The Updated 5-Year Norms and New 10-Year Norms for Static-99R:
Sexual Recidivism Rates for Routine/Complete Samples

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Static-99R (Hanson & Thornton, 2000) is the most widely used actuarial risk assessment tool by forensic practitioners to assess the risk of sexual recidivism among adult males who has a history of sexual crimes (e.g., sentencing procedure, treatment programs, community supervision programs; Hill & Demetrioff, 2019; Kelley et al., 2020). As an actuarial risk tool, one of the main interpretations of the total scores concerns absolute risk (i.e., the proportion of individuals with this score expected to re-offend within a defined period). The sexual recidivism rate norms of Static-99R for routine/complete samples have been provided for a 5-year follow-up period (Hanson et al., 2016). Until now, there was insufficient data to produce reliable 10-year recidivism estimates.

Risk assessment tools, including Static-99R, are often used to inform high-stakes decisions concerning long-term detention, such as civil commitment (U.S.) and dangerous offender (DO) designation (Canada; Neal & Grisso, 2014). Consequently, it is important to provide accurate norms of absolute recidivism rates for longer terms because the decisions are predicated on long-term (potentially lifetime) risk. The purpose of this study was to provide expected long-term (i.e., 10-year follow-up) recidivism rates as well as to update 5-year norms for the Static-99R risk tool.

The current study included twelve independent samples (n = 7,224 for the 5-year norms and n = 1,599 [k =6] for the 10-year norms) classified as routine/complete samples, which comprised relatively random samples from a correctional system, thought to represent the complete population of all individuals with a sexual offending history (e.g., prisoners, probationers, or parolees). Logistic regression parameters ($B0_2$ and B1) across the studies were aggregated using fixed-effect meta-analyses (Borenstein et al., 2009). As in Hanson et al. (2016), the aggregated logistic regression coefficients ($B0_2$ + $B1_*$Static-99R score; as logits) were used to compute the expected 5-year and 10-year sexual recidivism rates.

The expected 5-year and 10-year sexual recidivism rates for each Static-99R total score for routine/complete samples will be presented. We will also provide the extrapolated sexual recidivism rates from this new 10-year norms for follow-up periods of 11 to 20 years using the procedures presented by Thornton et al., (2019). Further results and their implications will be discussed.

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R. Karl Hanson, PhD, CPsych, is one of the leading researchers in the field of risk assessment and treatment for individuals with a history of sexual offending. Originally trained as a clinical psychologist, he has published more than 175 articles, including several highly influential reviews. He is lead author of the most widely used measures for assessing the risk and needs of individuals with a history of sexual offending (Static-99R; Static-2002R; STABLE-2007). He has received career contribution awards from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Public Safety Canada, the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders, and the Criminal Justice Section of the Canadian Psychological Association. Based in Ottawa, Canada, he worked for Public Safety Canada between 1991 and 2017, and is now adjunct faculty in the psychology departments of Carleton University (Ottawa) and Ryerson University (Toronto).