

Name of Tool	Juvenile Sexual Offender Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (JSORRAT-II)
Category	Youth Assessment: Sexual Violence Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Epperson
Year	2005

### Description

- The JSORRAT-II is 12-item actuarial tool designed to assess the risk of juvenile sexual recidivism among male juveniles who are aged between 12 to 18 years at the time of their index sexual offence.
- The authors define juvenile sexual recidivism as any new sexual offence committed prior to the age of 18.
- The tool is comprised solely of static items which include the youth's sexual and non-sexual offence history and previous experiences of victimisation. The first six items document sexual offending and the remaining ones are focused on non-sexual offending ([Ralston et al., 2017](#)).

### Age Appropriateness

12-18

### Assessor Qualifications

Assessors must undertake a certified workshop where they will learn about the development of the JSORRAT-II, how to score the instrument using a variety of case studies and also how to interpret its findings.

### Tool Development

- The JSORRAT-II was developed through the identification of key predictors of sexual offending in a sample of 636 juveniles who had been charged for a sexual offence (Epperson et al., 2005).
- [Viljoen et al. \(2008\)](#) - the JSORRAT-II had excellent inter-rater reliability (ICC =.89). It did not, however, significantly predict sexual, non-sexual, and violent recidivism, both during treatment and post-discharge.
- Epperson et al. (2005) found that the tool had reasonable accuracy in predicting further juvenile sexual recidivism (AUC = .89) and sexual recidivism both as a juvenile and as an adult (AUC = .79).
- In an initial validation study, [Epperson and Ralston \(2015\)](#) reported: "Reliability of scoring the tool across five coders was quite high (intra-class correlation coefficient [ICC] = .96).
- [Ralston, Epperson and Edwards \(2016\)](#) applied the JSORRAT-II to 529 male adolescents who had sexually offended in Iowa. The predictive accuracy of the tool was found to be significant with an AUC of .70. In a breakdown of age groups, the J-SORRAT-II performed well for those aged 11-13 and 14-15, generating AUCs of above 0.70. The result for those aged 16-17 years, however, was not

significant. When the individuals whose only violent offence was sexual in nature were removed from the sample, the AUC generated was not found to be significant at .57.

- The inter-rater reliability of the J-SORRAT-II was found to be acceptable when applied to fifty cases by eleven coders. The ICC results ranged from .67 to 1.00, with sexual and violent recidivism generating ICCs of .70 and .62 respectively ([Ralston, Epperson and Edwards, 2016](#)).

- [Epperson and Ralston's \(2015\)](#) study on 636 juveniles in Utah found that the predictive accuracy for sexual and sexually violent recidivism was significant at .89 for both types. When this was cross-validated on a sample of 566 adolescents, the AUC was significant at .65 for sexual and sexually violent offences.

- [Ralston et al. \(2017\)](#) tested data from 'documented but uncharged' sexual offences in Iowa and Utah when scoring the J-SORRAT-II. The inter-rater reliability was sound with ICCs of .96 for Utah and .97 for Iowa. The predictive accuracy for the full dataset including charged crimes was moderate at .70 for Iowa, .65 for Utah and .67 for the combined sample. When only the uncharged crimes were assessed, however, the AUC was lower at .68 for Iowa, .65 for Utah and .60 for the combined scale. The main issue is that data from 'documented but uncharged' sexual offences cannot be used in the first six items of the J-SORRAT-II, as these require an official charge.

- [Rasmussen \(2017\)](#) found that the J-SORRAT-II was not predictive yielding an AUC of .57 in a sample of 130 adolescents.

## General Notes

- The tool is currently under-going validation in the US. It is validated for use in Utah, where it was originally developed, Iowa, Georgia and California. In California, the J-SORRAT-II is the mandatory risk assessment tool for any male juveniles who have committed sexual offences ([Ralston, Epperson and Edwards, 2016](#)).

- Additional research related to the tool's ability to predict general violence and adult recidivism, largely relies on inclusion of persons who have re-offended sexually before age 18 in the recidivism criterion. When juvenile sexual recidivists are, therefore, removed from the sample, the JSORRAT-II does not do well at predicting either violent recidivism (juvenile or adult) or adult sexual recidivism. The authors caution against the use of the tool in this respect given the lack of validation evidence ([Ralston, Epperson and Edwards, 2016](#)).

- The tool is not designed for adolescents younger than 12 or those whose only sexual offences occurred when they were younger than 12 years old ([Ralston, Epperson and Edwards, 2016](#)).

- The authors caution the interpretation of results from the study conducted by [Viljoen and colleagues \(2008\)](#) on several grounds, including (but not limited to) training, sampling and design issues.

- The authors have not authorized the use of the JSORRAT-II for forensic purposes in any country (apart from two states in the US) until additional validation evidence exists (Ralston, personal communication, January 2013).

- Training on the JSORRAT-II is available via the Global Institute of Forensic Research: <https://www.gifrinc.com/course/jsorrat-ii/>

- For more information on the JSORRAT-II assessment, please e-mail the primary author, Douglas Epperson, at: [dleppers@calpoly.edu](mailto:dleppers@calpoly.edu)