Name of Tool	Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offence Recidivism (RRASOR)
Category	Sexual Offending (Validated)
Author / Publisher	Hanson
Year	1997

Description

•The RRASOR is a 4-item screening instrument for risk of sexual offence recidivism among males who have been convicted of at least one sexual offence.

•The instrument relies on information obtained in files and has been tested extensively on Canadian and British forensic populations.

Age Appropriateness

18+

Assessor Qualifications

Expertise in assessing sexual violence risk and training on instrument.

Can be administered by a trained non-clinician (Yates, 2005).

Strengths

•Empirically based on the 4 most robust risk factors found in the research about sexual offending. The developmental study found the RRASOR to have an ROC ranging between .62 and .77 (Hanson, 1997).

•It is easy to score and interpret as it is quick and uses available and basic file information (Yates, 2005).

•Easily coded with or without psychological tests/clinical assessment and does not require the individual's participation.

Empirical Grounding

The author of this tool selected variables that have been found in previous meta-analyses to have a minimum correlation of .10 with sexual recidivism in order to generate the four items (Hanson, 1997). These particular items are also loaded highest in Knight and Thornton's (2007) Sexual Persistence and Male-Victim Choice Factors.

Inter-Rater Reliability

a) UK Research	None available at present.
b) International Research	• Rettenberger et al. (2010) – excellent inter-rater reliability was found for the RRASOR with an ICC of .90. • Langton et al. (2007) found excellent inter-rater reliability for the RRASOR (r = .94). • Knight and Thornton (2007) - RRASOR generated an ICC of .82.

Validation History

General Predictive Accuracy	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □ □
a) UK Research	• Hanson (1997) - the measure had been validated with a UK prison population in which the RRASOR attained moderate to strong AUC values (.61 - .71).
b) International Research	• Parent, Guay and Knight (2011) - the RRASOR achieved moderate accuracy in predicting sexual recidivism in a sample of 590 individuals who had committed sexual offences (AUC =.70). • Rettenberger et al. (2010) - the RRASOR attained fair to acceptable predictive values for subgroups of sexual offences. For the rapist subgroup, the RRASOR attained moderate AUCs of .70 for general violent recidivism and .69 for general criminal recidivism. For the incest group, fair AUCs of .67 and .65 were generated for general violent and general criminal recidivism respectively. For the extra-familial molest offending group, fair AUCs were generated of .64, .61 and .60 for sexual, general violent and general criminal recidivism respectively. Predictive accuracy was not predicted for sexual violent recidivism in this offending group, generated an AUC of .53. • Hanson and Morton-Bourgon (2009) - a meta-analysis study found the RRASOR to be an adequate predictor of sexual recidivism (average Cohen d = .60). • Looman and Abracen (2010) found the RRASOR generated a moderate AUC score of .62 for sexual recidivism.

Validation History

Applicability: Females									

No empirical evidence at present.

Validation History

Applicability: Ethnic Minorities	■	■	■						

a) UK Research	No empirical evidence at present.
b) International Research	• Långström (2004) - the RRASOR attained good AUCs for individuals of Nordic (.76) and European (.77) ethnic origin for sexual recidivism. Despite this, it was unable to significantly predict recidivism in individuals of African Asian origin (.48).

Validation History

Applicability: Mental Disorders	■	■	■	■	■	■			

a) UK Research	• Blacker et al. (2011) - the tool's accuracy in predicting recidivism in a sample of individuals with learning disabilities who had committed sexual offences was below chance (AUC = .47). • Craig, Browne and Stringer (2004) - RRASOR was able to distinguish between individuals residing in community settings to those in regional secure psychiatric settings with higher mean scores observed for the latter group.
b) International Research	• Sjöstedt and Långström (2002) - in a sample of individuals diagnosed with personality disorder who had committed sexual offences, the RRASOR demonstrated good predictive accuracy in relation to sexual recidivism (.73) and moderate accuracy in violent non-sexual recidivism (.62).

Contribution to Risk Practice

• The RRASOR can provide a brief scan of the risk of sexual recidivism. It is an actuarial scale which can create awareness of some static risk factors related to the individual's risk of sexual reoffending.

Other Considerations

- The RRASOR is normed on adult males with a previous offence history and is deemed inappropriate for the use with females, juveniles and individuals who are mentally ill.
- The author advises that the RRASOR should only be used to screen individuals who have committed sexual offences.
- The tool may be of limited use with first-time offenders whose current offence may be unusual or contain sadistic elements (Beech, Fisher and Thornton, 2003; Craig, Browne and Stringer, 2004).
- The authors recommend the use of the Static-2002 over the use of the RRASOR as the aforementioned tool includes more items, has been extensively cross-validated and has a higher predictive accuracy than the RRASOR (see www.static99.org for more information).