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.
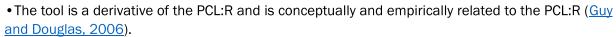
Assessor Qualifications

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							

- 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	- [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	- [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 Čėsnienė (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	- 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	- [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).

	• 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 Čėsnienė (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	• 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	• 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.

	• 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	• 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 .