

Presentation title:

The Risk Screener - Violence for adults and the Risk Screener - Youth. New tools for easy and efficient evaluation of recidivism concerns in the prison setting and beyond

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In many custodial, treatment and supervision settings using comprehensive risk assessment is simply not feasible for all individuals. In adult and youth prisons, outpatient treatment, or probation supervision time may be limited, manpower scarce or information insufficient for in-depth recidivism risk assessment. Yet, in these settings there is generally a strong desire for evaluating risk of violence or general reoffending to inform individualized risk management and rehabilitation initiatives.

To make risk evaluations feasible for all detainees, in 2020 the Risk Screener-Violence (RS-V) was developed and implemented nationally across all 25 Dutch prisons. Simultaneously, in 2021 a youth risk screening tool was developed for the easy and efficient screening of recidivism concerns for juveniles and young adults: the Risk Screener-Youth (RS-Y). The RS-V and RS-Y aim to create more insight regarding the most relevant risk and protective factors for each individual and subsequently draw overall conclusions regarding concerns for recidivism. For adults these refer to: a) in-prison violence, b) post-release violence, c) violence during leaves from prison. For youth: a) community violence, b) community non-violent recidivism. In addition, the RS-Y also includes a self-assessment and a network-assessment version, which inspires client involvement and shared decision-making. Ultimately, gaining insight and better understanding of individual criminogenic risk and protective factors offers a valuable starting point for guiding treatment interventions and informing risk management strategies, aimed at increasing both safety within institutions and in society.

In this presentation, the RS-V and RS-Y screening tools will be introduced. Their intended use will be discussed and user feedback from prison and outpatient practice will be shared. Moreover, promising new research findings for the RS-V and RS-Y regarding interrater reliability and predictive validity for violence and criminality will be presented. Finally, implementation strategies for clinical practice and potential use in other settings and countries will be discussed.