

CBI-SO Risk Assessment Instruments

CBI-SO scores two risk assessment instruments—LSCMI and STABLE. See below for a brief description of all instruments used.

Efficacy: Risk assessment instruments are based on many research studies which followed released sex offenders and identified factors associated with those who re-offended. The factors are statistically weighted. The Static-99R is the most widely used such instrument. Many research studies have proven its predictive accuracy. The sexual re-offense rate for the typical sex offender is between 4% and 12% after 5 years from release from custody, and between 6-22% after 10 years. (Hanson, et al., [Absolute Recidivism Rates Predicted by Static-99R and Static-2002R Sex Offender Risk Assessment Tools Vary Across Samples: A Meta-Analysis](#), *Criminal Justice and Behavior* (2012) 39: 1148.) Evaluations conducted by mental health professionals who base their opinions on interviews and reviewing criminal histories have not proven to be as accurate as using structured clinical judgment that incorporates validated risk assessment instruments.

Recent research has shown that the predictive accuracy of re-offense can be increased slightly when dynamic (changeable) factors are combined with static (unchangeable) factors. These include things like substance abuse, personality disorders, deviant sexual interests, emotional identification with children, and self-regulation problems. A sex offender in a mandated treatment program will be assessed on other risk factors by a certified treatment provider using dynamic and violence risk assessment instruments designated by the SARATSO Committee. The combination of the three instruments, static, dynamic, and violence will give a better picture of the overall risk of individuals who have previously sexually offended.

STATIC-99R (STATIC RISK)

The Static-99R is based on static (unchanging) risk factors which predict the potential for sexual re-offending. This risk assessment instrument is required by law to be used by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to assess every eligible sex offender prior to release on parole; by Probation, to assess every eligible sex offender pre-sentencing and on a probation case load; and by the Department of State Hospitals, prior to release of an eligible sex offender from a DSH institution. In 2012 a study showed that inter-rater reliability on the instrument is strong in California (scorers are consistent in scoring the instrument). For more information on the Static-99R, visit www.static99.org.

Validation Studies in California Support Good Predictive Accuracy of Static-99R

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) partnered with the SARATSO Committee to conduct two validation studies of the Static-99 risk assessment instrument.

- 2014 Study: [Journal of Threat Assessment and Management \(2014\), Vol. 1, No. 2, at pp. 102-117](#)
- 2016 Study: [The Predictive Validity of Static-99R for Sexual Offenders in California: 2016 Update](#)

DOJ provided data on registered sex offenders in California. The data was analyzed by experts in the field of risk assessment retained by the SARATSO Committee. The 2014 study examined re-offense rates of parolee sex offenders five years after release from prison to the community. The 2016 study analyzed the sexual re-offense rates of both parolee and probation offenders five years after release from custody into the community. Both studies showed good predictive accuracy of the Static-99R in predicting risk of sexual recidivism among a diverse California sex offender population. The 2014 study is described in the [Journal of Threat Assessment and Management \(2014\), Vol. 1, No. 2, at pp. 102-117](#). If funding is available to continue this study, the study will examine 10-year re-offense rates in 2017. The Static-99R was found to be very accurate in predicting who would

CBI-SO Risk Assessment Instruments

reoffend in California, accurately predicting who would commit a new sex offense in about 82% of cases in the 2014 study. High risk offenders had a recidivism rate of over 29%, while low risk offenders had a recidivism rate of only 1.6%.

In the 2016 study (Lee, S., Hanson, R. Karl, et al., [The Predictive Validity of Static-99R for Sexual Offenders in California: 2016 Update](#)), the criminal histories of 1,626 offenders were examined to determine recidivism rates. The study concluded that overall the Static-99R works well in predicting risk of sexual re-offense among various ethnic groups. The 2016 study showed that the rate of re-offense in California was slightly lower than the average rate of re-offense found in international samples. The 2016 study also found that transient offenders reoffended sexually at a higher rate than non-transient offenders. The study concluded that transient status among both probation and parole offenders seems to be associated with higher sexual recidivism rates.

STABLE-2007/ACUTE-2007 (Dynamic Risk)

The Stable-2007/Acute-2007 is scored by certified treatment providers working with sex offenders on probation or parole. (Pen. Code, sec. 290.09.) These tools measure dynamic (changing) risk factors which are empirically related to the risk of re-offense, and are evidence-based risk assessment tools. Dynamic risk assessment supplements the static risk assessment now done in California using the Static-99R, and gives a better picture of the overall risk of re-offense presented by sex offenders on supervision. The STABLE is predictive of the risk of future sexual offending. (See [Literature Review/Validity Study of the STABLE-2007/ACUTE-2007](#).)

LS/CMI (Violence Risk)

The tool is predictive of the risk of violent re-offending (see [Literature Review of LS/CMI](#)), and is an evidence-based risk assessment tool. The LS/CMI is used by sex offender management professionals to assess registered sex offenders while they are on probation or parole. (Pen. Code, § 290.09.) Violence risk assessment supplements the static and dynamic risk assessments.