Do Change Scores on Dynamic Risk Assessment Instruments Developed for Sex Offenders Predict Recidivism?

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Sexual violence is a major public concern, while victims of these offenses suffer short and long term negative consequences (Martin, Macy & Young, 2011). Risk assessment instruments play a significant role in the prevention of sexual violence. The impact of preventive interventions on sexual violence depends on the accuracy of risk assessment instruments and their ability to distinguish sex offenders based on their risk to reoffend. A number of meta-analyses has been performed on the predictive validity of risk assessment instruments developed for adult sex offenders (Hanson and Morton-Bourgon, 2007/2009; Tully, 2013). These predominantly include studies on the accuracy of instruments measuring static, not amendable, risk factors. Currently, there is an increasing amount of research on the predictive validity of dynamic risk assessment instruments (Berg, Schepers, Smid, Wever & Gijs, 2014). Some studies additionally focus on the predictive validity of change of scores on dynamic risk assessment instruments developed for sex offenders (e.g. Babchishin, 2013; Beggs & Grace, 2011; McGrath, 2012; Olver, 2003). This poster presents the first meta-analysis focused on the predictive validity of change scores on dynamic risk assessment instruments. It will contain the search strategy, eligibility, study selection, and rater reliability. The core of the poster is formed by the results of the meta-analysis presented in a forest plot.


