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Testing the Static-99R as a Risk Screen in Norway

Ingeborg Jenssen Sandbukt, BA Crim
Oslo University Hospital
Christine Friestad, PhD
University College of Norwegian Correctional Service
Ragnar Kristoffersen
Pål Grøndahl

Background: The Norwegian prison population counts approximately 4000 persons (implying a rate of 74 per 100.000 inhabitants), of which 10% serve a sex crime sentence. About 300 men are released each year after having served a sex crime prison sentence. Recent recidivism data indicated a recidivism rate of 3% within 2 years after release from prison, none of them into new sex crimes. The 5-year sexual recidivism rate of 8% in Norway is on par with international figures. Systematic risk screening is currently not part of routine practice in the Norwegian correctional service. The current study was established to test the applicability of Static-99R as an intake risk screen, based on its ability to differentiate between recidivating and non-recidivating released sex offenders in Norway.

Material and methods: The present study is based on quantitative data drawn from the Norwegian National Prison Registry, including personal data on persons currently or formerly enduring legal sanctions administered by the correctional services. A nationwide cohort is established, consisting of all men convicted of a sex offence, sentenced to prison, and released from imprisonment within the 4-year period 2010-2014. This cohort (n=1292) is subjected to a retrospective follow-up, starting at release and lasting for 2 years.

Result: The scoring is still in progress, and the results presented here are thus preliminary and only of a descriptive nature. To ascertain interrater reliability, two scorers independently scored twenty cases and translated the total scores into the five risk categories (very low; below average; average; above average; and well above average risk). Cohen's kappa was .448 ($p < .0001$), indicating moderate agreement between the raters. In terms of Static-99R nominal risk levels, the results indicated that 5.6% were very low risk; 20.4% below average risk; 44.9% average risk; 23.6% were above average risk, and 5.6% were classified as well above average risk. In terms of age at release, those aged 18-35 made up the largest group (42.5%), followed by age group 40-60 (35.8%), with the groups 35-40 years and 60+ years both representing around 10% of the sample. Non-sexual violence (current, prior, or both) was registered for 29% of the cases. A large majority (84%) was not previously charged nor convicted of sex offences. Eighty-eight percent of the cases were registered with unrelated victim(s). Stranger victims were present in 23.5% of the cases. In 10.8% of the cases, one or more

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male victim was registered. Recidivism data will be analysed when the scoring is complete, and added to the results before the poster is presented.

Ingeborg J. Sandbukt holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminology, and is currently a student at the Master's program in criminology at the University of Oslo, Norway. She is currently employed at the Centre for Research and Education in Forensic Psychiatry in Oslo, as project leader for a pilot treatment program aimed at high risk convicted sex offenders. Sandbukt has extensive experience from the correctional field, having worked as a probation officer in the Norwegian Correctional Service for seven years.

Christine Friestad (psychologist, PhD) is associate professor at the University College of Norwegian Correctional Service. Friestad also holds a research position at the Centre for Research and Education in Forensic Psychiatry in Oslo. Her research mainly focus on prisoners, mental health, and living conditions, with a special emphasis on persons convicted of sexual crimes, and the correctional management and health services provided to this group.