

Name of Tool	Sexual Offender Treatment Intervention and Progress Scale (SOTIPS)
Category	Sexual Offending (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	McGrath, Cumming and Lasher
Year	2013

### Description

- The SOTIPS is a dynamic measure to be used with adult males who have sexually offended. It is designed to augment the findings from static risk tools by allowing for the identification of changeable risk factors that could be targets for treatment and supervision interventions ([Lasher and McGrath, 2017](#); [Miner et al., 2018](#)).

- Sixteen risk factors relate to three broad domains:

- 1) sexual deviance, composed of sexual offence responsibility, sexual behaviour, sexual attitudes, sexual interests and sexual risk management;

Items;

- 2) criminality factors, containing criminal and rule-breaking behaviour, attitudes, stage of change, cooperation with treatment, cooperation with community supervision, emotion management, problem solving, impulsivity;

- 3) social stability and supports which consists of employment, residence, social influences ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).

- Scoring is to be undertaken on intake and thereafter every six months. Items are scored on a 4-point scale ranging from minimal, no need for improvement, considerable need for improvement and very considered need for improvement. These are totalled into a range of between 0-48 points, divided into three risk groups: low (scores of 0-10); moderate (scores of 11-20); high (scores of 21-48). The intention of this is to provide an estimation of an individual's overall level of dynamic risk and need for supervision and treatment ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#); [Lasher and McGrath, 2017](#)).

- Improvements have been made from the previous version published in 2012. The number of items were reduced from 22 to 16 and a few items were edited to make them clearer. Sample interview questions and several case examples with accompanying scoring explanations are now provided for each item to assist assessors with their scoring. A definition of 'qualifying sexual offence' was also added to the manual. The 'qualifying sex offences' are divided into Category A and Category B offences. Category A offences are illegal sexual behaviours committed against an identifiable child or a non-consenting adult victim. This definition also extends to online solicitation and non-contact offences like exhibitionism and voyeurism. Category B offences are convictions for illegal sexual offences where there is no identifiable victim (possessing child pornography) or both parties were consenting (statutory rape if there is an age difference of less than 3 years, consenting sex with another adult in a public place, soliciting a prostitution) ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).

- Evaluators should consider information from multiple sources when scoring an individual: interviews, information from relevant sources (treatment providers, probation officers, etc.), behavioural observations and psychological tests ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).

- It can be used in combination with other risk assessment tools such as the VASOR-2 or Static-99R ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).

## Age Appropriateness

18+

## Assessor Qualifications

The SOTIPS was designed to be used by clinicians, case workers and probation/parole officers. Users of the SOTIPS should have a basic understanding of risk principles and risk factors relating to sexual offending. Users should carefully read the manual and undertake the training, which includes scoring practice cases. Training also includes how to use the SOTIPS with a static risk measure like the Static-99R or VASOR-2 ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).

## Tool Development

- The SOTIPS focuses on three factors relating to sexual recidivism: 1) sexual deviancy, including sexual interests, offending, attitudes and motivation to change behaviour; 2) criminality, consisting of general antisociality, impulsiveness and oppositional reactions to rules; 3) social stability and supports looking at dysfunctional coping and the development of social support mechanisms ([McGrath, Lasher and Cumming, 2012](#)).
- The SOTIPS development sample (n=759) consisted of adult males who had been convicted of one or more qualifying sexual offences and had committed at least one of these when they were eighteen years of age. SOTIPS scored a good level of inter-rater reliability for single measures (ICC=.77) and average measures (ICC=.87). There was also acceptable inter-rater reliability for each of the three factors: sexual deviance, ICCs of .68 and .81 for single and average respectively; criminality, ICC of .76 for single and .86 for average; social stability and supports of .69 and .82 for single and average measures. Moderate to good predictive accuracy was shown for sexual, violent and any recidivism at 1, 7 and 12 months after participants began treatment (AUCs ranged from .60 to .85). Combining the SOTIPS scores with those from the Static-99R yielded a better degree of predictive accuracy than either instrument alone (AUCs ranged from .67 to .89). ([McGrath, Lasher and Cumming, 2012](#)).
- A follow-up study by [Lasher and McGrath \(2017\)](#) using a selection of the original sample (n=563) found that those who did not go on to reoffend demonstrated a greater degree of change during their first year in treatment than those who did commit further sexual or violent offences.
- An evaluation of SOTIPS implementation at sites in Maricopa County and New York City was carried out by [Miner and colleagues \(2018\)](#). The findings from focus groups held with users of the instrument were that the SOTIPS was easy to understand and its focus on sexual offending made it useful and effective for their work.
- Inter-rater reliability was tested for the single and average scores on the SOTIPS. In the site of Maricopa County, ICCs were .653 and .790 for single and average scores respectively. In New York City, this was tracked over time with higher ICCs being generated for scoring done within one month (ICC=.821 for single; ICC=.902 for average) compared to within a time period of two months (ICC=.784 for single; ICC=.879 for average). These findings show that the SOTIPS is sensitive to change over time ([Miner et al., 2018](#)).
- The third SOTIPS assessment showed greater ability predict to sexual reoffending than the initial assessment. The AUCs were .71 and .72 for the third assessment of single and average scores respectively; in contrast to the AUC of .63 for the single score and the AUC of .64 for the average score for the initial assessment ([Miner et al., 2018](#)).

- [Lasher and colleagues \(2015\)](#) compared therapist and client assessment scores in the middle of a prison-based treatment programme designed for adult males who had committed sexual offences. Although findings showed there were significant differences in SOTIPS scores between therapists and clients, the correlations were substantial for criminality (ICC=.71), moderate for social stability and supports factor (ICC=0.59) and fair for sexual deviance (ICC=0.23). The authors maintained that the SOTIPS provides a useful framework to allow therapists to engage their clients collectively to identify strengths, treatment needs and potential treatment programmes.

## General Notes

- [Miner and colleagues \(2018\)](#) found that the SOTIPS items appear to be inclusive of those relating to sexual offending and general criminality. Based on this, they maintained that the SOTIPS is potentially useful for measuring the dynamic risk factors that can predict reoffending, as well as for guiding decision-making relating to interventions, supervision and dispositions.
- Implementation of the SOTIPS into an organisation needs to take into consideration the workload, workflow and decision-making processes of those undertaking assessments and interpreting the results ([Miner et al., 2018](#)).
- A study by [Miner and colleagues \(2018\)](#) found that the recency of the SOTIPS assessment was associated with accuracy. This means that it is acceptable for supervision levels to be adjusted based on the most recent risk level.
- Risk categories vary depending on whether the SOTIPS is used alone or in conjunction with another tool. If the SOTIPS is used independently, the categories are low, moderate and high. If it is used in combination with a static risk instrument like the VASOR-2 or Static-99R, the risk categories would be mixed: for instance, if an individual scored as low on the VASOR-2 but as high on the SOTIPS this would give an overall rating of moderate-low ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).
- The manual advises that when the SOTIPS is used in residential settings, a few of the items are scored to reflect the individual's level of functioning for the six months prior to his placement in prison or other secure residential settings ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).
- Since the SOTIPS does not cover all of the factors linked to sexually abusive behaviour, it is recommended by the developers that other relevant tools and professional judgment should be used in the supervision and treatment planning process ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).
- Training workshops use case studies to demonstrate how to score the SOTIPS and also how to use it alongside other tools like the VASOR-2 and Static-99R. A 'Train the Trainer' workshop is available for up to 12 trainees who have already completed SOTIPS training and undertaken at least 10 assessments on individuals who have committed sexual offences. Following this workshop, trainees will be authorised to train staff at their organisation ([McGrath, Cumming and Lasher, 2013](#)).
- The manual is available free of charge here: <http://www.robertmcgrath.us/index.php/risk-instruments/sotips/>