

Violence Risk Scale (VRS) & Violence Risk Scale – Sexual Offense Version (VRS-SO)

User Guidelines

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These *User Guidelines* apply to the Violence Risk Scale (VRS, Wong & Gordon, 2000-18) and/or Violence Risk Scale-Sex Offender Version (VRS-SO; Wong, Olver, Nicholaichuk, Gordon, 2003-17). The use of the VRS/VRS-SO only for research purposes does not require formal training. However, to maximize the reliable and valid administration of the scale, training is recommended. We are always interested in additional data on the VRS/VRS-SO and invite you to contact us should you be interested in adding your data to our research bank. We will not publish any of your data without your expressed permission. Those who use the VRS/VRS-SO for clinical purposes should receive appropriate training. Information concerning future VRS/VRS-SO training can be obtained by contacting us at the above email addresses.

We concur with the recommendations by Hare (2003) regarding the appropriate use of assessment tools, such as the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised. Questions regarding who is qualified to administer and use an assessment tool “are issues more properly addressed by the test publisher, professional organizations and other regulatory bodies, and by informed and competent evaluation in the courts” (Hare, 2003; p 16). Following are our recommended guidelines for the VRS/VRS-SO.

There are two levels of usage for the VRS/VRS-SO.

First Level Usage:

Rate the VRS/VRS-SO static and dynamic variables using interview and file information, sum the scores, calculate pro-rated scores, and identify treatment targets, strengths, and treatment readiness using the VRS/VRS-SO dynamic variable scores.

First Level Usage Qualifications:

Possess a post-secondary degree or diploma in an area of social or human services or health care studies, such as psychiatric nursing, or other related post-secondary education, plus appropriate training in the use of the VRS/VRS-SO. In the absence of such academic background or training, supervision by someone with the appropriate first or second-level qualifications and experience is required for first level usage.

Second Level Usage:

First level usage plus interpretation of the total VRS/VRS-SO pre- and/or post-treatment scores in terms of level of risk in relationship to normative samples, interpretation of any changes in risk, and providing treatment or other recommendations for decision making purposes incorporating VRS/VRS-SO ratings.

Second Level Usage Qualifications:

Possess an advanced academic degree in the social, medical or behavioral sciences such as M.A., M.Ed., M.S.W., Ph.D., D.Ed., or M.D., and/or have appropriate professional credentials such as registration with the local state or provincial registration body that regulates the practice of the profession, plus appropriate training in the use of the VRS/VRS-SO. In the absence of such credentials, supervision by someone with the appropriate second-level qualifications and experience is required for second level usage.

A qualified person who is supervising the assessment should take responsibility for users who do not meet all the above qualifications.

To purchase VRS and/or VRS-SO manuals, please visit <http://www.psynergy.ca>. or contact us directly. Please do not hesitate to contact us via email should you require additional information.