

Name of Tool	Structured Assessment of Positive Factors for Violence Risk: Youth Version (SAPROF: YV)
Category	Youth Assessment: Violence Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	de Vries Robbé, Geers, Stapel, Hilterman and de Vogel
Year	2015

Description

- The SAPROF: YV is an adolescent version of the SAPROF.
- It is to be used in addition to other tools like the SAVRY and YLS/CMI to formulate risk scenarios and calculate an overall risk score consisting of both risk and protective factors.
- The SAPROF only measures protective factors grouped into four domains: resilience, consisting of social competence, coping, self-control and perseverance; motivational items of future orientating attitude towards agreements and conditions, medication, school work and leisure activities; relational domain of parents/guardians, peers and other supportive relationships; external items, containing pedagogical climate, professional care and court order.
- Every item is rated on a seven point scale and the strength of this over the course of six months. The rater also highlights the critical factors to preventing violent offending for each individual and these are then incorporated into treatment targets.

Age Appropriateness

12-18

The authors maintain that it could possibly be used up to age 23.

Assessor Qualifications

- Experience and training in conducting individual assessments with adolescents.
- Experience and training in the administration and interpretation of tests and semi-structured interviews.
- Assessors should also be familiar with the most recent professional and research literature on the causes and prediction of violence in youth.

Tool Development

- Two pilot studies were carried out on the SAPROF:YV. Validation studies are said to be on-going in European, Asian and North American countries.
- [Zeng et al. \(2015\)](#) applied the SAPROF to 97 Singaporean youth and found that the total domain score did not result in acceptable predictive validity. It was, thus, advocated that a youth version of the tool should be developed and used for testing adolescents.
- An unpublished Masters dissertation examined aggression in 69 adolescents using the SAPROF:YV and SAVRY. The SAPROF:YV displayed good convergent and discriminant validity with

the SAVRY. The SAPROF: YV predicted the absence of verbal and physical aggression; it was also found to be better at predicting higher risk adolescents than lower risk ones. The SAPROF:YV did not, however, add incrementally to the SAVRY risk scores ([Bhanwer, 2016](#)).

General Notes

- The SAPROF:YV was implemented nation-wide across the Netherlands in juvenile justice institutions, with the requirement that this is coupled with the SAVRY in assessments ([de Vries Robbe and Willis, 2017](#)).
- It is available in English, Dutch and Spanish.
- Further information may be found at <http://www.saprof.com/saprof-youth-version/> or by emailing saprof-yv@saprof.com.

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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