STABLE-2007: New Findings, New Risk Categories

Symposium Chair: R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D., Public Safety Canada

STABLE-2007 is an empirically-derived actuarial risk tool widely used to assess the treatment and supervision needs of sexual offenders (Hanson et al., 2015). It contains 13 items rated by evaluators based on case files and interviews (e.g., negative social influences, hostility toward women, emotional identification with children, sexualized coping). Although primarily intended to identify the nature and density of criminogenic needs, STABLE-2007 can also be used as a risk prediction tool by combining STABLE-2007 total scores with scores of a risk tool based primarily on historical and demographic factors (Static-99R, Static-2002R, Risk Matrix – 2000).

The first presentation provides an overview of STABLE-2007, including research updates and implementation recommendations. This presentation brings existing STABLE-2007 users up-to-date on current user guidance, and assist those considering adopting this measure in new settings. The second presentation is a large, prospective field validity study of STABLE-2007 as implemented in the Province of British Columbia (Canada). British Columbia was an early adopter of STABLE-2007 (and its predecessor STABLE-2000); consequently, they have administrative data on over 4,000 cases with sufficient follow-up to conduct the first, large-scale prospective study of STABLE-2007.

The third presentation presents new risk categories for STATIC/STABLE combined scores. Based on ongoing work on standardizing risk/need levels in corrections (Justice Center, 2016), the STATIC Development Group has recently proposed new risk categories for Static-99R and Static-2002R (Hanson et al., 2016). In this presentation, participants will learn the principles involved in creating standardized risk levels, options for combining the information contained in different risk tools, and the combination rules proposed by the authors of STABLE-2007 for creating the new, standardized risk levels from STATIC/STABLE combined scores.

References

Financial Disclosure:
R. Karl Hanson and Yolanda Fernandez are certified STABLE-2007 trainers. The copyright for STABLE-2007 is held by the Government of Canada.

**Making it Work: User Guidance for STABLE-2007**

Yolanda Fernandez, Ph.D., C.Psych., Correctional Service of Canada

The STABLE-2007 is the most widely used measure of dynamic risk among sex offenders in Canada in the United States. The coding manual was expanded in 2012 to include more detailed descriptions of items and additional clarifications of coding decisions in an effort to improve the reliability of STABLE-2007 scoring in clinically applied settings. The current presentation provides a clinician-friendly overview of the STABLE-2007, including a brief examination of the most clinically relevant research available on the scale. The presenter will review associated resources available for STABLE-2007 users and make suggestions to promote quality assessments in applied settings. The discussion will conclude with preliminary comments on a current project focussed on providing additional guidance to clinicians assessing change within institutional settings.

**Learning Goals and Objectives:**
- Participants will have increased familiarity with the STABLE-2007 items and their definitions.
- Participants will have increased familiarity with the different sections of the STABLE-2007 Coding manual and how to use them.
- Participants will have basic knowledge of the relevant clinical research on the STABLE-2007.
- Participants will have improved knowledge regarding strategies for good assessment integrity.
- Participants will have a greater understanding of assessing change on the STABLE-2007.
Starting in 2005, the Canadian province of British Columbia began assessing all sex offenders on community supervision using Static-99 (later the Static-99R) and STABLE-2000 (later the STABLE-2007). The current study examined all offenders with both Static-99/R and STABLE scores entered between 2005 and 2012, with an average sexual recidivism follow-up of approximately five years ($n > 4,000$). Analyses of the discrimination accuracy of the STABLE (items and total scores) will include AUCs and results from survival analysis and logistic regression. Analyses of the calibration of the STATIC/STABLE priority categories will also be conducted (fit between the expected and observed recidivism rates). As well, this large, representative sample will provide updated percentile norms for STABLE-2007. Implications for field assessments using the STABLE-2007 will be discussed.

**Learning Goals and Objectives**
After attending this presentation, audience members will be able to:

- Discuss the discrimination accuracy of the STABLE dynamic risk items in British Columbia
- Discuss the discrimination accuracy of STABLE total scores in British Columbia
- Identify whether the STABLE provides unique information above and beyond Static-99R in British Columbia, when predicting sexual recidivism
- Discuss the calibration accuracy of the STABLE in British Columbia
- Comment on implications of the applied use of the Static and STABLE in British Columbia

Andrew E. Brankley, M.A., Ryerson University
R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D., C.Psych, Public Safety Canada

Sexual offenders are often scored on multiple risk assessment measures, but how do evaluators combine this information into an overall determination of risk for sexual recidivism? Combining scales becomes more troublesome when using nominal categories, such as “low/moderate/high”, that do not have reliable meanings. The U.S. Council of State Governments’ Justice Center (JC) proposed that the information contained in risk tools should be matched to a broadly applicable classification of “riskiness” that is independent of any particular risk scale, creating five non-arbitrary risk categories. These JC risk categories have been applied elsewhere to the STATIC risk tools, but not the STABLE-2007.

The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate how to apply the JC risk categories using scores from the STATIC-99R/2002R and STABLE-2007. Three models were identified a priori: (1) Nominal categories and combination rules from current STATIC/STABLE user guidance; (2) JC categories based on a combination of the revised STATIC categories and original categories for the STABLE-2007; (3) JC categories generated from meta-analyzed regression estimates from the STATIC and STABLE. Model fit and predictive validity (five-year average follow-up for recidivism) were tested using data collected from 4,580 adult male sexual offenders under community supervision in the province of British Columbia. Implications for future practice combining risk assessment tools and meaningfully communicating risk will be discussed.

Learning Objectives and Goals
After attending this presentation, audience members will be able to:

- Understand the principles necessary for a common language for risk communication
- Understand the 5 category risk classification proposed by the Justice Centre, US Council of State Governments
- Learn the new, standardize risk categories for the STATIC-99R/2002R
- Comment upon different methods for combining scores on the STABLE-2007 and STATIC-99R/2002R
- Discuss impact of common language risk categories on integrated risk assessment