



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Sex Offender Policy Board

# **Risk Assessment of Sex and Kidnapping Offenders: A Review of Practices and Training Needs in Washington State**

Amelie Pedneault, Ph.D.  
Washington State University

Leah R. Fisher, M.S.  
Washington State Sex Offender Policy Board  
Washington State Statistical Analysis Center

**September 2016**

## Contents

Sex Offender Policy Board Membership .....	3
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	5
Introduction.....	5
Results .....	5
<b>Introduction</b> .....	7
<b>Data and Methods</b> .....	7
<b>Results</b> .....	9
Risk Assignment Process.....	9
Materials and Tools Considered .....	9
Factors Considered When Departing from ESRC Recommendation.....	11
Appeal Process.....	11
Obstacles to Timely Assessments .....	12
Training Needs.....	12
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	14
<b>References for Risk Assessment Tools Cited in Text</b> .....	16
<b>Appendix A</b> .....	17

## Sex Offender Policy Board Membership

### Department of Corrections

Keri Waterland, Assistant Secretary: Offender  
Change Division (OCD) (Chair)  
PO Box 41101  
Olympia, WA 98504-1101  
(360-725-8335)  
(E-mail: [keri.waterland@doc.wa.gov](mailto:keri.waterland@doc.wa.gov))

### Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

Andrea Piper-Wentland  
Executive Director  
4317 6th Ave SE Ste 102  
Olympia, WA 98503  
(360-754-7583 ext. 111)  
(E-mail: [andrea@wcsap.org](mailto:andrea@wcsap.org))

### Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

Sheriff Kendle Allen  
Stevens County Sheriff's Office  
215 South Oak Street  
Colville, WA 99114  
(509-684-2419)  
(E-mail: [kallen@co.stevens.wa.us](mailto:kallen@co.stevens.wa.us))

### Office of Crime Victims Advocacy

Richard Torrance, Managing Director  
Office of Crime Victims Advocacy  
PO Box 42525  
Olympia, WA 98504-2525  
(360-725-2905)  
(E-mail: [richard.torrance@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:richard.torrance@commerce.wa.gov))

### Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association

Hon. Roger Rogoff  
King County Superior Court  
1211 East Alder Street  
Seattle, WA 98122  
(206-477-1611)  
(E-mail: [roger.rogoff@kingcounty.gov](mailto:roger.rogoff@kingcounty.gov))

### Indeterminate Sentence Review Board

Jeff Patnode (Vice-Chair)  
Board Member  
PO Box 40907  
Olympia, WA 98504-0907  
(360-493-9270)  
(E-mail: [jeff.patnode@doc.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.patnode@doc.wa.gov))

### Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

Jonathan Meyer  
345 W Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl  
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900  
(360-740-2638)  
(E-mail: [jonathan.meyer@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:jonathan.meyer@lewiscountywa.gov))

### DSHS - Rehabilitation Administration

Jedd Pelander, Program Administrator: Youth  
Who Sexually Offend and Interstate Compact  
PO Box 45720  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360-902-7952)  
(E-mail: [jedd.pelander@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:jedd.pelander@dshs.wa.gov))

### Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Brad Meryhew  
The Meryhew Law Group, PLLC  
600 First Ave Ste 512  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206-264-1590)  
(E-mail: [brad@meryhewlaw.com](mailto:brad@meryhewlaw.com))

### Washington Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

Michael A. O'Connell, Ph.D., MSW  
19009 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue W Ste 206  
Lynnwood, WA 98036  
(425-741-1405)  
(E-mail: [moconnel@mindspring.com](mailto:moconnel@mindspring.com))

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

### **Washington State Association of Counties**

Joyce McDonald, Councilmember  
930 Tacoma Ave. S.  
Room 1046  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253-798-6694)  
(Email: [jmcdon2@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:jmcdon2@co.pierce.wa.us))

### **DSHS - Special Commitment Center**

Holly Coryell, Clinical Director  
PO Box 88450  
Steilacoom, WA 98388  
(253-583-5931)  
(E-mail: [holly.coryell@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:holly.coryell@dshs.wa.gov))

### **Association of Washington Cities**

Candice Bock  
Government Relations Advocate  
1076 Franklin Street SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
(360-753-4137)  
(E-mail: [candiceb@awc.net](mailto:candiceb@awc.net))

Daniel Yanisch, Psychologist  
PO Box 88450  
Steilacoom, WA 98388  
(253-583-5951)  
(E-mail: [daniel.yanisch@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:daniel.yanisch@dshs.wa.gov))

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

In October 2015 Governor Jay Inslee requested that the Sex Offender Policy Board convene and undertake several projects related to Washington's sex offender management system. One item asked the Board to provide summaries of Washington state's current sex offender registration and notification statutes and practices to assist policy makers in evaluating proposed legislative changes. To fulfill this request and gain insight into the processes used by various agencies, an online survey of Registered Sex Offender Coordinators was conducted.

The survey had two aims:

1. Review and summarize the risk assignment procedures with which law enforcement agencies throughout Washington state assign levels of risk to sexual offenders. Specifically, the following aspects of the risk assignment process are reviewed:
  - Tools and materials considered;
  - Existence of an initial risk level classification appeal process;
  - Obstacles to timely risk assignments;
  - Specific procedure applicable when assigning a risk level to juvenile offenders.
2. Review and summarize training opportunities that are pertinent to assignment of risk for sexual offenders. The following two aspects of risk assignment training are reviewed:
  - Current opportunities to participate in training activities;
  - Training needs.

## Results

Results of the survey indicated that four items were systematically considered by a majority of respondents in rating unrated or previously classified offenders:

- Circumstances of sexual offense(s);
- Static-99R score;
- ESRC release packet; and
- ESRC recommendation.

One risk assessment tool (Static-99R) was used by a majority of respondents when making a level determination. For risk assessment of adult offenders specifically, three types of materials were used by a majority of respondents:

- Sentencing reports;
- Summary of facts; and
- Mental health reports

In comparison, no risk assessment tool was used by a majority when assessing risk posed by a juvenile offender (although the WSSORLC was used by 46.8% of the respondents), and only three types of materials were used by a majority of respondents:

- Sentencing reports;
- Summary of facts; and
- Mental health reports

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

Divergent practices were observed in leveling decisions that departed from ESRC recommendation. Some agencies did not use criteria outside of the Static-99R when departing from the risk level recommended by the ESRC, but a majority of respondents did.

Most respondents (70%) indicated that there was no formal appeal procedure in their agencies. However, when a process to appeal an initial risk level classification was in place, procedures commonly involved the review of an offender's written request by a committee.

Commonalities in training opportunities and needs were also noted. Respondents reported that training for the Static-99R was the most available form of training. Additionally, a large proportion (almost 90%) of respondents indicated that they would benefit from additional training about risk assessment of sex and kidnapping offenders, demonstrating that more training opportunities may be well received. Respondents were specifically interested in ongoing risk assessment training and automated scoring forms training to improve their risk assessment skills.

### Introduction

In Washington state, sexual and kidnapping offenders who return to the community after a conviction or at the end of their term of incarceration must register with their local law enforcement agency. Each agency is required to classify offenders based on their risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large; Level 1 offenders represent a low level of sexual risk, Level 2 pose a moderate risk, and Level 3 a high risk (RCW 4.24.550 section 6b). The determination of offenders' risk level shall include consideration of available risk level classifications provided by the Department of Corrections (DOC), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB), the agency's own application of a risk assessment tool, and other pertinent information about aggravating or mitigating factors rationally related to the risk posed by the offender to the community at large (RCW 4.24.550 section 6a). State releasing agencies (DOC and DSHS) provide recommendations to law enforcement by way of the End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) (RCW 72.09.345). The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) was tasked with creating a model policy to assist law enforcement agencies in the development of their own policies and procedures regarding sex offender registration and community notification (RCW 4.24.5501). While agencies are advised to create policies and procedures using this model, Washington state operates under a police discretion model. As a result, processes may differ by jurisdiction.

In October 2015 Governor Jay Inslee requested that the Sex Offender Policy Board convene and undertake several projects related to Washington's sex offender management system. One item asked the Board to provide summaries of Washington state's current sex offender registration and notification statutes and practices to assist policy makers in evaluating proposed legislative changes. To fulfill this request and gain insight into the processes used by various agencies, an online survey of Registered Sex Offender Coordinators was conducted.

The present study has two aims:

1. Review and summarize the risk assignment procedures with which law enforcement agencies throughout Washington state assign levels of risk to sexual offenders. Specifically, the following aspects of the risk assignment process are reviewed:
  - Tools and materials considered;
  - Existence of an initial risk level classification appeal process;
  - Obstacles to timely risk assignments;
  - Specific procedure applicable when assigning a risk level to juvenile offenders.
2. Review and summarize training opportunities that are pertinent to assignment of risk for sexual offenders. The following two aspects of risk assignment training are reviewed:
  - Current opportunities to participate in training activities;
  - Training needs.

### Data and Methods

A survey comprising 23 questions about risk level assignment and related training was conducted online by the Washington State Institute for Criminal Justice at the Washington State University from May 12 to June 3, 2016. The survey was anonymous and was administered using Qualtrics, an online data collection tool. An email requesting participation in the survey was sent to a list of 275 addresses provided by WASPC. Attached to each email was a cover letter signed by Thea Mounts,

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

Director of the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center, and a link to the Qualtrics survey. Email reminders to participate in the survey were sent weekly for the duration of the data collection period.

Ninety-three individuals responded to the survey (a response rate of 33.8%). However, there were some indications that the list of addresses did not distinctively target individuals who were specifically responsible for assigning a risk level to sexual offenders in agencies across the state. Notably, WSU received 12 emails indicating that no one from their agency would fill out the survey as that agency did not assign risk levels to sexual offenders. It is possible that there were more agencies in the same situation that did not reply. Some respondents who did fill out the survey reported that their agencies completed zero risk assessments per year and included comments expressing that their agencies did not participate in risk level assignment. The results presented hereafter are based only on the answers provided by the 47 participants who clearly engaged in assigning risk levels to sexual offenders. Considering those limitations, the results obtained are not generalizable to the entire population, but they can shed light on the various practices used to assign risk level to sexual offenders by local agencies.

Results indicated that about half of the respondents (51.1%) were in agencies that served a population of 50,000 or less and that 61.7 percent of respondents completed 10 assessments or fewer on average every year (see Table 1 for more complete information). Because of concern over potentially identifying respondents, population served and average number of assessments completed were the only two respondent characteristics collected.

Table 1. *Descriptive Characteristics of Respondents (n = 47)*

	% of respondents
<i>Population served by agency</i>	
0 -50,000	51.1
50,001-100,000	31.9
100,001-250,000	10.6
250,001-500,000	2.1
500,001 +	4.3
<i>Average number of assessments completed yearly</i>	
1-5	34.0
6-10	27.7
11-15	10.6
16-20	6.4
More 20	21.3



## Results

### Risk Assignment Process

#### Materials and Tools Considered

The first part of the questionnaire asked respondents about the process their agency used to assign a risk level to sexual and kidnapping offenders living within their jurisdiction.

Table 2. *Factors Considered for Risk Assessment of Offenders (n = 47)*

	% of respondents - unrated offender	% of respondents - previously classified offenders
<i>Factors - All offenders</i>		
Static-99R	85.7	82.9
ESRC recommendation	77.5	80.0
Circumstances of offense	94.9	97.1
ESRC release packet	82.5	88.2
Internal committee meeting	64.9	59.4
Written justification if departure	66.7	69.7
Checklist for aggravating or mitigating	68.4	59.4
<i>Factors specific to previously classified offenders</i>		
Previous ESRC recommendation		73.5
Circumstances of all sexual offenses (including prior)		97.1

One of the survey's principle questions investigated the nature of the factors an agency reviewed when determining the risk level posed by a sexual offender. Table 2 summarizes the frequency of consideration of specific factors for both unrated and previously classified offenders. Results indicated that four factors were considered by a majority of respondents for assigning a risk level for both the unrated and previously classified offenders: Static-99R (85.7% of respondents for unrated and 82.9% for previously classified), circumstances of sexual offenses (94.9% and 97.1%), ESRC release packet (82.5% and 88.2%), and ESRC recommendation (77.5% and 80.0%).

With regard to risk assessment specifically for adult offenders, results indicated that the four materials and tools that were used by a majority were the Static-99R (72.3%), sentencing reports (63.8%), summary of facts (59.6%), and mental health reports (57.4%) (see Table 3 for more details).

Table 3. *Materials and Tools Used to Assess the Risk of Adult Offenders (n = 47)*

	% of respondents
Static-99R	72.3
WSSORLC	38.3
Victim statement	29.8
Summary of facts	59.6
Sentencing reports	63.8
Mental health reports	57.4
Plethysmograph or polygraph	23.4
MnSOST-R	14.9
Static-2002R	4.3
Stable-2007 / Acute-2007	0.0
Other	19.1

Table 4 describes the types of materials used by respondents when administering a risk assessment to a juvenile. Results indicated that only three types of materials were considered by more than half of the respondents in the risk assessment of juveniles: sentencing reports (61.7%), summary of facts (59.6%), and mental health reports (53.2%). The WSSORLC (Washington State Sex Offender Risk Level Classification) was used by 46.8 percent of the respondents and was the only risk assessment tool that was used often by the sample.

Table 4. *Materials and Tools Used to Assess the Risk of Juvenile Offenders (n = 47)*

	% of respondents
Static-99R	36.2
WSSORLC	46.8
Victim statement	34.0
Summary of facts	59.6
Sentencing reports	61.7
Mental health reports	53.2
Plethysmograph or polygraph	25.5
JRAS	27.7
J-SOAP-II	17.0
J-SORRAT-II	12.8
Other	14.9

### Factors Considered When Departing from ESRC Recommendation

More than half of the respondents (55.3%) reported that they considered factors other than the Static-99R when deciding to depart from the ESRC's level recommendation. Table 5 presents the frequency with which these factors are considered. No factor was considered across a majority of respondents, but many factors were considered by a portion of them: 38.3 percent considered previous sexual offense(s), 31.9 percent considered age of victim(s), 29.8 percent considered number of victim(s), 27.7 percent considered injury to victim(s), 25.5 percent considered extrafamilial victim(s), 25.5 percent considered previous failure to register, and 23.4 percent considered participation in treatment.

Table 5. *Frequency of Factors Considered When Departing From ESRC Recommendation (n = 47)*

	% of respondents
Age of victim(s)	31.9
Number of victim(s)	29.8
Extrafamilial victim(s)	25.5
Injury to victim(s)	27.7
Location of sexual offense(s)	17.0
Previous failure to register	25.5
Previous sexual offense(s)	38.3
Participation in sex offender treatment	23.4
Plethysmograph evaluation	4.3
Polygraph evaluation	17.0
Other	8.5

An analysis of the qualitative answers of respondents who chose “other” reveal that this response option mostly captured additional information provided by community corrections and law enforcement, specifically regarding behavioral patterns and compliance with conditions. One respondent also mentioned considering the physical health of the offender, suggesting that some health conditions incapacitate offenders and should be acknowledged in the evaluation of their risk for sexual re-offense within the community at large.

### Appeal Process

Twenty-eight percent of respondents indicated that a process was in place for an offender to appeal an initial risk assessment classification. Qualitative analysis of the various descriptions of this process indicated that, in most cases, an offender must make a request for reclassification and personally write a letter of justification for the request. In all cases, this appeal request is reviewed, but the identity of the reviewing body varies. One respondent indicated that the review is first evaluated by a sex crime detective who then reports to the undersheriff for final determination, while another respondent indicated that the rater must review his previous assignment of risk and meet with the offender. In most cases, the decision is made by a committee. Some respondents only referred to the “committee” or “board” to explain the appeal process, while others mentioned specifically a

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

“committee comprising the representatives from several local agencies” or a “sex offender leveling committee.”

### Obstacles to Timely Assessments

Respondents also identified some obstacles to conducting timely risk assessment of sexual and kidnapping offenders, outlined in Table 6. Results indicated that the most important obstacle was access to out-of-state records (identified by 70.2% of respondents), followed by a heavy work load (identified by 46.8% of respondents). Qualitative analysis of the responses indicated that the most common issue was getting access to complete files, especially when multiple agencies were involved or when an offender had lived in another state or was in the military. Respondents also reported dealing with missing information because of a lack of records or because some records had been purged.

Table 6. *Frequency of Obstacles to Timely Assessments (n = 47)*

	% of respondents
Work load	46.8
Scoring Static-99R	2.1
Access to records	70.2

### Training Needs

The second part of the survey investigated current training opportunities offered to respondents and training needs. The only risk assessment training that respondents identified having knowledge of was for the Static-99R (70.2%), while a little less than a third (29.8%) reported awareness of training opportunities for the WSSORLC (See Table 7). Training for other types of risk assessment for adult offenders was generally low (0 to 8%). Similar low levels of awareness were observed for juvenile tools, although training for the JRAS (Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale) was higher (21.3%).

Table 7. *Frequency of Training Opportunities Among Respondents (n = 47)*

Training available	% of respondents
Static-99R	70.2
WSSORLC	29.8
JRAS	21.3
J-SOAP-II	8.5
J-SORRAT-II	4.3
MnSOST-R	8.5
Stable 2007 / Acute 2007	2.1
Static-2002R	0.0

Results indicated that 74.4 percent of respondents had attended a Static-99R training session in the past. Among those who had, 20.7 percent had attended one within the last year, 34.5 percent had in the last 1-2 years, and 41.4 percent had done so more than two years ago. In comparison, only a quarter (25.6%) of respondents indicated that they had attended training for the WSSORLC. For

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

those who had, 10 percent did so within the last year, 50 percent sometime between 1-2 years ago, and 40 percent more than two years ago.

Only 2.6 percent of respondents indicated that they considered their training for risk assessment of sex and kidnapping offenders to be sufficient. In comparison, 15.4 percent considered their training to be insufficient, while 74.4 percent indicated that their training was sufficient but that they would benefit from yearly boosters. An analysis of the qualitative responses indicated that issues with time, resources, or knowledge transfer were barriers to official training for some respondents who participated in assigning a risk level to sexual and kidnapping offenders.

Respondents were also asked to rate their interest in participating in various training activities, presented in Figure 1. Two particular types of training received wide support among respondents: ongoing risk assessment training and automated scoring forms training. Almost 95 percent of respondents indicated some interest in participating in ongoing training about risk assessment of sexual and kidnapping offenders (55.5% were very interested and 39.5% were somewhat interested). In addition, almost 80 percent of respondents were interested in using automated scoring forms (42.9% reported being very interested and 42.9% were somewhat interested). The two measures that generated the least interest from respondents were blind scoring and electronic coding. Almost half (48.4%) of all respondents reported no interest in participating in blind scoring and 44.1 percent did so for electronic coding. Blind scoring refers to the scoring of an offender by two evaluators independently, while electronic coding implies scoring an offender with the aid of a computer or over the internet. The only pertinent qualitative comment regarding training was from one respondent who felt strongly that training should be done in person, and not using webinars.

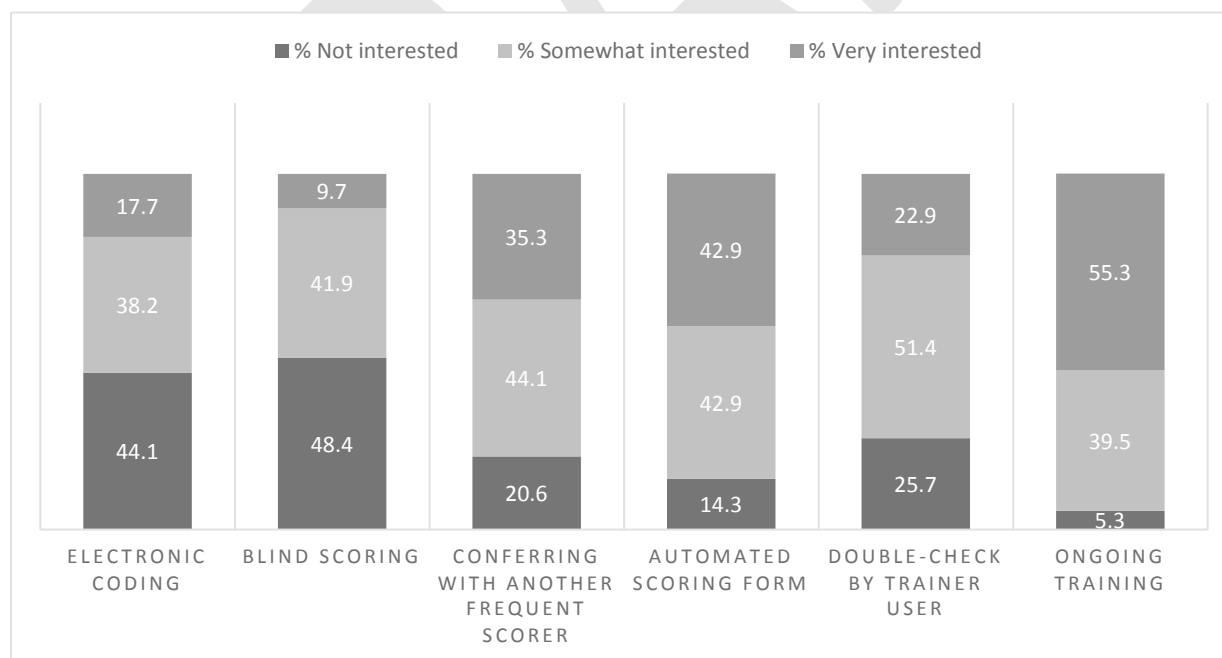


Figure 1. Interest levels in various training activities ( $n = 47$ ).

### Conclusion

Using recommendations from releasing agencies (DOC and DSHS) local law enforcement is responsible for the determination of an offender's final community notification risk level. While advised to use the model policy written by WASPC, local agencies may use discretion to develop their own process to aid in risk level determinations. To better understand the processes followed in agencies in Washington state, an online survey of Registered Sex Offender Coordinators was conducted during Spring 2016. Results show that there are areas of practice that are common across agencies while others may vary.

Results indicated that four items were systematically considered by a majority of respondents in rating unrated or previously classified offenders: circumstances of sexual offense(s), Static-99R, ESRC release packet, and ESRC recommendation. For risk assessment of adult offenders specifically, three types of materials (sentencing reports, summary of facts, and mental health reports) and one risk assessment tool (Static-99R) were used by a majority of respondents. In comparison, only three types of materials were used by a majority of respondents when assessing the risk posed by juvenile offenders (sentencing reports, summary of facts, and mental health reports), but no risk assessment tool was used by a majority (although the WSSORLC was used by 46.8% of the respondents). It is important to note that several respondents identified that they were using inappropriate tools when assessing risk. 38.3 percent of respondents said they used the WSSORLC (a juvenile tool) when assessing adult offenders, and 36.2 percent of offenders maintained that they used the Static-99R (an adult tool) when assessing juvenile offenders. This finding may further reinforce the need for additional and ongoing training opportunities.

Divergent practices were observed in leveling decisions that departed from ESRC recommendation. Some agencies did not use criteria outside of the Static-99R when departing from the risk level recommended by the ESRC, but a majority of respondents did. Moreover, there was substantial diversity in the nature of factors considered, and no factor was considered by more than a third of all respondents. This can possibly lead to inconsistencies in risk assignment across agencies and it is unclear if these items are considered for the purpose of scoring a risk assessment tool or if they are given additional weight. It is important to note that RCW 4.24.550 (6) allows law enforcement to consider "other information and aggravating or mitigating factors known to the agency and deemed rationally related to the risk posed by the offender to the community at large". This statute contributes to the differences in factors considered by law enforcement.

While there is already a standardized checklist of aggravating and mitigating factors available for use, ensuring that these items are empirically validated may ensure consistency across various agencies. Some differences were also noted regarding the process by which an offender can appeal their initial risk level classification. Most respondents (70%) indicated that there was no formal appeal procedure in their agencies. However, when a process to appeal an initial risk level classification was in place, procedures commonly involved the review of an offender's written request by a committee.

Commonalities in training opportunities and needs were also noted. Respondents reported that training for the Static-99R was the most available form of training. Less than 30 percent reported knowing of training opportunities for any other risk assessment tool, including the WSSORLC, which presents a problem for coding consistency as 45 percent of respondents used the WSSORLC

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

to assess the risk posed by juvenile offenders. A large proportion of respondents (40%) who had WSSORLC training had it more than two years ago. It is likely that assessors would benefit from additional WSSORLC training and refreshers, considering its frequent use. Notably, the researchers who developed the Static-99R do not require refreshers to maintain certification. Additionally, Washington does not require assessors participating in leveling activities to attend training, though strongly recommend certification and ongoing education.

A large proportion (almost 90%) of respondents indicated that they would benefit from additional training about risk assessment of sex and kidnapping offenders, indicating that more training opportunities may be well received. Respondents were specifically interested in ongoing risk assessment training and automated scoring forms training to improve their risk assessment skills. Moreover, multiple respondents said they participated in or knew of trainings that are not provided by the state.

Like other surveys, ours had several limitations. First, our sample was quite small which limited the generalizability of the findings. Furthermore, there is a small chance for variance in responses due to participants' misunderstanding of the questions, or misreporting.

In short, a survey of Registered Sex Offender Coordinators was conducted in Spring 2016 in response to the Governor Inslee's request for more information on sex offender management in Washington. Overall, survey findings were positive and showed that many agencies are using the proper tools when assigning risk levels to sex offenders. Additionally, survey responses show a desire and need for additional training opportunities following initial certification.

## References for Risk Assessment Tools Cited in Text

### Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale (JRAS)

Hiscox, S. P., Witt, P. H., & Haran, S. J., (2007). Juvenile risk assessment scale (JRAS): A predictive validity study. *Journal of Psychiatry & Law*, 35(4), 503-539.

### Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol (JSOAP-II)

Prentky, R. A. & Righthand, S. (2003). *Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol II Manual*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

### Juvenile Sex Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Toll (J-SORRAT-II)

Epperson, D. L., Ralston, C. A., Fowers, D., DeWitt, J., & Gore, K. A. (2006). Actuarial risk assessment with juveniles who offend sexually: Development of the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (JSORRAT-II). In D. Prescott (ed.), *Risk assessment of youth who have sexually abused: Theory, controversy, and emerging strategy* (pp. 118-169). Oklahoma city, OK: Wood & Barnes.

### Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool Revised (MnSOST-R)

Epperson, D. L., Kaul, J. D., Huot, S. J., Hesselton, D., Alexander, W., & Goldman, R. (2000). *Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool – Revised*. St-Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Corrections.

### Stable-2007 / Acute-2007

Hanson, R. K., Harris, A. J.R., Scott, T.-L., & Helmus, L. (2007). *Assessing the risk of sexual offenders on community supervision: The dynamic supervision project*. Ottawa, ON: Public Safety Canada.

### Static-99R

Harris, A., Phenix, A., Hanson, R. K., & Thornton, D. (2003). *Static-99 coding rules: Revised 2003*. Ottawa, ON: Department of the Solicitor General of Canada.

### Static-2002R

Phenix, A., Doren, D., Helmus, L., Hanson, R. K., & Thornton, D. (2009) *Coding rules for Static-2002*. Ottawa, ON: Public Safety Canada.

### Washington State Sex Offender Risk Level Classification (WSSORL)

State of Washington Department of Corrections (1999). *Washington State Sex Offender Risk Level Classification*. Olympia, WA: Author.



**Appendix A**  
**Survey Questions**

DRAFT

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

**Q1** Participation in this survey is voluntary, and responses are anonymous. Please complete only one survey per agency.

The survey is conducted to better understand the process utilized by your agency when assigning risk levels to convicted sex and kidnapping offenders. In addition, you will also be asked questions about training resources and needs relative to the use of risk assessments. These questions were developed by the Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) in collaboration with subject matter experts.

Participation in this survey should take less than 15 minutes of your time. The information collected is anonymous and cannot be linked to respondents. All responses will be analyzed as a group and the information gathered will help identify ways in which the state can improve risk assessment training and resources.

**Q2** What is the size of the population your agency serves? ( $n = 47$ )

- 0 - 50,000
- 50,001 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 250,000
- 250,001 - 500,000
- 500,001 +

**Q3** On average, how many assessments of sex and kidnapping offenders do you complete each year? ( $n = 47$ )

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- More than 20

**Q4** In this section of the survey, you will be asked questions about the process utilized in your agency when assessing the risk level of sex and kidnapping offenders when they are released into the community, including those not in treatment and not on supervision.

**Risk Assessment and Training Needs**

**Q5** What is the current process for evaluating an unrated sexual offender? Indicate which of the following actions are part of your agency's process. (*n* = 47)

	Not part of the process	Part of the process
Scoring STATIC-99R	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) recommendation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review circumstances of sexual or kidnapping offense	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review ESRC release packet (i.e., treatment summaries, police reports, psychological evaluations, plethysmographs, polygraphs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal committee meeting and discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write justification if departure from ESRC recommendation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of administrative checklist for review of aggravating and mitigating circumstances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
None of the above	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Risk Assessment and Training Needs**

**Q6** What is the current process for evaluating a previously classified offender? Indicate which of the following actions are part of your agency's process. (*n* = 47)

	Not part of the process	Part of the process
Scoring STATIC-99R	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review most recent ESRC recommendation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review previous ESRC recommendation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review circumstances of sexual or kidnapping offenses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review circumstances of sexual or kidnapping reoffense / recidivism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review ESRC release packet (i.e., treatment summaries, police reports, psychological evaluations, plethysmographs, polygraphs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal committee meeting and discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write justification if departure from ESRC recommendation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of administrative checklist for review of aggravating or mitigating circumstances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
None of the above	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q7** What factor(s) hinder your ability to complete timely assessments of sex and kidnapping offenders? Select all that apply. (*n* = 47)

- Work load
- Scoring STATIC-99R
- Access to out of state records
- Other (Indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

**Q8** What tools and materials does your agency use when completing risk assessment for adult offenders? Select all that apply. (*n* = 47)

- STATIC-99R
- Washington State Sex Offender Risk Level Classification (WSSORLC)
- Statement by victim(s)
- Summary of the facts relative to sex offense(s)
- Sentencing report(s)
- Mental health professional report
- Plethysmograph and/or polygraph reports
- Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised (MnSOST-R)
- STATIC-2002R
- Stable-2007/Acute-2007
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Q9** What tools and materials does your agency use when completing risk assessment for juvenile offenders? Select all that apply. (*n* = 47)

- STATIC-99R
- Washington State Sex Offender Risk Level Classification (WSSORLC)
- Statement by victim(s)
- Summary of the facts relative to sex offense(s)
- Sentencing report(s)
- Mental health professional report
- Plethysmograph and/or polygraph reports
- Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale (JRAS)
- Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol II (J-SOAP-II)
- Juvenile Sexual Offence Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (J-SORRAT-II)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

**Q10** Do you utilize factors other than those provided by the STATIC-99R tool when determining whether or not to depart from the ESRC recommendation? (*n* = 47)

- No
- Yes

Answer If Do you utilize factors other than what is provided by the tool when determining whether or not to depart from the ESRC recommendation? Yes Is Selected

**Q11** Identify the factors that your agency uses to determine whether or not to depart from the ESRC recommendation. Select all that apply. (*n* = 47)

- Age of victim(s)
- Number of victim(s)
- Extrafamilial victim(s)
- Injury to victim(s)
- Location of sex offense(s)
- Previous sexual offense(s)
- Previous failure to register
- Participation in Sex Offender Treatment Program
- Plethysmograph report
- Polygraph report
- None
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Q12** Does your agency have a process for an offender to appeal an initial risk assessment classification? (*n* = 47)

- No
- Yes
- Other (Indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

Answer If Is there a process for an offender to appeal an initial risk assessment classification? Yes Is Selected

**Q13** Describe the appeal process. (*n* = 11)

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

**Q14** The next section of the survey examines your experience with risk assessment training.

**Q15** What risk assessment-related training is available to you? Select all that apply. ( $n = 47$ )

- STATIC-99R
- Washington State Sex Offender Risk Level Classification (WSSORLC)
- Juvenile Risk Assessment Scale (JRAS)
- Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II)
- Juvenile Sexual Offence Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (J-SORRAT-II)
- Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised (MnSOST-R)
- Stable-2007/Acute-2007
- Static-2002R
- Other (Indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q16** Have you attended a WASPC (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs) or DOC (Department of Corrections) sponsored training in the use of the STATIC-99R? ( $n = 47$ )

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

Answer If Have you attended a WASPC or DOC sponsored training in the use of the STATIC-99R? Yes Is Selected

**Q17** How long ago did you receive STATIC-99R training? ( $n = 29$ )

- Within the last year
- 1-2 years ago
- More than 2 years ago
- I do not remember

**Q18** Have you attended a WASPC or DSHS (Department of Social and Health Services) sponsored training in the use of the WSSORLC? ( $n = 47$ )

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

## Risk Assessment and Training Needs

Answer If Have you attended a WASPC or DSHS sponsored training in the use of the WSSORLC? Yes Is Selected

**Q19** How long ago did you receive WSSORLC training? (*n* = 10)

- Within the last year
- 1-2 years ago
- More than 2 years ago
- I do not remember

**Q20** Do you feel that you could benefit from additional training to evaluate the risk level of sex and kidnapping offenders? (*n* = 47)

- No. My training is sufficient.
- Yes. My training is insufficient.
- Yes. My training is sufficient, but I could benefit from yearly boosters.
- Other (Indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

Answer If Do you feel that you could benefit from additional training to evaluate the risk level of sex and... Yes. My training is insufficient. Is Selected

**Q21** Why do you think your training is insufficient? (*n* = 6)

**Q22** Would you or others in your agency be interested in participating in any of the following training activities? (*n* = 47)

	Not interested	Somewhat interested	Very interested
Use of electronic coding manual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engaging in blind scoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conferring with another frequent user	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using an automated scoring form	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having another trained user double check scoring and rationale for consistency with coding rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ongoing training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Indicate)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



**Q23** Type any additional information we should know about the process of determining risk level for sex and kidnapping offenders, or additional training information or needs you have. (*n* = 47)

DRAFT