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# Annotated Bibliography



## Juvenile Justice Risk/Need Assessment & Juvenile Justice Websites

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# Juvenile Justice Risk/Need Assessment & Juvenile Justice Websites Annotated Bibliography

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## Juvenile Assessment

Baglivio, Michael T. "The Assessment of Risk to Recidivate Among a Juvenile Offending Population." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 37, no. 6 (2009): 596-607.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has implemented a new fourth-generation risk/need assessment to assess the risk to re-offend for juveniles referred to the department. The new assessment, the Positive Achievement Change Tool, or PACT, is adapted from the validated Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment, on which the Youth Assessment Screening Inventory (YASI) was also modeled. This study validated the PACT assessment, and examined whether the instrument is as predictive of female delinquency as it is of male delinquency, utilizing subsequent official delinquency referral as the dependent measure. Gender differences were explored and illustrated the instrument to be effective in predicting female and male delinquency, yet the factors predicting female delinquency did not mimic those predictive of male delinquency. Furthermore, for both male and female juveniles, a score of environmental and personal characteristics and situations had a stronger relationship with recidivism than did a score of official criminal history.

Baglivio, Michael T., and Katherine Jackowski. "Examining the Validity of a Juvenile Offending Risk Assessment Instrument across Gender and Race/Ethnicity." *Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice* 11, no. 1 (2013): 26-43.

Analysis of predictive validity of the risk/needs assessment used by a criminal justice agency is paramount. The validity of the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) across gender/race/ethnicity in a juvenile sample was examined. Results demonstrate recidivism increases as PACT score increases, with minor exceptions. Findings suggest similar prediction of referral/arrest and adjudication/conviction across subgroups. 95% confidence intervals overlapped for all subgroups on 13 of 19 measures examined. However, which factors predict recidivism across subgroups differ. Criminal history was the most prevalent predictor, while no factor predicted White female offending. "Gender-responsive" item inclusion measuring abusive/traumatic circumstances did not improve prediction.

Bechtel, Kristin, Christopher T. Lowenkamp, and Edward Latessa. "Assessing the Risk of Re-Offending of Juvenile Offending for Juvenile Offenders Using the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory." *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* 45, no. 3/4 (2007): 85-108.

The purpose of the Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is to assess, classify, and assist agencies with developing treatment and service plans according to the offender's criminogenic risk factors. Given the limited research in the predictive validity for this instrument, the current study attempts to examine this issue on a sample of 4,482 juveniles from Ohio who were given sentences in the community or to juvenile institutions. Results demonstrated the validity of the YLS/CMI in predicting recidivism for both settings.

[http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/ccjr/docs/articles/Risk\\_of\\_Reoffending\\_YLSCMI.pdf](http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/ccjr/docs/articles/Risk_of_Reoffending_YLSCMI.pdf)

Benner, Gregory J., Scott A. Stage, Ron J. Nelson, Mike Laederich, and Nicole C. Ralston. "Predicting the Cumulative Recidivism of Juvenile Detainees." *Journal of Behavior Analysis of Offender & Victim: Treatment & Prevention* 2, no. 1 (2010): 51-62.

The primary purpose of this research was to identify the most robust set of factors contributing to the recidivism of juvenile detainees; including demographic, court history, mental health, substance abuse, and maltreatment variables. Recidivism in this paper is defined as having received more than one status offense or non-status offense. Status offenses are incurred

because of the prohibition of various acts due to the offender's status as a juvenile (e.g., alcohol consumption, violation of curfew, or truancy). Non-status offenses (i.e., delinquency) are incurred because of violation of the law and commitment of a crime. The study population included 761 juvenile offenders in the Northwest. Juveniles who had a history of childhood maltreatment, above average use of alcohol/drugs, and experienced traumatic experiences were four times (4.22 odds ratio) more likely to have repeated juvenile status offenses. Further, sex and suicide ideation increased the likelihood of committed repeated non-status offenses by 6.5 times. Findings, limitations, and implications are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Chambers, Benjamin. *Doing it Right: Risk Assessment in Juvenile Justice – An NJJN Webinar*.

Presenter: Gina Vincent, PhD, Co-Director of the National Youth Screening & Assessment Project.

<http://www.njjn.org/article/doing-it-right-risk-assessment-in-juvenile-justice---an-njjn-webinar>

Clayton, John. "Washington's Journey with Evidence-Based and Research-Based Programs in Juvenile Justice." *Policy & Practice* 70, no. 3 (2012): 20-22.

The article focuses on evidence-based and research-based programs that are part of juvenile justice in Washington and finding cost effective programs to reduce recidivism among juvenile offenders. The U.S. Community Juvenile Accountability Act (CJAA) was passed by the Washington State Legislature to check if the programs reduce repeat offenses by juvenile offenders. A system of risk assessment has been implemented by county juvenile courts to identify levels of risk and eligibility of youths.

Dolan, Mairead, Troy E. McEwan, Rebekah Doley, and Katarina Fritzon. "Risk Factors and Risk Assessment in Juvenile Fire-Setting." *Psychiatry, Psychology & Law* 18, no. 3 (2011): 378-394.

This article provides an overview of the literature on risk issues in juvenile fire-setting behaviour. In particular, we highlight the importance of acknowledging the differences in terminology used in current studies and outline the importance of developmental issues in understanding when fire-related activities should be considered pathological. The estimated prevalence of fire interest, fire play, fire-setting and arson are discussed. The key sociodemographic, individual and environmental factors that are associated with pathological fire-setting are discussed in the context of general delinquency. The limited findings, to date, suggest that fire-setting in the main is similar to non-fire-setting delinquent behaviour in juveniles as the majority have conduct disorder rather than major mental illness. There is some very limited evidence that attentional problems may have a specific association with fire-setting but this requires replication on a larger scale. Risk assessment for those who have engaged in fire-setting behaviour is contextualised within the model outlined in the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as this is one of the leading international agencies conducting work in this field. A variety of available risk assessment tools are outlined and the utility of FEMA models and screening tools for assigning cases to appropriate risk assessment-based interventions is outlined. Additional clinically based tools are discussed and their value in treatment/management assignment decisions is highlighted. Using a risk model for fire-setting, it is clear that multiagency working is crucial in designating cases to higher levels of multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment. At present, current international and Australian interventions for juveniles largely focus on educational and fire safety awareness programmes and there is a lack of structured clinically based programmes that meet the needs of those higher-risk juveniles who have unmet mental health and social needs. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Edinburgh, Laurel. "The 10-Question Tool: A Novel Screening Instrument for Runaway Youth. *OJJDP Journal of Juvenile Justice* 1, no. 2 (2011): 80-94.

Adolescents who run away face high rates of sexual and physical assault, yet there are no established brief screening tools that police can use to determine adolescents' safety or that help police refer such youth to needed services when they are located. We developed the 10-Question Tool for law enforcement officers to screen run - away youth about issues related to their safety. We reviewed 300 10-Question forms completed by law enforcement officers in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our analyses explored demographic characteristics of runaway youth, including their reasons for leaving home, disclosure of injury, sexual assault, and their need for health care. This novel approach to screening by law enforcement officers appears to identify, locate, and refer runaway teens needing services as a result of myriad harms, including sexual assault.

<http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/JOJJ0102/ePub.htm>

Emeka, Traqina Q., and Jon R. Sorensen. "Female Juvenile Risk." *Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice* 7, no. 4 (2009): 313-330

There are few risk assessment instruments that address the unique risk factors for female juvenile offenders. Typically, female risk factors are embedded within male risk factors. Thus, the true differences between male and female juveniles may not be explored. In this study, a generic risk assessment instrument was constructed from a pooled sample and used to identify the level of risk posed by females in comparison with males. Though the constructed instrument worked quite efficiently for males, the instrument provided only a marginal improvement over chance prediction of recidivism for youthful female probationers. Lower rates of predictive validity among the female subpopulation supports call for the development of gendered risk assessment instruments. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

*Extended Suicide Risk Assessment Form [and] Instruction Manual*. Denver, CO: Colorado Division of Youth Corrections, 2011.

The completion of this form is critical in evaluating the potential for juvenile offenders to kill themselves. The form is comprised of eight sections—current problems, present mental state, suicidal issues, intent or potential to harm others, rating of risk, action plan, notification, and documentation.

[http://www.colorado.gov/cdhsdyc/P-15-2\\_E.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/cdhsdyc/P-15-2_E.pdf)

[http://www.colorado.gov/cdhsdyc/P-15-2\\_F.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/cdhsdyc/P-15-2_F.pdf)

Hanger, JauNae M. "Screening, Assessment, and Treatment: Indiana Addresses Mental Health in Juvenile Detention Centers." *Corrections Today* 7, no. 1 (2008): 36-38.

The Indiana Juvenile Mental Health Screening, Assessment and Treatment Pilot Project is an innovative, cross-disciplinary effort to establish routine, systematic screening, assessment and treatment in juvenile detention facilities in Indiana.<sup>1</sup> This effort recognizes that a substantial number of youths in the juvenile justice system have unmet mental health needs, and the existing system is largely unable to respond effectively to those needs. Members of the advisory board include legislators; government agencies dealing with child welfare, mental health, education and corrections; juvenile court judges from multiple counties; legal professional associations for probation, juvenile detention, state bar, public defenders and prosecuting attorneys; and medical and mental health representatives - a university adolescent psychologist and one representative from a pediatric physician association, a mental health community centers organization and a minority health coalition.

Hempel, Inge, Nicole Buck, Maaike Cima, and Hjalmar van Marle. "Review of Risk Assessment Instruments for Juvenile Sex Offenders: What is Next?" *International Journal of Offender Therapy & Comparative Criminology* 57, no. 2 (2013): 208-228.

Risk assessment is considered to be a key element in the prevention of recidivism among juvenile sex offenders (JSOs), often by imposing long-term consequences based on that assessment. The authors reviewed the literature on the predictive accuracy of six well-known risk assessment instruments used to appraise risk among JSOs: the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II), Juvenile Sexual Offence Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (J-SORRAT-II), Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offence Recidivism (ERASOR), Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale (JRAS), Structured Assessment of Violent Risk in Youth (SAVRY), and Hare Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL:YV). Through a systematic search, 19 studies were reviewed. Studies showed differences in the predictive accuracies for general, violent, and sexual recidivism, and none of the instruments showed unequivocal positive results in predicting future offending. Not unexpectedly, the accuracy of the SAVRY and PCL:YV appeared to be weaker for sexual recidivism compared with specialized tools such as the J-SOAP-II or the ERASOR. Because of the rapid development of juveniles, it is questionable to impose long-term restrictions based on a risk assessment only. New challenges in improving risk assessment are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

Hiscox, Sean P., Philip H. Witt, and Steven J. Haran. "Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale (JRAS): A Predictive Validity Study." *Journal of Psychiatry & Law* 35, no. 4 (2007): 503-539.

A New Jersey Supreme Court decision directed the New Jersey Attorney General's Office to develop a risk assessment scale specific to juvenile sex offenders, to be used to place juvenile sex offenders in risk tiers in accord with New Jersey's community notification law. In light of the court's decision, the scale previously used for both adults and juveniles in New Jersey was modified, creating the JRAS. The present article describes the development of the JRAS, as well as the predictive validity study that was conducted to determine the relationship between JRAS scores and recidivism. The predictive validity study found that the ability of the JRAS to predict both sex offense and non-sex offense recidivism is on the same level as other accepted scales. Factor analysis revealed that the major predictive factor in the JRAS was a general antisocial behavior factor. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

*Juvenile Detention in Cook County: Future Directions*. Oakland, CA: National Council on Crime and Delinquency, 2011.

Results from an assessment of Cook County's youth detention practices are presented. "This study looks beyond the challenges of the current facility to examine more fundamentally the detention needs of the county and its youth. The ultimate goal of the study is to guide discussion regarding a new vision for detention in Cook County—a vision that holds to the ideals that informed the creation of the court in 1899 while recognizing the current circumstances in which the court operates" (p. 4). Sections following an executive summary include: introduction and background; detention population and practice; program maintenance; physical facility; information systems; and summary recommendations. Appendixes provide information about: the Cook County Screening Form; disproportionate minority contact (DMC) reduction cycle; outline of educational assessment needs; and data-mining experiences.

<http://nicic.gov/Library/026026>

*Juvenile Justice Resource Series*. Washington, DC: Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health. Delmar, NY: National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, 2012.

“This resource series was developed to help communities address the mental health and related needs of young people involved or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system ... Each brief examines a unique aspect of serving this population within system of care communities”. Papers in the series include: “A Primer for Mental Health Practitioners Working With Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System by Robert Kinscherff (2012); “New Directions for Behavioral Health Funding and Implications for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System” by Alison Evans Cuellar (2012); “Screening and Assessment in Juvenile Justice Systems: Identifying Mental Health Needs and Risk of Reoffending” by Gina M. Vincent (2012); “Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Youth in Contact With the Juvenile Justice System in System of Care Communities” by Joseph Coccozza, Kathleen Skowrya, and Jennie Shufelt (2010); “Successfully Collaborating With the Juvenile Justice System: Benefits, Challenges, and Key Strategies” by Shufelt, Coccozza, and Skowrya (2010); and “Systems of Care Programs That Serve Youth Involved With the Juvenile Justice System: Funding and Sustainability” by Skowrya, Coccozza, and Shufelt (2010).

<http://www.tapartnership.org/content/juvenileJustice/resourceSeries.php>

Latessa, Edward, Brian Lovins, and Kristin Ostrowski. *The Ohio Youth Assessment System: Final Report*. University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research, 2009.

The Ohio Youth Assessment System was designed to assess risk, need, and responsivity factors of youth at each stage of the juvenile justice system. The OYAS provides a composite risk score that is designed to assist juvenile justice actors in making appropriate decisions regarding treatment of youth. [From Summary and Recommendations]

[http://www.uc.edu/ccjr/Reports/ProjectReports/OYAS\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.uc.edu/ccjr/Reports/ProjectReports/OYAS_final_report.pdf)

Luong, Duyen, Stephen J. Wormith. “Applying Risk/Need Assessment to Probation Practice and its Impact on the Recidivism of Young Offenders.” *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 38, no. 12 (2011): 1177-1199.

“This study investigated whether risk/need assessment is linked to the case management of young offenders and whether adherence to the principles of RNR (risk, need, and responsivity), as part of the case management plan, is related to recidivism (p. 1177). Following an abstract, sections of this article include: risk/need assessment, case management, and effective correctional intervention; the Level of Service (LS) Inventory and the LSI-SK (Saskatchewan); the current study; method; results according to the LSI-SK and recidivism and case management (risk and supervision level, needs and interventions—descriptive statistics and appropriateness, responsivity, and prediction of recidivism using risk/need assessment and need-intervention score); and discussion of predictive validity, adherence to risk and need, and limitations and future directions. The LSI-SK has a high degree of predictive validity and high correlation between the LSI-SK total score and recidivism. Accession no. 025516

<http://downloads.mhs.com/lscou/Risk-assessment-applied-2011.pdf>

Mallett, Christopher A., and Patricia Stoddard-Dare. “Predicting Secure Detention Placement for African-American Juvenile Offenders: Addressing the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Problem.” *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice* 8, no. 2 (2010): 91-103.

Disproportionate minority contact and confinement (DMC) are significant problems within the juvenile justice system in the United States. Minority youth are more often arrested, court referred, placed in locked facilities, and transferred to adult criminal courts. In fact, African American youth are 6 times more likely than White youth to experience a secure facility

placement. Standardized risk assessments have been used, in part, to reduce these biased placement outcomes. The purpose of this article is to determine if DMC impacts secure detention placement even when a standardized risk assessment is used to determine youths' risks and needs in one Midwest county's juvenile court population over a 17-month time frame. Multivariate binary logistic regression results indicated and confirmed that African American youth were 2 times more likely to receive secure detention center placement than non-African American youth even when a standardized risk assessment was used. Practical applications and recommendations are set forth. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

McCabe, Patrick, et al. "Does Risk Assessment Make a Difference? Results of Implementing the SAVRY in Juvenile Probation." *Behavioral Sciences & The Law* 30, no. 4 (2012): 384-405.

McGrath, Andrew, and Anthony P. Thompson. "The Relative Predictive Validity of the Static and Dynamic Domain Scores in Risk-Need Assessment of Juvenile Offenders." *Criminal Justice & Behavior* 39, no. 3 (2012): 250-263.

This study examined the predictive validity of the Australian Adaptation of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI-AA). The focus was on the subcomponents of the inventory, which represent one static and seven dynamic risk-need domains. Reoffending outcomes within 1 year of the inventory were obtained for a large sample (N = 3,568) of young people under juvenile justice supervision in the community. Logistic regression analyses investigated the relative contribution of YLS domain scores. The results showed that the static and four dynamic domain scores independently predicted recidivism and that the combination of those domain scores yielded a small improvement in prediction. A similar pattern of results was obtained from analyses of the simple additive scores for the YLS domains. The findings support the YLS/CMI-AA total score as a sufficiently useful predictor of risk, and they clarify the contribution of static and dynamic risk components. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Meyers, Joanna R., and Fred Schmidt. "Predictive Validity of the Structured Assessment for Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) With Juvenile Offenders." *Criminal Justice & Behavior* 35, no. 3 (2008): 344-355.

Violence is a serious social problem that is often encountered in the youth justice system. Identifying those adolescents who are at the highest risk for future violence is an important step toward effective rehabilitation. The current study examined the predictive validity of the Structured Assessment for Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY), a structured professional judgment risk tool, in a sample of 121 juvenile offenders. The SAVRY was found to have strong predictive validity, a finding that was robust across gender and ethnicity. The SAVRY obtained ROC values of .75 and .66 for general and violent recidivism, respectively, for 1 year, and values of .76 and .77 for general and violent recidivism, respectively, for 3-year follow-up. For nonviolent recidivism, the ROC values were .80 for 1-year and .68 during 3 years. Use of the SAVRY in the youth justice system, and limitations of the study, are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

Ortega Courtney, Katherine, and Jeremy Howard. "Assessing and Improving the Reliability of Risk Instruments: The New Mexico Juvenile Justice Reliability Model." *OJJDP: Journal of Juvenile Justice* 1, no. 1 (2011): 98-106.

Reliability is a critical feature of any screening or assessment instrument; yet, the reliability of juvenile justice risk instruments is rarely assessed. Because their reliability has rarely been examined, we developed a method for examining the reliability of the New Mexico Structured Decision Making Risk Instrument. This method involved creating sample cases that would include information needed to complete the instrument. Two Juvenile Probation Officers (JPOs)



from each district in New Mexico were asked to rate ten sample cases. Upon completion of the initial reliability study, we determined that the instrument's reliability was unacceptable. We then undertook an intensive effort to increase its reliability, which included revising definitions and instructions for the instrument and retraining workers statewide. After revising and retraining, we reassessed the instrument's reliability. The results indicated substantial improvement in the instrument's reliability, ensuring equitable application and scoring of risk for youth throughout the state's cultural landscape. The method we used to improve the instrument's reliability resulted in the creation of the New Mexico Juvenile Justice Reliability Model. This method, although new, is relatively simple to use and effective. The resulting model for assessing and improving reliability can be used by others to assess the reliability of their instruments.

<http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/JOJJ0101/JOJJ0101.pdf>

Page, Joshua, and Shelly Schaefer. "From Risks to Assets: Toward a Strengths-Based Approach to Juvenile Reentry into the Community." *CURA Reporter* 41, no. 1 (2011): 34-41. Minneapolis, MN: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

Strategies for making juvenile reentry more effective are described. Such information is vital if a juvenile agency is trying to reform itself into a successful organization. Sections of this article include: probation officer and probationer—a pivotal relationship for the juvenile offender's transition into the community; risk/needs-based versus strengths-based approach; research methodology; case studies; and discussion. A strengths-based approach focuses on juveniles' strengths or assets, provides encouragement and support, fosters empowerment, and collaborates with them on ways to reach their goals.

<http://www.jjcmn.com/public/2011/05/Toward-a-Strengths-Based-Approach-to-Juvenile-Justice-Reentry.pdf>

Penney, Stephanie R., Zina Lee, and Marlene M Moretti. "Gender Differences in Risk Factors for Violence: An Examination of the Predictive Validity of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth." *Aggressive Behavior* 36, no. 6 (2010): 390-404.

The research literature on predicting violence is particularly lacking in specifying risk factors for violence in adolescent girls. The recently developed Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth [SAVRY; Borum et al., 2006] shows promise as it is empirically derived and incorporates dynamic factors in its assessment of risk. To date, there exists little information attesting to the reliability and validity of the SAVRY and few investigations of the SAVRY's utility across gender. This study investigated the SAVRY in a sample of 144 high-risk adolescents (80 males and 64 females), focusing on gender discrepancies in the predictive utility of the measure. Results indicate that the SAVRY moderately predicts violent and non-violent reoffending in the entire sample, and also suggest that the SAVRY operates comparably across gender. Although not precluding the existence of gender-specific domains of risk, current results suggest that validated risk factors in boys hold relevance for the prediction of violence and delinquency in girls.

Perrault, Rachael T., Melissa Paiva-Salisbury, and Gina M. Vincent. "Probation Officers' Perceptions of Youths' Risk of Reoffending and Use of Risk Assessment in Case Management." *Behavioral Sciences & the Law* 30, no. 4 (2012): 487-505.

Juvenile probation officers (JPOs) are required to make numerous decisions about the case management of young offenders on a daily basis. This multi-site study examined JPOs' (N = 64) perceptions of the typical youth's risk of reoffending before implementation of a risk/needs assessment (RNA) tool, and their self-reported, case management decision-making after

implementation of an RNA tool. Results indicated that JPOs tended to overestimate the likely base rates of reoffending while RNA tool estimates were more accurate. Further, most JPOs appeared to be making service referral and placement decisions commensurate with youths' risk levels, regardless of whether they claimed to use the RNA tool in their decisions. Variability in application of risk to case management practices was more a function of the probation office than of the specific JPO. Implications for use of risk assessment in juvenile probation are discussed.

Ralston, Christopher A.; Epperson, Douglas L. "Predictive Validity of Adult Risk Assessment Tools With Juveniles Who Offended Sexually." *Psychological Assessment* 2, no. 3 (2013): 905-916.

An often-held assumption in the area of sexual recidivism risk assessment is that different tools should be used for adults and juveniles. This assumption is driven either by the observation that adolescents tend to be in a constant state of flux in the areas of development, education, and social structure or by the fact that the judicial system recognizes that juveniles and adults are different. Though the assumption is plausible, it is largely untested. The present study addressed this issue by scoring 2 adult sexual offender risk assessment tools, the Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised and the Static-99, on an exhaustive sample (N = 636) of juveniles who had sexually offended (JSOs) in Utah. For comparison, 2 tools designed for JSOs were also scored: the Juvenile-Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II and the Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale. Recidivism data were collected for 2 time periods: before age 18 (sexual, violent, any recidivism) and from age 18 to the year 2004 (sexual). The adult actuarial risk assessment tools predicted all types of juvenile recidivism significantly and at approximately the same level of accuracy as juvenile-specific tools. However, the accuracy of longer term predictions of adult sexual recidivism across all 4 tools was substantially lower than the accuracy achieved in predicting juvenile sexual recidivism, with 2 of the tools producing nonsignificant results, documenting the greater difficulty in making longer term predictions on the basis of adolescent behavior. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Schmidt, Fred, Mary Ann Campbell, and Carolyn Houlding. "Comparative Analyses of the YLS/CMI, SAVRY, and PCL:YV in Adolescent Offenders: A 10-year Follow-Up Into Adulthood." *Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice* 9, no. 1 (2011): 23-42.

A growing body of research has been dedicated to developing adolescent risk assessment instruments, but much of this research has been limited to short-term tests of predictive validity. The current study examined the predictive and incremental validity of the Youth Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI), Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY), and Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL:YV) in adolescent offenders over a mean 10-year follow-up period. Each instrument predicted general recidivism with moderate- (YLS/CMI area under the curve [AUC] = .66) -to-large effect sizes (SAVRY AUC = .74; PCL:YV AUC = .79). However, there was variation in predictive validity across types of recidivism, and all three instruments were better at predicting recidivism in males than females. SAVRY total also demonstrated incremental validity over its structured professional judgment of risk. Clinical implications and future directions for youth risk assessment are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

Schwalbe, Craig. "A Meta-Analysis of Juvenile Risk Assessment Instruments: Predictive Validity by Gender." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 35, no. 11 (2008): 1367-1381.

Juvenile justice systems have widely adopted risk assessment instruments to support judicial and administrative decisions about sanctioning severity and restrictiveness of care. A little

explored property of these instruments is the extent to which their predictive validity generalizes across gender. The article reports on a meta-analysis of risk assessment predictive validity with male and female offenders. Nineteen studies encompassing 20 unique samples met inclusion criteria. Findings indicated that predictive validity estimates are equivalent for male and female offenders and are consistent with results of other meta-analyses in the field. The findings also indicate that when gender differences are observed in individual studies, they provide evidence for gender biases in juvenile justice decision-making and case processing rather than for the ineffectiveness of risk assessment with female offenders.

<http://education.ucsb.edu/sharkey/documents/KeyArticle-schwalbe08.pdf>

Slobogin, Christopher. "Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Juvenile Justice." *Criminal Justice* 7, no. 4 (2013): 10-25

The article presents risk assessment and risk management in juvenile justice. Risk assessment is defined as the identification of risk factors and protective factors that influence the involvement in crime. It notes that typical static factors include gender, age and prior criminal history while psychoactive substance use, family support and motivation to alter behavior are among the typical dynamic factors.

Steinhart, David. "Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment." Baltimore, MD: Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. A project of The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

This monograph reviews contemporary juvenile detention risk-screening technology in the United States through the lens of experience provided by JDAI sites. It includes specific recommendations on how to design, test, and implement detention risk-screening instruments.

It is written as a practical guide for judges, probation and law enforcement officers, service providers, community leaders, and other juvenile justice decision-makers who are concerned about the quality of care and protection provided to children in the justice system. In the first part, we examine risk-screening basics—including how risk instrument technology has evolved and has been applied at JDAI sites throughout the nation. In the second part, we present a step-by-step guide to the development, testing, and implementation of juvenile detention risk assessment instruments. In the final part, we address some of the common problems experienced by JDAI sites using new RAIs, and we offer related troubleshooting tips.

[www.jdaihelpdesk.org](http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org)

Thompson, Anthony P. and Andrew McGrath. "Subgroup Differences and Implications for Contemporary Risk-Need Assessment with Juvenile Offenders." *Law & Human Behavior* 36, no. 4 (2012): 345-355.

Risk-need assessment is widely accepted as best practice with juvenile offenders and is underpinned by a healthy research literature on risk assessment inventories. Previous studies have found both similarities and differences on risk measures when gender and racial/ethnic subgroups have been compared. Differential validity has been examined, but differential prediction has been overlooked. The current study undertook gender and ethnic comparisons for a large sample (n = 3568) of community-based juvenile offenders who were evaluated using the Australian Adaptation of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI-AA). Analyses showed various gender and ethnic differences at the item level, across domain scores and on the total inventory score, but not for validity indices. However, 1-year reoffending rates for youth in three classification categories (low, moderate, high) varied by gender and ethnicity. The findings were related to contemporary understandings of the risk factors for offending and the dynamics of crime for gender/ethnic subgroups. It is argued that in spite of

these subgroup differences, a generic inventory such as the YLS/CMI-AA can be used fairly with various subgroups. Recommendations for how this could be accomplished are provided.

Viljoen, Jodi L., Kaitlyn McLachlan, and Gina M. Vincent. "Assessing Violence Risk and Psychopathy in Juvenile and Adult Offenders: A Survey of Clinical Practices." *Assessment* 17, no. 3 (September 2010): 377-395.

This study surveyed 199 forensic clinicians about the practices that they use in assessing violence risk in juvenile and adult offenders. Results indicated that the use of risk assessment and psychopathy tools was common. Although clinicians reported more routine use of psychopathy measures in adult risk assessments compared with juvenile risks assessments, 79% of clinicians reported using psychopathy measures at least once in a while in juvenile risk assessments. Extremely few clinicians, however, believe that juveniles should be labeled or referred to as psychopaths. Juvenile risk reports were more likely than adult reports to routinely discuss treatment and protective factors, and provide recommendations to reevaluate risk. The implications of these findings are discussed.[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Viljoen, Jodi L., Sarah Mordell, and Jennifer L. Beneteau. "Prediction of Adolescent Sexual Reoffending: A Meta-Analysis of the J-SOAP-II, ERASOR, J-SORRAT-II, and Static-99." *Law & Human Behavior* 36, no. 5 (2012): 423-438.

Several risk assessment tools, including the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II (Prentky & Righthand, 2003), the Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (Worling & Curwen, 2001), the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (Epperson, Ralston, Fowers, DeWitt, & Gore, 2006), and the Static-99 (Hanson & Thornton, 1999), have been used to assess reoffense risk among adolescents who have committed sexual offenses. Given that research on these tools has yielded somewhat mixed results, we empirically synthesized 33 published and unpublished studies involving 6,196 male adolescents who had committed a sexual offense. We conducted two separate meta-analyses, first with correlations and then with areas under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUCs). Total scores on each of the tools significantly predicted sexual reoffending, with aggregated correlations ranging from .12 to .20 and aggregated AUC scores ranging from .64 to .67. However, in many cases heterogeneity across studies was moderate to high. There were no significant differences between tools, and although the Static-99 was developed for adults, it achieved similar results as the adolescent tools. Results are compared to other meta-analyses of risk tools used in the area of violence risk assessment and in other fields. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Vincent, Gina M. *Screening and Assessment in Juvenile Justice Systems: Identifying Mental Health Needs and Risk of Reoffending*. Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health, 2012.

"This brief will explain why screening and assessment for risk and mental health are best used together by child-serving agencies when planning the most effective course of action for individual youth" (p. 1). Sections of this publication include: how screening and assessment differ; how the above concepts differ for risk assessment tools; how an agency selects a valid tool that is appropriate for its purpose; some examples of tools used in juvenile justice facilities and community-based services; what the benefits are of screening and assessment are for mental health problems and risk of re-offending; the importance of sound implementation; and conclusion.

<http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/328>

Vincent, Gina M., Laura S. Guy, and Thomas Grisso. *Risk Assessment in Juvenile Justice: A Guidebook for*

*Implementation*. Chicago, IL: Models for Change (MacArthur Foundation), 2012.

The primary purpose of this Guide is to provide a structure for jurisdictions, juvenile probation or centralized statewide agencies striving to implement risk assessment or to improve their current risk assessment practices. Risk assessment in this Guide refers to the practice of using a structured tool that combines information about youth to classify them as being low, moderate or high risk for reoffending or continued delinquent activity, as well as identifying factors that might reduce that risk on an individual basis. The purpose of such risk assessment tools is to help in making decisions about youths' placement and supervision, and creating intervention plans that will reduce their level of risk.

<http://modelsforchange.net/publications/346>

<http://nicic.gov/Library/027092>

Vincent, Gina M., Rachael T. Perrault, Laura S. Guy, and Bernice G. Gershenson. "Developmental Issues in Risk Assessment: Implications for Juvenile Justice." *Victims & Offenders* 7, no. 4 (2012): 364-384.

This study investigated two issues in youth risk assessment that may be important to juvenile justice agencies: (1) whether there are age-related differences that might impair the predictive accuracy of risk assessment across adolescence and (2) whether dynamic risk factors provide a unique contribution to risk assessment. The study tracked new petitions over an average 14.5-month follow-up for a large sample (n = 674) of adjudicated young offenders who received the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk for Youth (SAVRY). Findings indicated that age did not moderate the association between the SAVRY and reoffending between youth age 12 and under, age 13 to 15, and age 16 to 18. Dynamic risk factors had incremental predictive validity over static factors for each type of recidivism (e.g., violent, nonviolent) except probation violations. Implications to juvenile justice agencies include the critical importance of including dynamic risk factors in risk assessment tools of youth and the generalizability of these tools across age. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

"Webinar: Maximizing the Impact of Juvenile Justice Interventions: The Importance of Risk/Needs Assessment." New York: Council of State Governments. Worcester, MA: Criminal Justice Mental Health Consensus Project, University of Massachusetts Medical School/National Youth Screening and Assessment Project, 2011.

This webinar addresses the use of risk/needs assessment in juvenile justice. It is also a very good introduction to what risk assessment entails. Topics discussed include: what a risk assessment tool is; the national perspective and importance of risk assessment; guiding principles; benefits per dollar invested; valid identification is the first step; ways proper implementation of a risk assessment can save costs; important risk assessment concepts; static risk factors; criminogenic need/dynamic risk factors; elements of a comprehensive risk for re-offending assessment; important developmental concepts; general principles of risk in youth; how to pick an evidence-based risk assessment tool; evidence-based or promising comprehensive risk assessment tools for use post-adjudication; what risk assessments do not do; some points about implementation—risk for re-offending vs. mental health; selection of the risk assessment depends on the decision point in the juvenile justice process; Decision-Making Model with and without the option of diversion; essential steps of implementation; and the benefits of comprehensive risk assessments.

<http://www.consensusproject.org/features/webinar-archive-maximizing-the-impact-of-juvenile-justice-interventions-the-importance-of-risk-slash-needs-assessment>

## Assessment Tools

Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment, [http://www.colorado.gov/cdhsdyc/Resources-Publications/Assess\\_CJRA.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/cdhsdyc/Resources-Publications/Assess_CJRA.pdf)

Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale, <http://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/megan/jras-manual-scale-606.pdf>

The Missouri Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale, <http://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=1200>

The Ohio Youth Assessment System,  
[http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/corrections/docs/OYAS\\_Overview\\_2011.pdf](http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/corrections/docs/OYAS_Overview_2011.pdf)

Positive Achievement Change Tool, <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/partners-providers-staff/pact-system-overview.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument, <http://www.orbispartners.com/assessment/yasi>

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory,  
<http://www.mhs.com/product.aspx?qr=saf&prod=ylscmi&id=overview>

## Juvenile Justice: Websites

*Advancing Evidence Based Practice*, <http://www.advancingebp.org/>

A nonprofit association of program providers, program developers, researchers, intermediary agencies, government agencies, and policy makers all working to promote evidence-based programs for at-risk youth. Our mission is to broaden the availability of research-proven programs to better the lives of kids.

*Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice*, <http://www.cjcj.org/index.html>

The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) is a non-profit nonpartisan organization whose mission is to reduce society's reliance on incarceration as a solution to social problems. In pursuit of this mission, CJCJ provides direct services, technical assistance, and policy analysis that work in unison to promote a balanced and humane criminal justice system designed to reduce incarceration and enhance long-term public safety.

*Center for Juvenile Justice Reform* (Georgetown University), <http://cjr.georgetown.edu/>

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute is designed to support leaders in the juvenile justice and related systems of care. The Center seeks to complement the good work being done across the country in juvenile justice reform by providing a multi-systems perspective and set of resources in support of this work.

*Coalition for Juvenile Justice*, <http://www.juvjustice.org/>

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system. CJJ envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency; and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

*Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators*, <http://cjca.net/>

The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) is a national non-profit organization, formed in 1994 to improve local juvenile correctional services, programs and practices so the youths within the systems succeed when they return to the community and to provide national leadership and leadership development for the individuals responsible for the systems. CJCA represents the youth correctional CEOs in 50 states, Puerto Rico and major metropolitan counties.

*Journal of Juvenile Justice*, <http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/>

The Journal of Juvenile Justice is a semi-annual, peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Articles address the full range of issues in juvenile justice, such as juvenile victimization, delinquency prevention, intervention, and treatment.

*Juvenile Justice Bill Tracking Database*, <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=12686>

NCSL has partnered with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to develop this juvenile justice legislation database. Search 2008 through 2013 legislation by State; Topic; Key Word; Year; Status; or Primary Sponsor.



*Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative*, <http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/default.aspx>

JDAI is based upon eight core, interconnected strategies that address the primary reasons why youth are unnecessarily or inappropriately detained. It is necessary that all core strategies be intentionally and effectively applied in order to achieve maximum results in reduction of detention populations. Scroll through each of the eight core strategies by clicking on the arrows, and then select by clicking on the strategy name. If you are unable to locate specific information please submit your question to the Help Desk.

*Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*. Center for Sustainable Journalism. Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, 2012. <http://jjiie.org>

“Focused not just on delivering information, but rather on an ‘exchange’ of ideas, the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange fosters a community of support around the issues facing the youth of our country. Members are made up of people like yourself who are interested in doing what is best for at-risk kids, along with industry professionals who work with children on a daily basis and citizens of Georgia and around the United States. Doing what is best for children means staying well informed on governmental policies and legislation, court rulings, educational trends, treatment, research, prevention programs and other factors that impact the quality of service delivered to the kids that need them most.”

*Juvenile Justice Trainers Association*, <http://www.jjta.org/>

The Juvenile Justice Trainers Association is an organization devoted to the development and advancement of a specialized system of education and training for juvenile justice professionals. Composed primarily of staff development and training specialists, the association provides a national network for sharing information, providing technical services and developing other support mechanisms for juvenile justice trainers.

*Model Programs Guide*: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/>

The MPG is designed to assist practitioners and communities in implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention programs that can make a difference in the lives of children and communities. The MPG database of over 200 evidence-based programs covers the entire continuum of youth services from prevention through sanctions to reentry. The MPG can be used to assist juvenile justice practitioners, administrators, and researchers to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism. The MPG is an easy-to-use tool that offers a database of scientifically-proven programs that address a range of issues, including substance abuse, mental health, and education programs.

*National Center for Juvenile Justice*, <http://www.ncjj.org/>

The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), located in Pittsburgh, PA. is the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and is the oldest juvenile justice research group in the United States, having conducted national and sub national studies on crime and delinquency since 1973.

National Council on Crime & Delinquency, <http://www.nccdglobal.org/what-we-do>

At NCCD, we envision a just society in which people are safe and supported in their communities and treated with dignity by the systems that serve them. Our mission is to promote just and equitable social systems for individuals, families, and communities through research, public



policy, and practice. For over 100 years, our research has informed better system responses at all points of contact. We work to help protect children from abuse and neglect, to create safe and rehabilitative justice systems for youth and adults, and to address the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities. Within these systems we also study the unique concerns of girls, LGBT individuals, and overrepresented racial and ethnic groups.

*National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition (NJDPC),*  
[http://www.juvjustice.org/initiative\\_njdp.html](http://www.juvjustice.org/initiative_njdp.html)

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency; and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

National Juvenile Justice Network, <http://www.njnn.org/>

The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJNN) exists to support and enhance the work of state-based groups to promote the reform of America's critically flawed juvenile justice system at every level. Through education, community-building and leadership development, NJNN enhances the capacity of juvenile justice coalitions and organizations in 33 states to press for state and federal laws, policies and practices that are fair, equitable and developmentally appropriate for all children, youth and families involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the justice system.

*National Partnership for Juvenile Services,* <http://npjs.org/>

The Partnership joins the Council for Juvenile Detention, Council for Juvenile Corrections, Council for Educators of At-Risk and Delinquent Youth, and Council for Juvenile Justice Trainers - NPJS supports and advocates for juvenile services practitioners, including direct care staff, teachers, staff trainers, and administrators, in secure and non-secure programs? - See more at: <http://npjs.org/#sthash.9X8geBSJ.dpuf>

*PREA in the Juvenile Justice System.* National PREA Resource Workgroup (Salem, OR); Oregon Youth Authority (Salem, OR). 2011.

Resources related to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and its application to juvenile corrections can be found at this website. If you are looking for PREA in juvenile settings this is the first place you should look. There are pointers to publications, useful links, training materials and samples (laws, policies, rules and procedures, trainings, and tools/materials; and other resources.

<http://www.oregon.gov/OYA/prea/prearesources.shtml>