

Risk Assessment With the START: AV in Dutch Secure Youth Care

Citation for published version (APA):

De Beuf, T. (2022). *Risk Assessment With the START: AV in Dutch Secure Youth Care: From Implementation to Field Evaluation*. [Doctoral Thesis, Section Forensic Psychology]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20220404td>

Document status and date:

Published: 04/04/2022

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20220404td](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20220404td)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Document license:

Unspecified

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PROPOSITIONS

accompanying the dissertation

Risk Assessment with the START:AV in Dutch Secure Youth Care: From Implementation to Field Evaluation

Tamara L. F. De Beuf, April 4, 2022

1. The START:AV as a risk assessment instrument is well-suited for secure youth care as it includes multiple risk domains that are prevalent among this target group, while also focusing on the strengths in the adolescents' lives. *(this dissertation)*
2. Although resource-intensive, the consensus method helps to improve interrater reliability and fidelity of a risk assessment instrument as well as the information exchange between professionals. *(this dissertation)*
3. Before using risk assessment instruments in clinical practice, their psychometric properties should be evaluated in both lab (e.g., using researchers as evaluators) and practice settings (e.g., using clinician evaluators). *(this dissertation)*
4. The implementation of the START:AV is a challenging process with many potential roadblocks to success (e.g., staff beliefs, organizational culture). This underscores the importance of preparation and tailored strategies to support successful implementation. *(this dissertation)*
5. All too often the implementation of risk assessment instruments in forensic clinical settings is limited to providing training to professionals in the use of the instrument, leaving out important preparatory steps, such as getting buy-in from staff and facilitating the integration of the instrument within existing assessment procedures and intervention planning. *(this dissertation)*
6. "The principal reason for failed implementation attempts was the lack of knowledge about implementation. Both the task of implementing a new practice and the work required by staff were underestimated." – Müller-Isberner et al. (2017)
7. "Embedding a new policy, practice, or strategy in an organization is more like planting a tree than constructing a building. You can't just plant it and walk away. You have to water, prune and protect it until it's hearty enough to stand on its own." – Hirsch (2016)

8. "It is unwise to assume—without cross-validation findings from field research— that reliability and validity findings from research-based normative samples apply to real-world forensic evaluation contexts." – Edens & Boccaccini (2017)
9. Probably the most dangerous phrase that anyone could use in the world today is that dreadful one: "But we've always done it that way" – Grace Hopper
10. "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito in the room."
– Dalai Lama
11. "If we knew what it is we were doing, it would not be called research. Would it?" – Albert Einstein