PREDICTING RECIDIVISM AND IDENTIFYING TREATMENT NEEDS

Predicting Recidivism and Identifying Treatment Needs for Sex Offenders Using the Personality Assessment Inventory

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Norm-referenced, self-report inventories are widely used by mental health professionals to aid clinical decision-making and to inform treatment planning. Most self-report psychological inventories were not designed to predict criminal recidivism, nor to identify criminogenic treatment needs, and yet these inventories are frequently administered by clinicians in forensic and correctional settings to inform decisions regarding sex offender treatment and management. Among these tools is the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI; Morey, 1991, 2007), a measure of clinical characteristics and psychopathology that is frequently utilized in forensic settings (Douglas, Hart, & Kropp, 2001). To-date, the PAI has shown some promise for predicting technical breaches, non-sexual violent recidivism (Boccaccini, Murrie, Hawes, Simpler, & Johnson, 2010), and institutional misconduct (Boccaccini, Ruffino, Jackson, & Murrie, 2013; Caperton, Edens, & Johnson, 2004) among convicted sex offenders.

The proposed study aims to investigate the relationships between the scales of the PAI and variables relevant to sex offender risk and criminogenic need in order to inform clinicians’ use of the PAI for purposes of treatment planning and risk management. PAI profiles, Static 2002R risk domain scores, and recidivism data have been collected for approximately 200 convicted sex offenders. Data, which has already been collected, will be analyzed to investigate whether or not PAI clinical scales predict various forms of recidivism, add incremental predictive validity to actuarial risk estimates (i.e., Static 99R and Static 2002R), and/or correlate with conceptually relevant domains of risk and/or criminogenic need. Personality- and symptom-based similarities and distinctions between three empirically derived subtypes of sex offenders (Ennis, Buro, & Jung, 2015) will also be investigated.

Learning Goals and Objectives
By the conclusion of this session, attendees will gain a better appreciation of:
Different Roles, Same Goals: Preventing Sexual Abuse
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- The relationship between Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) scales and re-offending among sexual offenders.
- The use of the PAI as a tool for managing risk and identifying criminogenic needs.
- How empirically derived subtypes of sexual offenders differ in terms of their personality and psychopathology, as measured by the PAI.

The Reliability, Validity, and Utility of the Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP)

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The Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) is a structured professional judgment (SPJ) instrument commonly used in Europe, Canada and Australia to inform management of sexual offenders in forensic mental health, prison and community settings. To date there has been limited research on the reliability and validity of the RSVP. This research examined the inter-rater reliability, predictive validity, and application to case management of the RSVP in a sample of 109 sexual offenders in the UK. The research also allowed examination of how RSVP ratings corresponded to other instruments, how clinicians generated summary judgements and risk scenarios related to recidivism, and the utility of the RSVP in guiding management plans.

The data set came from direct clinical assessment and extensive file reviews of 109 high risk sexual offenders from Scotland, who were followed up prospectively for an average of 39 months. Follow-up data included further convictions and non-convicted offending behaviour from multi-agency records. The rate of sexual recidivism was relatively high. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) analysis showed total scores and summary judgements were good predictors of violent offending and serious sexual offending, but not in predicting "any sexual" reoffending. Survival analysis showed case prioritisation ratings were good at predicting time to further sexual offending. Inter-rather reliability was excellent and clinician generated risk scenarios were good at predicting victim age, gender, relationship and severity of further sexual offending behaviours. RSVP ratings correlated strongly with other instruments, such as Risk Matrix 2000 and Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R). Low risk offenders had low recidivism rates regardless of risk management level, high risk offenders reoffended quickly and frequently if they were under-managed.

The findings support the use of the RSVP in the assessment and management of sexual offenders, particularly high risk or complex sexual offenders, to reduce the risk of further serious offending. The results and implications will be discussed in the context of risk management and using risk assessment to inform individualised case planning.
Learning Goals and Objectives:
- Understand the issues in conducting validation research on structured professional judgment (SPJ) risk assessment tools, such as the RSVP.
- Describe the methodology used to conduct a prospective study of the RSVP in a real world setting.
- Have an awareness of the reliability and concurrent validity of the RSVP.
- Know the predictive validity of the RSVP as ascertained in the current study using: both total scores and summary judgments as predictors; sexual and non-sexual offending of varying severity as outcomes; and ROC analysis and survival analysis as statistical methods
- Understand the implications of the findings of the study in terms of the use of the instrument in the real world to inform the risk management of higher risk sexual offenders.