

Dynamic Risk Variable Definitions

Dynamic risk variables are variables that have been identified through empirical research to increase risk to re-offend. These variables are potentially changeable through treatment, but based on research are unlikely to change without intervention or treatment.

Unstable or Untreated Major Mental Illness (including Mood Disorder -or- Personality Disorder -or- Psychotic Disorder)

When an offender has unstable or untreated psychotic tendencies, severe mood disturbance, or a personality disorder, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Being untreated can include the offender refusing to participate in treatment, being unresponsive to treatment, or not having treatment available.

Negative Mood -or- Anger Issues

When an offender has negative mood issues, such as anger, hostility, paranoia, or homicidal feelings, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Negative mood can also include tendencies for the offender to ruminate over the unfairness of life, hyper-focus on problems, and believe they are owed by the world for the misfortunes they experienced (victim stance).

Poor Emotional Regulation

When an offender has difficulty regulating or controlling their mood, they are considered to be at an increased risk to re-offend. These offenders are often emotionally sensitive, prone to exaggerate issues, and prone towards mood swings. Poor judgment and impulsive behavior can follow. Also, offenders who overly rely on emotional repression and denial are vulnerable to experience poor emotional regulation when life stress overwhelms them.

Poor Impulse Control

When an offender has difficulty controlling their impulses, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. The inability to contain urges, desires, compulsions, and wants increases the likelihood an offender will do what they want, when they want. This creates concern they could once again behave in inappropriate sexual ways.

Fragile Narcissism

When an offender has fragile narcissism, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Offenders with this risk variable tend to be very insecure, and struggle with deep feelings of inadequacy. In response, they psychologically defend by exaggerating their abilities, undervaluing other peoples' abilities, and acting as though they are highly confident people. However, this often comes across as arrogance and entitlement, which can lead to disagreements, arguments, or fights. Because these offenders do not truly feel good about who they are, when people disagree with them, often their fragile nature is displayed, and they may quickly become angry, guarded, defensive, or even hostile. During this time, they tend to be highly focused on avoiding feeling emotional pain, and redirect their thoughts to their belief that they are superior. Consequently, they may become cruel, demanding, disrespectful, and

insistent that people recognize them and comply with their wishes. This increases their likelihood of re-offending, because during these times offenders with fragile narcissism could become aggressive towards others, and their demanding nature may play-out as their pressuring others to engage them sexually.

Poor Insight

When an offender has poor insight, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Offenders with poor insight often do not understand why they make the choices they make, underlying reasons for their behaviors, how to control their behavior, how their pathological behaviors are inappropriate, or the impact their behaviors can have on others.

High Stress Lifestyle

When an offender has a high stress lifestyle, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Offenders with a high stress lifestyle are chronically in states where their unhealthy personality characteristics can influence their judgment, their mood can become unstable, and their impulses can become unregulated.

Unstable or Untreated Substance Abuse or Dependency

When an offender has unstable or untreated substance abuse or dependency, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. When an offender has not achieved a period of 1 year of continual sobriety, they are not considered to be in a state of full remission, and consequently, vulnerable to return to drug or alcohol use. Or, if an offender quits drug or alcohol use after developing abuse characteristics of dependency on a substance, but the offender does not seek out treatment to learn how to understand the nature of their issues or healthy methods for managing their issues, they are vulnerable to return to drug or alcohol use. Drugs and alcohol act as disinhibitors, which lower impulse control and increase the likelihood an offender's mood could destabilize, their judgment could be influenced by unhealthy personality characteristics, and their inappropriate urges could become unmanaged.

Unstable or Untreated Paraphilia(s)

When an offender has unstable or untreated paraphilias(s), they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. A paraphilia is a sexual deviancy. Offenders who have deviant sexual interest which are not treated, or not stable through treatment, are more likely to behave in deviant sexual ways, which can lead to criminal sexual behavior or re-offending.

Emotional Congruence with Children

When an offender has emotional congruence with children, they prefer the company of children over adults, have interests in child-oriented activities (kids movies, kids games, playing on playgrounds, etc.), or may decorate their home in child-oriented themes. This increases their risk to re-offend. This would not include a parent or older sibling enjoying watching their child or younger sibling have fun at a playground, playing a game, or watching a movie; rather, it relates to offenders who want to engage in these activities for their own pleasure. Often these offenders are immature, and feel more comfortable in the presence of much younger individuals.

Attitudes Supporting Sexual Offending

When an offender believes sexual offending behaviors are justified under any conditions, or if they believe society's laws regarding sexual offending are unjust, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend.

Adversarial Sexual Beliefs

When an offender has adversarial sexual beliefs, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Offenders with this risk variable often view sexual behavior with sexual partners as a competitive situation. From this, they may see "dating" as a game, and "winning" might be convincing the person they are dating to engage in sex. Offenders with this mindset tend to believe both men and women are manipulative, sly, competitive, and untrustworthy, leading them to see sexual interactions as an adversarial situation. This can increase their likelihood of behaving in sexually criminal ways, in that the offender with this risk variable may believe victims would have taken advantage of the offender had the victim been given the opportunity. Also, they might perceive the complaints of victims as the victim having "sour grapes" because they lost in the competition. Additionally, when individuals perceive sexual activity as absent of emotions, adversarial, and primarily for physical pleasure, they can be less sensitive to the harm a sexual offense can cause, and more likely to believe victims are overreacting to the sexual crimes. They may make comments such as: "I don't know what they're complaining about; he/she seemed to have good time to me." This could cause an offender to not take their criminal sexual behavior seriously, or feel a need to change their lifestyle thus becoming more likely to commit a sexual offense in the future.

Sexual Entitlement

When an offender believes they are entitled to sex, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders often believe a girlfriend, boyfriend, wife, husband, or individual who has accepted a date must provide them with sex at the offender's request. Also, offenders who have sexual entitlement can believe if someone flirts with them, or dresses in sexually provocative ways, they now owe the offender sexual behavior. Furthermore, offenders who have this mindset tend to believe once sex begins, the person who started the sexual behavior does not have any right to stop the sexual behavior.

Sexual Preoccupation

When an offender is preoccupied with sex, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders tend to have a high sex drive. This could be seen as a history of many sexual partners, being promiscuous, excessive masturbation, regular use of prostitutes, regularly visiting strip bars, frequently calling telephone sex lines, frequently engage in sexual activity over the Internet, frequent pornography viewing, pornography collecting, often talking about sexual activity, being seen as a person who has a "dirty mouth", commonly telling sexual jokes, being preoccupied with their sex crime, being preoccupied with other offenders' sex crimes, describing difficulty controlling themselves sexually, and complaining of frequently having disturbing sexual thoughts or dreams.

Sex as a Method for Coping

When an offender utilizes sex as a method for coping, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders use masturbation, sexual activity with a sexual partner, visiting strip clubs, reading sexual stories, or viewing pornography as methods for decreasing their stress levels and coping with the difficulties in life.

Extreme Minimization of a Sexual Offense

When an offender minimizes their sexual offense to an extreme degree, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Extreme minimization can include completely denying the sexual offense occurred, placing all or most of the blame on the victim, not recognizing the impact the sexual behavior had on the victim, not recognizing the potential future impact the sexual behavior may have on the victim, or belief that the victim benefited from the sexual behavior.

Victim Blaming

When an offender blames the victim for the sexual offense, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders do not take responsibility for their sexual behavior, and believe that others, such as the victim, are responsible for their choices. They commonly minimize the influence they had over their victim, project adult qualities onto minors, and believe rape victims either deserved or enjoyed/wanted the rape behavior.

Loneliness or Social Rejection

When an offender is lonely or socially rejected, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders are more likely to justify sexually interacting with anyone who would alleviate their loneliness, or socially accept them, including minors, vulnerable adults, or other potential victims.

Relationship Instability

When an offender is having instability in their relationship, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. Ongoing conflict in a relationship, or lack of sexual gratification in a relationship, increases the likelihood of an offender seeking companionship and sexual gratification from other sources, which may lead them to return to old sexual behaviors, and engage in sexually offending behavior.

Problems Developing and/or Maintaining Pro-social Relationships

When an offender has problems developing and/or maintaining pro-social relationships, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders may isolate themselves from others, seek-out friendships with minors or vulnerable adults, or develop friendships with anti-social influences. Often they avoid pro-social influences because pro-social individuals may make them feel uncomfortable or judged. Or, they may perceive pro-social people as weak, foolish, stupid, boring, or self-righteous.

Problems Avoiding Negative and/or Antisocial Relationships

When an offender has problems avoiding negative and/or antisocial influences, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders are commonly drawn to people who engage in criminal behavior, have antisocial attitudes, or do not hold the offender accountable for their inappropriate sexual behavior. When involved with these negative and/or antisocial influences, the offender may feel supported in their sexual offending behavior, or led to believe their sexual offending behavior is not problematic.

Hostile Beliefs toward Women

When an offender has hostile beliefs towards women, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders often hold chauvinistic attitudes, think of men as being superior to women, do not respect women, have negative attitudes towards women in authority, believe women are deceitful, and think women enjoy hurting men. From this, they commonly justify evening the score with women, and act in controlling, dominating, and manipulative ways. It should be noted, an offender who has a history of abuse or mistreatment from women (or one who witnessed abuse or mistreatment from women) may feel justified in holding hostile attitudes towards women. Even if this is the case, the presence of hostile attitudes towards women increases risk to re-offend.

Insufficient Fear of Punishment or Consequences

When an offender has insufficient fear of punishment or consequences, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders often do not consider the consequences of their behavior, or have no fear of the punishment or negative impact that their sexual offending behavior may cause. Consequently, these offenders usually lack restraint and are more likely to re-offend.

Pride in Delinquent or Antisocial Behavior

When an offender takes pride in delinquent or antisocial behavior, they usually glorify criminal activity, and are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. When an offender sees delinquent and antisocial behavior as exciting, justified, and contributing to self-worth, they are more likely to continue with criminal behavior, including criminal sexual behavior and re-offense.

Failure to Recognize Risk to Re-offend

When an offender does not believe they would re-offend, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders can lack motivation to change their lifestyle, or address the variables that led to their sexual offending. Because of this they may place themselves in risky situations, and continue with the behaviors that contributed to their sexual offending.

Callousness or Lack of Concern for Others

When an offender has a callousness to their personality, or when they lack concern for others, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders usually do not feel people's pain, recognize the harm they are causing others, or respond appropriately to a victim's discomfort. They often minimize the harm they have caused people, or minimize the

emotional or physical pain the victim was experiencing. It should be noted, an offender who has a history of abuse or mistreatment (or one who witnessed abuse or mistreatment) may feel justified in being callous and lacking in concern. Even if this is the case, the presence of callousness and lack of concern for others increases risk to re-offend.

Beliefs that Support the Manipulation of Others

When an offender believes it is alright to manipulate others, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These beliefs may be identified through the offender's verbally expressed beliefs, or through their behavior. If an offender has a history of commonly manipulating people, even if they say they know manipulation is inappropriate, the behaviors suggest beliefs that support the manipulation of others.

Attitudes Supporting an Antisocial Lifestyle

When an offender has attitudes that support an antisocial lifestyle, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These would be offenders who continue to engage in crime, or support other people's crimes. They value criminal activity, and are usually excited by breaking society's laws.

Propensity to Break Rules

When an offender has a propensity to break rules, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders may or may not go to the degree of routinely committing crimes. Rather, they break rules such as driving infractions, work rules, household rules, park rules, or rules in an institution (jail, prison, psychiatric hospital, etc.). Such offenders often do not respect rules, and like to view themselves as exceptions. This can cause them to see society's rules about sexual behavior as not applicable to them, increasing their risk to re-offend.

Poor Problem Solving Skills

When an offender has poor problem solving skills, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders are vulnerable towards becoming overwhelmed, and overly stressed. Often they do not anticipate potential difficulties in life, or problems. Also, when faced with life problems, their solutions maybe influenced by poor judgment, leading to poor choices and behavior.

Negative Attitudes towards Treatment -or- Unresponsiveness to Treatment -or- Rejection of Treatment

When an offender has negative attitudes towards treatment, are unresponsive to treatment, or reject treatment, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders usually do not address the variables that led to their sexual offending behavior, and are more likely to continue with the behavior that led to their sexual offending behavior.

Negative Attitudes towards Supervision -or- Unresponsiveness to Supervision -or- Rejection of Supervision

When an offender has negative attitudes towards supervision, are unresponsive to supervision, or reject supervision, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders do not have a good working relationship with their probation or parole officer, or may be

resentful of any government organization overseeing their lifestyle. Because of this, they may not follow the rules of supervision or those imposed by the courts, engage in risky behavior, and consequently become an increased risk to re-offend.

Lack of Feasible Plans to Prevent Offender from Re-offending

When an offender lacks a feasible plan to prevent re-offending, they are considered to be at increased risk to re-offend. These offenders have not yet developed methods for stopping themselves from repeating the behaviors that led to their sexually offending. They may have unrealistic solutions, such as planning to never talk to anyone ever again. Or, they have no structured ideas on how to implement safeguards to control their sexual offending behavior, such as healthy coping methods or healthy relationship choices.