

# Dynamic Risk Factors Underlying Sexual Offense Recidivism

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# Violence Risk Assessment

- Five Approaches:
  - Clinical Assessment
  - Anamnestic Assessment
  - Structured Professional Judgment
  - Actuarial Assessment
  - Adjusted Actuarial Assessment

# Sexual Violence Risk Assessment

- Structured Professional Judgment
  - Sexual Violence Risk-20 (SVR-20)
- Actuarial Assessment
  - Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offender Recidivism (RRASOR)
  - Static-99/Static-2002/Static-99R
  - Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised (MnSOST-R)
  - Multisample Age-Stratified Table of Sexual Recidivism (MATS-1)

# Sexual Violence Risk Assessment

- Adjusted Actuarial Assessment
  - Blasphemy or Good Practice? It depends...
  - Good reasons for adjustment
    - Not all relevant factors are included in the actuarial measure
    - Actuarial measure may not be sufficiently researched with specific populations
    - Presence of factors that invalidate an actuarial estimate

# Dynamic Risk Factors

- What's in a Name?
  - Dynamic Risk Factors (DRF)
  - Psychologically Meaningful Risk Factors
  - Long-Term Vulnerabilities (LTVs)
- Brief History of DRFs (bibliography by request)
- Most Recent Literature Review: Mann, Hanson, & Thornton (2010)

# Criteria to Categorize DRFs

- Basic Requirements:
  - a) plausible rationale for causality
  - b) strong evidence it predicts sexual recidivism
- Definitions:
  - Empirically Supported: at least 3 studies indicate the construct has predictive value
  - Promising: at least 1 study indicates the construct has predictive value

# Criteria to Categorize DRFs

- Definitions (continued):
  - Unsupported with Exceptions: overall results were weak, but one credible study found a significant effect or an effect for a subgroup of offenders
  - Worth Exploring: no conclusive data, but some other supporting evidence (post-hoc comparisons)
  - Not Risk Factors: no significant relationship to sexual recidivism in at least 5 studies

# Dynamic Risk Factors

- Supported:
  - Sexual preoccupation
  - Any deviant sexual interest (but especially sexual **preference** for children)
  - Offense-supportive attitudes
  - Emotional congruence with children
  - Lack of emotionally intimate relationships with adults (LEIRA)

# Dynamic Risk Factors (continued)

- Supported (continued):
  - Lifestyle impulsivity
  - General self-regulation Problems
  - Poor cognitive problem solving
  - Resistance to rules and supervision
  - Grievance thinking/hostility
  - Negative social influences

# Dynamic Risk Factors (continued)

- Promising:
  - Hostility toward women
  - Machiavellianism
  - Callousness/lack of concern for others
  - Dysfunctional coping

# Dynamic Risk Factors (continued)

- Unsupported with Exceptions:
  - Denial
  - Self-perception of inadequacy
  - Major mental illness
  - Loneliness

# Dynamic Risk Factors (continued)

- Factors Not Related to Sexual Recidivism
  - Depression
  - Poor social skills
  - Lack of victim empathy
  - Lack of treatment motivation AT INTAKE

# Questions, Comments, or More Info?

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