

Risk Matrix 2000

Risk Matrix 2000 is a static actuarial instrument similar to Static-99R though it is somewhat easier to score. It provides recidivism risk estimates for sexual offending and for non-sexual violence. It can be used with individuals who have committed internet sexual offenses, as well as with those who have committed more traditional kinds of sexual offense.

Risk Matrix 2000 has norms based on representative samples which are not distorted by the inclusion of earlier release cohorts (Lehmann et al. 2016)¹.

Inter-rater reliability for Risk Matrix 2000 is high for trained raters (Wakeling et al., 2011)².

Its predictive value has been established across 16 samples involving sexual recidivism follow up of over ten thousand individuals³. This meta-analysis included data from Canada, Denmark, England & Wales, Germany, Scotland, and the USA. More recently the scale has also been tested in Austria⁴.

This instrument is widely used in some parts of the world but is less familiar in the USA. Kelley et al reported that just under one in ten of the evaluators in her survey had used it in the last twelve months.

Risk Matrix 2000 can be combined with psychological risk factors using a two-dimensional table (Helmus et al., 2015⁵) or risk category adjustment (Thornton & Knight, 2009⁶). It does, however, need adjustment to be applied to persons aged over 60. For persons in this age band the risk category should be adjusted down one level to match the observed recidivism rates for this age group⁷.

¹ Lehmann RJB, Thornton D, Helmus LM, Hanson RK. Developing Nonarbitrary Metrics for Risk Communication: Norms for the Risk Matrix 2000. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. 2016;43(12):1661-1687. doi:10.1177/0093854816651656

² Wakeling, H.C., Mann, R.E., & Milner, R.J. (2011). Interrater reliability of Risk Matrix 2000/s. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 55(8), 1324-1337. DOI: 10.1177/0306624X11386933

³ Helmus, J., Babchishin, K.M., & Hanson, R.K. (2013). The predictive accuracy of the Risk Matrix 2000: A meta-analysis. *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 8 (2).

⁴ Thornton, D., Eberhaut, S., Ambroziak, G., & Eher, R. (2020). Assessment of Relative Risk for Sexual and Violent Recidivism With Risk Matrix 2000. *Sexual Offending: Theory, Research, and Prevention*, 15(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.5964/sotrap.3129>

⁵ Helmus, L., Hanson, R.K. Babchishin, K.M., & Thornton, D. (2015) Sex offender risk assessment with the Risk Matrix 2000: validation and guidelines for combining with the STABLE-2007, *Journal of Sexual Aggression: An international, interdisciplinary forum for research, theory and practice*, 21:2, 136-157, DOI: 10.1080/13552600.2013.870241

⁶ Thornton, D. & Knight, R. (2009). Using SRA Need Domains based on Structured Judgment to revise Relative Risk Assessments based on Static-2002 and Risk Matrix 2000. Paper presented at the 28th ATSA Annual Research and Treatment Conference on October 1st, 2009 in Dallas, Texas

⁷ Thornton, D. & Helmus, M. (2015). Adjusting Risk Matrix Categories for Older Age and Time Offense-Free. Paper presented at the 2015 ATSA Conference in Montreal, Canada, October 16th.

