Evaluator struggles: Risk aversion, impotence, and decision making

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Influence of case details and evaluator differences in SVP cases

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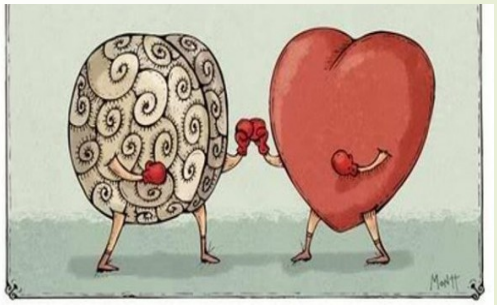
How do evaluators make decisions?

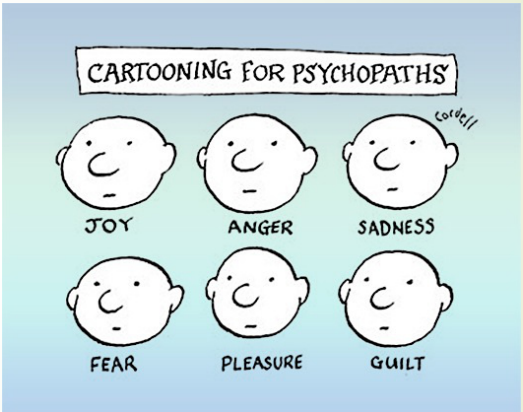
Risk assessments and unstructured decision making

- Standardized assessments are strongest predictors *(Guy, 2008; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2009)*
- But these are not used in isolation *(Vrieze & Grove, 2009)*
- Static99R may have some (49%) or a lot (42%) of influence *(Chevalier, Boccaccini, Murrie, & Varela, 2015)*.
- Clinical override
  - Often used to increase risk for sexual offenders
  - Leads to decrease in predictive validity *(Storey, Watt, Jackson, & Hart, 2012; Wormith, Hogg, & Guzzo, 2012)*



Addition of Psychopathy

- Predictive of recidivism *(Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005)*
- Characteristics of psychopathy are related to sexual aggression *(Malamuth, 2003)*
- No association *(Barbaree, Seto, Langon, & Peacock, 2001; Langstrom & Grann, 2000; Murrie, Boccaccini, Caperton, & Rufino, 2011)*



Dynamic Duo

- PCL-R (Factor 2 – Facet 4) *(Hawes et al., 2013)*
  - Research (d = .44) versus Clinical (d = .28)
  - Sexual deviance & Psychopathy - *OR:* 2.80 – 3.21
- No additional prediction to sexual recidivism after Static99R *(Looman, Morphett, & Abracen, 2012)*
- Not clear this is being applied appropriately in clinical practice *(Boccaccini et al., 2015)*

What about Sadism?

- Sadism is associated with sexual violence and severity of violence *(e.g., Robertson & Knight, 2014)*
- Phallometric index and level of violence during index, but not DSM diagnosis predict sexual recidivism *(Kingston, Seto, Firestone, & Bradford, 2010)*
  - But do not incrementally add to prediction after accounting for actuarial risk results
- Sadism diagnosis – 4.2x more likely to sexually reoffend (after controlling for Static99R; *Kingston et al., 2015*)
- Meta-analysis – 2.3x more likely to sexually reoffend *(Eher et al., 2015)*

Is there an "evaluator effect"?

- Field studies *(Murrie et al., 2008; Murrie et al., 2009)*
- Experimental study *(Murrie et al., 2013)*
- Evaluator differences in scoring *(Boccaccini et al., 2014; Chevalier et al., 2015; Miller et al., 2011; Murrie & Warren, 2005)*
- Once identified - may seek and interpret data that is biased towards the side they work for *(Murrie & Boccaccini, 2015; Neal & Grisso, 2014)*

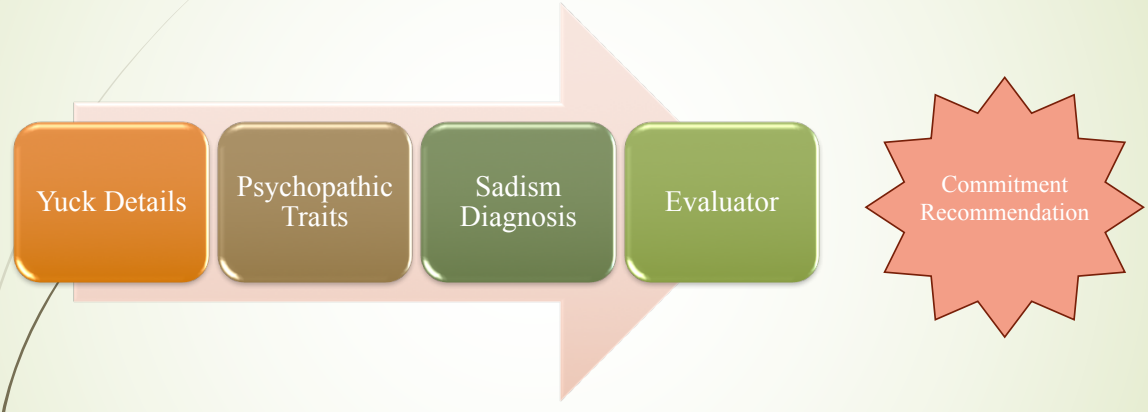
Florid Case Details

- Exploratory:
  - Presence of vivid or "yuck" details
  - Preliminary work on extraneous case details (*Zapf and colleagues*)

What information do evaluators use to evaluate risk and make decisions about commitment: Two parts

- 1. Vignettes (with varying levels of yuck factors, presence of Sadism, or psychopathic traits) rated anonymously by professionals in the field
- 2. Followed up by SVP data from DHS state evaluators in Wisconsin

Part 1: Vignettes

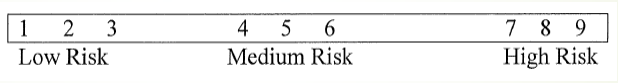


Participants

- N = 158 respondents to an online survey
  - **Final n = 94 completed all case vignettes**
    - 88 (94%) worked with an adult population
    - 78 (83%) completed sexual risk assessments as part of job duties
    - 67 (71%) United States; 18 (19% United Kingdom; 9 (10%) Canada
    - Within United States – participants reported working across 34 different states (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)

Measures

- 8 case vignettes
  - **2 Outcome Ratings**
    - Categorize patient's current risk level for sexual recidivism

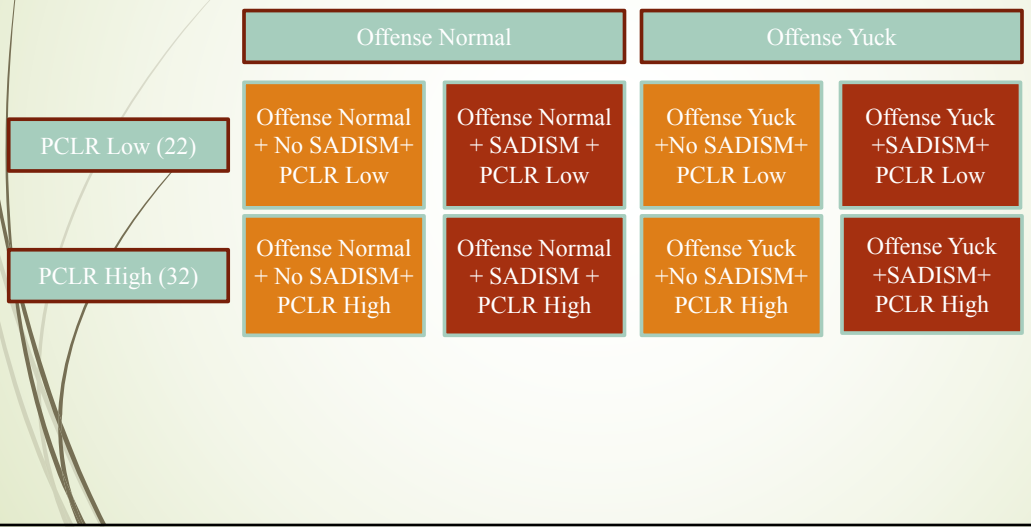


    - Rate how likely they would be to recommend civil commitment under provisions of SVP law.
      - 1 (*Highly Unlikely*; 2 (*Somewhat Unlikely*); 3 (*Somewhat Likely*); 4 (*Highly Likely*)

Measures

- Case details varied in 2X2X2 factorial design
  - Level of victim distress (Yuck factor)
  - Psychopathic traits (32 versus 22)
  - Diagnosis of Sadism (Present versus not)

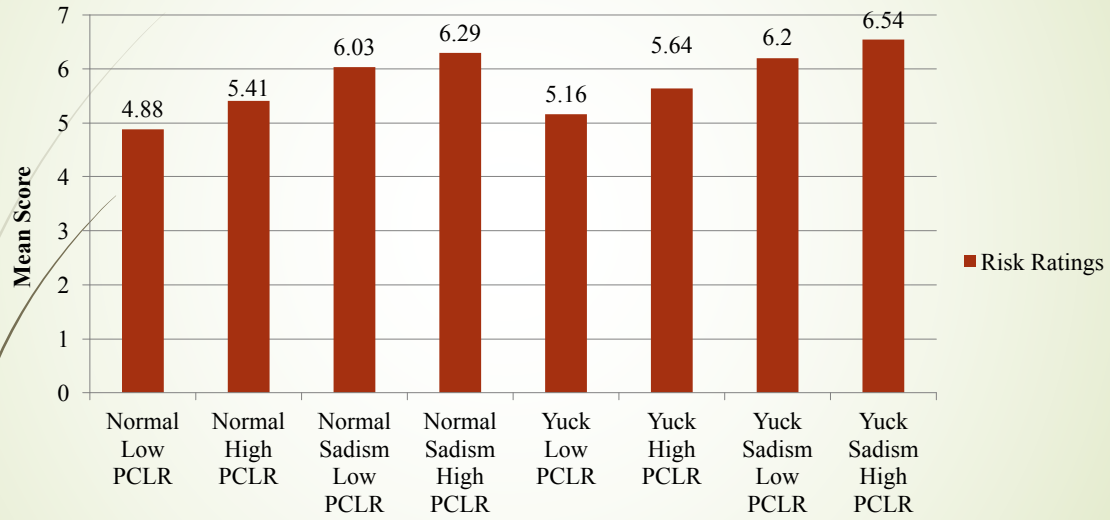
2 x 2 x 2 Factorial Design



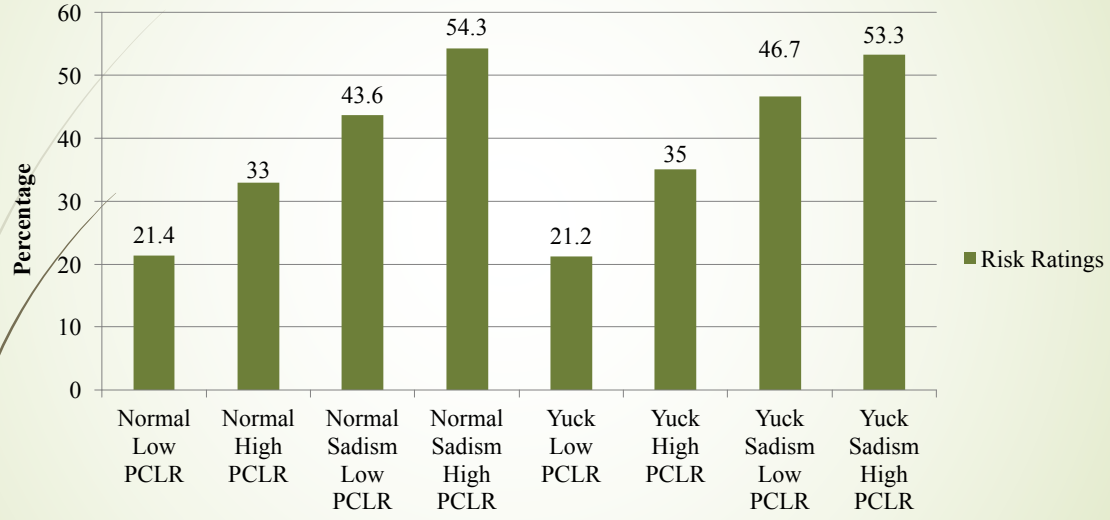
Mr. Jones

- 48 years old
- Divorced, Caucasian Male
- Being evaluated for civil commitment
- Static99R score of 3 (low/moderate)
- Current prison sentence completed for Aggravated Rape & Assault and battery with a Dangerous Weapon (knife).
- Current offense involved an adult female stranger
- One previous sex offense with an adult female stranger – convicted of Aggravated Rape
- Dynamic risk factors include sexual preoccupation, feeling aggrieved, and not thinking of consequences of actions
- Some capacity for healthy intimate relationships
- No evidence of sexual interest in children

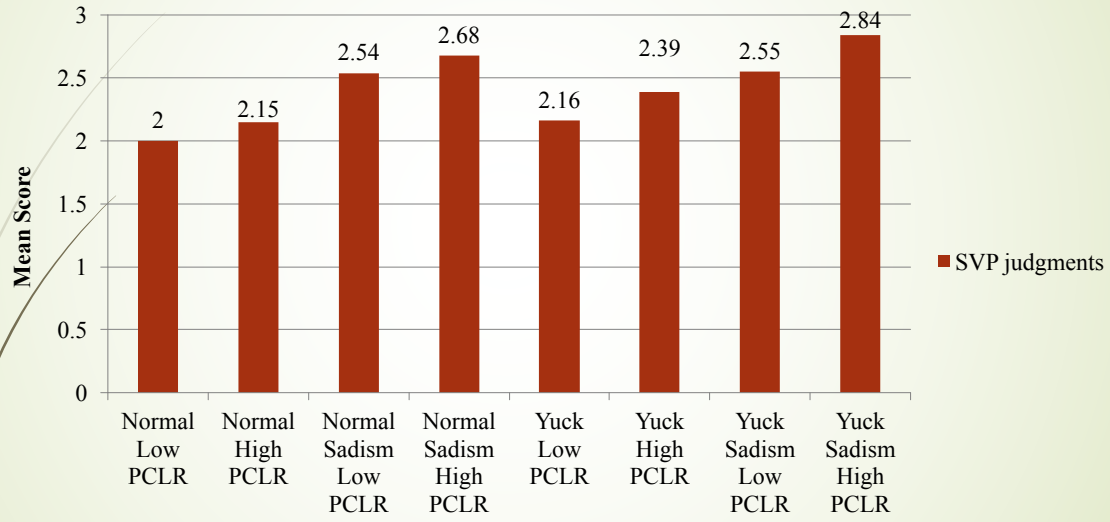
Descriptives: Risk Ratings



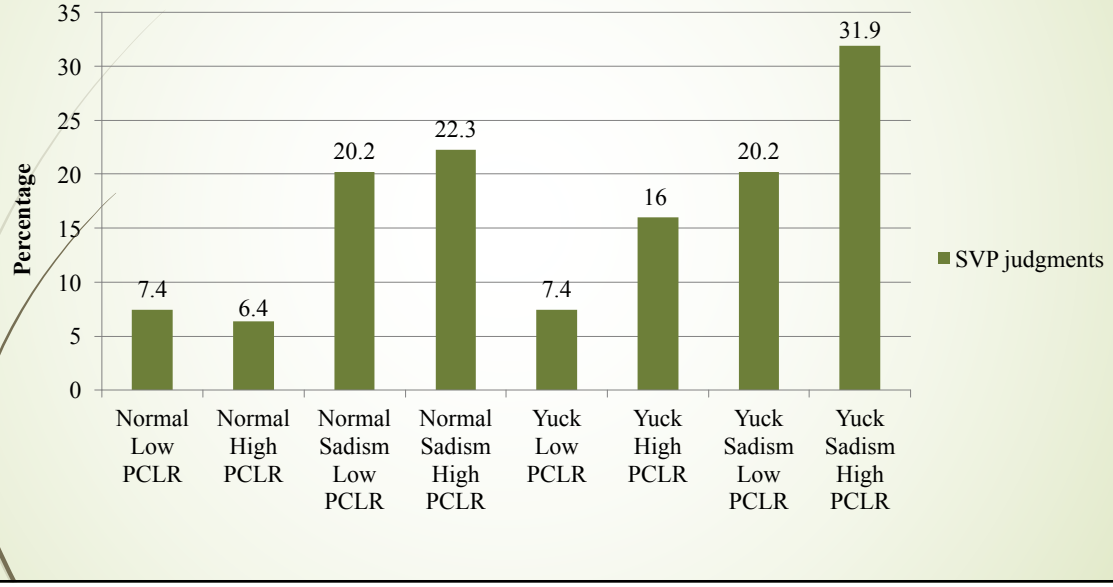
High Risk (7-9)



Descriptives: Commitment Judgments



Highly Likely to Commit (4)



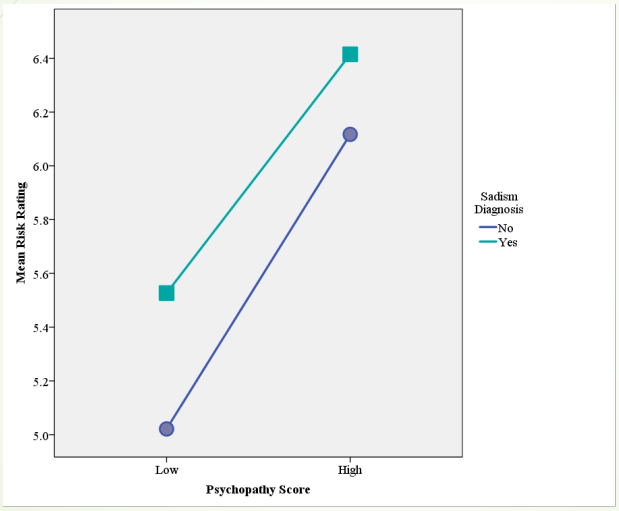
Correlations between risk ratings and commitment judgments within vignettes

Vignette	*Pearson r*
Normal Low PCLR	.77
Normal High PCLR	.69
Normal Sadism Low PCLR	.68
Normal Sadism High PCLR	.63
Yuck Low PCLR	.71
Yuck High PCLR	.65
Yuck Sadism Low PCLR	.71
Yuck Sadism High PCLR	.65

ANOVA Results: Effects of yuck, psychopathy, and Sadism on risk ratings

	Multivariate *F* Test	Sig
Yuck Factor	$F(1, 93) = 12.31$	$p = .001$
Psychopathy	$F(1, 93) = 138.63$	$p < .001$
Sadism	$F(1, 93) = 32.49$	$p < .001$
Yuck * PCLR	$F(1, 93) = .15$	$p = .70$
Yuck * Sadism	$F(1, 93) = .04$	$p = .85$
PCLR * Sadism	$F(1, 93) = 4.27$	$p = .04$
Yuck * PCLR* Sadism	$F(1, 93) = .66$	$p = .42$

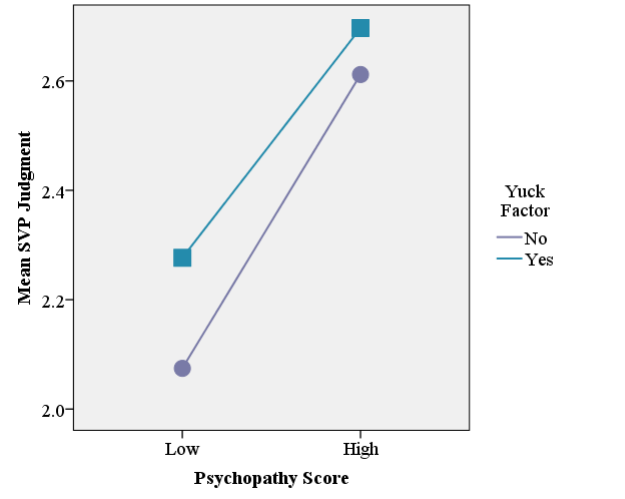
Interaction: Psychopathy * Sadism Diagnosis



ANOVA Results: Effects of yuck, psychopathy, and Sadism on commitment judgments

	Multivariate *F* Test	Sig
Yuck Factor	$F(1, 93) = 9.92$	$p = .002$
Psychopathy	$F(1, 93) = 102.31$	$p = .002$
Sadism	$F(1, 93) = 22.99$	$p < .001$
Yuck * PCLR	$F(1, 93) = 4.75$	$p = .03$
Yuck * Sadism	$F(1, 93) = 2.98$	$p = .09$
PCLR * Sadism	$F(1, 93) = .13$	$p = .72$
Yuck * PCLR* Sadism	$F(1, 93) = .30$	$p = .58$

Interaction: Yuck * Psychopathy



Examining the Evaluator Effect

Hypothesis 2

Weighted on different factors

Inclination to assign high risk

Hypothesis 1

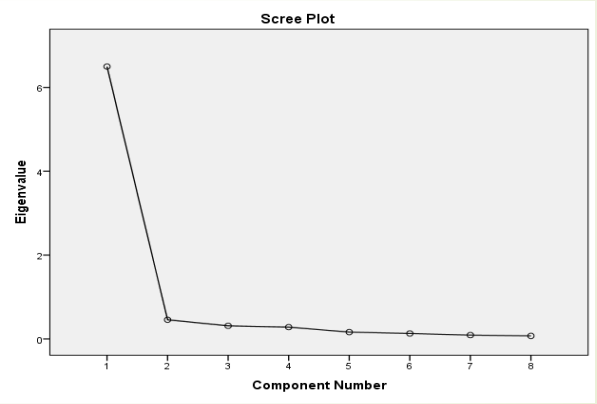
Results: Examining the evaluator effect

- Correlations between risk ratings across vignettes
  - $r = .66 - .87$, $p < .001$
- Correlations between commitment ratings across vignettes
  - $r = .55 - .82$, $p < .001$

Results: Examining the evaluator effect

- Principal Components Analysis of risk ratings
  - Resulted in 1 Factor

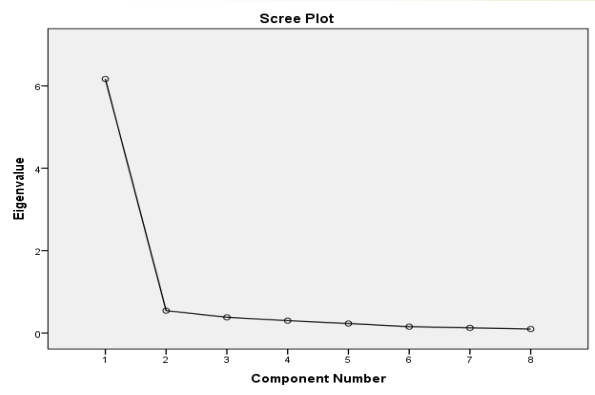
Vignette 1	.85
Vignette 2	.91
Vignette 3	.92
Vignette 4	.92
Vignette 5	.88
Vignette 6	.92
Vignette 7	.90
Vignette 8	.91



Results: Examining the evaluator effect

- Principal Components Analysis of commitment judgments
  - Resulted in 1 Factor

Vignette 1	.81
Vignette 2	.91
Vignette 3	.91
Vignette 4	.87
Vignette 5	.89
Vignette 6	.91
Vignette 7	.84
Vignette 8	.88



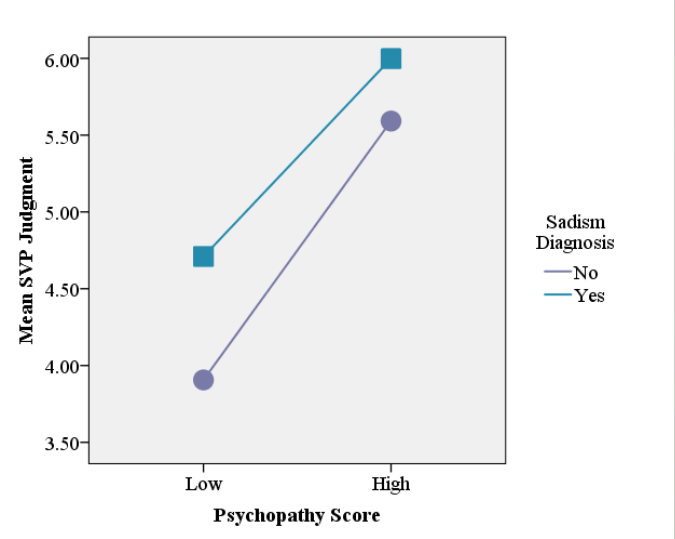
Parsing out the evaluator effect: Risk ratings

	Multivariate *F* Test	Sig
Yuck Factor	$F(1, 93) = 13.62$	$p < .001$
Psychopathy	$F(1, 93) = 216.19$	$p < .001$
Sadism	$F(1, 93) = 36.04$	$p < .001$
Yuck * PCLR	$F(1, 93) = .48$	$p = .49$
Yuck * Sadism	$F(1, 93) = .00$	$p = .99$
PCLR * Sadism	$F(1, 93) = 3.59$	$p = .06$
Yuck * PCLR* Sadism	$F(1, 93) = .25$	$p = .62$

Parsing out the evaluator effect: Commitment judgments

	Multivariate *F* Test	Sig
Yuck Factor	F (1, 93) = 9.14	p =.003
Psychopathy	F (1, 93) = 116.28	p = .003
Sadism	F (1, 93) = 23.26	p < .001
Yuck * PCLR	F (1, 93) = .01	p = .94
Yuck * Sadism	F (1, 93) = .58	p = .45
PCLR * Sadism	F (1, 93) = 5.24	p = .02
Yuck * PCLR* Sadism	F (1, 93) = 1.14	p = .29

Interaction: Psychopathy * Sadism Diagnosis



VS.

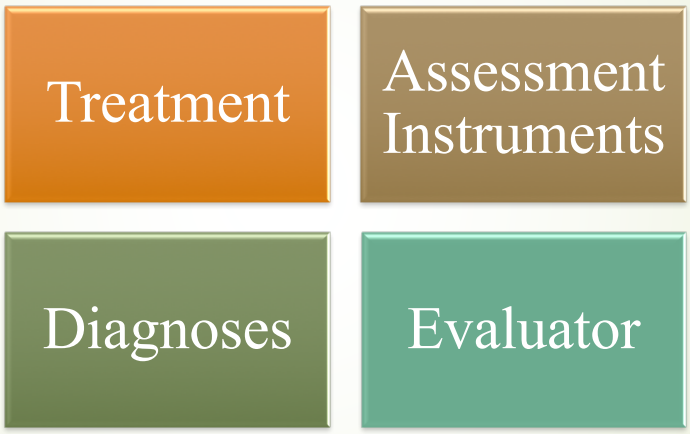
Part 2: Evaluator Differences: SVP data from DHS state evaluators in Wisconsin

980.07 Evaluations in Wisconsin

- *N* = 354 980.07 evaluations were conducted by (*n* = 13) clinicians during the calendar year of 2016

- **Patient Sample from SRSTC**
  - Age: *M* = 52.64 (*SD* = 11.10)
  - Static99R: *M* = 5.28 (*SD* = 1.73)
  - PCLR: *M* = 23.50 (*SD* = 5.75)

What predicts commitment recommendation?



What predicts commitment recommendation?

Pre-Treatment (n = 37)
In Treatment (n = 272)
On SR (n = 45)

Static99R Score
PCL-R Score

Pedophilia
Sadism
Major Mental Illness

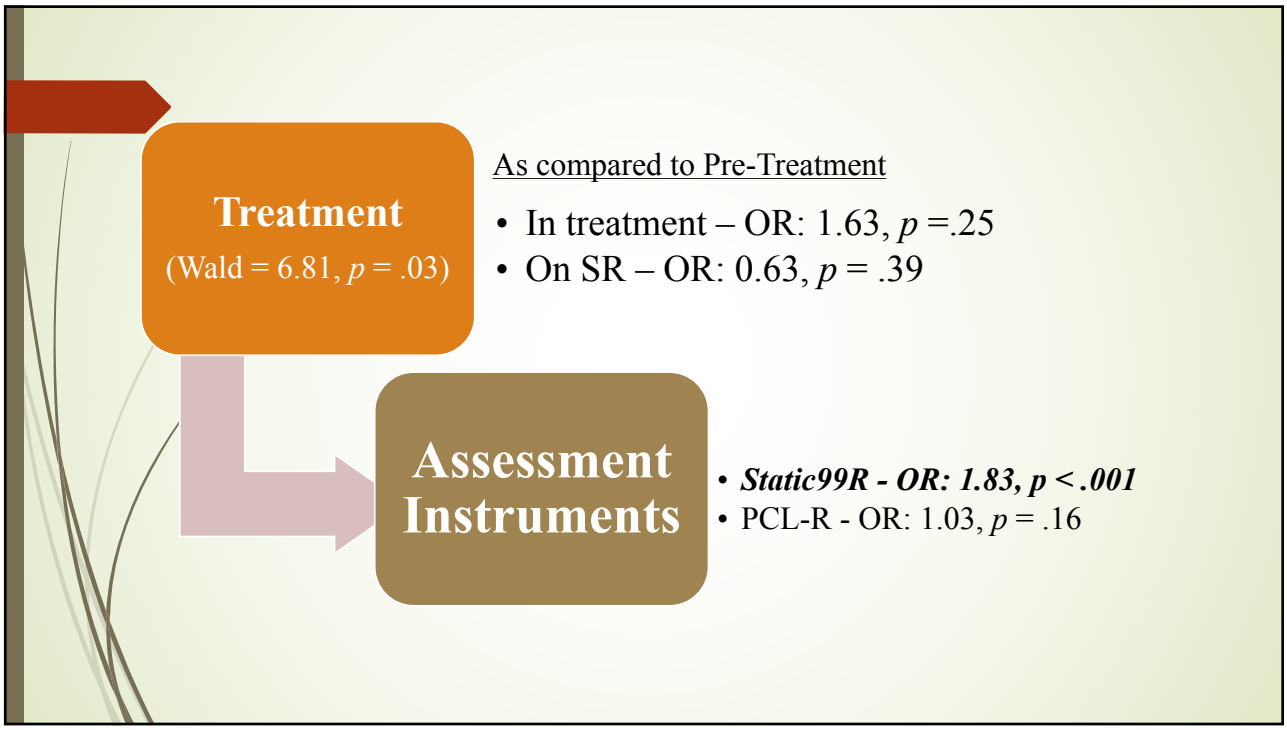
Liberal (.40)
Moderate (.64)
Conservative (.85)

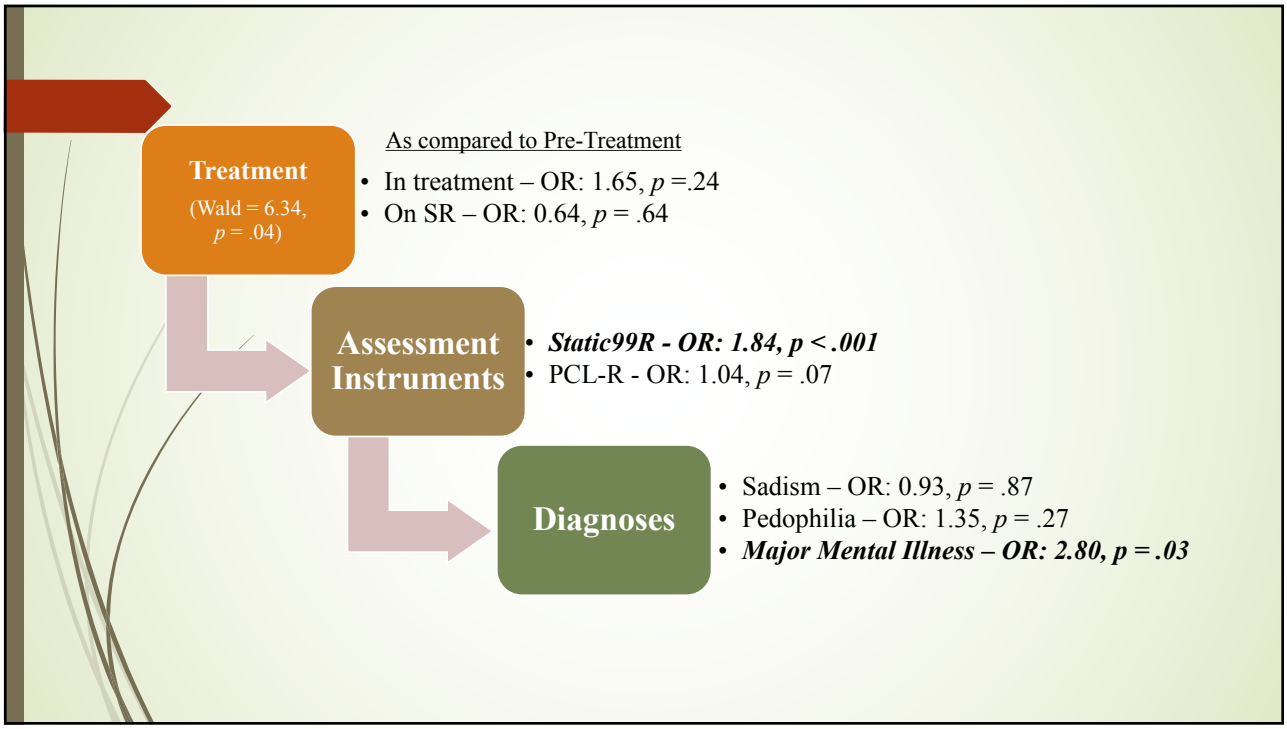
Treatment

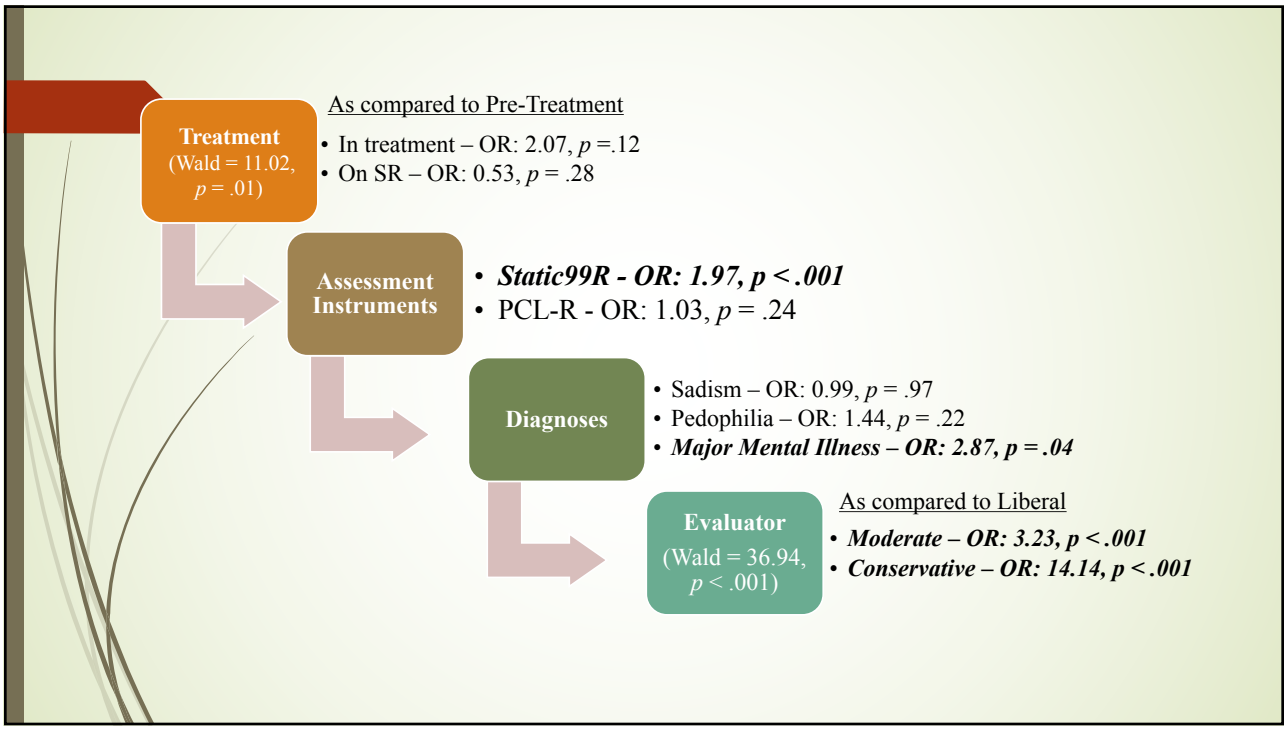
(Wald = 16.94, $p < .001$)

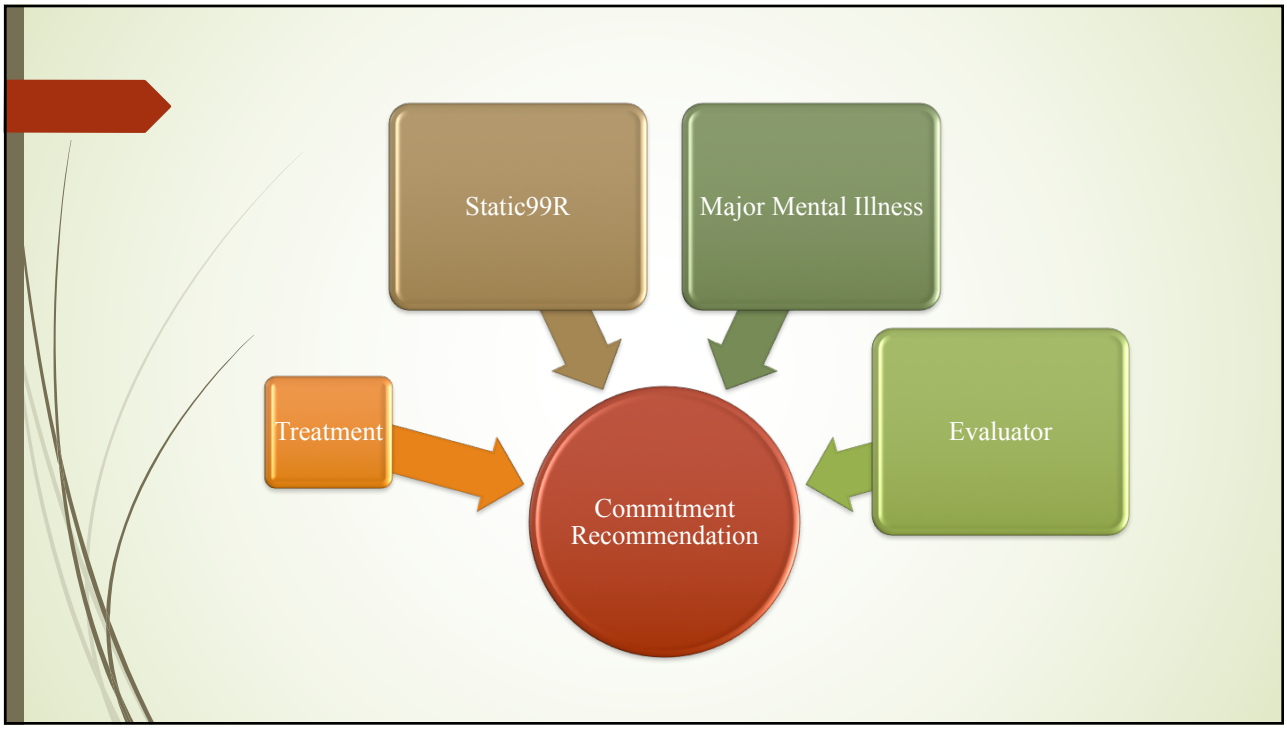
As compared to Pre-Treatment

- ***In treatment – OR: 2.79, p =.01***
- On SR – OR: 0.90, $p = .82$


Treatment
(Wald = 6.81, p = .03)
As compared to Pre-Treatment
• In treatment – OR: 1.63, p =.25
• On SR – OR: 0.63, p = .39
Assessment Instruments
• Static99R - OR: 1.83, p < .001
• PCL-R - OR: 1.03, p = .16


Treatment
(Wald = 6.34, p = .04)
As compared to Pre-Treatment
• In treatment – OR: 1.65, p =.24
• On SR – OR: 0.64, p = .64
Assessment Instruments
• Static99R - OR: 1.84, p < .001
• PCL-R - OR: 1.04, p = .07
Diagnoses
• Sadism – OR: 0.93, p = .87
• Pedophilia – OR: 1.35, p = .27
• Major Mental Illness – OR: 2.80, p = .03


Treatment
(Wald = 11.02, p = .01)
As compared to Pre-Treatment
• In treatment – OR: 2.07, p =.12
• On SR – OR: 0.53, p = .28
Assessment Instruments
• Static99R - OR: 1.97, p <.001
• PCL-R - OR: 1.03, p = .24
Diagnoses
• Sadism – OR: 0.99, p = .97
• Pedophilia – OR: 1.44, p = .22
• Major Mental Illness – OR: 2.87, p = .04
Evaluator
(Wald = 36.94, p < .001)
As compared to Liberal
• Moderate – OR: 3.23, p <.001
• Conservative – OR: 14.14, p <.001


Static99R
Major Mental Illness
Treatment
Evaluator
Commitment Recommendation

Take Home Points

Vignettes	980.07 Cases
• Yuck Factors • Psychopathy • Sadism • **Evaluator**	• Treatment • Static99R • Major mental illness • **Evaluator**

Major Mental Illness and Recidivism

- Psychosis is not related to sexual recidivism (d = -0.03, n = 1268; *Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004*)
- Psychosis is related to sexual recidivism (OR: 5.1 [1.6 – 16.1]; *Langstrom et al., 2004*)
- Those classified as "mentally ill" more likely to be in re-incarcerated for a sexual offense *(Singer, Maguire, & Hurtz, 2013)*
- Psychiatric hospitalization was no longer associated with increased rate of sexual recidivism once scores for Static2002R/STABLE-2007 accounted for *(Lee & Hanson, 2016)*

Evaluator Matters

- Consistent with past research *(Boccaccini et al., 2014; Chevalier et al., 2015; Miller et al., 2011; Murrie & Warren, 2005)*
- Bias – deviation from the norm
  - *Implicit versus Explicit*
    - Representativeness (Base rate neglect)
    - Availability (Confirmation bias)
    - Anchoring (framing/context)

Evaluator Bias – "Bias Blind Spot"

Acknowledgments

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