

Name of Tool	Vermont Assessment of Sex Offender Risk 2 (VASOR-2)
Category	Sexual Offending (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	McGrath, Hoke and Lasher
Year	2013

Description

- The VASOR-2 is a 14-item static risk tool designed to assess risk amongst adult males who have been convicted of at least one sexual offence.
- It is two-fold in nature: an 11-item reoffence risk scale consisting of static risk factors including alcohol and drug use, residence and employment stability and treatment amenability; a 3 item Severity Items checklist looking at the intrusive nature, the harm caused to the victim and the vulnerability of the victim all for index sexual offence. An individual's score should be updated if they commit a new sexual offence ([McGrath, Hoke and Lasher, 2013](#)).
- The qualifying offences for this instrument are 'Category A' ones involving illegal sexual behaviour perpetrated against a child or adult victim. It may be used in cases of 'Category B' offences, which are illegal actions but with no identifiable victims or consenting parties (e.g. statutory rape), but only if the individual already has a conviction for a 'Category A' offence ([McGrath, Hoke and Lasher, 2013](#)).
- It is designed to be scored by clinicians, correctional caseworkers and probation/parole officers.

Age Appropriateness

18+

Assessor Qualifications

This tool is designed to be scored early by clinicians, correctional caseworkers and probation and parole officers. Users should have an understanding of the risk factors relating to sexual offending recidivism and risk assessment.

Users must read the manual and complete training including practice cases to optimise scoring accuracy and reliability.

Tool Development

- The development study found the VASOR-2 predicted sexual recidivism with moderate accuracy (AUC .74) within a group of those who had committed sexual offences (n=1581). It also demonstrated good inter-rater reliability with an ICC of .88 ([McGrath, Hoke and Lasher, 2013](#)).
- The VASOR-2 has fewer items and simpler scoring instructions than the original VASOR. The items on the original instrument about force used during index sex offence and amenability to treatment were removed in the revision ([McGrath et al., 2014](#)).

- The VASOR-2 was tested for its predictive accuracy on four meta-analytic datasets from Canada and Vermont (n=1581). It was found to predict sexual recidivism amongst different types of sexual offending: child abusers (n=1067, AUC=.74), rapists (n=395, AUC=.77) and non-contact offences (n=87, AUC=.69). Caution is urged, however, when using the scale with those who have committed non-contact sexual offences, due to the low sample size and statistical power ([McGrath et al., 2014](#)).
- Good inter-rater reliability was shown for the VASOR-2 when tested using two independent ratings of thirty cases ([McGrath et al., 2014](#)).

General Notes

- The VASOR-2 has only limited value for making decisions about allowing an individual who has committed sexual offences to reside with children. The authors recommend that professional judgment and other tools should be used in the decision-making process ([McGrath, Hoke and Lasher, 2013](#)).