Prospective field study comparing predictive validity of Static-99R and STABLE-2007 with Canadian Indigenous and non-Indigenous sex offenders

L. Maaike Helmus
Lmaaikehelmus@gmail.com
Wandering Vagabond

Presentation at the Annual Conference of the New Zealand Psychological Association
August 2017, Christchurch, New Zealand

Static/STABLE Updates

• See www.static99.org
  – Tweaks/updates throughout
• 2016 Revised Coding Manual
  – Existing users should get half-day training on the new manual
• Updated Static-99R/2002R Workbook
  – New nominal risk categories
  – Tweaks in report templates
• New STABLE-2007 Workbook

Overrepresentation of Indigenous Offenders in CJS

• Canada
  – 4% of population, 21% of federal prison population
  – > 5X
  – Overrepresentation has INCREASED since 1996
• United States
  – 1% of population
  – Incarceration rate 4X higher than White men
• Australia
  – 2.5% of population, 27% of custody population
  – > 10X
• New Zealand
  – 15% of population, roughly 50% of prison population
  – > 3X

Thanks to Students/Collaborators

Carmen Zabarauckas
BC Corrections

R. Karl Hanson
Public Safety Canada

Kirsten Brinck
Victoria Uni of Wellington

Annalisa Hughes
Victoria Uni of Wellington

Snung Chan Lee
Carleton University

Territory Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the Algonquin nation whose traditional and unceded territory is the current location of the city of Ottawa, Constance Bay, and of Carleton University.
VRS-SO

- 393 Aboriginal and 670 non-Aboriginal
- Aboriginal men significantly higher risk on VRS-SO
- VRS-SO static, and pre- and post-treatment
dynamic scores predicted sexual and violent
recidivism with similar accuracy for Aboriginal
and non-Aboriginal offenders
  - Exception: VRS-SO Static scale predicted violent
recidivism with lower accuracy for Aboriginal
offenders
    • At 5 years but not 10 years

British Columbia Corrections

- Supervises offenders serving jail sentences of 2 years
  or less, and offenders on community supervision
  (including bail)

- Probation officers (300+) are trained in the STATIC-99R,
  STABLE and ACUTE

- The tools are used in the following circumstances:
  - Current conviction is a sexual offence or a sexually
    motivated offence.
  - Past convictions for a sexual or sexually motivated offence.

Current Study: BC-RAPSA-D

British Columbia Corrections

- Static-99 (now 99R) and STABLE piloted in BC in 2005
  - Full implementation across the province (49 probation
    offices) by end of 2006.

- All training administered by certified trainers at the
  Justice Institute of BC
  - Must be completed before use and supervision of a sexual
    offender.

- Each year all probation officers have random selection
  of files reviewed for quality assurance
  - Includes appropriate risk assessment application and use
    of risk assessment information in case management plans
Sample

- B.C. Corrections between 2005 to 2013
- Sexual recidivism – charge or conviction for sexual offence in provincial criminal history records
- 954 Aboriginal offenders
  - Follow-up $M = 4.9$ years ($M = 2.5$)
  - $M$ age $= 38.8$ (SD $= 11.9$)
- 2,705 Caucasian offenders
  - Follow-up $M = 4.5$ ($M = 2.5$)
  - $M$ age $= 42.3$ (SD $= 14.1$)

Sexual Recidivism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N recid / Total</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (not controlling for Follow-up)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal</td>
<td>60/954 (6.3%)</td>
<td>1.47 (1.07 – 2.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>118/2,705 (4.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analyses: AUCs

- Effect size when one variable is dichotomous (e.g., Aboriginal status, recidivism) and the other variable is dichotomous, ordinal, or interval

- AUCs of .56, .64, and .71 are small, moderate, and large (Rice & Harris, 2005)
  - Correspond to Cohen’s $d$ of .20, .50, .80

Do Aboriginal Offenders Score Higher Risk?
Is Predictive Accuracy Similar for Aboriginal and Caucasian Offenders?

AUC Comparisons – Sexual Recidivism

Calibration Analyses
Comparing recidivism rates of Aboriginal and Caucasian offenders, after controlling for risk scores

1 significant differences between AUCs
10 of 14 analyses have lower AUCs for Aboriginal offenders, p = .090

No significant differences between AUCs.
6 of 11 analyses have lower AUCs for Aboriginal offenders, p = .500
Cox regression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hazard Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Static-99R</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STABLE-2007</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>.94</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After controlling for Static-99R or STABLE-2007 scores, Aboriginal offenders did not have significantly higher sexual recidivism rates than Caucasian offenders.

Sexual Recidivism - Summary

- Aboriginal offenders score higher risk
  - Mostly on general criminality
- Static-99R predicted with similar accuracy
- STABLE tended towards lower accuracy

Implications for Practice

- Supports continued use of Static-99R in BC (for sexual recidivism only)
- STABLE-2007 works for Aboriginal offenders, but trends towards lower accuracy predicting sexual recidivism compared to Caucasian offenders
  - Use with caution
  - VRS-SO may be better validated with this group, but further research needed.

Questions? Handouts?
Lmaaikehelmus@gmail.com