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The Risk Assessment Era: An Overdue Debate

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Risk (and needs) assessments are becoming a larger topic of discussion in the sentencing world and throughout the criminal justice system generally. Some view these assessments as vital tools that can increase the deterrent, incapacitative and rehabilitative powers of punishment while protecting the public fisc. Others view them as unreliable and dangerous metrics that, despite the best of intentions, can exacerbate racial, gender and financial disparities that already plague the criminal justice system. The articles and materials in this Issue of the *Federal Sentencing Reporter* explore these topics.

This issue on risk assessment would not have been possible without the hard work and wisdom of Guest Editor Sonja Starr of the University of Michigan Law School. *FSR* is deeply grateful to Professor Starr for her many contributions to this effort.