



## Potential Risk Instruments for a NOJOS (Sex-Specific) Assessment

**It is important to determine the purpose of the evaluation:**

- Forensic: for court use to address risk
- Clinical: for use to guide treatment needs
- Or a combination of both

This determination will direct the assessor as to which instruments may be the most appropriate.

**In addition, currently the most acceptable application of these tools/ measures is not risk focused, nor does NOJOS endorse these as “risk” tools. However, these tools can be useful in identifying needs versus landing on specific risk findings.**

### Risk Instruments Recommended by NOJOS

Juvenile Sexual Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II), Prentky & Righthand, 2003

- Designed for **males** aged 12 to 18 years with one or more previous **contact sexual offenses**.
- **J-SOAP-II total score was a significant predictor of sexual recidivism for adult and child (AUC=.739)**

Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (JSORRAT-II), Epperson, Ralston, Fowers, DeWitt, 2009

- Designed for **male** youth aged 12 to 17.99 who have been **adjudicated** guilty for a sexual offense.
- **Actuarial measure, meaning a statistically calculated prediction of the likelihood that an individual will pose a threat to others or engage in a certain behavior**

Protective + Risk Observations for Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR), Worling, 2020

- Designed to identify risk and protective factors for individuals ages 12-25 who have engaged in (or accused of engaging in) illegal or otherwise abusive sexual behavior
- **Purpose is to guide treatment, not address risk**

## **Risk Instruments Recommended by Kostas A. Katsavdakakis, Ph.D., ABPP**

### **Presentation- American Academy of Forensic Psychology, May 2021**

Juvenile Sexual Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II), Prentky & Righthand, 2003

- Designed for **males** aged 12 to 18 years with one or more previous **contact sexual offenses**.
- **J-SOAP-II total score was a significant predictor of sexual recidivism for adult and child (AUC=.739)**

Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR), Worling & Curwen, 2001

- Designed for **males** aged 12 to 18 years with one or more previous **contact sexual offenses**.
- **ERASOR was a significant predictor of sexual recidivism for both child & adult (AUC = .769)**

Violence Risk Scale–Youth Sexual Offender Version (VRS-YSO), Olver, Rojas, Lewis, Gordon, & Wong, 2016

- **Designed to assess sexual violence, and used as treatment planning tool for youth who have committed sexual offenses**
- The study included 99 **male** youth between the ages of 12.25 to 19.42 (at the time of first conviction).
- AUC findings for VRS-YSO fell on or about .70 to .77 for pretreatment and posttreatment, in part a byproduct of the low base rate for sexual recidivism

## **Risk Instruments Recommended by James Worling, Ph.D., C.Psych, During a Safer Society Presentation, April 2024**

Youth Level of Service / Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMI 2.0), Hoge & Andrews, 1996

- Standardized instrument for individuals ages 12 to 18
- **Assesses the risk of recidivism, the need for correctional programs to reduce recidivism, and responsivity factors that impact case plan goals.**
- The tool is most similar to actuarial risk tools and includes a 42-item checklist that produces a detailed survey of youth risk and needs factors to formulate a case plan.

Youth Needs and Progress *Scale* (YNPS), Prentky, Righthand, Worling and Kang

- It is an evidence informed scale to **assess mainly dynamic risk and protective factors**, as well as, limited historical items empirically associated with sexual and non-sexual reoffending by juveniles with sex offenses.
- Intention is to identify risk-relevant intervention needs and track progress
- Intended for youth and young adults ages 12 to 25.
- **It is not a risk assessment scale, and is used for risk and needs evaluation.**

Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY), Borum, Bartel & Forth, 2002

- **The SAVRY is not designed to be a formal test or scale to ‘quantify risk’**; there are no assigned numerical values nor are there any specified cut-off scores. The purpose of SAVRY is to provide operational definitions of risk factors for examiners to apply (Borum et al., 2010).
- Designed for use with individuals aged between 12 and 18.
- The items are clustered under three risk domains: (1) Historical Risk Factors (2) Social/Contextual Risk Factors (3) Individual/Clinical Factors. In addition, it includes a fourth Protective domain.

Protective + Risk Observations for Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR), Worling, 2020

- Designed to identify risk and protective factors for individuals ages 12-25 who have engaged in (or accused of engaging in) illegal or otherwise abusive sexual behavior
- **Purpose is to guide treatment, not address risk**

## **Risk Instruments Recommended by Sandy Jung and Mackenzie Thomas. In their article: A Compendium of Risk and Needs Tools for Assessing Male Youths At-Risk to and/or Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviors, published 2022**

### **Actuarial Risk Tools:**

Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale (JRAS) Hiscox, Witt & Hara, 2007

- Designed for **males** between 12 to 19 who have been **convicted** of a sexual offense.
- **Actuarial measure, meaning a statistically calculated prediction of the likelihood that an individual will pose a threat to others or engage in a certain behavior**

Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (JSORRAT-II), Epperson, Ralston, Fowers, DeWitt, 2009

- Designed for **male** youth aged 12 to 17.99 who have been **adjudicated** guilty for a sexual offense.
- **Actuarial measure, meaning a statistically calculated prediction of the likelihood that an individual will pose a threat to others or engage in a certain behavior**

### **Structured Professional Judgement Tools:**

Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR), Worling & Curwen, 2001

- Designed for youth aged 12 to 18 years with one or more previous contact sexual offenses.
- **ERASOR was a significant predictor of sexual recidivism for both child & adult (AUC = .769)**

Juvenile Sexual Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II), Prentky & Righthand, 2003

- Designed for youth aged 12 to 18 years with one or more previous contact sexual offenses.
- **J-SOAP-II total score was a significant predictor of sexual recidivism for adult and child (AUC=.739)**

Protective + Risk Observations for Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR), Worling, 2020

- Designed to identify risk and protective factors for individuals ages 12-25 who have engaged in (or accused of engaging in) illegal or otherwise abusive sexual behavior
- **Purpose is to guide treatment, not address risk**

Youth Needs and Progress Scale (YNPS), Prentky, Righthand, Worling and Kang

- **It is an evidence informed scale to assess mainly dynamic risk and protective factors, as well as, limited historical items empirically associated with sexual and non-sexual reoffending by juveniles with sex offenses.**
- Intention is to identify risk-relevant intervention needs and track progress
- Intended for youth and young adults ages 12 to 25.
- **It is not a risk assessment scale, and is used for risk and needs evaluation.**

The Juvenile Risk Assessment Tool Version 4 (J-RAT 4)

- It also provides the clinician with a structured format for the assessment of risk, based upon factors frequently noted in current literature as relevant to risk of sexual recidivism.
- **The J-RAT is not a statistically based assessment instrument. It is an organized method for the clinical assessment of risk for sexual re-offense based on the professional literature.**
- Designed for youth between the ages of 12 to 18.

The Assessment, Intervention, Moving-on 3 (AIM3)

- The instrument is appropriate for use with young males aged between 12 and 18 years old who are known to sexually abuse. **This includes contact and technology-assisted sexual offences (e.g. downloading indecent images of children). It may also be used with young women, with a degree of caution (Leonard and Hackett, 2019).**
- AIM3 is a 25-item assessment framework designed to help practitioners **consider relevant targets for intervention, in addition to quantifying risk and levels of supervision. It is not an actuarial risk assessment tool (Leonard and Hackett, 2019).**
- Whilst acknowledging the importance of historical information, AIM3 looks at the impact of historical factors on the current presentation and functioning of the individual being assessed. This allows for a more dynamic assessment, whereby historical factors are considered for their relevance to the individual at the present time (Leonard and Hackett, 2019).