

**Ohio Department of  
Rehabilitation and Correction**



Ohio Institute on Correctional Best Practices

**Best Practices Tool-Kit:  
Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment**



Ted Strickland  
Governor

Terry J. Collins  
Director

October 2007

*The Best Practices Tool-Kit is published at least 4 times a year by the Institute for Excellence in Justice, a collaborative partnership between the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Institute on Correctional Best Practices and the Ohio State University's Criminal Justice Research Center. Please direct all questions to Coretta Pettway at [Coretta.Pettway@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:Coretta.Pettway@odrc.state.oh.us)*



# BEST PRACTICES TOOL KIT

Prepared by: Coretta Pettway and David Berenson



## Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Treatment

This Best Practices Tool-Kit aims to systematically identify empirical research regarding assessment instruments and treatment practices for incarcerated sex offenders. It highlights several practices and program strategies that are proven, promising, or exemplary best practices and provides references for more extensive reading. The objective of the tool kit is to offer a sound evidence base that will better inform policymakers, practitioners, and researchers on the management of sex offenders through assessment and treatment. For definitional purposes, best practices fall on a continuum ranging from those practices that are well established and have clearly demonstrated their effectiveness to those that show promise or may be exemplary, but have yet to be fully evaluated and their results documented (Wilkinson 2003).<sup>1</sup>

Before continuing, it should be noted that differences in statistics, assessment, and treatment strategies exist between adult male sex offenders, adult female sex offenders and juvenile sex offenders. Because juvenile sexual offenders, including pre-adolescents who sexually violate other children, and female sexual offenders constitute uniquely different groups, with unique problems and treatment needs, they should be the subject of separate tool-kits. The majority of the information below applies to adult male sexual offenders, but instances of applicability to juveniles or females are noted.

### Statistics on Incarcerated Sex Offenders

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) classifies an offender as a sex offender following a review of the offender's criminal history. Offenders are classified as a sex offender in the Department's Offender Tracking System if they are identified as having a current or prior conviction for a sexually oriented offense as defined in the Ohio Revised Code section 2907 and some offenses in sections 2903 and 2905 which were deemed to have been sexually motivated. As of September 13, 2007, DRC held approximately 9,000 male and 138 female sexual offenders in their custody.<sup>2</sup>

### Sex Offender Risk Assessment

The effective management of sex offenders requires an understanding that this population is heterogeneous. Although the term, "sex offender", is applied broadly, there are many variations, including differing "types" of sex offenders (the most common broad types being rapists and child molesters), victim selection, and the degree or level of risk to sexually re-offend. Determining the level of risk, i.e., the likelihood that a person convicted of a sex offense is likely to commit sex offenses in the future, is a critical step in developing management strategies to enhance public safety and victim protection. Sex offender risk assessment provides necessary information to courts, law enforcement, corrections, probation and parole, treatment practitioners, and victim advocates in determining what needs to be done to protect the public.

In general, there are two approaches to risk assessment, clinical and actuarial. "In the clinical approach, the clinician makes a judgment about the person based on his or her training, experience and clinical impressions of the person being assessed. Actuarial methods are the quantified, impartial, and systematic use of factors from the file or history of the person. The essential requirement is that the data are

<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson, R. 2003. "Best Practices: What Does It Mean In Times of Perpetual Transition?" International Corrections and Prison Association 2003 Meetings. Viewed July 25, 2006 at <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/articles/articles/article91.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Department Offender Tracking System. *Incarcerated Sex Offender Totals Report*. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Generated September 13, 2007.

quantified, and statistical procedures based on the laws of probability are employed" (Wakefield and Underwager 1998:3).<sup>3</sup> Over the past several decades, research shows that, in making decisions, the information to be relied upon first is the statistical and actuarial data. The value of unstructured clinical opinion can be questioned, but there is sufficient evidence indicating that empirically based risk assessment can meaningfully predict the risk for sexual recidivism (Hanson and Thornton 1999; Wakefield and Underwager 1998).

Research-based sex offender risk assessment instruments assist agencies and officials in efficiently utilizing limited resources by matching supervision/monitoring strategies and treatment resources to risk levels. They also ensure that professionals, who are responsible for managing sex offenders, have a consistent framework and methodology for identifying and communicating the levels of risk to sexually re-offend. Although there are numerous actuarial instruments available for assessing sex offender re-offending, evaluators can narrow the instrument of choice by using the following criteria (Doren 2002:116):<sup>4</sup>

- It was designed for use with sexual offenders.
- It was designed to assess sexual recidivism likelihood.
- It has been tested for its inter-rater reliability.
- The empirically demonstrated degree of predictive utility is acceptable.
- The subject to whom the evaluator is going to apply the instrument is similar in basic characteristics to the study samples.
- The information needed for using the instrument is likely to be available for the case(s) upon which the instrument is to be applied.

#### Empirically Evaluated Sex Offender Assessment Instruments

This section describes four frequently used and evaluated actuarial risk instruments: the Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised, the Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offense Recidivism, the Static-99, and the Sex Offender Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (Doren 2002; Institute of Public Policy 2006).<sup>5</sup>

- Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool – Revised (MnSOST-R)<sup>6</sup> – A 16-item actuarial instrument that assesses risk of sexual offending and includes, but is not limited to, items that measure the number of sexual convictions, length of sexual offending, victim selection, history of anti-social behavior, substance abuse, and employment. The MnSOST-R was developed using a population of rapists and extra-familial sexual offenders for use by the Minnesota Department of Corrections as a screening tool for referral for commitment under the state's Sexual Psychopathic Personality and Sexually Dangerous Person laws and as part of the state's Community Notification Act.
- Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offense Recidivism (RRASOR)<sup>7</sup> – The shortest of all sex offender actuarial risk instruments, the aim of the RRASOR is to predict sex offense recidivism using as few items as possible, including prior sex offenses, offender age, victim gender, and offender relationship to victim.

---

<sup>3</sup> Wakefield, H. and R. Underwager. 1998. "Assessing Violent Recidivism in Sexual Offenders." *Issues in Child Abuse Accusations*. Vol. 10, pps. 92-98. Viewed September 27, 2007 at [http://www.ipt-forensics.com/journal/volume10/j10\\_6.htm](http://www.ipt-forensics.com/journal/volume10/j10_6.htm).

<sup>4</sup> Doren, D. 2002. *Evaluating Sex Offenders: A Manual for Civil Commitments and Beyond*. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* Institute of Public Policy. 2006. *Sex Offender Risk Assessment*. Prepared for the Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission by the Institute of Public Policy: Truman School of Public Affairs: University of Missouri-Columbia. Report 17-2006. Viewed October 1, 2007 at <http://www.mosac.mo.gov/Documents/SOrisk-assessment.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Epperson, D; Kaul, J.; Hout, S.; Goldman, R.; Alexander, W. 2003. *Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised (MnSOST) Technical Paper: Development, Validation and Recommended Risk Level Cut Scores*. Minnesota Department of Corrections. Viewed September 27, 2007 at <http://www.psychology.iastate.edu/~dle/TechUpdatePaper12-03.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Hanson, R. 1997. *The Development of a Brief Actuarial Risk Scale for Sexual Offense Recidivism*. Ottawa, Ontario: Department of the Solicitor General of Canada. Viewed September 27, 2007 at [http://www2.ps-sp.gc.ca/publications/corrections/199704\\_e.pdf](http://www2.ps-sp.gc.ca/publications/corrections/199704_e.pdf).

- Static-99<sup>8</sup> – An elaboration of the RRASOR, the Static-99 incorporates an additional 6 items to measure aspects of offending history and sentencing. The additional 6 items were drawn from the Structured Anchored Clinical Judgment instrument developed by David Thornton (Grubin 1998) to predict sexual and violent recidivism. The resultant instrument includes items to measure marital status, non-contact sex offense, stranger victims, and current and prior sex offense.
- Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG)<sup>9</sup> – An actuarial tool for the prediction of violence recidivism, including sexual recidivism within a specified period of community access. The SORAG uses 14 personal characteristics, referred to as variables, to compare one offender's risk to others.

Hanson, Harris *et al.* (2007) recently published two important assessment instruments, designed to measure dynamic or changeable factors to better inform community supervision officers:<sup>10</sup>

- ACUTE 2007 - measures factors that can change over a period of days, weeks, even hours that may indicate the likelihood for sexual re-offending. The Acute 2007 consists of 7 areas of acute risk, including access to victims, emotional collapse, collapse of social supports, hostility, substance abuse, sexual preoccupations, and rejection of supervision.
- STABLE 2007 - measures factors which are potentially changeable but endure for months or years. The Stable 2007 consists of a guided interview process covering 6 major areas of stable risk in the offender, e.g., intimacy deficits, significant social influences, general and sexual self-regulation, attitude supportive of sexual assault, and cooperation with supervision.

Both the ACUTE 2007 and STABLE 2007 were developed for use on sex offenders currently under community supervision.

### Sex Offender Treatment/Program Strategies

An essential component of managing sex offenders is the provision of sex offender specific treatment that is designed to promote offender accountability and enhance skills and competencies in order to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. Kurt Bumby, of the Center for Sex Offender Management, describes sex offender treatment as “the delivery of prescribed interventions as a means of managing crime-producing factors and promoting positive and meaningful goal attainment for participants” (2006:2).<sup>11</sup> Sex offenders are a diverse group; and treatment should be tailored to meet the individual needs of each offender. Thus, treatment should address elements and factors in the offender's personality functioning that contribute to and /or increase the likelihood that the offender will sexually re-offend. Bumby goes on to summarize the findings of research regarding offense-related treatment targets that are changeable risk factors associated with sexual recidivism:

- Deviant sexual arousal, interests or preferences;
- Sex preoccupation;
- Pervasive anger or hostility;

<sup>8</sup> Hanson, R. and D. Thornton. 1999. *Static 99: Improving Actuarial risk Assessments for Sex Offenders*. Ottawa, Ontario: Department of the Solicitor General of Canada. Viewed September 27, 2007 at [http://www2.ps-sp.gc.ca/publications/corrections/199902\\_e.pdf](http://www2.ps-sp.gc.ca/publications/corrections/199902_e.pdf); Grubin, D. 1998. “Sex Offending Against Children: Understanding the Risk.” *Police Research Series Paper 99*. London: Home Office. Viewed September 27, 2007 at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/fprs99.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Quinsey, V.; Harris, G.; Rice, M.; Cormier, C. 1998. *Violent Offenders: Appraising and Managing Risk*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

<sup>10</sup> Hanson, R.; Harris, A.; Scott, T.; Helmus, L. 2007. *Assessing the Risk of Sexual Offenders on Community Supervision: The Dynamic Supervision Project*. User Report No. 2007-05. Ottawa: Public Safety Canada. Viewed September 27, 2007 at <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cor/rep/fl/crp2007-05-en.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> Bumby, K. 2006. *Understanding Treatment for Adults and Juveniles Who Have Committed Sex Offenses*. Center for Sex Offender Management, A Project of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Viewed August 23, 2007 at [http://www.csom.org/pubs/treatment\\_brief.pdf](http://www.csom.org/pubs/treatment_brief.pdf).

- Emotional management difficulties;
- Self-regulation difficulties, or impulsivity;
- An antisocial orientation;
- Pro-offending attitudes, or cognitive distortions; and,
- Intimacy deficits and conflicts in intimate relationships.

The Center for Sex Offender Management<sup>12</sup> ([www.csom.org/train/treatment/index.html](http://www.csom.org/train/treatment/index.html)) identifies typical goals and objectives of treatment for those sex offenders identified or who pose a high risk to sexually re-offend:

- Accepting responsibility for sex offending and other harmful behaviors;
- Modifying thinking errors, or cognitive distortions, that support offending behaviors;
- Managing negative mood or affect;
- Developing positive relationship skills;
- Managing deviant sexual arousal or interest;
- Maintaining control over unhealthy impulses;
- Developing or enhancing empathy for victims;
- Understanding the sequence of events and risk factors associated with offending;
- Developing effective coping skills to manage identified risk factors; and,
- Identifying and utilizing support networks – those individuals in the community who become part of an extended supervision network, such as family members, employers and others.

### Promising Programs

Following an electronic search of programs and evaluations of adult sex offender treatment programs, the programs discussed below show promising practices:

#### **Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP)**

The SOTP prison program has operated in England and Wales since 1991. Although it has undergone several revisions since then, the program is based on a cognitive-behavioral model and includes topics specific to certain types of offending behavior, victim empathy, and the development of personal relapse prevention plans. The first version of the program included 80 hours of treatment, but has been expanded to 170 hours. Facilitators are trained in the program modality and are required to participate in ongoing training sessions. Several evaluations of the program found participants to have a lower recidivism rate than the comparison group.

#### Readings on the Sex Offender Treatment Programme

- Friendship, C.; Mann, R.; Beech, A. 2003. "The Prison-Based Sex Offender Treatment Programme – An Evaluation." *Findings 205*. London: Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. Pps. 1-4. Viewed October 1, 2007 at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/r205.pdf>.
- Wakeling, H.; Webster, S.; Mann, R. 2005. "Sex Offenders' Treatment Experience: A Qualitative and Quantitative Investigation." *Journal of Sexual Aggression*. 11(2):171-186.

<sup>12</sup> The Center for Sex Offender Management was established in June 1997. CSOM's goal is to enhance public safety by preventing further victimization through improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders who are in the community. A collaborative effort of the Office of Justice Programs, the National Institute of Corrections, the State Justice Institute, and the American Probation and Parole Association, CSOM is administered by the Center for Effective Public Policy.

- Webster, S.; Akhtar, S.; Bowers, L.; Mann, R.; Rallings, M.; Marshall, W. 2004. "The Impact of the Prison Service Sex Offender Treatment Programme on Minority Ethnic Offenders: A Preliminary Study." *Psychology, Crime and Law*. 10(2):113-114.

### Therapeutic Community for Sex Offenders

In 1993, a Therapeutic Community (TC) opened at Colorado's Arrowhead Correctional Center (ACC) to serve both drug and alcohol dependent inmates and sex offenders. The TC can accommodate up to 96 sex offenders. The TC concept for sex offenders is based upon the TC concept for substance abuse addiction. It is a graduated program that includes cognitive behavior elements. Prior to admission into the TC, offenders must complete a Mental Health Core Curriculum and Phase I. The Core Curriculum consists of education on fundamental mental health concepts. During Phase I, which lasts for 6 months, offenders participate in a psycho-educational group therapy program for 8 hours weekly. The TC itself has five elements: Assessment, Orientation, Commitment, Senior, and Maintenance. The evaluation of the program found that offenders who did not participate in the TC had a recidivism rate three times higher than those that did participate. Additionally, the amount of time in the program contributed to the success of the offender once released from prison (Lowden, K.; Hetz, N. *et al.* 2003).

#### Readings on the Therapeutic Community for Sex Offenders

- Lowden, K.; Hetz, N.; Harrison, L.; Patrick, D.; English, K.; Pasini-Hill, D. 2003. *Evaluation of Colorado's Prison Therapeutic Community for Sex Offenders: A Report of Findings*. Office of Research and Statistics: Division of Criminal Justice. Viewed August 17, 2007 at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/pdf/docs/WebTCpart1.pdf>.

#### Suggested Readings

The articles identified below are not an exhaustive list of the literature regarding sex offender assessment instruments or evaluations of sex offender treatment programs. They provide a starting point for the identification of research on risk and prediction instruments for sex offenders and sex offender treatment.

Barbaree, H.; Seto, M.; Langton, C.; Peacock, E. 2001. "Evaluating the Predictive Accuracy of Six Risk Assessment Instruments for Adult Sex Offenders." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. 28 (4): 490-521.

**Description:** Compares the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG), Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG), Rapid Risk Assessment of Sexual Offense Recidivism (RRASOR), Static-99, Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-R (MnSOST-R), and the Multi-factorial Assessment of Sex Offender Risk (MASORR) for recidivism on 215 sex offenders released from prison for an average of 4.5 years. Overall, the VRAG, SORAG, RRASOR and Static-99 predicted general recidivism, serious (violent and sexual) and sexual recidivism. The MnSOST-R and the MASORR predicted general recidivism, but not violent and sexual recidivism. The PCL-R predicted general and serious recidivism, but not sexual recidivism.

Barnoski, R. 2006a. *Sex Offender Sentencing in Washington State: Does the Prison Treatment Program Reduce Recidivism?* Washington State Institute for Public Policy. 1-4. Viewed August 28, 2007 at <http://www.csom.org/pubs/managehandbook.pdf>.

**Description:** Examines the effectiveness of the Washington State Department of Corrections prison-based Sex Offender Treatment Program by comparing recidivism rates of program participants to offenders who volunteered to participate in the program but did not. Overall, the study found no statistical difference between the two groups for felony and non-sexual violent felony recidivism, defined as any offense committed after release which results in a court legal action (i.e., conviction, deferred sentence, deferred prosecution, deferred disposition, or a diversion agreement).

Barnoski, R. 2006b. *Sex Offender Sentencing in Washington State: Predicting Recidivism Based on the LSI-R*. Washington State Institute for Public Policy. 1-4. Viewed August 28, 2007 at <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/pub.asp?docid=06-02-1201>.

**Description:** Evaluates the ability of the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) in predicting sexual recidivism for Washington State offenders. Overall, the LSI-R is not a strong predictor of felony sexual offense recidivism. However, five items from the LSI-R combined, predicted felony sexual offense recidivism with moderate accuracy.

Bartosh, D.; Garby, T.; Lewis, D.; Gray, S. 2003. "Differences in the Predictive Validity of Actuarial Risk Assessments in Relation to Sex Offender Type." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. 47(4): 442-438.

**Description:** Assesses the performance of 4 risk assessment instruments (Static-99; Rapid Risk Assessment for Sexual Offense Recidivism-RRASOR; the Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool Revised-MnSOST-R; Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide-SORAG) on a sample of 186 males sex offenders released from the Arizona Department of Corrections sorted by offender type. Overall, all four instruments were predictive of violent or any recidivism for extrafamilial child molesters, but the Static 99 and SORAG significantly predicted sexual recidivism as well. For incest offenders, all four instruments were moderately predictive of sexual recidivism, but the Static-99 and SORAG were highly predictive of violent or any recidivism. The Static 99 and SORAG also significantly predicted sexual recidivism for rapists and hands-off offenders.

Beech, A.; Erikson, M.; Friendship, C.; Ditchfield, J. 2001. "A Six-Year Follow-Up of Men Going Through Probation-Based Sex Offender Treatment Programmes." *Findings 144*. London: Research Development & Statistics Directorate, Pps. 1-4. Viewed October 1, 2007 at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/r144.pdf>.

**Description:** Analyzes sexual reconvictions of 53 child molesters who had participated in community treatment for sexual offenders and who had been in the community for at least six years. Overall, 10% of the men who were classified as "benefiting from treatment" were reconvicted in the six-year follow-up, compared with 23% of men who were classified as "not having responded to treatment."

Berberoglu, L. 2003. *Sex Offender Evaluations: Risk Assessment and Risk Management*. Workshop presented for the American Academy of Forensic Psychology. Cincinnati, OH.

**Description:** Discusses the origin, purpose and uses of risk assessment instruments used on sex offenders. A description of the following risk assessment instruments and sources are included in Appendix A: Level of Service Inventory- Revised (LSI-R); Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R); Historical/Clinical/Risk Management Scheme (HCR-20); Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised (MnSOST-R); Rapid Risk Assessment for Sexual Offense Recidivism (RRASOR); Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG); Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA); Static-99; Structured Anchored Clinical Judgment (SAJC-Min); Sexual/Violence/Risk (SVR-20); Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG); Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory; Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II); Iterative Classification Tree; and the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY).

Boer, D.; Hart, S.; Kropp, P.; Webster, C. 1997. *Manual for the Sexual Violence Risk – 20: Professional Guidelines for Assessing Risk of Sexual Violence*. Vancouver, British Columbia: British Columbia Institute on Family Violence and Mental Health, Law, & Policy Institute, Simon Fraser University.

**Description:** This manual describes one of several risk assessment instruments developed over the past few years by academics and forensic mental health professionals affiliated with the Mental Health, Law and Policy Institute at Simon Fraser University. Contents include assessment issues, the SVR-20 methodology, and definitions of risk factors.

Bumby, K. 2007. *The Importance of Assessment in Sex Offender Management: An Overview of key Principles and Practices*. A Project of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Viewed August 17, 2007 at [http://www.csom.org/pubs/assessment\\_brief.pdf](http://www.csom.org/pubs/assessment_brief.pdf).

**Description:** Provides an overview of underlying principles and promising practices relative to assessments and emphasizes the integral role that assessment plays in ensuring informed and effective management of sex offenders.



Center for Sex Offender Management. 2002a. *An Overview of Sex Offender Management*. A Project of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Viewed August 28, 2007 at [http://www.csom.org/pubs/csom\\_bro.pdf](http://www.csom.org/pubs/csom_bro.pdf).

**Description:** A brochure which describes the characteristics of adult and juvenile sex offenders, their offenses, the impact of sexual crimes on victims, and the key components to effectively manage sex offenders under community supervision.

Center for Sex Offender Management. 2002b. *Managing Sex Offenders in the Community: A Handbook to Guide Policymakers and Practitioners through Planning and Implementation Process*. A Project of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Viewed August 28, 2007 at <http://www.csom.org/pubs/managehandbook.pdf>.

**Description:** Designed to assist policymakers and practitioners in the process of assessing and strengthening their adult and juvenile sex offender management approach.

Giguere, R. and K. Bumby. 2007. *Female Sex Offenders*. Center for Sex Offender Management, A Project of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Viewed August 30, 2007 at [http://www.csom.org/pubs/female\\_sex\\_offenders\\_brief.pdf](http://www.csom.org/pubs/female_sex_offenders_brief.pdf).

**Description:** Summarizes the research and other professional literature regarding adult and adolescent females who commit sex offenses. Includes a discussion of what is known about the seemingly low incidence of these crimes and their under-recognition, common characteristics and typologies of female sex offenders, and key considerations relative to assessment, treatment, and supervision strategies.

Hanson, R.; Gordon, A.; Harris, A.; Marques, J.; Murphy, W.; Quinsey, V.; Seto, M. 2002. "First Report of the Collaborative Outcome Data Project on the Effectiveness of Psychological Treatment for Sex Offenders." *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 14(2): 169-194.

**Description:** Meta-analytic review examining the effectiveness of psychological treatment for sex offenders by summarizing data from 43 studies. Overall, the sexual recidivism rate was lower for the treatment group than the comparison group. The authors discuss limitation of research evaluating the effectiveness of sex offender treatment and provide suggestions for future research.

Hanson, R. and D. Thornton. 2000. "Improving Risk Assessments for Sex Offenders: A Comparison of Three Actuarial Scales." *Law and Human Behavior*. 24 (1):119-136.

**Description:** Compares the predictive accuracy of the Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offender Recidivism (RRASOR), the Structured Anchored Clinical Judgment (SAJC), and the Static-99 on 1, 301 sex offenders from Canada and the United Kingdom.

Harris, G.; Rice, M.; Quinsey, V.; Lalumiere, M.; Boer, D.; Lang, C. 2003. "A Multisite Comparison of Actuarial Instruments for Sex Offenders." *Psychological Assessment*. 15 (3): 413-425. Viewed September 10, 2007 at <http://people.uleth.ca/~martin.lalumiere/pdf%20files/Harris%20et%20al%202003.pdf>.

**Description:** Evaluates the effectiveness of the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG), Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG), and the Static-99 in the prediction of violent and sexual re-offending. Overall, all 4 instruments predicted violent (including sexual) recidivism.

Hoberman, H. "Dangerousness and Sex Offenders—Assessing Risk for Future Sex Offenses" in *The Sexual Predator: Legal Issues, Clinical Issues, Special Populations*. (A. Schlank and F. Cohen, eds). Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute. Pps 11.1-11.57.

**Description:** Discusses the issues and currently available methods of assessing risk of sexually violent recidivism among adult males. Includes a summary of statistical aspects of prediction, methodology, elements and issues in risk prediction, and a review of 14 specific risk assessment measures and guidelines, such as the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised, Minnesota Sex Offenders Screening Tool, Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide, Static-99, Sex Offender Need Assessment Rating, etc.

English, K. 1999. *Adult Sex Offender Risk Assessment Screening Instrument*. Colorado Division of Criminal Justice; Office of Research and Statistics. Viewed October 2, 2007 at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/pdf/docs/svp1a.PDF>.

**Description:** Describes the process and product that resulted in the development of the Colorado Adult Sex Offender Risk Assessment Scale, a risk assessment screening instrument for use in identifying sexually violent predators.

English, K. 1998. "The Containment Approach: An Aggressive Strategy for the Community Management of Adult Sex Offenders." *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*. 4 (1/2): 218-235.

**Description:** Presents an approach to community management of adult sex offenders called the containment approach. This approach makes offenders responsible for the risk they present to society. In addition, the approach relies on multidisciplinary interaction between many agencies and is based on five features, which the article identifies.

Losel, F. and M. Schmucker. 2005. "The Effectiveness of Treatment for Sexual Offenders: A Comprehensive Meta-Analysis." *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. 1 (1): 117-146.

**Description:** International meta-analytic review of 2, 039 sex offender recidivism studies containing a total of 31, 216 sex offenders. Overall, treated offenders showed 37% less sexual recidivism than those in the control group. Surgical castration and hormonal medication showed larger effects than psycho-social interventions. Among psychological programs, cognitive-behavioral approaches had the most robust effect.

Lowden, K.; Hetz, N.; Harrison, L.; Patrick, D.; English, K.; Pasini-Hill, D. 2003. *Evaluation of Colorado's Therapeutic Community for Sex Offenders: A Report of Findings*. Office of Research and Statistics, Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Public Safety. Viewed August 30, 2007 at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/pdf/docs/WebTCpart1.pdf>.

**Description:** Process and outcome evaluation of the Sex Offender Therapeutic Community program at the Colorado Department of Corrections. Findings indicate that participation in treatment is significantly associated with success on parole and significantly reduces participants re-arrest rate. Length of time in treatment is also significantly related to positive outcomes after release from prison.

Marques, J. 1999. "How to Answer the Question: Does Sex Offender Treatment Work?" *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 14(9): 437-451.

**Description:** Discusses the ongoing evaluation of California's Sex Offender Treatment and Evaluation Project and several problems with assessing the effectiveness of treatment programs. The author suggests that the broad question of whether sex offender treatment works should be broken down into more specific questions given the diversity of clients and programs in this field.

Nicholaichuk, T.; Gordon, A.; Gu, D.; Wong, S. 2000. "Outcome of an Institutional Sex Offender Treatment Program: A Comparison Between Treated and Matched Untreated Offenders." *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 12(2):139-153.

**Description:** Evaluates the effectiveness of the Clearwater Sex Offender Program operated by the Correctional Service of Canada at the Regional Psychiatric Center by comparing 296 program participants and 283 non-participants. After a mean follow-up period of 6-years, 14.5% of program participants were convicted of a new sexual offense compared to 33.2% of program non-participants.

Office of Criminal Justice Services. 2006. *Report to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission: Sex Offenders*. Viewed August 27, 2007 at <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/Research/Sex%20Offender%20Report%20pdf.pdf>.

**Description:** Provides a statistical snapshot of offenders assessed at Ohio's Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center in 1999. It also summarizes research regarding sex offender assessment, treatment, recidivism, and research on sex offender registration and notification.

Polizzi, D.; MacKenzie, D.; Hickman, L. 1999. "What Works in Adult Sex Offender Treatment: A Review of Prison and Non-Prison Based Treatment Programs." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. 43(3): 357-374.

**Description:** Includes an evaluation of 21 sex offender prison- and community-based treatment programs. Overall, approximately 50% of the studies showed statistically significant findings in favor of treatment. These programs utilized a cognitive-behavioral approach.

*Research Bulletin: Clinical and Structured Assessment of Sex Offenders*. 2007. New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. Viewed October 1, 2007 at <http://dpca.state.ny.us/pdfs/somgmtbulletinaugust2007.pdf>.

**Description:** The second of several bulletins to be published examining issues specific to managing sex offenders in the community. This issue addresses structured assessments and instruments that could foster collaboration among probation officers, clinicians, and treatment providers.

Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission. 2001. *Assessing Risk Among Sex Offenders in Virginia*. Viewed August 23, 2007 at [http://www.vcsc.state.va.us/sex\\_off\\_report.pdf](http://www.vcsc.state.va.us/sex_off_report.pdf).

**Description:** Describes the development and validation process used in designing a sex offender risk assessment instrument. Includes an overview of sex offender recidivism studies and a review of existing sex offender risk assessment instruments.