

Name of Tool	Inventory of Offender Risk, Needs and Strengths (IORNS)
Category	General Risk Assessment (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Miller
Year	2006

Description

- The IORNS is a self-report actuarial measure used for the assessment of static risk, dynamic needs and protective strength factors in relation to reoffending, treatment needs and management in adults ([Miller, 2018](#)).
- There are 130 items in total providing 4 indexes: a static risk index (SRI) of historical (unchanging) items related to offending behaviour and recidivism; dynamic need index (DNI), targeting specific areas of risk related to offending behaviour; protective strength index (PSI), examining factors to promote resilience. All of these are calculated to produce a composite score in the form of the overall risk index (ORI) ([Miller, 2018](#); [Ullrich and Coid, 2011](#)).

Age Appropriateness

Men: 18-75; Women: 18-60

Assessor Qualifications

Can be administered by persons who do not have training in forensic or clinical psychology or psychiatry, with supervision and interpretation by a licensed or certified professional.

Tool Development

- [Miller \(2006\)](#) found that those who served longer custodial sentences and had more arrests for non-violent offences had higher composite scores in the IORNS than those who served shorter prison sentences and had fewer arrests for non-violent offences.
- [Bergeron and Miller \(2013\)](#) found that the measurement properties of the dynamic needs index (DNI) are acceptably invariant over time. There was also evidence that the intercept of alcohol/drug problems scale is higher before treatment and the intra/interpersonal problems scales are higher before treatment.
- A study by [Miller \(2015\)](#) found that the likelihood of reoffending increased when those who had committed sexual offences increased their favourable impression on the IORNS. The conclusion was reached that self-perceived protective strengths were significantly predictive of recidivism for general, sexual and violent offending.

General Notes

- Since it is a self-reported measure, the scores of needs, risk and strengths are all the individual's own perception ([Miller, 2015](#)).
- Treatment providers and evaluators can infer from the IORNS scores possible hypotheses around problem areas, needs and treatment progress ([Miller, 2018](#)).
- The IORNS includes two validity scales: the 'Inconsistent response style' (IRS), checking for consistency between answers; the 'favourable impression scale' to determine whether the individual was trying to portray themselves positively ([Miller, 2018](#)).
- The creator cautions that the IORNS is not meant to be an actuarial tool ([Miller, 2018](#)).