Name of Tool	Violence Risk Scale: Youth Version (VRS:YV)
Category	Youth Assessment: Violence Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Wong, Lewis, Stockdale and Gordon
Year	2003-2010

Description

• The VRS:YV is the adolescent version of the VRS and is closely modelled on it.
• It is a 23-item clinician-rated risk assessment and treatment planning tool designed for the assessment of risk, need, responsivity and treatment change for youth at risk of committing violent offences. It consists of static and dynamic items.
• The VRS:YV is scored on a 4 point ordinal scale from 0 to 3. Those that are rated 2 or 3 are considered criminogenic, thus are given priority for services. The tool is unique for including a scheme to assess the readiness for treatment.
• Change is assessed using an adapted version of the process of change model (Prochaska et al., 1992).
• High ratings on this measure indicate increased risk for violence.
• A review of the relevant files and a semi-structured interview with the individual are required to rate items on the VRS:YV.

Age Appropriateness

Adolescents within the youth justice system.

Assessor Qualifications

Assessors should undertake the relevant training and present with understanding adolescent development (e.g., from educational and/or employment experiences).

Tool Development

• The tool is a youth adaptation of the adult VRS. It was developed by reviewing the relevant literature on violence risk assessment and treatment in youth. Particular attention was heeded to factors specific to young people: the importance of family, parents, peers and school overall in their lives (Stockdale et al., 2014).
• Stockdale (2008) found the tool demonstrated reasonable inter-rater reliability for the composite score (ICC = .90). The VRS:YV also displayed large AUC scores for previous offending behaviours; violent offences and any prior offences (AUCs = .70 and .74 respectively).
• VRS:YV demonstrated high inter-rater reliability (ICC = .90) for the composite pre-treatment total (i.e. static and dynamic scores). Its total scores significantly predicted violent (AUC = .77), nonviolent (AUC = .72), and general (AUC = .73) recidivism over an average 7-year follow-up. VRS:YV also predicted youth and adult violence (AUC = .75 and .73, respectively). VRS:YV predicted future violence among female (AUC = .66) and Indigenous (AUC = .72) youth. This preliminary research is

based on the dissertation of Stockdale (2008) and incorporates a longer term follow-up and more comprehensive outcome data.

• The 2014 publication by Stockdale et al. extends the robust findings from the dissertation with an extended follow-up. The inter-rater reliability was found to be excellent with an ICC of .90. The static, dynamic and total scores were all significant predictors of recidivism with an AUC range of .65 to .78.

General Notes

• Validation for this tool is still in its preliminary stages.

• Stockdale et al. (2014) found that the tool demonstrated moderate to high predictive accuracy for violent and general recidivism in males, females, and Indigenous youth across developmental subgroups.

• For further information about the VRS-YV, please email Keira Stockdale:
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