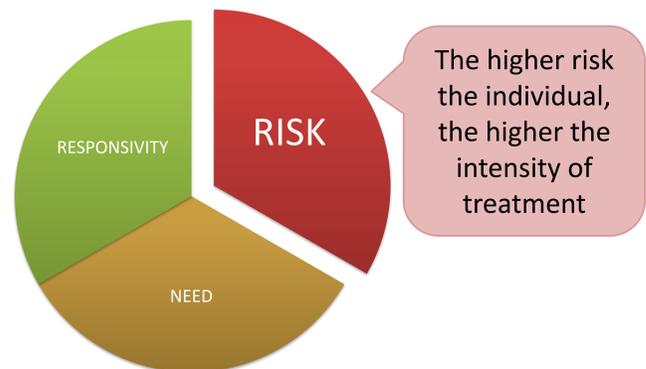


### Introduction

- Risk assessment is used to determine how likely an individual is to re-offend
  - Many different measures are available and all of them use categories to summarize offender risk
- “Low”, “moderate”, and “high” are commonly used risk categories
  - They are interpreted differently among professionals
  - They are not consistent among different measures
- The RNR model is the most evidence-based model of treatment for offenders



- Yet, no guidelines as to how to quantify the intensity of treatment
- Some clinical interpretation is required

### Objectives

- This study will attempt to answer 3 questions:

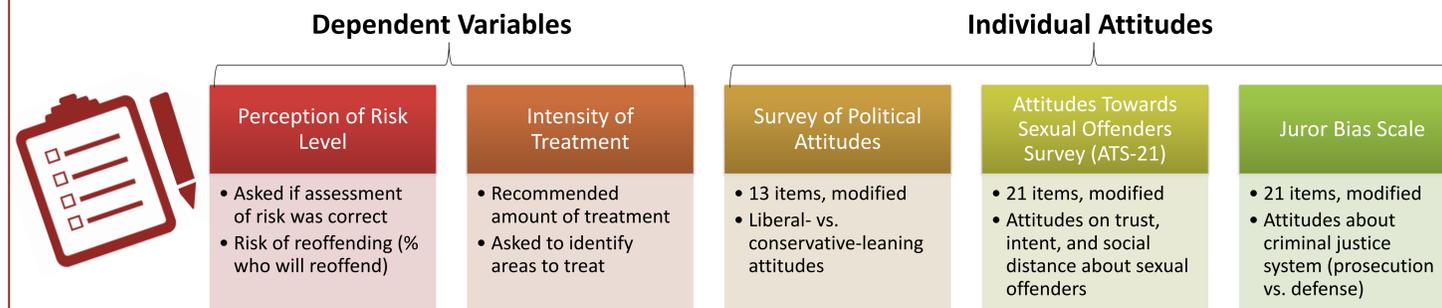
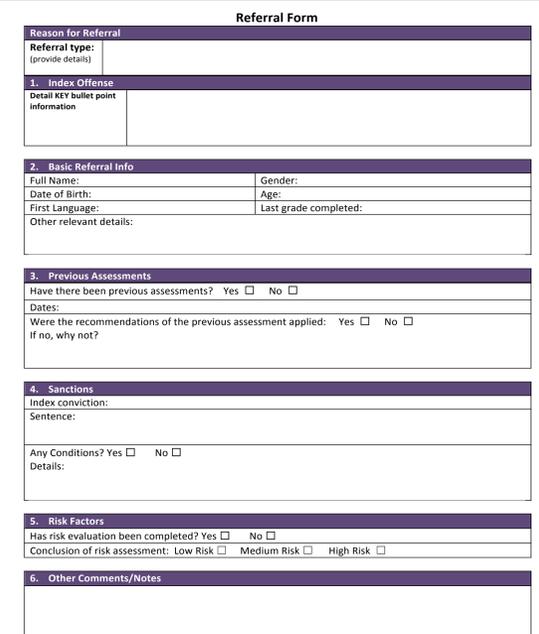
- 1** How do professionals perceive different risk categories?
- 2** What intensity of treatment would they assign to a given level of risk?
- 3** How do their political attitudes, general views on sexual offenders and punitive attitudes influence perceptions?

### Methods

- Members of the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) will be asked to complete an online survey and given the following
  - **Vignette:** in the form of a referral request that describes an individual who has offended sexually at one of the following 3 risk levels:

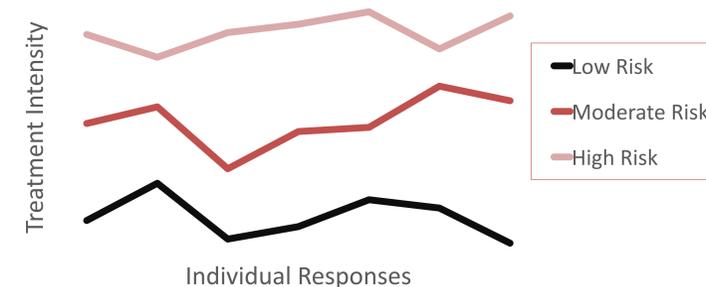
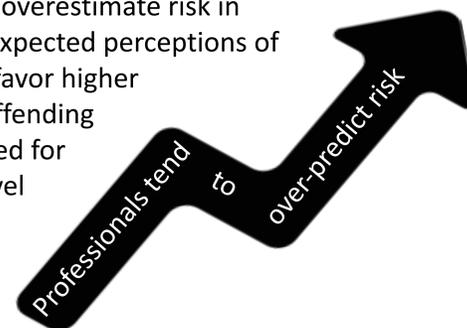


- **Questionnaires:** (A) demographic and professional information, (B) dependent variables, and (C) individual attitudes (political, offender, criminal justice)

### Expected Results

- Analyses of dependent variables:
  - Between group comparisons conducted on perceptions of risk and treatment for participants randomly assigned to vignettes with one of the three levels of offender risk
  - Research has shown that professionals are likely to overestimate risk in offenders; expected perceptions of risk should favor higher rates of reoffending than reported for each risk level
  - Although professionals will adhere to the Risk Principle of RNR, there should be visible differences in the amount of treatment (in weeks) suggested for any level of risk



- Stepwise regression analyses of individual attitudes and whether they contribute to perceptions of risk
  - Expect attitudes will contribute to risk perceptions over and above risk category

Model 1 and Model compared	p
Model 1: Risk Category	*
Model 2: Risk Category + Survey of Political Attitudes	*
Model 1: Risk Category	*
Model 2: Risk Category + Attitudes Towards Sexual Offenders Survey (ATS-21)	*
Model 1: Risk Category	*
Model 2: Risk Category + Juror Bias Scale	*

### Implications

- Provide insight into professional perceptions of risk
- Reveal how perceptions influence predictions of reoffending and treatment decisions
- Indicate if perceptions of risk are influenced by specific traits or pre-existing attitudes

