

Name of Tool	Assessment of Risk Manageability for Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Limitations who Offend – Sexually (ARMIDILO-S)
Category	Responsivity Issues (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Boer and Colleagues
Year	2009

Description

- The ARMIDILO-S is a structured risk and management guideline instrument which assesses the risk of sexual recidivism in individuals diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is the first effort to view persons with IDPSB within the context and environment in which individuals are located ([Blasingame et al., 2014](#); [Lindsay et al., 2018](#)).
- The tool is intended for males 18 and older who have engaged in sexual offending behaviour which may or may not have been adjudicated. It applies to individuals who have borderline intellectual functioning (i.e. IQ between 70 and 80 with adaptive functioning deficits) or are intellectually disabled (i.e. males with onset of cognitive impairment before the age of 18 reflected by an IQ score below 70 and have adaptive functioning deficits). There is currently no supporting evidence to suggest the ARMIDILO-S can be applied to other offending populations: non-ID, female, youth and forensic mental health ([Boer et al., 2013](#)).
- The ARMIDILO-S only uses dynamic risk factors. The tool consists of 30 stable and acute items. The stable items reflect the persistent characteristics of the individual. The acute items represent rapidly changing contextual factors that signal the onset of offending behaviours. The stable and acute items are further divided into four subscales relating to ‘environmental’ and ‘client’ related factors: 1) stable dynamic environmental subscales (e.g. attitudes towards ID intellectuals, etc.); 2) acute dynamic environment subscales (e.g. access to intoxicants, etc.); 3) stable dynamic client subscale (e.g. compliance with treatment and supervision, etc.); 4) acute dynamic client subscale (e.g. victim access, etc.) ([Boer et al., 2013](#)).
- Each item is considered as both a risk and a protective factor. Items are scored on a 5-point scale from -2 for reducing risk through to +2 for an increase in risk. Once scored, the tool generates four risk ratings which include: (1) Actuarial Risk Rating (i.e. ratings obtained from other standardised actuarial tools such as the RRASOR), (2) Risk Rating, (3) Protective Rating and (4) Adjusted Risk Rating (i.e. consideration for other three ratings). Overall, risk manageability is defined as the ‘current dynamic risk manageability estimate,’ which is the ability of the individual to manage their dynamic factors adjusted by the actuarial risk baseline and the individual’s structured clinical risk estimate ([Craig et al., 2008](#)).

Age Appropriateness

18+

Assessor Qualifications

The ARMIDILO-S is designed to assist support workers, case managers, guardians, home providers, clinicians and program administrators in the identification and management of risk ([Boer et al., 2013](#)).

Assessors should have the relevant training and experience in administering and interpreting risk assessments in relation to individuals diagnosed with learning disabilities who are at risk of sexual violence.

Tool Development

- The original tool was developed in 2004 and expanded in 2013 by Boer and colleagues to include a greater range of issues (e.g. victim availability and access, staff attitudes towards individuals with ID). The rationale for the tool was to create an ID-specific instrument to meet the needs of these types of individuals. Moreover, it was felt that the inclusion of dynamic environmental and client variables would better inform the formulation of risk management plans for individuals ([Boer et al., 2013](#)).
- [Blacker et al. \(2011\)](#) assessed the predictive validity of the RRASOR, SVR-20, RM2000-V and ARMIDILO-S on 88 individuals, half of which had committed sexual offences and had borderline levels of intellectual functioning with an IQ of 70-80. The ARMIDILO-S was found to be the best predictor for offending in those with special needs, generating AUCs of .60 and .73 for the stable and acute scores of the instrument respectively. Having said that, this study did have missing information for the environmental variables, something which would have affected the validity of testing.
- A study by [Lofthouse et al. \(2013\)](#) administered the various risk assessment tools to sixty-four adult males who had ID and a history of sexual offending in a six year follow-up study. It was found that the ARMIDILO-S yielded the best prediction of sexual reoffending with an AUC of .92 compared to other established risk assessment tools which included the Static-99 (AUC = .74) and the VRAG (AUC = .58). The authors surmised that predictive value of the tool may be attributable to it specifically being designed for individuals with ID, as well as its inclusion of dynamic variables.
- A doctoral thesis by Cookman (2010) found that the ARMIDILO-S had significant correlations with the Stable 2007 and Acute 2009, suggesting concurrent validity is present.
- In an unpublished thesis by [Sindall \(2012\)](#), the ARMIDILO-S was used in a sample of 16 individuals with intellectual disabilities who had committed sexual offences. The AUC was found to be 0.83, with the risk total (0.83), stable items (0.837), client items (0.86) and stable client items (0.85) all showing good predictive accuracy.
- [Lindsay et al. \(2018\)](#) carried out a study applying the ARMIDILO-S to four individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities. For two of the participants, restrictive placements were avoided because of the data generated on protective factors.
- In their review of the literature, [Pryboda and colleagues \(2015\)](#) found that the ARMIDILO-S showed superior predictive accuracy of the RM2000 when applied to those with intellectual disabilities. The authors suggest this could be due to the ARMIDILO-S considering protective factors, meaning it can be used for short-term risk management planning and long-term risk predictions.

General Notes

- The tool is conceptualised as part of a comprehensive assessment approach. It is, hence, recommended that the ARMIDILO-S be used in conjunction with other actuarial and structured professional judgement measures. The authors advise that the appropriate caveats and caution is

applied if using the instrument on an individual who has committed non-sexual offences ([Boer et al., 2013](#)).

- The ARMIDILO-S is unique in that it examines both client and environmental dynamic variables ([Lofthouse et al., 2013](#)).
- A variation of the tool, the ARMIDILO-G, has been developed to assess general recidivism in those with ID. The ARMIDILO-G was found to have good predictive accuracy for a sample of 139 individuals with an intellectual disability and a history of offending in doctoral research by [Frize \(2015\)](#).
- [Lindsay et al. \(2018\)](#) recommend that protective factors are included in all risk assessments, maintaining that the protective scale can be a powerful support for the clinical case individuals with IDD who offend.
- For more information, please visit the following website: www.armidilo.net