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Validating Risk Assessment Tools

Sex Offenders Risk Assessment: The Validity of the Latvian Versions of the Static-99R and the STABLE-2007

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In 2008 Latvia started to develop a national level system for managing sexual offenders. All sorts of activities were introduced, namely, training of experts, treatment programs, multi-agency public protection arrangements, circles of support and accountability, a system of support for the victims. A special attention is paid to introduction of risk and needs assessment tools.

Risk assessment tools Static-99R and STABLE-2007 were adopted in Latvia in 2010 and since then these tools have been used to assess sexual offenders.

Originally Static-99 was developed by R.K. Hanson and D. Thornton (Hanson & Thornton, 2000) and it is a 10-item actuarial risk assessment scale designed to predict sexual and violent recidivism in male adult sexual offenders. Static-99R is a revised version of the instrument (Helmus, Thornton, Hanson, & Babchishin 2012) and offers new risk categories (Hanson, Babchishin, Helmus, Thornton, & Phenix, 2016).

STABLE-2007 was designed by R.K.Hanson, L.Helmus and A.J.R. Harris (Hanson, Helmus, & Harris, 2015) in order to measure the treatment and supervision needs of sexual offenders, and it contains 13 items which allow to identify the nature and density of criminogenic needs. STABLE-2007 can also be used as a risk prediction instrument.

The objectives of this research are: (1) to evaluate the predictive accuracy of the Latvian version of the Static-99R; (2) to evaluate the predictive accuracy of the Latvian version of the STABLE-2007; (3) to evaluate whether the Latvian version of the STABLE-2007 incrementally added to the predictive accuracy of the Latvian version of the Static-99R for sexual reoffense.

The sample consists of 734 male sex offenders aged from 18 to 80 that were under supervision in 2010-2016 and assessed with Static-99R and STABLE-2007. It is expected that both instruments will be significantly related to outcomes. It is also expected that the

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STABLE-2007 will incrementally add to the predictive accuracy of the STATIC-99 for sexual reoffense.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to evaluate the predictive accuracy of sex offenders' risk assessment instruments which allow to measure the risk of sexual and violent recidivism (namely, Static-99R).
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to evaluate the predictive accuracy of sex offenders' risk assessment instruments which allow to identify the nature and density of criminogenic needs of sex offenders (namely, STABLE-2007).
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to evaluate whether sex offenders' risk assessment instruments which allow to identify the nature and density of criminogenic needs of sex offenders (namely, STABLE-2007) incrementally add to the predictive accuracy of risk assessment instruments which allow to measure the risk of sexual and violent recidivism (namely, Static-99R).

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A Prospective Validation of the Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP)

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The Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) is a structured professional judgement (SPJ) risk assessment instrument which was developed from the Sexual Violence Risk-20 (SVR-20) in the early 1990s. Although it is used widely by clinicians in Canada, Europe and Australia, unlike the SVR-20, there have been few studies of the prospective validity of the RSVP. In addition few risk assessment studies take into account the potentially confounding effect of the level of intervention/management during follow-up.

This study reports a follow-up study of 109 sexual offenders referred to a specialist forensic clinical service in Scotland followed up for 1-5 years (average 3.25 years) after clinical assessment using the RSVP. Recidivism data was collected from police, mental health and community correctional records, and included all allegations, charges and convictions for sexual and non-sexual offending. During follow-up level of risk management was also ascertained.

The rate of sexual re-conviction was 11% , although the rate including non-convicted allegations was 23%. RSVP summary judgements and total scores were related to further serious sexual and serious violent offending. Sexual offending of any level of seriousness was not predicted by the RSVP or an actuarial instrument (Risk Matrix 2000), but survival analysis found that the case prioritisation rating from the RSVP predicted time to sexual offending. Risk management level was found to confound prediction. Low risk offenders only required low risk management, whilst high risk offenders required a high level of management to prevent re-offending. We conclude that the RSVP is a useful instrument to guide the management of sexual offenders who pose a risk of serious harm.

Learning Goals:

- Set out the complexity and limitations of prospective validation studies of sex offender risk assessment instruments like the RSVP.
- Outline the methodology of a study that tries to overcome some of these difficulties.
- Present data supporting the use of the RSVP to manage the risk of serious further offending in sexual offenders.

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treatment and management of sexual offenders with personality disorders and paraphilias. He has worked in prisons, secure hospitals and the community. He has written over 60 papers, books and book chapters. He has played a role in the development and implementation of national policies for the management of sexual offenders and mentally disordered offenders. He has extensive experience working as an expert witness, particularly assessing risk in sexual offenders for sentencing, release and community management.