Violent risk assessment for juvenile offenders in NSW

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Risk/Need Assessment

The risk/need/responsivity (RNR) correctional agenda

The ‘Central Eight’

Risk assessment: The LSI inventories

The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory-Australian Adaptation (YLS/CMI-AA)
The YLS/CMI-AA

47 yes/no items across 8 domains:

- Prior and current offences (8 items)
- Family and living circumstance (7 items)
- Education/employment (7 items)
- Peer relations (4 items)
- Substance abuse (6 items)
- Leisure/recreation (3 items)
- Personality/behaviour (7 items)
- Attitudes/beliefs (5 items)
Previous research

- General recidivism $r = .29$ ($k = 126$)
- Violent recidivism $r = .23$ ($k = 34$)
- Ethnic minorities $r = .27$ (general) and .24 (violent)
- Females $r = .31$ (general) and .26 (violent)
- Males $r = .30$ (general) and .24 (violent)
Australian research

- Hsu, Caputi and Byrne (2009, 2010): LSI (adult version) in NSW
  - **Study 1**: Community sample $N = 50,667$ (Male = 41,474)
    Male $r = .18$, female $= .21$
  - **Study 2**: Indigenous male ($N = 10,958$), $r = .12$; Indigenous female ($N = 2953$), $r = .16$
  - Non Indigenous male ($N = 10,958$) = .18; non-Indigenous female ($N = 2953$) = .21

Best predictors of recidivism for entire sample ($N = 3,568$) were prior and current offences, peer relations, attitudes/beliefs, substance abuse and education/employment.


- Females ($N = 559$) $r = .24$, $AUC = .644$
- Males ($N = 3009$) $r = .27$, $AUC = .659$
- Indigenous ($N = 1053$) $r = .17$, $AUC = .604$
- Non-Indigenous ($N = 1582$) $r = .25$, $AUC = .644$
- Other ethnic ($N = 765$) $r = .26$, $AUC = .652$
Australian research

- Shepherd, Luebbers, Ogloff, Fullam and Dolan (2014)
  - N = 213
  - Male general recidivism $r = .34$, $AUC = .72$
  - Male violent recidivism $r = .29$, $AUC = .65$
  - Female general recidivism $r = .22$, $AUC = .65$
  - Female violent recidivism $r = .31$, $AUC = .74$
The current study

- All completed YLS inventories 2008/10
- Final sample $N = 4401$
- Mean YLS score = 15.1 (8.30)
## Results: reoffending (1 year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Violent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sample</td>
<td>1628</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>1436</td>
<td>335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other ethnic</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>83</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Violent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sample</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other ethnic</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
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</table>
## Predictive validity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
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<th>Violent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$r$</td>
<td>$AUC$</td>
<td></td>
<td>$r$</td>
<td>$AUC$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.688</td>
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<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.611</td>
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<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.694</td>
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<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.690</td>
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<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.693</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.648</td>
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<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.551</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.684</td>
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<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.617</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other ethnic</td>
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<td>0.716</td>
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<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.657</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
YLS: Use of cut-scores

- Converts YLS score into category (eg low, medium, high)
- Low = 0-12 (43%)
- Medium = 13-23 (39.9%)
- High = 24-48 (17.1%)
Reoffending by risk category: gender

- Low risk
- Moderate risk
- High risk
Reoffending by risk category: cultural identity

![Bar chart showing reoffending rates by risk and cultural identity categories.](chart.png)
Conclusions

- Gender: situational risk factors for male violence?
- Culturally specific risk factors for violence?
- Use of instrument and the future of risk assessment
- Group data for individual decisions