Low to no current or historical AOD use
- Some difficulty with relationships and relationship skills
- Further assessments needed
- Determine eligibility for community placement or close custody if stabilization is required

Typology 4:

- Low protective factors present
- Moderate history AOD use, low current AOD use
- Moderate to high difficulty with relationships and relationship skills
- Moderate level of aggression and attitude issues
- Education issues are prominent
- Moderate need for immediate mental health follow-up

A youth's typology alone does not serve as a decision point; instead, the score is used as an important piece of evidence-based research that helps inform the juvenile justice community as it determines the best strategies to help youth go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.