Name of Tool	Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II)
Category	Youth Assessment: Sexual Violence Risk (Validated)
Author / Publisher	Prentky and Righthand
Year	2003

Description

- The J-SOAP II is a 28-item checklist of risk factors designed to assess risk of sexual violence and general delinquency in male adolescents with a history of sexually coercive behaviour and/or convictions for sexual offences.
- The items are grouped under four scales: (1) Sexual Drive/Sexual Preoccupation, (2) Impulsive/Antisocial Behaviour, (3) Clinical/Treatment and (4) Community Adjustment.
- Items are scored on a 3-point Likert scale of 0, 1 and 2 depending on the extent to which the factor is present.
- The J-SOAP-II total and subscale scores can be reported as ratios or proportions reflecting the observed amount of risk rated at a given point in time. The J-SOAP-II does not contain cut-off scores or generate estimates of probability (Viljoen et al., 2017).

Age Appropriateness

For boys aged 12-18

Assessor Qualifications

Assessors must possess the relevant training/experience in youth assessment pertaining to sexual offending, in particularly adolescent development, risk assessment and assessing juveniles with sexual offending. In the manual, it is recommended that assessors liaise with each other intermittently to discuss scoring and keep themselves informed about the recent literature pertaining to juvenile sexual offending.

Strengths

- Measures dynamic variables as well as static ones, which allows for the assessment of change (i.e. progress in treatment) and also informs intervention needs and targets (Yates, 2005).

Empirical Grounding

- The risk assessment variables were developed from research reviews of literature covering 5 areas: (1) clinical studies of juvenile who had sexually offended, 2) risk assessment/outcome studies of juveniles who had sexually offended, 3) risk assessment/outcome studies of adults who had sexually offended, 4) risk assessment/outcome studies from the general juvenile delinquency

literature, 5) risk assessment studies on mixed populations of adults who have offended (Prentky and Righthand, 2003: 2).

Inter-Rater Reliability									
a) UK Research	None available at present.								
b) International Research	• Chu et al. (2012) obtained an excellent ICC of .77 for the composite J-SOAP II score. • Aebi et al. (2011) found good inter-rater reliability for the total index score (ICC = .71) • Martinez, Flores and Rosenfeld (2007) - the J-SOAP II composite score demonstrated good inter-rater reliability (ICC = .70). • Viljoen et al. (2017) assessed the inter-rater reliability of the Intervention and Community Stability/Adjustment scales in the J-SOAP-II. A sample of thirty-seven adolescents yielded an ICC range of .64 to .82, showing good to excellent inter-rater reliability. • Wijetunga et al. (2018a) found there was good IRR when using the J-SOAP-II, with a total scale of .88 and a static summary range of .74-.90. • In a study of 166 juveniles who were followed up over an average time period of 10.75 years, Schwartz-Mette and colleagues (2019) assessed inter-rater reliability using a subset of the sample (n=36). Moderate to good IRR was evident for each of the components: Scale 1 (Sexual Drive/Preoccupation), ICC=.78; Scale 2 (Antisocial Behavior/Impulsivity), ICC=.90; Scale 3 (intervention), ICC=.64; Scale 4 (Community – Stability/Adjustment), ICC=.54, Static scale, ICC=.90, Dynamic scale, ICC=.58 and Total Score, ICC=.78. • Barroso and colleagues (2019) examined the inter-rater reliability of the Portuguese version of the J-SOAP-II and found that this was good to excellent ranging from .73 to .81.								

Validation History									
General Predictive Accuracy									
a) UK Research	None available at present.								

b) International Research	•Viljoen and colleagues (2008) found that the J-SOAP II was less significant in predicting re-offending among younger adolescents. Adolescents aged 15 and younger were more likely than older adolescents to be incorrectly identified as being high risk for sexual and nonsexual violence following discharge. •In a comparative study between a medium security correctional setting and an unlocked residential sexual offending treatment programme, it was determined that there were no significant differences between the sites. The overall predictive accuracy of post-release sexual offending arrests was found to be modest with an AUC of .64 (Martinez et al., 2015). •Maximum likelihood logistic regression analyses were conducted by Viljoen and colleagues (2017) to test the outcome of any reoffending. A lack of relationship between changes scores in the J-SOAP-II and reoffending rates led them to conclude that the J-SOAP-II may not adequately capture the relevant dynamic factors. When risk factors decreased, however, the J-SOAP-II Intervention scale was found to significantly predict lower rates of sexual reoffending (OR=0.14, p=.013). •A study in Singapore concluded that the J-SOAP-II only had limited utility for predicting sexual recidivism in a non-Western context: the Sexual Drive/Preoccupation scale was the only significant indicator. Conversely, it did appear to have significant predictive validity for assessing non-sexual recidivism (Chu et al., 2012). •Viljoen, Mordell and Beneteau (2012) - in a meta-analysis, the J-SOAP II composite score attained moderate AUC values of .67 for sexual reoffending and .66 for general reoffending respectively. •Aebi et al. (2011) found that total score showed moderate predictive accuracy for sexual recidivism (AUC=.645) and only a small effect for nonsexual violence and general recidivism (AUCs of .633 and .607 respectively). Further to this, ROC analyses revealed that sexual recidivism was significantly predicted by the J-SOAP II antisocial, adjustment and Sexual Offence Severity (SOS) scales with AUCs of .739, .743 and .751 respectively; however, this did not extend to the remainder of the J-SOAP II scores or the number of sexual assaults against the index victim(s).

- [Rajlic and Gretton (2010)](#) found that the J-SOAP II composite score has moderate to high predictive accuracy in relation to sexual (AUC = .69) and non-sexual (AUC =.77) recidivism. It also found that the J-SOAP-II was not predictive for youth with both sexual and nonsexual offences, suggesting that typological differences may exist.

- [Prentky et al. (2010)](#) - in a 7-year follow up, the authors compared and contrasted two higher risk subsamples of pre-adolescents (aged 11 years and under) and adolescents (aged 12 years and over). The composite score generated large predictive accuracy with AUCs of .80 and .83 for pre-adolescents and adolescents respectively.

- [Viljoen et al. (2008)](#) - the J-SOAP II demonstrated poor to moderate accuracy in predicting recidivism with AUC values ranging between .46 to .58.

- [Wijetunga et al. (2018a)](#) created a psychopathy scale (Scale P) (intended to assess psychopathy) and included it in their study of the J-SOAP-II to test predictive accuracy of this combined measure in 72 juveniles with sexual offences. The scale is not part of the J-SOAP-II and includes items that assess psychopathy. For general nonsexual, violent nonsexual and sexual recidivism, AUCs of .75, .69 and .73 were generated. These were significantly higher that the AUCs for the J-SOAP-II total score, which were .61, .53 and .72 for general nonsexual, violent nonsexual and sexual recidivism respectively. This suggests that inclusion of items that assess psychopathy may enhance the clinical utility of the J-SOAP-II. Further research is required, however, to properly validate this finding; particularly given the small sample size in this study.

- [Wijetunga et al. (2018b)](#) compared and contrasted the predictive validity of the J-SOAP-II based on age groups and sex drive levels (as measured by item 7 on the J-SOAP-II). It was found that the tool was an adequate predictor of sexual recidivism for younger juveniles (14-16 years) than older ones (17 years and older). In terms of sex drive, adequate predictive accuracy was found for those with a heightened sex drive (AUC=.70); although the predictive accuracy was poor for those with a lower one (AUC=.58).

- The J-SOAP-II was tested for 166 juveniles over a 10.75 year period, following them into adulthood. The J-SOAP-II

	Total Score, Scale 1 and Static Score were each significantly associated with new sexual charges (AUCs of .76, .77 and .79). Non-significant results emerged from the rest of the scales. For nonsexual, violent reoffending, all scales bar Scale 1 were significant: Total Score, AUC=.68; Scale 2, AUC=.68; Scale 3, AUC=.66; Scale 4, AUC=.66. With regards to any other offending (nonsexual and nonviolent), Scales 1, 4 and the Total and Static Scores did not demonstrate predictive validity. Scales 2 and 3 and Dynamic Scores yielded AUCs of .63, .60 and .60 respectively (Schwartz-Mette et al., 2019).

Validation History

Applicability: Females									

Not intended for use with females.

Validation History

Applicability: Ethnic Minorities	■	■	■	■	■	■			

a) UK Research	None available at present.
b) International Research	• Chu et al. (2012) - in a sample of individuals from Singapore, the J-SOAP II total score had good predictive accuracy in relation to non-sexual recidivism (AUC =.79); however, it was unable to significantly predict sexual recidivism. • Martinez, Flores and Rosenfeld (2007) found predictive accuracy between the composite score and 'any' re-offence (AUC = .76) and sexual re-offence (AUC = .78) in a sample of individuals of African American (63.5%) and Latino (14.7%) ethnic origin. The remainder of the sample were Caucasian (14.7%) or other/unknown (1.9%).

Validation History

Applicability: Mental Disorders									

No empirical evidence available.

Contribution to Risk Practice

- The J-SOAP II can aid assessors in identifying risk and responsivity factors specific to the individual (e.g. 'motivation to change').
- Some of the factors included in the tool can act as targets for change.
- The J-SOAP II can contribute to risk management measures such as victim safety planning and contingency planning.
- The tool may be useful in informing treatment and/or interventions and guiding risk management decisions.
- The tool's dynamic scales can help to measure the individual's progress through treatment.
- The developers of the tool maintained that it is an empirically-informed guide to facilitate the systematic review and assessment of items that may predict an increased risk of reoffending and assist with choosing treatment options. They caution that the J-SOAP-II is not to be used as an actuarial scale and it does not provide cut-off scores for categories of risk.
- The findings of the study by Barroso et al. (2019) indicate that the J-SOAP-II can be adapted to different languages. A Portuguese version of the instrument was found to be conceptually equivalent, show acceptable psychometric properties and perform similarly.

Other Considerations

- No cut-off scores have been generated for the J-SOAP II - authors recommend that judgments of the youths' risk of re-offending not be made exclusively on the basis of their J-SOAP II scores (Righthand et al., 2005). Cut-off scores may also be misleading as they do not take into account false positives and false negatives (Righthand, personal communication, January 2013).
- The J-SOAP II is aimed at facilitating short-term case management and intervention goals, so it may be limited in informing long-term decisions (Prentky et al., 2010). Ralston and Epperson (2013) highlight the difficulty in making longer-term predictions on the basis of adolescent behaviour, by testing both adult and juvenile sexual offending tools, including the J-SOAP-II, on juveniles who sexually offended. The accuracy of longer-term predictions of adult sexual recidivism was substantially lower than that achieving in predicting the sexual recidivism of juveniles.
- Scales 2 (related to general delinquency) and 3 (associated with treatment and progress, e.g. accepting responsibility) of the J-SOAP-II were found to have concurrent validity with other youth instruments, the PCL:YV and the YLS/CMI (Barroso et al., 2019).
- The J-SOAP-II manual cautions that decisions regarding an individual's risk of reoffending should not be based solely on the results generated by the tool. The J-SOAP-II should instead be used as part of a more comprehensive risk assessment process.
- For more information on the J-SOAP II please contact the authors, Dr. Robert Prentky or Dr. Sue Righthand.