

original
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Data supplement

Violence risk assessment instruments

Psychopathy Checklist – Revised (PCL–R)

Originally developed by Hare et al to assess psychopathy. It is a 20-item scale where items are rated 0 if absent, 1 if probably or partially absent and 2 if definitely present, giving a score from 0 to 40. A cut-off score of 25 or more is accepted to indicate psychopathy in UK and European samples.

HARE, R. D. (1991) *Manual for the Hare Psychopathy Checklist – Revised*. Multi-Health Systems.

Historical Clinical Risk – 20 (HCR–20)

Structured clinical assessment of violence risk in psychiatric, forensic and criminal justice populations. Consists of ten historical variables (one of which is psychopathy scored using the PCL–SV), five clinical variables and five risk management variables.

WEBSTER, C. D., DOUGLAS, K. S., EAVES, D., et al. (1997) *HCR–20. Assessing Risk for Violence, Version 2*. Mental Health, Law and Policy Institute, Simon Fraser University.

Psychopathy Checklist – Screening Version (PCL–SV)

Actuarial assessment developed for the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study. It is a screening tool, containing 12 of the 20 original items in the PCL–R, with a maximum score of 24.

HART, S., COX, D. & HARE, R. (1995) *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist: Screening Version*. Multi-Health Systems.

Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG)

Actuarial tool developed using information from a group of 618 adult male patients released from a high-security hospital in Ontario, Canada. Consists of 12 items that have been weighted according to how strongly they predicted the outcome of violent re-offending among the patients during the 7-year follow-up period.

QUINSEY, V., HARRIS, G., RICE, M., et al (1998) *Violent Offenders: Appraising and Managing Risk*. American Psychological Association.

Violence Risk Scale (VRS)

Structured clinical instrument specifically developed to assess the risk of violent recidivism in forensic patients, and guide management and treatment. Consists of 6 static factors and 20 dynamic ones.

www.psynergy.ca/pdf/vrsummary.pdf

Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS)

Actuarial instrument developed by the Home Office for use with offenders serving community sentences in England and Wales. Brief instrument with 9 items predicting the risk of all re-offending within 2 years of release.

TAYLOR, R. (1999) *Predicting reconvictions for sexual and violent offences using the revised offender group reconviction scale*. Home Office.

Risk Assessment and Management Schedule (RAMAS)

Structured clinical assessment developed with Department of Health funding in the UK 'to provide better protection for the public while improving case planning, treatment and management of people posing risk to themselves or others'. Has 66 items split into four domains: dangerousness, mental instability, self-harm/suicide risk, and vulnerability.

O'ROURKE, M. M. (1995) *The Risk Assessment and Management Schedule: Users Manual*. Heathlands Mental Health Trust.

Iterative Classification Tree (ICT)

Actuarial tool developed as part of the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study. Uses a decision tree to classify individuals as either high or low risk.

MONAHAN, J., STEADMAN, H. J., ROBBINS, P. C., et al. (2000) Developing a clinically useful actuarial tool for assessing violence risk. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **176**, 312–319.

Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START)

Developed in 2005 by staff at St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. It is a brief clinical guide for the dynamic assessment of risk, strengths and treatability.

WEBSTER, C. D., MARTIN, M., BRINK, J., et al (2004) *Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START)*. St Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton and British Columbia Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Sex offender risk assessment instruments

Risk Matrix 2000 (RM2000)

Actuarial instrument developed from the earlier Structured Anchored Clinical Judgement (SACJ) for use in the UK. A statistically-derived risk classification process intended for males aged at least 18 who have been convicted of a sex offence.

THORNTON, D., MANN, R., WEBSTER, S., et al (2003) Distinguishing and combining risks for sexual and violent recidivism. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, **989**, 225–235.

Static–99

Actuarial instrument developed from the union of two existing sex offender risk assessments, the RRASOR and the SACJ. Has 10 items designed to assess the long-term potential for sexual recidivism among adult male sex offenders.

HANSON, R. K. (1997) *The Development of a Brief Actuarial Risk Scale for Sexual Offender Recidivism*. Department of the Solicitor General of Canada.

Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG)

Developed in Canada by creators of the VRAG as an actuarial tool for sex offenders, SORAG assesses the risk of violent and sexual recidivism of previously convicted sex offenders within a specific period of release. Consists of 14 items, uses the clinical record as basis for scoring.

QUINSEY, V., HARRIS, G., RICE, M., et al (1998) *Violent Offenders: Appraising and Managing Risk*. American Psychological Association.

Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offence Recidivism (RRASOR)

A brief 4-item actuarial instrument designed to screen for risk of sexual offender recidivism among males convicted of at least one sexual offence. Its four component items are number of prior sex offences, offender's current age, gender of the offender's victims and offender's familial relationship to the victim.



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HANSON, R. K. (1997) *The Development of a Brief Actuarial Risk Scale for Sexual Offender Recidivism*. Department of the Solicitor General of Canada.

Sexual Violence Risk – 20 (SVR–20)

Structured clinical assessment from the creators of the HCR–20. The SVR–20 is a 20-item checklist of risk factors for sexual violence that were identified by a review of the literature on sex offenders.

BOER, D., HART, S., KROPP, P., et al (1997) *Manual for the Sexual Violence Risk–20*. Mental Health, Law, and Policy Institute at Simon Fraser University.

Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP)

A structured clinical assessment examining 22 items

associated with the risk of sexual violence. Includes static, dynamic and manageability factors.

HART, S. D., KROPP, R., LAWS, D. R., et al (2003) *The Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) Structured Professional Guideline for Assessing Risk of Sexual Violence*. Simon Fraser University, Mental Health, Law and Policy Institute.

STABLE 2000

Actuarial instrument derived from a previous instrument, the Sex Offender Needs Assessment Rating; includes stable dynamic factors, i.e. mutable characteristics of the individual that may change over time, but are not generally subject to short-term fluctuations.

HANSON, R. K. & HARRIS, A. J. (2001) A structured approach to evaluating change among sexual offenders. *Sex Abuse*, **13**, 105–122.

Table DS1. Frequency of use, and utility ratings of violence risk assessment instruments and sex offender risk assessment instruments in English medium secure units (n=29)

Name of risk assessment instrument	Type of instrument	Units using the risk assessment instrument, n (%)	Units using each instrument at specified frequency, n (%)		Utility score (1 = low, 5 = high)
			Frequently	Occasionally	
Violence risk assessment instruments					
Psychopathy Checklist – revised (PCL–R)	Actuarial	25 (86)	5 (17)	20 (69)	4.13
Historical Clinical Risk – 20 (HCR–20)	Structured clinical assessment	23 (79)	21 (72)	2 (7)	4.54
Psychopathy Checklist: screening version (PCL:SV)	Actuarial	17 (59)	9 (31)	8 (28)	3.88
Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG)	Actuarial	11 (38)	1 (3)	10 (34)	3.60
Violence Risk Scale (VRS)	Structured clinical assessment	8 (28)	0 (0)	8 (28)	3.38
Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS)	Actuarial	3 (10)	0 (0)	3 (10)	3.33
Risk Assessment and Management Schedule (RAMAS)	Structured clinical assessment	2 (7)	0 (0)	2 (7)	3.50
Iterative Classification Tree (ICT)	Actuarial	1 (3)	0 (0)	1 (3)	4.00
RAMP ^{1,2}	Actuarial	2 (7)	2 (7)	0 (0)	4.00
Short Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START) ^{1,3}	Structured clinical assessment	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	5.00
Self-generated tool ¹		2 (7)	2 (7)	0 (0)	3.50
Sex offender risk assessment					
Risk Matrix 2000 (RM2000)	Actuarial	11 (38)	5 (17)	6 (20)	3.30
Static-99	Actuarial	10 (34)	1 (3)	9 (31)	3.33
Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG)	Actuarial	9 (31)	2 (7)	7 (24)	3.25
Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offence Recidivism (RRASOR)	Actuarial	4 (14)	0 (0)	4 (14)	3.00
Sexual Violence Risk – 20 (SVR–20) ¹	Structured clinical assessment	6 (20)	3 (10)	3 (10)	5.00
Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) ^{1,4}	Actuarial	7 (24)	4 (14)	3 (10)	4.57
Stable 2000 ^{1,5}	Actuarial	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	5.00
QACSO ^{1,6}	Actuarial	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	4.00
SAKS ^{1,7}	Actuarial	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	4.00
SOSAS ^{1,8}	Actuarial	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	4.00

RAMP, Risk Assessment and Management Programme; QACSO, Questionnaire on Attitudes consistent with Sex Offending; SAKS, Sexual Attitude and Knowledge Scale; SOSAS, Sex Offender's Self Appraisal Scale.

1. Assessment instrument identified as in use by respondents under the category 'other'. All other instruments were listed on the questionnaire.

2. www.liv.ac.uk/clinpsy/Summary2.doc

3. WEBSTER, C. D., MARTIN, M., BRINK, J., et al (2004) *Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START)*. St Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton and British Columbia Mental Health and Addiction Services.

4. HART, S. D., KROPP, R., LAWS, D. R., et al (2003) *The Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) Structured Professional Guideline for Assessing Risk of Sexual Violence*. Simon Fraser University, Mental Health, Law and Policy Institute.

5. HANSON, R. K. & HARRIS, A. J. (2001) A structured approach to evaluating change among sexual offenders. *Sex Abuse*, **13**, 105–122.

6. LINDSAY, W. R., CARSON, D. & WHITEFIELD, E. (2000) Development of a questionnaire on attitudes consistent with sex offending for men with intellectual disabilities. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, **44**, 368.

7. Professor Glynis Murphy, Tizard Centre, University of Kent.

8. BRAY, D. & FORSHAW, N. (1996) *Sex Offender's Self Appraisal Scale. Version 1.1*. Lancashire Care NHS Trust & North Warwickshire NHS Trust.