Assessing Risk in Sex Offenders
Annual TCSAAC Conference
April 17, 2015

General Information
70,000+ registered sex offenders in Texas
100+ added weekly

Types of Risk Assessment
Guess
Static-99/R, Static 2002/R
Risk-Matrix 2000
Stable 2007
SOTIPS
Recidivism

13% (87% do not sexually reoffend)

Differences between offenders within and outside family

Offenders with male victims

Child pornography offenders

Female offenders

Static-99 and 99R

Validated on over 20,000 sex offenders

Risk level does not change - once high risk always high risk

Most efficient for long-term prediction

Static-99R integrates age as a Protective Factor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>Aged 18-34.9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aged 35-39.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aged 40-59.9</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aged 60 or</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever lived with lover for at least 2 years</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index non-sexual violence</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior non-sexual violence</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior sex offenses</td>
<td>Charges Conv</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior sentencing dates</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any conviction for non-contact sex</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any unrelated victim</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any stranger victim</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any male victim</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Other Risk Assessments

**Static 2002/R**
- under age 12 victims
- Supervision violations
- Years free prior to sex offense

**Risk-Matrix 2000**

## Dynamic Factors

### (Strongly Supported)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Preoccupation</td>
<td>Poor problem solving skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any deviant sexual interest</td>
<td>Resistance to Treatment or Supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offense Supportive Attitudes</td>
<td>Grievance/Hostility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Congruence with Children</td>
<td>Negative Social Influences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Emotionally Intimate relationships with Adults</td>
<td>Multiple Paraphilias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifestyle Impulsivity</td>
<td>Sexualized Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denial of risk for reoffense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Dynamic Factors

- Hostile beliefs about women
- Machiavellianism
- Lack of concern for others
- Dysfunctional coping
NOT Dynamic Risk Factors (with some exceptions)

- **Denial** (total denial)
  - More recent studies have shown some correlation
    (Thornton & Knight, 2007; Nunes et al., 2007)
- **Low self-esteem**
  - 2 British studies show moderate-strong effects.
    - May be cultural, ways of measuring self-esteem
- **Major mental illness**
  - i.e., Schizophrenia, Bipolar
  - Hanson & Bussiere (1998) showed significant effect (n = 184)
    - Does increase risk for violence in the general population
- **Loneliness**
  - no friends, weak connections to others, feeling rejected by others

NOT Dynamic Risk Factors

- **Depression**
  - Internal psychological disorders are not considered criminogenic needs
- **Social skills deficits**
  - i.e., poor dating skills, problems negotiating social situations, social anxiety
  - Risk Factors ARE Intimacy Deficits and Hostile Attitudes Toward Women
- **Poor victim empathy**
  - Some studies showed small relationship to non-sexual violent recidivism and general recidivism
  - Lack of motivation for treatment (pre-treatment assessment)
  - BUT low motivation is related to dropping out of treatment, and dropping out of treatment is a robust predictor of recidivism
- **Proximity to school/park**
  - BUT, these may need to be addressed clinically for the overall well-being of the offender

Other Risk Assessments

- **Stable 2007**
  - Significant social influences
  - Intimacy deficits
  - Sexual self-regulation
  - General self-regulation
  - Cooperation with supervision
- **SOTIPS**
  - Offence responsibility
  - Sexual behavior/attitudes/interests/
  - Sexual risk management (understands own risk factors)
  - Criminal and rule-breaking behaviors/attitudes
  - Stage of change
  - Cooperation with treatment/supervision
  - Problem solving
  - Impulsivity
  - Employment
  - Social influences
Protective Factors

- Treatment Completion (10-50%)
- Positive family and friend support
- Education/Training for employment
- Cognitive/Behavioral regulation
- Anger regulation

Adolescents

- Pervasive anger
- School behavior problems
- Accepting responsibility for offense
- Internal motivation to change
- Understands risk factors and applies them
- Empathy
- Remorse and Guilt
- Cognitive Distortions
- Quality of peer relationships
- Management of sexual urges and desires
- Management of anger
- Stability of current living situation
- Stability in school
- Positive support system

Adult Females

- Minimal research available
- Women constitute about 5% of reported sexual offenses
- 1-3% recidivism (meta-analysis of 2,490 female sex offenders)
- Sexual recidivist had
  - previous violent partner
  - more than 1 victim in index offense
  - been physically abused
  - had been bullied at school
- Dynamic factors still being researched, but some support for sexual deviance
- Antisociality
- Intimacy deficits
- Dynamic factors for general recidivism for females should be addressed
  - antisocial attitudes and associates
  - substance abuse
  - problematic relationship
  - emotional dyscontrol
Importance of Collaboration

PO sees offender in his own environment
How offender interacts with others
Treatment Provider shares information about client’s progress
Family/Friends/Chaperons tell us much about the client’s perception
Polygraph examiners discover information not otherwise known
Other clients/offenders??

TT

59 y/o
Criminal Hx
1977 Assault with D/W
1986 Crim Trespassing
1987 IWC (2)
1991 Ind Exp
1991 IWC
1994 IWC
2007 Sexual Misc in TDC
Stranger victims
Non-Contact offenses
Hx of unsuccessful in treatment and supervision
Static-99R: 7 (HIGH RISK)

Dynamic Factors

Treatment non-compliance
Sexual Preoccupation
Lack of intimate emotional relationships with adults
Offense supportive attitudes
Not taking full responsibility for offenses
Deviant sexual interests
Employment instability
BB

55 y/o
Criminal hx
Burglary at age 19 - 2 yrs
Probation
ASA Child against 8 y/o stepdaughter
Sentenced to 45 years in prison, released after 20 years
His 2 brothers also sexually abused her and were sentenced to prison
Static-99R: -1 (Low Risk)

Dynamic Factors
Chronic Unemployment
Sexual Impulsivity
Intimacy deficits
Sees self as no risk
Pro-offending attitudes
Lack of positive support system
Sexual regulation
Non-compliance with Treatment and Supervision

RY

48 y/o
Poss of Child Pornography
Was in a relationship with adult male for 5 years at the time of his arrest
Risk Matrix 2000 (Low risk)
RY
Pre-Trial Dynamic Risk Factors
- Not currently in relationship
- Emotional collapse (partner was deported to Mexico as a result of client's arrest)
- Social influences
- Sexual preoccupation
- Denial of risk
- Offense supportive attitudes

RY
- Federal prison for 2 years and lifetime supervision
- Outpatient sex offender treatment x2 years now
- Increased support system
- Good self-regulation of emotions and behaviors

JB
- 35 y/o
- Offense against F/15
- hx of drug abuse
- No prior criminal history
- Completed treatment and continues on Probation
- Static-99R: 1 (Low Risk)
JB
Protective Factors

Treatment Completion
Stable relationship x5 years
Employment stability
Residence stability
Good self-regulation

GD

54 y/o
Criminal Hx
1991: IWC (females 5 and 8)
Solic of Sexual Asst of a Child (14 y/o female)
while on Parole for IWC
Theft
Assault w/ Firearm
Poss of C/S
Released on Parole 2013
Static-99R: 5 (Moderate-High Risk)
Prior non-sexual violence
Prior sex offense
4+ prior sentencing occasions
Unrelated victim
Stranger victim

GD
Dynamic Factors

Used drugs & alcohol on Parole after failing UA
Admits he used brother’s urine
Admits “beating” a UA early on Parole
Brother and friend bought him prostitute on separate occasions but he did not participate
Pornography use
Stable 2007 (high risk)
Significant social influences
Relationship stability
Lack of concern for others
Impulsive acts
Cooperation with Supervision
GD
Dynamic Factors (cont’d)

SOTIPS (High needs)
- Offense responsibility
- Sexual attitudes and interests
- Sexual risk management (understands own risk factors)
- Criminal and rule-breaking behaviors/attitudes
- Stage of change
- Cooperation with treatment/supervision
- Impulsivity
- Employment

EM
63 y/o

Criminal Hx
- 1971: B&E Vehicle
- 1973: Poss of Dangerous Drug
- 1978: Burg of Habitation
- 1981: Robbery by Bodily Injury
  - 1994: IWC (F/8 - girlfriend’s daughter)

Static-99R: 5 (Low)

EM
Dynamic Factors

Total denial of sex offense
- “They were going to convict me anyways because of my criminal history, so I pled guilty”
- Lives with wife who smokes marijuana couple times per month at the house
- Recent Polygraph Admissions
  - Alcohol: 2-3 beers on 2-3 times/week
  - Around wife’s grandchildren weekly
- Had family member and 2 children stay at home a few days the other month
- Poor problem solving skills
- Resistance to treatment

Stable 2007: High
- Overall New Risk: Moderate
Thank you

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PSY