

Name of Tool	Stable 2007 and Acute 2007 (SA07)
Category	Sexual Offending (Validated)
Author / Publisher	Hanson, Harris, Scott and Helmus
Year	2007

Description

- The Stable-2007 and Acute-2007 (SA07) is a two-part actuarial risk assessment instrument designed to assist with the community supervision of individuals who have committed sexual offences.
- The Stable-2007 measures 'stable dynamic' risk factors which are potentially changeable but may endure for months or years. The instrument incorporates a guided interview schedule which covers 13 major risk areas: significant social influences, capacity for relationship stability, emotional identification with children, hostility toward women, general social rejection, lack of concern for others, impulsivity, poor problem-solving skills, negative emotionality, sex drive and preoccupation, sex as coping, deviant sexual preferences and cooperation with supervision. Items are scored on a 3-point scale of 0 to 2 from no problem, some problem and significant ([Smid et al., 2014](#)).
- The Acute-2007 measures 'acute dynamic' risk factors defined as highly transient conditions which can change over a period of weeks, days or even hours. The instrument assesses 7 areas of risk: victim access, hostility, sexual preoccupation, rejection of supervision, collapse of social support, emotional collapse and substance abuse. These items are scored on a 4-point scale from 0 for no problem, 1 for some problem, 2 for a significant problem and IN for intervene now ([Smid et al., 2014](#)).

Age Appropriateness

18+

Assessor Qualifications

Assessors must possess the relevant training and experience in conducting sexual violence risk assessments.

Strengths

- These specialised tools aid the assessment of and track changes in an individual's risk or motivation to change ([Hanson et al., 2007](#)).
- The tools can be used to inform assessors with regard to level of priority and inform decisions on community treatment and supervision.
- The tools are easier to score than their predecessors, the Stable and Acute 2000 ([Hanson et al., 2007](#)).
- The Stable and Acute 2007 instruments have risk factors potentially aligned with pervasive developmental disorders: emotional identification with children, lack of concern for others, poor

problem-solving skills, sex as a coping mechanism, capacity for relationship stability, negative emotionality and sexual preoccupations (Fabian, 2011: 77).

Empirical Grounding



- Both instruments are grounded in the risk factors identified from the SONAR (Sex Offender Need Assessment Rating), STEP (Sex Offender Treatment Evaluation Project) Deviance (Beech et al., 2002) and Structured Risk Assessment (SRA) ([Thornton, 2002](#)), all of which were used in the prospective research design of the SA07.
- The SA07 was based on the database compiled by the Dynamic Supervision Project (see <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cor/sum/cprs200709-eng.aspx> for further details on this project).

Inter-Rater Reliability



a) UK Research

- [McNaughton Nicholls et al. \(2010\)](#) - both the Stable 2007 and Acute 2007 obtained poor to moderate ICCs ranging from .04 to .59 for all raters.

b) International Research

- Eher et al. ([2010](#); [2011](#)) found an excellent ICC value of .90 for the Stable-2007 composite score.
- Fernandez (2008) found an overall ICC of .92 for Stable-2007. Individual item ICCs ranged between .56 and .91.
- [Hanson et al. \(2007\)](#) - ICCs for the individual Acute-2007 items ranged from .64 to .95, with a median of .90; although no ICC was reported for the composite score.

Validation History

General Predictive Accuracy



a) UK Research

No empirical evidence at present.

b) International Research

- [Eher et al. \(2011\)](#) - the Stable-2007 attained moderate AUC values in predicting sexual reoffence (.71), violent reoffence (.67) and custodial sentence following violent offence (.69).
- [Eher et al. \(2010\)](#) found that the Stable-2007 was a strong predictor of sexual recidivism (AUC = .77) in a sample of Austrian child molesters.
- The Stable-2007 may not be entirely appropriate for those who have committed paedophilic sex offences. ROC

analyses and Cox Regressions were carried out on 189 prison-released individuals who had committed paedophilic sex offences using a variety of instruments. It was found that the VRS:SO predicted sexual recidivism in this sample significantly better than the Stable-2007 and the Stable-2007/Static-99 combined score ([Eher et al., 2015](#)).

- [Hanson et al. \(2007\)](#) - using 3 items from the Stable-2007, the authors found low to moderate ROC values for sexual (.52 - .68) and violent (.51-.59) recidivism and any criminal offence (.50-.61).

- [Hanson, Helmus and Harris \(2015\)](#) found the STABLE-2007 scores added incrementally over STATIC scores in a sample of 768 Canadian individuals for all recidivism outcomes, but only for complete cases.

- [Tamatea \(2014\)](#) applied the STABLE-2007 to 245 males in New Zealand, finding that an AUC of 0.78 was yielded for reimprisonment. Over time, the STABLE-2007 was found to discriminate between higher and lower rate offending, albeit not for individuals with mid-range scores.

- In a Canadian sample of 180 individuals convicted of sexual offences, it was found that the STABLE-2007 pre and post treatment scores were associated with sexual, non-sexual violent and any violent recidivism ([Sowden and Olver, 2017](#)).

Validation History

Applicability: Females

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No empirical evidence at present.

Validation History

Applicability: Ethnic Minorities

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No empirical evidence at present.

Validation History

Applicability: Mental Disorders

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No empirical evidence at present.

Contribution to Risk Practice

- The SA07 can contribute to an awareness of risk factors that may contribute to offending behaviour, examining stable dynamic risk factors that can be changed through treatment or supervision such as learned behaviours and personal skills deficits.
- The SA07 is useful in identifying risk and responsivity factors pertinent to the individual's risk of sexual recidivism.
- The tool can inform the levels of monitoring and rehabilitation efforts needed to manage the case.
- The tool is used in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Germany and the United States for individuals convicted of sexual offences who are in community and prison settings.
- Interviews with 24 probation service staff members in Ireland found that SA07 is perceived to be a practical risk assessment, directing supervision work and interventions ([Walker and O'Rourke, 2013](#)).
- The [Risk Management Authority \(2013\)](#) has carried out research into practitioners involved in the implementation of SA07 in Scotland. This report highlighted potential learning points and support for training.

Other Considerations

- Limited validation research on the Acute-2007 tool.
- No option to omit items within both tools in the instance where there is little to no information to score items.
- Previous concerns regarding the 'Access to Victims' item ([Mann, Hanson and Thornton, 2010](#); [McNaughton Nicholls et al., 2010: 18](#)) have been addressed in a draft Acute-2007 manual in which the scoring makes a distinction between chance events and deliberate actions that would otherwise increase the individual's likelihood of recidivism (e.g. victim moving to house next door versus the perpetrator deliberately engaging in behaviours that would encourage the contact between themselves and potential victims). Fernandez and colleagues (2012: 19) advise that the SA07 is unsuitable for individuals whose only sexual offences are Category 'B' offences. These include offences where the "...participants were consenting (e.g., prostitution), the offence lacked a sexual motive (e.g., urinating in public), or there was no identifiable victim (e.g. possession of indecent materials)..."
- In their meta-analysis of recidivism rates of females, [Cortoni, Hanson and Coache \(2010\)](#) concluded that risk assessment tools developed specifically for males who have committed sexual offences would be expected to substantially overestimate the recidivism risk of sexual offending.
- New revisions of the Stable- and Acute-2007 manuals were published in 2012 with comprehensive Acute scoring guidance planned by the authors.
- Assessors should note that the SA07 have been designed to aid the supervision of individuals who have committed sexual offences within community settings.
- The implementation of the SA07 was evaluated in Scotland. Please refer to the RMA website for updates (<https://www.rma.scot/>)