

Name of Tool	Psychopathy Checklist: Screening Version (PCL:SV)
Category	Responsivity Issues (Validated)
Author / Publisher	Hart, Cox and Hare
Year	1995

Description

- The PCL:SV is a 12-item abbreviated tool derived from the PCL-R designed to screen for the possible presence of psychopathy.
- The tool was not designed to replace the PCL-R but to offer an efficient tool to screen for the possible presence of psychopathy in those who have offended and forensic psychiatric patients (Hart, Cox and Hare, 1995).
- The PCL:SV omits items scored on the basis of them being challenging to confirm or too detailed. This means that an interview using the PCL:SV can be completed in around 30 to 60 minutes.
- Cut-off scores indicate when to follow up with the full PCL-R assessment.

Age Appropriateness

16+ is prescribed in the manual (Hare, 1995).

It is, however, recommended by Multi-Health Systems, Inc. that the PCL:SV is used with individuals aged 18 and above. This makes sense considering that PCL-R cannot be administered to a 16 or 17 year old who was demonstrating a high score on the PCL:SV.

Assessor Qualifications

Similar specifications as with its predecessor, the PCL:R.

Strengths

- Criminal records are not needed for this tool, making it more appropriate than the PCL-R for use in non-forensic as well as non-criminal settings. The authors maintain it is particularly suitable for civil psychiatric evaluations, personnel selection in law enforcement and the military, and studies of community residents.
- The tool is deemed as highly reliable when used by individuals with the relevant experience and training.
- The tool is widely used in non-forensic contexts, both as a screen for psychopathy and as a 'stand-alone' instrument, particularly with community and psychiatric populations ([Guy and Douglas, 2006](#); [Oliveira-Souza et al., 2008](#)), particularly in countries outside of North America ([Douglas et al., 2005](#)).

Empirical Grounding									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tool is a derivative of the PCL:R and is conceptually and empirically related to the PCL:R (Guy and Douglas, 2006). • The tool correlates approximately with the longer version in the normative sample (.80) (Hart, Cox and Hare, 1995). 									

Inter-Rater Reliability									
a) UK Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doyle et al. (2012) found high ICCs of .97 for the composite score, .85 for factor 1 scores and .80 for factor 2 scores. • Gray et al. (2004) also found large correlations for the PCL:SV composite score (r= .98). 								
b) International Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietiker, Dittmann and Graf (2007) compared the PCL:SV, HCR-20 and SVR-20 in a German sample of individuals with sexual offences and confirmed the utility of PCL:SV. • Campbell, French and Gendreau (2009) - meta-analytic research on a variety of risk assessments revealed that the PCL:SV produced the third largest mean effect size (N = 504, K = 7, Z+ = .22) in predicting institutional violence and a strong magnitude for predicting violent recidivism (K= 5, N =641, Z+ .20). • Žukauskienė, Laurinavičius and Čėsniienė (2010) - the PCL:SV composite scores obtained moderate correlations in relation to criminal convictions (r=.26), violent offending (r= .22) and total time spent in correctional institutions (r=.20). 								

Validation History									
General Predictive Accuracy									
a) UK Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard (2007) - the PCL:SV was found to be a moderate predictor of future violence (AUC = .64) in a sample of individuals serving community sentences. 								
b) International Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell, French and Gendreau (2009) - meta-analytic research on a variety of risk assessments revealed that the PCL:SV produced the third largest mean effect size (N = 504, K = 7, Z+ = .22) in predicting institutional violence and a strong magnitude for predicting violent recidivism (K= 5, N =641, Z+ .20). 								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietiker, Dittmann and Graf (2007) compared the PCL:SV, HCR-20 and SVR-20 in a German sample of individuals with sexual offences and confirmed the utility of PCL:SV. • Žukauskienė, Laurinavičius and Čėsniienė (2010) - PCL:SV composite scores obtained moderate correlations in relation to criminal convictions ($r=.26$), violent offending ($r=.22$) and total time spent in correctional institutions ($r=.20$). • Higgs, Tully and Browne (2018) found that the PCL:SV showed similar predictive accuracy to the PCL-R with regards to violence risk.
--	---

Validation History	
Applicability: Females	
a) UK Research	None available at present.
b) International Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richards, Casey and Lucente (2003) - scores on the PCL:R and PCL:SV were significantly associated with disruptive and violent rule violations and other non-compliant behaviours.

Validation History	
Applicability: Ethnic Minorities	
No empirical evidence at present.	

Validation History	
Applicability: Mental Disorders	
a) UK Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cullen et al. (2011) - mentally disordered individual with scores of 16 and above on the PCL:SV were just over 13 times more likely to drop out of an offending treatment program than those with lower scores. • Morrisey et al. (2010) examined the use of the PCL:SV with Intellectually Disabled individuals, finding a preference for using the instrument for clinical purposes as opposed to focusing on total scores.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ho, Thomson and Darjee (2009) - ROC analyses revealed that the PCL:SV had moderate predictive accuracy for predicting serious violence (AUC = .66) and any violent incidents (AUC = .63) in a sample of mentally disordered individuals. • Gray et al. (2004, 2007) - moderate to large AUCs found for recidivism in a sample of those with mental disorders.
b) International Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arbach-Lucioni et al. (2011) - the PCL:SV displayed moderate predictive accuracy in predicting inpatient violence in the short term (AUC=.70) however its accuracy lessened in the follow-up periods (AUC=.61). • Douglas et al. (2005) - in a sample of male and female forensic psychiatric patients, composite PCL:SV scores were moderately predictive of inpatient aggression (AUCs= .63 - .68).

Contribution to Risk Practice

- High scoring on the PCL:SV can be indicative of a need to administer the PCL-R tool. The PCL:SV has moderate false positive (i.e. an individual wrongly being categorised as a psychopath) and very low false negative rates (i.e. an individual who meets the criteria of a psychopath not being recognised as one).
- The PCL:SV provides a brief scan of factors related to the construct of psychopathy - some of the factors analyse the individual's past and current offending behaviours. This information can be used to prompt further assessment of identified risk factors. A study by [Stoll and colleagues \(2019\)](#), for instance, found there was low levels of psychopathy in a sample of low-risk individuals who had committed child sexual offences (43 paedophilic offences and 21 were control participants); although a higher level of neuroticism was associated with higher PCL:SV scores.
- Guidelines were produced by [Morrissey \(2013\)](#) about using this tool with individuals with intellectual disabilities. It was recommended that due to the developmental delays in an individual with intellectual disabilities, the PCL:SV should not be used with those aged under 21 years with IDs.

Other Considerations

- A score of 18 and above is generally used as a marker for psychopathy; scoring of 12 and lower is considered to be achieved only with non-psychopaths.
- Similar to its 'parent' tool, the PCL-R, the PCL:SV should be used to test the lifetime functioning of an individual; it should not be used for assessments pertaining to the 'present state' or a brief period of time (less than a year). It is also not designed to identify risk factors; rather, it reviews factors that would be relevant to risk management planning.
- Being a derivative of the PCL:R, the PCL:SV will also suffer similar disadvantages.

- As noted under the PCL:R, validation research relating to the PCL:SV should also be interpreted with caution given that the tool was designed to screen for psychopathic traits rather than assess the likelihood of recidivism.
- Unlike the PCL:R, the PCL:SV can be completed in the absence of criminal record information, which increases its versatility outside of forensic settings (Hart, Cox and Hare, 1995).
- There is debate within research regarding the potential consequences of a diagnosis of psychopathy and its effects on sentencing, treatment and clinical judgement ([Cox, DeMatteo and Foster, 2010](#); [Lloyd, Clark and Forth, 2010](#)).
- For more information, please visit the following website: www.hare.org.