

**Scoring Guidelines for the
Juvenile Sexual Offense
Recidivism Risk
Assessment Tool – II
(JSORRAT – II) ©**

Douglas L. Epperson, Ph.D.

Christopher A. Ralston, M.S.

Iowa State University

David Fowers, LCSW

John DeWitt, Ph.D.

Utah State Juvenile Justice Services

Contact Information

dle@iastate.edu

General Instructions

The JSORRAT-II is a sexual recidivism risk assessment tool designed for juvenile male sexual offenders between the ages 12.0 to 17.99 years at the time of their index (most recent) sexual offense. Juveniles age 16 or older at the time of their index sexual offense who score in the low risk range on the JSORRAT-II may benefit from a secondary screen.

- The JSORRAT-II was designed to be scored based on a file review, so it is critical that the entire case file be reviewed before scoring the JSORRAT-II.
- Use only official documents in the case file as data sources in scoring the JSORRAT-II. Do not use information that is not documented in the file.
- Score all items unless there is insufficient data in the file for even a reasonable approximation. Items that cannot be scored because of missing data should be counted as a zero when computing the total score for the JSORRAT-II.
- For items 1 through 6, only sexual offenses for which the person was charged are counted. Sexual offenses are defined as all sexual offenses by statute and include charges for attempted sexual offenses and conspiracy to commit a sexual offense.
 - Item 1 additionally requires that the sexual offense be adjudicated
 - Item 5 additionally requires that the sexual offense charge be for a felony level (“hands-on”) sex offense.

Revised 6-3-2005

ITEM 1

Number of adjudications for sexual offenses including the current adjudication:

One	0
Two	1
Three.....	2
Four or More	3

Scoring Criteria

Count all sexual offense charges that were adjudicated prior to age 18, including the most recent offense. Include all adjudications regardless of level (e.g., misdemeanor, felony). Also, include adjudications for attempted sexual offenses or for conspiracy to commit a sexual offense prior to age 18. This item is based on a simple count of official adjudications for sexual offenses prior to age 18. The number of discrete events or victims is not relevant to this item, just the number of adjudications for sexual offenses.

Examples

1. A juvenile has a record of one misdemeanor-level adjudication for sexually lewd behavior and one felony-level adjudication for sexual abuse of a child less than age 14. *Count as two adjudications, score as 1.*
2. A juvenile was charged with four counts of felony-level sexual abuse of a child, but reached a plea agreement. According to the terms of the plea, he was adjudicated for only two counts. *Count as two adjudications, score as 1.*
3. A juvenile was adjudicated for one felony-level sexual abuse of a child, but during the course of treatment he disclosed three other offenses. None of the additional offenses were charged or adjudicated. *Count as one adjudication, score as 0.*
4. A juvenile has a record of one felony-level adjudication based on the sexual assault of three victims. *Count as one adjudication, score as 0.*
5. A juvenile was adjudicated for two felony-level sexual offenses based on six discrete sexual molestations of the same victim. *Count as two adjudications, score as 1*

ITEM 2

Number of different victims in charged sexual offenses:

One	0
Two	1
Three or More	2

Scoring Criteria

Count the number of different victims in charged sexual offenses perpetrated by the juvenile sex offender (JSO), including the current offense. The number of distinct victims is what is counted for this item; the number of charges, adjudications, or event contacts is not relevant. For “hands-on” charged sexual offenses, count each discrete victim that was offended against. However, if the JSO was charged with a “hands-off” exposure offense (e.g., “mooning”) in which a large number of people witnessed the exposure, count as only one victim for each such offense. Do not count self-report or alleged victims if the incidents did not result in an official charge.

Examples

1. A JSO was charged with misdemeanor lewdness after exposing his posterior to several cars passing him by. As many as 10 people witnessed this offense. ***Count as one victim, score as 0 (note that the charge was for a “hands-off,” exposure offense).***
2. A JSO was charged and adjudicated for an incident in which the he fondled two children that he was babysitting. ***Count as two victims, score as 1.***
3. A JSO has a record of four charges for “hands-on” sexual offenses against two different victims on multiple occasions. ***Count as two victims, score as 1.***
4. During the course of individual, sexual offender specific treatment, a JSO divulged that he had two additional victims for which he was not charged. His only officially charged sexual offense involved one victim. ***Count as one victim, score as 0 (note that only victims of officially charged offenses are counted).***
5. A JSO has two charges for exposing himself to a group of children on a playground and for exposing himself to another group of children at the library two months later. ***Count as two victims and score as 1 (note that these are two discrete events and charges with only one victim counted for each event because of the offense being a “hands-off” exposure offense).***

ITEM 3

Length of sexual offending history based upon time between the charge date for first sexual offense and the charge date for the last sexual offense:

Zero time (only one charge)	0
0.01 to 5.99 months.....	1
6.00 to 11.99	2
12 or more months	3

Scoring Criteria

This item reflects the duration of officially charged sexual offending behavior. Determine the dates of the first sexual offense charge and the most recent sexual offense charge. Calculate the number of full months between the two dates. For example, if the difference between the two dates is 8 months and 17 days, this would be counted as 8 months. If the offender only has one official sexual offense charge, score this item as zero. Do not count self-reported or alleged sexual offenses that did not result in an official charge.

Examples

1. A juvenile was charged for his first sexual offense November 6, 2001, and the date of his most recent sexual offense was April 30, 2002. The exact difference is 5 months and 24 days. **Count as 5.0 months, score as 1.**
2. A juvenile was charged for his first sexual offense on June 4, 2002, but that charge did not result in an official adjudication. His only other sexual offense, which is his most recent offense, was charged on January 18, 2005. **Count as 31 months, score as 3 (note that this item does not require a charge be adjudicated).**
3. A juvenile self-reported a sexual offense that occurred in October 2003, but that sexual offense was never charged. His only other sexual offense that resulted in an official charge was his index offense, which was charged on July 17, 2004. **Count as zero months, score as 0 (note that uncharged offenses are not counted in this item, so this JSO only has one charged sex offense).**

ITEM 4

Was the juvenile sexual offender under any form of court-ordered supervision when he committed any sexual offense for which he was subsequently charged?

No..... 0

Yes..... 1

Scoring Criteria

Score “Yes” if the JSO committed any sexual offense (for which he was subsequently charged), including the current offense, while under some form of court-ordered supervision. Supervision includes probation, incarceration in a detention center or half-way house, or placement in a treatment facility. Note that the court-ordered supervision does not have to be the result of previous sexual offense adjudications. Only a charge for a sexual offense committed while under supervision is necessary for a score of “Yes” on this item; an adjudication is not required. Do not include self-reported sexual offenses that did not result in a formal charge.

Examples

1. A juvenile committed a misdemeanor-level sexual offense while still on probation for a previous shoplifting offense. He was officially charged for the sexual offense. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
2. While at a residential treatment facility, a juvenile committed a felony-level sexual offense against another resident and was subsequently charged for that offense. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
3. A juvenile was incarcerated in a juvenile detention facility after the adjudication of a felony assault charge. While incarcerated, he sexually assaulted a detention facility worker. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
4. A juvenile self-reported committing sexual offenses while on probation for a previous sexual offense. However, none of these offenses were charged. *Count as “No,” score as 0.*

ITEM 5

Was any charged felony-level (“hands-on”) sexual offense committed in a public place?

No..... 0

Yes 1

Scoring Criteria

Score “Yes” if the JSO was charged for any felony-level (“hands-on”) sexual offense, including the current offense, where any part of the sexual activity occurred in a public place. A public place is defined as any area that is built and maintained for the general public, generally accessible by people in the community, or is open to the scrutiny of others. Examples of public places include schools, workplaces, parks, vacant lots, offenders or victim’s yards, public restrooms, and vehicles located in public places. Do not score “Yes” if the charged offense was a misdemeanor-level (“hands-off”) sexual offense.

Examples

1. A juvenile was charged with felony-level sexual assault that occurred in a restroom at a park. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
2. A juvenile was charged with felony-level sexual assault after luring the victim from a playground into his home with the promise of playing video games. The actual assault occurred in the home. *Count as “No,” score as 0 (note that all of the sexual activity occurred in the perpetrator’s home).*
3. A juvenile was charged with felony-level sexual abuse of a child for an offense that occurred in the yard of a friend’s house. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
4. A juvenile was charged felony-level sexual assault in the victim’s room at a residential treatment unit. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1 (note that all areas of a state treatment or correctional facility are considered public places).*
5. A juvenile was charged for a misdemeanor-level exposure offense (“mooning”) while at an outdoor public swimming pool. *Count as “No,” score as 0 (note that only felony-level (“hands-on”) sexual offenses are counted on this item).*
6. A juvenile was charged with felony-level sexual abuse for an offense occurring in an apartment complex corridor. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1 (note that, although an apartment unit itself is a private place, the common corridor is a public place).*

ITEM 6

Did the offender engage in deception or grooming of the victim prior to any charged sexual offense?

No..... 0

Yes..... 1

Scoring Criteria

Score “Yes” if the JSO was charged for any sexual offense, including the current offense, that involved deception and/or grooming. Deception may include the JSO misrepresenting his identity, the statements of an authority figure, or his responsibilities *vis a vis* the victim. Grooming behavior may include efforts to engage the victim through play activities, verbal enticements, or bribery.

Examples

1. A juvenile was charged with sexual abuse of a child after persuading a victim that they had permission from a parent figure to engage in a sexual act. ***Count as “Yes,” score as 1.***
2. A juvenile was charged with misdemeanor exposure after exposing his genitals to a younger child. The offense occurred after the perpetrator had invited the victim to play video games for several consecutive days in order to establish a relationship. ***Count as “Yes,” score as 1.***
3. A juvenile was charged with sexual abuse of a child after promising to give his victim some gift in exchange for engaging in sexual acts. ***Count as “Yes,” score as 1.***
4. A juvenile was charged with sexual assault after forcibly assaulting a stranger at a party. ***Count as “No,” score as 0 (note that, although this is clearly a forcible assault, there is no indication of deception or grooming).***

ITEM 7

What is the JSO’s prior sexual offender specific treatment status?

- Never Entered 0
- Entered and Had No
Prior Treatment Failures..... 1
- Entered and Failed At Least
One Prior Treatment..... 2

Scoring Criteria

Determine if the JSO had ever entered sexual offender specific treatment or been mandated to participate in treatment prior to his current sexual offense adjudication. If the JSO has no history of such treatment or treatment mandate, score this item as “Never Entered.” If the JSO had entered all mandated sexual offender treatments and any number of additional sexual offender treatments prior to his current offense and did not fail any treatment, score this item as “Entered and Had No Prior Treatment Failures.” If the JSO entered any number of prior treatments and failed at least one treatment attempt, score this item as “Entered and Failed At Least One Prior Treatment.” Sexual offender specific treatment may include individual or group outpatient treatment or individual or group inpatient treatment where the primary focus of the treatment was sexual offending desires or behaviors. Treatment failures include refusing to enter mandated treatment, quitting or absconding from treatment, or being removed from treatment by staff. Do not count evaluations as treatment.

Examples

1. A juvenile entered and completed outpatient sexual offender specific treatment prior to the index offense, and that was his only mandated SO treatment. He had no other involvement in sexual offender treatment. **Count as “Entered and Completed All Prior Treatments,” score as 1.**
2. A juvenile was mandated to participate in sexual offender treatment as part of a prior sexual offense adjudication, but he refused to enter that treatment. **Count as “Entered and Failed At Least One Prior Treatment,” score as 2.**
3. A juvenile entered residential sexual offender treatment, but absconded during the course of treatment. **Count as “Entered and Failed At Least One Prior Treatment,” score as 2.**
4. The file did not document any mandate for sexual offender treatment and there was no evidence of treatment involvement in the file. **Count as “Never Entered,” score as 0.**

ITEM 8

**Number of officially documented
“hands-on” sexual abuse incidents
where the JSO was the victim:**

None.....	0
One to Four.....	1
Five or More	2

Scoring Criteria

Count all officially documented “hands-on” sexual abuse incidents where the JSO was the victim. Official documentation may include police, court, child protective services, or medical reports. Do not count self-reported victimization incidents that are not officially documented. “Hands-on” sexual abuse includes direct contact with the victim (incidents of exhibitionism would be excluded). Such acts may include fondling of the victim, forcing the victim to fondle the abuser, oral sex performed on the victim, forcing the victim to perform oral sex on the abuser, penetration of the victim’s anus, or forcing the victim to penetrate the abuser’s vagina or anus.

Examples

1. A JSO was the victim of an officially charged and adjudicated sexual violation by an adult relative. Though the perpetrator was charged with only one count, a police report indicated that the abuse had occurred on two occasions and involved oral sex on the victim. *Count as two incidents and score as 1.*
2. A JSO was the victim of several founded sexual abuse incidents. A child protective services report of the incidents indicated the perpetrator sodomized the JSO at least five times over the course of one year. *Count as five incidents and score as 2.*
3. A JSO was the victim of a single sexual abuse incident at a foster home that was officially reported to child protective services. Though the incident was founded, it did not result in an official charge. *Count as one incident and score as 1 (note that criminal charges are not required for the event to be considered to be officially documented).*
4. A JSO was the victim of an officially charged sexual abuse incident, in which his uncle exposed his genitalia to the JSO on at least four occasions. *Count as “None,” score as 0 (note that all offenses involved non-contact sexual abuse).*

ITEM 9

Number of officially documented incidents of physical abuse where the JSO was the victim:

None.....	0
One to Four.....	1
Five or More	2

Scoring Criteria

Count all officially documented physical abuse incidents where the juvenile sexual offender was the victim. Official documentation may include police, court, child protective services, or medical reports. Do not include self-reported victimization incidents that are not officially documented. Physical abuse must involve direct contact with the victim, but the severity of injury sustained by the JSO is irrelevant.

Examples

1. A JSO was the victim of physical abuse committed by his father for which the father was officially charged. Though the father was charged with only one count, a police report indicated that the abuse had occurred on two occasions and had resulted in several bruises to the JSO’s arms and back. ***Count as two incidents and score as 1.***
2. A JSO was the victim of several founded physical abuse incidents. A child protective services report of the incidents indicated the JSO’s mother had used a leather belt to severely punish her child on at least one dozen occasions. ***Count as 12 incidents and score as 2.***
3. A JSO was the victim of a single physical abuse incident perpetrated at a foster home that was officially reported to child protective services. Though the incident was founded, it did not result in an official charge. ***Count as one incident and score as 1 (note that criminal charges are not required for the event to be considered to be officially documented).***
4. There is no mention of child abuse anywhere in the file. ***Count as no incidents and score as 0.***
5. Although the JSO alleged that physical abuse had occurred, such abuse was not documented through official reports in the file. ***Count as no incidents and score as 0.***

ITEM 10

Does the JSO have a history of special education placement?

No..... 0

Yes..... 1

Scoring Criteria

Score “Yes” if the JSO was ever officially placed in a special education program. Special education placement may include assistance for educational, mental, or learning disabilities, emotional or behavioral disorders, or for reasons unknown, yet a history of special education was clearly documented.

Examples

1. A JSO was officially placed in a special education classroom for students with learning disabilities involving reading. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
2. A JSO received official special education assistance for one hour per week as a result of a mathematical learning disability. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
3. A JSO was officially classified as behaviorally disordered. *Count as “Yes,” score as 1.*
4. A JSO received additional assistance or tutoring at home or at an external agency, but there was no evidence of special education placement at school. *Count as “No,” score as 0.*

ITEM 11

Number of educational time periods with discipline problems (elementary school, middle school/junior high school, high school):

None or One.....	0
Two	1
Three.....	2

Scoring Criteria

Count the number of education time periods that the juvenile sexual offender had received any number of school disciplines for problematic behavior, as documented in the case file. The three educational time periods include elementary school, middle school or junior high, and high school. Behaviors that may have resulted in formal school discipline include non-sexual violence, sexual aggression, property offenses, oppositional behavior, verbal harassment, truancy, and other behavior problems noted but not specified.

Examples

1. In a probation report, the probation officer reported that the JSO had been suspended from high school for participating in a physical assault on another student. In a separate report of education progress provided to the court, a school attendance official reported that the JSO was frequently truant in middle school. ***Count as two time periods with disciplines, score as 1.***
2. In an education summary report, a school official reported that the JSO had been sent to the principal’s office after verbally harassing another student during his fifth-grade year. The report also indicated that this event was an isolated incident. ***Count as one time period with a discipline, score as 0.***
3. In a psychological assessment report, a psychiatrist reported communicating with school officials with regard to behavior problems the JSO had exhibited over the course of his schooling. The psychiatrist reported that school officials had disclosed that the JSO had pervasive oppositional problems that resulted in frequent disciplinary problems starting in the second grade and continuing to the present. At the time of the report, the JSO was in the eleventh grade. ***Count as three time periods with disciplines, score as 2.***
4. In a case file, nothing was mentioned about the JSO’s school performance or behavior patterns. ***Count as no time periods with disciplines, score as 0.***

ITEM 12

Number of adjudications for non-sexual offenses prior to the most recent (index) sexual offense:

None or One..... 0

Two or more 1

Scoring Criteria

Count all non-sexual criminal offenses for which the JSO was adjudicated prior to the JSO’s current (index) sexual offense adjudication. Non-sexual criminal offenses may include both misdemeanor and felony-level offenses that are not sexual offenses by statute.

Examples

1. A JSO had one petty theft adjudication that occurred six months prior to his current sexual offense adjudication. *Count as one, score as 0.*
2. A JSO was adjudicated for two felony assault charges one year prior to his current sexual offense adjudication. *Count as two, score as 1.*
3. The only adjudications that the JSO has on his record are for sexual offenses. *Count as none, score as 0.*