



Implementation of a RNR-assessment instrument – experiences and preliminary results

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Agenda

- The RNR-A instrument
- RNR-A and sentence planning
- Experiences and preliminary results
- Conclusions and forward challenges



Background

- ✓ Documented problems with sentence planning
- ✓ Limited use of assessment instruments
- ✓ Unstructured estimation of risk level
- ✓ Backward registration rather than future planning
- ✓ Difficult to follow client's progress



Purpose of the RNR-A

- ✓ Foundation for better targeted client interventions
- ✓ To be used with all SPPS clients (approx. 20 000 yearly)
- ✓ Assess static and dynamic risk factors (needs) and responsivity in a simple yet structured way
- ✓ Based on RNR and Central Eight

RNR-A Structure

Part A information collected from Police and SPPS records

1. Criminal History

Part B addressed with a client interview

2. Antisocial Personality Pattern

3. Procriminal Attitudes

4. Procriminal Associates

5. Substance Abuse

6. Family/Marital

7. School/Work

8. Leisure/Recreation

+ Somatic & Mental Illness



Central eight
risk factors
(Andrews &
Bonta, 2017)



RNR-A item examples

Part A: 15 file-based items regarding history of antisocial behavior

A1. How many times has the client previously been convicted?

Free text, only whole numbers in numerical form

A2. Has the client been convicted in Sweden during the last 5 years in freedom?

0 = No, the client is not previous convicted or more than 5 years of freedom have passed since the last conviction
1 = Yes, the client has been convicted, but only once, in the past 5 years in freedom
2 = Yes, the client has been convicted on two or more occasions during the last 5 years of freedom

A3. Has the client previously been convicted of violent crimes?

0 = Nej
1 = Yes, but only once convicted of a violent crime
2 = Yes, convicted of violent crimes twice or more

A4. At what age was the client first convicted?

0 = Over the age of 20
1 = 18-20 years old
2 = Under the age of 18
X = The client has not previously been convicted of crimes



RNR-A item examples

Part B: 72 interview-based items from remaining 7 Central Eight risk factor domains including somatic and mental illness

B61. Does it sometimes happen that you need to use violence in order to take care of situations?

0 = No

1 = Possibly/partially

2 = Yes

N = Do not know / will not answer

B64. If someone has challenged you to a physical fight, have you sometimes been able to leave the place without getting into the fight?

0 = Yes

1 = Possibly/partially

2 = No

N = Do not know / will not answer



RNR-A process

1. Completion of file-based Part A + client interview based Part B
2. Computerized decision-aid sums up number and constellations of risks and needs factors according to existing literature
 - ✓ Suggests re-offending risk levels (low-medium-high) separately for general criminality/violence, intimate partner violence and sexual offending
 - ✓ Suggests need levels (low-medium-high)
 - ✓ Guides manual assessment of client responsivity to available treatments and interventions
 - ✓ The RNR-A result does not affect the type of penalty or the length of the sentence

Val av möjliga insatser

Val	Behovsområden	Medel	Hög	Insatser	Matchade insatser
<input type="radio"/>	Antisocial historia ?	Medel	Hög	Behandlingsprogram <input type="checkbox"/> VPP 87 <input type="checkbox"/> Entré <input type="checkbox"/> ÅP - Kriminalitet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Puls <input type="checkbox"/> Extern behandling: fritext <input type="checkbox"/> VPP 37 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ros uppföljning <input type="checkbox"/> Ros fördjupning <input type="checkbox"/> Ros grupp <input type="checkbox"/> Ros individ <input type="checkbox"/> Ros intro <input type="checkbox"/> Idap <input type="checkbox"/> Idap uppföljning <input type="checkbox"/> Relationsvårdsprogrammet <input type="checkbox"/> Brottsbrytet <input type="checkbox"/> One-to-One <input type="checkbox"/> ETS <input type="checkbox"/> R&R2ADHD	Antisocial historia Ros uppföljning Puls
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prokriminella attityder och värderingar ? Petrus har ett stort behov av.....	Medel	Hög		Prokriminella attityder o Ros uppföljning Puls
<input type="radio"/>	Prokriminellt umgänge ? Petrus har i bekanshops kretsen.....	Medel	Hög		Prokriminellt umgänge Ros uppföljning Puls
<input type="radio"/>	Antisocialt personlighetsmönster ?	Medel	Hög		Antisocialt personlighet Ros uppföljning Puls
<input type="radio"/>	Missbruk och beroende ?	Medel	Hög		
<input type="radio"/>	Familj och relationer ?	Medel	Hög		Strukturerade samtal <input type="checkbox"/> Handläggarsamtal <input type="checkbox"/> Sjukvårdskontakt <input type="checkbox"/> Lekmannaovervakare <input type="checkbox"/> Psykolosamtal



The use of "in depth" risk assessment in the SPPS

- ✓ In most cases, RNR-A is expected to be a sufficient basis for assessing a client's risk and needs.
- ✓ Nevertheless there is a need for using SPJ-instruments such as HCR-20, SVR-20 and SARA in complex and difficult cases in the pre-sentence process and in the sentence planning.
- ✓ Some treatment program includes an internal risk and need assessment.



Evaluation areas

- Pilot study (2012-2013)
- Convergent validity risk assessment (2017)
- Predictive validity $\overleftrightarrow{\text{risk}}$ assessment (2018-2019)
- Matching client needs interventions



Feasibility testing

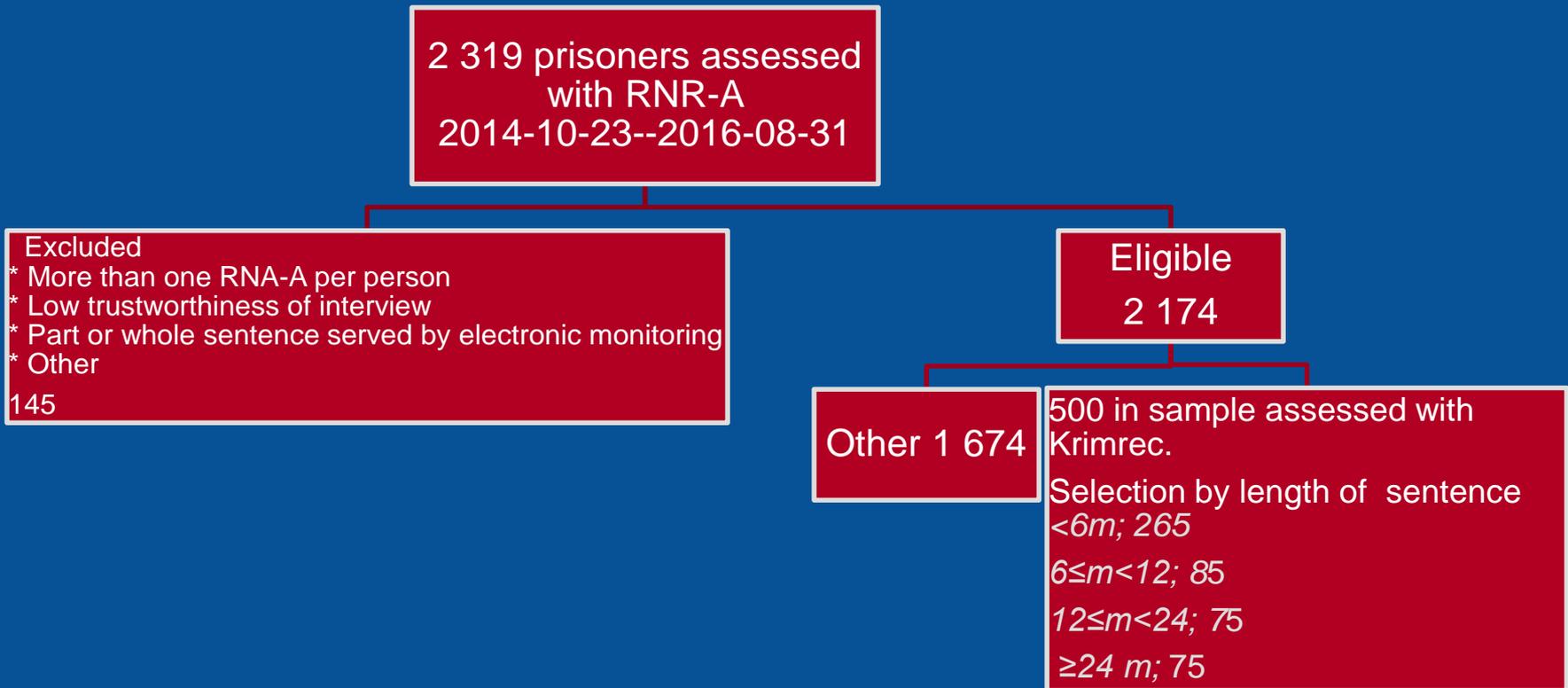
RNR-A prototype tested by 36 prison- and probation officers in the pilot study 2012-2013:

- ✓ 240 completed RNR-A, taking about 2 hours each to complete (interview time 35-40 minutes)
- ✓ The RNR-A items generally exhibited high interrater reliability
- ✓ The clients found the format acceptable
- ✓ Facilitates investigation of pro-criminal attitudes and beliefs, and antisocial personality patterns
- ✓ The RNR-A raised the quality of the sentence planning work

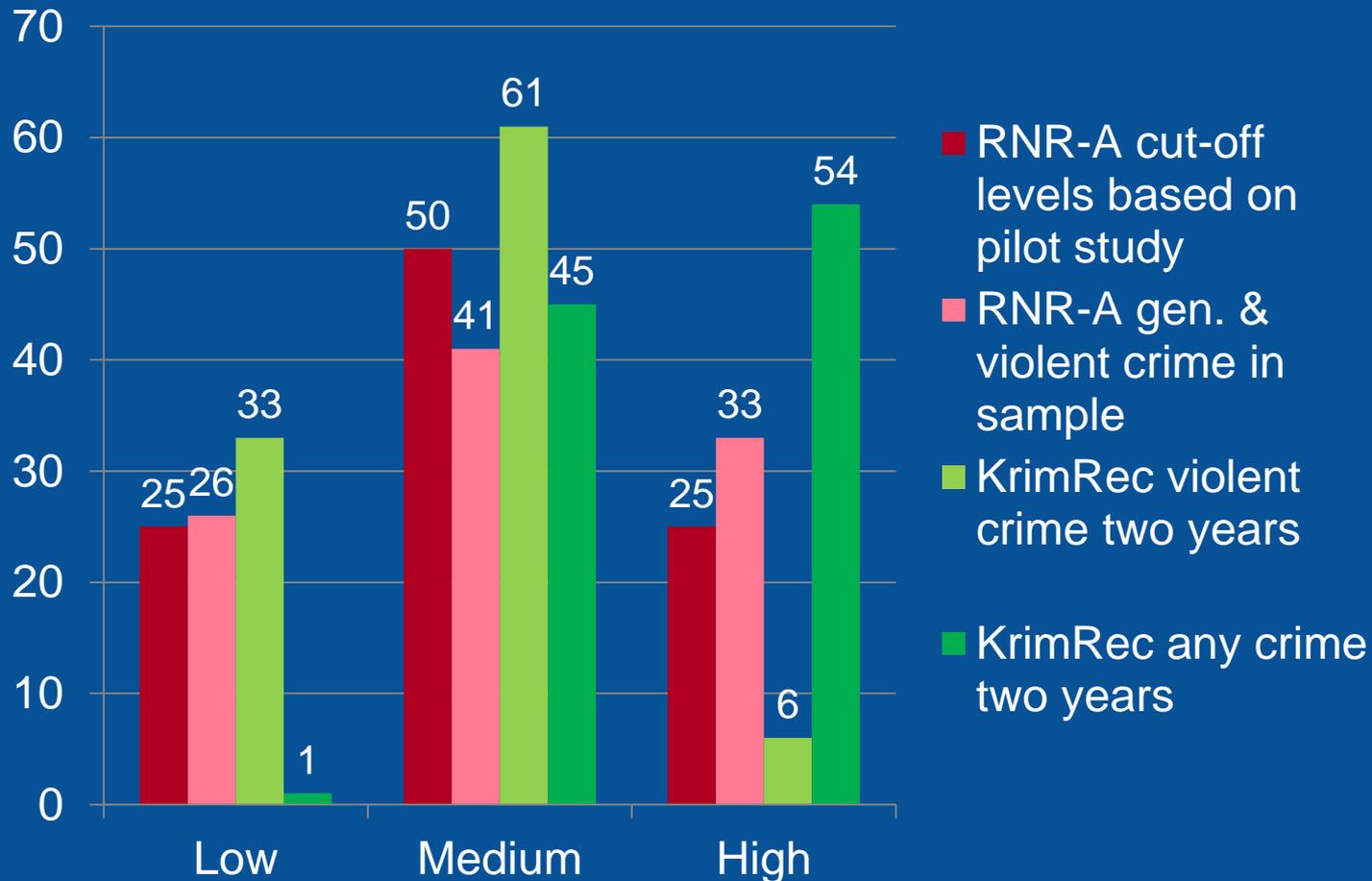
→ Concluded that RNR-A prototype, with minor adjustments, feasible to apply throughout the SPSS



RNR-A sample



Percent per risk level in RNR-A and KrimRec for 500 in sample.





Pearson's correlation between RNR-A and KrimRec

	Riskområde i KrimRec	
	Risk of reoffending in any crime within two years. Min. values	Risk of reoffending in violent crime within two years. Min. values
Risk of reoffending in general criminality & violent crime in RNR-A based on static and dynamic factors.	0,72***	0,60***



Findings

- ✓ Poor agreement between categories in RNR-A vs. categories in Krimrec
- ✓ Some compliance between scale in RNR-A vs. categories in Krimrec
- ✓ Statistical significant compliance between scale in RNR-A vs. scale in Krimrec



Conclusions

- ✓ The RNR-A is an important contribution to our comprehensive sentence planning system
- ✓ Preliminary results indicate promising validity
- ✓ 'Low'/'medium'/'high' categories seem problematic; both regarding convergent validity, sentence planning and risk communication
- ✓ Evaluations to biased towards 'predictive validity' – are there more fruitful ways to evaluate the true purpose, risk management?



Thank you!

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Comparison of categories

RNR-A			KrimRec		
Risk of reoffending in general criminality & violent crime based on static and dynamic factors. Numbers and percent			Risk of reoffending in any crime within two years. Numbers and percent per risklevel in RNR-A.		
Level	Total	Percent	Low	Medium	High
Low	124	26 %	7 (6%)	109 (88%)	8 (6%)
Medium	201	41 %	0 (0%)	87 (45%)	106 (55%)
High	157	33 %	0 (0%)	16 (10%)	141 (90%)
Total	474	100 %	7 (1%)	212 (45%)	155 (54%)

*Index of validity=0,50 Index for negative outcome = 0,02 Index by chance=0,36
Kappa=0,21(c.i. 0,15-0,27) weighted Kappa=0,33 (0,28-0,38) to 0,40=weak*

RNR-A			KrimRec		
Risk of reoffending in general criminality & violent crime based on static and dynamic factors. Numbers and percent			Risk of reoffending in any violent crime within two years. Numbers and percent per risklevel in RNR-A.		
Level	Total	Percent	Low	Medium	High
Low	136	28 %	108 (79%)	28 (21%)	0 (0%)
Medium	195	40 %	46 (24%)	137 (70%)	12 (6%)
High	157	32 %	8 (5%)	131 (83%)	18 (11%)
Total	488	100 %	162 (33%)	296 (61%)	30 (6%)

*Index of validity=0,54 Index for negative outcome = 0,02 Index the chance=0,35
Kappa=0,29 (c.i. 0,22-0,35) weighted Kappa=0,38 (0,32-0,44) to 0,40=weak*