

Risk Assessment approaches for Youth who have Sexually Offended: The Violence Risk Sexual-Youth Sexual Offense version (VRS-YSO)

Mark Olver, PhD

Track: Juvenile

Level: Intermediate

Room: TBD

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (1.5)

Narrative

This half day seminar provides an overview of assessment approaches, recent findings, and issues in sexual offense risk assessment with male juvenile populations. The Violence Risk Scale-Youth Sexual Offense version (VRS-YSO), a dynamic risk assessment and treatment planning tool for youth who have sexually offended, will be reviewed in detail as an illustrative approach. Attendees will have the opportunity to complete a practice case scoring the VRS-YSO and to discuss their own cases. Implications for sexual offense risk management and support for youth and families to prevent future sexual offending and promote healthy functioning and wellbeing will be discussed.

BIO

Mark Olver PhD

Mark Olver is Professor and Registered Doctoral Psychologist in the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, where he is involved in graduate and undergraduate clinical and research supervision, teaching, administration, and applied forensic research. Prior to his academic appointment, Mark worked as a clinical psychologist in various capacities, including providing assessment, treatment, and consultation services for young offenders in the Saskatoon Health Region and for adult federal offenders in the Correctional Service of Canada. He has published over 125 journal articles and book chapters and his research interests include offender risk assessment and treatment, young offenders, psychopathy, and the evaluation of therapeutic change. He is the co-developer of the Violence Risk Scale-Sexual Offense version (VRS-SO) and the Violence Risk Scale-Youth Sexual Offense version (VRS-YSO) and he provides training and consultation services internationally in the assessment and treatment of psychopathic, sexual, and violent offending populations.

Learning Objectives

- I. List and describe pertinent static and dynamic VRS-YSO risk factors that underpin major risk-need domains
- II. Describe important strengths and shortcomings of purely static tools and the relative strengths of tools incorporating dynamic risk factors
- III. Extract relevant case file information required to make VRS-YSO ratings
- IV. Apply the VRS-YSO to identify treatment targets (criminogenic needs) for case-by-case treatment planning
- V. Use the VRS-YSO dynamic factor ratings to create an individualized need profile to assist with case conceptualization
- VI. Identify and link some sex offense treatment approaches to specific areas of criminogenic need identified from a VRS-YSO assessment

- VII. Utilize the modified Stages of Change Model of the VRS-YSO to assess treatment readiness and measure treatment changes on identified criminogenic needs
- VIII. Correctly apply the VRS-YSO scoring system to make pretreatment and post-treatment ratings on individual cases
- IX. Apply VRS-YSO psychometric research results to interpret risk and change related information on individual cases
- X. Incorporate the VRS-YSO into clinically useful risk assessment reports