

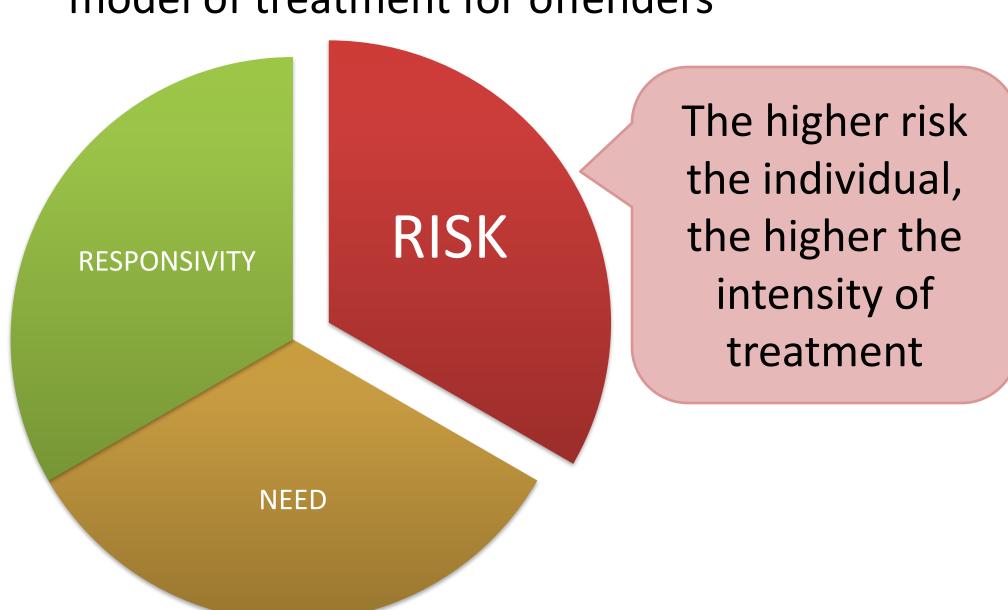
Are we on the same page?

Comparing the perceptions of professionals on overall sexual violence risk

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Introduction

- Risk assessment is used to determine how likely an individual is to re-offend
 - Many different measures are available and all of them use categories to summarize offender risk
- "Low", "moderate", and "high" are commonly used risk categories
 - They are interpreted differently among professionals
 - They are not consistent among different measures
- The RNR model is the most evidence-based model of treatment for offenders



- Yet, no guidelines as to how to quantify the intensity of treatment
- Some clinical interpretation is required

Objectives

- This study will attempt to answer 3 questions:
- How do professionals perceive different risk categories?
- What intensity of treatment would they assign to a given level of risk?
- How do their political attitudes, general views on sexual offenders and punitive attitudes influence perceptions?

Methods

 Members of the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) will be asked to complete an online survey and given the following



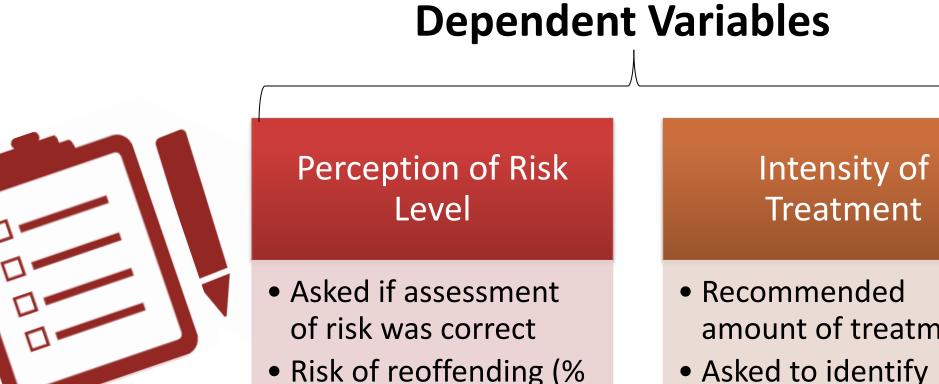
Referral type:

(provide details)

O Vignette: in the form of a referral request that describes an individual who has offended sexually at one of the following 3 risk levels:

(MODERATE RISK

O Questionnaires: (A) demographic and professional information, (B) dependent variables, and (C) individual attitudes (political, offender, criminal justice)



who will reoffend)

amount of treatment Asked to identify areas to treat

Survey of Political Attitudes

• 13 items, modified • Liberal- vs. conservative-leaning attitudes

Attitudes Towards Sexual Offenders Survey (ATS-21)

Individual Attitudes

- 21 items, modified
- Attitudes on trust, intent, and social distance about sexual offenders

Juror Bias Scale

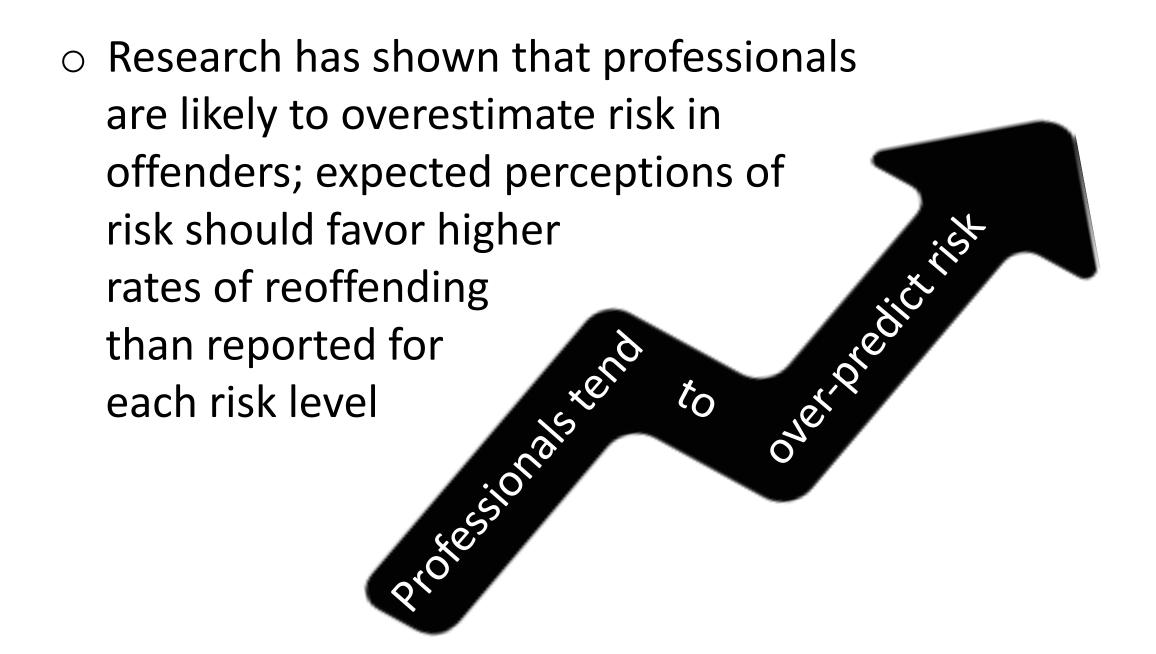
• 21 items, modified Attitudes about criminal justice system (prosecution vs. defense)

Detail KEY bullet point Date of Birth: Last grade completed Have there been previous assessments? Yes \square No \square Were the recommendations of the previous assessment applied: Yes \square No \square Index conviction: Any Conditions? Yes □ No □ Has risk evaluation been completed? Yes ☐ No ☐

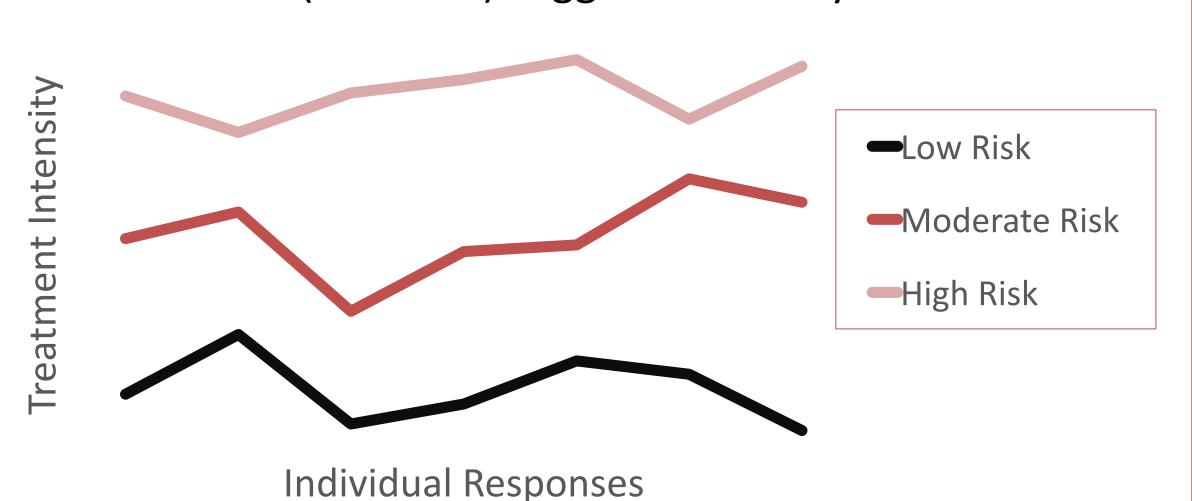
Referral Form

Expected Results

- Analyses of dependent variables:
 - o Between group comparisons conducted on perceptions of risk and treatment for participants randomly assigned to vignettes with one of the three levels of offender risk



 Although professionals will adhere to the Risk Principle of RNR, there should be visible differences in the amount of treatment (in weeks) suggested for any level of risk



Stepwise regression analyses of individual attitudes and whether they contribute to perceptions of risk

Expect attitudes will contribute to risk perceptions over and above risk category

Model 1 and Model compared	p
Model 1: Risk Category	*
Model 2: Risk Category + Survey of Political Attitudes	*
Model 1: Risk Category	*
Model 2: Risk Category + Attitudes Towards Sexual Offenders Survey (ATS-21)	*
Model 1: Risk Category	*
Model 2: Risk Category + Juror Bias Scale	*

Implications

- Provide insight into professional perceptions of risk
- Reveal how perceptions influence predictions of reoffending and treatment decisions
- Indicate if perceptions of risk are influenced by specific traits or preexisting attitudes

