

Name of Tool	Juvenile Risk Assessment Tool Version 4 (J-RAT)
Category	Youth Assessment: Sexual Violence Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Rich
Year	2017

Description

- The J-RAT is a 97-item structured clinical tool designed to aid clinical assessment of adolescent males who have or are alleged to have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour. Version 4 was published in 2017. Previous versions were published in 2001, 2003 and 2012.
- The 97 items are grouped under 12 risk domains, each of which represents an overarching risk factor. Each risk domain represents an area of behaviour, capacity or skill, psychosocial functioning, cognition, relationships, or environmental conditions.
- The tool is designed to assess the likelihood or potential for sexual recidivism. The presence of risk items are listed as concerns, ranging from none to significant ([Rich, 2009](#)).
- It also provides the clinician with a structured format for the assessment of risk, based upon factors frequently noted in current literature as relevant to risk of sexual recidivism.
- The tool has three scales used to measure and assess: (a) sexual risk, (b) risk for non-sexual problematic behaviours and, if applicable, (c) risk for sexual behaviour that is non-abusive but troubled or an area of concern.
- The tool also contains 24 protective factors. These factors are also present in each of the 12 risk domains.

Age Appropriateness

12-18

Assessor Qualifications

Given that the tool includes items pertaining to mental health it is advisable that assessors should have training and experience in assessing risk within a youth mental health context. No further information pertaining to assessor qualifications.

Tool Development

- The J-RAT provides the evaluating clinician with a structured format for the assessment of risk, based upon factors frequently described in the professional literature and similar risk assessment instruments as relevant to the risk of sexual recidivism in juveniles.
- The J-RAT has been in use since 2000, and is used across the United States. As a structured clinical instrument the J-RAT is intended and designed to be part of a larger and more comprehensive psychosocial and risk evaluation of juveniles.
- A research project designed to measure the inter-rater reliability of the J-RAT has been underway since 2009. In addition, the study is designed to help pinpoint weaknesses in the design of the J-

RAT, and help produce a stronger instrument. The J-RAT has been re-designed based on the first stage of the study and data analysis; it is now in use as Version 4 (Rich, personal communication, January 2013).

- Personal communication in early 2018 with the author revealed that the tool gets updated periodically but only in minor ways.

General Notes

- The JRAT mandates written comments to explain the assigned risk in each domain, in addition to a written concluding narrative to justify the overall assigned risk level. Once a risk level has been assigned, the JRAS also defines characteristics from risk scenarios and factors relating to the behaviour of the adolescent (Rich, 2009).

- There are a number of variations on the JRAS for specific groups (Rich, 2009):

- The LA-SATT, (Latency Age-Sexual Adjustment Assessment Tool) designed to assess adolescent males aged between 8 and 13 years who have or are alleged to have engaged in sexually inappropriate behaviour.

- The CI/J-RAT (Cognitively Impaired Juvenile Risk Assessment Tool) is for adolescent males aged 12-18 with neurological or cognitive impairments such as autism. There is also the possibility of utilising this tool with adolescents with an IQ of fewer than 80 at the discretion of the assessor.

- The IM-RAT (Interim Modified Risk Assessment Tool) containing ten individual risk elements within thirteen risk domains to allow for the on-going assessment of an adolescent's progress in treatment.

- The J-RAT is not a statistically based assessment instrument. It is an organised method for the clinical assessment of risk for sexual re-offense based on the professional literature.

- Access to the J-RAT assessments via the following websites:

- <http://www.stetsonschool.org/risk-assessment-instruments.html>

- <http://www.philrich.net/risk-assessment-instruments.html>

- For other information, please contact the author: philrich@philrich.net