

Desistance From Sexual Offending

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Actuarial Instruments

- Actuarial= refers to the structured evaluation (scoring) of variables that are combined in a systematic fashion to produce a statistical estimate of risk – a numerical probability statement.
 - Car insurance example

Actuarial Strengths

- Empirically validated risk factors
- Explicit rules for combining factors
- Explicit probability estimates
- Relative risk robust across settings & samples
- Easily scored (with proper training)

Actuarial Weaknesses

- Only moderate predictive accuracy
 - We always want to do better!
- Neglects important factors
 - Deviant Arousal
 - All Dynamic Factors (i.e. Sexual Pre-occupation, Impulsivity, Social Rejection/Loneliness)

Desistance- Definitions

- General offenses
 - A marked reduction in the propensity to commit crime; often operationalized in research studies by an absence of self-reported or officially recorded crime for a specified number of years

Desistance- Definitions

- General offenses
 - A reduction of risk (individual propensity to commit crime) that is equal to or less than the rate of spontaneous new offenses among individuals who have never been apprehended for a criminal offense.

Desistance- Definitions

- Sexual offenses
 - Plausible threshold for desistance is when their risk for a new sexual offense is no different than the risk of a spontaneous sex offense among individuals with no prior sex offense history, but who have a history of non-sexual crime.

Desistance Threshold

- Kahn, Hanson et al., (2017) reviewed 11 studies from diverse jurisdictions (n= 543,024) found a rate of spontaneous sex offenses among individuals with a history of non-sex offenses to be in the 1% to 2% range after 5 years.

Desistance Threshold

- Concluded a sexual recidivism rate of less than 2% after 5 years is a defensible threshold below which individuals with a history of sex offense should be released from conditions associated with a sex offender label
- From a risk management perspective, resources used on these very low risk individuals would better be spent on higher risk individuals, prevention, and victim services.

Desistance/Time-Free Effects

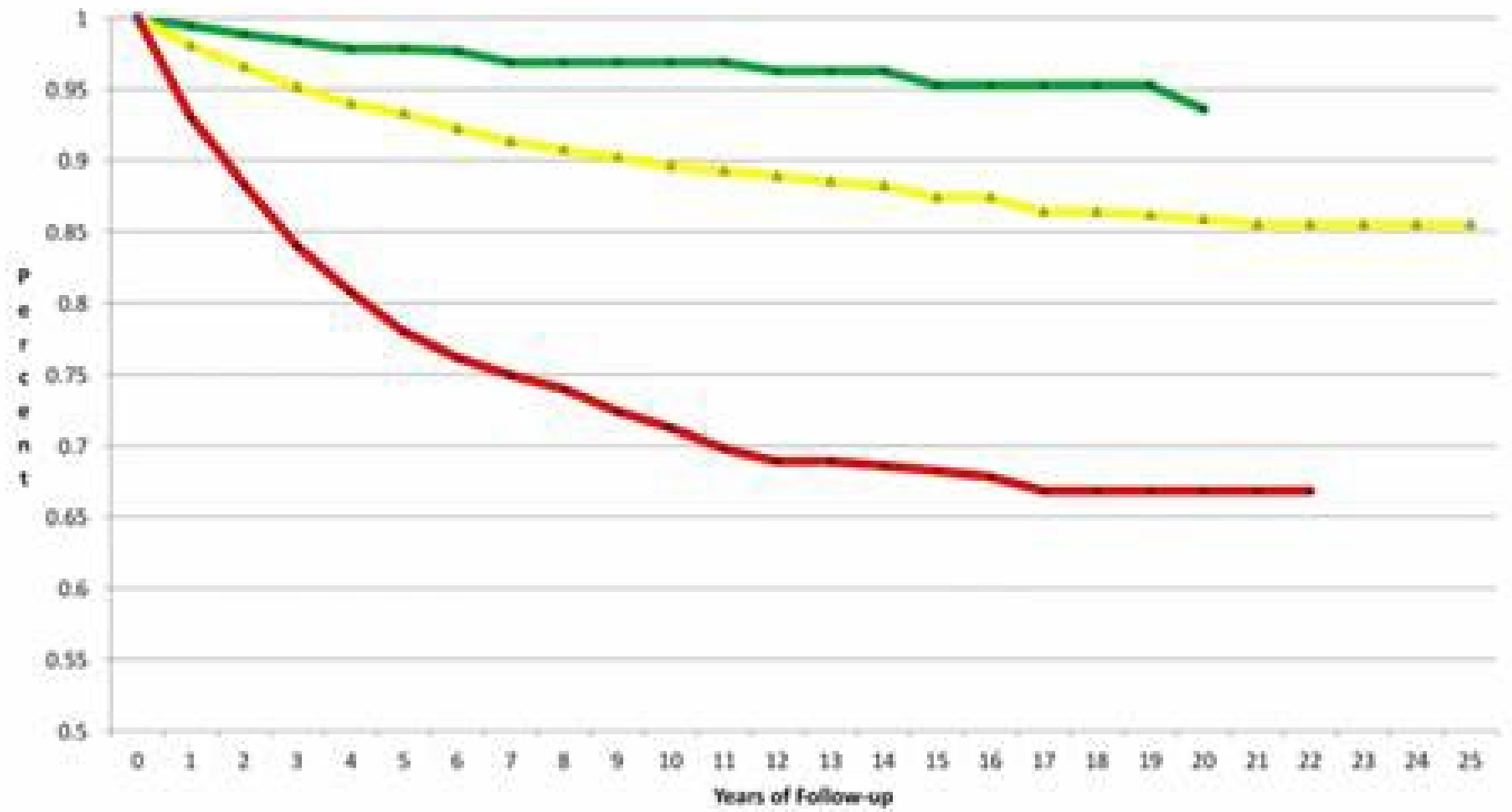
- Time Offense Free in the Community study (Hanson, Harris, et. al., 2017)
 - Modeled long-term (25-year) risk of sexual recidivism in a large sample (N > 7,000)
 - Results found the likelihood of new sex offenses declined the longer individuals with a history of sex offenses remain sex offense free in the community

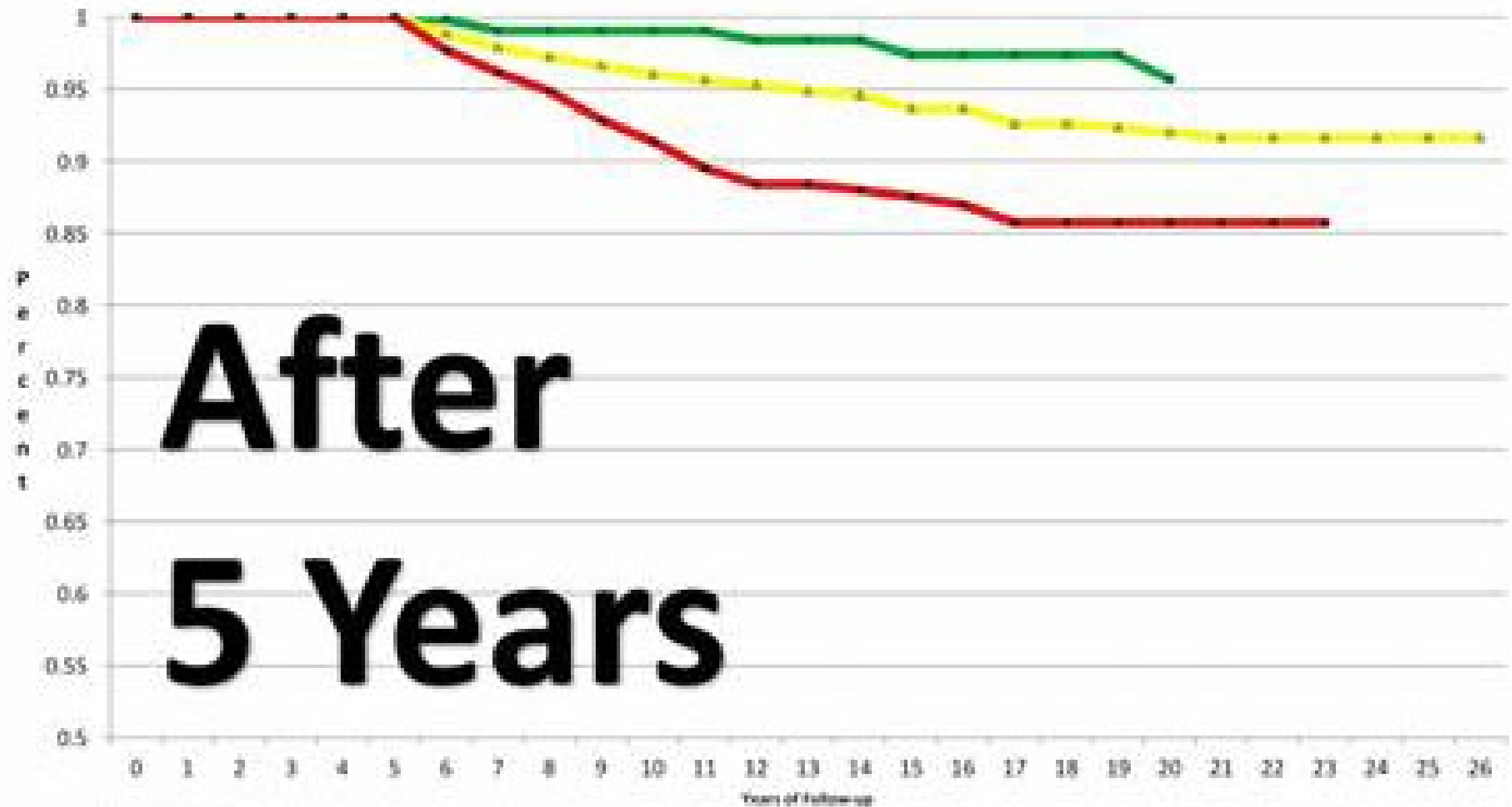
Desistance/Time-Free Effects

- Non-sexual offending during the follow-up period increased the risk of subsequent sexual recidivism independent of the time-free effect.
- After 10-15 years, most individuals with a history of sex offenses were no more likely to commit a new sex offense than individuals with a criminal history that did not include sex offenses.

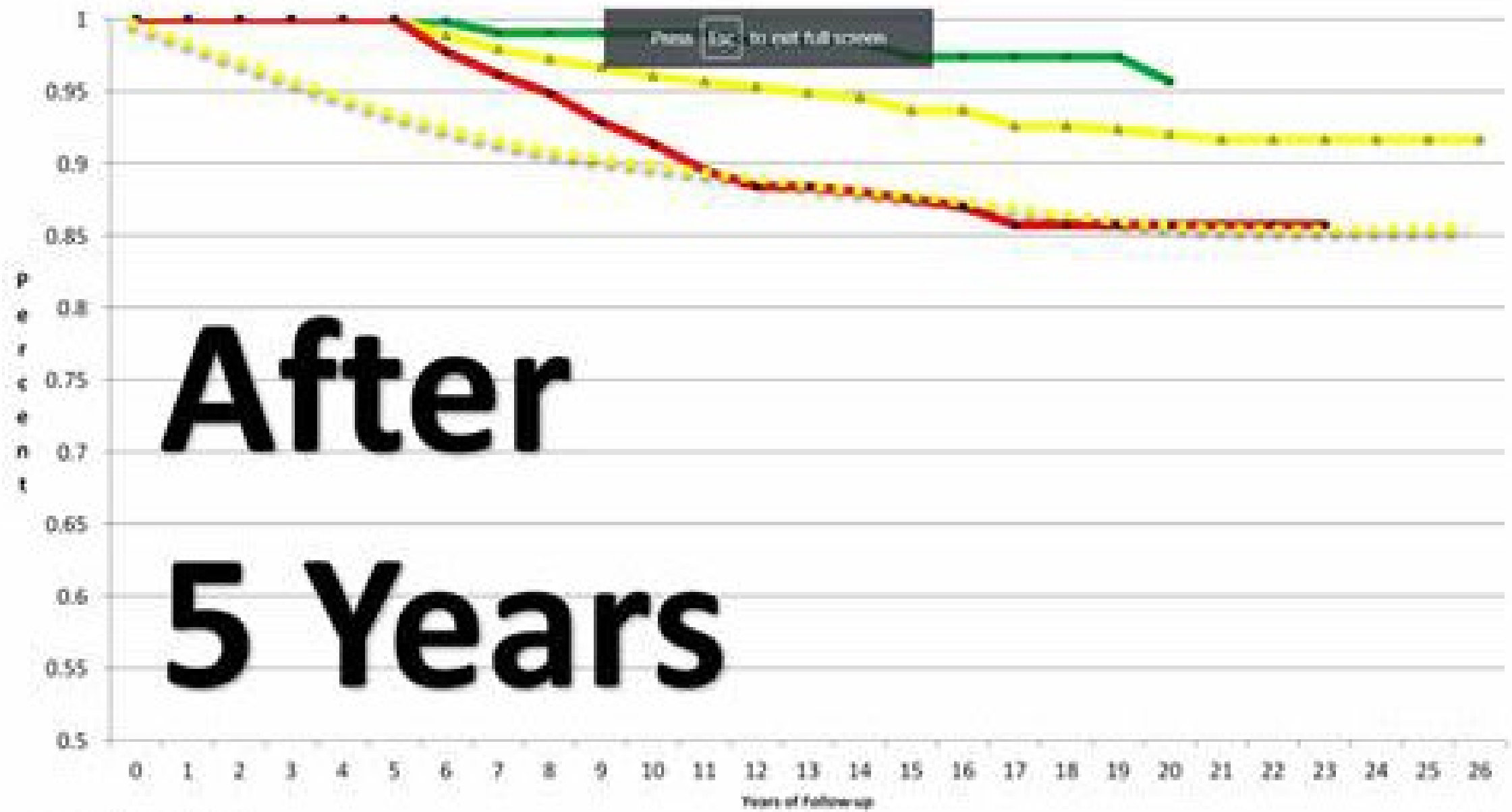
Desistance/Time-Free Effects

- Therefore, policies designed to manage the risk of sexual recidivism need to include mechanisms to adjust initial risk classifications and determine time periods where individuals with a history of sex crime should be released from the conditions and restrictions associated with the “sex offender” label (or those conditions should at least be modified)

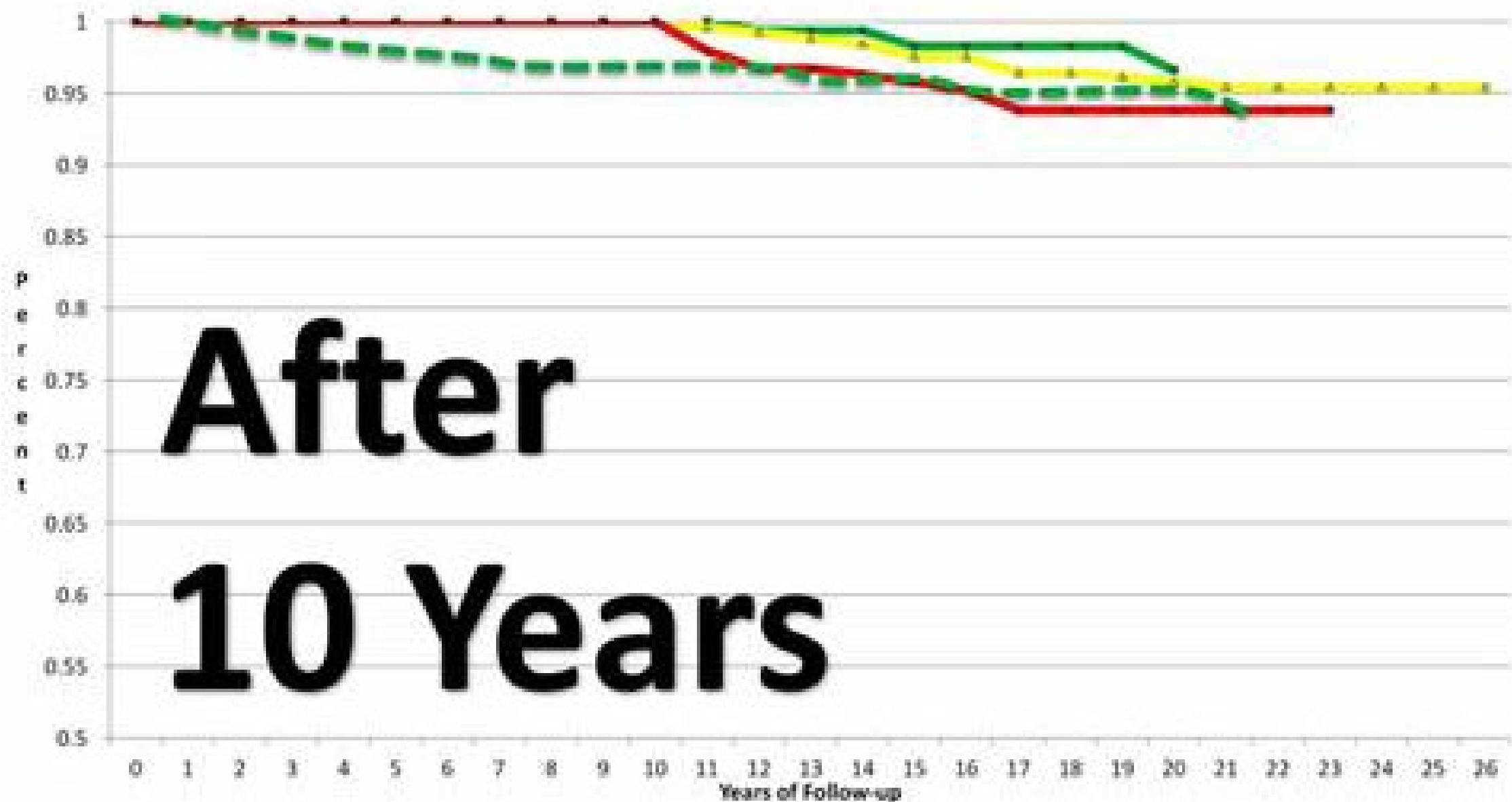




After
5 Years



After
5 Years



After
10 Years

Development of Standardized Risk Levels

- Broader movement toward improved risk communication
- Status quo in risk assessment has been for scale developers to translate total scores into risk levels in ways that were poorly defined and difficult to compare across measures
- Different interpretations of “low”, “moderate” and “high” among professionals in the field

Development of Standardized Risk Levels

- The way forward involves the development of universal, non-arbitrary risk levels.
- Categories should describe psychologically meaningful characteristics of the individual (not the scale), be linked to realistic options for action, be evidence-based, applicable to all risk scales, use a simple professional language, and be easy to implement across diverse jurisdictions, scales, and individuals.

Standardized Risk Levels for Static-99R

- Parallel the standardized risk levels developed for general correctional populations by the U.S. Council of State Governments Justice Center (Hanson, et al. 2017)
- Address the crime relevant characteristics of individuals in the criminal justice system, the intensity of correctional supervision and rehabilitative programming needed to reduce their risk, their personal strengths, and their expected prognosis

| Level | How Common? | Likelihood of Reoffending | Risk-Relevant Problems | Management Recommendations | Prognosis After Intervention |
|------------|------------------|--|---|---|---|
| I | Bottom 5% | <i>Very Low Risk</i> —similar to people with non-sexual criminal histories, < 2% after 5 years | <i>None or few</i> —if any, mild and/or transitory; clear resources and strengths. Generally prosocial | <i>None</i> —if needed, refer to community services | <i>Excellent</i> —individuals will stay in Level I |
| II | Lower 20% | <i>Below Average Risk</i> —approximately ½ the average risk (III) | <i>A few</i> —problems are either mild or transitory; they have some resources and strengths. | <i>Minimal</i> —if any, very short term, refer to community services if needed | <i>Very good</i> —most individuals move from Level II to I |
| III | 50% | <i>Average Risk</i> —6-8% will sexually reoffend after 5 years | <i>Multiple</i> —some severe, several areas; Few resources/strengths | <i>Significant</i> —treatment programs, and change-focused supervision activities | <i>Good</i> —many individuals will move from Level III to II |
| IV | Top 25% | <i>Above Average Risk</i> —approximately 2x to 4x the average risk (III) | <i>Multiple</i> —many severe, several areas; Limited resources/strengths | <i>Intensive</i> —High intensity treatment programs | <i>Improvement</i> —some individuals will eventually move to III, and as low as II after several years |
| V* | Uncertain | <i>Virtually Certain to Reoffend</i> —>85%% will sexually reoffend after 5 years | <i>Multiple, entrenched</i> —chronic, severe, and entrenched, likely across most or all areas; no resources/strengths | <i>Extensive</i> —High intensity treatment programs provided over several years. | <i>Poor</i> — Risk will likely remain above average; significant decreases likely to result from age-related desistance |

* Risk assessment tools are not currently able to identify individuals with this level of risk

Years Sexual Offence Free in the Community

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| STATIC-99R Scores | -3 | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | |
| | -2 | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| | -1 | II | II | II | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| | 0 | II | II | II | II | II | II | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| | 1 | III | III | III | II | II | II | II | II | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| | 2 | III | III | III | III | III | III | II | II | II | II | II | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| | 3 | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | II | II | II | II | II | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| | 4 | IVa | IVa | IVa | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | II | II | II | II | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| | 5 | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | II | II | II | II | II | I | I | I | I |
| | 6 | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | II | II | II | II | II | I |
| | 7 | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | II | II | II |
| | 8 | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | III | III |
| 9 | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | III | III | III | III | III | III | |
| 10+ | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVb | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | IVa | III | III | III | III | |

8/15/2016 Date of Release from Index Offense

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Recidivism Risk? | 4.5 |
| At what year? | 20 |

Yes Any nonsexual offense convictions after index offense while in the community?

1/25/2019 Date of first one

No Offender removed from community for any reason after release from Index Offense?

RESET

Instructions
Always start by resetting the workbook.
Only enter data in yellow highlighted cells.

Today

Independently Modelled Risk

| Years in Community Offense Free | Year End Date | Residual Lifetime Risk |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 0 | 8/15/2016 | 4.5 |
| 1 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 2 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 3 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 4 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 5 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 6 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 7 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 8 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 9 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 10 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 11 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 12 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 13 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 14 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 15 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 16 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| 17 | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| | #VALUE! | 0.0 |
| | | #VALUE! |

RESET

Use calculators below to get duration in days

| Start Date | End Date | Duration (Days) |
|------------|----------|-----------------|
| | | |

| Years | Months | Weeks | Duration (Days) |
|-------|--------|-------|-----------------|
| | | | |

| LN Units Change | Model |
|-----------------|---|
| -0.130 | Year offense free with no nonsexual reoffense |
| -0.135 | Year offense free with nonsexual reoffense |
| 0.440 | Year of first nonsexual reoffense |

Extrapolation of Lifetime Risk: Years 20

Implications for Public Policy

- Hanson et al., (2017) discusses three implications:
 - The most efficient public protection policies will vary their responses according to the level of risk presented
 - Efficient public policy responses need to include a process for reassessment
 - Should be an upper limit to the absolute duration of public protection measures

Time-Free Adjustments for Static-99R

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvvTfRCWTZc>
- Training Video by Dr. Andrew Brankley