

RESPONSE TO QUESTION: 110521: RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR YOUNG ADULT OFFENDERS AND ITS CONSISTENCY WITH THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR SENTENCE

Do young adults (over 18 years of age) remain to serve a sentence in the same correctional facility as juvenile offenders?

The measure for young adults under Article 61 SCC and the institutionally executed custodial measure under juvenile criminal law (Article 15 JStG, so-called "accommodation") are executed in the same correctional facilities. The focus of the treatment of both groups of persons is on promoting personal development, dealing with offences and vocational training.

If yes, what is their legal status (e.g. they serve a sentence as adults or as juveniles)?

If the measure for young adults under Article 61 SCC does not appear to be suitable for the treatment of the offender or for the prevention of recidivism, another sentence under adult criminal law can also be ordered – in this case the sentence is carried out in a custodial institution for adult offenders of all age categories.

In this specific situation, which risk assessment tools (for juveniles or adults) do you use?

Risk assessment of adolescents and young adults' places per se high demands on the professionals who deal with it. To use assessment tools properly specific training is required.

It is even more difficult to answer questions about how to generally deal with juveniles who come of age while in the penal system. The sentences and the punitive measures and sanctions of juvenile offenders differ considerably from those of adult offenders. However, because young adult offenders very often show a developmental delay, it is generally advisable to use various assessment tools as well as assessment tools for juveniles in this population (in addition to adult risk assessment tools).

Risk assessment tools for juveniles allow to identify situational influences, social and familial embedding, the influence of peer groups as well as the developmental stage. Those factors play potentially an important role. Moreover, adolescent-specific dynamic risk factors are directly linked to the development of delinquent behaviour and should be addressed in therapy or in further interventions to reduce the risk of reoffending (e.g. lack of impulse control, criminal attitudes). The most frequently used prognostic assessment tools in the German-speaking part of Switzerland are the following:

Risk assessment tools for juveniles and young adults including predictive validity from meta-analyses (correlation coefficients, area under the curve from receiver operating analyses):

instrument	short name	authors (year)	age	type	validity (r)	validity (AUC)	available
Criteria for assessing the recidivism risk of particularly dangerous offenders (version 2)	Dittmann Liste	Dittman (1999)	(juveniles) adults	clinically guided	k.A.	k.A.	(Dittman n, 2000)
Violence Risk Appraisal Guide-revised	VRAG-R	Harris et al. (2015)	(juveniles) adults	actuarial	--	0.77 (G) ¹	(Harris et al., 2015)
Hare Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version	PCL:YV	Sevecke, Krischer (2014)	14-18	Structured Assessment	0.48 (A)	0.73 (A)	Hogrefe eContent
Structures Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth	SAVRY	Borum, Bartel and Forth (2006)	12-18	Structured Assessment	0.33 (A) ² 0.31 (G) ² 0.06 (S) ²	0.71(A) ³	www.pari nc.com
Youth Level of Service / Case Management Inventory	YLS / CMI	(Hoge & Andrews, 2006)	12-17	Structured Assessment	0.32 (A) ² 0.26 (G) ² 0.20 (S) ²	--	www.mh s.com
Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II	J-SOAP-II	Prentky and Righthand (2003)	12-18	actuarial (mechanical)	0.66 (A) ⁴ 0.67 (S) ⁴	0.66 (A) ⁴ 0.67 (S) ⁴	www.fori o.ch
Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism	ERASOR	Worling and Curwen (2001)	12-18	Structured Assessment	0.59 (A) ⁴ 0.66 (S) ⁴	0.59 (A) ⁴ 0.66 (S) ⁴	www.fori o.ch
Protective + Risk Observations For Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism	PROFESOR	Worling et al. (2017)	12-25	Structured Assessment	k.A.	k.A.	www.prof esor.ca/
Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk	SAPROF	de Vries Robbé (2007)	Adult	Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk		0.85 (A) 0.83 (S)	www.sap rof.com
Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk - Youth Version	SAPROF - Youth Version	Van der Hoeven Kliniek (2016)	12-23	Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk			www.sap rof.com/i ndex- 11.html

Note: r = mean correlation coefficients for criminal recidivism: 0-0.2 none/very low, 0.2-0.5 low, 0.5-0.7 medium, 0.7-1.0 high to very high; AUC= Area under the Curve (measure of predictive quality based on Receiver Operating Characteristic Analyses, AUC: 0. 5-0.7 low, 0.7-0.8 moderate, >0.8 good); A=general delinquency, G=violent offences, S=sexual offences; 1(Olver, Stockdale & Wormith, 2009) 2(Singh et al., 2011); 3(Viljoen, Mordell & Beneteau, 2012); 5 (M. de Vries Robbé & V. de Vogel 2012)

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In addition to the risk factors, however, protective factors must also be identified. They are important in supporting the resocialisation and reintegration processes of juveniles or young adults who have committed offences. Protective factors are, on one hand, general protective factors for delinquent developments (e.g. good relationships with authority figures, positive attitude towards punitive measure) and, on the other hand, resilience factors (resistance), which can be activated by a juvenile or young adult when stresses arise (e.g. distancing from antisocial influences, active coping strategies in dealing with problems that arise).

For further information regarding risk assessment for juveniles offenders please contact Cornelia Bessler, scientific collaborator , Research and Development, Correctional Service of Zurich, cornelia.bessler@ji.zh.ch,
Liaison person in Switzerland for the KMS: Laura von Mandach, Head of Knowledge and Analysis, Swiss Centre of Expertise in Prison and Probation, SCEPP, laura.vonmandach@skjv.ch