

POSTER

Comparing the Predictive Accuracy of Eight Risk Assessment Instruments for Adult Sex Offenders

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Over the last 20 years, there has been an important increase in research on the prediction of general, violent, and sexual recidivism. This study compares the predictive accuracy of eight commonly used risk assessment instruments (the VRAG, the SORAG, the RRASOR, the Static-99, the Static-2002, the Risk Matrix 2000, the MnSOST-R and the SVR-20) in a 20-year follow up of 569 sexual offenders. Four types of recidivism were used (nuisance, sexual, nonsexual victim-involved and nonsexual victimless) and offenders were divided into four subgroups (rapists, hebephilic offenders, child molesters and mixed offenders). All offenders were committed as sexually dangerous or evaluated for commitment at the Massachusetts Treatment Center between 1959 and 1984. All cases were coded on file. Results indicate that instruments showed stable modest to moderate predictive accuracy for both sexual and violent recidivism. However, most instruments showed predictions no better than chance for hebephilic and mixed offenders and for predicting non-contact sexual reoffending.