

RESEARCH SUMMMARIES¹**Web Version 1.1 (2013)**

Lofthouse, R.E., Lindsay, W.R., Totsika, V. & Hastings, R.P., Boer, D.P., Haaven, J.L (2013). Prospective dynamic assessment of risk of sexual reoffending in individuals with an intellectual disability and a history of sexual offending behaviour. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 26, 394-403.

Abstract

Previous research has primarily focused on measures of static risk to predict recidivism in populations of people with an intellectual disability (ID) and a history of offending behaviour. Emerging data (Lindsay et al, 2007) suggest that the use of dynamic risk assessment for violence may be as good as, if not better than, established static risk tools with this population. The purpose of the present study was to extend this work to consider sexual offending behaviour. A dynamic risk assessment for sexual reoffending (ARMIDILO-S), a static risk assessment for sexual offending (STATIC-99), and a static risk assessment for violence (Violence Risk Appraisal Guide - VRAG) were completed for a sample of 64 adult males with ID and a history of sexual offending behaviour. The use of a dynamic risk tool for sexual offenders with ID resulted in the best prediction of sexual reoffending (ARMIDILO-S total score AUC = .92) this was better than an established sexual offending static risk tool (STATIC-99 AUC = .75). As predicted, a more general static risk assessment for violent reoffending, did not perform as well in predicting sexual reoffending in this group (VRAG AUC = .58). The results would suggest that dynamic variables are useful in predicting sexual reoffending with individuals with ID, confirming previous research findings on the prediction of violent behaviour. The ARMIDILO-S is a promising dynamic risk assessment tool for individuals with an ID.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Rachael Lofthouse, School of Psychology, Adeilad Brigantia, Bangor University, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2AS, UK; e-mail: pspac2@bangor.ac.uk

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Blacker, J., Beech, A.R., Wilcox, D.T., Boer, D.P. (2011). The assessment of dynamic risk and recidivism in a sample of special needs sex offenders. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, Vol. 17, No. 1, January 2011, 75-92

Abstract

The predictive validity of four risk assessment instruments: the RRASOR, SVR-20, RM2000-V and the ARMIDILO Stable, and Acute dynamic client subscales were assessed on a sample of 88 offenders: 44 mainstream and 44 sexual offenders with special needs, who had been matched on risk items within the RRASOR tool. Instruments were coded retrospectively from file information. Sexual reconviction data was used, in conjunction with sexual recidivism data based on unofficial data sources, over a mean follow-up period of 8.8 years. The results of this study found that the ARMIDILO instrument was the best predictor for sexual reconviction among offenders with special needs (ARMIDILO-Stable, AUC = .60; ARMIDILO-Acute, AUC = .73). While, the predictive validities of the RRASOR (AUC = .53) and the RM2000-V (AUC = .50) were little better than chance. In contrast, the SVR-20 yielded a higher score (AUC =.73) for the non-ID sample, than for the intellectually disabled sample (AUC =.45). Within the special needs group, the ARMIDILO-Acute, SVR-20 Psychosocial Affect, and Overall scales were better predictors of sexual recidivism for the intellectually disabled subgroup (AUCs ranging from .75 to .88). These results are discussed in the context of current practice.

Address correspondence to Anthony Beech/Janine Blacker, Centre for Forensic and Criminological Psychology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, tel. +44-121-414-7215, email: a.r.beech@bham.ac.uk/blackerje@hotmail.com

Burrett, V.M. (2010). *The effectiveness of assessment instruments in measuring change in persons with an intellectual disability who have sexually offended*. (Master's thesis, The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand). Retrieved from <http://hdl.handle.net/10289/5268>.

Abstract

The present research was designed to examine a set of assessment measures for their effectiveness in evaluating risk and treatment needs in a small sample (N=4) of intellectually

disabled sex offenders (IDSOs). IDSO assessment and treatment is a developing field in terms of research and practice. Many of the current assessment measures and treatment models used to date have been based on models for the non-ID offender population (Lambrick, 2003). Measures included in the present study were: the Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offender Recidivism (RRASOR), STATIC-99, the Sexual Violence Risk - 20 (SVR-20), the Assessment of Sexual Knowledge (ASK), the Questionnaire on Attitudes Consistent with Sex Offending (QACSO), and the Assessment of Risk and Manageability of Intellectually Disabled IndividualS who Offend - Sexually (ARMIDILO-S). A within-subject pre-post design was utilised, with participants acting as their own controls. Participants were assessed on all measures in the pre-treatment phase, and on the SVR-20, ASK, QACSO and acute items of the ARMIDILO-S in the post-treatment phase. Treatment involved engagement in a SAFE-ID group (modeled on the SOTSEC-ID treatment program) over a 7 month period. Although the sample was small, some changes in risk-relevant variables were found. Expected changes were found with the SVR-20, ASK and the client and environmental protective factors of the ARMDILO-S. Unexpected changes were found with the QACSO and the client and environmental risk factors of the ARMIDILO-S. Further research is suggested, including the use of a larger sample.

Correspondence concerning this dissertation should be addressed to Vanessa M. Burrett, c/o School of Psychology, The University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand, 3240; telephone +64 7 838-4466 (ext 8302).

Cookman, Crystal L. (2010) *THE UTILITY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF RISK MANAGEABILITY OF INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WHO OFFEND-SEXUALLY (ARMIDILO-S) FOR A COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE*. Dissertation Abstracts International (Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology).

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine whether a new assessment tool (the ARMIDILO-S) that is specifically designed for the special population of intellectually and/or developmentally disabled individuals with problematic sexual behavior is useful to a community-based service located in New England. This community-based service provides residential, treatment and other support services to its clients. The tool is designed to generate empirically informed risk management strategies for the treatment and supervision of these individuals. This tool is unique in that it considers staffing and environmental conditions as salient risk management factors. This study compares the ARMIDILO-S to tools that are designed for the general sex offender population (STABLE-2007 and ACUTE-2007) in examining the relative utility of the ARMIDILO-S for assessing the risk management needs of the clientele of this service. Results show significant correlations indicating concurrent validity of the ARMIDILO-S with the STABLE 2007 and ACUTE-2007.

Correspondence concerning this dissertation should be addressed to Crystal Cookman; Easter Seals NH, 10 Twin bridge Rd., building 2, Merrimack, NH, 03054; tele. (o) 603-262-9383, © 603-315-8179; e-mail: ccookman@eastersealsnh.org.

