

Name of Tool	Sexual Violence Risk-20 Version 2 (SVR-20 V2)
Category	Sexual Offending (Validated)
Author / Publisher	Boer, Hart, Kropp and Webster
Year	2018

Description

- SVR-20 is a 20-item structured framework published in 1998 intended to evaluate risk of sexual violence and informing risk management. A second version was published in 2018.
- The 20 items are organised under three subsections: (1) Psychosocial Adjustment, (2) Sexual Offences, and (3) Future Plans. The items covered in each subsection are: 1) psychological adjustment, sexual deviance, victim of child abuse, cognitive impairment, suicidal/homicidal ideation, relationship/employment problems, previous offence history (non-sexual violent, non-violent), psychopathy substance use problems and past supervision failure; 2) sexual offending – high density offences, multiple offences, physical harm to victims, use of weapons, escalation and cognitive distortions; 3) Future plans – lacks future (realistic plans) and has negative attitudes towards instruction. The items are coded as absent, possibly or partially present and present ([Hart and Boer, 2010](#)).
- The SVR-20 is based on structured clinical judgment and was developed for use with forensic mental health populations ([Parent, Guay and Knight, 2011](#)).

Age Appropriateness

18+

Assessor Qualifications

Assessors must possess the relevant training and experience in conducting sexual violence risk assessments. Certified workshops are available through the Global Institute of Forensic Research: <https://www.gifrinc.com/course/svr-20-demand-training/>

Strengths

- The SVR-20 is useful in assisting the structuring of clinical assessments and also incorporates a 'recent change' score.

Empirical Grounding



The SVR-20 was developed from a thorough consideration of the empirical literature concerning factors that relate to sexual violence. The twenty items found in the SVR-20 have appeared to exhibit a relevant association with sexual recidivism and appear to be relevant in regard to clinician experience ([Knight and Thornton, 2007](#)). The SVR-20 manual serves as an organised literature

review for sexual violence risk, simply listing research supporting each item found on this assessment (Witte, 2001).

Inter-Rater Reliability									
a) UK Research	None available at present.								
b) International Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knight and Thornton (2007) - ICCs were below .70. • de Vogel et al. (2004) - large ICC value of .75 observed for the SVR-20. • Sjöstedt and Långström (2002) - Kappa values ranged from .60 and ICCs were also moderate (.62). 								

Validation History									
General Predictive Accuracy									
a) UK Research	None available at present.								
b) International Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, Guay and Knight (2011) found the SVR-20 yielded a moderate AUC of .66 for sexual recidivism in a sample of 590 sex offenders. • The SVR-20 was tested on 493 sex offenders from the Austrian prison system. It showed good predictive accuracy for the prediction of sexual recidivism for the entire sample (AUC=.72); although some inconsistencies were present based on recidivism criterion and offender subgroup (Rettenberger, Boer and Eher, 2011). • Rettenberger et al. (2010) - the SVR-20 scores were found to be highly associated with most types of recidivism for a subgroup of Extra-Familial Molest Offenders for a range of offences: sexual recidivism (r =.75), sexual violent recidivism = .51, general violent recidivism = .81 and general criminal recidivism = .77. • Hill et al. (2008) - higher scores on the SVR-20 predicted higher recidivism rates within the sample of non-sexually violent (previous convictions) offenders. • Ramirez et al. (2008) - ROC curve analysis demonstrated discriminate capacity for the SVR-20 with an AUC value of .83. 								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knight and Thornton (2007) - at the 3-, 10- and 15-year follow-up, the SVR-20 demonstrated moderate AUC values for serious sexual charges (.66, .68, and .68 respectively). • Kanters and colleagues (2017) tested the SVR-20 on 639 sex offenders in a forensic psychiatrist centre. The pre-treatment SPJ score significantly predicted general recidivism (AUC=.71); whilst the post-treatment score significantly predicted sexual, violent and general recidivism with AUCs of .76, .75 and .70 respectively.
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Validation History

Applicability: Females

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Not intended for use with female offenders.

Validation History

Applicability: Ethnic Minorities

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No empirical evidence at present.

Validation History

Applicability: Mental Disorders

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a) UK Research

- [Craig et al. \(2006a\)](#) – the SVR-20 was only able to moderately predict offence reconviction for ‘any offence’ at the 5- and 10-year follow-up points in a sample of offenders referred to a regional secure unit (.61 and .60 respectively). It did not, however, significantly predict sexual and violent recidivism.

- [Craig et al. \(2006b\)](#) – the SVR-20 scores had small correlations with general recidivism in the follow-up 2-, 5- and 10-year periods which ranged between .18 to .24.

b) International Research

- [Dietiker, Dittmann and Graf \(2007\)](#) – the SVR-20 was found to have good predictive capacity within hospital settings (AUC = .88).

- [Sjöstedt and Långström \(2002\)](#) - the SVR-20 did not significantly predict recidivism in a sample of personality disordered offenders.

Contribution to Risk Practice

- The SVR-20 can aid detailed assessment of the risk of sexual recidivism.
- The SVR-20 can aid assessors in identifying risk and responsivity factors specific to the individual (e.g. criminal lifestyle, presence of mental health problems). The factors identified can also act as targets for change.
- The tool can contribute to the formulation of offence analyses and risk management strategies.

Other Considerations

- The instrument itself is normed on adult males with a previous offence history and is deemed inappropriate for use with females or juveniles.
- [Blacker et al. \(2011\)](#) found the composite score achieved low to high AUC values in predicting sexual (.45), violent (.80) and general (.50) recidivism in a sample of offenders with learning disabilities.
- SVR-20 V2 is available through its publisher: <https://www.parinc.com/Products/Pkey/4534>