

# SSPI-2 Validation

Chair: Kelly M. Babchishin

CPA Convention (June 22, 2024 )  
Ottawa, Ontario

Sexual interest in children is the leading factor in the **onset and maintenance** of child sexual abuse

# Methods to assess sexual interest in children

## Self-report



- Easy to administer
- Inexpensive



- Social desirability
- Impression management

# Methods to assess sexual interest in children

## Attentional or viewing tasks



- Does not require direct questioning
- Inexpensive
- Easy to administer



- Less researched

# Methods to assess sexual interest in children

## Phallometric testing



- Objective quantifiable measure of sexual arousal
- Large research base



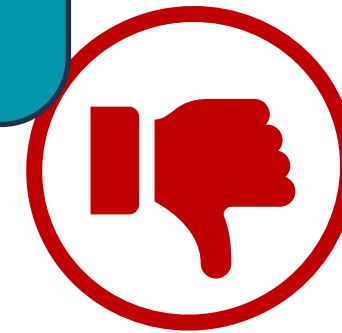
- Costly
- Invasive
- Time consuming
- No standardization

# Methods to assess sexual interest in children

## File based measures



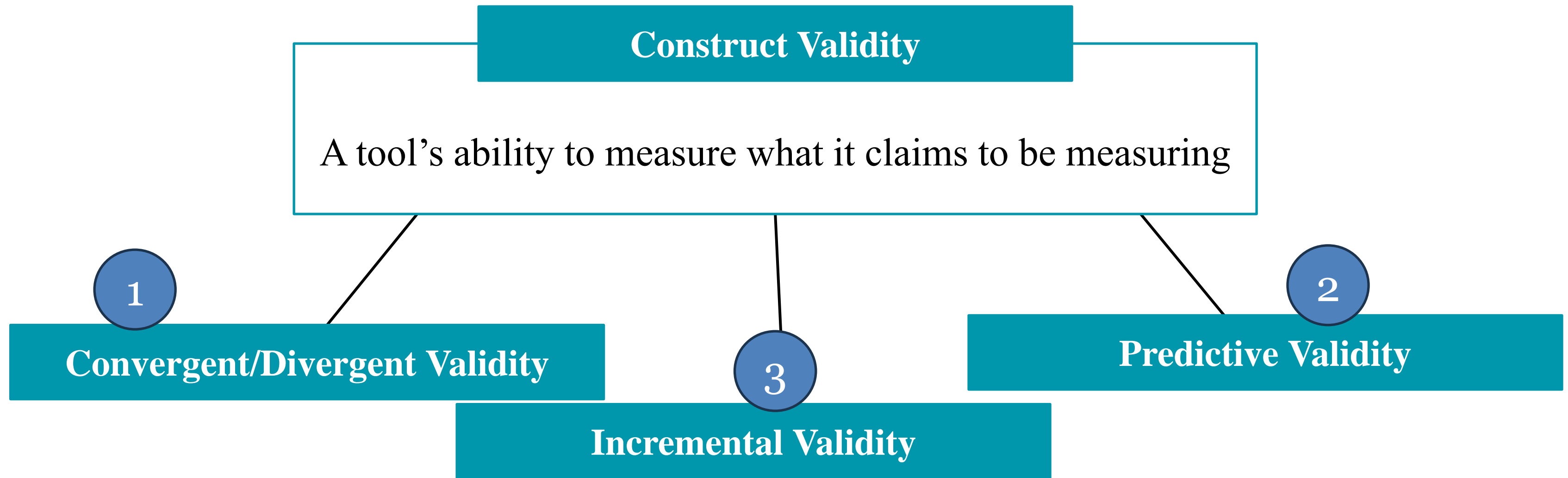
- Easy to collect
- Can code retrospectively



- Less research
- Construct validity

# Today's symposium

An independent validation of the SSPI-2!

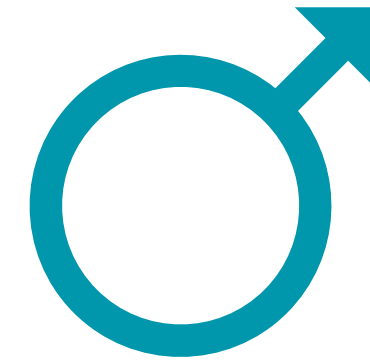


# Convergent and divergent validity of the SSPI-2

Alexis Hinkson & Melissa O'Donaghy



# Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests



Seto & Lalumière (2001)

# SSPI

Seto & Lalumière (2001)

2

Any boy victim(s)

1

More than one victim

1

Any prepubescent victim(s)

1

Any extrafamilial victim(s)

Total Score: 5

# SSPI-2

Seto et al. (2017b)

1

Any boy victim(s)

1

More than one victim

1

Any prepubescent victim(s)

1

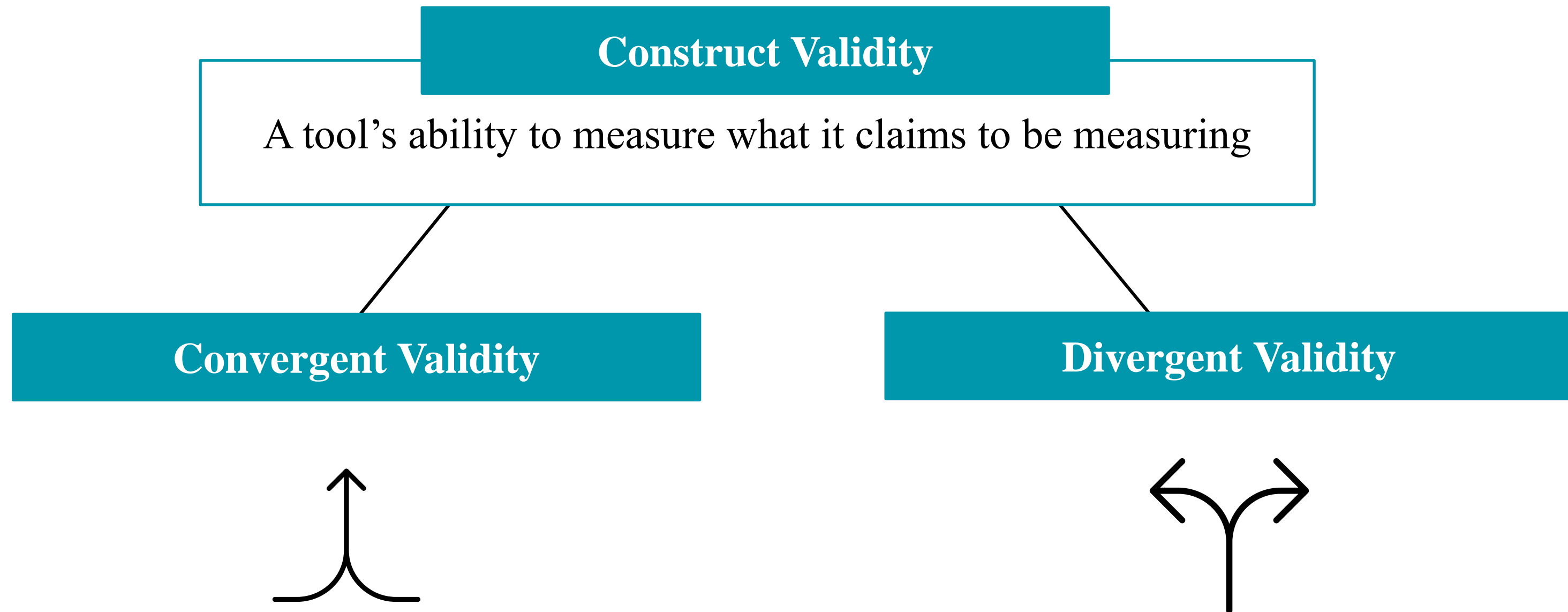
Any extrafamilial victim(s)

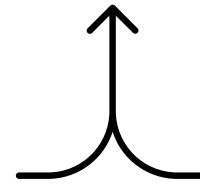
1

Any child pornography offences

Total Score: 5

# Assessing Validity





## Convergent Validity

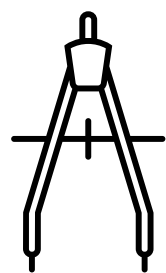
When similar measures of the same construct, have strongly related scores  
(Gravetter & Forzano, 2018)

### SSPI/2 Convergent Validity:



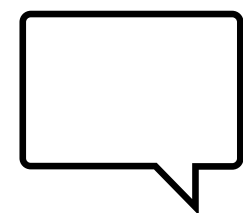
$r = .96$

Seto et al. (2017a)



$r = .25$

Seto et al. (2017a)



$r = .48$

Seto et al. (2017b)



$r = .21$

Schmidt et al. (2017)

#### Deviant Sexual Interests Items

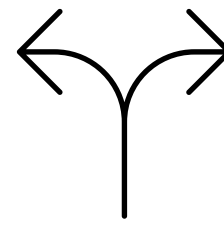
STABLE-2000 ( $r = .27$ )  
STABLE-2007 ( $r = .55$ )

Helmus et al. (2015)

#### Deviant Sexual Interests Subscale

Static-2002R ( $r = .70$ )

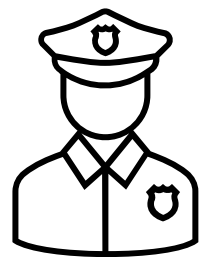
Helmus et al. (2015)



## Divergent Validity

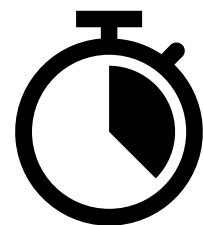
When there are small to null correlations between two or more measures that assess different constructs  
(Gravetter & Forzano, 2018)

### SSPI/2 Divergent Validity:



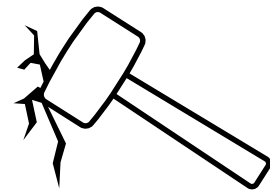
$$r = .07$$

Helmus et al. (2015)



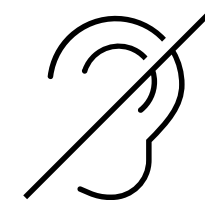
$$r = -.01$$

Helmus et al. (2015)



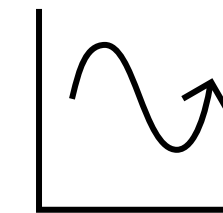
$$r = -.02$$

Helmus et al. (2015)



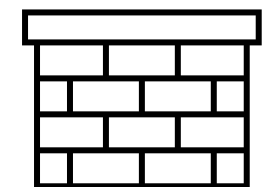
$$\begin{aligned} \text{SSPI } r_{pb} &= -.009 \\ \text{SSPI-2 } r_{pb} &= -.012 \end{aligned}$$

Seto et al. (2017a)



$$\begin{aligned} \text{SSPI } r_{pb} &= .008 \\ \text{SSPI-2 } r_{pb} &= .005 \end{aligned}$$

Seto et al. (2017a)



$$\begin{aligned} \text{SSPI } r_{pb} &= -.010 \\ \text{SSPI-2 } r_{pb} &= .002 \end{aligned}$$

Seto et al. (2017a)

# Current Study



**Validate the SSPI-2** as a measure of sexual interest in children by examining its **convergent** and **divergent validity** with other measures

# Current Study

## Hypotheses



### Convergent Validity

The SSPI-2 would have **convergent validity** with measures that assess **atypical sexual interest**

1

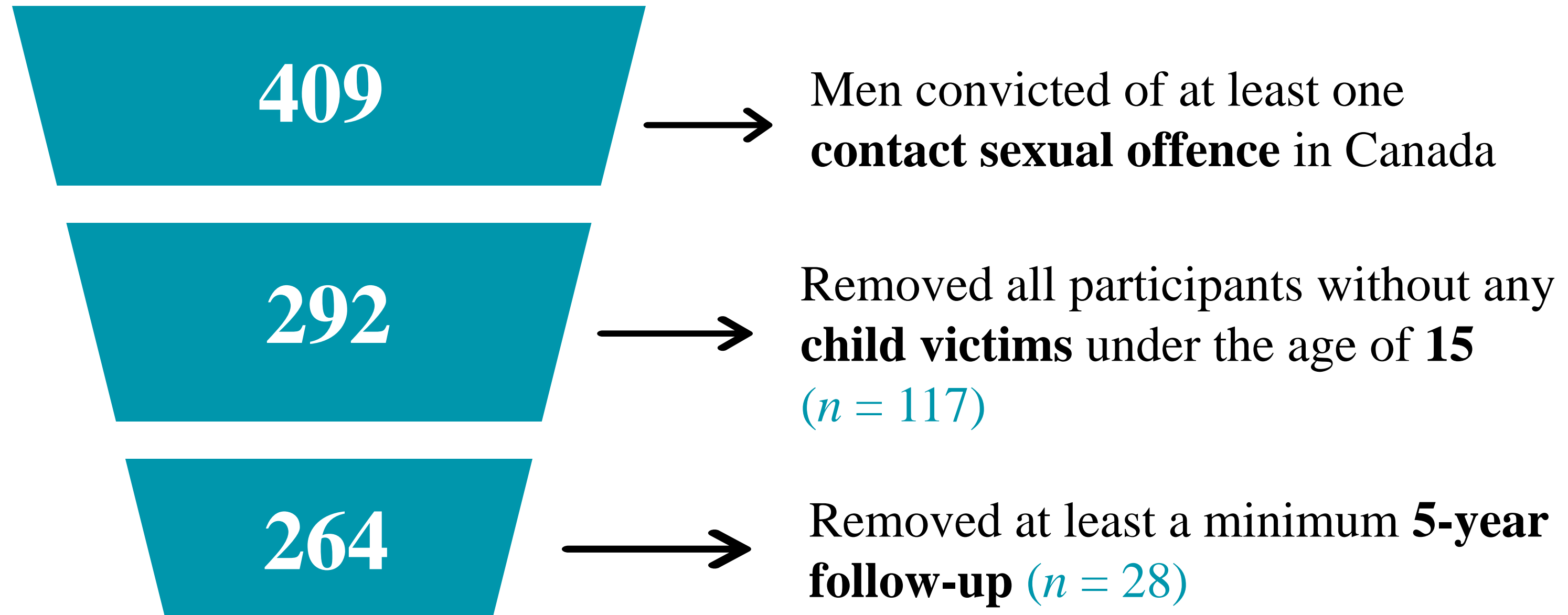


### Divergent Validity

The SSPI-2 would have **divergent validity** with measures that assess **antisociality and general criminality**

2

# Current Sample





# Participants

Community Supervision



**264** men convicted of at least one contact sexual offence



Higher Risk of Sexual Recidivism

# Current Sample Characteristics

## # of Sex Offences

$M = 2.76$  ( $SD = 4.32$ )

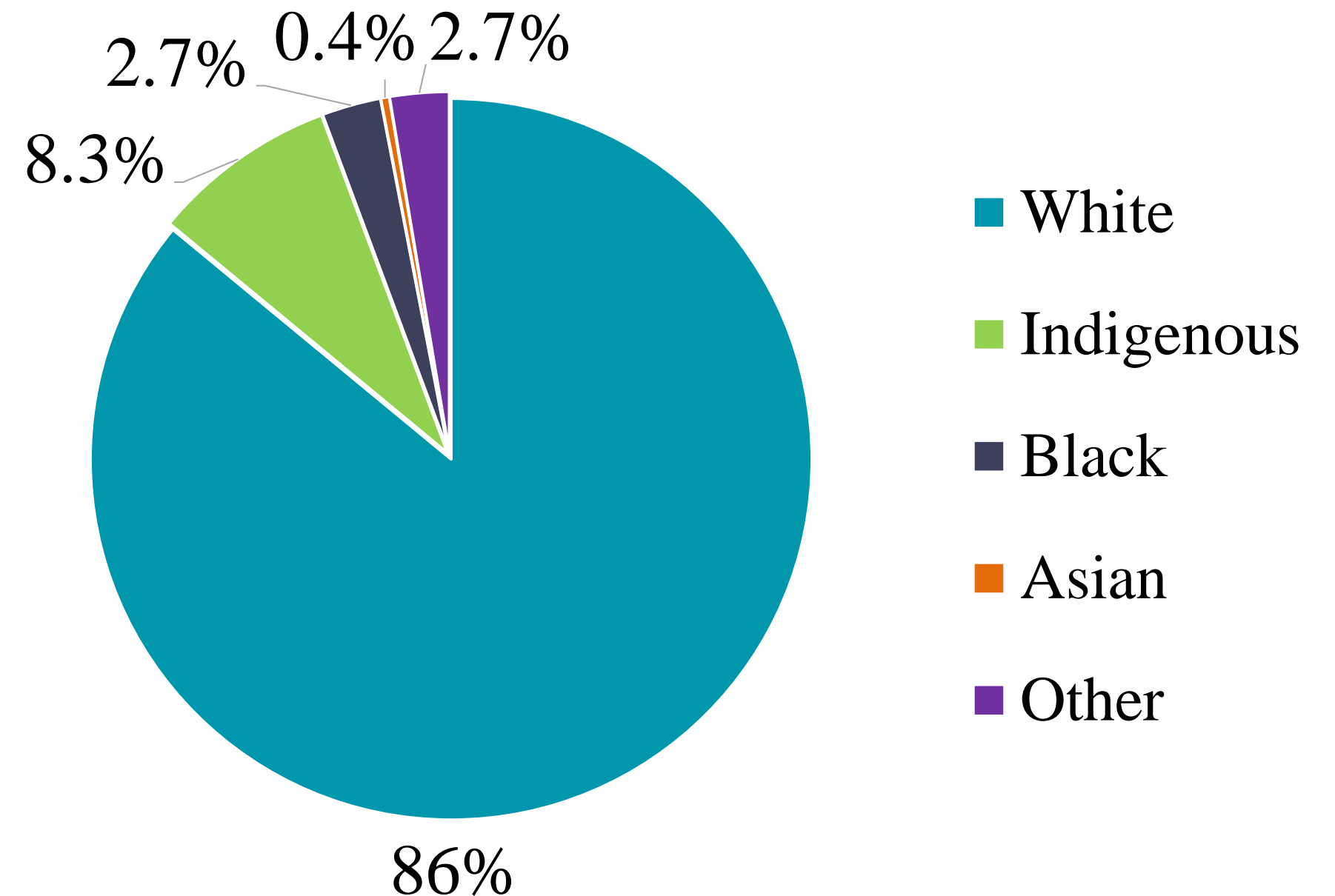


$M = 35$  years old ( $SD = 11.08$ )

## SSPI-2

$M = 3.06$  ( $SD = 1.04$ )

## Ethnicity



# Measures

## Sexual Domain Variables



Scores  
**0 to 8**

Attitudes

$M = 4.34$  ( $SD = 3.15$ )



Scores  
**0 or 1**

Pedohebephilia

$M = 0.59$  ( $SD = 0.49$ )



Scores  
**0 or 1**

PPG

$M = 0.81$  ( $SD = 0.39$ )



Scores  
**0 to 5**

SSPI/2

SSPI:  $M = 3.55$  ( $SD = 1.41$ )  
SSPI-2:  $M = 3.06$  ( $SD = 1.04$ )

# Measures

## Risk Tools & General Criminality Variables



Scores  
**-2 to 8**

BARR-2002R

$M = 3.60$  ( $SD = 2.08$ )



Scores  
**0 to 15**

Conduct Disorder

$M = 4.12$  ( $SD = 2.84$ )



Scores  
**0 to 40**

PCL-R

$M = 19.39$  ( $SD = 8.28$ )



Scores  
**-34 to 44**

VRAG-R

$M = 8.66$  ( $SD = 15.27$ )

# Data Analyses

## Polychoric Correlations

for non-continuous variables

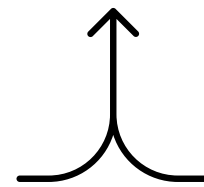
## Effect Sizes

.10 = small  
.30 = moderate  
.50 = large

## Polyserial Correlations

for ordinal and continuous variables

# Results: Construct Validity



## SSPI-2 Convergent Validity



**SSPI**  
 $r = .99$



**Pedohebephilia**  
 $r = .52$

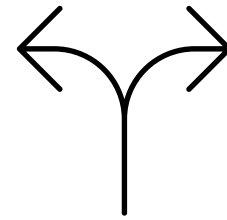


**PPG**  
 $r = .31$



**Attitudes**  
 $r = .23$

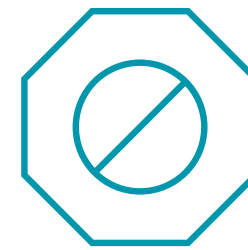
# Results: Construct Validity



## SSPI-2 Divergent Validity



**VRAG-R**  
 $r = -.09$



**Conduct Disorder**  
 $r = -.07$

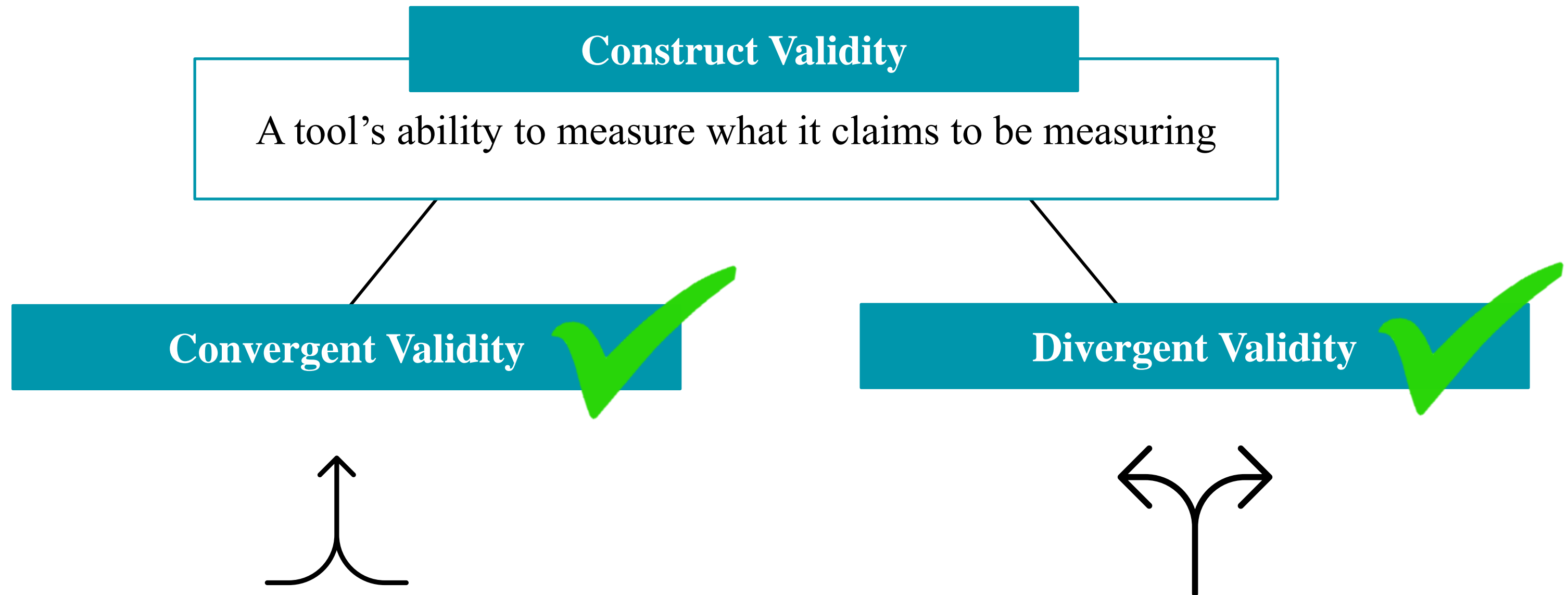


**PCL-R**  
 $r = -.07$



**BARR-2002R**  
 $r = -.06$

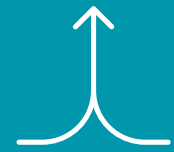
# Assessing Validity



Campbell & Fiske (1959)



# Discussion



## Convergent Validity

The **SSPI-2** is strongly associated with measures that assess **atypical sexual interests**

It is **best suited to assess pedophilia**



## Divergent Validity

The **SSPI-2** is not associated with **antisociality or general criminality** measures

It is **not well-suited to assess antisociality or violent/general recidivism**



Similar results obtained by Seto and colleagues (2017a; 2017b) and Helmus et al. (2015)

**The SSPI-2 is a valid measure of sexual interest in children**

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

**Carleton**  
University



**SEXUALLY  
HARMFUL  
BEHAVIOURS**  
*Research Lab*

# Predictive validity of the SSPI and SSPI-2

Rachael Zarbl & Melissa O'Donaghy

# Assessing Validity

## Construct Validity

A tool's ability to measure what it claims to be measuring

Convergent/Divergent Validity

Predictive Validity

# What is Predictive Validity?

How well the measure of interest can **predict**  
a relevant outcome



# Previous Studies



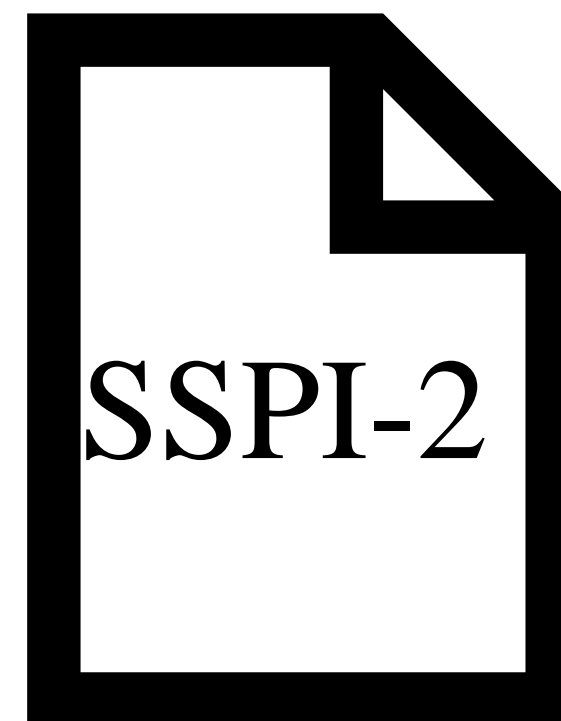
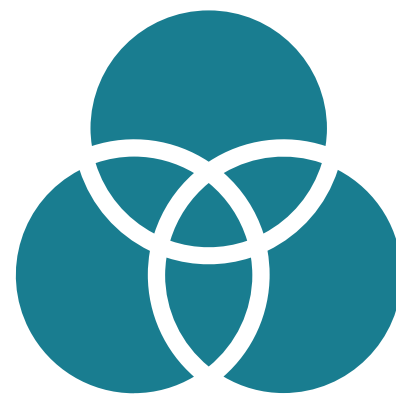
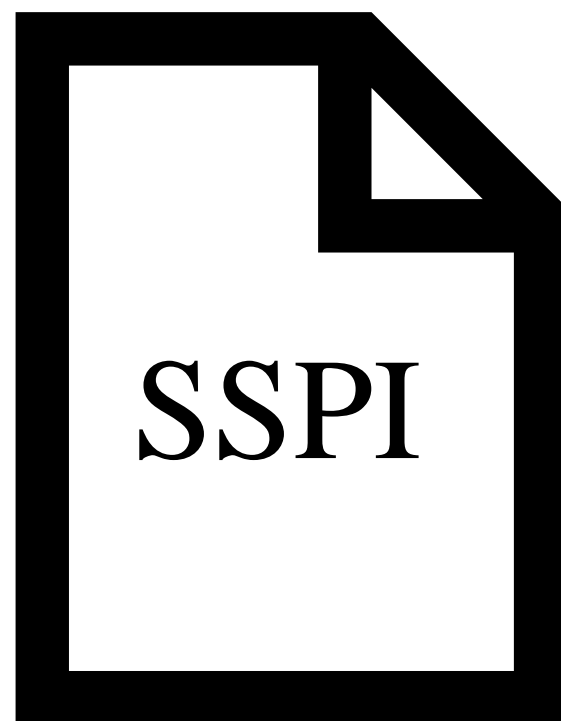
SSPI-2 had a small to moderate prediction of sexual reoffending



Accurate predictions require general and sexual criminality measures

# The Current Study

Examine the differences between the SSPI and the SSPI-2 on  
**predictive accuracy**



# Hypothesis

The SSPI-2 will be a **better** predictor of sexual recidivism than the SSPI





# Participants

Community Supervision

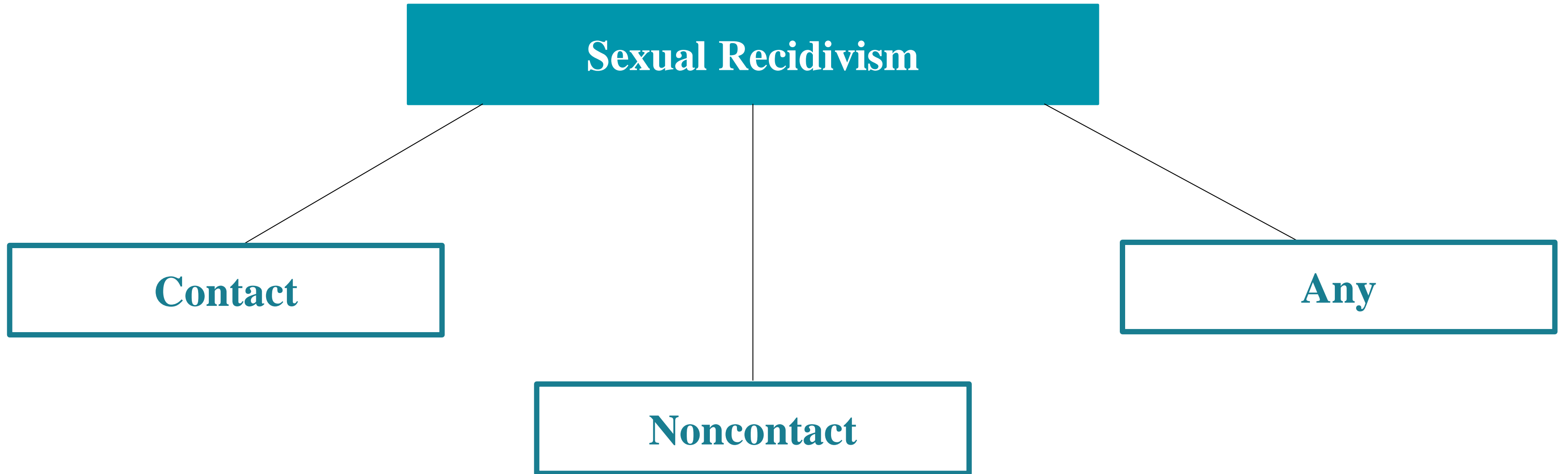


**264** men convicted of at least one contact sexual offence



Higher Risk of Sexual Recidivism

# Method



# Data Analyses

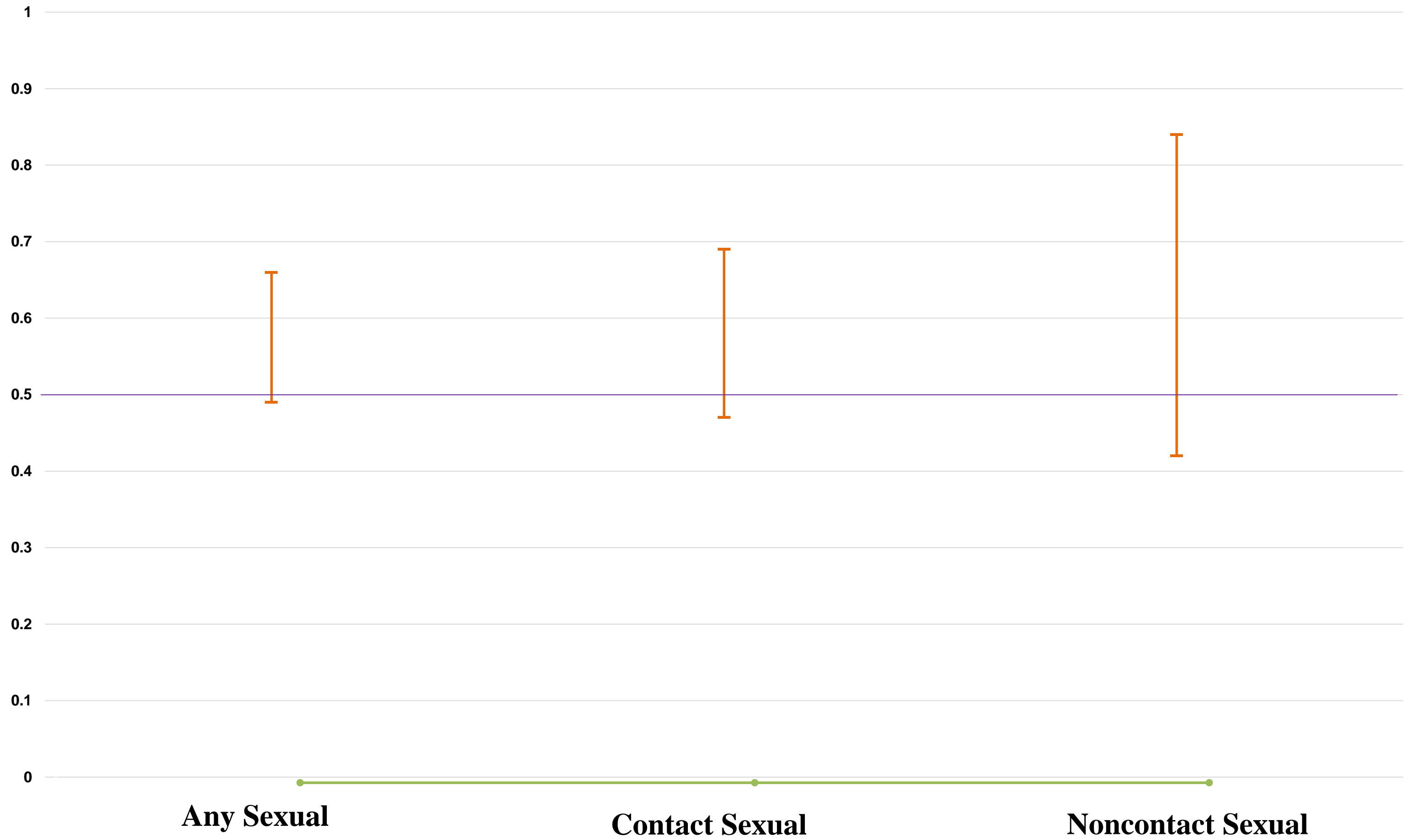
AUC

## Effect Sizes

.57 = small  
.64 = moderate  
.71 = large

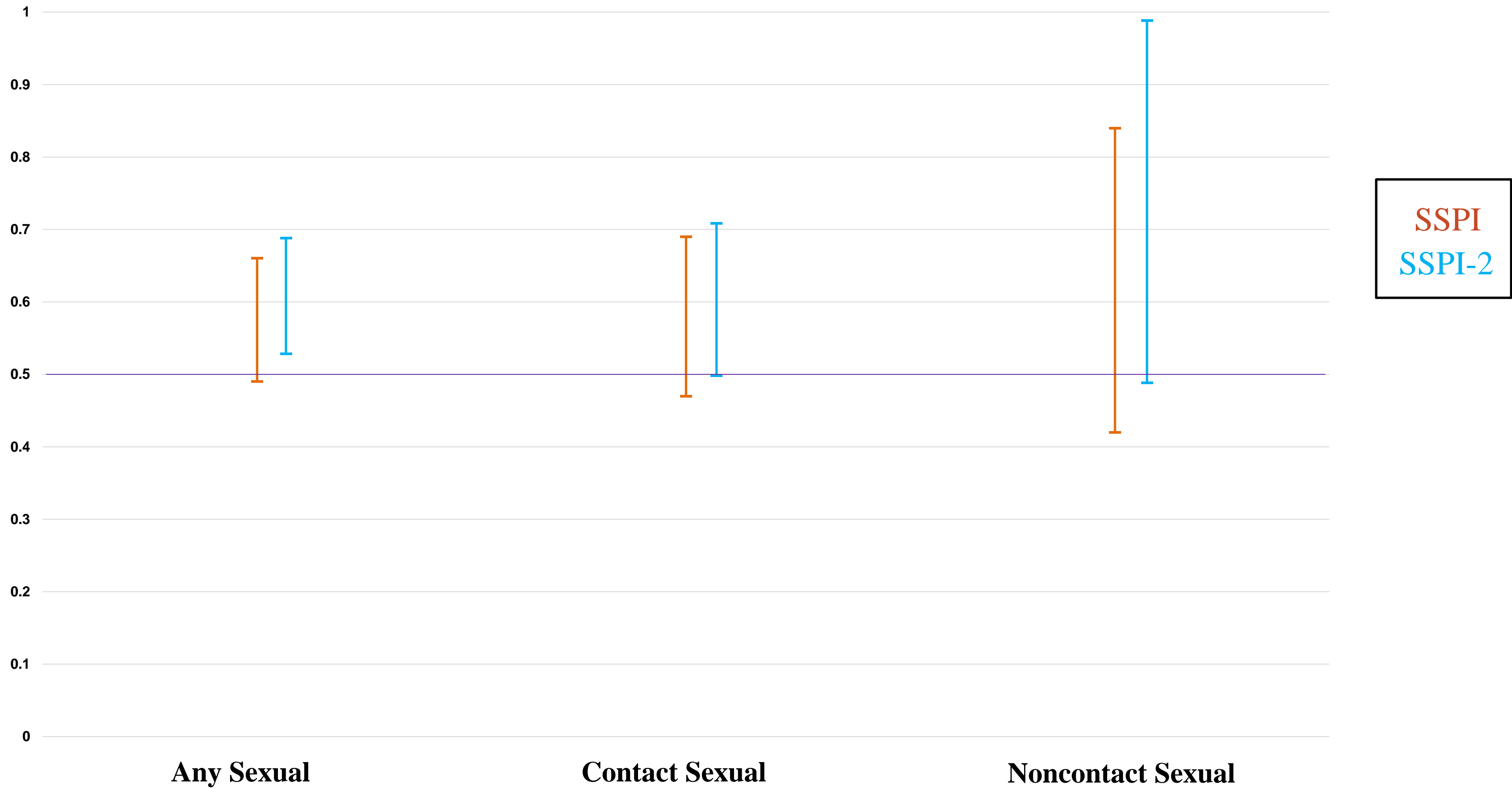
Delong Test

# AUC for Recidivism Fixed 5-Year

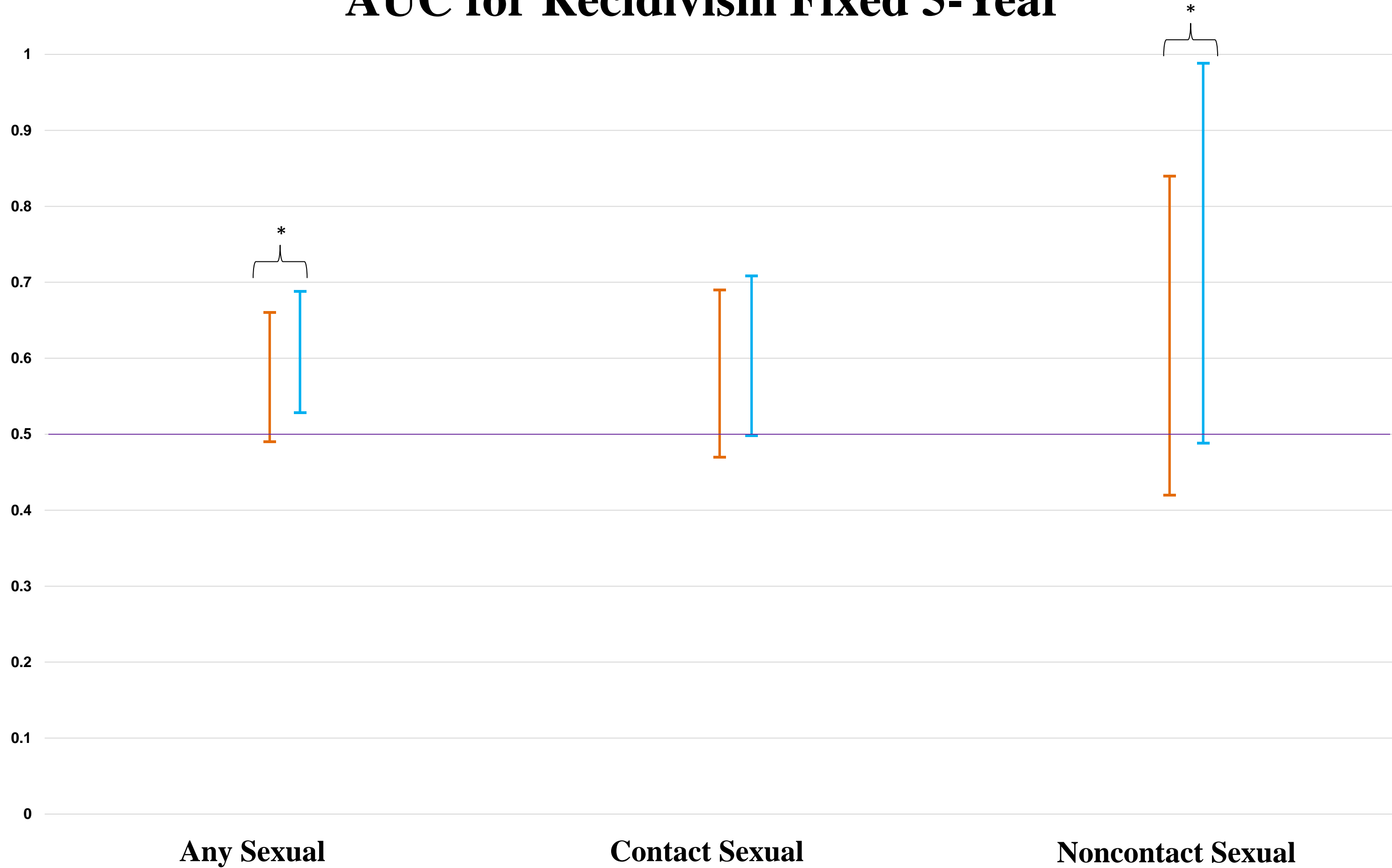


SSPI

# AUC for Recidivism Fixed 5-Year

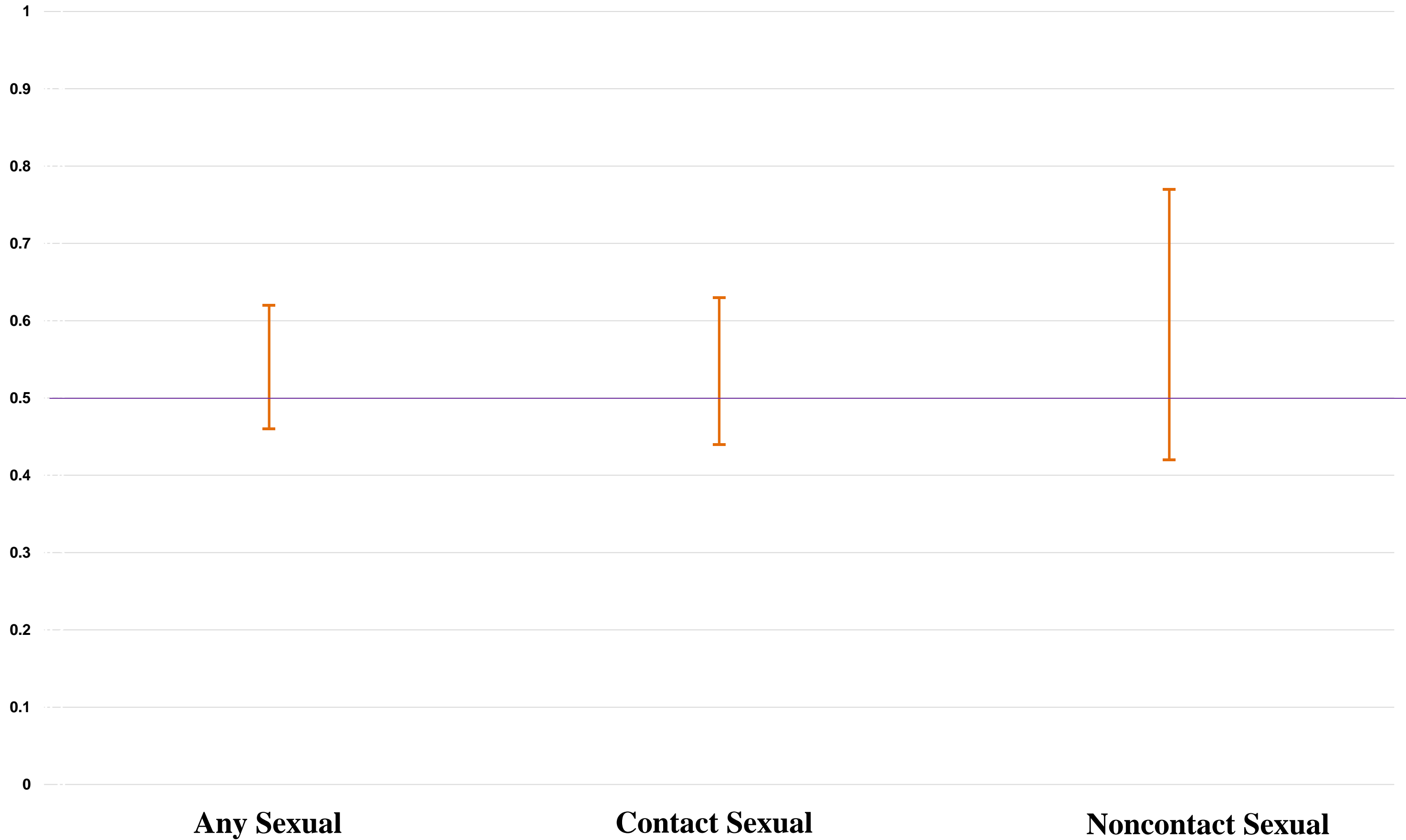


# AUC for Recidivism Fixed 5-Year



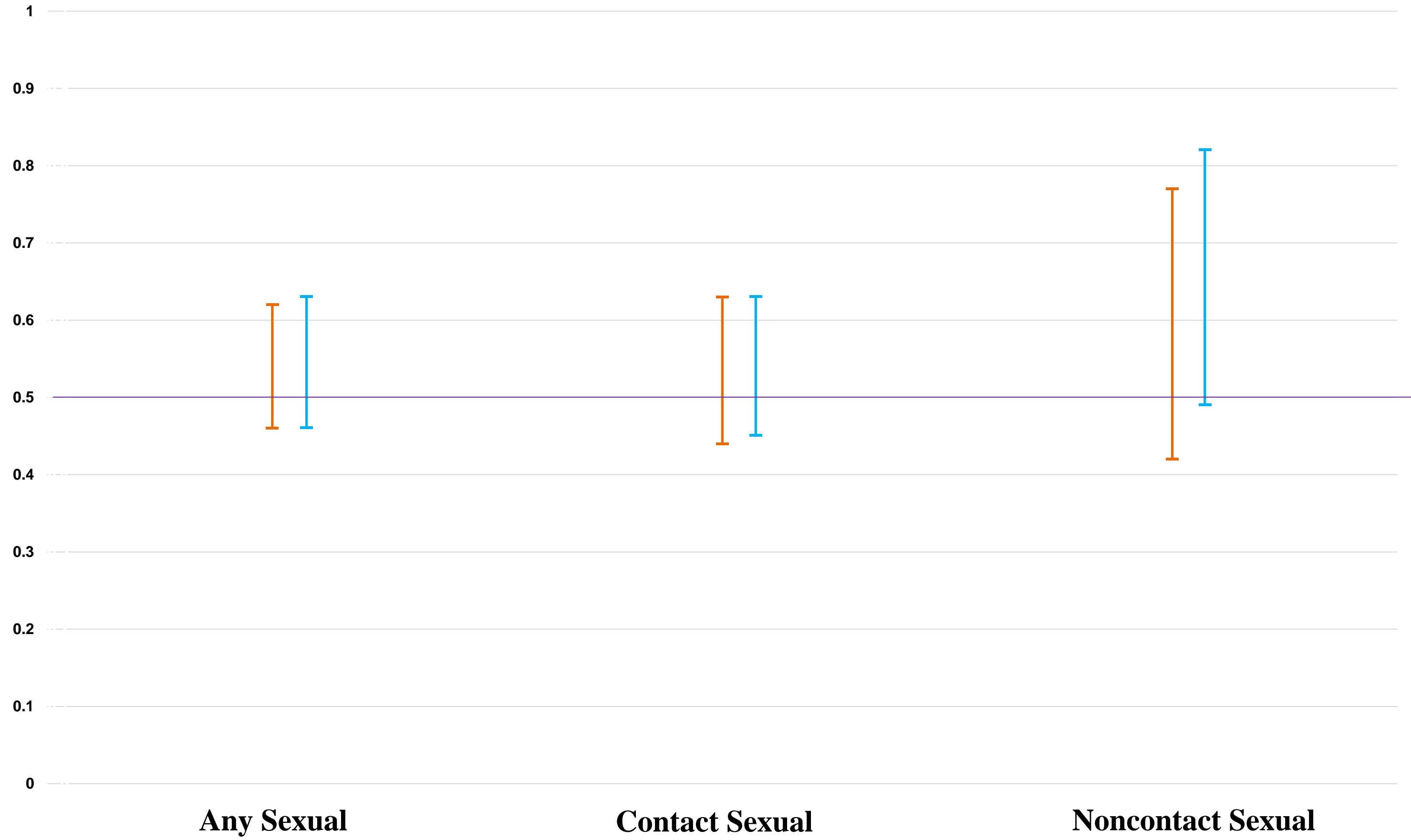
SSPI  
SSPI-2

# AUC for Recidivism Fixed 20-Year



SSPI

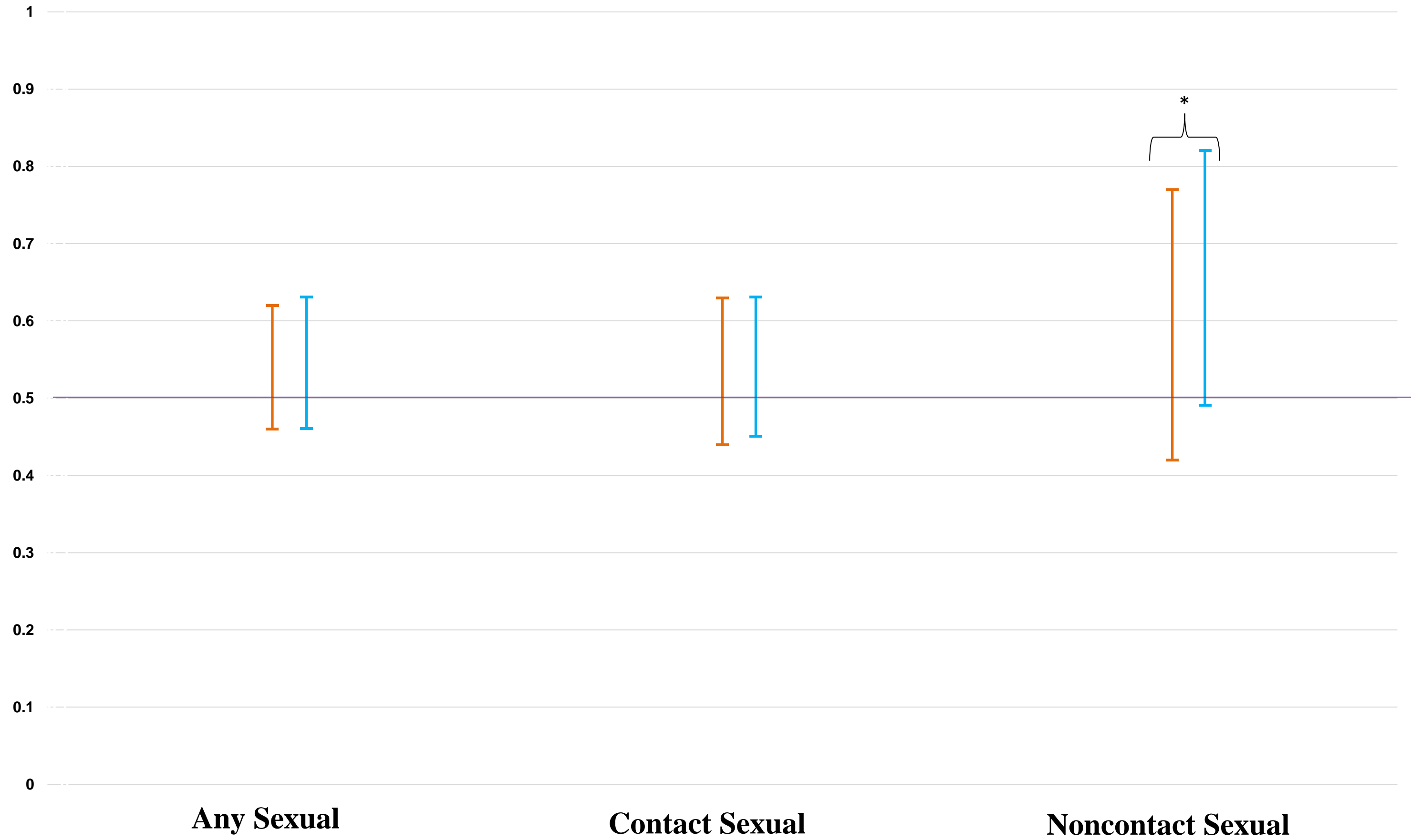
# AUC for Recidivism Fixed 20-Year



SSPI  
SSPI-2



# AUC for Recidivism Fixed 20-Year



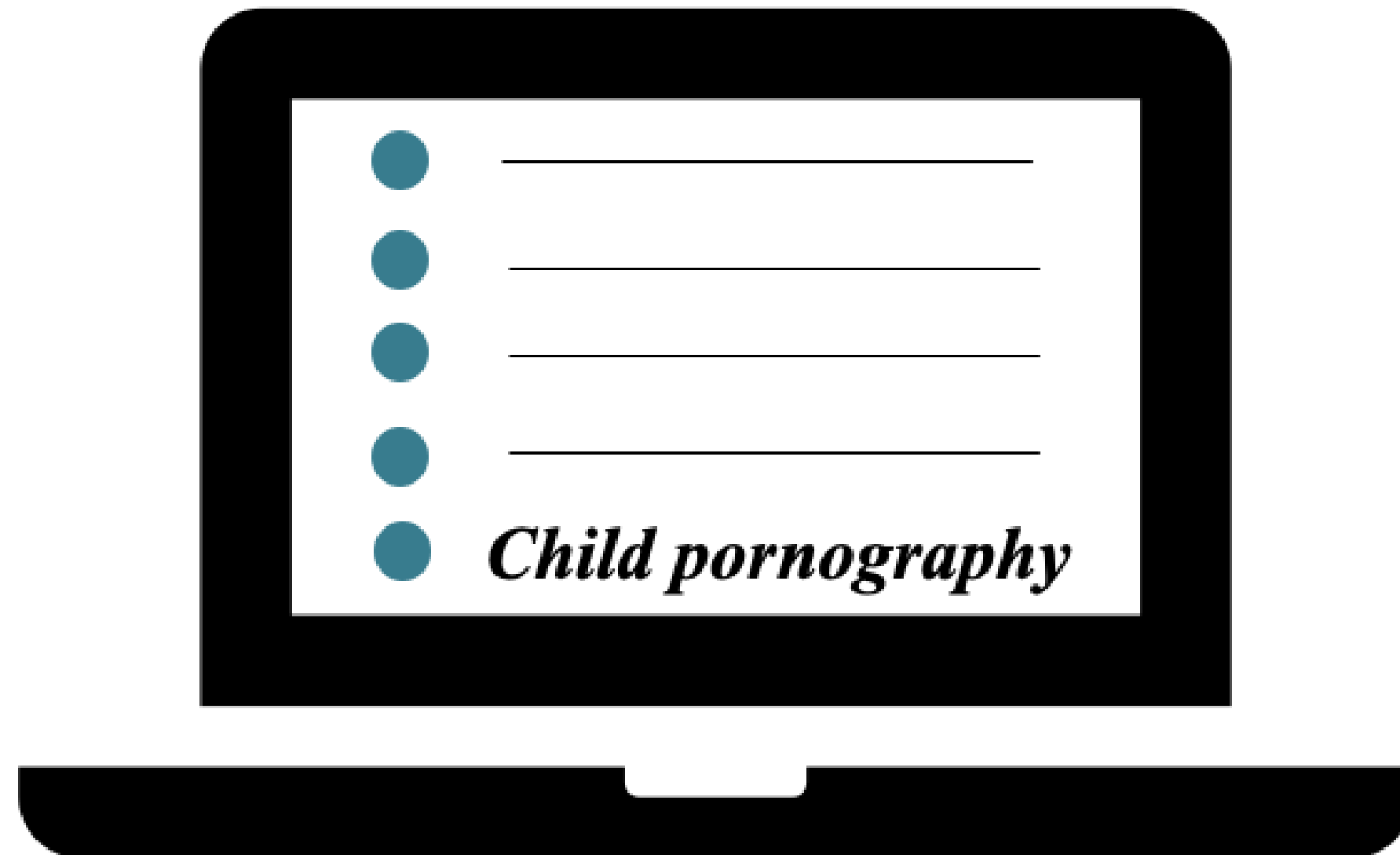
SSPI  
SSPI-2

# Results



**SSPI-2** is a better predictor of sexual recidivism than the **SSPI**

# Discussion



The addition of the **child pornography** item contributed to the SSPI-2's prediction of reoffending

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

**Carleton**  
University

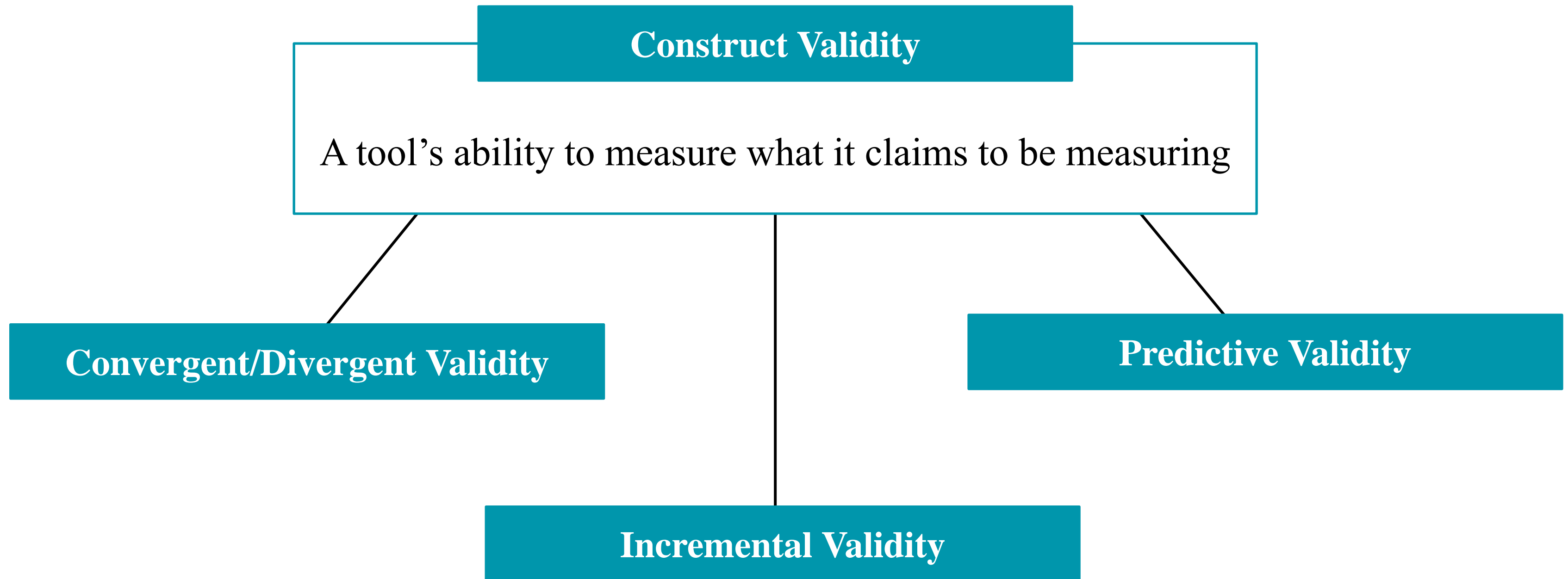


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# Incremental validity of the SSPI-2

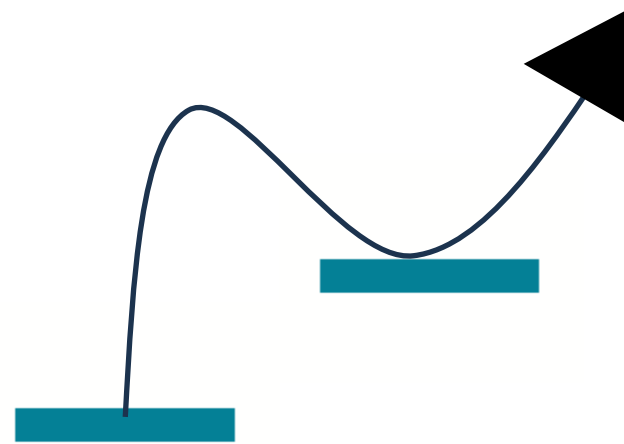
Melissa O'Donaghy

# Assessing Validity

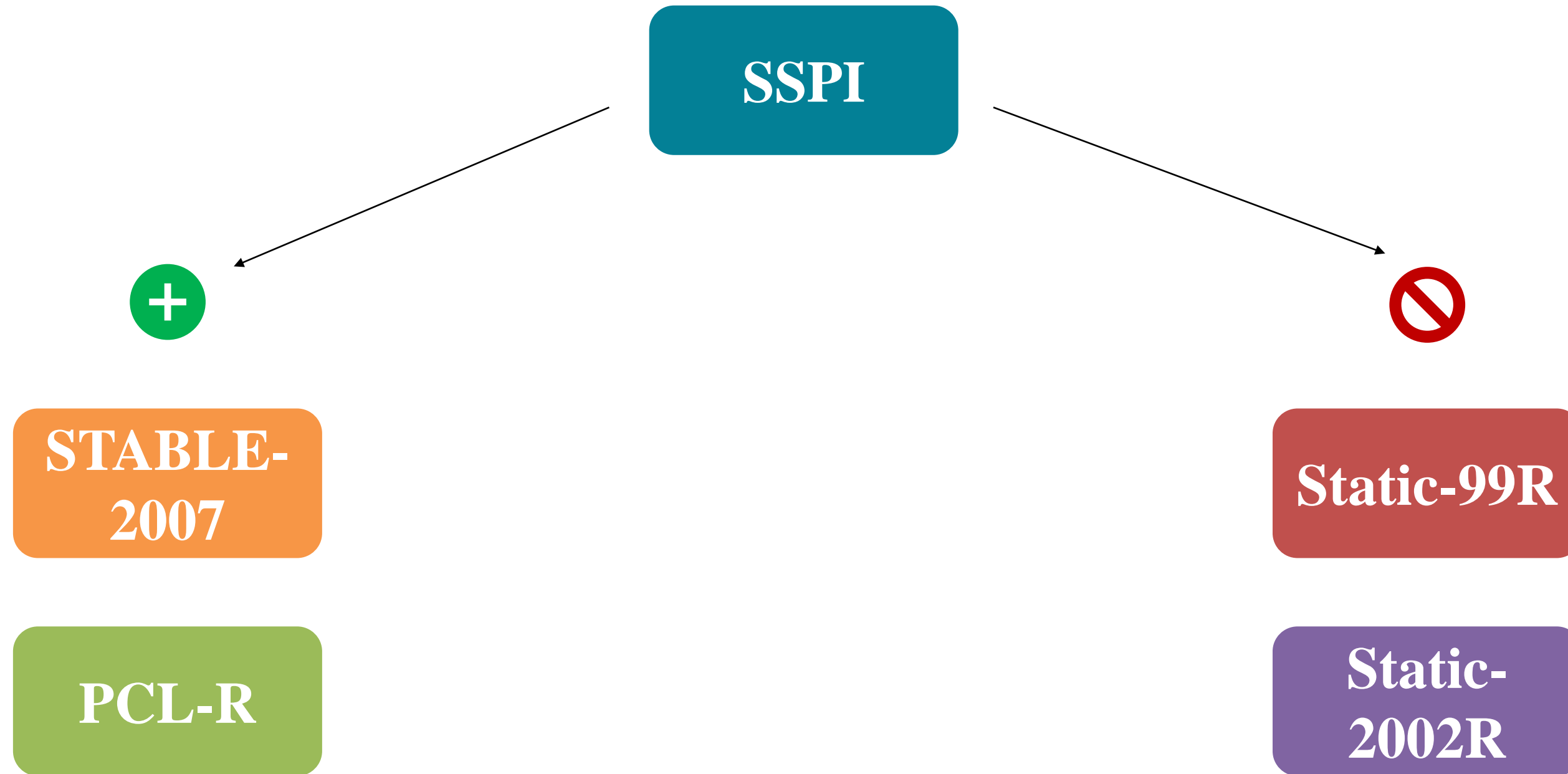


# What is incremental validity?

Whether a measure of interest **adds** unique information above and beyond what is already being captured by another measure

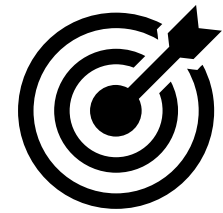


# Previous studies

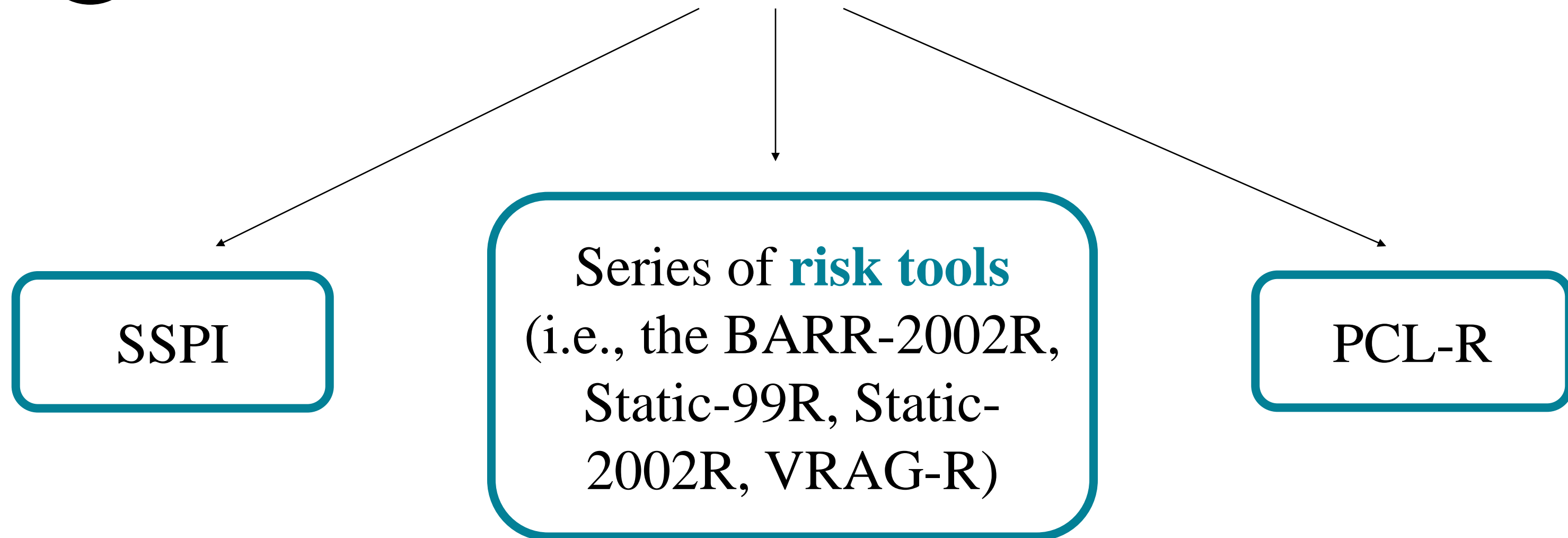




# Current Study

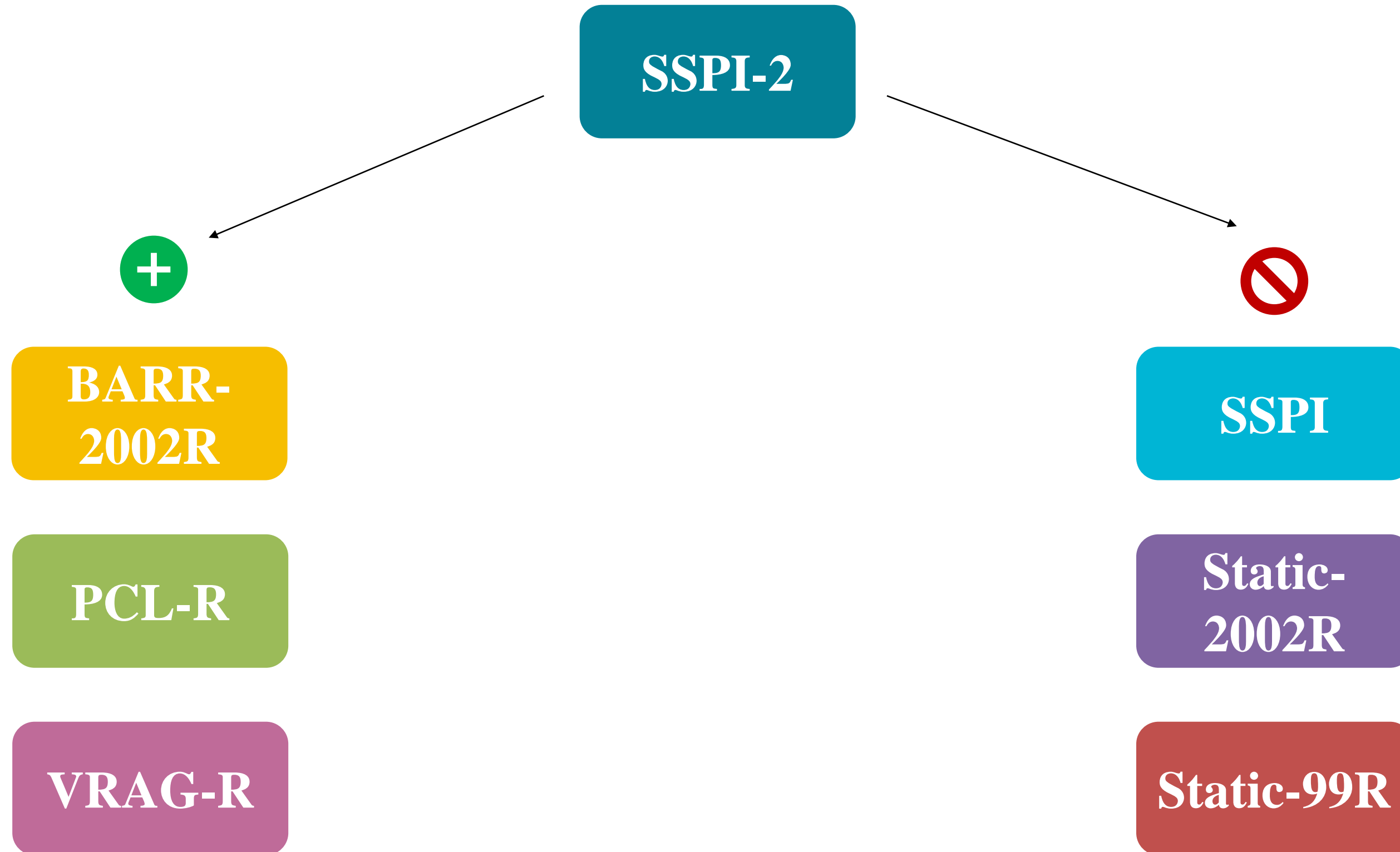


Examine whether the SSPI-2 adds **incremental validity** to:



in the prediction of **5-year** any sexual recidivism

# Hypotheses



# Participants

Community Supervision



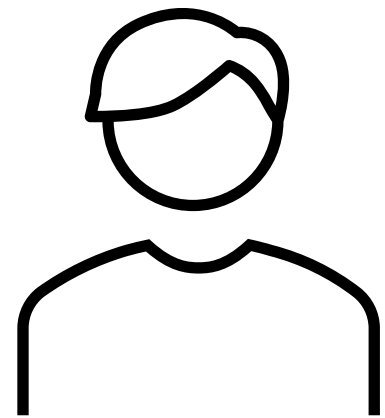
**264** men convicted of at least one contact sexual offence



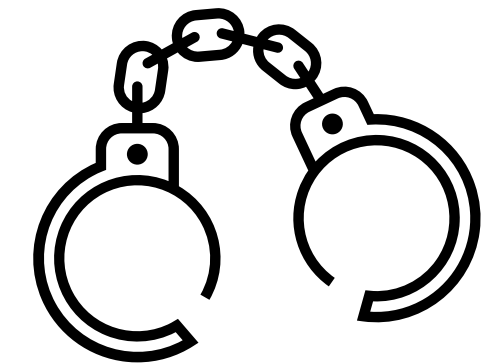
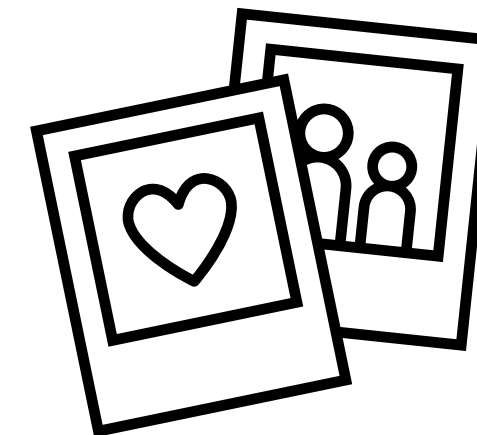
Higher Risk of Sexual Recidivism

# STATIC-99R

Actuarial risk assessment tool  
designed to predict **sexual  
recidivism**

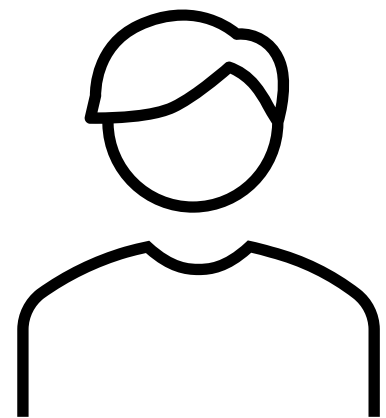


**10 items**

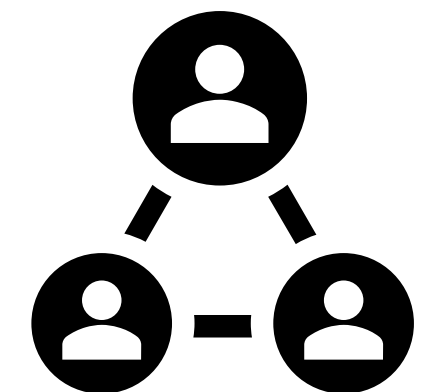
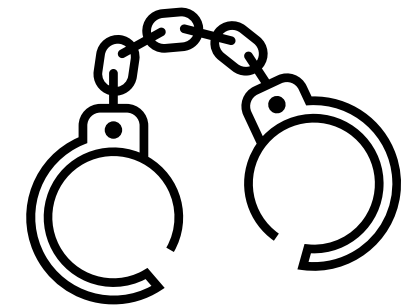


# STATIC-2002R

Actuarial risk assessment tool  
designed to predict **sexual  
recidivism**





**14 items**

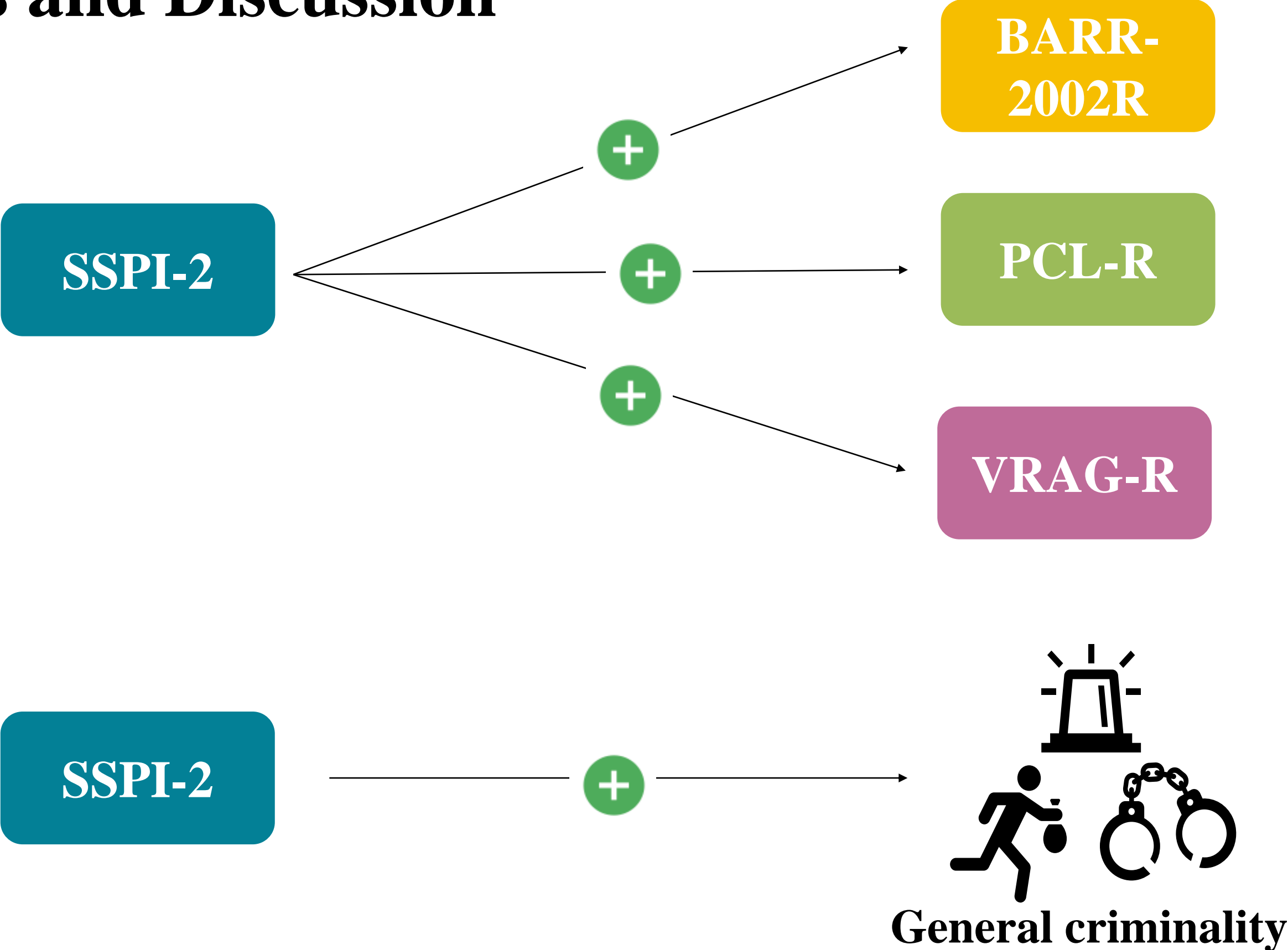


## Data Analyses

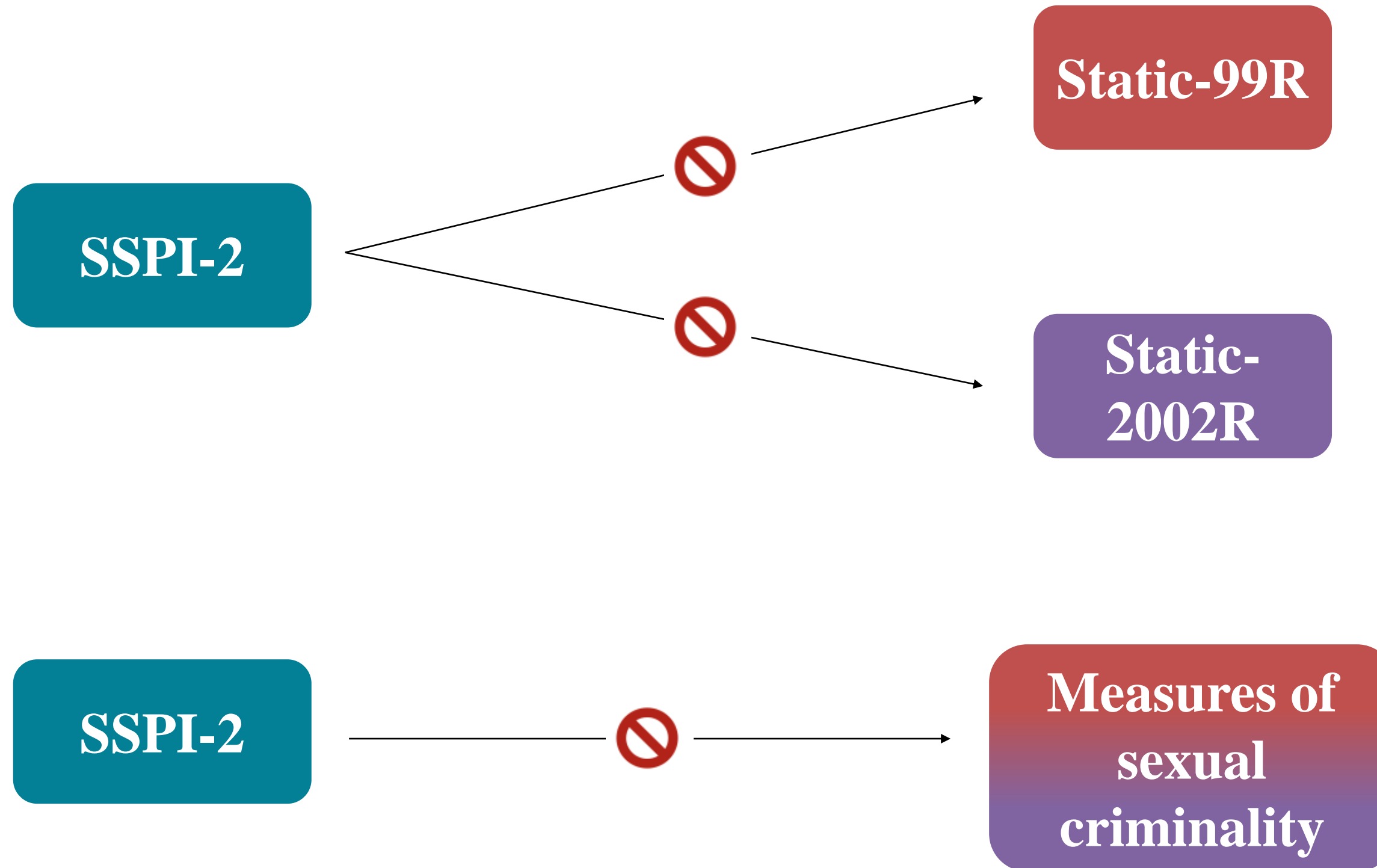
**Logistic regression** to determine whether the SSPI-2 added incrementally to another measure in predictions of sexual recidivism

**Odds ratio:**  or  in the odds of sexual recidivism,  
after controlling for the other measure

# Results and Discussion

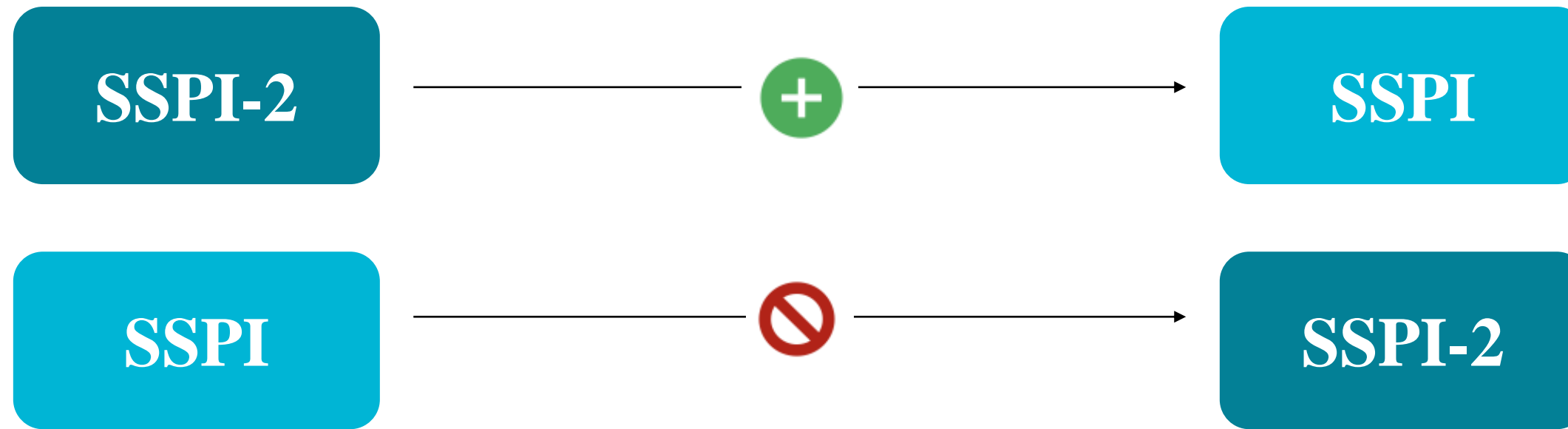


# Results and Discussion



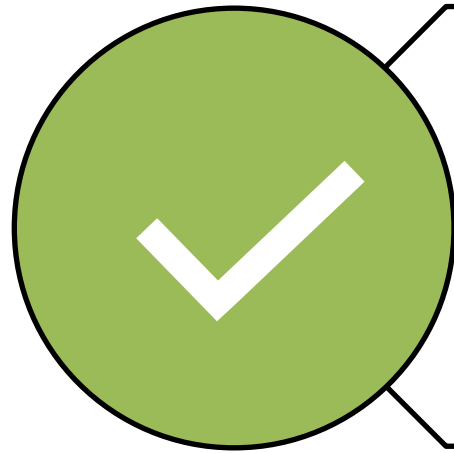


# Results and Discussion

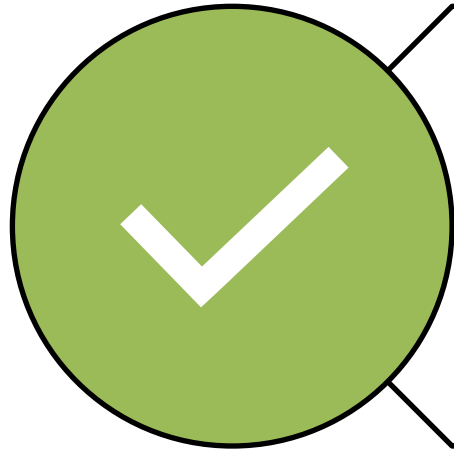


**NEW!** child pornography item

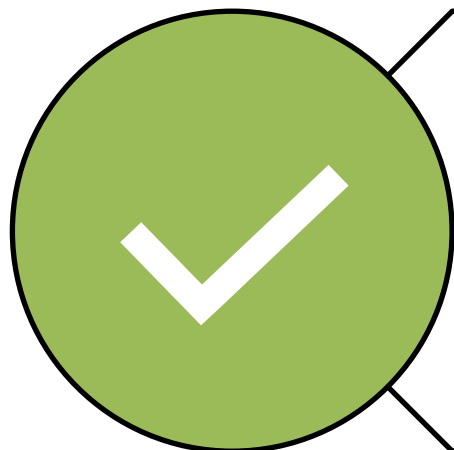
- 2 any boy victim(s)
- 1 any boy victim(s)



Convergent/Divergent  
validity

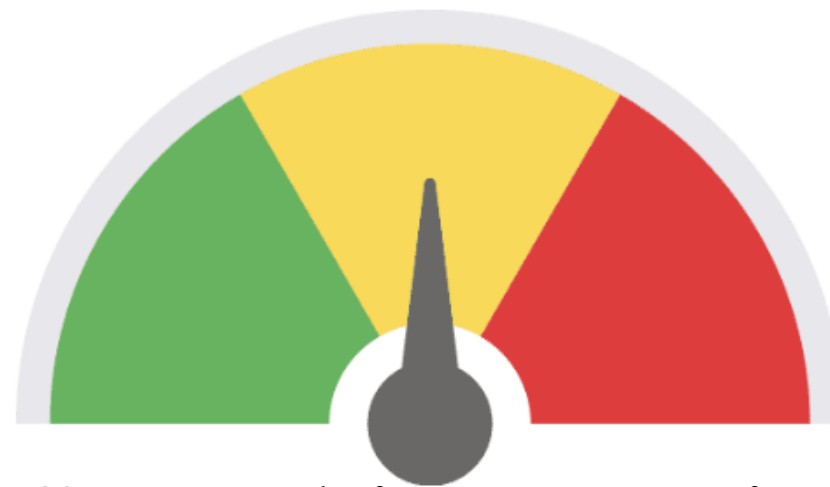


Predictive validity



Incremental validity

# Practical Implications



Sexual interest in children

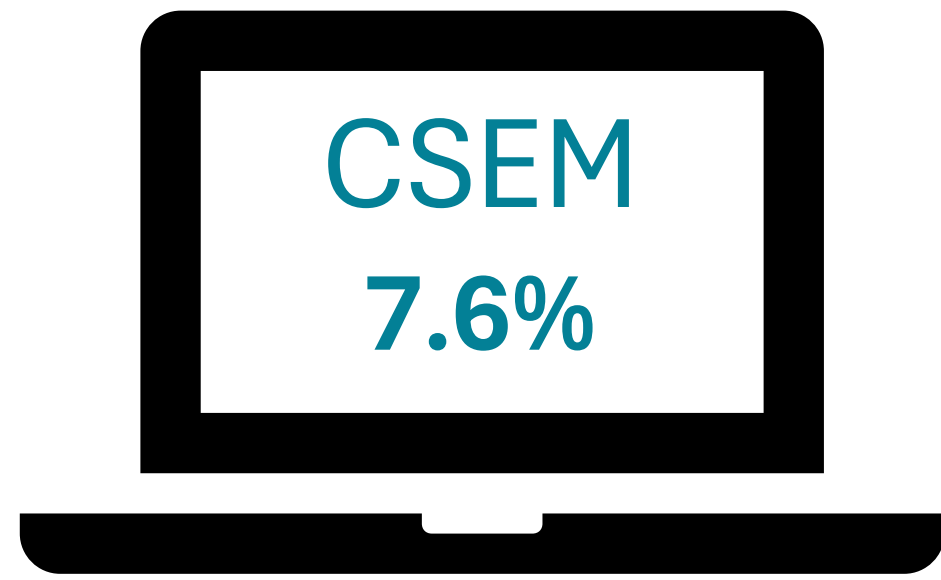


# Limitations



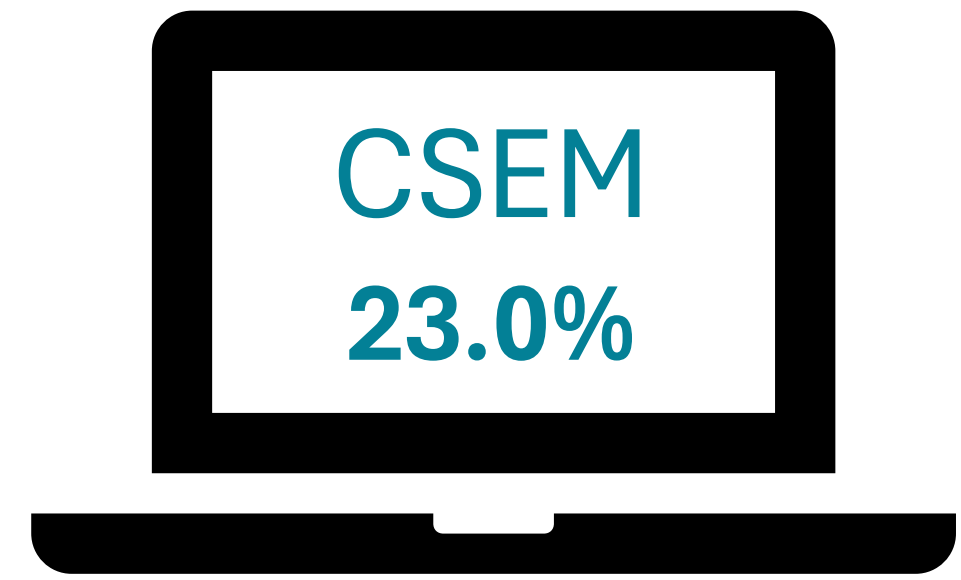
1987-1997

$n = 264$



Current study

$n = 1,350$



Babchishin et al. (2023)

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

[melissaodonaghy@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:melissaodonaghy@cmail.carleton.ca)

**Carleton**  
University



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