

Current Controversies

Role of the Actuarials

Should we be using actuarials?

Correlations too low?

Are they psychological tests?

Sample & replication issues?

Accepted in the scientific community?

What are We Doing:

Prediction versus Risk Assessment?

When to release?

Accuracy of Instruments

r

RRASOR	.28
Static 99	.31 - .34
MnSOST-R	
Development	.45
Cross-Validation	.39

Correlations

r

Effect on sugar on behavior of children	.00
Antihypertensive medication & reduced risk of stroke	.03

(Meyer et al., 2001)

Correlations

	r
Chemotherapy and surviving breast cancer	.03
General batting skill and hit success on a given instance at bat	.06
Antibiotic tx of ear pain in children and improvement 2-7 days	.08

(Meyer et al., 2001)

Correlations

	r
Coronary artery bypass surgery for heart disease and survival at 5 years	.08
Gender & risk taking behavior	.09
Alcohol use in pregnancy & premature birth	.09

(Meyer et al., 2001)

Correlations

	r
Antihistamine use and reduced runny nose and sneezing	.11
Impact of ibuprofen on pain	.14
EEG stress test & artery disease	.22

(Meyer et al., 2001)

Correlations

	r
Mammogram and detection of breast cancer w/in 2 years	.27
Accuracy of home pregnancy tests	.38
Viagra and improved male sexual functioning	.38

(Meyers et al., 2001)

Correlations

	r
Height and weight for US adults	.44
Nearness to the equator & average daily temperature in USA	.60

(Meyers et al., 2001)

Comparing Correlations

Meyer et al., (2001) Psychological testing and psychological assessment. *American Psychologist*, 56(2), 128-165.

Aspirin and Heart Attack Study Aspiring and Reduction in Heart Attacks

$N = 22,071$

$r = .034$

$r^2 = .0011$

(Rosenthal, 1990)

	Heart Attack	No Heart Attack	Total
Aspirin	104	10,933	11,037
Placebo	189	10,845	11,034
Total	293	21,778	22,071

No Actuarials
How Many Would be Committed?

Risk Level Clinical Judgment Rrasor

	%	%
Low	12	54.5
Medium	28.5	35.6
High	62.2	9.8

(Nicholaichuk et a., 1998)

Are They Psychological Tests?

Measure psychological constructs?
Restricted to psychologists?
Have manuals?
Commercially published?
Peer Reviewed?

Bad Psychological Tests

Vs.

Not Psychological Tests?

Sample and Replication Issues

Can We Generalize From Minnesota to Wisconsin?

	r
Social class	.05
Low education	-.03
Minority race	.00

Predictive Validity by Ethnic Subgroup

Group	N	r
Non-Minorities	156	.41
Minorities	64	.21

Static 99 & Rrasor

Millbrook Correctional Institution	Ontario
Oak Ridge - Maximum Security	
Mental Health	Ontario
Institut Philippe Pinel – Maximum	
Security Psychiatric	Montreal
Her Majesty's Prison Service	England

Static99 & Rrasor

	r	
	Static99	Rrasor
Pinel	.73	.71
Millbrook	.65	.66
Oak Ridge	.67	.62
HMPS	.72	.71

(Hanson & Thornton, 1999)

Acceptance by the Relevant Scientific Community

Who is the Relevant Scientific Community?

- All mental health workers
- All psychologists
- All forensic psychologists
- Sex offender therapists and evaluators
- SVP evaluators

Acceptance in the Scientific Community

N = 13 states

Rrasor	Most evaluators in all 13 states
MnSOST-R	Most evaluators in 10 states
Static99	Most evaluators in 5 states; 6 others anticipating use
PCL-R	Most evaluators in 10 states

(Doren, 1999 personal communication)

Prediction Vs. Risk Assessment

Prediction

This man will/won't reoffend.

True Positive

False Positives

True Negatives

False Negatives

Sensitivity

Only captures 15% of offenders

Low Risk Versus High Risk Offenders?

Who Produces More Offenses?

Low Risk Versus High Risk Offenders

Risk Level	N	% Reoffend	Total Reoffenses
Low	900	30%	270
High	100	90	90
			—————
			Total = 360