

LEVEL OF SERVICE INVENTORY-REVISED: A PORTRAIT OF RIDOC OFFENDERS



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What Is the LSI-R?

The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) is a validated risk/need assessment tool which identifies problem areas in an offender's life and predicts his/her risk of recidivism. It is a 54-item instrument which assesses offenders across 10 domains known to be related to an offender's likelihood of returning to prison. Addressing need areas through prison rehabilitative interventions can ultimately reduce an offender's probability of re-incarceration. LSI-R's are completed by trained assessors who conduct interviews with offenders and verify the information through external sources, when possible.

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LSI-R scores at RIDOC:

Scores on the LSI-R can range from a low of 0 to a high of 54.

- The average LSI-R score is **25**.
- The average score for male offenders is 25, which indicates a low/moderate-moderate risk for recidivism.
- The average score for female offenders is 26, which indicates a moderate risk for recidivism.

Who Is Assessed?

Male Offenders:

- All male offenders sentenced to 9 months or more are targeted for the LSI-R assessment, which represents approximately 35% of all sentenced commitments.
- Of those eligible for assessment, about 71% were interviewed in 2010.
- Four counselors in the Intake Service Center conduct LSI-R assessments.

Female Offenders:

- Female offenders sentenced to more than 6 months (about one-third of all sentenced commitments) should receive the LSI-R as well as a gender-responsive assessment called the "Trailer". Trailer scores are not included in this report; however, trailer data will often impact an LSI-R score, increasing it by 1-3 points.
- Sixty-six percent (66%) of those eligible for assessment were interviewed in 2010.
- Two counselors in the Women's facilities regularly conduct the LSI-R and Trailer.

LSI-R Highlights

The 10 LSI-R domains include: Criminal History, Education/Employment, Financial, Family/Marital, Accommodation, Leisure/Recreation, Companions, Alcohol/Drug Problem, Emotional/Personal and Attitudes/Orientation. Below is a summary of the most notable findings from each domain:

Criminal History

Approximately three-quarters of the population (74%) had two or more prior adult convictions and almost two-thirds (62%) had 3 or more priors, indicating that most offenders surveyed were repeat offenders (see below).



Average LSI-R Scores

Between 2008 and 2010, over 2,900 (2,554 men, 356 women) offenders were assessed using the LSI-R.

Education/Employment

Virtually half of the offenders (48%) reported not having a high school diploma/GED, while 20% had not even completed 10th grade.

In the 12 months prior to incarceration, 57% of men and 64% of women reported being unemployed. One-third of the population reported never being employed for a full year, while 30% reported having been fired at least once.

Financial

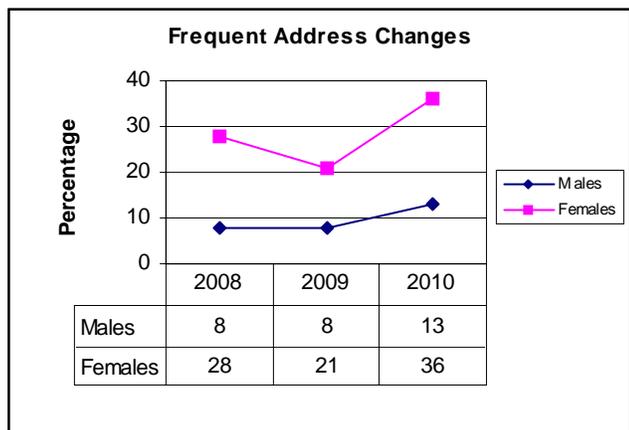
Although nearly half of the offenders assessed (52%) reported having financial difficulties, only 25% reported relying on some form of social assistance.

Family/Marital

Most of the population (70%) rated their current marital/equivalent situation as satisfactory. However, 50% reported having an immediate family member or spouse/significant other who was also involved in criminal activity.

Accommodation

Between the years 2008-2010, a mere 12% of the population reported having 3 or more address changes in the previous year. However, when divided by gender, a far greater percentage of females had frequent address changes compared to males (see below).



Leisure/Recreation

The majority of assessed offenders (81%) reported that they could make better use of their spare time, with 83% of the population having no recent involvement in any type of organized activity.

Companions

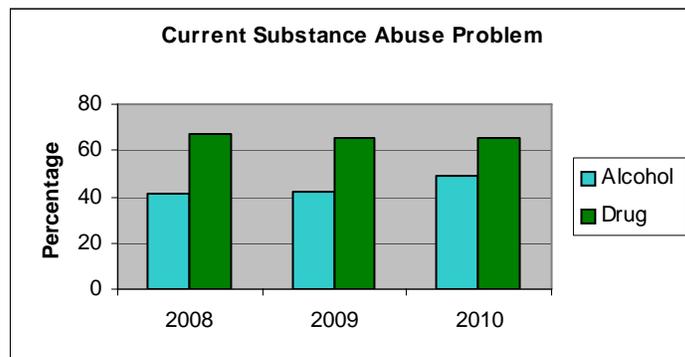
Over half of the population (60%) reported having some criminal friends, and a like proportion (61%) reported a lack of pro-social friends, indicating that offenders tend to surround themselves with individuals who have similar backgrounds and they do not establish close connections with law-abiding individuals.

Alcohol/Drug Problem

The percentage of the population that reported having an *alcohol* problem within the 12 months prior to incarceration was 41% in 2008, 42% in 2009 and 49% in 2010.

Higher proportions of the population reported having a *drug* problem within the 12 months prior to incarceration: 67% in 2008, 65% in 2009 and 65% in 2010 (see below).

Overall, 71% indicated that their current substance use had an impact on their criminal behavior.



Emotional/Personal

Nearly half of the population (40%) reported having mental health issues that moderately interfered with their lives.

Only 43% of males, while 81% of females, reported receiving past mental health treatment. Similar differences exist with current treatment: only 24% of men reported being presently involved in treatment, compared to 63% of women.

Attitudes/Orientation

A majority of the assessed offenders (66%) were rated as being in favor of conventional values (i.e. attending school, legitimate employment, etc.). Furthermore, almost three-quarters of these offenders reported having favorable attitudes toward both their prison sentence (73%) and supervision (74%), which should translate to better behavior while incarcerated and more successful completion of community supervision.

Summary

Although the average LSI-R score indicates moderate risk/needs, data provided from the individual domains points to the presence of several destabilizing factors for the offender population. Appropriate case planning, effective case management and rehabilitation begin with an accurate and valid assessment of the individual.