

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | POSTER

Rescoring the ACUTE-2007 Each Month Seems to Improve Prediction

Seung C. Lee, MA
Carleton University
Kelly M. Babchishin, PhD
Public Safety Canada

Evaluating change in one's risk to reoffend is crucial for the effective management of sexual offenders under community supervision. Due to the importance of having valid recidivism estimates, community supervision professionals regularly reassess sexual offenders' potential risk of reoffending. There is, however, little research guidance on how often a putatively dynamic risk tool should be reassessed.

The purposes of the current study were to test the extent to which the predictive accuracy of a dynamic risk assessment tool, ACUTE-2007 (Hanson et al., 2007), decays over time, and to determine how often an individual's ACUTE-2007 assessment should be rescored to prevent loss of predictive accuracy. The sample included 480 adult male sex offenders in Canada who were under community supervision (i.e., parole or probation) from 2001 to 2005. In total, participants had a total of 4,717 unique ACUTE-2007 assessments over about a 3 years period.

To determine how often the ACUTE-2007 should be reassessed, we tested models that projected individuals' ACUTE-2007 scores forward by 30 days, 45 days, 60 days, 120 days, and 180 days. The model that projected ACUTE-2007 scores in the shortest time period (30 days; Harrell's $C = .74$) had the highest predictive accuracy for sexual recidivism (contact and non-contact sexual crimes). All other models (e.g., 45 days and so forth) continued to predict sexual recidivism, but to lesser degree (Harrell's $C = .69$ to $.71$). The same pattern was found when the outcomes were any violent (contact sex and non-sexual violent crimes) or any criminal recidivism. Despite the large total sample size, there were an insufficient number of recidivists to enable further exploration of time periods less than 30 days. Additionally, the confidence intervals of the Harrell's C for each of the models were quite broad. The results from the current study generally support current recommendations to rescore the ACUTE-2007 at least once a month to increase predictive accuracy.

References

Hanson, R. K., Harris, A. J. R., Scott, T., & Helmus, L. (2007). *Assessing the risk of sexual offenders on community supervision: The Dynamic Supervision Project* (Corrections Research User Report No. 2007-05). Ottawa, ON: Public Safety Canada. Retrieved from <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/ssssng-rsk-sxl-fndrs/index-en.aspx>

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | POSTER

Seung Chan Lee, MA is a doctoral student in the Department of Psychology at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, under the supervision of Drs. Karl Hanson and Adelle Forth. He is holding the Ontario Trillium Scholarship for his Ph.D. program. His primary research interest is evaluating the validity of risk assessment instruments of violent and sexual offenders (e.g., Static-99R and PCL-R) across ethnic minority groups (e.g., Hispanic, Black, Indigenous, and Asian) in North America. His further goal is to investigate risk-relevant characteristics unique to each ethnic group as well as to achieve the international generalizability of risk assessment tools relevant to violent and sexual offenders.

Kelly M. Babchishin, Ph.D. is a Research Advisor for the Community Safety and Countering Crime Branch Research Division of Public Safety Canada. Her current research involves identifying causal candidates for the onset of sexual offending behavior. Other research interests include change in sexual offending behavior across the lifespan, risk assessment, pedophilia, and online sexual offenders.