

1. Age at Release from Index Sex Offence

The Basic Principle: The rates of almost all crimes decrease as people age (Hirschi & Gottfredson, 1983; Sampson & Laub, 2003). Sexual offending does not appear to be an exception. Most studies have found that older sexual offenders are lower risk to reoffend than younger sexual offenders (Barbaree & Blanchard, 2008; Hanson, 2002, 2006). Research has found that the original Static-99 did not fully account for age at release and that a new age weighting improved the predictive accuracy (Helmus et al., 2012¹). With the new age weighting (used in this item), age at release from index sex offence no longer significantly contributed to the prediction of sexual recidivism. Similar results were found in subgroups of rapists and child molesters.

Information Required to Score This Item: To complete this item the evaluator should confirm the offender's birth date (from official records if possible) or have other knowledge of the offender's age through collateral report or offender self-report. The evaluator would benefit from access to an official criminal record as compiled by police, court or correctional authority that identifies the date of release from the index sex offence.

The Basic Rule: Score -3 to 1 point depending on the age of the offender when they are released from their index sex offence referencing the table below.

Age	Score
18 to 34.9	1
35 to 39.9	0
40 to 59.9	-1
60 or older	-3

Under certain conditions, such as anticipated release from custody, the evaluator may be interested in an estimate of the offender's risk at some specific time in the future such as coding the Static-99R in pre-sentencing situations. Static-99R may be scored months before the offender's release to the community and the offender may advance an age scoring category by the time he is released. For assessing risk in the future, consider what his age will be on the date of release from the index sex offence. In this case, you calculate risk based upon age at exposure to risk.

¹ Helmus, L., Thornton, D., Hanson, R.K., & Babchishin, K.M. (2012). Improving the predictive accuracy of Static-99 and Static-2002 with older sex offenders: Revised age weights. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 24(1), 64-101. doi:10.1177/1079063211409951

Sometimes the offender's release date may be uncertain. For example, he may be eligible for parole but does not qualify for release due to an inadequate release plan. In these cases it may be appropriate to use some form of conditional wording indicating how his risk assessment would change with a delayed release date.

Note that in some cases, the index sex offence identified for Static-99R scoring purposes may not be the same as the offender's current offence. For example, sometimes an offender is serving a sentence for a non-sexual offence but they are assessed as a sex offender due to a prior sexual offence. Because this item is scored using the age at release from the index sex offence rather than age of release from the current offence, the offender may now be significantly older than when they were released from their index sex offence. For example, an offender may be released from custody on their index sex offence at age 35 and they may be released at age 55 from a current prison term after committing a non-sexual offence. In these cases where an offender had committed subsequent non-sexual offences and is now much older, the effect of aging on sexual recidivism (as well as their continued criminality after the index sex offence) will need to be considered outside the Static-99R.