

Online Sex Offense: What Every Attorney Should Know

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This course borrows extensively from Michael C. Seto's *"Internet Sex Offenders"* (2013)

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I. INTRODUCTION: OVERVIEW of TOPICS/ISSUES

Foundational Statement:

This seminar deals with complex aspects regarding a controversial topic – child sexual abuse. This includes discussing variations in degrees and types of offense; difficult questions posed by research findings, and conflicting perspectives on how to best address these problems. The student should understand with great clarity – **Dr. Simpson does not advocate for the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of any child or adolescent at any time, in any place or in any circumstance.**

Pedophilia

Clinically and scientifically defined as a sexual attraction to prepubescent children— that is, children who are not showing any signs of pubertal development. This can be distinguished from hebephilia, a sexual attraction to pubescent children (i.e., children who are showing some signs of pubertal development such as breast budding, genital changes, and the development of axillary hair but who are clearly not physically mature). Seto, Michael C. (2013-06-30). Internet Sex Offenders. American Psychological Association.

DSM-5

The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* 5th edition (DSM-5) has a significantly larger diagnostic features section for pedophilia than the previous DSM version. A portion states, "*The diagnostic criteria for pedophilic disorder are intended to apply both to individuals who freely disclose this paraphilia and to individuals who deny any sexual attraction to prepubertal children (generally age 13 years or younger), despite substantial objective evidence to the contrary.*"

DSM-5 diagnosis of Pedophilic Disorder includes:

- A. Over a period of at least 6 months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger).
- B. The individual has acted on these sexual urges, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty.
- C. The individual is at least age 16 years and at least 5 years older than the child or children in Criterion A. Note: Do not include an individual in late adolescence involved in an ongoing sexual relationship with a 12- or 13-year-old.

Specify whether:

Exclusive type (attracted only to children)

Nonexclusive type

Specify if:

Sexually attracted to males

Sexually attracted to females

Sexually attracted to both

Specify if:

Limited to incest

"The extensive use of pornography depicting prepubescent children is a useful diagnostic indicator of pedophilic disorder. This is a specific instance of the general case that individuals are likely to choose the kind of pornography that corresponds to their sexual interests. . . Psychophysiological measures of sexual interest may sometimes be useful . . . The most thoroughly researched and longest used of such measures is penile plethysmography, . . . Viewing time, . . . is also used to diagnose pedophilic disorder, especially in combination with self-report measures." (DSM-5, pp.698-699)

ICD-10

The ICD-10 definition of pedophilia is "*A sexual preference for children, usually prepubertal or early pubertal age.*"

Types of Child Sex Offenders

Holmes and Holmes (2002) identified types of child sex offenders and their psychological profiles. They are divided as follows:

- Situational – do not prefer children, but offend under certain conditions.
 - *Regressed* – Typically have relationships with adults, but stressors causes them to seek children as a substitute.
 - *Morally Indiscriminate* – General sexual deviants, who may commit other sexual offenses unrelated to children.
 - *Naive/Inadequate* – Often mentally disabled in some way, find children less threatening.
- Preferential – have true sexual interest in children.
 - *Mysoped* – Sadistic and violent, target strangers more often than acquaintances.
 - *Fixated* – Little or no activity with own age, described as an "overgrown child".

Note that pedophilia and sexual abuse of a child are not synonymous.

- A person can be a pedophile and not violate the law. Their actions can be limited to masturbating to fantasies of sex with children and/or viewing legal depictions of minors.
- A person can commit sex crimes against a child and not be a pedophile.
 - Someone who is regressed, morally indiscriminate, or naïve/inadequate. (Holmes and Holmes, 2002)
 - Someone who is a psychopathic deviate.
 - A situational event/opportunity
 - An adult who commits sexual crimes against an adolescent (hebephilia). In most states “child” status is up to the age of 18. But for the DSM-5, a “child” is pre-pubertal (only up to the age of 13).
 - An adolescent who is younger than 16 and commits a sex crime against a younger peer who is not more than 5 years younger.

Hebephilia / Ephebophilia

- “*Hebephilia*” (pronounced *heba-phil-ia*) is a primary sexual interest in early pubescent adolescents, ages 11-14.
- “*Ephebophilia*” (*e-pee-bo-phil-i-a*) is a primary sexual interest in later pubescent adolescents, ages 14-19.

Hebephilia is the strong and persistent adult sexual interest in pubescent (early adolescent) individuals, typically ages 11–14 (see the Tanner stage). It differs from *ephebophilia*, which is the strong and persistent sexual interest to those in later adolescence, approximately 15–19 years old, and differs from pedophilia, which is the primary or exclusive sexual attraction to prepubescent children. While individuals with a sexual preference for adults may have some sexual interest in pubescent-aged individuals, researchers and clinical diagnoses have proposed that hebephilia is characterized by a sexual preference for pubescent rather than adult partners.

Hebephilia is approximate in its age range because the onset and completion of puberty vary. Partly because of this, some definitions of chronophilias (sexual preference for a specific physiological appearance related to age) show overlap between pedophilia, hebephilia and ephebophilia; for example, the DSM-5 extends the prepubescent age to 13, the ICD-10 includes early pubertal age in its definition of pedophilia, and some definitions of ephebophilia include adolescents aged 14 to late adolescents. On average, girls begin the process of puberty at age 10 or 11; boys at age 11 or 12, and it is argued that separating sexual attraction to prepubescent children from sexual attraction to early-to-mid or late pubescents is clinically relevant.

According to research by Ray Blanchard et al. (2009), sex offenders could be separated into groups by victim age preference on the basis of penile plethysmograph response patterns. Based on their results, Blanchard suggested that the DSM-5 could account for these data by subdividing the existing diagnosis of pedophilia into hebephilia and a narrower definition of pedophilia. Psychologist Bruce Rind and sociologist Richard Yuill have published criticism of the classification of hebephilia as a mental disorder, though their view is that Blanchard et al. successfully established hebephilia as a "genuine sexual preference"; they

suggested that if hebephilia were listed in the DSM-5, that it be coded as a condition that results in significant social problems today. Blanchard's proposal to add hebephilia to the DSM-5 proved controversial, and was not adopted.

text from Wikipedia, 2015 (Yes, quit smirking, this is a good summation)

Dr. Michael Seto defines *hebephilia* and *ephebophilia* as;

Clinically and scientifically defined as a sexual attraction to pubescent children - that is, children who are showing some signs of pubertal development such as breast budding, genital changes, and the development of axillary hair, but who are clearly not physically mature. Can be distinguished from pedophilia, a sexual attraction to prepubescent children (i.e., children who are not showing any signs of pubertal development). Hebephilia does not refer to sexual attraction to older adolescents who appear to be physically mature and who could be mistaken by naive observers to be 18 or older.

Seto, Michael C. (2013-06-30). Internet Sex Offenders. American Psychological Asso.

Research suggests 3% upper limit for pedophilia and hebephilia, and 1% for strictly pedophilia. (Santilla, et al., 2010)

Evidence of construct validity in the assessment of hebephilia.

Stephens, Skye., Seto, Michael C., Goodwill, Alasdair M., Cantor, James M..
Archives of Sexual Behavior, Nov 29, 2016.

Abstract:

Hebephilia refers to a persistent intense sexual interest in pubescent children. Although not as widely studied as pedophilia, studies of hebephilia have indicated convergence in self-report and sexual arousal. The present study expanded on previous work by examining convergent and divergent validity across indicators of hebephilia that included self-report, sexual behavior, and sexual arousal in a sample of 2238 men who had sexually offended. We included men who denied such interest and specifically examined the overlap between hebephilia and pedophilia and examined pedohebephilia (i.e., sexual interests in both prepubescent and pubescent children). Results indicated that there was considerable convergence across indicators of hebephilia. The results suggested poor divergent validity between hebephilia and pedophilia, as there was substantial overlap between the two constructs across analyses. Finally, a distinct pattern of sexual arousal was found in offenders with pedohebephilia. The results of the present study were discussed with a focus on implications for the assessment of sexual interest in children and the conceptualization of pedohebephilia.

Online Pedo-hebephilia Subcultures

Online sites include themes of:

- a) Promotion of rationalizations for why sex with children is beneficial, i.e., “*view evil, do no evil.*”
 - b) Condemnation of condemners, where the focus is on those who condemn pedophilia or adult-child sex, including police, clinicians and society.
 - c) Denial of injury
 - d) Claims of benefits to children
 - e) Appeals to children’s rights with regards to their sexuality
 - f) Basking in the “*reflected glow*”– discussing famous individuals who were purported or known to be pedophiles or hebephiles. (Durkin and Bryant, 1999, Jenkins, 2001, O’Halloran and Quayle, 2010)
- A “*boy-moment*” or “*girl-moment*” refers to viewing legal depictions of children and gaining an emotional or sexual high.
 - “*Boylove is a natural thing, like being born gay or even straight. It’s something you can’t control or choose. Only thing you can control is your actions.*” Holt, 2010, p.10.
 - There is a strong association between offense-supportive attitudes and beliefs and recidivism among identified offenders (Hanson, Harris, Scott, & Helmus, 2007; Helmus, Babchishin, & Mann, 2012).

Child Pornography

Child pornography is pornography that exploits children for sexual stimulation. It may be produced with the direct involvement or sexual assault of a child (also known as child sexual abuse images) or it may be simulated child pornography. Abuse of the child occurs during the sexual acts or lascivious exhibitions of genitals or pubic areas, which are recorded in the production of child pornography. Child pornography may use a variety of media, including writings, magazines, photos, sculpture, drawing, cartoon, painting, animation, sound recording, film, video, and video games.

Laws regarding child pornography generally include sexual images involving prepubescents, pubescent or post-pubescent minors and computer-generated images that appear to involve them. Most possessors of child pornography who are arrested are found to possess images of prepubescent children; possessors of pornographic images of post-pubescent minors are less likely to be prosecuted, even though those images also fall within the statutes.

Producers of child pornography try to avoid prosecution by distributing their material across national borders, though this issue is increasingly being addressed with regular arrests of suspects from a number of countries occurring over the last few years. Prepubescent pornography is viewed and collected by pedophiles for a variety of purposes, ranging from private sexual uses, trading with other pedophiles, preparing children for sexual abuse as part of the process known as "child grooming", or enticement leading to entrapment for sexual exploitation such as production of new child pornography or child prostitution. (Wikipedia, 2015)

Child Pornography in the General Population

In a small study researching child pornography (CP) use in the general population, Bogarett, et. al. (2001) found that 6% of subjects preferred CP porn titles. Their characteristics included:

- Antisocial personality traits
- Low social desirability
- Greater pornography experience
- Erotophilia– (obsessive interest in sexuality)
- Expressed appeal for having sex with a child

Seigfried, Lovely, and Rogers (2008) did an online survey of the general population showed 10% had ever-used CP. This study also found that those who had accessed CP scored higher on antisocial personality traits.

Seto, Kjellgren, et. al. (2010), found that CP use was predicted by:

- Self-reported likelihood of having had sex with a minor 14 or younger when the person was an adult
- Having friends who think sex with children is acceptable
- Having friends who have viewed CP
- Frequent pornography use
- Watching violent pornography

Ray, Kimonis, and Seto (2014), did a study of pornography users who were at pedophilic sites or seeking help for Internet compulsions:

- 21% had viewed CP
- CP users were higher on sensation seeking and more likely to report interest and experience in sexual contacts with a minor

Ogas & Gaddam, (2011) used meta-analytic data to reveal what people search for in pornography and relate these data to sexual preferences. These two authors looked at over 400 million individual searches submitted to the Web Browser “DogPile” between July 2009 and July 2010 and found that over 55 million of these searches were sexual. Of over 55 million searches the most common search was “youth”, accounting for 13.54% of all sexual searches.

More recently, with reference to sexual preferences in the United States, arguably the best source of information on what pornographic images people search for are the yearly statistical reports produced by one of the larger pornography distribution sites – Pornhub. In 2014 in the United States “teen” was the

third most popular pornographic search term. For the United States in 2015 “teen” was the fourth most popular pornographic search term, and in 2016 “teen” was the third most common category of pornography searched for. The United States accounts for approximately 40% of the Pornhub traffic across these three years. It should be noted that this is not exclusively a North American phenomenon with the pornographic search term “teen” being the most common search term worldwide in 2014, second most common in 2015, and the fourth most common in 2016. These data clearly reveal that interest in young images is very common not only in the United States but worldwide.

As is evident from the Internet search data of both Ogas and Saddam (2011), the Pornhub yearly summary data, and a study of sexual fantasy in the general population (Joyal, Cossette, & Lapierre, 2014), a great deal of the adult population has fantasies involving teens, youth, and young people.

Sexual Fantasy Involving Young People in the General Population

Within the general population, fantasies of having sexual encounters with “*someone much younger*” than themselves are quite common (Reynaud & Byers, 1999). A study by Joyal, Cossette, & Lapierre (2014) surveyed 1,516 people from the general population and found that 57% of men and 18.1% of women admitted to having sexual fantasies about “*having sex with someone much younger (legally) than me*”. Further, 1.8% of men and 0.8% of women admitted to fantasizing about “*having sex with a child under the age of 12 years*”. When the data were reduced to themes, 3.3% of men admitted to fantasizing about having sex that “*involves a teenager – between the ages of 13 and 17*”.

It is critical that the reader understand Dr. Simpson is not justifying sex between adults and youth. The point is simply to underscore that fantasizing about illegal sexual activities between adults and pubescent teens includes a significant portion of the general, non-criminal population.

Criminal Prosecution of Child Pornography

Wolak, Finkelhor, and Mitchell (2011) found that in 2009, 70% of online offending cases involved CP only, no charges for solicitation or contact.

- Almost all were male, Caucasian
- Younger – between 18-25 years-of-age
- Few had prior arrests, history of mental illness, substance use, or violence
- Less were employed full-time
- 70% had CP mostly of girls
- 15% had mostly boys
- 15% had both

The most common characteristics of seized CP: (Baartz, 2008, Oosterbaan & Ibrahim, 2009; Quayle & Jones, 2001; Wolak, Finkelhor, & Mitchell, 2011).

- Prepubescent children
- Girls
- Sexually explicit activities
- Smiling (Taylor and Quayle, 2003)
- One in five had bondage or sexual violence (Wolak, Finkelhor, & Mitchell, 2005)
- 10% were suggestive of rape
- 20% were suggestive of sadism (Eke & Seto, 2012; Seto, 2009)

A study conducted by Family Safe Media (2010) found that of those arrested for possessing CP:

- 83% were images of children 6-12 years old
- 43% were images of children 3-6 years old
- 19% were of children 3 years and younger (Notice that due to overlap, the numbers do not add up to 100%)

Kuhle, Konrad, and Beier (2011) reported that hebephilic participants use more child pornography (of young adolescents, presumably) than pedophilia participants. The greatest use of child pornography was reported by nonexclusive pedophiles or hebephiles, probably because their sexual interests are broader than those of an exclusive pedophile or an exclusive hebephile.

Virtual child pornography

- There is a legal distinction in the United States between virtual child pornography and the depictions of real, identifiable children. This was determined after the United States Supreme Court decision on *Ashcroft vs. Free Speech Coalition* in 2002.
- Not Real People (NRP) stimulus set was digitally created as a substitute for stimulus sets using images of real children in research studies.

Adolescent Pornography (Hebephilic)

An analysis of online searches of large data sets indicated that content depicting 16-year-olds is the number one age-related search (Ogas & Gaddam, 2011).

Prichard et al. (2011): Examined the top 300 publicly accessible search terms in peer-to-peer networks including *BitTorrent*, *Gnutella*, *Limewire*, and *isoHunt*. Three of the top search terms referred to hebephilic pornography - *Pthc* (pre-teen hardcore), *Lolita*, and *Teen*.

A Brief History of Child Pornography Laws

Child pornography is illegal and censored in most jurisdictions in the world. Ninety-four of 187 Interpol member states had laws specifically addressing child pornography as of 2008, though this does not include nations that ban all pornography. Of those 94 countries, 58 criminalized possession of child pornography regardless of intent to distribute (International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, 2010). Both distribution and possession are now criminal offenses in almost all Western countries. A wide movement is working to globalize the criminalization of child pornography, including major international organizations such as the United Nations and the European Commission. (from Wikipedia, 2015)

For the past 20 years the Internet has seen an exponential rise in Internet sex crimes that include online child pornography, child solicitation, and solicitation leading to child contact.

- The number of arrests for child pornography offenses in the United States tripled from 2000 to 2009 (Wolak, Finkelhor, & Mitchell, 2011. *National Juvenile Online Victimization Project*).
- The number of online luring cases also increased during a similar period of time (United States - Wolak, et. al. 2008 and Canada – Loughlin, 2009).
- In the United States, online cases represent about 10% of the total number of sexual offense cases. (Choo, 2009; Loughlin & Taylor-Butts, 2009; Nicolas, Kershaw, & Walker, 2007)

Local, national, and international law enforcement have responded to growing threats to youth.

- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in the United States (<http://ojjdp.gov/programs/progsummary.asp?pi=3>)
- The FBI's cybercrime unit (<http://fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/cyber/cyber>). Their *Innocent Images Initiative* opened with 113 cases in 1996, which rose to 2,443 by 2007.
- Eric Holder announced the first national strategy on child exploitation prevention and intervention on Aug. 2, 2010.
- The U.S. Department of Justice (2010) identified over 20 million unique Internet protocol (IP) addresses accessing known child pornography files on peer-to-peer networks (using just 120,000 to 170,000 child porn files on their watch lists).
- Virtual Global Taskforce (2003), an international collaboration of police forces to combat online child sexual exploitation (<http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com>).
- Recently the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers created a new category - .XXX – for designating sexually-explicit websites.

Child Pornography Laws

The Courts have responded with an expansion of laws related to online sex crimes.

- Prior to the 1970s, child pornography crimes were generally covered by obscenity laws.
- 1977 – Only 2 states had specific child pornography laws.
- 1978 – The introduction of the first federal child pornography law. The Federal Sexual Exploitation of Children Act prohibited the manufacture or commercial exploitation of obscene material involving persons under age 16. One result was that child pornography was no longer available in adult bookstores.
- The 1984 Child Protection Act made the depiction of sex involving a minor automatically obscene and outside of First Amendment protection. The Act also raised the legal age from 16 to 18, without concomitant changes in the legal ages of consent for sexual intercourse.
- American laws define child pornography as anything below age 18, with no distinction in categories. However, images of a prepubescent child is an aggravating factor.
- Written descriptions of sex with children are legal in the United States but not in Canada. (18 U.S.C. 2422 [1985], Criminal Code of Canada, R.S.C. Sec 172.1)
- Online sex offending cases produce high conviction rates – 95% or higher (Motivans & Kyckelhahn, 2007).
- U.S. Sentencing Commission data for federal child pornography sentences showed that in the late 1990s the average sentence was 3 years. A decade later this was 10 years and was comparable to those with contact offenses.

In the US, Federal sentencing guidelines recognize severity or culpability through increased penalties for:

- Children under the age of 12
- Depictions of sexually explicit activity
- Content depicting sadism or violence (but this can include any penetration)

The **Dost Test** outlined six considerations that need to be demonstrated at trial (US v. Dost, 1986):

- a. whether the focal point of the visual depiction is the child's genitals or pubic area
- b. whether the setting of visual depiction is sexually suggestive (e.g., lying down on a bed)
- c. whether the child is depicted in an unnatural pose or in inappropriate attire, considering the child's age
- d. whether the child is nude or clothed
- e. whether the visual depiction suggests sexual coyness or a willingness to engage in sexual activity
- f. whether the visual depiction is intended or designed to elicit a sexual response in the viewer.

The **COPINE scale** of severity of child pornography content (Taylor, Holland, Quayle, 2001)

- a. Nudity or erotic posing
- b. Solo masturbation or child-child sex
- c. Non-penetrative adult-child sex
- d. Penetrative adult-child sex
- e. Presence of other paraphilic content, such as bestiality or sadism

Puberty and the Tanner Stages **developed by Professor James M Tanner**

Adolescents experience several types of maturation, including cognitive (the development of formal operational thought), psychosocial (the stages of adolescence), and biologic. The complex series of biologic transitions are known as puberty, and these changes may impact psychosocial factors.

The most visible changes during puberty are growth in stature and development of secondary sexual characteristics. Equally profound are changes in body composition; the achievement of fertility; and changes in most body systems, such as the neuroendocrine axis, bone size, and mineralization; and the cardiovascular system. As an example, normal cardiovascular changes, including greater aerobic power reserve, electrocardiographic changes, and blood pressure changes, occur during puberty.

The normal sequence of pubertal events and perils of puberty are reviewed here. This is within the normal ranges and does not take into account Precocious Puberty or Delayed Puberty.

Tanner Stages

Conceptually, pubertal maturation can be described in terms of sequence, timing, and tempo (Puberty consists of a series of predictable events, and the sequence of changes in secondary sexual characteristics has been categorized by several groups. The staging system utilized most frequently is that published by Marshall and Tanner and the sequence of changes, commonly referred to as "Tanner stages", is described below.

Boys - development of external genitalia

- Stage 1: Prepubertal
- Stage 2: Enlargement of scrotum and testes; scrotum skin reddens and changes in texture
- Stage 3: Enlargement of penis (length at first); further growth of testes
- Stage 4: Increased size of penis with growth in breadth and development of glans; testes and scrotum larger, scrotum skin darker
- Stage 5: Adult genitalia

Girls - breast development

- Stage 1: Prepubertal
- Stage 2: Breast bud stage with elevation of breast and papilla; enlargement of areola
- Stage 3: Further enlargement of breast and areola; no separation of their contour
- Stage 4: Areola and papilla form a secondary mound above level of breast
- Stage 5: Mature stage: projection of papilla only, related to recession of areola

Boys and girls - pubic hair

- Stage 1: Prepubertal (can see velus hair similar to abdominal wall)
- Stage 2: Sparse growth of long, slightly pigmented hair, straight or curled, at base of penis or along labia
- Stage 3: Darker, coarser and more curled hair, spreading sparsely over junction of pubes
- Stage 4: Hair adult in type, but covering smaller area than in adult; no spread to medial surface of thighs
- Stage 5: Adult in type and quantity, with horizontal distribution ("feminine")

Boys Growth

- Stage 1: 5-6cm/year
- Stage 2: 5-6cm/year
- Stage 3: 7-8cm/year
- Stage 4: 10cm/year
- Stage 5: No further height increase after 17 years

Girls Growth

- Stage 1: 5-6cm/year
- Stage 2: 7-8cm/year
- Stage 3: 8cm/year
- Stage 4: 7cm/year
- Stage 5: No further height after 16 years

The Estimation of Age from Photography¹

In 1998, Dr. James Tanner [The Creator of the Tanner Scale] and Dr. Rosenbloom wrote a letter to the editor of the publication *Pediatrics* warning against the misuse of the Tanner Scale in attempts to judge the age of photographic subjects for forensic purposes. They stated that the scale was intended to identify “*early and late maturers*” for medical, educational, and sports purposes, not determining chronological age. The doctors warned that using the Tanner scale for determining chronological age is “*wholly illegitimate*”. Further, they cautioned “*pediatricians and other physicians to refrain from providing “expert” advice as to chronological age based on Tanner Staging*” (Rosenbloom & Tanner, 1998, p. 1494).

A 2012 study by Rosenbloom, Rohrs, Haller, and Malasanos had four board-certified pediatric endocrinologists review 547 pictures of adult women taken from a men’s magazine where all models had been certified as over the age of 18 at the time the images were taken. All four physicians agreed that the breasts in question were in Tanner stage IV for only 17 of these images, 3.1% agreement. On a further 36 images, there was agreement from three examiners, resulting in 6.6% agreement; an additional 39 images were agreed on by two examiners, 7.1% agreement; and a further 53 images were designated as Tanner Stage IV by only one examiner, 9.7% agreement; resulting in an overall error rate of 26.5% among four highly experienced board-certified pediatric endocrinologists. Rosenblum and colleagues point out that assessments of pornographic images are carried out almost totally by evaluation of breast development because in most pornographic representations the female subjects, for artistic, erotic, or other considerations, have partially or completely shaved pubic hair. These authors conclude, that “failure to appreciate the frequent persistence of TS 4 [Tanner Stage 4] breast development into adulthood and

¹ Special acknowledgements to Dr. James Harris for the development of this section. Produced from personal communications between Dr. Simpson and Dr. Harris.

difficulty in distinguishing TS4 from TS5 [Tanner Stage 5] breast development, especially in nonclinical still or video images, has resulted in testimony that has no scientific basis” (p. 3).

We have known since 1998 (Rosenbloom & Tanner) that:

This is a wholly illegitimate use of Tanner staging: no equations exist estimating age from stage, and even if they did, the degree of unreliability in the staging [of] the independent variable would introduce large errors into the estimation of age, the dependent variable. Furthermore, the unreliability of the stage rating is increased to an unknown degree by improperly performed staging, that is, not the clinical examination but through non-standardized [sic] and, thus, unsuitable photographs (p. 1494).

Therefore, we wish to caution pediatricians and other physicians to refrain from providing “expert” testimony as to chronological age based on Tanner staging, which was designed for estimating development or physiologic age for medical, educational, and sports purposes, in other words, identifying early and late maturers. The method is appropriate for this, provided chronological age is known. It is not designed for estimating chronologic age and, therefore, not properly used for this purpose (p. 1494).

A study by Rosenbloom (2012) showed images of adult women taken from known, legal, pornographic sites to 16 pediatric endocrinologists who had expertise in evaluating maturation. These doctors were charged with attempting to determine whether the individuals represented in the images were under the age of 18 years. The women in the images were all documented as being over the age of 18 years at the time the images were taken. 69% of the 160 estimates produced by these experts stated that the images represented females under the age of 18. Of the 16 evaluators, 13 were female. The results of this study are as follows,

Sixty nine percent of the 160 estimates were that the images represented females <18 years of age. One individual found three of the 10 images to be of females <18 years, but Sixty nine percent of the 160 estimates were that the images represented females <18 years of age. One individual found three of the 10 images to be of females <18 years, but all others found at least six of the images to be of females <18 years of age. This included four examiners rating six images as underage, two examiners thus rating seven images, three examiners considering eight images under age, and five examiners thusly interpreting all but one image. There were no images interpreted by all examiners to be either under or over 18 years of age. (Rosenbloom, 2012, p. 469).

This study also showed that 16 pediatric endocrinologists relied most commonly on breast development for making their evaluations. Rosenbloom’s study shows that “medical testimony even by experts in adolescent development, can deem images of adult women selected for their youthful appearance to be under age 18 two thirds of the time” (p. 470). Rosenbloom concludes that “justice requires the avoidance of testimony that is not scientifically based” (p. 470). Again, Rosenbloom quotes Tanner, saying that “the Tanner scales were not designed to be used for estimating chronological age, forensically or otherwise”.

A further study by Cattaneo et al., (2009) used 15 Italian expert evaluators, five forensic pathologists, five pediatricians, five gynecologists, and 13 laypersons to review photographs of 11 nude adult females. A second group of German experts of the same basic composition (total = 23) reviewed the same images with the same instructions; to determine which of these photographic subjects were females less than 18 years old and which were 18 years or older. All females in the photographs were over the age of 18 when the photographs were taken. All professional and lay groups underestimated the age of the models in the photographs.

The best results were obtained by forensic pathologists who correctly identified the women as being over 18 years of age in 60% and 50% of cases (for Italy and Germany respectively): Laymen (50% and 23% respectively) performed second best. Pediatricians incorrectly classed the girls as under 18 in 73% and 95% of cases respectively and gynecologists in 69% and 91% of cases. (p. e23)

It is telling that German and Italian laypeople performed this task better than Pediatricians and Gynecologists, clearly bringing into question whether any expertise at all is evident in these judgements.

The authors conclude that “*forensic and medical experts should avoid such unscientific behavior which may have drastic consequences in a court of law*” (p. e23).

It must be pointed out that there are no published or available studies, in any language that support the use of the Tanner Stages for reliably assessing the age of photographic subjects. Rosenbloom (2012) gives a reason for this, stating that “*there are no studies because of the wide variation in the age of pubertal onset of approximately six years, and of progression, such that the duration from the start to completion of maturation can vary from 3 to 7 years.*” {Findings from Brooke, C. G. D., Stanhope, R. (1989)}

Application in the Courts

A further example of the un-reliability of making judgments as to chronological age using the Tanner Stages based upon unsuitable representations such as digitized films and photographs was seen in the case U.S. v. Simon-Timmerman No. 09-296 (FAB). Mr. Simon-Timmerman was returning to the United States mainland from Puerto Rico. In his possession were three DVDs of a well-known Puerto Rico porn star “*Little Lupe*”. In this proceeding an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agent Alek Pacheco testified that the actor in the DVD’s was a minor child. The agent estimated that “*Little Lupe’s*” age was between 13 and 14 years old. Also testifying was a licensed pediatrician Dr. Pedro R. Juanarena, who testified “*to a medical certainty*” that the actor depicted in the DVDs was a minor child. The adult actress shown in the films, Lupe Fuentes, was required by the prosecutor, Jenifer Yois Hernandez-Vega to fly to the mainland United States and to show proof of age at the time of filming after which the case was dismissed. However, by this time Mr. Simon-Timmerman had spent three months in pretrial detention.

In 2006, Kelly Hoose (Worcester Superior Court, Massachusetts; Judge John S. McCann; December 19, 2006) was charged with four counts of possessing child pornography after prosecutors alleged that images on his computer represented underage females. Mr. Hoose was found not guilty after the images were seen to be the property of a legitimate commercial website and one of the models appeared in court to testify that she was 20 years old when the images were taken (Murry, December 28, 2006)

Rosenbloom (2012) also refers to a recent court-martial (Court-Martial, SSgt Swearington, 2012) where “*Tanner rating, in addition to the body habitus, body hair patens, musculature, dentition, head to body ratio, overall size, maturity of facial features, ...*” Was rejected by the court and the plaintiff acquitted (p. 5).

The general unreliability and inadmissibility of visual age identification from photographs has been well known within the legal community since an influential Pepperdine Law Review article was published in 2004 that clearly reviews problems with the use of Tanner Stages, (Fradella, O’Neill, & Fogarty, 2004).

On September 7, 2011 the Arizona Supreme Court amended the Arizona Rule of Evidence 702 to switch from the Frye standard to the Daubert standard. As generally stated for Arizona Rule 702 states:

The Daubert standard generally states that a witness who is qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, expertise, training, or education may testify in the form of an opinion or otherwise if:

- a. The expert’s scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will help the trier of fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue;
- b. The testimony is based on sufficient facts or data;
- c. The testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and
- d. The expert has reliably applied the principles and methods to the facts of the case.

Referring again to the Daubert criteria stated above, the lack of any statement of methodology, the lack of any evidence of reliability or validity in the methods used, and the lack of any evidence of any knowledge, skill, expertise, training, or education qualifying a detective or nurse should be addressed.

As clearly shown above, both by experimental study of experts in the field with specialized scientific knowledge (pediatricians, endocrinologists, forensic pathologists, & gynecologists) and in practical court applications and findings that the principles and methods of chronological age determination from photographs and digital representations are not reliable. Indeed, when laypersons perform better than both gynecologists and pediatricians it begs the question if there is any expertise, knowledge, skill, training, or education involved.

Child Pornography and Solicitation (Luring) Laws in the Countries Where Most Online Offender Research Has been Produced*

Country	Child Pornography Law	Soliciting (luring) Law
Australia (Federal law)	Sexual depictions of person who are under age 18 or who appear to be so as judged by reasonable persons in the community (Krone, 2005)	Criminal Code Act 1995 sections 474.26 and 474.27 prohibit the use of a “carrier service” to communicate with the intent to procure a person under the age of 16 or expose such a person to any indecent matter for the purposes of grooming.
Canada	Sexually explicit visual content of someone under age 18 or depicted as under age; written or visual depictions that counsel sexual activity with someone under age 18. Exemption for artistic, educational, scientific or medical merit. (Criminal Code of Canada)	Electronic communication with a person believed to be a child for the purpose of facilitating the commission of sexual offences. Depending on the offence, the requisite age (real or believed) of the intended victim varies from 14 to 18 (Criminal Code of Canada)
United Kingdom	Depictions of persons under age 18. Sentencing Advisory Panel distinguishes between five types of child pornography content based on the COPINE typology: a) images depicting nudity or erotic posing; b) sexual explicit without adult, for example, masturbation or sexual interactions between children; c) nonpenetrating acts between adult and child; d) penetrative acts between adult and child; and e) depictions incorporating sadism or bestiality.	In England and Wales, sections 14 and 15 of the Sexual Offenses Act 2003 make it an offense to arrange a meeting with a child, for oneself or someone else, with the intent of sexually abusing the child. The meeting itself is also criminalized. The Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offenses (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced a similar provision for Scotland.
United States (Federal law)	Sexually explicit visual content of someone under age 18 or depicted as under age 18; obscene fictional depictions of someone under age 18 unless there is “literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.” Viewing child pornography without actively downloading and saving the image is illegal under federal law (PROTECT Act of 2003)	Luring a minor to cross state lines for sexual purpose or using electronic or other means to transmit contact information regarding a minor. Traveling to meet the minor met online would also violate federal law if one of the computers involved was in different state. (Sexual Exploitation of Children Act)

*Michael Seto, *Internet Sex Offenders* (2013), p. 14

Only a minority of child pornography possessors are producers.

- In one study, 12% of child pornography offenders were convicted for production (Eke et al, 2011, National Juvenile Online Victimization Project).
- Producers distributed their images in only about a quarter of cases (Wolak, Finkelhor, and Mitchell, 2011).
- Commercial production of CP is exaggerated. CP production is most often driven by the memorialization of sexual abuse for future fantasy/masturbation or blackmail (Risbisl & Quayle, 2012; Sheehan & Sullivan, 2010).
- Over half of producers are parents, guardians, or persons with care over the children photographed. Parents were 22%, other family members were 10%, and family friends were 47% (M. Collins, 2012; National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Report, 2012).

Soliciting / Luring

Online solicitation offenders, also known as “luring” or “traveler offenders”, involves sexual interactions with a minor without physical contact.

Solicitation Laws

- Solicitation laws prohibit the use of electronic means to communicate with minors for the purpose of facilitating a sexual offense.
- Generally, adolescents who engage in solicitation with one another are treated differently. For instance, Wolak (2012) found that the majority of adolescents involved in sexting cases were not criminally charged. Conservative estimates of sexting amongst adolescents show a prevalence rate ranging from 1% to 4% (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010; Wolak et al., 2012)

Two Types of Soliciting Offenders:

- The “*Novus*” - a casual consumer who is enticed by the Internet (properties). Internet technologies may have created a new type of offender, in the form of fantasy-driven solicitation offenders (Seto and Hansen, 2011)
- The “*Predator*” – pre-existing pedophilic/hebephilic using the Internet to extend his reach.

Legal Aspects of Solicitation

- A “*takeover investigation*” is when the police step in on an actual solicitation case.
- A third of solicitation offenders wondered if the minor they were interacting with was actually an undercover police officer. (Briggs et al., 2011)
- Solicitation in the U.S. has three unique elements:
 1. encouraging, bribing, requesting, or commanding a person
 2. to commit a substantive crime,
 3. with the intent that the person solicited actually commit the crime.

There is no overt step necessary for solicitation, one person can be a defendant, and it merges with the substantive crime. It is not necessary that the person actually commit the crime, nor is it necessary that the person solicited be willing or able to commit the crime (such as if the “solicitee” were an undercover police officer).

Online sexual solicitation of minors: How often and between whom does it occur?

Schulz, Anja; Bergen, Emilia; Schuhmann, Petya; Hoyer, Jürgen; Santtila, Pekka.

Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Vol 53(2), Mar, 2016. pp. 165-188.

Abstract:

Objectives: This study examined how frequently online sexual solicitation of adolescents and children by adults occurs and what characteristics the perpetrators have using a novel methodological approach. Method: In an online survey, we investigated the frequency of online sexual solicitation exhibited by adult Internet users (N = 2,828), including a subgroup recruited on pedophilia-related websites. Perpetrators soliciting adolescents were compared to those soliciting children concerning solicitation outcomes (e.g., cybersex) and demography. Results: In total, 4.5 percent reported soliciting adolescents and 1.0 percent reported soliciting children. Most solicitors of adolescents and children were from pedophilia-related websites (49.1 and 79.2 percent). Solicitation frequently involved sexual outcomes (47.5 percent), which also followed nonsexual interaction. The minors’ age did not affect the odds of sexual outcomes. A substantial proportion of perpetrators were female. Conclusions: This study offers unprecedented data on the number of adults soliciting minors. Although adolescents were more often target of solicitation, the risk of sexual outcomes was equally high in solicitation of children, suggesting younger children to be considered in prevention efforts as well. Nonsexual interactions resulting in sexual outcomes need to be more closely examined to inform appropriate prevention efforts. Moreover, awareness should be raised about females as perpetrators.

Dangerous Behaviors by Adolescents Online

Mitchell & Ybarra (2007) found that certain online behaviors place youth at higher risk for sexual exploitation.

- 1. Interacting with unknown people.
- 2. Having unknown people on buddies or friends lists.
- 3. Using the Internet to make rude or nasty comments.
- 4. Sending personal information to unknown people met online.
- 5. Downloading images from file-sharing programs.
- 6. Visiting X-rated sites on purpose.
- 7. Using the Internet to embarrass or harass people.
- 8. Talking online to unknown people about sex.

Teens, Social Media, and Privacy (research article)

Mary Madden, Amanda Lenhart, Sandra Cortesi, Urs Gasser, Maeve Duggan, A. Smith, Meredith Beaton
Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project. <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2013/Teens-Social-Media-And-Privacy.aspx>

Summary of Findings

Teens share a wide range of information about themselves on social media sites; indeed the sites themselves are designed to encourage the sharing of information and the expansion of networks. However, few teens embrace a fully public approach to social media. Instead, they take an array of steps to restrict and prune their profiles, and their patterns of reputation management on social media vary greatly according to their gender and network size. These are among the key findings from a new report based on a survey of 802 teens that examines teens' privacy management on social media sites:

- Teens are sharing more information about themselves on social media sites than they did in the past. For the five different types of personal information that we measured in both 2006 and 2012, each is significantly more likely to be shared by teen social media users in our most recent survey.
- Teen Twitter use has grown significantly: 24% of online teens use Twitter, up from 16% in 2011.
- The typical (median) teen Facebook user has 300 friends, while the typical teen Twitter user has 79 followers.
- Focus group discussions with teens show that they have waning enthusiasm for Facebook, disliking the increasing adult presence, people sharing excessively, and stressful "drama," but they keep using it because participation is an important part of overall teenage socializing.
- 60% of teen Facebook users keep their profiles private, and most report high levels of confidence in their ability to manage their settings.
- Teens take other steps to shape their reputation, manage their networks, and mask information they don't want others to know; 74% of teen social media users have deleted people from their network or friends list.
- Teen social media users do not express a high level of concern about third-party access to their data; just 9% say they are "very" concerned.
- On Facebook, increasing network size goes hand in hand with network variety, information sharing, and personal information management.
- In broad measures of online experience, teens are considerably more likely to report positive experiences than negative ones. For instance, 52% of online teens say they have had an experience online that made them feel good about themselves.

Common Myths Regarding Online Solicitation

The ATSA Policy Statement on Internet-Facilitated Sex Offending reads, in part:

“A nationwide American study of “luring” offenders revealed that, contrary to the belief that young children are tricked by “sexual predators” into revealing personal information or meeting in person, all cases reported to police involved teenagers, approximately half of whom were ages 13 and 14, and the majority being female. In most cases, the teenagers were aware the perpetrator was an adult and was interested in a sexual relationship. Also, in most cases, the teenagers willingly met with the adult perpetrators (sometimes on more than one occasion) and described the interactions in romantic terms. This research suggests Internet “luring” is more similar to statutory rape type offenses than contact offenses involving physical coercion and/or young children.”

Wolak, Finkelhor, Mitchell, and Ybarra (2008) summarized research regarding online solicitation. Their program - *Crimes Against Children’s Research Center* has the most comprehensive American data on solicitation offending. Their research is distinguished because they focus on cases where real-life meetings with real minors take place, as opposed to cases where adults in discussions with undercover police officers pursued online only interactions. Some of their findings:

Stranger danger

Approximately 1-in-7 youth have been sexually solicited online. Most solicitations were from peers and likely involved someone the youth already knew. A small portion of youth had been sexually solicited by an adult, with a 5% figure of total youth solicited by an adult. In another study, 30% of the solicitations come from adults (Mitchell, Wolak, & Finkelhor, 2007). Most of the adult situations involved strangers met online (Grosskopf, 2009; Lamb, 1998; Martellozzo, 2010).

Ten percent of middle school students report they communicated with a stranger whom they had initially met online. (Remember that a majority of these strangers are same-aged-peers). Of these middle schoolers, 54% went on to meet with the stranger. In the same study, 65% of high school girls and 53% of high school boys have been asked to meet a stranger in person. Of these students, approximately 1/3 went on to meet with the stranger (Dowdell, Burgess, and Flores, 2011).

Lying about age

Of cases involving adult offenders, only 5% of those charged with solicitation offenses pretended to be a teenager themselves. A minority did pretend to be younger than they actually were, but they still admitted to being an adult. (Wolak, Finkelhor, Mitchell, & Ybarra, 2008).

Grooming

In general, online solicitors did not lie about their sexual intentions. Youth who agreed to real-life meetings knew they were meeting to engage in sexual activity and the majority of youths who met adults had repeat encounters (73%).

Risk of assault or abduction

Solicitation cases rarely involve violence. Wolak, Finkelhor, Mitchell, and Ybarra (2008) found that 5% of solicitation cases involve use of threats or force. Abduction was rare, though one quarter of the solicitation cases started as a missing person reports because the youth ran away with the offender or lied to parents about his or her whereabouts.

Young or naïve children

In the solicitation cases involving real minors, no minor was younger than 12, half were 13 or 14 years old, and the modal age was 15. (Wolak, Finkelhor, Mitchell, and Ybarra, 2008). In general, adolescents are savvy about their online contacts from unknown individuals (Mitchell, Finkelhor, & Wolak, 2007) and take precautions regarding their privacy. However, age restrictions for online networking sites are easy to circumvent (Hinduja & Patchin, 2008 & 2010).

Age Play

Ageplay (or age play) is a form of roleplaying in which an individual acts or treats another as if they were a different age, sexual or non-sexually. Ageplay is roleplaying between adults, and involves consent from all parties. Portraying any age can be the goal of ageplay, from babies, to the elderly. Usually this involves someone pretending to be younger than they actually are, but more rarely can involve assuming an older role.

Ageplay can be sexual or non-sexual. It may be mildly sexual, or very sexual. Within dominant/submissive relationships, ageplay can enhance power dynamics, and allow a partner to feel more comfortable with their dominance or submission. Often, “sissification” of boys is present, in order to add another level of power to the situation.

Sexual variations may include incest play, in which individuals recreate and sexualize roles within a family, and Daddy's girl fetishism in which real or imagined age differences are the basis of the roleplaying and the female is portrayed as the younger partner.

Ageplay is not necessarily pedophilia or related to pedophilia. Sexual ageplay itself does not necessarily involve the sexual attraction to biologically underage people. Rather, when a consenting adult takes on the roleplaying mindset of a young person, it is motivated by re-experiencing emotional states and social interactions of one's youth, which also happen to be pleasurable in a sexual context to the participants. (Wikipedia, 2015)

Recent Ruling

The Supreme Court made an important finding in *D'Ameio v. United States*, No. 14-999, February 13, 2015. They granted certiorari on all issues in the petition involving a conviction related to ageplay. While the circumstances of Mr. D'Ameio were very narrow, look for this case to open the door to further claims of legal ageplay in cases alleging solicitation/luring.

Ageplay / Pseudo Child Pornography & Luring

- Pseudo online luring involves fantasy role-playing between adults in online forums (i.e., Second Life).
- Absence of pubic hair in adults is related to eroticization of youthfulness (Herbenick, Schick, Reese, Sanders, & Fortenberry, 2010)

RESEARCH: Age Deception Online

Internet use and misuse: Preliminary findings from a new assessment.

Rotunda, Robert J., Kass, Steven J., Sutton, Melanie A., Leon, David T. *Behav Modif*, Sept. 2003 vol. 27 no. 4 484-504

Abstract:

The Internet (IT) is an affordable and easily accessible technology that has many potential applications to psychology. Interactive technologies engage users psychologically and may facilitate adaptive and maladaptive behaviors. This research explored the IT-use patterns, psychological characteristics, and negative consequences associated with online activities of 393 college students using the Internet Use Survey (IUS), a self-report instrument designed to administer online. Results indicated that participants spent an average of 3.3 total hrs per day on the IT during the past 12 mo and used the medium for multiple purposes. Although participants reported the occurrence of some potentially negative consequences related to IT use, the prevalence rates for most problematic behaviors were generally low. Exploratory principal component analysis of the IUS subscale that attempts to measure IT-related impairment revealed four factors: absorption, negative consequences, disrupted sleep, and deception. All of these factors were then significantly related to a measure of boredom proneness. This research supports the necessity for multidimensional assessment of IT usage to enhance our understanding of how this new technology interfaces with users psychologically and behaviorally.

Online Deception: Prevalence, Motivation, and Emotion.

Caspi, Avner, Gorsky, Paul. *CyberPsychology & Behavior*, Vol 9(1), Feb, 2006. pp. 54-59.

Abstract:

This research has three goals: first, to find out how prevalent online deception is within a sample of Israeli users, second, to explore the underlying motivations to deceive online, and third, to discover the emotions that accompany online deception. A web-based survey was distributed in 14 discussion groups, and the answers of 257 respondents were analyzed. It was found that, while most of the respondents believe that online deception is very widespread, only about one-third of them reported engaging in online deception. Frequent users deceive online more than infrequent users, young users more than old, and competent users more than non-competent. The most common motivations to deceive online were "play" on the one hand and privacy concerns on the other. Most people felt a sense of enjoyment while engaging in online deception. The results are discussed in light of a possible mechanism for changing personal moral standards.

Personal information of adolescents on the Internet: A quantitative content analysis of MySpace.

Hinduja, Sameer; Patchin, Justin W. *Journal of Adolescence*, Vol 31(1), Feb, 2008. pp. 125-146.

Abstract:

Many youth have recently embraced online social networking sites such as MySpace (myspace.com) to meet their social and relational needs. While manifold benefits stem from participating in such web-based environments, the popular media has been quick to demonize MySpace even though an exponentially small proportion of its users have been victimized due to irresponsible or naïve usage of the technology it affords. Major concerns revolve around the possibility of sexual predators and pedophiles finding and then assaulting adolescents who carelessly or unwittingly reveal identifiable information on their personal profile pages. The current study sought to empirically ascertain the type of information youth are publicly posting through an extensive content analysis of randomly sampled MySpace profile pages. Among other findings, 8.8% revealed their full name, 57% included a picture, 27.8% listed their school, and 0.3% provided their telephone number. When considered in its proper context, these results indicate that the problem of personal information disclosure on MySpace may not be as widespread as many assume, and that the overwhelming majority of adolescents are responsibly using the web site. Implications for Internet safety among adolescents and future research regarding adolescent Internet use are discussed.

Can mate choice strategies explain sex differences?: The deceived persons' feelings in reaction to revealed online deception of sex, age, and appearance.

Stieger, Stefan, Eichinger, Tina, Honeder, Britta

Social Psychology, Vol 40(1), 2009. Special Issue: Social Psychology and New Media. pp. 16-25.

Abstract:

Online deception is a phenomenon on the Internet, facilitated by restrictions on communication channels. As communication on the Internet is largely exchanged in textual form, deception about personal data such as sex, age, and appearance can be difficult to detect. Research on online deception has been focused thus far on what deceivers lie about and what motivates them to do so. Little is known about how persons feel when they are deceived in an online environment and about whether sex differences exist in the intensity of those feelings. Furthermore, research on online deception largely lacks a theoretical basis. In the current studies, differences between the sexes with respect to their reaction to online deception about sex, age, and appearance were analyzed in a framework of sex-specific mating strategies predicted by evolutionary theory. The results of a structured online interview showed that sex-specific differences in reaction to online gender switching and appearance deception can be explained by mating strategies. Gender switching was found to be more disturbing when committed by a chat partner of the same sex than when committed by a chat partner of the opposite sex. Appearance deception was found to be more disturbing when committed by chat partners of the opposite sex. The data on age deception were not in line with the theory of mate-choice strategies. Even a second online questionnaire study could not entirely clarify the issue but did reveal interfering factors (such as online harassment, legal issues, life expectancy) that probably influence the effect driven by evolution.

Trends in online social networking: Adolescent use of MySpace over time.

Patchin, Justin W., Hinduja, Sameer. *New Media & Society*, Vol 12(2), Mar, 2010. pp. 197-216.

Abstract:

MySpace has received a significant amount of negative attention from the media and many concerned adults, who point to several isolated incidents where predators have contacted, become involved with and even assaulted adolescents whom they met through the popular social networking web site. Furthermore, concerned parents have expressed discontent with the amount and type of personal and private information youth seem to reveal on their profile pages. In 2006, the authors performed an extensive content analysis of approximately 2423 randomly sampled adolescent MySpace profiles, and found that the vast majority of youth were making responsible choices with the information they shared online. In this follow-up study, the authors revisited the profiles one year later to examine the extent to which the content had changed. Though exceptions occur, youth are increasingly exercising discretion in posting personal information on MySpace and more youth are limiting access to their profile. Moreover, a significant number of youth appear to be abandoning their profiles or MySpace altogether.

Looks and lies: The role of physical attractiveness in online dating self-presentation and deception.

Toma, Catalina L., Hancock, Jeffrey T. *Communication Research*, Vol 37(3), Jun, 2010. pp. 335-351.

Abstract:

This study examines the role of online daters' physical attractiveness in their profile self-presentation and, in particular, their use of deception. Sixty-nine online daters identified the deceptions in their online dating profiles and had their photograph taken in the lab. Independent judges rated the online daters' physical attractiveness. Results show that the lower online daters' attractiveness, the more likely they were to enhance their profile photographs and lie about their physical descriptors (height, weight, age). The association between attractiveness and deception did not extend to profile elements unrelated to their physical appearance (e.g., income, occupation), suggesting that their deceptions were limited and strategic. Results are discussed in terms of (a) evolutionary theories about the importance of physical attractiveness in the dating realm and (b) the technological affordances that allow online daters to engage in selective self-presentation.

No-one knows you're a dog on the Internet: Implications for proactive police investigation of sexual offenders.

Lincoln, Robyn, Coyle, Ian R. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, Vol 20(2), Apr, 2013. pp. 294-300.

Abstract:

There is a body of literature dealing with the increased capacity for deception in online environments. This corpus of academic work has relevance for the widespread public concern about the anonymity of the Internet with respect to children who may be contacted by sex offenders. The present paper reports findings from a deception condition study where pairs of subjects engaged in computer-mediated interaction and were asked to evaluate the age and sex of their interlocutors. They were generally successful at this and tended to base their decisions on the content of the conversation. It demonstrates that individuals, despite the anonymity theoretically offered by the Internet, can discern the age and sex of those they are conversing with online, which has implications for police training and practice when engaged in online covert operations.

Are crimes by online predators different from crimes by sex offenders who know youth in-person?

Wolak, Janis, Finkelhor, David. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Vol 53(6), Dec, 2013. pp. 736-741.

Abstract:

Purpose: We examined cases in which sex offenders arrested for Internet-related crimes used the Internet for sexual communications with minors, comparing crimes by offenders who met victims online to those by offenders who knew victims in-person prior to the offense. **Methods:** We collected data from a national sample of law enforcement agencies ($n = 2,653$) about arrests in 2009 for Internet-related sex crimes against minors, conducting detailed telephone interviews with investigators about individual cases. This paper examines a subset of arrest cases that included the use of online sexual communications (online-meeting offenders, $n = 143$; know-in-person/online offenders, $n = 139$). **Results and Conclusions:** Compared with know-in-person/online offenders, online-meeting offenders

were less likely to have criminal backgrounds and more likely to use online communications to deceive victims. However, deception was a factor in a minority of cases and was also used by some know-in-person/online offenders. The majority of cases in both groups involved statutory rape (i.e., nonforcible illegal sexual activity with underage youth) or noncontact offenses such as child pornography production or sexual solicitation of a minor. We conclude that crimes by online-meeting offenders should not be treated as different or more dangerous than those by know-in-person/online offenders who use online sexual communications. Rather, prevention efforts should educate about the nature of statutory rape and related noncontact offenses. The primary message should be that it is criminal for adults to make sexual overtures to minors, online or offline, no matter what their relationship to the youth.

The effects of using identity deception and suggesting secrecy on the outcomes of adult-adult and adult-child or -adolescent online sexual interactions.

Bergen, Emilia, Davidson, Julia, Schulz, Anja, Schuhmann, P. Johansson, A. S. Pekka, Jern Patrick
Victims & Offenders, Vol 9(3), Jul, 2014. pp. 276-298.

Abstract:

There is a lack of knowledge about effects of behaviors during online sexual solicitations. Our aims were to explore the prevalence of identity deception and wanting to keep the interaction a secret, and how these behaviors relate to the outcome of sexual interactions online. The participants were adults who self-reported online sexual interactions with a stranger during the last year. We separated them into groups based on the age of their contact: (1) those that interacted sexually with adults ($n = 640$) and (2) those that interacted sexually with a child or adolescent ($n = 136$). Neither the prevalence of identity deception, suggesting secrecy, nor the outcomes of the interactions differed between the two groups. Suggesting secrecy increased the likelihood of receiving a sexual picture with an adult contact, whereas using any identity deception increased the likelihood with a child or adolescent. Several deceptions as well as suggesting secrecy increased the likelihood of cybersex within both groups, while using identity deceptions mostly decreased the likelihood of meeting the contact offline in both groups. Suggesting online and offline secrecy increased the likelihood of sexual contact offline with the child or adolescent but not with adult contacts.

Assault / Contact / Molest Offense

Child sexual abuse or child molestation is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent uses a child for sexual stimulation. Forms of child sexual abuse include asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities (regardless of the outcome), indecent exposure (of the genitals, female nipples, etc.) to a child with intent to gratify their own sexual desires or to intimidate or groom the child, physical sexual contact with a child, or using a child to produce child pornography.

Child sexual abuse can occur in a variety of settings, including home, school, or work (in places where child labor is common). Child marriage is one of the main forms of child sexual abuse; UNICEF has stated that child marriage "*represents perhaps the most prevalent form of sexual abuse and exploitation of girls*". The effects of child sexual abuse can include depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, complex post-traumatic stress disorder, propensity to further victimization in adulthood, and physical injury to the child, among other problems. Sexual abuse by a family member is a form of incest and can result in more serious and long-term psychological trauma, especially in the case of parental incest.

The global prevalence of child sexual abuse has been estimated at 19.7% for females and 7.9% for males. Most sexual abuse offenders are acquainted with their victims; approximately 30% are relatives of the child, most often brothers, fathers, uncles, or cousins; around 60% are other acquaintances, such as "friends" of the family, babysitters, or neighbors; strangers are the offenders in approximately 10% of child sexual abuse cases. Most child sexual abuse is committed by men; studies on female child molesters show that women commit 14% to 40% of offenses reported against boys and 6% of offenses reported against girls.

The word pedophile is commonly applied indiscriminately to anyone who sexually abuses a child, but child sexual offenders are not pedophiles unless they have a strong sexual interest in prepubescent children. Under the law, child sexual abuse is an umbrella term describing criminal / civil offenses in which an adult engages in sexual activity with a minor or exploits a minor for the purpose of sexual gratification. The American Psychological Association states that "*children cannot consent to sexual activity with adults*", and condemns any such action by an adult: "*An adult who engages in sexual activity with a child is performing a criminal and immoral act which never can be considered normal or socially acceptable behavior.*" (Wikipedia, 2015, Yes – quit smirking. This is actually a good summation.)

Statutory Sexual Offending

- Age of Consent is currently 16 in Canada and ranges from 14-to-18 in the United States.
- Statutory sexual crimes accounted for approximately a quarter of all sexual crimes involving minors in the United States in 2000 (Troup, Leasure & Snyder, 2005).
- Hines & Finkelhor (2007) found that 1% of girls ages 11-to-12 and 4% of girls ages 13-to-15 reported voluntarily having sex with a male who was five or more years older.
- A national study showed a little over 1% for all respondents had sex for the first time before the age of 14 with someone who was six-or-more-years older (Abma, Martinez, Mosher, & Dawson, 2004).
- 13% of adolescent girls had a sexual experience with an adult male who was three or more years older. The typical age difference was three or four years. 80% of the sexual experiences were described as voluntary (Manlove, Moore, Liechty, Ikramullah, and Cottingham, 2005)

Troup-Leasure and Snyder (2005) found the following:

- 95% of the statutory incidents involved minor females and almost all of these incidents involved older males as perpetrators. The perpetrators were adults in 82% of the cases. The majority of female adolescents were 14 or 15 years old, and the meeting age difference was six years. So the male was typically a young adult.
- Its rare for statutory sexual offences to involve strangers - 29% of offenders were considered boyfriends/girlfriends, and 62% were considered friends/acquaintances. This leaves 9% as strangers.
- Arrests occurred in 42% of the incidents. Arrests were less likely if the older person was the minor's boyfriend or girlfriend.
- With regards to male adolescent victims, they were 5% of the cases. In these cases, 94% of the older persons were female. This suggests that the majority of statutory offenses involved heterosexual participants.
- The medium age difference for male adolescents was nine years, which is larger than the medium age difference for female adolescents. (Troup-Leasure and Snyder -2005)

Grooming Tactics

Offenses against related girls differ from unrelated girls in several ways:

- Incest offenders were more likely to commit their sexual offenses in the context of cuddling, playing games, or sneaking into the child's room. (Lang and Frenzel, 1988).
- Offenders against related children were more likely to use pornography or give gifts. Whereas offenders against unrelated children were more likely to provide alcohol or drugs to the child before or during sexual contact. (Kaufman et al., 1998)
- Non-related child sex offenders reported:
 - They targeted children who were friendly and open; or conversely, needy, unhappy or sad.
 - Children living in single-parent homes.
 - Children who had previously been victimized in some way. (Conte, Wolfe, and Smith, 1989; Budin and Johnson, 1989).
- Overall, contact sexual offenders were more likely to use nonviolent tactics than use threat or force. Adolescent offenders were more likely than their adult counterparts to use pornography or use threats or force in committing their offense. (Kaufman et al. 1998)

“Affirming the Consequent” - The problem of discriminate validity.

How does one distinguish between healthy parenting versus grooming behaviors?

Characteristics of Online Offenders (non-contact) vs. Contact Offenders

A summary of the studies described on the next four pages

Characteristic		Online Offenders (child porn and/or soliciting)	Contact Offenders (Attempted or actual online interactions)
General Characteristics	Male	Same	Same
	Age	Younger	Older
	Intelligence	More	Less
	Education	More	Less
	Caucasian	More	Less
	Childhood abuse compared to gen population	More	More
	History of childhood abuse between 2 groups	Less	More
	Cognitive impulsivity	Less	More
	Emotional disorders / Psychiatric diagnoses	Same	Same
	Externalized Locus of Control	Less	More
Social Isolation	Socially isolated	Same	Same
	Emotional loneliness	More or Same	Less or Same
	Involved in intimate adult relationships	Less	More
	Ever have been married	Less	More
Criminal	Criminal history	Less	More
	Previous sexual convictions	Less	More
	Disclosed previous undetected sex offenses	More	Less
	Offense-supportive attitudes	Less	More
	Psychopathy traits / antisocial	Less	More
Sexual	General measures of sexual deviance	More	Less
	Phallometrically assessed arousal to children	More	Less
	Sex drive / preoccupation	More	Less
	Problems with sexual self-regulation	More	Less
	Admit sexual interest in pre/post-pubescents	More	Less
	Fantasizing about children	More	Less
	Fantasies that include non-consent	Less	More
	Emotional identification with children	Less or Same	More or Same
	Empathy for children	More	Less
	Perspective-taking	More	Less
	Identified as a pedophile	More	Less
	Identified as a hebephile	Less	More
	Clinicians rate as sexually deviant	More	Less

Findings from Various Studies

Babchishin, Hanson, & Hermann (2011)

- More than 99% of online sex offenders (non-contact) are male, with few cases of female online offenders. Those that occur appear to be in coordination with a male co-offender (boyfriend).
- Online-only offenders are less antisocial than contact offenders. They have less criminal history and lower scores on psychopathy measures.
- Online offenders (non-contact) more likely to be sexually deviant in terms of phallometrically assessed sexual arousal to children, self-reported sexual fantasies, and clinician ratings.

Bates and Metcalf (2007). **Child pornography offenders (non-contact)** scored:

- higher in emotional loneliness
- lower in emotional identification with children
- lower in empathy deficits for children
- lower in offense supportive attitudes and beliefs

Elliott, Beech, Mandeville-Norden, and Hayes (2009). **Contact sex offenders** had:

- greater offense-supportive cognitions
- greater victim empathy deficits

- greater perspective-taking deficits
- lower in fantasy
- higher in cognitive impulsivity
- more external in their perceived locus of control.

Babchisin et. al. (2011). **Online offenders** are:

- less antisocial, on average, than contact offenders
- have less criminal history
- lower scores on psychopathy measures
- have greater victim empathy
- scored higher on sex drive/preoccupation and sexual deviance than contact offenders.
- more likely to be sexually deviant in terms of phallometrically assessed sexual arousal to children, self-reported sexual fantasies, and clinician ratings. Child porn offenders with and without victims score higher on phallometric measures than do sex offenders with only child victims (no child pornography), adult victims, or general psychology students.
- Online and dual offenders were more likely to report sexual fantasies about girls under age 15 than contact offenders. In contrast, contact offenders were more likely to report sexual fantasies involving some form of confrontation and nonconsent.
- younger on average than contact sexual offenders in six separate studies that compared the two groups. Online offenders are also younger in comparison with the general male population. This is most directly tied to the fact that younger age males have greater Internet involvement.
- better-educated than contact sexual offenders in comparison studies.
- scored higher in intelligence than did Contact sexual offenders, with an average IQ score close to the population average of 100. Whereas contact sexual offenders are typically 10 points below the population average, consistent with research showing that offenders generally score lower on intelligence tests than the general population (White, Moffitt, & Silva, 1989). Pedophilic sex offenders (contact offenders with child victims below the age of 12) scored lower in intelligence than non-pedophilic sex offenders or other kinds of offenders (Cantor, Blanchard, Robichaud, & Christensen, 2005).
- are significantly more likely to be Caucasian than contact sexual offenders. The proportion of Caucasians among online offenders is also greater than the proportion among general offenders or the general population.
- online offenders in nine samples were less likely to have ever been married than the general population.
- There is theorizing that those who sexually act out online are more socially isolated than the general population. However, there were no group differences in loneliness from four studies. This is in contrast to the findings of Bates and Metcalf (2007).
- There was no difference between online and contact offenders regarding emotional identification with children. This is in contrast to the findings of Bates and Metcalf (2007).

Webb, Craissati, and Keen (2007). **Child pornography offenders** (non-contact):

- fewer previous sexual convictions
- more likely to have problems with sexual self-regulation (as compared to a sample of child sexual abuse / contact offenders.
- less likely to express offense-supportive attitudes about children
- less likely to be involved in an adult intimate relationship.
- scored lower on psychopathy.

Seto, Cantor, & Blanchard (2006); Seto, Reeves, & Jung (2010), Wolak, Finkelhor, Mitchell, & Ybarra (2008).

- The majority of child pornography offenders are likely to be pedophiles or hebephiles, according to their sexual arousal patterns and self-report.
- In contrast, most solicitation offenders are unlikely to be pedophiles because they focus on adolescents between the ages of 13 and 15.

Seto et al, 2012

- Child pornography offenders scored higher on sexual deviance than solicitation offenders.

- Overall, 61% of child pornography offenders show a preference for depictions of children over depictions of adults.
- But an important contradiction is that solicitation offenders are consistently found to be more antisocial/psychopathic.

Hanson, Harris, Scott, & Helmus, (2007)

- Fewer solicitation offenders admitted sexual interest in prepubescent or pubescent children or disclosed undetected sexual offenses.
- Solicitation offenders received lower clinician ratings on sexual deviance items of the Stable – 2007 as compared to online child pornography offenders.

Psychiatric symptoms (Seto, 2013)

- Some psychology models suggest emotional dysregulation plays a role in sexual offending (Finkelhor, 1984; Hall & Hirschman, 1991; Ward et al., 2009) and some studies suggest a link between disturbed mood and compulsive or excessive sexual behavior (Kafka, 1997).
- Kruger, Kaplan, and First (2009) found no differences in psychiatric diagnoses between their groups of solicitation offenders and child pornography-only offenders.

Antisociality (Seto, 2013)

Criminal history is an established risk factor for recidivism among every offender population that has ever been studied and this is highly likely to be relevant for online offenders as well. Criminal history is also important because it is an indicator of anti-sociology (antisocial tendency)

- Several studies found that online offenders are less likely to have a prior criminal history and they score lower on measures of antisocial tendencies than contact offenders. Motivans and Kyckelhahn (2007) found that child pornography offenders were less likely to have a prior felony conviction than contact offenders.
- In United Kingdom, Webb (2007) found child pornography offenders had less extensive criminal histories and lower scores on psychopathy than child contact offenders. Child pornography offenders also scored lower on offense supportive attitudes and beliefs and negative peers.
- McWhaw (2001) found that contact-only offenders had more extensive sexual/nonsexual criminal histories and were more likely to have conditional release violations than online-only offenders.
- Babchishin et al. (2011) found that online offenders scored higher on measures of victim empathy than did contact offenders. They also found that online offenders were unlikely to have a prior criminal history involving nonsexual offenses.
- Jung, Ennis, Stein, Choy, and Hook (2013) found that a group of child pornography offenders had a less extensive criminal history than a group of contact offenders. (Page 159)
- Magaletta, Faust, Bickart, and McLearn (2012) compared contact sex offenders with child pornography offenders using the personality assessment inventory (PAI). Pornography offenders were similar to male norms but significantly lower than contact offenders on scales tapping into anti-sociology, including dominance aggression, antisocial features, alcohol use problems, and drug use problems.

Sexual or physical history abuse (Seto, 2013)

- Both adolescent and adult sex offenders are significantly more likely to have histories of sexual abuse than their non-sexually offending counterparts (Jespersen, Lalumiere, & Seto, 2009; Seto & Lalumiere, 2010).
- There is longitudinal evidence that childhood abuse and other forms of maltreatment predict later delinquency, including sexual offending (Maxfield and Widom, 1996). Salter (2003) found that approximately 10% of children who'd been sexually abused were later detected for sexual offending. Research supports the notion that sexual offenders are more likely to have been sexually abused themselves. This is often referred to as the “*abused-abuser*” or the “*cycle of abuse*” hypothesis.
- Babchishin et al. (2011) found that online and contact offenders were both more likely to have a history of sexual abuse than men in the general population. There was a trend for online offenders to be less likely to have physical abuse histories compared with contact offenders.

Comparing Online Offenders With-and-Without Contact Histories

Seto, 2013, page 184

In one study, online offenders with and without contact defense histories did not significantly differ in their phallometrically assessed sexual arousal to children. (Seto, Cantor, and Blanchard, 2006).

McCarthy (2010) showed dual offenders (child porn and contact) were more likely to report using illicit drugs, to have had prior sexual offense, and more likely to be diagnosed with pedophilia. They were more likely to report masturbating to child pornography, more likely to view child modeling sites, and more likely to read sexual stories involving minors, which suggests they were more likely to be pedophiles or have stronger sexual preoccupations.

McCarthy also found that dual offenders were more likely than contact minors to send child or adult pornography to minors, and attempt to meet minors online. They were also more likely to network on pro-pedophilia forums with others who were sexually interested in children.

There was no significant difference in adult pornography use. Dual offenders were also more likely to engage in adult cybersex, consistent with the idea the dual offenders are higher in sexual preoccupations. McCarthy's results suggest dual offenders were more sexually deviant, engaged in a wider variety of online criminal sexual behavior, and posed a greater risk to reoffend than online only offenders.

Prentky et al. (2010) found that dual offenders differed from online only offenders by scoring higher on a measure of antisocial and criminal behavior.

Overall, comparison studies of Internet offenders with or without contact offending histories have suggested that those who commit contact offenses are higher in antisocial tendencies (McCarthy, 2010; Prentky et al., 2010), sexual deviance (McCarthy, 2010e; Prentky et al., 2010), and sexual preoccupation (McCarthy, 2010). Online only and dual offenders do not differ in psychological factors such as loneliness, empathy, emotional identification with children, and offense supportive attitudes and beliefs (Neutze et al., 2011).

Reference

Contact sexual offending by men with online sexual offenses.

Seto, Michael C., Hanson, R. Karl, Babchishin, Kelly M. Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment, Vol 23(1), Mar, 2011. pp. 124-145.

Abstract:

There is much concern about the likelihood that online sexual offenders (particularly online child pornography offenders) have either committed or will commit offline sexual offenses involving contact with a victim. This study addresses this question in two meta analyses: the first examined the contact sexual offense histories of online offenders, whereas the second examined the recidivism rates from follow-up studies of online offenders. The first meta-analysis found that approximately 1 in 8 online offenders (12%) have an officially known contact sexual offense history at the time of their index offense ($k = 21$, $N = 4,464$). Approximately one in two (55%) online offenders admitted to a contact sexual offense in the six studies that had self-report data ($N = 523$). The second meta-analysis revealed that 4.6% of online offenders committed a new sexual offense of some kind during a 1.5- to 6-year follow-up ($k = 9$, $N = 2,630$); 2.0% committed a contact sexual offense and 3.4% committed a new child pornography offense. The results of these two quantitative reviews suggest that there may be a distinct subgroup of online-only offenders who pose relatively low risk of committing contact sexual offenses in the future.

The Connection Between Online and Contact Offending

Seto, 2013, p.169-177

The phrase, "view evil, do no evil" was the motto of Adrian Thompson, a British man convicted in 2000 for child pornography crimes in the United Kingdom. This model captures the idea that child pornography could be a substitute for contact sexual offending among individuals who are attracted to children. Is in fact child pornography cathartic? A similar question, are fantasy-driven solicitation offenders – those who currently restrict their sexual interactions with minors to sexual chat, pornography, requests for suggestive or more explicit photos, an exhibitionist – less likely to seek sexual contact with minors?

One of the most fundamental problems with this concept is that people are not good at identifying the causes of their own behavior. Because of ethical reasons, this is an impossible hypothesis to test scientifically. We are left with retrospective research, which can be problematic.

Experimental studies show pornography exposure in the laboratory at least temporarily increases the endorsement of offense supportive attitudes and beliefs and also increases physical aggressiveness, both of which are seen as underlying factors for sexual offending against peers or adults (Kingston, Malamuth, Fedoroff, 2009; Malamuth, Addison, & Koss, 2000, Vega & Malamuth, 2007). Yet, in contradiction, the results of population level studies have mostly shown an inverse association between pornography availability and sex crime rates (Diamond, and How, 2011). Bhuller, Havnes, Leuven, and Mostad (2011), did a study in Norway that showed access to greater broadband Internet had a correlation of 3% increase on sex crimes region by region.

Allen, D'Alessio, and Emmers-Sommer (2000) reviewed several studies that compared pornography used between sex offenders and other groups of men. Sex offenders were not found to have used pornography more often or earlier than other groups of men. However, across seven different studies that asked questions about sexual behavior after pornography use, sex offenders reported they were more likely to fantasize, masturbate, or engage in sexual intercourse after viewing pornography.

Malamuth, Linz, Heavey, Barnes, and Acker (1995) pornography predicted sexual aggression over a ten-year period. This was replicated by Vega and Malamuth (2007).

Kingston, Fedoroff, Firestone, Curry, and Bradford (2008) among convicted sex offenders with child victims, pornography use predicted violence (including sexual) recidivism, interacting with estimated risk using a validated, actuarial risk measure. Both overall frequency of pornography use and use of child or violent pornography predicted violent recidivism but only among high-risk offenders.

Ybarra, Mitchell, Hamburger, Diener-West, and Leaf (2011) found that exposure to violent pornography predicted sexually aggressive behavior. Over three waves of sequential research, an average of 23% of youth intentionally used pornography. Five percent of those youth had been sexually aggressive. Only 4% of the youth, however, were exposed to violent pornography. Intentional use of violent pornography was associated with a six-fold increase in perpetration of sexually aggressive behavior, whereas there was no significant increase in perpetration for exposure to nonviolent pornography.

Exposure to mainstream adult pornography had a significant, medium-sized effect on negative attitudes about women (offense supportive attitudes and beliefs), and second review showed that exposure to pornography had effects on physical aggression in laboratory tasks. (Allen, D'Alessio, & Brezgel, 1995; Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, & Giery, 1995)

Similar effects were also shown for pornography depicting violence; consistent with the even larger experimental literature showing that exposure to violent media content has an effect on subsequent aggression (C.A. Anderson & Bushman, 2001; C.A. Anderson et al., 2003).

Possible explanation for pornography's experimentally demonstrated effects include social learning, excitation transfer, and habituation (desensitization).

- In social learning, one's attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions of social norms are influenced by environmental inputs.
- In excitation transfer, the physical and sexual arousal elicited by exposure to pornography can be expressed in aggression if the person has been provoked.
- In habituation, repeated exposure to similar content produces smaller and smaller sexual responses, causing the person to need more intense, real-life experiences to achieve the same level of excitement or gratification. P. 176

Etiology: The “Why” Question

Four different models of online offending (Elliot and Beech, 2009)

- a. Online offending is another manifestation of the same factors that explain contact sexual offending, but in a different context. This approach involves modifying existing models of sexual offending.
- b. Online offending is the result of offense-specific factors associated with problematic Internet use.
- c. Online offending is the result of offense-specific factors associated with sexual addiction or compulsivity.
- d. Online offending is a new form of offending that requires the development of new explanatory models.

The Pathways Model of Contact Sexual Offending

Middleton, Elliott, Mandeville-Norden, and Beech (2006) applied Ward and Siegert’s (2002) pathway model to explain contact sex offending online.

Pathway	Description
Intimacy deficits	Factors include insecure attachment and difficulties forming relationships with adults. Offenders are characterized by loneliness, poor social skills, and low self-esteem. Offenders in this pathway sexually preferred adults but may turn to children as substitutes.
Distorted sexual scripts	Factors include early sexualization and possibly sexual abuse. Offenders are characterized by deficits in offense-supportive attitudes and beliefs, misreading of sexual cues, sensitivity to rejection, and low self-esteem. Offenders have distorted sexual scripts, equate sex with intimacy, and may turn to children when feeling rejected or blocked.
Emotional dysregulation	Factors include use of sex as a coping strategy and linking sex with emotional well-being. Offenders are characterized by problems with controlling anger, identifying emotions, impulsivity, and personal distress. They experience sexual arousal in strong emotional states, and this drives opportunistic offending.
Antisocial cognitions	Factors include antisocial attitudes and beliefs and feelings of superiority over children. Offenders are characterized by offense-supportive attitudes and beliefs, patriarchal beliefs, impulsivity, and poor delay of gratification. Offenses can occur when offenders are sexually needy and when the opportunity arises, because the offender disregards social norms about sex with children.
Multiple dysfunctions	Factors include early sexualization, impaired attachment style, and antisocial cognitions. Offenders are characterized by entrenched offense-supportive attitudes and beliefs and sexual preference for children, resulting in approach behaviors.

The largest memberships for both Internet and contact offenders were intimacy deficits and emotional dysregulation. (Middleton, Elliott, Mandeville-Norden, and Beech, 2006)

Surjadi, Bullens, van Horn, and Bogarerts (2010) looked at the self-reported motivations for Internet offenders. The offenders completed an Internet function questionnaire. The highest rating was for avoidant function (avoiding real-life problems), followed by sexual motivations (pedophilia or other). Approximately a third of the offenders claim they never masturbated to child pornography, whereas the others acknowledge they did masturbate to this content.

For additional insight, see the “*Ethology of Internet Compulsions*” section of this handout.

Online Offender Typologies

(Seto, 2013, p. 163)

Elliott & Beech (2009)

Reviewed offender typologies proposed by Krone (2004) and Sullivan and Beech (2003), integrating them with a contact offender typology developed by Lanning (2001).

- **Periodically Prurient:** Access child pornography sporadically, impulsively, and/or opportunistically.
- **Fantasy-only:** Sexual interest in children, but have no known history of contact offending.
- **Direct victimization:** Use online technologies as part of a broader involvement with offending, including viewing child pornography and soliciting minors.
- **Commercial exploitation:** Use the Internet to make money, e.g., selling child pornography or facilitating prostitution involving minors.

Fortin & Roy (2007, Translated from French. Labels were created by Seto.)

- **Explorers:** young, with little or no criminal history.
- **Solo purchasers:** purchased or sold commercial content.
- **Communal traders:** trade with others and who are involved in online communities.
- **High-risk offenders:** those with more extensive criminal history, including shopping auger fee and/or contact offending.
- **Collectors:** no interactions with others online and did not use commercial resources (this was the largest group in their sample).
- **Groomers:** use child pornography instrumentally, attempting to meet or engage in cyber sex with minors. This can include Internet blackmail.

Hartman, Burgess, & Lanning (1984)

Off-line child pornography offender typology.

- **Closet collectors:** secretly obtain child pornography without contact sexual offending or communication with others.
- **Pedophile collectors:** sexually preferred children and likely to committed contact offenses.
- **Cottage collectors:** engage with other offenders.
- **Commercial collectors:** are motivated by financial gains rather than sexual interests.

Henry, Mandeville, Norden, Hayes & Egan (2010)

Regarding Internet offenders;

- **Apparently normal:** near or within the normal range on all tests.
- **Inadequate:** significant social-affective problems such as loneliness and under assertiveness, without serious problems with offensive supportive attitudes and beliefs, callousness, or emotional identification with children.
- **Deviant:** social – affective deficits as well as very poor victim empathy and the endorsement of offense supportive attitudes and beliefs.

Krone (2004)

Distinguish between the following types of online child pornography offenders.

- **Browsers:** encountered child porn accidentally but decide to save it.
- **Private fantasy offenders:** fantasize about children and may seek out corresponding text/images.
- **Trawlers:** involved in a variety of pornography and engage in curious or experimental viewing of child pornography.
- **Nonsecure collectors:** download, trade, or purchase child pornography through open sources.
- **Secure collectors:** collect child pornography and use security countermeasures to avoid detection.
- **Groomers:** focus on soliciting minors for cybersex or real-life meetings but who use child pornography as part of online interactions.
- **Physical abusers:** have committed contact offenses and for whom child pornography is supplemental, e.g., for fantasies or as record of offending.
- **Producers:** record child pornography images or videos and distribute them to others.
- **Distributors:** possess child pornography for the purpose of selling or distributing with no imputation about sexual motives.

Lamb (1998)

Characterize persons frequenting youth gay chat rooms.

- **Cruisers:** misrepresented themselves online and were primarily interested in cybersex.
- **Browsers:** genuinely curious and interested in meeting people.
- **Pornographers:** gathered and traded pornography.

McLaughlin (2000)

Distinguish between child pornography collectors, travelers, and producers.

O'Connell (2003)

Described proposed typology of online interactions rather than online offenders.

O'Connor (2005)

Regarding child pornography possession.

- **Accidental:** had accidental access, e.g., downloading large blocks of pornography and not realizing some of the files depict child pornography.
- **Curious:** view child pornography because it can be found and curious, typically have small collections.
- **Morally indiscriminate:** a wide range of pornography, including paraphilia or extreme contents.
- **Entrepreneurial:** collect child pornography, possibly for financial gain and may have committed contact offenses.
- **Addicted/problem-aware:** aware of their addiction to child pornography or sexual attraction to children but who are unable to control their sexual fantasies.

Sullivan and Beech (2003)

Distinguished between three types of offenders.

- **Type 1:** offenders collect child pornography as part of a broader pattern of sexual offending, including sexual contacts with children.
- **Type 2:** offenders collect child pornography to fuel their sexual interest in children.
- **Type 3:** offenders collect child pornography out of curiosity.

II. Risk Assessment

“Dark Figures” in Prior Sex Offenses

We now turn our focus to risk assessment for online offenders. An important distinction in the literature is whether the online offender has committed any “contact” sex offenses in the past or in the instant event. A contact offense is a hands-on event as compared to CP viewing, voyeurism, exhibitionism, or surreptitious filming. Within this area of focus is an issue of how many contact events have occurred in the past without any law enforcement / court awareness. This is referred to as “*Dark Figures*”. Nicholas Scurich explains:

In 2011, James Lynch, then the director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, made the following observation (Lynch, 2011):

It is essential that the police and the criminal justice system not be the only source of data on crime and responses to crime....This is particularly important in the case of measuring rape and sexual assault, because there is good evidence that the majority of these offenses are not reported to the police. These offenses remain the darkest of the “dark figure” of crime (p. 193).

The “dark figure” of crime is a term popularized by the noted criminologists Biderman and Reiss (1967). It refers to “occurrences that by some criteria are called crime yet that are not registered in the statistics of whatever agency was the source of the data being used” (Biderman & Reiss, 1967, p. 2). A common finding is that the frequency of self-reported crime commission or crime victimization is orders of magnitude larger than the frequencies found in official criminal justice statistics (see, e.g., Decker, 1977; Jansson, 2007; Krohn, Thornberry, Gibson, & Baldwin, 2010; MacDonald, 2002).

Although all categories of crime and victimization are underreported to law enforcement, Lynch and others have pointed out that sexual abuse in particular is likely to be substantially underreported (Langton, Berzofsky, Krebs, & Smiley-McDonald, 2012; Planty, Langton, Krebs, Berzofsky, & Smiley-McDonald, 2013; Rice, Harris, Lang, & Cormier, 2006). The possible reasons for underreporting of sexual abuse vis-à-vis other crimes are manifold. For example, as noted by Felson and Pare' (2005):

Sexual assaults may be less likely to be reported to the police than physical assaults for a variety of reasons: (a) the embarrassment and stigma associated with the crime, (b) perceptions by victims that they will not be believed or that the criminal justice system is ineffective, (c) perceptions that some incidents are not serious enough, (d) ambiguity about what constitutes illicit sexual conduct, (e) less fear of future attack because sexual assaults are less likely to be repeated, (f) greater fear of reprisal if they do report, and (g) less third-party reporting because sexual assaults are much more likely to occur in private (pp. 598–599, internal citations omitted).

The underreporting problem is potentially even more pronounced when the victim is a child, given that children may not understand the impropriety of sexual contact, may be confused by it, may lack linguistic ability to articulate what occurred, or may fail to disclose in order to protect the abuser, who may be related, may occupy a powerful social position, or may threaten the child not to tell (Goodman-Brown, Edelstein, Goodman, Jones, & Gordon, 2003; Katzenstein & Fontes, 2017; McElvaney, 2015; Paine & Hansen, 2002).

There is clearly a complex set of intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics that impede disclosure of sexual abuse both by victims (see Holland & Cortina, 2017; Orchowski & Gidycz, 2012; Tillman, Bryant-Davis, Smith, & Marks, 2010) and by perpetrators (see, e.g., Schneider & Wright, 2004; Ware & Blagden, 2020). However, beyond the uncontroversial observation that sexual abuse

is underreported to law enforcement, the nature and extent of the underreporting remains largely uncertain and the subject of disputation (see, e.g., Fisher, 2009). This is in part due to the methodological and pragmatic difficulties associated with measuring phenomena that are not readily observable and may not be readily disclosed, even to researchers (Koss, 1992).

Introduction to this special issue: Underreporting of sexual abuse. Nicholas Scurich.
Behavioral Sciences & the Law, Nov 17, 2020, pp. 537-538

Research on Dark Figures

The dark figure of sexual offending: A replication and extension.

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Behavioral Sciences & the Law, Nov 17, 2020, pp. 559-570

Abstract:

Studies of the dark figure of sexual offending using federal correctional clients reported significant evidence of previously unknown or hidden sexual violence, often among clients with no official criminal history. Unfortunately, research has produced variable estimates of how large the dark figure is. The current study sought to replicate recent studies of federal sexual offenders about the dark figure of sexual offending. We also extended the knowledge base by providing additional correlational analyses to see whether self-reported and official sexual offending have shared or divergent correlates. Overall, 73.8% of federal sexual offenders reported prior contact victims, which is higher than, but generally consistent with, prior prevalence estimates of 55–69% in studies of federal correctional clients. In the current data, clients convicted of child pornography possession or receipt and who had no official record of sexual abuse nevertheless reported contact sexual offenses in more than 59% of cases.

Summary of their findings:

- The paper reviews some methods of attempting to estimate the true rate of sexual offending, suggesting the best method appears to be offender self-report facilitated by polygraph.
- The “*dark figure*” refers to the difference between estimates of criminal activity based on criminal justice statistics and the true rates.
- A 25-year-study of sexual victimization in Canada revealed about 75% of child molestations went unreported, but only about 10% of violent non-sexual victimizations went unreported.
- Participants were 216 men with a sexual offense, half of which had a charge for contact sexual offense. Non-contact charges included possession and distribution of child pornography, attempt to entice a minor for sexual contact, and violations of sexual offender registration requirements. Polygraphs were required as a condition of supervised release.
- 74% of non-contact offenders reported at least one prior victim, about 50% reported two or more victims, and 10% reported at least eight victims. Mean self-reported victims was 3.3.
- Previous “dark figure” estimates were 69% and 55%.
- The child pornography offenders with no documented history of contact sexual abuse were among the most prolific sexual abusers with 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, and 25 victims.
- The authors assert that most child pornography viewers are not mere voyeurs.

Some limitations with this study include;

- The study does not cite preapproval or oversight from a Human Studies Ethics board.

- Were there institutional rewards for falsely reporting prior acts (as was the case in the Butner Study, discussed below.)?
- Would the polygraphs have accounted for the false positives? There were no recurrent polygraphs to determine whether the added victim count was authentic or simply a product of demand characteristics.
- The study had no objective verification of the expansive lists of victims – they were taken at face value.
- The authors cite the “Butner Study” which has been largely discredited.
- They also cite a 2020 study by Smith, which does not appear in searches through Psych Info or Google Scholar. Personal communication with one of the authors indicates the Smith study is not publicly accessible.
- At best, the study was retrospective regarding unconfirmed previous victims (called “pseudo-recidivism”) and does not contribute to understanding future rates of offending.

The 'Butner Study' redux: A report of the incidence of hands-on child victimization by child pornography offenders.

Bourke, Michael L., Hernandez, Andres E.

Journal of Family Violence, Vol 24(3), Apr, 2009. pp. 183-191.

Abstract

This study compared two groups of child pornography offenders participating in a voluntary treatment program: men whose known sexual offense history at the time of judicial sentencing involved the possession, receipt, or distribution of child abuse images, but did not include any 'hands-on' sexual abuse; and men convicted of similar offenses who had documented histories of hands-on sexual offending against at least one child victim. The goal was to determine whether the former group of offenders were 'merely' collectors of child pornography at little risk for engaging in hands-on sexual offenses, or if they were contact sex offenders whose criminal sexual behavior involving children, with the exception of Internet crimes, went undetected. Our findings show that the Internet offenders in our sample were significantly more likely than not to have sexually abused a child via a hands-on act. They also indicate that the offenders who abused children were likely to have offended against multiple victims, and that the incidence of 'crossover' by gender and age is high.

There has been much controversy regarding the “Butner Study Redux” (2009). Criticism in the professional community has included:

- The study had no preapproval or oversight from a Human Studies Ethics board. Some researchers say this may have led to the abuse of the prisoners involved in the study, who were subjected to demand characteristics to continuously produce more names of fictional victims every six months in order to advance in the treatment program, avoid penalties, and to earn earlier release. This is denied by the authors.
- The study had no objective verification of the expansive lists of victims – they were taken at face value.
- There were no recurrent polygraphs to determine whether the added victim count was authentic or simply a product of demand characteristics. Some prisoners had an initial screening polygraph on admission to Butner. Others had an exit polygraph just prior to being released into the community. But none were done during the actual study period to provide authentication.
- At best, the study was retrospective regarding unconfirmed previous victims (called “pseudo-recidivism”) and does not contribute to understanding future rates of offending.
- The results of the Bourke study were an extreme outlier that were not reflected in any other research (Seto, 2011).

- The results of the Bourke study have never been replicated.

Importantly, Dr. Hernandez himself noted the same year this study was published,

“CP offenders are distributed along a wide spectrum with multiple dimensions (e.g., criminogenic, sexual deviance, demographic). For example, there are CP possessors who are highly criminalized, behaviorally dysregulated, and sexually deviant. These individuals obviously represent a risk to public safety. On the other side of the spectrum, there are CP possessors who are not generally antisocial or sexually deviant, and have relatively intact self-regulatory mechanisms. Although both offenders commit the same crime (i.e., possession of child pornography), they are vastly different in terms of their risk to public safety. Understanding CP offenders requires comprehensive study of the individual offenders, the crimes, and the contextual variables in which the crimes occur. Focusing on only the extremes of a subject matter obscures the truth, inhibits rational dialogue and scientific inquiry, and sometimes results in uninformed public and criminal justice policy decisions. . . Some individuals have misused the results of Hernandez (2000) and Bourke and Hernandez (2009) to fuel the argument that the majority of CP offenders are indeed contact sexual offenders and, therefore, dangerous predators. This simply is not supported by the scientific evidence.” (pp. 3-4)

Position Paper: Psychological and Behavioral Characteristics of Child Pornography Offenders in Treatment

Andres E. Hernandez, Psy.D.

Global Symposium: Examining the relationship between online and offline offenses and preventing the sexual exploitation of children. The Injury Prevention Research Center. The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. April 5-7, 2009

In 2013, The New Yorker published an article critiquing Dr. Hernandez, the Butner Program, and the validity of his study’s claims.

“Former patients at Butner say that they did not realize they were research subjects. Federal civil-commitment hearings have offered a window into the conditions that gave rise to the study’s sensational results. Several inmates said that the program’s emphasis on confession led them to “remember” crimes that never happened. They disavowed disclosures that were later used as evidence against them.

The program required that its hundred and twelve patients accept responsibility for a life of deviant behavior and thoughts—a philosophy common to most treatment programs. Since sex crimes are vastly underreported, it is reasonable to expect that inmates have committed more crimes than their records reveal. At a professional workshop, Hernández explained that he created a climate of “systematic pressure,” so that inmates would “put all the cards on the table,” abandoning a “life style of manipulation.” Patients were required to compose lists of people they had sexually harmed, which they updated every few months. At daily community meetings, when offenders insisted that they had nothing left to disclose, other prisoners accused them of being in denial or “resistant to change.” If they failed to accept responsibility, they were expelled from the program.

For sex offenders, who occupy the bottom of the prison power hierarchy, the Butner unit was a safe haven in the federal prison system. One child-pornography convict, Markis Revland, told the judge at his civil-commitment hearing that when prisoners discover a sex offender among them “they’ll go to great lengths to stab that person.” He requested treatment at Butner after being raped at knifepoint in a Kansas penitentiary. He was encouraged by the psychology staff at Butner to “get it all out,” and came up with a hundred and forty-nine victims. Like other patients, he kept a “cheat sheet” in his cell so

that he could remember his victims' ages and the dates that he'd abused them. There was no evidence for the crimes, thirty-four of which would have occurred during a time when Revland was incarcerated. At his hearing, the judge concluded that his crimes were the "product of his imagination, not actual events." After having been held in prison nearly five years beyond the expiration of his criminal sentence, Revland was allowed to go home.

The government has lost roughly half of the more than sixty Adam Walsh cases that have gone to trial so far. Confirming the facts of sexual abuse, the most intimate sort of crime, has always been difficult, with far too many victims keeping quiet about their abuse or not having their stories believed. For offenders, too, the heightened emotional stakes may complicate attempts to get at the truth. Another former patient, Sean Francis, testified that, in order to stay in the "safe confines of Butner," he "fabricated" fifty-four victims and invented and embellished rape fantasies. "Every single human being, if we were to open their head up, has some form or fashion of a deviant sexual fantasy," he said at his hearing. "I don't deny that." But Francis said that he turned himself into a caricature of a sex offender in order to please the "psychological gods that they have working at Butner." Patients would sit in groups and offer one another tips for sprucing up their criminal histories. "We shared victim lists," he testified. "So I would go and I would say, 'Jim, show me what you have. Oh, that—that's really good.'"

The Science of Sex Abuse: Is it right to imprison people for crimes they have not yet committed?

Rachel Aviv. The New Yorker, (January 14, 2013).

Non-Contact Child Porn Offenders

For a complete discussion on assessing sex offenders, please see Dr. Paul Simpson's CLE talk – "Psychosexual Evaluations: What Every Attorney Should Know" at www.arizonaforensics.com.

ATSA Policy Statement on Internet-Facilitated Sex Offending

Adopted by the ATSA Executive Board of Directors on September 7, 2010

<http://www.atsa.com/internet-facilitated-sexual-offending>

"There is currently no risk measure specifically developed for use with Internet-facilitated offenders who have no official history of contact sexual offenses. Several overlapping, follow-up studies of child pornography offenders suggest these individuals present less risk for future hands-on offenses, on average, than undifferentiated samples of contact sex offenders.<http://www.atsa.com/internet-facilitated-sexual-offending>... Child pornography offenders also presented a relatively low risk to commit another child pornography offense. . . Studies that have compared Internet-facilitated sex offenders to contact sex offenders have found consistent differences. These studies suggest Internet-facilitated sex offenders are less antisocial and are; therefore, less of a risk to commit a new offense or a probation violation than contact sex offenders. These studies also suggest Internet-facilitated sex offenders are similar to or score lower than contact sex offenders on measures of clinical needs including offense-supportive attitudes and beliefs, intimacy deficits, and emotional problems. At the same time, child pornography offenders are more likely to show pedophilic sexual arousal on penile plethysmograph assessment than are contact sex offenders.

Although researchers have suggested several typologies of Internet-facilitated offenders, we currently know very little about the treatment and supervision needs of Internet-related sex offenders. These typologies include individuals who are sexually interested in children, those who are more sexually indiscriminate, those who are curious, and those who opportunistically engage in Internet-facilitated offending (e.g., an adult male who uses the Internet to gain sexual access to adolescents). Effective intervention will need to be tailored to the type of offender and the risk they present. For example, an individual who viewed child pornography out of curiosity and is a low risk to offend in the future might require little (or no) treatment and minimal supervision while a pedophilic individual who opportunistically used the Internet to gain access to victims and who is a higher risk to offend in the future would require more intensive treatment and supervision. Regulation of access to the Internet would be expected to be a central consideration in treatment or supervision. Methodologically sound evaluation research is needed to develop effective treatment programs for Internet-facilitated sex offenders."

See Appendix B for the complete ATSA text.

Research reveals:

- Child pornography offenders are much larger in number than solicitation and contact offenders. On average, they are also less antisocial than contact sex offenders.
- Child pornography use can actually be a better indicator of pedophilia than having sexual contact with children. Some men who have contact offenses are not actual pedophiles. These can be antisocial or opportunistic offenders.
- Three quarters of the sexual recidivism identified by Wakeling et al. (2011) was Internet related. This was especially true for Internet "specialists" that is, those individuals who have no history of any other type of offending and thus tended to have low scores on the risk managers compared with the rest of the sample. Neither the Risk Matrix 2000 nor the OGRS3 (United Kingdom measures) significantly predicted recidivism among Internet-only offenders, due to the low base-rate of recidivism observed for this subgroup (There were few new offenses to predict and thus less statistical power to detect any real association). This is consistent with the findings reported by Seto et al. (2011) and Eke et al. (2011). (See Seto, 2013, p.209)

Recidivism Rates for CP / Non-contact Offenders (vs. offline/contact offenders).

- 3.4% committed new CP viewing, 2% committed future physical contact (Seto, 2011)

- 1.6% committed new CP viewing, 3% committed physical contact (N=638, Faust, 2015)
- 7% committed new CP viewing, 3% committed physical contact (N=135, Seto & Eke, 2015)
- 2.3% committed new CP viewing, 3.6% committed physical contact (N=610, Saris, 2013, from the US Sentencing Commission report)
- 2.9% committed new CP viewing, .5% committed “cross-over”/physical contact (N=125, MiKADO Study; Schuhmann, 2015)
- Any type of recidivism was uncommon in the Wakeling et al. study, at 8% after one year and 11% after two years.

Summary of Risk for Noncontact Online Offenders

These results were consistent with the idea that online offenders are low risk, as a group, and suggests further that online offenders are more likely to commit further online offenses than they are to commit contact sexual offenses, consistent with a specialist rather than general view of their criminal behavior. Dr. Michael Seto notes:

The low base rate of sexual recidivism among online-only offenders suggests that there is little variance in risk in this subgroup to predict. The most accurate risk statement is to assume that an online-only offender with no prior criminal history of any kind is not going to sexually reoffend. Because existing risk measures are already applicable to online offenders who have also committed contact-sexual offenses, the follow-up research to date has suggested that an online– offender-only risk measure is unlikely to be successful. (Seto, 2013, p. 211)

There may appear to be a paradox in the risk in recidivism results ... Among identified sex offenders, pedophilia is a robust and important risk factor, having one of the strongest associations with new sexual offenses in meta-analysis conducted by Karl Hanson and his colleagues (Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005). Yet online child pornography offenders, many of whom are likely to be pedophiles, have a relatively low recidivism rate, at least in the studies we were able to examine in Seto et al. (2011).

This seeming paradox is resolved when we remember that the motivation-facilitation model requires both motivation (such as pedophilia or hebephilia) as well as facilitation factors (such as antisocial personality traits) for contact sexual offenses to occur (Seto, 2008). Many online child pornography offenders may indeed be motivated to have sex with children, but many do not have the necessary facilitation factors for this to occur, given their relatively low scores on psychopathy, antisocial attitudes and beliefs, and criminal history.

... child pornography offending can be viewed as a risk factor for sexual offending against children in the general population but as a ‘protective’ factor in the sexual offender population. This does not mean that child pornography use has a cathartic effect, only that it is a marker of lower risk of future offending within a sample of individuals identified for committing sexual crimes.” (Seto, 2013, p. 213-214)

The fact that bold claims about (online) sexual offending are made, and the fact that they are often unfounded or not supported in subsequent research, should give everyone great pause. American sex offender policies, in particular, are a baffling and frustrating mix of Draconian and/or ineffective, singling out sex offenders as special class of offenders... Sex offenders must register in publicly accessible databases, often for the rest their lives; they are often restricted by where they can live post-release, and they run the risk of civil commitment to a mental health facility after serving their prison sentence.

These claims about sex offenders drive public policy and practice, and thus can lead to inefficient and ineffective responses to the problem of online sexual offending. Dollars and

time spent on education campaigns warning youths about the dangers of communicating online with strangers, for example, are dollars and time that cannot be spent on education focusing on a-risk youth and on the right messages about the risks of exploitation or mistreatment by adults they interact with online. Dollars spent on incarcerating child pornography-only offenders for long periods of time are not available for other criminal justice purposes. Long sentences for child pornography only and fantasy-driven solicitation offenders means that these individuals cannot participate in the lives of their families and communities. If we, as a society, are going to make these choices, then we should strive to make them fairly and effectively in light of the scientific knowledge we have about online sexual offending. We would also want to use the information gained from risk assessment research to guide interventions, both in targeting higher risk individuals and in identify potential targets for offender treatment or supervision.” (Seto, 2013, p. 216-217)

Seto et al (2006) suggested child pornography offending might be a stronger diagnostic indicator of pedophilia than sexual offending against a child. It may be that non-pedophilic men opportunistically offend against children. This includes antisocial men who seek sexual gratification from adolescents who show some signs of sexual development but are below the legally defined age of consent. (Graupner, 2000)

For an excellent rebuttal to this section, every prosecutor and every defense attorney should read Dr. Darrel Turner’s article in the United States Attorneys’ Bulletin, “*The Sentencing Battleground: Understanding the Current Psychology Research and Refuting Defense Psychology and Risk Assessment Reports at Sentencing.*”

Dr. Turner’s critique includes:

- Limited/inaccurate citation of the research literature
- Current research has limited follow up times
- Child molestation and pornography offenses go unreported
- Failure to conduct “case-by-case” assessments
- Failure to consider factors which increase risk in CP offenders (dynamic/mitigating factors) or misapplication of mitigating factors
- Failure/inadequate diagnosis of antisociality (including psychopathy)
- Failure to assess for sexual deviance by not conducting a complete psychosexual evaluation
- Use of various varying diagnoses to explain downloading/viewing of CP which are unsubstantiated by research
- Inappropriate application of risk assessment tools

Darrel Turner, Megan Hanks, Joey L. Blanch, Camille E. Sparks,
“*The Sentencing Battleground: Understanding the Current Psychology Research and Refuting Defense Psychology and Risk Assessment Reports at Sentencing.*”

(July 2015), United States Attorneys’ Bulletin, Vol. 63, #4, pp. 46-64.
<https://www.justice.gov/usao/file/640226/download>

Actuarial Assessment of Child Pornography Offenders

Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool – V2 (CPORT-V2)

The CPORT-V2 (Seto & Eke, 2015) is a structured risk checklist designed to predict sexual recidivism in adult male sexual offenders with a conviction for child pornography offenses (N = 286; follow-up M = 8.3 years). All the subjects were convicted by courts in Canada of at least one count of possession of child pornography (over 90%), accessing (21%), distribution (37%), or production (23%). A fifth (21%) had a contact sex offense against a child. The authors of the CPORT-V2 recommend using the instrument for ranking an individual's risk as compared to other non-contact child pornography offenders. Although actuarial tables are being developed, for the time being the authors recommend interpreting general rank for risk without referencing recidivism probabilities.

Correlates of Admission of Sexual Interest in Child Scale (CASIC)

In the *Scoring Guide for the Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool – v. 2* (CPORT-V2, 6/15/18), Eke, Helmus and Seto note;

“In the CPORT-V2, admission of sexual interest in child is a risk factor for predicting any sexual recidivism. The concern for this type of item is its vulnerability to faking or refusal to respond, especially in high-stakes situation such as being investigated for child pornography offenses, sentencing and so forth. This led to our interest in potential correlates of sexual interest in children (Eke & Seto, 2013) and the development of a 6-item scale we called the Correlates of Admission of Sexual Interest in Children Scale” (CASIC; Seto & Eke, 2017. p.9)

In the development of the CPORT-V2, the authors identified the following behavioral correlates of admission of sexual interest in children:

1. Never married (54%)
2. Child abuse videos (64%)
3. Content included sex stories involving children (31%)
4. Evidence of interest in child pornography spanning a time frame of two years or longer (55%)
5. Volunteered with children before or during the index offence (7%)
6. Engaged in sexual communication with a minor (or undercover officer posing) (10%)

When summed, the average score on CASIC is 2.21 out of a possible 6, and the CASIC score was significantly associated with admission of sexual interest in children (AUC=.71). Results indicate that a score of 3 or more on the CASIC can allow item #5 on the CPORT-V2 to be scored as a “yes”.

Risk Assessment: Offender Characteristics That Increase Future Risk

Quantitative reviews of sex offender follow-up research have confirmed that many risk factors for sexual recidivism fall into one of the two major risk dimensions of antisociality and sexual deviance (Doren, 2004; Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005; Quinsey et al., 2006).

Antisocial

- Younger age at first contact with the criminal justice system
- Extent of prior criminal history
- Failure on conditional release
- Substance abuse
- Antisocial personality traits – particularly psychopathy
- Lifestyle instability

Sexual Deviance

- Sexual paraphilias. Those with multiple paraphilic interests pose the greatest risk of sexually reoffending (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004, 2005). Significant minorities of sex offenders with child victims have also engaged in exhibitionistic or voyeuristic behavior or sexually assaulted adults as well (Abel, Becker, Cunningham-Rathner, Mittleman, & Rouleau, 1988; Bradford, Boulet, & Pawlak, 1992)
- Sexual arousal to children or sexual violence

Socially Incompetent - Carl Hansen suggests there is a third dimension – poor interpersonal competence that contributes to sex offender risk for recidivism. (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004, 2005). This third dimension can include;

- Disrupted attachment
- Failure at adult relationships
- Emotional congruence with children - feeling more comfortable and preferring the company of children.

Criminal History - Child pornography offenders with any kind of prior criminal history - including nonsexual offenses such as theft, possession of narcotics, or assault - were at a significantly greater risk of sexual recidivism during the average follow (approximately 30 months). (Seto & Eke, 2005). The researchers repeated this study in 2011 to extend the time follow-up. In the second study (Eke, Seto, & Williams, 2011), a third of the total sample of child pornography offenders committed any kind of new offense during follow-up. 4% of offenders committed new contact sex offenses. An additional 2% of offenders were charged with historical contact sex offense (i.e., previously undetected offending that came to light following the index child pornography conviction, or what is called “pseudo-recidivism”). 7% of offenders committed a new child pornography offense. As in the previous study, the authors found criminal history variables predicted recidivism. They also found younger age at first charge predicted sexual recidivism. This is consistent with general forensic psychology that finds that young offender age and criminal history are two of the best established risk factors for future offense.

The research suggests that age at first contact with the criminal justice system is a better predictor of recidivism than age at time of release, suggesting that age at release is less important than some researchers have argued.

Child pornography offenders who already had a history of contact sexual offending have higher sexual recidivism rates than the expected base rates for typical sex offenders reported by A.J.R. Harris and Hanson (2004). Those who have no history of contact offending almost never committed such offenses during the follow-up, despite the fact that a majority were likely to be sexually interested in children (Seto, Cantor, & Blanchard, 2006).

Poor Impulse Control - In the context of online sexual offending, the fact that child pornography offenders are likely to be pedophiles may cause evaluators to assume they are at high risk of contact sexual offenses involving children in the future, because pedophilia is a strong predictor of sexual recidivism among identified sex offenders (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005). The “*motivation-facilitation*” model of sexual offending against children suggests, however, that only those child pornography offenders who have poor self-control of their pedophilic or hebephilic interest would act on them. Poor inhibitory control is revealed in relatively high scores on measures of risk taking, impulsivity, or similar antisociality traits, or it occurs situationally because of alcohol or drug intoxication, high levels of stress, or depressed mood.

Static Variables - Structured or actuarial risk assessments are recommended as best practice guidelines by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. The developers of the Static 99R/2002R have suggested that solicitation offenders who had attempted to meet a minor in real life (even if they actually met an undercover police officer) can be scored using their instrument.

“The developers of the Static–99 have suggested that solicitation offenders who have attempted to meet a minor in real life (even if they actually met an undercover police officer) can be scored using this measure, though users are cautioned in the Static–99 guidelines that there were few such offenders in the development samples, and it is unclear whether the probabilistic estimates would apply (A. J. R. Harris, Phenix, Hanson, & Thornton, 2003). Any dual offender can be confidently scored using the Static–99 or another established actuarial risk measure because they

already have a contact sexual offense in their history, and such offenders comprised most of the development samples.

The Static-99 includes a “noncontact offense history” item that would apply to online offenders and individuals who have committed exhibitionism or voyeurism offenses. This is similar to the Risk Matrix 2000 (Thornton et al., 2003), a risk measure widely used in the United Kingdom and discussed in more detail in Applying Established Risk Measures later in this chapter.

It is not yet clear how to proceed in the risk assessment of pornography offenders with no history of contact or attempted contact offending, or in the assessment of fantasy-driven solicitation offenders.” (Seto, 2013, p.203)

Dynamic Factors - In contrast to static risk factors, dynamic risk factors can change over time and may therefore be more effective in assessing shorter-term fluctuations in risk to reoffend. Dynamic factors may also be more amenable to intervention. Alcohol use can illustrate the distinction between static and dynamic risk.

The most prominent dynamic sex offender measure is the Stable – 2007. This assesses 16 factors that can change over time (months or years) that are related to the probability of officially detected recidivism (Hansen et al., 2007). Each of these 16 factors is rated on a three-point scale, with zero indicating no problem, one indicating some concern, and two indicating but the problem is present. The 16 Stable-2000 risk factors can be rationally organized into six domains;

- The **significant social influences** domain represents the balance of positive and negative influences in the person's social world, particularly family and friends.
- The **intimacy deficit domain** represents the stability of intimate relationships, including loneliness or social rejection, a lack of concern for others, emotional identification with children, or hostility towards women.
- The **sexual self-regulation domain** represents problems in regulating sexual behavior, including high sex drive or sexual preoccupation common maladaptive use of sex as a way of coping with negative mood or other concerns, and deviant sexual interest.
- The **attitudes supportive of sexual assault domain** represents offense supportive attitudes and beliefs, including sexual entitlement, attitudes tolerant of rape and adult-child sex.
- The **cooperation with supervision domain** represents compliance and cooperation with supervision requirements.
- The **general self-regulation domain** represents problems with general regulation of behavior, including impulsivity, poor cognitive problem-solving skills, and negative emotionality or hostility.

First, Webb, Craissati, and Keen (2007) found the Stable-2007 significantly predicted probation failure and “risky sexual behavior” after a follow-up period of 18 months. Risky sexual behaviors included accessing adult pornography on a daily basis but did not include new sexual offenses because none were observed in this study during this timeframe.

Internet Content - There is some evidence that offending specific variables predict child pornography and any sexual recidivism (Seto, 2009). These factors include the ratio of greater boy-to-girl child pornography content and having non-digital child pornography. Other Internet specific variables have been proposed, i.e., total amount of child pornography and time spent online.

Research related to Child Pornography and Re-offense

The Criminal Histories and Later Offending of Child Pornography Offenders.

Seto, Michael C., et.al., (April 2005). The criminal histories and later offending of child pornography offenders. *Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment*, Vol 17(2), pp. 201-210.

Abstract:

The likelihood that child pornography offenders will later commit a contact sexual offense is unknown. In the present study, we identified a sample of 201 adult male child pornography offenders using police databases and examined their charges or convictions after the index child pornography offense(s). We also examined their criminal records to identify potential predictors of later offenses: 56% of the sample had a prior criminal record, 24% had prior contact sexual offenses, and 15% had prior child pornography offenses. One-third were concurrently charged with other crimes at the time they were charged for child pornography offenses. The average time at risk was 2.5 years; 17% of the sample offended again in some way during this time, and 4% committed a new contact sexual offense. Child pornography offenders with prior criminal records were significantly more likely to offend again in any way during the follow-up period. Child pornography offenders who had committed a prior or concurrent contact sexual offense were the most likely to offend again, either generally or sexually.

Endrass, Jérôme, et. al. (2009, July 14). *The consumption of Internet child pornography and violent and sex offending*. *BMC Psychiatry*, Vol 9, ArtID 43.

Abstract: Background: There is an ongoing debate on whether consumers of child pornography pose a risk for hands-on sex offenses. Up until now, there have been very few studies which have analyzed the association between the consumption of child pornography and the subsequent perpetration of hands-on sex offenses. The aim of this study was to examine the recidivism rates for hands-on and hands-off sex offenses in a sample of child pornography users using a 6 year follow-up design. Methods: The current study population consisted of 231 men, who were subsequently charged with consumption of illegal pornographic material after being detected by a special operation against Internet child pornography, conducted by the Swiss police in 2002. Criminal history, as well as recidivism, was assessed using the criminal records from 2008. Results: 4.8% (n = 11) of the study sample had a prior conviction for a sexual and/or violent offense, 1% (n = 2) for a hands-on sex offense, involving child sexual abuse, 3.3% (n = 8) for a hands-off sex offense and one for a nonsexual violent offense. When applying a broad definition of recidivism, which included ongoing investigations, charges and convictions, 3% (n = 7) of the study sample recidivated with a violent and/or sex offense, 3.9% (n = 9) with a hands-off sex offense and 0.8% (n = 2) with a hands-on sex offense. Conclusion: Consuming child pornography alone is not a risk factor for committing hands-on sex offenses—at least not for those subjects who had never committed a hands-on sex offense. The majority of the investigated consumers had no previous convictions for hands-on sex offenses. For those offenders, the prognosis for hands-on sex offenses, as well as for recidivism with child pornography, is favorable.

The use of actuarial risk assessment measures with UK internet child pornography offenders.

Osborn, Jody; Elliott, Ian A.; Middleton, David.; Beech, Anthony R..

Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research, Vol 2(3), Jul, 2010. pp. 16-24.

Abstract:

The present study investigates the use of two actuarial assessment measures—Risk Matrix 2000 and Static 99—with individuals convicted of downloading child pornography on the internet. A UK community-based sample of convicted internet sex offenders was assessed using both a standard and a revised version of RM2000 and Static 99 and assessed for rates of reconviction. None of the offenders in the sample were convicted of a further sexual crime between a one-and-a-half and four-year follow-up. These results suggest reconviction rates for internet sex offenders are lower than for contact child sex offenders. It was found that both the standard version of RM2000 and Static-99 overestimate the risk levels posed by internet offenders and that an adapted version of RM2000 may be a more realistic measure of risk level in this population. In addition, it was noted that a higher frequency of low-risk offenders appeared to be accessing images of younger children and images depicting more serious victimization than high-risk offenders.

Contact sexual offending by men with online sexual offenses.

Seto, Michael C., Hanson, R. Karl. Babchishin, Kelly M..
Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment, Vol 23(1), Mar, 2011. pp. 124-145.

Abstract:

There is much concern about the likelihood that online sexual offenders (particularly online child pornography offenders) have either committed or will commit offline sexual offenses involving contact with a victim. This study addresses this question in two meta analyses: the first examined the contact sexual offense histories of online offenders, whereas the second examined the recidivism rates from follow-up studies of online offenders. The first meta-analysis found that approximately 1 in 8 online offenders (12%) have an officially known contact sexual offense history at the time of their index offense ($k = 21$, $N = 4,464$). Approximately one in two (55%) online offenders admitted to a contact sexual offense in the six studies that had self-report data ($N = 523$). The second meta-analysis revealed that 4.6% of online offenders committed a new sexual offense of some kind during a 1.5- to 6-year follow-up ($k = 9$, $N = 2,630$); 2.0% committed a contact sexual offense and 3.4% committed a new child pornography offense. The results of these two quantitative reviews suggest that there may be a distinct subgroup of online-only offenders who pose relatively low risk of committing contact sexual offenses in the future.

Specifics:

- 4.6% of online offenders committed a new sexual offense for total sample.
- 2.0% of online offenders committed a new contact offense
- 3.4% of online offenders committed a new CP offense
- (Turner critiques this study)

Examining the criminal history and future offending of child pornography offenders: An extended prospective follow-up study.

Eke, Angela W.. Seto, Michael C., Williams, Jennette.
Law and Human Behavior, Vol 35(6), Dec, 2011. pp. 466-478.

Abstract:

We examined police occurrence and criminal records data for a sample of 201 registered male child pornography offenders originally reported by **Seto** and **Eke** (Sex Abus J Res Treat 17:201–210, 2005), extending the average follow-up time for this sample to 5.9 years. In addition, we obtained the same data for another 340 offenders, increasing our full sample to 541 men, with a total average follow-up of 4.1 years. In the extended follow-up of the original sample, 34% of offenders had new charges for any type of reoffense, with 6% charged with a contact sexual offense against a child and an additional 3% charged with historical contact sex offenses (i.e., previously undetected offenses). For the full sample, there was a 32% any recidivism rate; 4% of offenders were charged with new contact sex offences, an additional 2% of offenders were charged with historical contact sex offenses and 7% of offenders were charged with a new child pornography offense. Predictors of new violent (including sexual contact) offending were prior offense history, including violent history, and younger offender age. Approximately a quarter of the sample was sanctioned for a failure on conditional release; in half of these failures, the offenders were in contact with children or used the internet, often to access pornography again.

Regarding recidivism, this study found:

For CP, but non-violent (non-contact) (n=108)

- Any re-offense = 40.2%
- Release failure = 30.8%
- Violent/sex = 5.6%
- Contact sex = 1.9%
- Noncontact sex/CP = 10.3%
- CP = 8.4%

In contrast, for CP that includes contact (n=163)

- Any re-offense = 50.5%

- Release failure = 35.4%
- Violent/sex = 12.1%
- Contact sex = 8.7%
- Noncontact sex / CP = 11.2%
- CP = 8.7%

2012 Report to the Congress: Federal Child Pornography Offenses

Saris, et al. (2012) United States Sentencing Commission

http://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/news/congressional-testimony-and-reports/sex-offense-topics/201212-federal-child-pornography-offenses/Chapter_11.pdf

“...the general recidivism rate was 30.0 percent (183 of 610 offenders). . . failures were almost evenly split between arrests or convictions for new crimes and arrests or revocations for others violations of the conditions of their supervision:

- *15.9 percent (97 of 610 offenders) were arrested for (and in some cases convicted of) a new criminal offense; and*
- *14.1 percent (86 of 610 offenders) violated the conditions of their supervision or failed to register or report as sex offenders without an arrest for any other new criminal offense.*
- *The sexual recidivism rate for all offenders was 7.4 percent (45 of the 610 cases). Of those 45 offenders:*
 - *22 offenders (or 3.6% of all 610 cases) were arrested for or convicted of sexual “contact” offenses (e.g., rape or sexual assault of a child or adult);*
 - *14 offenders (2.3% of the 610 cases) were arrested for or convicted of a subsequent child pornography offense; and*
 - *the remaining nine offenders (1.5% of the 610 offenders) were arrested for or convicted of a non-contact sex offense involving obscenity or commercial sex.*

Of the 97 offenders who were arrested for any type of new offense during the eight-and- one-half-year follow-up period, the vast majority (77, or 79.4%) were arrested once during the period. Twenty offenders (20.6%) were arrested more than once during the follow-up period. Similarly, of those 86 offenders whose recidivism was limited to violating the conditions of their supervised release or probation, 67 (77.9%) did so once, while the remaining 19 offenders (22.1%) violated their conditions more than once. Furthermore, of the 97 offenders who committed new criminal offenses, 41 (42.3%) were both arrested for a new criminal offense and also had at least one other violation of the conditions of their supervision.

The period of time between reentry into the community and the recidivism event is measured as the “street time” that the offender was at risk until the first arrest, conviction, or revocation time in six month increments. As shown, recidivism increased at a relatively steady rate for approximately the first three years following release and then grew at a much slower rate thereafter. The statutory maximum period of supervised release for the vast majority of this thirds of offenders recidivated during their terms of supervision, and one-third recidivated after their supervision ended. A small number of offenders recidivated for the first time after being in the community for more than five years.” (pp. 300-301)

Predicting Recidivism Among Adult Male Child Pornography Offenders: Development of the Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool (CPORT)

Seto, M. C., & Eke, A. W. (2015, April 6). Law and Human Behavior. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000128>

Abstract

In this study, we developed a structured risk checklist, the Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool (CPORT), to predict any sexual recidivism among adult male offenders with a conviction for child pornography offenses. We identified predictors of sexual recidivism using a 5-year fixed follow-up analysis from a police case file sample of 266 adult male child pornography offenders in the community after their index offense. In our 5-year follow-up, 29% committed a new offense, and **11% committed a new sexual offense, with 3% committing a new contact sexual offense**

against a child and 9% committing a new child pornography offense. The CPORT items comprised younger offender age, any prior criminal history, any contact sexual offending, any failure on conditional release, indication of sexual interest in child pornography material or prepubescent or pubescent children, more boy than girl content in child pornography, and more boy than girl content in other child depictions. The CPORT was significantly associated with any sexual recidivism, with moderate predictive accuracy, and thus has promise in the risk assessment of adult male child pornography offenders with further cross-validation.

Specifics included:

For CP only offenders (n=135)

- Any re-offense = 24%
- Release failure = 14%
- Violent (including sex) = 4%
- Contact sex = 3%
- CP = 7%

But: for CP & non-violent and/or violent (n=90)

- Any re-offense = 49%
- Release failure = 40%
- Violent/sex = 10%
- Contact sex = 3%
- CP = 12%

Child pornography possessors and child contact sex offenders: A multilevel comparison of demographic characteristics and rates of recidivism.

Faust, Bickart, Renaud.

Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment, Vol 27(5), Oct, 2015. pp. 460-478.

Abstract:

Considerable debate surrounds the topic of whether possessing or distributing online images of childpornography (CP) represents a new type of crime perpetrated by conventional sex offenders (e.g., childcontact [CC] sex offenders), or whether individuals who commit these crimes differ from contact sex offenders in meaningful ways. The current study compares groups of Internet (CP) and CC sexual offenders, with each group's sexual offending history exclusively confined to its offense category. T tests were used to conduct bivariate comparisons of group demographics and criminal histories. Rates of recidivism were examined using survival curves and Cox proportional hazard regression models. Results showed significant differences on demographic and criminal history variables, with CP offenders demonstrating a lower frequency of prior criminal offending and substance abuse, and higher rates of pre-incarceration employment and level of education. Rates of recidivism were significantly different between the two groups, with CP offenders showing lower rates of re-offense for most measures of recidivism. When controlling for background characteristics and the timing of the event, CC offenders were at much greater risk for having an arrest for a new crime or a non-sexual violent crime than CP offenders. Treatment and policy implications are discussed, along with suggestions for future research.

Specifics included:

For Non-contact CP (n=428)

- 19.2% had probation violations
- 1.6% had noncontact sex offense / CP
- 3.0% had contact offense

For contact offenders (n=210)

- 38% had probation violations
- 14.3% had nonsexual/violence

- 5.7% had contact sex offense

Multiple Indicators of Sexual Interest in Prepubescent or Pubescent Children as Predictors of Sexual Recidivism.

Stephens, Skye. Cantor, James M., Goodwill, Alasdair M., Seto, Michael C.
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Mar 13, 2017.

Abstract (English):

Objective: Sexual interest in children is a well-known risk factor for sexual reoffending (recidivism). The present study examined the relationship between sexual interest in prepubescent children (pedophilia) or pubescent children (hebephilia) and sexual recidivism. It extended previous work by using multiple indicators of sexual interest, using a more sensitive phallometric procedure that measures change in penile blood volume, and examining both hebephilia alongside pedophilia, as well as noncontact sexual recidivism. Method: Six hundred fifty-six men who had committed a sexual offense underwent a comprehensive sexological assessment that included multiple sexual interest measures: volumetric phallometry, self-report, and sexual behavior. Criminal record data were acquired to examine recidivism. Offenders were followed for an average of 10 years of opportunity. Results: Indicators of hebephilia and pedophilia were significantly associated with noncontact sexual recidivism, but inconsistently associated with contact recidivism. The relationship with phallometrically assessed pedophilia and contact sexual recidivism was significant after controlling for offender age statistically. Phallometrically assessed sexual arousal to children did not add to risk appraised by an actuarial measure. Conclusion: Both hebephilia and pedophilia were predictive of noncontact sexual recidivism. The results for contact sexual recidivism are discussed, including a potential confound in previous work on the assessment of sexual interest in children.

Correlates of Admitted Sexual Interest in Children Among Individuals Convicted of Child Pornography Offenses.

Seto, Michael C., Eke, Angela W.
Law and Human Behavior, Apr 06, 2017.

Abstract:

Recent research on a risk assessment tool for child pornography offending suggests that admission of sexual interest in children is a risk factor for any sexual recidivism. Admission is easily vulnerable to lying, however, or to refusals to respond when asked about sexual interests. This may become a particular issue when individuals are concerned about the potential impact of admission of sexual interest on sentencing and other risk-related decisions. In this study, we identified the following behavioral correlates (coded yes/no) of admission of sexual interest in children in the risk tool development sample of 286 men convicted of child pornography offenses: (a) never married (54% of sample), (b) child pornography content included child sexual abuse videos (64%), (c) child pornography content included sex stories involving children (31%), (d) evidence of interest in child pornography spanned 2 or more years (55%), (e) volunteered in a role with high access to children (7%), and (f) engaged in online sexual communication with a minor or officer posing as a minor (10%). When summed, the average score on this Correlates of Admission of Sexual Interest in Children (CASIC) measure was 2.21 (SD = 1.22, range 0–6) out of a possible 6, and the CASIC score was significantly associated with admission of sexual interest in children, area under the curve (AUC) = .71, 95% CI [.65, .77]. The CASIC had a stronger relationship with admission in a small cross-validation sample of 60 child pornography offenders, AUC = .81, 95% CI [.68, .95]. CASIC scores may substitute for admission of sexual interest in risk assessment involving those with child pornography offenses.

Child Pornography Offender Characteristics and Risk to Reoffend

Michael C. Seto, Ph.D., C.Psych. Royal Ottawa Health Care Group

Prepared for the United States Sentencing Commission Draft dated February 6, 2012

“Seto et al. (2011) identified 21 studies, representing a total of 4,464 online offenders, that reported on contact sexual offending history. Approximately 1 in 8 (12%) of the online offenders (most in trouble for child pornography offenses) had an official record for sexual offending, but approximately 1 in 2 (55%) admitted having committed a contact sexual offense in the subset of six studies that had self-report data (totaling 523 online offenders). The self-report result is more tentative because of the smaller number of studies and smaller sample size, but it does contradict the idea that most online offenders have already committed contact sexual offenses, even if some of those who denied any prior sexual contacts were lying.

A study by Bourke and Hernandez (2009) examining the sexual offense histories of a sample of federally incarcerated child pornography offenders at the Butner Correctional Institution is frequently cited. This study was a statistical outlier in our meta-analysis. Bourke and Hernandez found that approximately a quarter (24%) of their sample of 155 child pornography offenders had an official record of contact sexual offending, but most (85%) of their sample had a history of contact offending after participating in treatment and, in about half of the cases, undergoing polygraph examinations. Different explanations have been proposed for this unusual finding, including the composition of the sample and allegations that there was an incentive for treatment participants to disclose previously undetected offenses. Nonetheless, the key point – that some child pornography offenders have committed officially undetected contact offenses – is not controversial.

In the same systematic review, Seto et al. (2011) reported on the results of nine samples of online (mostly child pornography) offenders, followed for an average of three and a half years. The recidivism rates were relatively low compared to the average recidivism rates found for contact sexual offenders (e.g., Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005): Approximately 5% of the child pornography offenders were caught for a new sexual offense of any kind, with 3.4% being rearrested, recharged or reconvicted for a new CP offense and 2.1% for a new contact sexual offense. Not all new offenses are detected and the observed recidivism will increase with time. Nevertheless, these data belie the idea that online child pornography offenders are very high risk to reoffend. There is heterogeneity, as in other offender populations, and risk assessment is necessary to identify those who are of greatest concern.

Child Pornography Offender Characteristics and Risk to Reoffend

Michael C. Seto, Ph.D., C.Psych. Royal Ottawa Health Care Group

Prepared for the United States Sentencing Commission Draft dated February 6, 2012

Risk assessment of Luring and Contact Offenders

For a complete discussion on assessing sex offenders, please see Dr. Paul Simpson's CLE talk – "*Anatomy of a Psychosexual Evaluation: What Every Attorney Should Know*" at www.drpaulsimpson.com.

The recidivism rates for child pornography, violence, (including contact sexual) and sexual offenses were relatively low compared with the average recidivism rates obtained for typical samples of sexual offenders. Approximately 5% of the child pornography offenders were caught for a new sexual offense of some kind. A further breakdown of the findings were 3.4% for a new child pornography offense and 2.1% for a new contact sexual offense. (Seto, Hanson, and Babchishin, 2011).

Faust, Renaud, and Bickart (2009) examined the predictors of recidivism in a large federal sample of 870 male, child pornography offenders assessed by the United States Federal Bureau of prisons between 2002 and 2005. The average time of follow-up was almost 4 years, with a sexual re-arrest rate of 5.7%. Of the 30 predictors that were available to these researchers, five were significant predictors of sexual re-arrest.

- Lower education
- Being single
- Having non-Internet child pornography (traditional print media, videos)
- Prior sexual offender treatment
- Not having depictions of adolescent minors (child-only).

Notice that lower education and SQL status are also classic criminological variables. Having non-Internet child pornography may reflect a deeper, greater, or longer standing interest in child pornography. Given that most child pornography is now readily accessed online, prior sexual offender treatment may have acted as a proxy variable for prior sexual offending history or greater clinical needs, rather than an indication of any iatrogenic effect of treatment. Not having any depictions of adolescent minors suggests that the recidivists were more likely to be pedophiles or hebephiles and therefore attuned to images of younger youth.

Seto (2013, p. 206) did a study on child pornography offenders identified through their police case files. In the review of case files, researchers confirmed that offender age and criminal history predicted violent recidivism (including contact sexual), as well as child pornography recidivism. In addition, they found that self-reported interest in pubescent children and substance misuse are significant predictors of contact sexual offending.

Robust Predictors for Re-offense

Antisocial - A number of highly robust predictors of criminal recidivism have been identified across diverse samples of offenders. These include;

- Younger age at first contact with the criminal justice system
- Extent of prior criminal history
- Failure on conditional release (reflecting an unwillingness or inability to abide by rules even with the force of law and potential re-imprisonment behind it)
- Substance abuse
- Antisocial personality traits – particularly psychopathy (Seto, 2013, p. 196)
- Lifestyle instability (e.g., sporadic employment despite being able to work - Seto & Eke, 2005; Wakeling, Howard, & Barnett, 2011)

These risk factors – which reflect antisociality – are robust across types of crimes or offenders. This includes mentally disordered offenders, female offenders, and contact sexual offenders (Bonta, Law, & Hanson, 1998; Bonta, Pang, & Wallace-Capretta, 1995; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005). Research shows that only a minority of contact sexual offenders, all of whom have committed contact sexual offenses at least once, will go on to sexually reoffend in this way, even after decades of opportunity (Hanson,

Steffy, & Gauthier, 1993; Prentky, Knight, & Lee, 1997). Antisociality factors play the critical facilitation role that increases risk for future sex crimes (Lee, Li, Limade, Schuler, & Prentky, 2012).

Sexual Deviance - At the same time, sex offender specific factors reflecting sexual deviance – paraphilia, sexual arousal to children or sexual violence, sexual victim characteristics, and so forth – further contribute to the prediction of sexual recidivism.

Those with multiple paraphilic interests pose the greatest risk of sexually reoffending (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004, 2005). Significant minorities of sex offenders with child victims have also engaged in exhibitionistic or voyeuristic behavior or sexually assaulted adults as well (Abel, Becker, Cunningham-Rathner, Mittleman, & Rouleau, 1988; Bradford, Boulet, & Pawlak, 1992)

Quantitative reviews of the sex offender follow-up research have confirmed that many risk factors for sexual recidivism fall into one of the two major risk dimensions of antisociality and sexual deviance (Doren, 2004; Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005; Quinsey et al., 2006).

Socially Incompetent - Carl Hansen, one of the world's authorities on sex offender risk assessment, suggests there is also a third dimension – poor interpersonal competence that contributes to sex offender risk for recidivism. (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004, 2005). This third dimension can include disrupted attachment, failure at adult relationships, and emotional congruence with children, which describes feeling more comfortable and preferring the company of children.

Criminal History - Child pornography offenders with any kind of prior criminal history - including nonsexual offenses such as theft, possession of narcotics, or assault - were at a significantly greater risk of sexual recidivism during the average follow (approximately 30 months). (Seto & Eke, 2005). The researchers repeated this study in 2011 to extend the time follow-up. In the second study (Eke, Seto, & Williams, 2011), a third of the total sample of child pornography offenders committed any kind of new offense during follow-up. 4% of offenders committed new contact sex offenses. An additional 2% of offenders were charged with historical contact sex offense (i.e., previously undetected offending that came to light following the index child pornography conviction, or what we called pseudo-recidivism). 7% of offenders committed a new child pornography offense. As in the previous study, the authors found criminal history variables predicted recidivism. They also found younger age at first charge predicted sexual recidivism. This is consistent with general forensic psychology that finds that young offender age and criminal history are two of the best established risk factors for future offense.

The research suggests that age at first contact with the criminal justice system is a better predictor of recidivism than age at time of release, suggesting that age at release is less important than some researchers have argued.

Child pornography offenders who already had a history of contact sexual offending have higher sexual recidivism rates than the expected base rates for typical sex offenders reported by A.J.R. Harris and Hanson (2004). Those who have no history of contact offending almost never committed such offenses during the follow-up, despite the fact that a majority were likely to be sexually interested in children (Seto, Cantor, & Blanchard, 2006).

Poor Impulse Control - In the context of online sexual offending, the fact that child pornography offenders are likely to be pedophiles may cause evaluators to assume they are at high risk of contact sexual offenses involving children in the future, because pedophilia is a strong predictor of sexual recidivism among identified sex offenders (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005). The “*motivation-facilitation*” model of sexual offending against children suggests, however, only those child pornography offenders who have poor self-control of their pedophilic or hebephilic interest would

act on them. Poor inhibitory control is revealed in relatively high scores on measures of risk taking, impulsivity, or similar antisociality traits, or it occurs situationally because of alcohol or drug intoxication, high levels of stress, or depressed mood.

Static Variables - Structured or actuarial risk assessments are recommended as best practice guidelines by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. (see Appendix C).

The developers of the Static 99 have suggested that solicitation offenders who had attempted to meet a minor in real life (even if they actually met an undercover police officer) can't be scored using their instrument. *"It is not yet clear how to proceed in the risk assessment of pornography offenders with no history of contact or attempted contact offending, or in the assessment of fantasy-driven solicitation offenders"* (Seto, 2013, p. 203)

Dynamic Factors - In contrast to static risk factors, dynamic risk factors can change over time and may therefore be more effective in assessing shorter-term fluctuations in risk to reoffend. Dynamic factors may also be more amenable to intervention. Alcohol use can illustrate the distinction between static and dynamic risk.

The most prominent dynamic sex offender measure is the Stable – 2007. This assesses 16 factors that can change over time (months or years) that are related to the probability of officially detected recidivism (Hansen et al., 2007). Each of these 16 factors is rated on a three-point scale, with zero indicating no problem, one indicating some concern, and two indicating but the problem is present. The 16 Stable-2000 risk factors can be rationally organized into six domains;

- The **significant social influences** domain represents the balance of positive and negative influences in the person's social world, particularly family and friends.
- The **intimacy deficit domain** represents the stability of intimate relationships, including loneliness or social rejection, a lack of concern for others, emotional identification with children, or hostility towards women.
- The **sexual self-regulation domain** represents problems in regulating sexual behavior, including high sex drive or sexual preoccupation common maladaptive use of sex as a way of coping with negative mood or other concerns, and deviant sexual interest.
- The **attitudes supportive of sexual assault domain** represents offense supportive attitudes and beliefs, including sexual entitlement, attitudes tolerant of rape, and attitudes tolerant of adult-child sex.
- The **cooperation with supervision domain** represents compliance and cooperation with supervision requirements.
- The **general self-regulation domain** represents problems with general regulation of behavior, including impulsivity, poor cognitive problem-solving skills, and negative emotionality or hostility.

First, Webb, Craissati, and Keen (2007) found the Stable-2007 significantly predicted probation failure and "risky sexual behavior" after a follow-up period of 18 months. Risky sexual behaviors included accessing adult pornography on a daily basis but did not include new sexual offenses because none were observed in this study during this timeframe.

Internet Content - There is some evidence that offending specific variables predict child pornography and any sexual recidivism (Seto, 2009). These factors include the ratio of boy-to-girl child pornography content and having non-digital child pornography. Other Internet specific variables have been proposed, i.e., total amount of child pornography and time spent online.

Seto (2013) remarks;

Glasgow (2010, 2012) commented in more detail on the kinds of digital evidence that can be available to police through forensic computer analysis and that could be useful for both research and applied purposes. Though the amount of potential information is large and the forensic analysis can be time-consuming, especially with the pressures of limited resources and long waiting lists, some of it can be automated, and it could present useful clinical data (Fortrell, Debrota, & Hakes, 2012). Glasgow proposed the following list of digital evidence: (a) a record of online search terms (He specifically mentions search engines, but searches on peer-to-peer networks might be even more helpful); (b) details about the timing and duration of use of Internet pornography (both illegal and legal); and (c) chat logs (which could be helpful in attempting to distinguish between fantasy-driven and contact-driven solicitation of offenders and also the degree of active involvement in trading child pornography and pedophile subcultures).

Stabenow (2010) wrote about how, as a prosecutor, he analyzed digital evidence to make decisions. First, he reviewed the entire shop pornography collection to see the scope of the content. He then examined metadata from a forensic digital analysis to identify patterns in when the files were created, accessed, or modified. Last, he would review what he described as 'secondary materials,' including online chat logs, emails, and other information that might help put the online sexual offending in context. He acknowledged that this approach was more labor and resource intensive than a simple count of image types, so it is likely only suitable for a subset of cases where the information is particularly salient.

Like Stabenow (2011), von Dornum (2012) also noted that providing such detailed analysis of computer evidence in every case would be too resource intensive to be tenable - for example, if more detailed forensic analysis results were required for sentencing guidelines. At the federal level, there are enhancements simply if there are more than 600 images, there is any content depicting sadistic or violent images, or if there is content depicting a child under the age of 12. The sentencing guidelines should be as simple as possible, yet still capture important variation in dangerousness and culpability. Note that a five second video is arbitrarily assigned a value of 75 images. So a single video can meet the sentencing enhancement threshold.

Details about child pornography collections and other pornography use are not usually available through court documents because police and prosecutors need only to prove possession, distribution, or production of child pornography to make the conviction. The prosecution might only need to show the worst 10 images to the judge and/or jury to make the connection. Whether the images are of boys or of girls is not legally pertinent, but it does appear to be relevant to the risk of further child pornography offenses (Eke & Seto, 2012). Similarly, the police and prosecutors are not usually concerned about legal pornography or even obscene material (e.g., content depicting bestiality) that carries a less serious penalty than child pornography. However, this information can be helpful in understanding the online pornography use and sexual interests of offenders. Without details from police or court documents, clinicians may have to rely on offender self-report, which can be misleading or incomplete. Seto, 2013, pp. 222-223

Aggravating and Mediating Considerations

A “Continuum of Culpability”

This phrase is first described in written submissions to the US sentencing commission prior to its public hearing on federal child pornography sentencing guidelines on February 15, 2012. There’s a range of culpable behaviors, ranging from possession of child pornography (Receipt) - to distribution - to production.

- Legal and computer experts make a further distinction between *passive* and *active* distribution. Passive distribution refers to files that can be shared (perhaps inadvertently because a person was unaware of how the software works) in peer-to-peer file sharing networks, the highest volume method for distribution at this time. This is “*passive*” because often the possessor of the traded files doesn’t know that hundreds or thousands of files can be accessed through their personal computer sharing.
- In contrast, *active* distributors interact with other individuals, often through sites dedicated to pedophilic topics, and making contacts with other possessors in online forums and then arranging private trades of child pornography content.

Another possible legal distinction might be made between those who record secretly (called “*secretive producers*”) and those who record contact sexual offenses that they or their accomplices commit.

- Some researchers have proposed those who actively distribute should be held more culpable, then those who passively distribute, and then those who possess images without distribution.
- Researchers have also suggested that sentences should be more severe for those individuals who record their sexual offenses then for those who covertly produce images.

Offender Actions

Child Pornography

- Is the material primarily of children or adolescents?
- Are there sadistic elements?
- Is there solicitation?
- Is there attempted contact?
- Is there actual contact?
- Is there distribution?
- Is distribution passive or active?
- Is there production?
- Is it secretive production or recordings of actual offenses?

Soliciting

- Is there child pornography?
- Is there adolescent pornography?
- Were there elements of blackmail or threatening?

Contact Offenses

- Is the contact with a child or adolescent?
- Is there child pornography?
- Is there adolescent pornography?
- Were there elements of blackmail or threatening?

Importance of Polygraph

Council on Sex Offender Treatment

Use of the Polygraph in the Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders

Background

The polygraph is a recording instrument that monitors and records the respiration, circulation, and perspiration baselines and changes; certain changes are associated with fear of detection, which is the reason why many people lie. Every licensed polygraph examiner in Texas has either attended a rigorous polygraph school to learn to use the polygraph instrument and conduct the associated interviews, or have been through a long preceptor-training program with a competent examiner. Prior to receiving a polygraph license, each examiner has to pass a four-phase examination administered by the Texas Polygraph Examiners Board. Following licensure, each examiner should receive specialized training in the area of sex offender testing prior to conducting clinical polygraphs on sex offenders.

Polygraph Exams measure the emotional arousal that is caused by fear and anxiety. The autonomic nervous system responds to arousal with physiological reactions such as increased heart rate, increased depth of respiration, and increased sweat gland activity.

Types of Polygraphs administered to sex offenders:

1. **Instant Offense Disclosure Test**-This polygraph is related to the offense of conviction, in conjunction with the official version. It is essential because a client cannot progress in treatment if they are dishonest about their offense. Some offenders will plead guilty or no contest and receive a deferred adjudication or regular probation for their offense. Other offenders will be found guilty by a court, sentenced to prison, and then receive parole. In either case many of the probationers or parolees are in denial of all or part of the offense for which they plead. The polygraph is used to help break the denial in those offenders; most treatment providers will agree that treatment cannot be successful until an offender breaks denial.
2. **Sexual History Disclosure Test**- This polygraph, along with the Penile Plethysmograph, assists in defining the offender's sexual arousal. This polygraph addresses deviant and criminal sexual behaviors that were part of the offender's past, prior to the date of the instant offense conviction. It is usually conducted after the offender has come out of denial and is willing to accept responsibility for the offense. Gathering information about an offender's sexual history assists the treatment provider in creating or modifying an offender's treatment plan and it allows for the assessment of risk regarding the offender.
3. **Maintenance Test**- This polygraph covers supervision and treatment compliance from the period of conviction to the present. Offenders are subject to various rules mandated by supervision conditions and treatment contracts, and 2 use of the polygraph can assist in determining compliance with these conditions and contracts
4. **Monitoring Test**- Otherwise known as a community safety polygraph, this test is designed to determine whether the offender has committed a new sexual offense during the period of supervision

Reasons for the Use of the Polygraph in Sex Offender Treatment § Sexual offenders are extremely resistant to disclosing their offending histories for a variety of reasons. The polygraph has shown promise as an intervention for eliciting admissions of past behaviors.

Polygraph testing combined with intensive sex offender treatment provides the most comprehensive information on the offender's past deviant sexual history. The actual rate of crossover in sex offending is considerably higher than what has been typically reported. These

findings support the use of polygraph testing and intensive sex offender treatment programming for obtaining critical sexual offense history information (Heil, Ahlmeyer, and Simons, 2003).

The use of the post-conviction polygraph is becoming a valuable tool in the management and treatment of convicted sex offenders. The use of the postconviction is relatively new to many agencies, however, Washington and Oregon have been consistently using this tool since the early 1980s. Combined with criminal justice supervision and sex offense-specific treatment, post conviction polygraph exams are making a substantial contribution to managing the significant risk that sex offenders present to the public (Cooley-Towell, Pasini-Hill, and Patrick, 2000).

Researchers in a 1999 study by Ahlmeyer, English, and Simons found that through polygraph examinations, the number of offenders who “crossed over” groups of victims, were extremely high. The study revealed that before polygraph examination, 6% of a sample of incarcerated sex offenders had both child and adult victims, compared to 71% after polygraph exams.

The American Polygraph Association reports since 1980, eighty research projects have been published involving 6,380 polygraph examinations. Researchers conducted 12 studies on the validity of field examinations, following 2,174 field examinations, providing an average accuracy of 98%.

Over the last 25 years, the criminal justice system has witnessed a steady increase in the use of polygraph testing in adult sexual offenders for deterring reoffending behaviors (Abrams, 1989, 1991; Abrams & Ogard 1986; Edson, 1991; English, Pullen, & Jones 1996), overcoming denial of offending behaviors (Abrams, 1992; Priest & Smith, 1992) and verifying compliance with parole supervision conditions (Matte, 1996).

3. Across the State of Texas and other states in the nation, probation officers, parole officers, and sex offender treatment providers have recognized the utility of the polygraph in monitoring and treating the sex offender population. Because there are approximately 43,000 sex offenders on supervision in Texas, and limited supervision officers to monitor all their activities, the polygraph is an essential instrument in holding the offenders to the highest level of accountability.

Court Decisions

In January 2003, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled in the *U.S v. Albert Lee* No. 01-4485/4496, (3rd Cir. 2003) that the polygraph condition is reasonable related to the protection of the public, as well as the rehabilitation of the appellant. The polygraph testing could be beneficial in enhancing supervision and treatment of Lee.

Moreover, the polygraph condition does not involve greater deprivation of the appellant’s liberty than is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of protecting the public and rehabilitating the offender. Since the appellant is already directed to report periodically to the probation officer and provide truthful answers after he is released from imprisonment, the additional requirement that Lee undergo polygraph testing does not place a significantly greater demand on him

In *Owens v. Kelley*, 681 F.2d 1362, 1370 (11th Circuit. 1982) the court stated that the polygraph test may deter the probationer “from violating the terms of his probation by instilling in him the fear of detection”.

Additional significant polygraph court rulings:

Frye v. United States, 293 F. 1013 (D.C. Cir. 1923)

Daubert v. Merrel Dow Pharmaceuticals, 509 U.S. 579, 113 S. Ct. 2786 (1993)

Lumley v. Kansas, WL 218704 Kan. (1999)

United States v. Lee, No. 01-4485/4496, (3rd Cir. 2003)

United States v. Messina, 131 F.3d 36 (2nd Cir. 1997)

United States v. Johnson, 816 F.2nd 918 (3rd Cir. 1987)
United States v. Posada, 57 F.3rd 428 (5th Cir. 1995)
United States v. Piccinonna, 885 F.2d 1529 (11th Cir. 1989)
Schmerber v. California, 384 U.S. 757 (1966)

Conclusion

The polygraph is an effective intervention for eliciting admissions regarding sexual behaviors that no other process seems to elicit. These admissions are crucial to break down denial, facilitate offender accountability, and promote change in the therapeutic process. The implementation of sanctions and privileges is expected to encourage offenders to continue disclosing their sexual offending and high-risk behaviors (Ahlmeyer, Heil, McKee, and English 2000).

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Ahlmeyer, S., Heil, P., McKee, B., & English, K., (2000) "Impact of polygraph on admissions of victims and adult sexual offenders", p. 123-138
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Heil, P., Ahlmeyer, S., & Simons, D., (2003). "Crossover sexual offenses". *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, Vol. 15, No. 4

Related Studies

Cybersex offender risk assessment: An exploratory study.

Buschman, J., Wilcox, D., Krapohl, D., Oelrich, M., & Hackett, S.
Journal of Sexual Aggression, 2010. 16, 197-209.

Abstract

Researchers interviewed 38 child pornography offenders, first in a standard clinical assessment and then as part of a polygraph examination. On clinical interview, 45% of the offenders admitted masturbating to child pornography, but all denied masturbating to images depicting sexual violence and all denied having any sexual contact with children. They also claim they were more likely to masturbate to depictions of adolescent than children younger than 13.

In contrast to the clinical interview, during the polygraph interview all of the offenders admitted masturbating to child pornography. They admitted that they were more likely to masturbate to images of young children (age 6 and under) than children between the ages of seven and 13 or adolescence. 45% admitted sexual contact with a child, for a total of 37 victims. Only three cases had been reported to police and none resulted in criminal prosecution. All were first-time offenders according to official records. These results show the discrepancy between what offenders are willing to admit in a clinical context versus what they might be willing to disclose under the threat of the second detection (putting aside the controversy about the validity of polygraph disclosures). (Seto, 2013, p.157; Buschman, Wilcox, Krapohl, Oelrich, & Hackett, 2010, Buschman & Bogaerts, 2009).

Polygraph testing leads to better understanding adult and juvenile sex offenders.

Hindman, Jan, Peters, James M.

Federal Probation, Vol 65(3), Dec, 2001. pp. 8-15.

Abstract:

Reviews several previously unpublished research studies conducted by J. Hindman on the impact of polygraph on adult and juvenile sex offenders' self-reports of offenses and history of personal victimization before vs after treatment. Methodologies involved self-report with vs without polygraph or mention of polygraph, and self-report vs polygraph in the same S. Areas discussed

include the prevalence and effects of sexual abuse, early offender studies, the sex-offender-as-victim paradigm, the Oregon studies, the prosecutor's conditional immunity agreement, polygraphy and the therapeutic process, juvenile offenders, victim gender, judicial recognition of polygraphy, immunity for incriminating statements, negotiated pleas, and conditional immunity for previously undisclosed crimes. This research suggests that adults will lie and understate their number of sexual crimes and history as a juvenile offender, and will lie and overreport childhood sexual victimization.

Polygraph examination of British sexual offenders: A pilot study on sexual history disclosure testing.

Wilcox, Daniel T., Sosnowski, Daniel E.

Journal of Sexual Aggression, Vol 11(1), Jan, 2005. pp. 3-23.

Abstract:

In the UK, the use of the polygraph has only recently been given serious consideration as a means of facilitating the assessment and treatment of sex offenders. This pilot polygraph study on sexual history disclosure testing (SHDT) was the first of its kind undertaken in Britain. This application of the polygraph has shown merit as a means of obtaining additional information about past sexual offending behaviours. Fourteen sex offenders who were attending a Community Sex Offender Groupwork Programme (C-SOGP) were given SHDTs. Substantial increases in the numbers of admitted victims and offences were determined when comparing polygraph disclosure results with previously obtained data from all other sources available. In addition, the subjects reported earlier onset of offending and a wider range of paraphilic interests than had previously been reported. This suggested that collaboration amongst treatment, supervision and polygraph professionals could help to contain sexual offending behaviour more effectively, to improve and enhance public protection.

Post-conviction Sex Offender Polygraph Examination: Client-Reported Perceptions of Utility and Accuracy.

Kokish, Ron, Levenson, Jill S., Blasingame, Gerry D.,

Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment, Vol 17(2), Apr, 2005. pp. 211-221.

Abstract:

Post-conviction polygraph testing of adult sex offenders in treatment has been a somewhat controversial subject. This study (n = 95 participants who took 333 polygraph tests) explored how sexual offenders enrolled in outpatient treatment programs perceived their polygraph experience. Participants reported a relatively low incidence of false indications of both deception (22 of 333 tests) and truthfulness (11 of 333) tests, suggesting that clients agreed with examiners' opinions 90% of the time. The majority of clients reported that polygraph testing was a helpful part of treatment. Finally, about 5% of participants reported that they responded to allegedly inaccurate accusations of deception by admitting to things they had not done. The data offer encouragement for continued but cautious use of polygraphs by sex offender treatment programs. Implications for practice and research are identified.

Sex offender management using the polygraph: A critical review.

Meijer, Ewout H., Verschuere, Bruno, Merckelbach, Harald L. G. J., Crombez, Geert.

International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, Vol 31(5), Oct, 2008. pp. 423-429.

Abstract:

Reducing recidivism is a central goal in the treatment of sex offenders. In Europe, there is an increased interest in using the polygraph ("lie detector") as a tool in the treatment and risk assessment of convicted sex offenders. This interest originated from optimistic reports by American clinicians who argued that polygraph testing in the treatment of sex offenders is akin to urine analysis in the treatment of drug addiction. In this article, we critically examine the validity and utility of post-conviction sex offender polygraph testing. Our review shows that the available evidence for the claims about the clinical potential of polygraph tests is weak, if not absent. We conclude that portraying post-conviction polygraph testing as analogous to urine analysis is inaccurate, misleading, and ultimately, risky.

The empirical evidence for the value of post-conviction polygraph in the treatment and supervision of sex offenders.

Madsen, Lars, Wilcox, Daniel T.

The use of the polygraph in assessing, treating and supervising sex offenders: A practitioner's guide. Wilcox, Daniel T. (Ed.); pp. 49-64. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. xxvi, 332 pp.

Abstract:

This chapter looks at the value of post-conviction polygraph in the treatment and supervision of sex offenders. The chapter begins with an overview of post-conviction polygraphy and moves to the use of polygraphy in the assessment of sex offenders; the use of polygraph in the monitoring of sex offenders; evidence from questionnaire studies; the bogus pipeline effect; confessions and false confessions; and accuracy.

Ethical practice in sex offender assessment: Consideration of actuarial and polygraph methods.

Vess, James.

Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment, Vol 23(3), Sep, 2011. pp. 381-396.

Abstract:

The current generation of community protection laws represents a shift in priorities that may see the individual rights of sex offenders compromised for the goal of public safety. At the center of many judicial decisions under these laws are the risk assessment reports provided by mental health practitioners. The widespread enactment of laws allowing for additional sanctions for sex offenders, and a burgeoning research literature regarding the methods used to assess risk have served to heighten rather than resolve the ethical concerns associated with professional practice in this area. This article examines ethical issues inherent in the use of two assessment methods commonly used with sex offenders in the correctional context, focusing on actuarial measures and polygraph tests. Properly conducted and adequately reported actuarial findings are considered to provide useful information of sufficient accuracy to inform rather than mislead judicial decision makers, although careful consideration must be given to the limitations of current measures in each individual case. Despite its increasing use, polygraph testing is considered controversial, with little consensus regarding its accuracy or appropriate applications. On the basis of the current state of the professional literature regarding the polygraph, its use with sex offenders raises unresolved ethical concerns.

The use of tactical polygraph with sex offenders

Michael L. Bourke, Lance Fragomeli, Paul J. Detar, Michael A. Sullivan, Edward Meyle & Mark O'Riordan.

Journal of Sexual Aggression, 2014, pp.1-14

Abstract

Professionals who work with sexual abusers often are faced with a significant obstacle: offenders' failure to accurately report their histories of undetected offences, particularly hands-on crimes against children. The implications are significant and include poor risk assessment, misguided treatment planning, inadequate sentences, and insufficient supervision conditions. This problem is particularly important with so called child pornographers—offenders whose known criminality is limited to the Internet, and who may be reluctant to admit they have engaged in the hands-on abuse of children. The current study examines an investigative method that we refer to as tactical polygraph and describes its effectiveness in identifying previously undetected sexual offending within this population. In our sample of 127 suspects with no known history of hands-on offending, only 4.7% admitted to sexually abusing at least one child. During polygraph procedures, an additional 52.8% of the study sample provided disclosures about hands-on abuse they perpetrated.

III. VARIOUS TOPICS

Issues of Police Entrapment

Moore, Lee and Hunt (2007) provided a legal perspective on the entrapment defense in online police stings. The authors concluded that the success of this defense depends on whether there is evidence the police officer tried to convince the suspect to engage in a particular behavior, how long the interaction lasted, and whether the suspect showed evidence of reluctance to engage in the criminal acts.

Fulda (2007) suggested that proactive online investigations amount to preventative detention of individuals, some of whom may commit sexual offenses in the future, with many false positives and many false negatives as well.

In contrast, Mitchell et al. 2005 found that 13% had committed contact sexual offenses with real minors.

- 41% possessed child pornography
- Offenders often came to their contact-meeting with sex-related items. So it appeared they intended to meet a minor for sexual purposes.

These police stings lead to 90% conviction rates (Motivans and Kyckelhahn, 2007; Wolak, Finkelhor, & Mitchell, 2008). But the concern is these are “low-hanging fruit” involving novice contact offenders. Experienced predators are not likely to be captured in these sting operations.

Restricted Internet: Appropriate filtering and accountability technology should be applied his computer, tablet, and cell phone in order to prevent him from accessing Internet chat rooms or pornography online. The Internet Probation and Parole Control (IPPC) is sophisticated software used by the judicial system in various states to monitor an individual’s Internet use. If this high level of monitoring is not available, then his Internet use should be closely monitored by other means or disallowed completely. Regarding his cellphone, he should not have Internet connectivity without high level monitoring capability installed on the device.

Literature Regarding Registration and Community Living Restrictions

Who are the people in your neighborhood? A descriptive analysis of individuals on public sex offender registries.

Ackerman, Alissa R., Harris, Andrew J., Levenson, Jill S., Zgoba, Kristen
International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, Vol 34(3), May-Jun, 2011. pp. 149-159.

Abstract:

Despite growing focus on registration and notification systems as central elements of national sex offender management practice, there has been remarkably little systematic analysis of the content of these registries and the diversity of individuals contained within them. Specifically, little research attention has been paid to examining the heterogeneity of the population of registered sex offenders—a circumstance that may obscure important distinctions within the population and, in turn, may undermine the ostensible purpose of SORN to prevent sexual victimization. Addressing this significant gap in our current knowledge, this article sets forth a national profile of the registered sex offender (RSO) population, drawn from an analysis of data on 445,127 RSOs obtained from the public registries of 49 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and Guam. In contrast with the homogenized perception about registered sex offenders that permeates much public discourse, the analysis illuminates the wide diversity of registrants across a range of demographic, offense-related, registry status, and risk-oriented variables. Policy and practice implications concerning risk, prevention, and the public safety utility of sex offender registries are discussed.

Desistance and attitudes towards sex offenders: Facilitation or hindrance?

Willis, Gwenda M., Levenson, Jill S., Ward, Tony

Journal of Family Violence, Vol 25(6), Aug, 2010. pp. 545-556.

Abstract:

In an ideal world, there would be a seamless relationship between interventions that focus on risk factors causally associated with sexual reoffending and the subsequent release of, and ongoing support for, offenders into the community. However, emotionally fueled and uninformed public responses to news of released sex offenders, and the legislation such responses have inspired, severely hinder this process. Our aims in this paper are to review findings of research on community attitudes about sex offenders within a desistance framework. More specifically, we provide a synthesis of the current research literature on attitudes towards sex offenders. Second, we consider in more detail those studies that include community member samples. Third, we review interventions aimed at promoting attitude change amongst professionals working with sex offenders and finally formulate some recommendations for promoting positive attitude change amongst the general public.

Residential proximity to schools and daycares: An empirical analysis of sex offense recidivism.

Zandbergen, Paul A., Levenson, Jill S., Hart, Timothy C. Criminal Justice and Behavior, Vol 37(5), May, 2010. Special issue: Sex offenses and offenders: Toward evidence-based public policy. pp. 482-502.

Abstract:

Residential restrictions for sex offenders have become increasingly popular, despite the lack of empirical data suggesting that offenders' proximity to schools or daycares contributes to recidivism. Using a matched sample of recidivists and nonrecidivists from Florida ($n = 330$) for the period from 2004 through 2006, the authors investigated whether sex offenders who lived closer to schools or daycares were more likely to reoffend sexually against children than those who lived farther away. No significant differences were found between the distances that recidivists and nonrecidivists lived from schools and daycares. There was no significant relationship between reoffending and proximity to schools or daycares. The results indicate that proximity to schools and daycares, with other risk factors being comparable, does not appear to contribute to sexual recidivism. These data do not support the widespread enactment of residential restrictions for sexual offenders.

Widening the net: The effects of transitioning to the Adam Walsh Act's federally mandated sex offender classification system.

Harris, Andrew J., Lobanov-Rostovsky, Christopher, Levenson, Jill S.

Criminal Justice and Behavior, Vol 37(5), May, 2010. Special issue: Sex offenses and offenders: Toward evidence-based public policy. pp. 503-519.

Abstract:

With the 2006 passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (AWA), the U.S. Congress set forth a range of minimum standards governing the operation of sex offender registration and notification (SORN) systems throughout the nation. Many of these standards are based on the AWA's uniform system of registrant classification, which distinguishes registrants solely based on offense history and the nature of the conviction offense, without regard for additional risk factors. The current study evaluates the impact of the federal registration classification system on the distribution of individuals within state sex offender registries, specifically drawing on the experiences of Ohio and Oklahoma, two of the first states to undertake a reclassification of their registrant populations under the new federal guidelines. The findings indicate that the federal reclassification process produces a redistribution of registrants from lower SORN levels to higher ones and reveals statistically significant differences between newly reclassified "high-risk" individuals and those designated as high risk under prior registration classification systems. Findings also suggest that juveniles and those potentially subject to AWA's retroactivity provisions may be disproportionately placed into the highest SORN tiers. Implications of these findings for practice and public policy are discussed.

Effects of South Carolina's sex offender registration and notification policy on deterrence of adult sex crimes.

Letourneau, Elizabeth J., Levenson, Jill S., Bandyopadhyay, Dipankar, Armstrong, Kevin S. Criminal Justice and Behavior, Vol 37(5), May, 2010. Special issue: Sex offenses and offenders: Toward evidence-based public policy. pp. 537-552.

Abstract:

This study examined whether South Carolina's sex offender registration and notification (SORN) policy was associated with a general deterrent effect on adult sex crimes. Using adult arrest data from 1990 through 2005, trend analyses modeled the intervention effects of 1995 (the year South Carolina's SORN policy was initially implemented) and 1999 (the year the policy was revised to include online registration). Results supported a significant deterrent effect for the 1995 intervention year, with an approximately 11% reduction in first-time sex crime arrests in the post-SORN period (1995-2005) relative to the pre-SORN period (1990-1994). This decline equated to averting approximately three new sex crime arrests per month. Comparison analyses with serious nonsex offenses against persons (assault and robbery) failed to identify similar effects, suggesting that the 1995 effect is attributable to sex offense-specific legislation. Findings are compared with the existing literature on general deterrent effects of SORN and discussed in the context of research examining other effects of SORN.

Views of sexual abuse professionals about sex offender notification policies.

Levenson, Jill S., Fortney, Timothy, Baker, Juanita N.

International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, Vol 54(2), Apr, 2010. pp. 150-168.

Abstract:

This study examines the views of 261 sexual abuse professionals regarding sex crime policies. Few participants believe that community notification is very effective in reducing sex offenses, but about half believe that all sex offenders should be subject to public disclosure. About one quarter of respondents opine that sex offenders should not be allowed to live in their communities, but a majority do not view residential housing restrictions for sex offenders as effective at reducing recidivism. Most believe in the helpfulness of therapeutic intervention. More than half say that they will support sex offender policies even without scientific evidence of their effectiveness. Criminal justice professionals are more likely to approve of these laws compared to mental health professionals. Those with more conservative political leanings also favor more restrictive policies. There are few differences attributable to gender, parenting status, or victimization experiences.

Collateral consequences of sex offender residence restrictions.

Levenson, Jill S. Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law & Society, Vol 21(2), Jun, 2008. pp.

Abstract:

The purpose of this study was to investigate the unintended consequences of policies that restrict where sex offenders can live. In Broward County, FL, 109 sex offenders were surveyed regarding the psychosocial, economic, and practical impact of such laws on their daily lives. Results revealed that sex offenders subjected to residence restrictions reported decreased housing availability, increased homelessness and transience, and financial hardship. Residence restrictions forced them to live farther away from employment opportunities, treatment services, and public transportation. Younger offenders were particularly impacted. Low risk offenders were affected equally to higher risk offenders. The vast majority reported that they did not believe that such laws prevent child sexual abuse or assist sex offenders with risk management. The implications of the findings are discussed, including the potential for these laws to create psychosocial stressors that increase risk for recidivism, and to interfere with effective monitoring and supervision of sex offenders. Alternative community protection strategies are recommended.

Public perceptions about sex offenders and community protection policies.

Levenson, Jill S., Brannon, Yolanda N., Fortney, Timothy, Baker, Juanita. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP)*, Vol 7(1), Dec, 2007. pp. 137-161.

Abstract:

Sex offenders and sex crimes provoke a great deal of anxiety in our society, and over the past decade, lawmakers have passed a variety of social policies designed to protect the public from sexual victimization. The purpose of this study was to examine public perceptions about sex offenders and community protection policies. Data were obtained from a sample of 193 residents in Melbourne, Florida. It was hypothesized that the public holds some inaccurate beliefs about sex offenders, and that there is strong public support for community protection policies. It was found that community members believe that sex offenders have very high recidivism rates, view sex offenders as a homogeneous group with regard to risk, and are skeptical about the benefits of sex offender treatment. The hypothesis that public perceptions contradict empirical research was supported. Community members were overwhelmingly in favor of public disclosure of information about registered sex offenders, although they did not express as much support for residence restrictions. Implications for public policy, and for the media's role in shaping public perceptions, are discussed.

Megan's Law and its impact on community re-entry for sex offenders.

Levenson, Jill S., D'Amora, David A., Hern, Andrea L. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, Vol 25(4), 2007. pp. 587-602.

Abstract:

Community notification, known as "Megan's Law," provides the public with information about known sex offenders in an effort to assist parents and potential victims to protect themselves from dangerous predators. The purpose of this study was to explore the impact of community notification on the lives of registered sex offenders. Two hundred and thirty-nine sex offenders in Connecticut and Indiana were surveyed. The negative consequences that occurred with the greatest frequency included job loss, threats and harassment, property damage, and suffering of household members. A minority of sex offenders reported housing disruption or physical violence following community notification. The majority experienced psychosocial distress such as depression, shame, and hopelessness. Recommendations are made for community notification policies that rely on empirically derived risk assessment classification systems in order to better inform the public about sex offenders' danger while minimizing the obstacles that interfere with successful community reintegration.

The Impact of Sex Offender Residence Restrictions: 1,000 Feet From Danger or One Step From Absurd?

Levenson, Jill S., Cotter, Leo P. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, Vol 49(2), Apr, 2005.

Abstract:

Several states have enacted public policies that prohibit sex offenders who have abused children from living within close proximity to a school, park, day care center, or school bus stop. The purpose of this exploratory study was to describe the impact of residence restrictions on sex offender reintegration and to better understand sex offenders' perceptions of these laws. A survey of 135 sex offenders in Florida was conducted. Most of the molesters who responded to the survey indicated that housing restrictions increased isolation, created financial and emotional stress, and led to decreased stability. Respondents also indicated that they did not perceive residence restrictions as helpful in risk management and, in fact, reported that such restrictions may inadvertently increase triggers for reoffense. Implications for policy and practice are discussed.

The Effect of Megan's Law on Sex Offender Reintegration.

Levenson, Jill S., Cotter, Leo P. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, Vol 21(1), Feb, 2005. pp. 49-66.

Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to better understand the positive and negative, intended and unintended, consequences of community notification on sex offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration. A

sample of 183 convicted male sex offenders from Florida completed the survey. Overall, about one third of participants had experienced dire events, such as the loss of a job or home, threats or harassment, or property damage. Physical assault was a relatively rare occurrence. The majority identified negative effects, such as stress, isolation, loss of relationships, fear, shame, embarrassment, and hopelessness. Some participants noted positive effects of Megan's Law, including motivation to prevent reoffense and increased honesty with friends and family. Few sex offenders believed that communities are safer because of Megan's Law, and more than half reported that the information posted about them on Florida's Internet registry was incorrect. Implications for practice and policy are discussed.

Family experiences of young adult sex offender registration.

Comartin, Erin B., Kernsmith, Poco D., Miles, Bart W. Journal of Child Sexual Abuse: Research, Treatment, & Program Innovations for Victims, Survivors, & Offenders, Vol 19(2), Mar, 2010. pp. 204-225.

Abstract:

Since 1994, policies have been instituted throughout the United States that require sex offenders to register their personal information with law enforcement officials (Jacob Wetterling Crimes against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Program, 1994). With the passage of additional laws, this information is now available to the public via the Internet or a request to a police department. These laws have brought about consequences for both the registrants and for members of their families. A focus group was held with four mothers who have sons listed on the Michigan Sex Offender Registry. Psychological and social consequences of registration were found and policy implications are discussed.

Sex offender registration: Balancing the rights of the individual with the public good—A commentary on Comartin, Kernsmith, and Miles (2010).

Berkowitz, Carol D. Journal of Child Sexual Abuse: Research, Treatment, & Program Innovations for Victims, Survivors, & Offenders, Vol 19(2), Mar, 2010. pp. 226-230.

Abstract:

Comments on an article by E. B. Comartin, P. D. Kernsmith and P. W. Miles (see record 2010-07579-007). The authors put forth a telling argument about the impact of the sex offender registry (SOR) on the offender and his or her family. Their report is based on a comprehensive review of the literature and the views expressed by family members during a focused group experience. It is easy to dismiss the opinions of the participants as being one-sided and failing to appreciate the impact of the offense on the victim or realistically weigh the risk of future offenses. This would be simplistic and unfair, though perhaps up until now, the voices on the other side have been equally unilateral. The challenge in the end is balancing the rights of an individual, even one convicted of a criminal act, with the safety and well-being of the community and, in particular, children. The authors are to be commended for bringing a controversial topic to the attention of the child maltreatment community. It is important to maintain a dialogue about the unforeseen consequences of all approaches aimed at reducing child abuse. There is no benefit if we create more victims in our attempt to save children.

The North Carolina online sex offender registry: Awareness and utilization by childcare providers.

White, Jennifer L., Malesky, L. Alvin, Jr. Journal of Child Sexual Abuse: Research, Treatment, & Program Innovations for Victims, Survivors, & Offenders, Vol 18(6), Nov, 2009. pp. 673-684.

Abstract:

This study examined childcare providers' usage of the North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry. One hundred twenty three childcare providers in 76 counties in North Carolina were surveyed via telephone interview about their utilization of the registry Web site. Responses revealed that most providers knew about the registry (87.9%). However, over half of these providers (53.2%) did not access the Web site for work purposes. In addition, very few centers (3.2%) had a policy mandating that employees check the Web site. Based on the results of this study, the majority of childcare centers are not effectively utilizing the registry.

Public attitudes toward sexual offenders and sex offender registration.

Kernsmith, Poco D., Craun, Sarah W., Foster, Jonathan. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse: Research, Treatment, & Program Innovations for Victims, Survivors, & Offenders*, Vol 18(3), May, 2009. pp. 290-301.

Abstract:

This study explores the relationship between fear of various types of sexual offenders and a belief that those sexual offenders should be subject to sex offender registration. We hypothesized that those who offend against children would elicit the most fear; consequently, the most feared offenders would be rated as most requiring registration. As part of a telephone survey, 733 participants answered questions about fear of sex offenders and agreement with requirements about registration for offenders convicted of incest, statutory rape, marital rape, pedophilia, date rape, and an offense committed more than 10 years prior. Results indicated that all types of sexual offenders elicited some fear from respondents, and fear was related to support of registration requirements.

A survey to assess therapeutic and anti-therapeutic effects of sex offender registration and community notification.

Audet, Danielle Charlotte. *Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Sciences and Engineering*, Vol 70(10-B), 2010. pp. 6537.

Abstract:

When the government, in particular, the legislature and law enforcement, try to prevent crime, they often look to the social sciences for some assistance. This provides psychologists with an opportunity to participate in creating and refining policy and law that is effective. One way in which the social sciences and the legal system have begun to collaboratively think about these issues is through Therapeutic Jurisprudence (TJ). This theory or perspective states that the law can have a positive (therapeutic), negative (anti-therapeutic) or a neutral impact on persons involved. Given the highly emotionally and politically charged nature of sex offender management and treatment, an analysis of the intended, versus the actual impact of the Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Act (SORNA) is crucial in determining the effectiveness of the policy. This demonstration project uses a TJ perspective in that it does not advocate for particular goals or values regarding the management of sex offenders in the community, but rather, examines the stated goals of SORNA and applies the interdisciplinary study of the law and psychology to understand how these goals might be achieved. It also examines potential unintended effects of SORNA. This demonstration project included two phases. The first was the creation of a survey to be distributed to professionals who work with persons subject to sex offender registration and notification. Largely, the survey focuses on the possible therapeutic and anti-therapeutic effects of the law. The second phase of the project included interviews with persons involved in the treatment and management of registrants and solicited their feedback in refining the survey. Once distributed and analyzed, this survey would provide valuable data for sex offender management, forensic assessments, policy creation and modification as well as clinical applications in treatment and discharge planning.

Sex Offenders on Campus: University-based Sex Offender Registries and the Collateral Consequences of Registration.

Tewksbury, Richard, Lees, Matthew B. *Federal Probation*, Vol 70(3), Dec, 2006. pp. 50-56.A

Abstract:

The expressed goals of sex offender registries are to reduce recidivism and promote public safety. This study is intended to promote a better understanding of college- and university-based sex offender registries, allowing for the transfer of important practical and ideological knowledge about such entities to policymakers and the public. Data for the current study were collected through mailed, anonymous surveys sent to all persons listed on a sex offender registry maintained by a four-year public college or university in the United States. Results of the present study closely correspond with the existing literature examining collateral consequences of sex offender registration. Overall, it is necessary for assessments and evaluations of sex offender registration to continue in order to best inform and shape policy and practice.

Juvenile Sex Offenders

Juvenile vs. Adult Sex Offenders:

There is often an erroneous equation of juvenile sex offenders as compared to adult sex offenders. Much of what we know about the manifestation, etiology, and prognosis for sexual offenders stems from research with adults. Despite the fairly high prevalence and harsh punishments for juvenile sexual offenders, the field still knows little about the course and roots of these behaviors in youth. Developmental differences in psychopathology and amenability to treatment highlight the need for separate etiological and treatment models when dealing with juveniles. (Saleh, 2004).

The scientific literature brings into question the application of special legislation designed for high-risk adult sex offenders to juvenile sex offenders. Is the Court's response having the intended effects (e.g., reducing sexual recidivism) or, are they having unintended effects. Recent changes in legal procedures have resulted in significantly altered consequences to juvenile sex offenders. Specifically, many juvenile sex offenders are now required to register personal information on publicly available sex-offender registries. These registries are maintained by law enforcement agencies and list offenders who have committed specific sexual crimes. Likewise, many juvenile offenders are also subjected to community notification procedures, in which persons external to law enforcement are informed about the specific sexual crimes of some youths. Per federal guidelines, registration and notification policies exclude juvenile offenders except for those youths prosecuted as adults. However, several states have extended registration and notification requirements to juvenile sex offenders.

One leading researcher notes:

"The past two decades have seen a movement toward harsher legal sanctions and lengthy, restrictive treatment programs for sex offenders. This has not only been the case for adults, but also for juveniles who commit sex offenses. The increased length and severity of legal and clinical interventions for juvenile sex offenders appear to have resulted from three false assumptions: (1) there is an epidemic of juvenile offending, including juvenile sex offending; (2) juvenile sex offenders have more in common with adult sex offenders than with other juvenile delinquents; and (3) in the absence of sex offender-specific treatment, juvenile sex offenders are at exceptionally high risk of reoffending. The available data do not support any of the above assumptions; however, these assumptions continue to influence the treatment and legal interventions applied to juvenile sex offenders and contributed to the application of adult interventions to juvenile sex offending. In so doing, these legal and clinical interventions fail to consider the unique developmental factors that characterize adolescence, and thus may be ineffective or worse. Fortunately, a paradigm shift that acknowledges these developmental factors appears to be emerging in clinical areas of intervention, although this trend does not appear as prevalent in legal sanctions." (Letourneau, 2005)

Risk for Re-offence

The prediction of risk of sexual recidivism in adult sex offenders has been grounded on research identifying reliable markers or risk factors, the so-called *static* and *dynamic* variables. For adolescents such reliable factors in the prediction of risk of sexual recidivism have so far not been unequivocally revealed. The risk prediction methods used for adult sex offenders would not be appropriate for adolescent populations. (Miner, 2002).

Characteristics for juvenile sex offenders include family instability, violence, abuse, deficits in social competency, and low academic performance. (Morenz, 1995). Adolescent child molesters assault with less regard to victim gender than do adult child molesters, and are more likely to commit offenses against male victims than were adult offenders.

Adolescent sex offenders, as a group, have a variety of severe family problems, including neglect and physical and sexual abuse. They also have greater academic and behavior problems, psychopathology, and social isolation. (Veneziano, 2002). Predictors of reoffense in adolescents differ somewhat from those found for adults. Specifically, increased risk for reoffense was associated with impulsivity, involvement with significantly younger children, younger age at first offense, shorter treatment stays, previous offending, and multiple and/or stranger victims. Increased risk for reoffense was associated with having a male victim, having been a sexual abuse victim, and multiple paraphilias. Compared to same-age-peer assaulters, child assaulters were younger, tended to have fewer overt behavior problems, were less likely to have age-appropriate sexual knowledge, and were less likely to have been sexually active. (Krauth, 1998, see Appendix B).

Research reveals significant differences between juvenile sex offenders and general juvenile delinquents. In general, juvenile sex offenders had fewer difficulties than general juvenile delinquents in family functioning, behavior, and social relationships, but they were also more likely to have been victims of sexual abuse.

Treatment of Juvenile Sex Offenders:

Youth who are sexually abusive should be seen as a group clinically distinct from adult sex offenders and all of their developmental needs, and their problematic behavior, should be targeted in intervention. Unfortunately, the relevance to juveniles of characteristics deemed to be important with adult sex offenders is limited due to the complexity of developmental processes, particularly with respect to mental disorders and personality formation. As such, the formulation and implementation of treatment and risk management strategies that will be effective with juvenile sex offenders are challenging.

To reduce sex crimes and the risk of adolescent sexual re-offending, effective treatment strategies have to be implemented to address developmentally appropriate issues. Supervision and treatment recommendations for juvenile sex offenders initially emerged from the literature on adult sex offenders. Treatment must include behavioral therapy, family therapy, and psychosocial interventions. Pharmacotherapy is not always a first-line treatment. Antidepressants (especially selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) offer promise in the treatment of adolescent sexual offending but further controlled studies are needed. In some rare situations, however, especially when severe paraphilic behaviors (such as pedophilia) are present, a hormonal intervention such as cyproterone acetate treatment may be needed. (Gerardin, 2004, see Appendix B). Differences between adult and juvenile treatment programs include electrical and hormonal therapies - adolescent sexual offenders are not recipients of these treatment modalities.

While there may be similarities between adults and adolescents who perpetrate sexual abuse, juvenile abusers face different developmental issues. Intervention for juveniles need to account for the effect on family and peer group relationships, educational, employment prospects, self-concept and self-esteem. Juvenile sexual offenders are at risk of deviant development. The risk of re-offending as adults is likely higher for adolescent sexual offenders who fail to deal with their developmentally relevant stages and attain the life-skills necessary in adulthood. Treatment methods should attempt to decrease the disruption of adolescent developmental stages in order to arrest deviant sexual offenses prior to adulthood. (Del Valle, 2000, see Appendix B).

Literature on Juvenile Sex Offenders

Predicting recidivism in adolescent sexual offenders.

Gerhold, Constanze K.; Browne, Kevin D.; Beckett, Richard; *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, Vol 12(4), Jul-Aug 2007. pp. 427-438.

Abstract:

The prediction of risk of sexual recidivism in adult sex offenders has been grounded on research identifying reliable markers or risk factors, the so-called static and dynamic variables. For adolescents such reliable factors in the prediction of risk of sexual recidivism have so far not been unequivocally revealed. The aim of this systematic review was to screen the available research literature for such factors. The results indicated that regarding static or historical risk variables some can be found repeatedly to be linked to sexual recidivism in adolescents such as previous offending and multiple or stranger victims. Considering dynamic variables there is much less documented evidence in the research literature possibly as a result of lack of adequate psychometric tools. Overall, regarding risk of sexual recidivism there continues to be a great need for research.

Juvenile Offenders and Sex Offender Registries: Examining the Data Behind the Debate.

Craun, Sarah W.; Kernsmith, Poco D.; *Federal Probation*, Vol 70(3), Dec 2006. pp. 45-49.

Abstract:

This descriptive study is intended to discover if there are significant differences between juvenile and adult offenders on a sex offender registry. It is hypothesized that there should be no difference between registered juvenile and adult offenders in terms of offender race and sex, crime committed, or risk level assigned by the state. This study compared the characteristics of adult and juvenile offenders and their respective victims on the State of Texas sex offender registry. The presented descriptive analysis demonstrates that the adults and juveniles listed on the sex offender registry in the state of Texas differed in a variety of ways. Juveniles were more likely to commit offenses against male victims than were adult offenders. One weakness of this study is the calculation that had to be used to determine the age of the offender, using the age at date of disposition. Further examination can help clarify for both the public and public administrators the proper use of this law in its application to juveniles.

Exploring Consensus in Practice with Youth Who Are Sexually Abusive: Findings from a Delphi Study of Practitioner Views in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Hackett, Simon; Masson, Helen; Phillips, Sarah; *Child Maltreatment*, Vol 11(2), May 2006. pp. 146-156.

Abstract:

This article presents the findings of a study exploring current levels of consensus among practitioners in the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) about good practice in relation to youth who are sexually abusive. A three-stage Delphi procedure was used to survey the views of 78 practitioners, experienced in this field, on a range of matters relating to preferred responses to this population. The exercise indicated high levels of agreement that youth who are sexually abusive should be seen as a group clinically distinct from adult sex offenders and that all of their developmental needs, and their problematic behavior, should be targeted in intervention. A strong level of consensus was found among respondents about the goals and content of ideal practice with this user group, although there was less consensus about the theoretical models that should underpin practice.

Juvenile sex offenders: A complex population.

Andrade, Joel T.; Vincent, Gina M.; Saleh, Fabian M.; *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, Vol 51(1), Jan 2006. pp. 163-167.

Abstract:

Individuals who engage in sexual offending behavior represent a heterogeneous population. Recent research has found some success in categorizing sexual offenders based on a number of variables, particularly the type of victim. For example, differences have been found between those offenders who victimize adults when compared with those who victimize children. However, the research in this area has been conducted predominantly with adult samples. As the adult sex offender literature has progressed, it has become evident that risk assessment, treatment effectiveness, and risk management are dependent on such offender characteristics. Unfortunately, the relevance to

juveniles of characteristics deemed to be important with adult sex offenders is limited due to the complexity of developmental processes, particularly with respect to mental disorders and personality formation. As such, the formulation and implementation of treatment and risk management strategies that will be effective with juvenile sex offenders are challenging. The goal of this paper is to review some of the complexities inherent in the juvenile sex offender population by focusing on specific areas of complication, including: classification systems, comorbid paraphilias and other mental illnesses, and maladaptive personality traits.

Legal Consequences of Juvenile Sex Offending in the United States.

Letourneau, Elizabeth J.; In: *The juvenile sex offender* (2nd ed.). Barbaree, Howard E.; Marshall, William L.; New York, NY, US: Guilford Press, 2006. pp. 275-290.

Abstract:

This chapter reviews the application of special legislation designed for high-risk adult sex offenders to juvenile sex offenders and whether such applications are likely to have intended effects (e.g., reducing sexual recidivism) and/or unintended effects (e.g., reducing detection of juvenile sex offenders). Recent changes in legal procedures have resulted in significantly altered consequences to juvenile sex offenders. Specifically, many juvenile sex offenders are now required to register personal information on publicly available sex-offender registries. These registries are maintained by local or state law enforcement agencies and list offenders who have committed specific sexual crimes. Likewise, many juvenile offenders are also subjected to community notification procedures, in which persons external to law enforcement are informed about the specific sexual crimes of some youths. Per federal guidelines, registration and notification policies exclude juvenile offenders except for those youths prosecuted as adults. However, several states have extended registration and notification requirements to juvenile sex offenders.

Juvenile Sex Offenders: A Case Against the Legal and Clinical Status Quo.

Letourneau, Elizabeth J.; Miner, Michael H.; *Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment*, Vol 17(3), Jul 2005. pp. 293-312.

Abstract:

The past two decades have seen a movement toward harsher legal sanctions and lengthy, restrictive treatment programs for sex offenders. This has not only been the case for adults, but also for juveniles who commit sex offenses. The increased length and severity of legal and clinical interventions for juvenile sex offenders appear to have resulted from three false assumptions: (1) there is an epidemic of juvenile offending, including juvenile sex offending; (2) juvenile sex offenders have more in common with adult sex offenders than with other juvenile delinquents; and (3) in the absence of sex offender-specific treatment, juvenile sex offenders are at exceptionally high risk of reoffending. The available data do not support any of the above assumptions; however, these assumptions continue to influence the treatment and legal interventions applied to juvenile sex offenders and contributed to the application of adult interventions to juvenile sex offending. In so doing, these legal and clinical interventions fail to consider the unique developmental factors that characterize adolescence, and thus may be ineffective or worse. Fortunately, a paradigm shift that acknowledges these developmental factors appears to be emerging in clinical areas of intervention, although this trend does not appear as prevalent in legal sanctions.

Book Reviews: American Travesty: Legal Response to Adolescent Sexual Offending.

Dorce, Daphne; Billick, Stephen Bates; *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, Vol 44(5), May 2005. pp. 502-503.

[Review-Book] Abstract:

In *American Travesty* (see record 2004-13837-000), the author, Franklin Zimring, skillfully analyzes data, prejudices, and legal policies related to juvenile sex offenders. His book keenly addresses who the juvenile sex offender is, what the laws and policies that govern our handling of juvenile sexual misconduct are, and what the role of the juvenile courts is in the process. Zimring stimulates readers to stop and think of the overriding societal fears with regard to violent sex crimes and to reconsider the facile yet erroneous equation of juvenile to adult sex offenders. Fear, outrage, misperceptions, and poor use of laws designed for adults constitute the "American travesty" of his

title. At the heart of the book are the review and dissection of the historical and empirical data in support for or against the perceptions underpinning the text. In addition, Zimring includes ample data to support his assertions that the number of juveniles arrested for sex offenses has remained stable over the past 25 years. The reviewers note that this is a valuable book because it helps to remind us that the solution to juvenile sex offending is different from that for adults.

Juveniles Who Commit Sex Crimes.

Saleh, Fabian M.; Vincent, Gina M.; In: Adolescent psychiatry: Developmental and clinical studies, vol 28. Flaherty, Lois T.; Mahwah, NJ, US: Analytic Press, 2004. pp. 183-207.

[Chapter] Abstract:

Much of what we know about the manifestation, etiology, and prognosis for sexual offenders stems from research with adults. Despite the fairly high prevalence and harsh punishments for juvenile sexual offenders, the field still knows little about the course and roots of these behaviors in youth. Developmental differences in psychopathology and amenability to treatment highlight the need for separate etiological and treatment models when dealing with juveniles. This chapter reviews our current understanding of adult sex offending and contrasts this literature with our gaps in knowledge pertaining to juvenile sex offenders. We conclude with suggestions for future research and treatment strategies.

Epidemiology and Treatment of Juvenile Sexual Offending.

Gerardin, Priscille; Thibaut, Florence. Pediatric Drugs, 2004, Vol. 6 Issue 2, p79-91, 13p, 1 chart **Abstract:**

The juvenile sex offender is defined as a youth who commits any sexual act with a person of any age against the victim's will, or in an aggressive, exploitative, or threatening manner. The term 'child molester' refers to those who choose only, or primarily, child victims. In this article, we mostly focus on adolescents aged between 13 and 18 years. To reduce sex crimes and the risk of adolescent sexual re-offending, effective treatment strategies have to be implemented for adolescent sexual offenders. Supervision and treatment recommendations for juvenile sex offenders initially emerged from the literature on adult sex offenders. Treatment must include behavioral therapy, family therapy, and psychosocial interventions. Pharmacotherapy is not always a first-line treatment. Antidepressants (especially selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) offer promise in the treatment of adolescent sexual offending but further controlled studies are needed. In some rare situations, however, especially when severe paraphilic behaviors (such as pedophilia) are present, an hormonal intervention such as cyproterone acetate treatment may be needed.

Treating sex offenders: A guide to clinical practice with adults, clerics, children, and adolescents (2nd ed.).

Prendergast, William E.; New York, NY, US: Haworth Press, 2004. xxi, 331 pp.

Abstract:

This second edition of my early work integrates adolescent and adult sex offenders and emphasizes similarities as well as differences in their personalities, behaviors, and, most importantly, their treatment. As in the first edition, case studies will be found throughout this work and hopefully will add clarity and emphasis to each type. I begin each section of every chapter of this book with adult sex offender factors, traits, treatments, and cases. At the end of each section, the child/adolescent sex offender is discussed in relation and in comparison. In addition, in the past twelve years, I have made additions and changes to some of the treatment techniques I use with sex offenders (and survivors) based on changes in their personalities and character that I have observed during this period of time. Each individual aspect of the makeup and treatment of the compulsive adult sex offender as well as the adolescent sex offender (as I have experienced them), whether in a residential setting or in my private practice, is explored. For each of the many treatment techniques, its inception, the principles behind the technique, its evolution as the population changed, and its success and/or failures will be discussed. It is the author's hope that sharing the fumbling and errors that were made early in our experience (and continue at times to be made), will prevent other therapists from making the same errors. This applies especially in using techniques or principles that were tried in our years of immersion in this field and failed.

Factors associated with recidivism in juveniles: An analysis of serious juvenile sex offenders.

Miner, Michael H.; Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Vol 39(4), Nov 2002. pp. 421-436.

Abstract:

This study used four Cox regression analyses to examine the predictors of reoffending in a sample of 86 male adolescents adjudicated delinquent for the commission of sexual offenses and treated in a corrections-based sex offender treatment program. The results indicate that the predictors of reoffense, when defined as an arrest, conviction, or parole violation for any new crime, differ somewhat from those found for adults. Specifically, increased risk for reoffense was associated with impulsivity, involvement with significantly younger children, younger age at first offense, and shorter treatment stays. Decreased risk for reoffense was associated with having a male victim, having been a sexual abuse victim, and multiple paraphilias. These factors were not all stable across analyses. This data indicate that the risk prediction methods used for adult sex offenders would not be appropriate for adolescent populations and that more research is needed before attempts are made to develop such tools for adolescents.

Adolescent sex offenders: A review of the literature.

Veneziano, Carol; Veneziano, Louis; Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, Vol 3(4), Oct 2002. pp. 247-260. [e]

Abstract:

Research over the past 20 yrs indicates that adolescent sex offenders account for a significant number of child sexual abuse perpetrators. Studies indicate that this group has a variety of severe family problems, including neglect and physical and sexual abuse. Academic and behavior problems, psychopathology, and social isolation tend to characterize adolescent sexual offenders. The research also indicates that juvenile sexual offenders are a heterogeneous population with diverse characteristics and treatment needs. A number of typologies have been developed to classify various types of offenders, but more empirical research is needed. Because of the diversity of the population, careful assessment is needed before treatment plans are developed and implemented. Most treatment programs have been modeled after treatment programs found to be effective with adult sex offenders, but new programs are aimed more specifically at juveniles. Based on the research, recommendations are made with respect to important target areas for treatment.

Polygraph testing leads to better understanding adult and juvenile sex offenders.

Hindman, Jan; Peters, James M.; Federal Probation, Vol 65(3), Dec 2001. pp. 8-15.

Abstract:

Reviews several previously unpublished research studies conducted by J. Hindman on the impact of polygraphy on adult and juvenile sex offenders' self-reports of offenses and history of personal victimization before vs after treatment. Methodologies involved self-report with vs without polygraphy or mention of polygraphy, and self-report vs polygraphy in the same S. Areas discussed include the prevalence and effects of sexual abuse, early offender studies, the sex-offender-as-victim paradigm, the Oregon studies, the prosecutor's conditional immunity agreement, polygraphy and the therapeutic process, juvenile offenders, victim gender, judicial recognition of polygraphy, immunity for incriminating statements, negotiated pleas, and conditional immunity for previously undisclosed crimes. This research suggests that adults will lie and understate their number of sexual crimes and history as a juvenile offender, and will lie and overreport childhood sexual victimization.

Developmental differences and interventive similarities among male juveniles and adult sex offenders.

Del Valle, Blanca; Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Sciences and Engineering, Vol 60(9-B), Mar 2000. pp. 4882.

Abstract:

This dissertation focused on the need to join adolescent and adult literature sets on male sexual offender treatment programs. Currently both groups are receiving almost identical treatment modalities. Exceptions to the treatment are electrical and hormonal therapies-adolescent sexual offenders are not recipients of these treatment modalities. Irrespective of the treatment modalities

applied, data indicates male sexual offenders commit an average of 380 offenses prior to conviction. Usually the offenders are well into adulthood by the time they are identified. Although 50 percent of these offenders began exhibiting deviant sexual behavior in their youth their transgressions and potential for sexual offensive behavior went unnoticed. This study indicates there is a need to identify alternative and more effective treatment modalities in the future to arrest this highly pervasive offender behavior. Currently, juvenile and adult literature on sexual offenses do not overlap, and offenders are researched as belonging to two different and distinct populations. While there may be similarities between adults and adolescents who perpetrate sexual abuse, juvenile and adult abusers face different developmental issues. This study stresses the importance of awareness of the assessment and treatment implications for juvenile offenders. Existing treatment programs many times fail to note the impact of the abuse on the continuing development of the abusive adolescent including the effect on family and peer group relationships, educational, employment prospects, self-concept and self-esteem. Juvenile sexual offenders are at risk of deviant development, and the risk of re-offending as adults is likely higher for adolescent sexual offenders who fail to deal with their developmentally relevant stages and attain the life-skills necessary in adulthood. Treatment methods should attempt to decrease the disruption of adolescent developmental stages in order to arrest deviant sexual offenses prior to adulthood.

Sexual offense severity and victim gender preference: A comparison of adolescent and adult sex offenders.

Aylwin, A. Scott; Clelland, Steven R.; Kirkby, Leslie; International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, Vol 23(2), Mar-Apr 2000. pp. 113-124.

Abstract:

Compared 434 adult male sex offenders admitted to inpatient treatment in a secure facility with 121 adolescent male sex offenders admitted to a community-based residential setting on a measure of the severity of their most serious offense based on a severity rating scale developed for the study. 362 adults and 104 adolescents who met the criteria for inclusion in the subgroup of child molesters were then compared for the analysis of victim gender. Results suggest that incarcerated adolescent sex offenders committed acts as serious or more serious than the crimes committed by the incarcerated adult sex offenders. The rate of same-sex child molestation was virtually identical for both adult and child adolescent offenders. The study provided evidence that suggests that adolescent child molesters assault with less regard to victim gender than do adult child molesters. Results underscore the need for comprehensive treatment for adolescent offenders.

A comparative study of male juvenile sex offenders.

Krauth, Allison Anne; Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Sciences and Engineering, Vol 58(8-B), Feb 1998. pp. 4455.

Abstract:

Sexual offending in adolescents represents a significant social problem which has only recently come to the attention of researchers and society at large. Much of the previous research on adolescent sex offenders has been based on retrospective studies of adult sex offenders and clinical experiences. In addition, most studies have not used comparison or control groups to provide normative data. In the present study, a sample of 218 male adolescents who had been adjudicated for sexual offenses were compared with a sample of 200 other juvenile delinquents. In a second set of comparisons, the juvenile sex offenders were separated into groups based on whether subjects victimized children or peers. Two-tailed t-tests and chi square analyses were used to examine a number of demographic, family, behavioral, and emotional variables which were hypothesized to differentiate sex offenders from other delinquents, and child sexual assaulters from peer sexual assaulters. Data analyses revealed 18 statistically significant differences between juvenile sex offenders and delinquents, and 21 statistically significant differences between child and peer sexual assaulters. In general, sex offenders had fewer difficulties than delinquents in family functioning, behavior, and social relationships, but they were also more likely to have been victims of sexual abuse. Significant differences were found in the ethnic backgrounds of child and peer sexual assaulters. Additionally, compared to peer assaulters, child assaulters were younger, tended to have fewer overt behavior problems, were less likely to have age-appropriate sexual knowledge, and were less likely to have been sexually active. Significant differences between child and peer

assaulters were also revealed in the details of the sexual offenses. The implications of these findings and suggestions for future research on juvenile sex offenders were discussed.

The treatment of youthful sexual offenders.

Morenz, Barry; Becker, Judith; *Applied & Preventive Psychology*, Vol 4(4), Fal 1995. pp. 247-256.

Abstract:

Reviews the current knowledge of the characteristics, proposed etiologies, typologies, assessment protocols, and treatments for youthful sex offenders. Characteristics include family instability, violence, abuse, deficits in social competency, and low academic performance. The Interaction Model of Sexual Aggression and a continuum theory of sexual tactics are discussed as theories of etiology. Two taxonomic systems are considered: One describes 7 types of youthful sex offenders and the other assigns adult sex offenders to a rapist or child molester category and then to a narrower type. A pretrial type of assessment may include the juvenile's degree of psychopathology and social competence, assessment of the family, and the juvenile's response to treatment and risk to the community. Treatment focuses on denial and minimization of the offense, empathy for the victim, cognitive behavioral approaches, relapse prevention, and antiandrogen medication.

The role of deviant sexual arousal in juvenile sexual offending: Etiology, evaluation, and treatment.

Hunter, John A.; Becker, Judith V.; *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol 21(1), Mar 1994. Special issue: The assessment and treatment of sex offenders. pp. 132-149.

Abstract:

Reviews the construct of deviant sexual arousal and its application to understanding juvenile sexual offending. In contrast to the relatively extensive investigation of deviant sexual interests in adult sex offenders, the juvenile offender literature is just beginning to emerge. Studies are reviewed relevant to the etiology of deviant sexual arousal in juveniles, its measurement, and attempts to alter such patterns through the application of cognitive-behavioral methodologies. The authors urge caution in comparing the etiology and clinical manifestation of deviant sexual behavior in juveniles and adults, and suggest that juvenile sex offenders represent a heterogeneous population with diverse evaluative and treatment needs.

Treating the adolescent victim-turned-offender.

Muster, Nori J.; *Adolescence*, Vol 27(106), Sum 1992. pp. 441-450.

Abstract:

Surveyed 18 professionals in the field of sexual abuse treatment on attitudes toward treatment of juvenile sex offenders and on preferences for confrontational vs sympathetic treatment in 3 age groups. These groups were child victims of sexual abuse who acted out sexually, juvenile sex offenders who were victims of sexual child abuse, and adult sex offenders who were victims of sexual abuse. Therapists in the corrections field were the greatest supporters of confrontational and punitive therapy methods, whereas the majority of Ss favored flexibility. Sympathetic methods were preferred with children, juveniles ranked equally for pro- and antisympathetic methods, and adults were least likely to receive sympathetic treatment.

Sex Offense in Developmentally Delayed Individuals

Literature and research has begun to emerge that provides an increasing understanding of the similarity and differences in the etiology and treatment for sexual offense behavior in persons with intellectual disabilities compared to the nondisabled offender.

Sex offenders with intellectual disabilities provide important challenges to the judicial system. By definition, someone accused with intellectual disability is less likely to meet the criteria for competency to stand trial. A second problem is that there is often a deficit in social skills, which can be an important precursor to normal sexual drives.

Approximately 3% of the population has some degree of intellectual disability. Sex offenders with identified intellectual disabilities appear overrepresented in the charged and imprisoned population of sexual offenders. Statistics range from 15% to 33% (Shapiro, 1986; Steiner, 1984). Day (see 1994) cautions that the prevalence rate may actually be higher because it does not account for those persons with intellectual disabilities who were not charged but diverted to residential care facilities.

Griffiths et al. (2002) note that from arrested trial, offenders who have cognitive disabilities are more likely to be disadvantaged. They're more likely to be arrested or waive their rights due to impaired understanding. To gain approval of authority figures, they may provide false confessions or provide incriminating evidence, and failed the plea bargain. They are also more likely to be jailed pretrial because of failure to meet bail or personal recognizance. They're less likely to be able to afford or mount a solid legal defense. In general, their prison terms are longer than similar offenders without disabilities (Laski, 1992).

Day (1994) describes two types of sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities. The first group commits only sexual offenses; this is a lower risk group. The second group presents with greater risk for violence and assault and commits not only sexual offenses but also a range of nonsexual offensive behaviors.

Risk assessment with this population is particularly difficult. In one study, men with intellectual disability scored significantly higher on the VRAG and SORAG.

Replications and extensions in arousal assessment for sex offenders with developmental disabilities.

Reyes, Jorge R., Vollmer, Timothy R., Hall, Astrid. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, Vol 44(2), Sum, 2011. pp. 369-373.

Abstract:

Three adult male sex offenders with developmental disabilities participated in phallometric assessments that involved repeated measures of arousal when exposed to various stimuli. Arousal assessment outcomes were similar to those obtained by Reyes et al. (2006). Additional data-analysis methods provided further information about sexual preferences, thus replicating and extending previous research. The results provide preliminary data for establishing a preference gradient by age. Implications for the use of repeated measures and preference gradients in arousal assessments are discussed.

Controversies in assessing risk and deviancy in sex offenders with intellectual disabilities.

Craig, Leam A. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, Vol 16(1-2), Jan, 2010. Special issue: Contemporary perspectives on sex offending, its assessment, and treatment. pp. 75-101.

Abstract:

While the literature on the assessment, treatment and management of nonintellectual disabled sex offenders is well established, it is only in recent years that researchers and clinicians have focused on sex offenders with intellectual disability (ID). This article focuses on two areas: the assessment of risk and recidivism, and the assessment of sexual deviancy in sex offenders with ID. The first part of this article reviews the literature on the assessment of sexual offense recidivism risk for sex offenders with ID. Static and dynamic risk factors associated with sexual recidivism risk in sex offenders with ID are identified and the use of actuarial risk assessment scales and structured risk assessment systems with this client group are considered. The second part of this article discusses difficulties associated with the assessment of sexual deviancy in sex offenders with ID. An alternative approach to assessing deviancy is considered where deviant behaviour is compared against a four-group continuum of normal to deviant sexual behaviour in terms of developmental and chronological levels. From the literature a number of suggestions are made regarding the assessment of risk and sexual deviancy with this client group.

A practical guide for the evaluation of sexual recidivism risk in mentally retarded sex offenders.

Phenix, Amy, Sreenivasan, Shoba. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, Vol 37(4), Dec, 2009. Special issue: Daubert and EBP. pp. 509-524.

Abstract:

Although sex offender risk assessment has progressed greatly over the past decade and a half since most states implemented the sexually violent predator/sexually dangerous person (SVP/SDP) laws, there continues to be limited applicability of such models to intellectually disabled sex offenders because there has been no empirical validation. However, SVP/SDP civil commitment programs have reported increased admission of developmentally disabled sex offenders. Differentiating sexual deviance, the primary factor predisposing most individuals to criminal sexual violence, from impulsive, immature, and inappropriate behavior stemming from cognitive deficits presents yet another challenge to the clinician tasked with performing such evaluations. This article reviews actuarial risk models and their limited applicability to mentally retarded sex offenders and offers a conceptual method of assessing the risk of recidivism in intellectually disabled sex offenders under SVP/SDP evaluation.

An evaluation of the applicability of the self-regulation model to sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities.

Ford, Hannah J., Rose, John, Thrift, Sue. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, Vol 20(3), Jun, 2009. pp. 440-457.

Abstract:

The self-regulation model (SRM) hypothesises that sexual offenders follow different pathways to offending. Further study is required, however, to determine whether pathways identified in non-intellectually disabled (ID) offenders apply to those with IDs. Information from semi-structured interviews with staff was used to classify offence pathways in 28 ID sex offenders. Demographic data and assessments of risk were also collected. ID offenders were reliably categorised into the four pathways. Comparison with other published studies found similar proportions of ID and non-ID offenders in each pathway. Offenders with passive self-regulation had lower levels of intellectual functioning than those more actively regulating their behaviour. The SRM has applicability to sex offenders with IDs; adaptation of mainstream treatment models for this group may be appropriate.

The assessment of treatment-related issues and risk in sex offenders and abusers with intellectual disability.

Lindsay, William R., Taylor, John L. *Assessment and treatment of sex offenders: A handbook*. Beech, Anthony R. (Ed.); Craig, Leam A. (Ed.); Browne, Kevin D. (Ed.); pp. 217-235. New York, NY, US: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2009. xxvii, 582 pp.

Abstract:

(from the chapter) In this chapter we have review the current state of literature on assessment of risk in sex offenders with intellectual disabilities (ID). Our knowledge on static risk factors has begun to develop considerably and there have now been two studies on the applicability of existing risk assessments to this client group. Both studies (Quinsey, Book & Skilling, 2004; Lindsay et al, 2008) have found predictive results that are broadly consistent with the literature on mainstream offending for the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG) and Static-99. Results on the RM2000 were somewhat poorer but the authors urged further research work since this particular assessment has wide applicability and accessibility. The Static-99 in particular appeared relevant for use with sex offenders with ID since Harris and Tough (2004) reported that its predecessor the RRASOR was used effectively in treatment services for this client group in the Toronto area. Therefore there are some positive results regarding assessment of static/actuarial risk. We have considered dynamic risk variables in accordance with the Thornton (2002) classification of social/affective, cognitive and attitudinal, self-regulation and sexual preference/drive. These are the issues which would be targeted for treatment in relevant services and because of this, there is a reasonably rich literature upon which to draw. A few studies have been conducted which confirm the relevance of these dynamic risk variables in the prediction of incidents for this client group. A number of studies have demonstrated the reliability and validity of assessments for use with these clients on these relevant variables. Notably they include assessments of hostility, emotional instability, personal relationships, cognitive distortions that might be considered supportive of sexual offences, and self-regulation. Two important studies (Blanchard et al, 1999; Cantor et al, 2005) also attest to the importance of considering self-regulation of sexual preference drive during treatment.

Treatment for men with intellectual disabilities and sexually abusive behaviour.

Murphy, Glynis, Sinclair, Neil. *Assessment and treatment of sex offenders: A handbook*. Beech, Anthony R. (Ed.); Craig, Leam A. (Ed.); Browne, Kevin D. (Ed.); pp. 369-392. New York, NY, US: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2009. xxvii, 582 pp.

Abstract:

(from the chapter) Attitudes have changed since the eugenics period, however, and people with intellectual disabilities are increasingly recognized as having full citizenship rights, as asserted in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons in 1971 (United Nations, 1971) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006 (United Nations, 2006). This declaration and convention specifically address the right to choose a lifestyle, the right to vote (and see Beckman, 2007), to marry and to have a family life. They also both specifically address, through Article 6 in the 1971 Declaration and Articles 12 and 16 in the 2006 Convention, the right to equal treatment before the

law and protection from abuse. Nevertheless, it has transpired in a variety of studies that people with intellectual disabilities are particularly vulnerable to being victims of abuse, especially sexual abuse (Brown, Stein & Turk, 1995; Buchanan & Wilkins, 1991; Furey, 1994; Hard & Plumb, 1987; McCarthy & Thompson, 1997; Sobsey, 1994; Turk & Brown, 1993), more so than other vulnerable groups (Brown & Stein, 1998). Many of the perpetrators of that abuse are themselves people with intellectual disabilities (42% of perpetrators, according to Furey, 1994; 53% according to Brown et al, 1995) and they are predominantly men (88% men according to Furey, 1994; 96% men according to Brown et al, 1995). Very often, sexually abusive behaviour by men with intellectual disabilities goes unreported (Murphy, 2007). This is especially likely if the victim is also someone with intellectual disabilities (Brown & Thompson, 1997b; Green, Gray & Willner, 2002; Thompson, 1997) and it seems to be less likely if the victim is a non-disabled child (see Lindsay et al, 2006). Thompson (1997), for example, found over 70% of offences against children, but only 11% of offences against another person with intellectual disabilities, were reported to the police.

Assessment of sex offenders with developmental disabilities. Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Reyes, Jorge R. Sciences and Engineering, Vol 69(10-B), 2009. pp. 6395.

Abstract:

This series of studies focused on the behavioral assessment of sex offenders with developmental disabilities (DD). Studies 1 through 4 focused on the use of arousal assessments with DD offenders from a behavioral perspective. Study 1 investigated the utility of using a penile plethysmograph in the assessment of arousal for sex offenders with DD. Study 2 primarily served as a replication and extension of study 1 with additional data analysis. Study 3 involved an evaluation of 2 different types of pre-session factors, masturbation and arousal suppression, that may affect responding during an arousal assessment. Study 4 primarily served as a technical study which involved the development and initial evaluation of a portable plethysmograph to measure arousal outside of clinical settings. Results from studies 1 and 2 showed that differentiated outcomes were obtained using the penile plethysmograph with DD sex offenders. Further data analysis from study 2 yielded more detailed information about the arousal assessment outcomes in terms of hierarchical preferences among stimuli. Results from study 3 showed that both pre-session masturbation and suppression instructions decreased arousal levels. The results from study 4 showed that the portable plethysmograph was capable of capturing differential arousal in community settings, and the levels of arousal were similar to those obtained in clinical settings. Studies 5 and 6 focused on assessing operant behavior related to sexual offending by applying standard behavioral procedures to offense related behavior. Study 5 involved observing how individuals responded under conditions considered to be high-risk when they did not know they were being assessed. Individuals were observed in the presence of magazines which contained pictures of children (considered to be high-risk) and other magazines which did not. Results showed that all of the individuals looked at the high-risk magazines on almost every available opportunity. Study 6 involved applying a standard behavioral preference assessment procedure to assess age and gender preferences. Results showed that specific preferences for age and gender were obtained, and the outcomes generally matched the preferences identified through the arousal assessments.

An assessment for attitudes consistent with sexual offending for use with offenders with intellectual disabilities. Lindsay, William R., Whitefield, Elaine, Carson, Derek. Legal and Criminological Psychology, Vol 12(1), Feb, 2007. pp. 55-68.

Abstract:

Background: Over the past 10 years, the focus of assessment and treatment for sex offenders has changed from the assessment of skills and deviant sexual preferences to the assessment and treatment of cognitions that might be considered to encourage or justify inappropriate sexual behaviour. There have been a few assessment measures of deviant sexual cognitions developed for adults in mainstream sex offender populations but none in less able populations. The present study describes an assessment questionnaire consisting of 7 scales for cognitions associated with rape, voyeurism, exhibitionism, dating abuse, stalking, homosexual assault and offences against children, designed to be used by sex offenders with intellectual disabilities. Method: Four groups of subjects were employed in this study-sex offenders, nonsexual offenders, non-offenders all with mild intellectual disabilities or borderline intelligence and a further group of normal men. All subjects completed the questionnaire and 86 subjects provided reliability data. Results: Each item was subjected to 3 tests of reliability. Retained items were required to achieve an item-to-total correlation of at least 0.4. Of the 7 scales, 5 achieved an internal consistency coefficient of 0.8 or greater. All scales successfully discriminated between groups even when the normal controls were eliminated because their scores were so low. Conclusions: It is possible to develop scales to assess cognitions related to types of offences which discriminate between sex offenders and other groups with intellectual disabilities. The final scales have robust statistical properties and can be used for clinical and research purposes. Some caution was noted in the use of attitudinal assessments for sex offenders.

Project STOP: Cognitive Behavioral Assessment and Treatment for Sex Offenders with Intellectual Disability. Nezu, Christine Maguth, Greenberg, Jeffrey, Nezu, Arthur M. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice*, Vol 6(3), 2006. pp. 87-103.

Abstract:

In this brief article, we provide relevant background concerning the prevalence, characteristics and vulnerabilities of intellectually disabled (ID) sex offenders, as well as scientifically-informed guidelines for assessment and treatment. Specifically, we suggest assessment methods concerning the various areas of vulnerability associated with sex offending risk, with emphasis on dynamic or changeable areas of vulnerability. Treatment guidelines are consistent with an individualized case formulation approach aimed at changing each individual's unique area of vulnerability. We provide a description of Project STOP, as a case example of these principles. A program evaluation of this project revealed a low rate of recidivism and a high degree of treatment adherence. Finally, we propose which elements of the case formulation approach appear to be associated with successful outcome.

Should Actuarial Risk Assessments be Used with Sex Offenders who are Intellectually Disabled?

Harris, Andrew J.R., Tough, Susan. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, Vol 17(4), Dec, 2004. pp. 235-241.

Abstract:

Objective actuarial assessments are critical for making risk decisions, determining the necessary level of supervision and intensity of treatment (Andrews & Bonta 2003). This paper reviews the history of organized risk assessment and discusses some issues in current attitudes towards sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities. We present two risk assessment tools (RRASOR and STABLE-2000) that appear to have practical utility with this population. Data are presented from a community sample of 81 sexual offenders who are intellectually disabled suggesting that the RRASOR may provide a useful metric of risk for this population. Dynamic risk is assessed using the STABLE-2000. This tool, based on 16 areas empirically associated with sexual recidivism, samples the individuals' current behaviour, skill deficits and personality factors. Change in these factors serves to flag the supervisor to changing risk levels. In addressing the question of whether we should seek special risk measures normed on people with intellectually disabilities, given the current lack of alternative tools, we conclude that it is reasonable to make use of the risk assessments that have been validated on the general sex offender population.

Assessment of Risk Manageability of Intellectually Disabled Sex Offenders.

Boer, Douglas P., Tough, Susan, Haaven, James. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, Vol 17(4), Dec, 2004. pp. 275-283.

Abstract:

There are no validated risk assessment tools for intellectually disabled (ID) sex offenders, with the exception of the work of Lindsay et al. [*Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (2004) 17: 267] regarding the prediction of risk for aggressive behaviour of ID offenders in residential settings. ID sex offenders comprise a neglected subgroup, and one that poses unique challenges and rewards for clinicians. Recent work by Tough [Tough S. (2001) *Validation of Two Standard Assessments (RRASOR, 1997; STATJC-99, 1999)* on a Sample of Adult Males who are Intellectually Disabled with Significant Cognitive Deficits. Master's Thesis, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada] examined the utility of the Rapid Risk Assessment for Sexual Offence Recidivism [RRASOR; Hanson R. (1997) *The Development of a Brief Actuarial Risk Scale for Sexual Offence Recidivism*, User Report 97-04. Department of the Solicitor General of Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada.] and the Static-99 [Hanson R. K. & Thornton D. (1999) *Static-99: Improving Actuarial Risk Assessments for Sex Offenders*, User Report 99-02. Department of the Solicitor General of Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada] for ID sex offenders. She determined that the Static-99 may overestimate risk in ID sex offenders and that the RRASOR seemed to be a more accurate tool for these offenders. These actuarial tools provide a 'risk baseline', which helps in determining treatment intensity and level of supervision, but do not provide much help in designing treatment plans or management strategies based on the needs of the individual client. Hence, all three authors have developed risk management strategies in their work with ID sex offenders based largely on dynamic factors. This work has produced the present assessment. The present paper outlines a convergent approach which uses the information provided by static actuarial instruments and relevant dynamic factors as an introduction to the formation of a risk management strategies instrument for ID sex offenders. Thirty suggested items, split into four categories (chronic dynamic and acute dynamic for staff and environment; chronic dynamic and acute dynamic for offenders) are listed along with brief explanations of these items.

Issues surrounding the risk assessment of sexual offenders with an intellectual disability.

Lambrick, Frank. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, Vol 10(2), 2003. pp. 353-358.

Abstract:

The assessment and treatment of sex offenders with an intellectual disability has received increasing attention over the last 15 to 20 years but there has been little research conducted on the evaluation of assessment and

treatment approaches to this client group. The general area of sex offender risk assessment has been subject to a considerable degree of research over the years but none of this research has clearly differentiated the intellectually disabled in population samples. Nevertheless, in at least two prominent risk assessments, intellectual disability is defined as a static risk factor. Serious methodological problems exist in the research that has focused upon the offender with an intellectual disability, with inconsistent criteria being set to define intellectual disability. This precludes any attempt to define base rates of recidivism for this population. Protective factors for this population in Victoria are discussed, particularly the informed monitoring ability of staff working with this client group. Future research needs to differentiate this population from other samples and care must be taken to include only those individuals who have been formally diagnosed as having an intellectual disability.

Research and literature on sex offenders with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Lindsay, William R. Journal of Intellectual Disability Research, Vol 46(Suppl1), May, 2002. Special issue: Forensic learning difficulties: The evidence base. pp. 74-85.

Abstract:

Reviews the literature on several aspects of sex offenders with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including the relationship between sex offending and developmental disabilities, the prevalence and characteristics of sex offenders in this client group, assessment, treatment, and outcome of intervention. Several important variables were identified as influencing the disparate results found in different prevalence studies. These include variations in inclusion criteria, differences in the source of the sample, differences in determination of IQ, the impact of deinstitutionalization, and the effect of changing social and penal policies in the area where studies have been conducted. Although some studies have suggested an increasing incidence, there is no clear evidence for the over- or under-representation of people with developmental disabilities amongst sex offenders. Pharmacological, behavioral, educational and cognitive treatments are reviewed. Several comprehensive treatments which include all of the aforementioned methods are also considered. Although most studies do not report particularly positive outcomes, several authors have found better outcomes with treatment lasting at least 2 yrs.

Adolescent sex offenders with mental retardation: Literature review and assessment considerations.

Timms, Sheila, Goreczny, Anthony J. Aggression and Violent Behavior, Vol 7(1), Jan-Feb, 2002. pp. 1-19.

Abstract:

This literature review focuses on social deficits of individuals who have mental retardation (deficits which may contribute to aberrant sexual behavior among adolescents) and then switches to focus on adolescent sex offenders (including those with mental retardation). The authors conclude with suggestions for assessment of adolescent sex offenders and with recommendations for future directions.

A cognitive behavioral model of assessment and treatment for intellectually disabled sexual offenders.

Nezu, Christine Maguth, Nezu, Arthur M., Dudek, Jonathan A. Cognitive and Behavioral Practice, Vol 5(1), Sum, 1998. pp. 25-64.

Abstract:

Sex-offending behavior continues to exist as a major public health concern. In recent years, studies of risk prediction and identification of both static and dynamic factors associated with the behavior of sexual perpetrators have added to a collective understanding of the problem. However, a limited amount of available information exists concerning how to translate relevant factors into effective clinical treatments or risk management strategies for this population. This is particularly true with regard to intellectually disabled offenders. This paper presents a model of sex offending that focuses on cognitive behavioral variables proposed as functional causal pathways to guide assessment and treatment of such individuals. Clinical case examples involving a 26- and a 35-yr-old male sex offender are provided to illustrate the linkage between assessment and treatment.

Diagrammatic assessment of ecological integration of sex offenders with mental retardation in community residential facilities.

Demetral, G. David. Mental Retardation, Vol 32(2), Apr, 1994. pp. 141-145.

Abstract:

Sex offenders with mental retardation who are experiencing stress are more likely to use coping strategies effectively if they have a large network of nurturing environmental contacts and are, therefore, less insulated from their environment. In this article an assessment tool, the ECO-MAP, is used to graphically illustrate the degree of integration of a 24-yr-old male offender. The instrument is shown to be useful as a clinical aid in the intervention-planning process, the contracting phase of intervention, and in the evaluation of outcomes.

Issues in the assessment and treatment of male sex offenders with mild learning disabilities.

Clare, Isabel C. Sexual & Marital Therapy, Vol 8(2), 1993. Special issue: Paraphilias. pp. 167-180.

Abstract:

There has been little consistency in the response to sex offending by men with mild learning disabilities. To understand the sexual behavior, 3 factors need to be assessed, including sexual interests, social-sexual behavior, and attitudes and thinking. Assessment can be achieved through self-reports, behavioral observation, physiological measures, and archival data. The disadvantages shared by persons with mild learning disabilities will impact on the assessment of sex offenders within this population through the limited applicability of some assessment methods, the need for broad-based assessment of socio-sexual behavior, and the need for multidisciplinary assessment. Treatment aims to reduce the frequency and severity of the behavior by reducing inappropriate thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, and by increasing alternative thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

Sex Offense and Autistic Spectrum Disorder

This is an important dimension of online offending. A second 60-page handout is included with this class. *Autism Spectrum Disorder and Online Sex Offense*. Because of time limitations, we won't be able to go in-depth on this issue. However, it may eventually be a "part-two" in follow up to the training.

Individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) generally undergo normal physical development and emergence of secondary sex characteristics at puberty, but the emotional changes and increasing sexual urges that accompany adolescence may be delayed or prolonged. A substantial proportion of individuals with autism, 10-30%, experience increased behavioral problems during adolescence, especially those with mental retardation (Eaves & Ho, 1996). Inappropriate sexual behaviors are often an area of concern because the sexual drives that emerge in adolescence are not accompanied by the socialization and understanding of social norms governing acceptable sexual behaviors that a typical peer will gain. Because individuals with ASD are not generally involved in peer groups, they are excluded from the valuable learning opportunities that shape people's sexual behaviors. Understanding the issues surrounding the sexuality of persons with autism and how to teach healthy, socially-appropriate socio-sexual behavior becomes increasingly important as they have more opportunities for inclusion in educational and community settings. Identification rates of autism are increasing and most children with autism attend public schools regardless of their level of functioning (Eaves & Ho, 1996).

Previous public perception of the sexuality of individuals with autism has been found to be largely negative and according to current data, largely inaccurate. In the past, such individuals were regarded as unaware of their sexuality, as uninterested in intimacy, and as using relationships only to satisfy their own needs. Early research suggested that persons with autism had no drive for intercourse (DeMyer, 1979) and that few had sexual problems (Dewey & Everard, 1974). However, current research indicates a high rate of sexual behavior among this population and highlights that the general social impairments typical of the autism spectrum do not necessarily mean that individuals with these disorders have no interest in developing some kind of intimate relations with others (Haracopos, 1995; Haracopos & Pedersen, 1992; Hellemans, Colson, Verbraeken, Vemeiren, & Deboutte, 2007; Kontstantareas & Lunskey, 1997; Ray et al., 2004; Ruble & Dalrymple, 1993; Stokes & Kaur, 2005; Van Bourgondien, Reichle, & Palmer, 1997). In reality, adults with autism do not appear to experience any less sexual interest than do adults with developmental disabilities (Kontstantareas & Lunskey, 1997; Ousley & Mesibov, 1991).

Most individuals with ASD, approximately 75%, display some kind of sexual behavior and most masturbate (Haracopos & Pedersen, 1992; Hellemans et al., 2007; Van Bourgondien et al., 1997). Many seek out physical contact with others (Hellemans et al., 2007). In a study of 81 Danish adults with autism living in group homes, 74% demonstrated sexual behavior including masturbation and sexual behavior with others (Haracopos & Pedersen, 1992). Masturbation was more common in males than females, while females showed more sexual behaviors towards others. In this study, 10% of the subjects expressed a strong desire to have a romantic relationship, yet, none had established what the authors considered a typical "reciprocal and intimate relationship." The study also found that 35% of the residents expressed a sexual interest in both sexes and 9% showed an interest in same sex individuals. Van Bourgondien and colleagues (1997) surveyed the parents of 89 individuals with both autism and some degree of mental retardation and found that 34% engaged in physical behavior with another individual such as handholding, hugging, kissing, touching, and attempted intercourse. This behavior was three times more likely in nonverbal individuals. This study also found that those persons who had not received sex education were more likely to masturbate while those who had were more likely to engage in person-oriented

behaviors. Interestingly, Ousley and Mesibov (1991) indicated that men with autism were more likely to report sexual frustration than women with autism.

Research by Stokes and Kaur (2005) found that many high functioning autistic (HFA) individuals indicated a desire for social contact and sexual relations, but that their social disabilities may prevent the development of appropriate relationships. This study found that compared to their typical peers, adolescents with HFA displayed poorer social behaviors, had fewer privacy related behaviors, and had less knowledge of privacy issues and sex education. In addition, their parents reported more concerns about their children's sexual behavior.

The average fifteen year old with HFA displayed the sexual behavior characteristic of typical ten-year-olds. However, more recent research has found that high-functioning individuals show normal, age-appropriate behaviors even though appropriate social skills were not present (Hellemans et al., 2007).

Parents of children with autism typically express concerns about their children's developing sexual behavior. For example, in Ruble and Dalrymple's (1993) survey of 100 parents of children with ASD, 75% of the parents feared that their children's common behaviors may be misinterpreted by others as sexually deviant. Inappropriate fixations and obsessions have also become a concern based on case reports of stalking, frottage, fondling, paraphilias, compulsive masturbation, and sexual assault, although such reports are quite rare (Ray et al., 2004; Realmuto & Ruble, 1999; Williams et al., 1996).

There is also a great deal of concern regarding the high risk of sexual victimization for this population. As many as 16 to 25% of persons with autism have been sexually abused (Koller, 2000; Mandell, Walrath, Manteuffel, Sgro, & Pinto-Martin, 2005). Their intrinsic social and communication impairments, as well as their lack of exposure to appropriate peer interactions, may leave these youth at risk for misinterpretation of social cues and sexual behaviors of predators. In addition, victims of sexual abuse were more likely to display serious consequences such as engaging in sexual acting-out, self-injurious or suicidal behavior, and running away and they were more likely to be hospitalized in a psychiatric institution (Mandell et al., 2005).

Although adolescents with ASD may lack the social abilities and communication skills to develop appropriate friendships and intimate relationships, their typical physiological development may lead to a desire for sexual intimacy, even in the face of social rejection. The lack of knowledge of appropriate social norms can lead to conflicts between the fulfillment of their sexual needs and socially acceptable sexual behavior. It is the high frequency of inappropriate public behaviors that has raised concern for many parents and service providers.

Ruble and Dalrymple (1993) report that approximately 65% of individuals with autism touch themselves in public, 23% masturbate in public, and 28% remove their clothing in public. Others studies have indicated that as many as 52% of individuals with autism masturbate in public and 90% display sexual behaviors that are directed towards strangers or other inappropriate individuals such as caregivers or service providers (Haracopos & Pedersen, 1992). Some researchers have posited that this behavior may be due to impairment in social awareness and social judgment or to the predisposition toward self-stimulatory behavior, while others have suggested that it may be due to the lack of socially appropriate outlets (Realmuto & Ruble, 1999).

Such displays may jeopardize the community integration of individuals with ASD and placements in least restrictive environments. Hellemans et al. (2007) reported that nearly a third of their sample required intervention in the area of sexual behaviors and emphasized the importance of sex education.

In summary, research indicates a high degree of interest in intimate relationships and a high frequency of sexual behaviors among individuals with ASD (Haracopos & Pedersen, 1992; Hellemans et al., 2007; Van Bourgondien et al, 1997). It is apparent that the social impairments characteristic of these disorders does not negate sexuality and its accompanying desires or behaviors. There is a great need to understand the sexuality of these individuals and how better to serve them in areas related to this domain as this area is largely overlooked in research and practice. Much of the present literature is limited by small samples and a focus on institutionalized populations. Moreover, the participants generally had presented with a wide range of cognitive abilities, making it difficult to distinguish between the impact of ASD and mental retardation (Hellemans et al., 2007). Future research is needed that examines more diverse samples, including adolescents with various levels of cognitive functioning and communication skills who are attending public or specialized schools. There is also a need to understand what constitutes appropriate sexuality education for these individuals and their families so that their basic needs and rights are respected, and that maladaptive behaviors can be prevented and corrected.

Autism:

In addressing Autism-Spectrum Disorders and sexuality, Sullivan and Caterino (2008) caution:

“A substantial proportion of individuals with autism, 10-30%, experience increased behavioral problems during adolescence, . . . Inappropriate sexual behaviors are often an area of concern because the sexual drives that emerge in adolescence are not accompanied by the socialization and understanding of social norms governing acceptable sexual behaviors that a typical peer will gain. Because individuals with ASD are not generally involved in peer groups, they are excluded from the valuable learning opportunities that shape people’s sexual behaviors.”

“. . . many high functioning autistic (HFA) individuals indicated a desire for social contact and sexual relations, but that their social disabilities may prevent the development of appropriate relationships. This study found that compared to their typical peers, adolescents with HFA displayed poorer social behaviors, had fewer privacy related behaviors, and had less knowledge of privacy issues and sex education. In addition, their parents reported more concerns about their children’s sexual behavior.”

Although adolescents with ASD may lack the social abilities and communication skills to develop appropriate friendships and intimate relationships, their typical physiological development may lead to a desire for sexual intimacy, even in the face of social rejection. The lack of knowledge of appropriate social norms can lead to conflicts between the fulfillment of their sexual needs and socially acceptable sexual behavior. It is the high frequency of inappropriate public behaviors that has raised concern for many parents and service providers. . . Hellemans et al. (2007) reported that nearly a third of their sample required intervention in the area of sexual behaviors and emphasized the importance of sex education.” Sullivan, A., Caterino, L. Addressing the sexuality and sex education of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Education & Treatment of Children, Vol 31(3), Aug, 2008. pp. 381-394.

NHS Choices. (n.d.). Autism in Adults.

Retrieved from <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Autism/Pages/Diagnosisinadults.aspx>

Difficulty with social communication

People with autism have difficulty using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice, as well as jokes and sarcasm. Some people with the condition might not speak or have fairly limited speech. They may understand what people say to them but prefer to use alternative forms of communication, such as sign language.

Difficulty with social interaction

People with autism have difficulty recognizing and understanding people’s feelings and managing their own. They may, for example, stand too close to another person, prefer to be alone, behave inappropriately and may not seek comfort from other people. This can

make it hard for them to make friends.

Difficulty with social imagination

Those with autism have difficulty understanding and predicting other people's intentions and behavior, and imagining situations that are outside their own routine. This can mean they carry out a narrow, repetitive range of activities. A lack of social imagination should not be confused with lack of imagination. Many people with autism are very creative.

Self-assessed sexuality in young adults with High-Functioning Autism

Prianka Mehzabin, Mark A. Stokes. Received 4 November 2009; revised 22 July 2010; Accepted 26 July 2010. Available online 23 August 2010.

Abstract

The literature has revealed that autistic persons of all ages show an interest in sexuality and relationships, but the poor social and communication skills found among those with autism hinders the experience of this. Unfortunately, most research to date in this domain has relied exclusively upon parental or caregiver reports. Thus there remains a need for research to be undertaken in this area based on direct reports from autistic individuals. We hypothesised that compared to Typically Developing (TD) persons, persons with High-Functioning Autism (HFA) would reveal lesser levels of sexual experience, lower levels of sexual and social behaviour, and less understanding of privacy on various subscales of the Sexualised Behaviour Scale. The results of this present study supported the hypothesis on all scales except Privacy and Sexualised Behaviour. Overall, compared to TD individuals, HFA individuals engaged in fewer social behaviours, had less sex education and fewer sexual experiences, had more pronounced concerns for the future, and showed similar levels of privacy knowledge and public sexualised behaviour. These findings suggest a need for specialised sex education programs for autistic populations; further, since social behaviour was significantly lower for autistic individuals and future concerns were higher, this suggests that sex education programs need to incorporate education about social rules to enhance social communication and understanding.

Sexual behavior in male adolescents and young adults with autism spectrum disorder and borderline/mild mental retardation.

Hellemans, H., Roeyers, H., Lepale, W., Dewaele, T., and Deboutte, D. Sexuality and Disability, Vol 28(2), Jun, 2010. pp. 93-104.

Abstract:

Group home caregivers of 20 institutionalized, male adolescents and young adults with Autistic Disorder (AD) and Borderline/Mild Mental Retardation (MR) and of 19 institutionalized, male adolescents and young adults with Borderline/Mild MR, without AD were interviewed with the Interview Sexuality Autism-Revised (ISA-R). Overall the individuals with AD were not significantly less sexually active than the individuals with MR. Masturbation was common in both groups. Individuals with MR had significantly more experience with relationships. No difference was found in the presence of inappropriate behavior. No difference was found in sexual orientation. Some deviant sexual behaviors (stereotyped sexual interests; sensory fascinations with a sexual connotation; paraphilia) were present in the group with AD, but not in the group with MR. A difference seemed to exist in the nature of sexual problems in the individuals with AD and MR, problems in individuals with AD being more related to an obsessive quality of the sexual behavior. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2010 APA, all rights reserved)

Addressing the sexuality and sex education of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Sullivan, A., Caterino, L. Education & Treatment of Children, Vol 31(3), Aug, 2008. pp. 381-394.

Abstract:

This paper addresses the need for sexuality education for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. It provides a brief overview of autism and Asperger's Syndrome as well as a summary of the existing literature regarding the sexuality of this population. The existing research suggests that there is a high frequency of sexual behaviors among individuals with these disorders. A

number of these behaviors may become problematic for caregivers and service providers because they violate societal norms regarding appropriate interpersonal behavior and may jeopardize the inclusion of this group in educational and community settings. The existing sex education programs for individuals with ASD are reviewed, highlighting the major components of programs tailored to this population.

p. 381-382

However, more recent literature indicates that most adolescents and adults with these disorders engage in sexual behaviors and many desire intimate relations with others (Haracopos & Pedersen, 1992; Kontstantareas & Lunsy, 1997; Ray, Marks & Bray-Garretson, 2004; Ruble & Dalrymple, 1993; Stokes & Kaur, 2005; Van Bourgondien, Reichle, & Palmer, 1997). Unfortunately, parents continue to report substantial concern regarding negative public perceptions of such behaviors and the subsequent treatment of their children (Realmuto & Ruble, 1999; Ruble & Dalrymple, 1993) and case studies have drawn attention to deviant sexual behaviors (e.g., public masturbation, fetishism, compulsive sexual behaviors, etc.) among this population (Ray et al., 2004; Realmuto & Ruble, 1999; Williams, Allard & Sears, 1996). Additionally, as the population of individuals with varying degrees of autism continues to grow, this will likely become even more of an issue in the near future.

IV. Internet Compulsions*

Young & Nabuco de Abreu's "Internet addiction: A handbook and guide to evaluation and treatment, 2011.

Productive & Recreational Use: Nearly 75% of the entire North American continent has access to the Internet. One study showed that the Internet population grew 380% from 2008 to 2009. (Delmonico & Griffin, 2011)

Abuse and Full-Blown Compulsion:

"A rose by any other name . . ."

- *Problematic Internet Use* (Caplan, 2010)
- *Internet abuse* (Morahan – Martin, 2008)
- *Internet addiction* (Young, 1988; Young & Rogers, 1998)
- *Pathological Internet Use* (Morahan-Martin & Schumacher, 2000)
- *Excessive Internet Use* (Wallace, 1999)
- *Compulsive Internet Use* (Van Den Eijnden, Meerkerk, Vermulst, & Engels, 2008)
- *Internet Dependence* (Scherer, 1997; Young, 1996)

Internet Compulsion Prevalence

- First researched in 1996 and presented at the American Psychological Association annual meeting. This study examined over 600 cases of heavy Internet users who exhibited clinical signs of addiction as measured through an adapted version of the DSM-IV for pathological gambling. (Young, 1996).
- 13% of campus students at the University of Texas exhibited signs of Internet dependency. (Shearer, 1997).
- 14% of students at a college in Rhode Island met the criteria. (Morahan-Martin, 1999)
- ABC news.com surveyed Internet users. From 17,000 responses the study estimated that 6% of Internet users fit the profile for Internet addiction. (Greenfield, 1999)
- A virtual mental health clinic had online visitors answer questions about mental problems. 15% met criteria for Internet addiction disorder. (Bai, 2001)
- 9% of Internet users fit the signs of addiction related to sexually explicit material on the Internet. (Cooper, A., 2002).
- Stanford University medical center found that one in eight Americans suffered from one or more signs of Internet addiction. (Aboujaoude, 2006)

"Generally, we can say that it seems that the prevalence of Internet addiction is the lowest among adolescents, with ranges of 4.6 to 4.7%. That number goes up among the general population of Internet users, with ranges of 6 to 15% of the general population fitting the signs of addiction; and that goes up to 13 to 18.4% among college students, who appeared to be the most at risk." (Young, K.S., 2011, p. 5-6)

Cybersex Compulsions

Scope of the Problem:

- 20 to 30% of online users visit sites and engage in online sexual activities. Nearly 80% could be considered "recreational users" and did not report any significant problems related to their online behavior. However, 20% of individuals struggle with some degree with problematic online sexual behavior. (Cooper, Delmonico, and Berg, 2000)
- 172 million Americans reported using the internet for sexual purposes (Cooper, 2004)
- 9% of internet users spent over 11 hours a week viewing sexual materials. Almost 9 million people in the United States need intervention for their sexually compulsive use of cybersex. There are an additional 15 million who are using cybersex moderately and show beginning signs of sexual compulsivity. (Cooper, Delmonico, and Burg, 2004)
- One out of eight American internet users have signs of compulsion. (Aboujaoude, 2006)
- 42.7% of internet users view pornography. (Ropelato, 2006)

Some interesting Statistics:

- Worldwide, consumers in South Africa are most likely to search for the word “porn.”
- In the United States Internet users in Elmhurst, Illinois are most likely to enter the word “porn” into the search field.
- 4.2 million websites contain pornography. (12% of the total number of websites).
- Each day there are 68 million pornographic search engine requests (25% of total search engine requests).
- 2.5 billion daily pornographic emails (8% of total).
- 1.5 billion porn peer-to-peer downloads each month (35% of all downloads).
(see Ropelato, 2006, Aboujaoude, 2006, Greenfield, 2002, Cooper, 1999, 2000, 2004, and Schwartz and Southern, 2000)

Follow the money:

- Sex on the Internet constituted the third largest economic sector on the web. (Cooper, 2000)
- 70% of online purchases were for sexually explicit materials (Cooper, 2002)
- Some of the greatest innovations on the web were developed by the sex industry (video streaming) (Cooper, 2000)
- In 2006 worldwide pornography revenues were \$97.06 billion. That’s larger revenues than Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple and Netflix combined. (Ropelato, 2006)

How are Men and Women different when it comes to Cybersex?

- The term “sex” was searched for as often by female consumers as it was by males. However, men performed 97 percent of the searches for the term “free porn.” (Ropelato, 2006)
- The majority of pornography consumers and those dealing with internet addictions are married, male heterosexuals. (Buzzell, 2005)
- Men prefer cybersex because it removes performance anxiety (Young, 2000)
- Historically men were more likely to view online pornography, while women are more likely to engage in erotic chat. (Young, 2000)
- However, more recent research shows one of every three visitors to pornography websites is likely to be female and nearly 60% of those who use the search term *adult sex* on Internet search engines are female (Family Safe Media, 2010).

Cybersex and Adolescents

Teens spend an average of seven hours per day exposed to various technologies (cell phone, Internet, gaming, etc.) (Rideout, Foehr, & Roberts, 2010). Research by Family Safe Media (2010) and Wolak (2007) shows:

- 90% of kids age 8-16 have been exposed to porn (most while doing homework).
- 42% of adolescents have seen online porn in the past year.
- 35% of teen boys and 8% of teen girls have intentionally visited porn sites.
- The top search terms used by teens online include *teen sex* and *cybersex*.
- 20% of teens have sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures / videos of themselves.
- Nearly ½ of adolescents have sent sexually suggestive text messages or e-mails to someone.
- 35% of all teen peer-to-peer texting is pornographic.
- The prevalence of sexting amongst adolescents is 1% (Wolak, Finkelhor, and Mitchell, 2012)
- 2.5% of youths (Mitchell et al. 2011)
- 4% of youths (Pew Internet Survey – Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010) experienced solicitation online.
- 6% of youth reported experiencing solicitation over two assessments. (Growing Up With Media Survey, 2006)

Mitchell & Ybarra (2007) found that certain online behaviors place youth at higher risk for sexual exploitation.

1. Interacting with unknown people.
2. Having unknown people on buddies or friends lists.

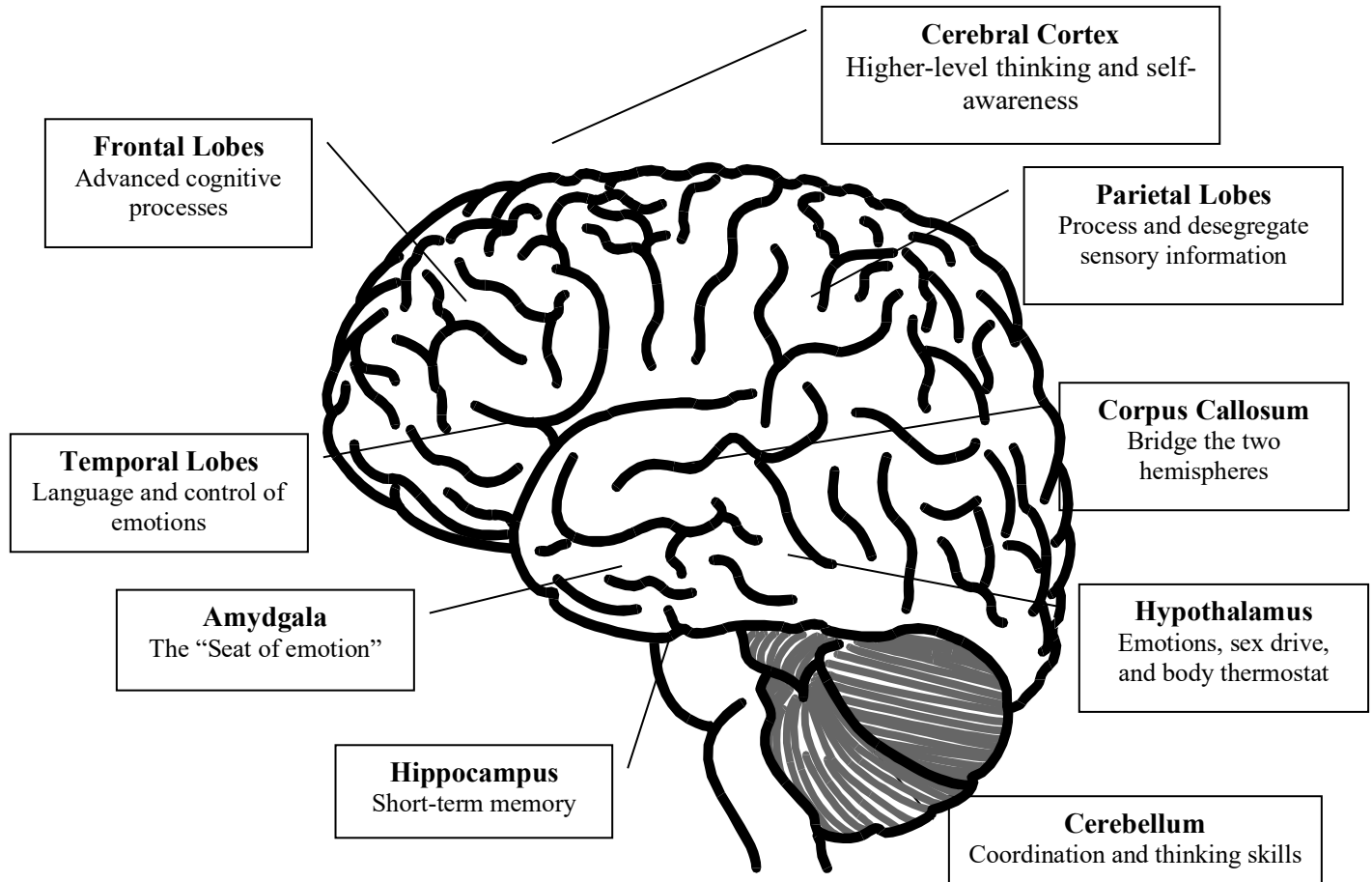
- 3. Using the Internet to make rude or nasty comments.
- 4. Sending personal information to unknown people met online.
- 5. Downloading images from file-sharing programs.
- 6. Visiting X-rated sites on purpose.
- 7. Using the Internet to embarrass or harass people.
- 8. Talking online to unknown people about sex.

Research by Family Safe Media (2010) shows:

- 1-in-7 adolescents have received unwanted sexual solicitations in the past year.
- “Gnutella” (peer-to-peer site) has 116,000 requests for “child pornography” every day.
- Top 20 internet search terms include “*teen sex*” & “*teen porn*.”
- 100,000 websites offer child pornography.
- Of those arrested for possessing child porn:
 - 83% of images were ages 6-12
 - 43% were of children ages 3-6
 - 19% were of children 3 years and younger

ETHOLOGY OF INTERNET COMPULSIONS

A. Neuropsychological Model (“It’s a Brain-thing.”)



The brain is composed of two types of cells, glial and neurons. Glial cells are the “glue” that binds cells together; they compose 90% of the cells in the brain. Neuron cells are associated with learning. They are the body’s communicators and constantly strike up conversations all over the brain.

Each neuron can have a thousand or more dendrites extending from it. The dendrites send and receive information from other neurons. The brain selectively strengthens or prunes neurons based on activity. The more dendrite receptors there are, the better the brain cells’ ability to network with one another. Choices made during adolescence can affect a person’s brain for the rest of their life.

Myelin – a fatty substance made of glial – is produced to insulate the neurons. Myelin covers the axons of neurons and enables information to travel efficiently. Myelinated tissue is referred to as white matter.

The male brain has a greater proportion of white matter than the female brain. The female brain has a greater proportion of gray matter. It is speculated that the additional white matter enable men to transfer information easily to all regions of the brain – enhancing their spatial abilities and giving them an advantage in matters of navigation, mathematical problem-solving and aiming at targets. The abundance of gray matter in women might allow for more efficiency of thought processes and a greater ability to process information, which perhaps explains the female’s strong language skills and the ability to multitask.

“It’s a Brain-thing!”

The **hypothalamus** is responsible for emotions, sexual desire and controlling the body’s thermostat. It is larger and thicker in men than in women. Love and pleasure are particularly affected by the chemical dopamine – the all-time feel-good neurotransmitter.

The **temporal lobes** process language and emotional behavior. They do not finish growing gray matter or begin the process of pruning and myelination until the age of sixteen.

The **frontal lobes** are responsible for cognitive processes (abstract thinking, speaking, reading, writing, math, music, the ability to analyze, apply and evaluate.). It is one of the last parts of the brain to receive myelin. The frontal lobes are in charge of taming the beast within us. Until the frontal lobes are completely formed, teens rely overmuch on their **amygdala**.

The **cerebral cortex** (or neocortex) is the wrinkled outer covering of the brain, the site of higher-level thinking and self-awareness. It is the most developed part of the brain and allows us to problem solve, think critically, and make decisions.

The **parietal lobes** process and desegregate sensory information like sights, sounds and smells. The parietal lobes do not complete the creation of gray matter until about the age of twelve, and only then do they start pruning.

Attention Deficit Disorder / Hyperactivity Disorder involves a compromise of the frontal lobes which interferes with the ability to inhibit **limbic system** impulses.

Paying attention serves two primary purposes, the first is survival and the second is maintaining pleasurable feelings. The brain is fascinated by novelty and emotion. However, the brain also craves discernible patterns.

Incentive Salience:

The Incentive Salience Circuitry craves feel-good chemicals. These include Dopamine, Norepinephrine, Serotonin, Endorphins, Adrenaline, Oxytocin and Vasopressin

“The underlying physiological mechanism of incentive salience is postulated to involve mesocorticolimbic brain systems that involve dopamine activation. The relationship to brain dopamine states makes incentive salience vulnerable to enhancement by psychostimulant drugs that activate dopamine systems. Enduring neural sensitization of dopamine-related mesolimbic systems induced by repeated exposures to drugs is the basis for the incentive-sensitization theory of drug addiction. Sensitization of dopamine-related systems by binging on drugs such as heroin and cocaine is thought to produce long-lasting hyper-excitability of the brain’s mesocorticolimbic system and to result in compulsive ‘wanting’ to take drugs and in cue-triggered relapse. Sensitized ‘wanting’ may effectively trigger relapse even when addicts may not derive much pleasure from the drugs, nor expect to derive much pleasure, and even long after the addict is free of withdrawal symptoms.”
(Zang, et.al., 2009,)

Dopamine *“is one of a number of neurotransmitters found in the central nervous system. Dopamine has received special attention from psychopharmacologists because of its apparent role in the regulation of mood and affect and because of its role in motivation and reward processes. Although there are several dopamine systems in the brain, the mesolimbic dopamine system appears to be the most important for motivational processes. Some addictive drugs produce their potent effects on behavior by enhancing mesolimbic dopamine activity (Di Chiara, 2000). The*

neurochemical connection to behavioral addiction such as gambling or food have yet to be made, but early studies have suggested that neurochemical processes play a role in all addiction, whether to substances or to behaviors. (Di Chirara, 2000).

The proposed model of brain reward circuitry in addiction involves the increased dopamine when certain areas of the brain are stimulated. The brain has specialized pathways that mediate reward and motivation. Direct electrical stimulation of the medial forebrain bundle (MFB) produces intensely rewarding effects. Psychomotor stimulants and opiates can also activate this reward system by their pharmacological actions in the nucleus accumbens and ventral tegmental area, respectively. The ventral tegmental action of opiates probably involves an endogenous opioid peptide system (ENK), but the anatomical location of that system has not yet been identified. Natural rewards (e.g., food, sex) and other substances (e.g., caffeine, ethanol, nicotine) may also activate this brain reward system.” (Young & Nabuco de Abreu, 2011, p. 10)

Emotions: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

- Emotions linked to our moral sense awaken slowly in the mind. Brain imaging shows a person needs six to eight seconds to fully respond to stories of virtue or social pain.
- *“The study raises questions about the emotional cost - particularly for the developing brain - of heavy reliance on a rapid stream of news snippets obtained through television, online feeds or social networks such as Twitter.”*
- The lead researcher notes, *“If things are happening too fast, you may not ever fully experience emotions about other people’s psychological states and that would have implications for your morality.”* (Immordino-Yang, May 2009; and media release by Carl Marziani on April 14, 2009. *Nobler Instincts Take Time*. National Institutes on Health, the Mathers Foundation and the Brain and Creativity Institute.)

Flow Phenomenon. *Flow* is a form of trance that usually involves a complex activity requiring a certain level of skill and effort. The activity blends with one's consciousness. For instance, an online gamer focuses only on the game and nothing else. In this trance state, the game feels "smooth." During flow, other sensations are usually suppressed or completely ignored. A typical indicator is an altered perception of time; the activity feels like several minutes long, where in reality it could have been several hours long. (Chou & Ting, 2003; Rau, Peng, & Yang, 2006; Wan & Chiou, 2006a).

Inexperienced and experienced players have difficulty leaving the game due to the flow effect and the related alteration of time perception. (Rau, Peng, & Yang, 2006). Inexperienced players can enter flow faster (already in the first hour of play), whereas more experienced players need more time. This is one of the signs of addiction – increasing tolerance. A player needs an ever-increasing amount of time in the game to achieve the sought after flow sensation.

B. “It’s a boredom thing.” Arousal Habituation

The Coolidge Effect

- The male brain spikes dopamine to novel (new) sex partners seen in porn.
- This triggers a long-lasting protein called “Delta PhosB” which promotes bingeing.
- In turn the male develops a numbed response to routine sexual opportunities.
- Develops hyper-reactivity to pornography.

Morton and Boris B. Gorzalka (2015) explain the *Coolidge Effect* and *Arousal Habituation*.

The effect on sexual functioning of partner novelty versus partner familiarity has been examined in nonhuman species, often driven by the potential for extrapolation to human behavior. In laboratory studies, a male typically copulates with an estrous female several times and then stops. When the original female is replaced with a new estrous female, the male begins to copulate with the novel female (Symons, 1979). This phenomenon of renewed sexual interest in response to a novel female is referred to as the Coolidge Effect (Wilson, Kuehn, & Beach 1963), and has been the focus of a large number of studies in nonhuman species. . . It is clear from the literature in nonhuman species that having a novel partner increases the motivation of several species to engage in copulatory behavior. (pp.593-594)

. . . Sexual behavior is clearly fundamental to evolutionary theory, given that evolutionary success is based upon producing the maximum number of descendants. Consequently, an important focus of evolutionary theorists has been to determine which mating strategies best accomplished this goal for our ancestors. It is clear that in most modern societies, men and women are no longer trying to produce the maximum number of offspring possible. However, modern humans have inherited the adaptations that led to their ancestors fulfilling this goal. (p.594)

. . . Most laboratory studies in this area have employed similar methodology. During habituation trials the same erotic stimulus (e.g., an erotic film clip) is shown repetitively, it is then followed by a novel stimulus (e.g., a different erotic film clip), and then again followed by the original stimulus. Both physiological and subjective arousal are measured throughout. Parallels are often drawn between exposure to familiar versus unfamiliar erotic stimuli and familiar versus unfamiliar sexual partners. (p.597)

The majority of this research has been conducted with male participants. Habituation of sexual arousal in response to a familiar stimulus has been found to occur in response to a number of different forms of sexual stimuli (Lalumiere & Quinsey, 1998; O’Donohue & Geer, 1985; Zillmann & Bryant, 1988). . . Studies have also consistently found a reinstatement of sexual arousal in the novel stimulus trial. This has been primarily reported to occur with erotic film stimuli (Both, Laan, & Everaerd, 2011; Kelley & Musialowski, 1986; Koukounas & Over, 1993, 1999, 2000). The presence of this effect in response to sexual fantasy, however, has been less consistent (Koukanous & Over 1993; Smith & Over, 1987). (pp.597-598)

A small number of studies have examined habituation of female sexual arousal. Laan and Everaerd (1995) found no differences in changes to sexual arousal between women presented the same erotic slide, and those who were shown different slides. They attributed this to a floor effect, as the slides yielded low levels of sexual arousal. Replication of this study with the inclusion of film stimuli and a greater number of trials resulted in lower levels

of physiological arousal in the constant condition, and in increase in subjective and physiological arousal with the introduction of novel stimuli. However, participants in the constant condition still showed considerable subjective and physiological arousal. Other research has found repeated presentations of erotic film clips, as well as repeatedly engaging in the same sexual fantasy, reduces subjective and physiological arousal in women, and novel presentations of the stimuli lead to a recovery of sexual arousal (Both et al., 2011; Meuwissen & Over, 1990). (pp.597-598)

There is preliminary support for the hypothesis that familiarity reduces sexual arousal and desire. Laboratory studies have found a clear reduction in sexual arousal in response to familiar sexual stimuli in men (Both et al., 2011; Kelley & Musialowski, 1986; Koukounas & Over, 1993, 1999, 2000, 2001; Lalumiere & Quinsey, 1998; O'Donohue & Geer, 1985; Zillmann & Bryant, 1988). This also appears to be the case in women (Both et al., 2011; Meuwissen & Over, 1990). . . Several areas of research provide support for the hypothesis that novelty produces increases in sexual arousal and desire. The laboratory studies consistently revealed that novel stimuli produced increases in sexual arousal in men (Both et al., 2011; Kelley & Musialowski, 1986; Koukounas & Over, 1993, 1999, 2000, 2001; Lalumiere & Quinsey, 1998), and women (Both et al., 2011; Meuwissen & Over, 1990). . . In regards to sex differences, both men and women habituate to repeated stimuli and exhibit increased arousal to novel stimuli in laboratory studies (Both et al., 2001; Kelley & Musialowski, 1986; Koukounas & Over, 1993, 1999, 2001; Lalumiere & Quinsey, 1998; Meuwissen & Over, 1990). (pp.602-603)

This material is quoted from the following study:

Role of partner novelty in sexual functioning: A review.

Morton, Heather. Gorzalka, Boris B..

Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy, Vol 41(6), Nov, 2015. pp. 593-609.

Abstract:

This review investigates whether sexual desire and arousal decline in response to partner familiarity, increase in response to partner novelty, and show differential responding in men and women. These questions were considered through the perspective of two leading evolutionary theories regarding human mating strategies: sexual strategies theory and attachment fertility theory. The hypotheses emerging from these theories were evaluated through a critical analysis of several areas of research including habituation of arousal to erotic stimuli, preferences regarding number of sexual partners, the effect of long-term monogamous relationships on sexual arousal and desire, and prevalence and risk factors associated with extradyadic behavior. The current literature best supports the predictions made by sexual strategies theory in that sexual functioning has evolved to promote short-term mating. Sexual arousal and desire appear to decrease in response to partner familiarity and increase in response to partner novelty in men and women. Evidence to date suggests this effect may be greater in men.

Additional research on Arousal Habituation includes:

Focusing 'hot' or focusing 'cool': Attentional mechanisms in sexual arousal in men and women.

Both, Stephanie. Laan, Ellen. Everaerd, Walter.

Journal of Sexual Medicine, Vol 8(1), Jan, 2011. pp. 167-179.

Abstract:

Introduction: Knowledge about the regulation of sexual emotion may add to the understanding of sexual problems such as diminished sexual desire and hypersexuality. Aim: To investigate the regulation of sexual arousal by means of attentional focus in healthy sexually functional men and women. Method: Using a habituation design with attentional strategies, it was investigated whether

a focus on hot, emotional information of sexual stimuli would sustain or amplify sexual responses, whereas a focus on cool, cognitive information would weaken sexual responses. Main Outcome Measures: Genital response (in women measured by vaginal photoplethysmography assessing vaginal pulse amplitude, and in men measured by mechanical penile strain gauge assessing penile circumference) and subjective report of sexual arousal and absorption. Results: Attenuation of sexual feelings by attentional focus was observed, with stronger sexual feelings under the hot focus condition than under the cool focus condition. Also, sexual feelings diminished during repeated erotic stimulation, and increased with the introduction of novel stimulation, indicating habituation and novelty effects. Contrary to the expectations, the hot attentional focus did not preclude habituation of sexual arousal. Conclusions: Attentional focus has substantial regulatory effects on subjective sexual arousal. Taking a participant and emotion-oriented focus rather than a spectator and stimulus-oriented focus while viewing erotic stimuli, enhances feelings of sexual arousal. Implications for the treatment of hypoactive sexual desire, sexual arousal disorder, and hypersexuality are discussed, as well as future directions for studying regulation of sexual emotion.

Habituation of male sexual arousal: Effects of attentional focus.

Koukounas, Eric. Over, Ray

Biological Psychology, Vol 58(1), Sep, 2001. pp. 49-64.

Abstract:

Three experiments are reported with a total of 24 men (aged 18–31 yrs) demonstrating that levels of penile tumescence and subjective sexual arousal are greater when men employ participant-oriented rather than spectator-oriented attentional focus while viewing an erotic film segment. Under each instructional set, there was a reduction in sexual arousal during repeated erotic stimulation. As sexual arousal habituated, the men reported feeling less absorbed during erotic stimulation. When these associated changes in attentional focus (absorption) were partialled out through analysis of covariance, sexual arousal remained relatively stable over trials, suggesting that sexual arousal is less likely to habituate if attentional focus remains constant during repeated erotic stimulation. Further directions for studying associations between habituation of sexual arousal and cognitive processing are discussed.

Changes in the magnitude of the eyeblink startle response during habituation of sexual arousal.

Koukounas, Eric. Over, Ray

Behaviour Research and Therapy, Vol 38(6), Jun, 2000. pp. 573-584.

Abstract:

Modulation of the startle response was used to examine emotional processing of sexual stimulation across trials within a session. Eyeblink startle was elicited by a probe (burst of intense white noise) presented intermittently while men (mean age 22.8 yrs old) were viewing an erotic film segment. Repeated display of the film segment resulted in a progressive decrease in physical & subjective sexual arousal. Habituation of sexual arousal was accompanied by a reduction over trials in the extent the Ss felt absorbed when viewing the erotic stimulus and by an increase over trials in the magnitude of the eyeblink startle response. Replacing the familiar stimulus by a novel erotic stimulus increased in sexual arousal, absorption and reduced startle (novelty effect), while dishabituation was evident for all 3 response measures when the familiar stimulus was reintroduced. This pattern of results indicates that with repeated presentation an erotic stimulus is experienced not only as less sexually arousing but also less appetitive and absorbing. The question of whether habituation of sexual arousal is mediated by changes in attentional and affective processing over trials is discussed, as are clinical contexts in which eyeblink startle can be used in studying aspects of sexual functioning.

Allocation of attentional resources during habituation and dishabituation of male sexual arousal.

Koukounas, Eric. Over, Ray

Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol 28(6), Dec, 1999. pp. 539-552.

Abstract:

A secondary-task probe (tone) was presented intermittently while 16 men (aged 18–30 yrs) viewed erotic film segments across a session involving 18 trials with the same film segment (habituation), then 2 trials with different film segments (novelty) and 2 trials with reinstatement of the original segment (dishabituation). Reaction time to the tone (an index of the extent processing resources were being committed to the erotic stimulus) shifted during the session in parallel with changes that occurred in penile tumescence and subjective sexual arousal. The decrease in sexual arousal over the 1st 18 trials in the session was accompanied by a progressively faster reaction to the tone, novel stimulation led to recovery of sexual arousal and a slower reaction to the tone, and on trials 21 and 22 sexual arousal and reaction time levels were above the values that prevailed immediately prior to novel stimulation. Results are discussed with reference to the relationship between habituation and attention.

Pavlovian conditioning of sexual interests in human males.

Lalumière, Martin L., Quinsey, Vernon L.

Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol 27(3), Jun, 1998. pp. 241-252.

Abstract:

Pavlovian conditioning of the human male sexual response may be involved in the ontogenetic development of sexual interests and may be responsible for individual differences. The authors attempted to demonstrate Pavlovian conditioning of sexual interests in a nonclinical sample of 10 adult male college students. Ss were exposed to 11 pairings of a slide of a moderately attractive, partially nude female target and a highly arousing videotape depiction of heterosexual sexual interactions. 10 other Ss were exposed to 11 presentations of the target alone. Ss exposed to both the target and the videotape contingency showed a 10% relative increase in sexual arousal to the target. Ss exposed to the target alone showed an 11% relative decrease in sexual arousal to the target. This group difference is interpreted as resulting from both conditioning and habituation.

A clinical investigation of the possible effects of long-term habituation of sexual arousal in assisted covert sensitization.

Plaud, Joseph J., Gaither, George A.

Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry, Vol 28(4), Dec, 1997. pp. 281-290.

Abstract:

Presents a case study of a 24-yr-old male sexual offender that investigated the possibility that at least part of the clinical effects of a widely used behavior therapy technique for sexual deviations, covert sensitization, may directly involve habituation processes. At 30- and 90-day followup to completion of 6 sessions of covert sensitization treatment, the S clearly showed clinical progress in both his physiological and self-report of arousal toward sexually deviant stimuli (female child coercion and fondling, and male child fondling). However, while expected decrements in sexual arousal to sexually inappropriate stimuli were observed, decrements in sexual arousal and self-report were also observed for sexually appropriate stimuli which received no aversive consequences, only repeated stimulus presentation over time. It is argued that habituation processes need further empirical investigation as a potential behavioral mechanism in the beneficial clinical effects usually noted in covert sensitization procedures.

The long-term habituation of sexual arousal in human males: A crossover design.

Plaud, Joseph J., Gaither, George A., Henderson, Susan, Amato Devitt, Mary K.

The Psychological Record, Vol 47(3), Sum 1997. pp. 385-398.

Abstract:

Short-term and long-term habituation of sexual arousal was investigated in a crossover design. Nine undergraduate males completed 6 sessions semiweekly for 3 consecutive weeks. Each session consisted of 15 stimulus periods (sexually explicit audio stimuli) and 15 detumescence periods. During one half of the sessions Ss were exposed to 15 different scripts (varied condition); during the remaining sessions Ss were exposed to the same script 45 times (15 trials for each of 3 sessions, the constant condition). The constant stimulus condition was the experimental habituation condition, whereas the varied stimuli served as a control for physiological fatigue. Ss showed systematic decreases in penile responding within the 2nd and 3rd constant stimulus conditions, but

no systematic decreases were noted in any of the varied stimulus conditions. Ss evidenced significant long-term decreases in physiological responding only in the constant stimulus condition as well as short-term decreases in subjective report of arousal. Long-term habituation of sexual arousal may be related to molar behaviors such as promiscuity and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and may be tied to sociobiological accounts of long-term sexual behavior patterns in human males.

Habituation of female sexual arousal to slides and film.

Laan, Ellen. Everaerd, Walter

Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol 24(5), Oct, 1995. pp. 517-541.

Abstract:

Examined the habituation of genital and subjective sexual arousal to slides and films in women. In Exp 1, 32 women (18–30 yrs old) were assigned to 1 of 2 conditions: They were exposed either to the same erotic slide on repeated trials, or to various slides. Genital response, subjective sexual arousal and emotional experiences were measured. In Exp 2, habituation responses of 42 women (18–37 yrs old) to erotic film excerpts were assessed. In both studies, repeated erotic stimulation was followed by a novel erotic stimulus, to assess the effect of a novel stimulation in a sequence of uniform stimulations. Results show that slides yielded little sexual arousal; a small decline in genital responding was recorded. Ss sustained significant levels of genital arousal even after 21 trials of uniform stimulation. Zygomatic activity decreased over trials, suggesting decreasing positive effect as a result of uniform stimulation.

Habituation of sexual arousal: Product and process.

Over, Ray. Koukounas, Eric

Annual Review of Sex Research, Vol VI, 1995. pp. 187-223.

Abstract:

Surveys the methodological issues in assessment of sexual arousal habituation, prior to a review of psychophysiological studies in which sexual arousal during repeated erotic stimulation within a single session or across sessions has been measured. Research bearing on cognitive, attentional, and affective states that change over trials in parallel with sexual arousal is then discussed in the context of whether habituation of sexual arousal can be attributed to changes in information processing over the course of repeated erotic stimulation. The authors consider whether identifying the nature of and basis for habituation of sexual arousal has wider implications for understanding sexual functioning.

Habituation and dishabituation of male sexual arousal.

Koukounas, Eric. Over, Ray

Behaviour Research and Therapy, Vol 31(6), Jul, 1993. pp. 575-585.

Abstract:

16 men were tested under conditions where they viewed the same segment of erotic film on many occasions or engaged repeatedly in the same erotic fantasy. Decrements in penile tumescence and subjective sexual arousal over trials were accompanied by reports from Ss that they felt less absorbed in the events depicted in film or fantasy (and in the case of fantasy, that the images they formed became less vivid). Results show that habituation (reduction in physiological and subjective measures of sexual arousal over trials) was less when allowance was made for the manner in which absorption (and in vividness of imagery in the case of fantasy) changed during erotic stimulation. Increases in sexual arousal when novel erotic stimulation was introduced following habituation, as well as the dishabituation found when the original stimulus was reinstated, also correlated with the extent absorption and vividness of imagery shifted under these conditions

The long-term habituation of sexual arousal in the human male.

O'Donohue, William. Plaud, Joseph J.

Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry, Vol 22(2), Jun, 1991. pp. 87-96.

Abstract:

Examined whether long-term habituation of male sexual arousal would occur in response to repeated presentations of a constant eliciting stimulus. Five undergraduate volunteers each had 6 sessions at 1-wk intervals of 15 presentations of erotic audiotapes. For 3 wks, the same audiotape was presented, and for each of the other 3 sessions a different audiotape was presented at every stimulus trial. As indicated by penile plethysmography and self-report, in the constant stimulus conditions the criteria for long-term habituation generally were met. By contrast, responses to variable stimuli remained consistently high. Long-term habituation may underlie low sexual desire disorders and promiscuity in male homosexuals.

Habituation and dishabituation of female sexual arousal.

Meuwissen, Ingrid. Over, Ray

Behaviour Research and Therapy, Vol 28(3), 1990. pp. 217-226.

Abstract:

Measures of subjective and physiological sexual arousal were taken within a session while 8 female undergraduates either viewed the same segment of erotic film on many occasions or employed the same sexual fantasy over a number of trials. For both film and fantasy there were significant reductions in subjective sexual arousal and average pulse amplitude during the course of repeated erotic stimulation. Subsequent presentation of novel erotic stimuli led to recovery in sexual arousal. Bases for habituation and dishabituation of female sexual arousal are discussed.

C. Cognitive-Behavioral Model (“*It’s a Thought-thing.*”)

Deindividuation is feeling anonymous in one’s environment, resulting in behaviors contrary to one’s typical pattern of behavior. This term has been in social psychology literature since the early 1970s. Johnson and Downing (1979) concluded that anonymity causes individuals to pay more attention to their external cues and environment, and less to their own self-awareness and internal guides. The field of Internet psychology applies this concept to the electronic world. McKenna and Green (2002, p.61) reported that people “*tend to behave more bluntly when communicating by e-mail or participating in other electronic venues such as newsgroups, then they would in a face-to-face situation.*” **Deindividuation** combined with the **online disinhibition** effect creates powerful force in the online world where individuals write, speak, and behave in ways that are often egodystonic to their real-world interactions.

Online Disinhibition

Suler (2004) coined the term **online disinhibition effect** to describe the phenomenon that people communicate and behave differently online than in the real world. He identified six characteristics that are often present when online disinhibition occurs.

DISSOCIATIVE ANONYMITY (“*You don’t know me.*”)

As people move around the Internet, others they encounter can’t easily determine who they are. Usernames and e-mail addresses may be visible, but this information may not reveal much about a person, especially if the username is contrived and the e-mail address derives from a large Internet service provider. Technologically savvy, motivated users may be able to detect a computer’s IP address, but for the most part others only know what a person tells them. If so desired, people can hide some or all of their identity. They also can alter their identities. As the word “anonymous” indicates, people can have no name or at least not their real name.

This anonymity is one of the principle factors that creates the disinhibition effect. When people have the opportunity to separate their actions online from their in-person lifestyle and identity, they feel less vulnerable about self-disclosing and acting out. Whatever they say or do can’t be directly linked to the rest of their lives. In a process of dissociation, they don’t have to own their behavior by acknowledging it within the full context of an integrated online/offline identity. The online self becomes a compartmentalized self. In the case of expressed hostilities or other deviant actions, the person can avert responsibility for those behaviors, almost as if superego restrictions and moral cognitive processes have been temporarily suspended from the online psyche. In fact, people might even convince themselves that those online behaviors “aren’t me at all.”

INVISIBILITY (“*You can’t see me.*”)

In many online environments, especially those that are text-driven, people cannot see each other. When people visit web sites, message boards, and even some chat rooms, other people may not even know they are present at all—with the possible exception of web masters and other users who have access to software tools that can detect traffic through the environment, assuming they have the inclination to keep an eye on an individual person, who is one of maybe hundreds or thousands of users.

This invisibility gives people the courage to go places and do things that they otherwise wouldn’t. Although this power to be concealed overlaps with anonymity—because anonymity is the concealment of identity—there are some important differences. In the text communication of e-mail, chat, instant messaging, and blogs, people may know a great deal about each other’s identities and lives. However, they still cannot see or hear each other.

Even with everyone’s identity known, the opportunity to be physically invisible amplifies the disinhibition effect. People don’t have to worry about how they look or sound when they type a message. They don’t have to worry about how others look or sound in response to what they say. Seeing a frown, a shaking head, a sigh, a bored expression, and many other subtle and not so subtle signs of disapproval or indifference can inhibit what people are willing to express. According to traditional psychoanalytic theory, the analyst sits

behind the patient in order to remain a physically ambiguous figure, revealing no body language or facial expression, so that the patient has free range to discuss whatever he or she wants without feeling inhibited by how the analyst is physically reacting. In everyday relationships, people sometimes avert their eyes when discussing something personal and emotional. Avoiding eye contact and face-to-face visibility disinhibits people. Text communication offers a built-in opportunity to keep one's eyes averted.

ASYNCHRONICITY (*"See you later."*)

In e-mail and message boards, communication is asynchronous. People don't interact with each other in real time. Others may take minutes, hours, days, or even months to reply. Not having to cope with someone's immediate reaction disinhibits people. In real life, the analogy might be speaking to someone, magically suspending time before that person can reply, and then returning to the conversation when one is willing and able to hear the response.

In a continuous feedback loop that reinforces some behaviors and extinguishes others, moment-by-moment responses from others powerfully shapes the ongoing flow of self-disclosure and behavioral expression, usually in the direction of conforming to social norms. In e-mail and message boards, where there are delays in that feedback, people's train of thought may progress more steadily and quickly towards deeper expressions of benign and toxic disinhibition that avert social norms. Some people may even experience asynchronous communication as "running away" after posting a message that is personal, emotional, or hostile. It feels safe putting it "out there" where it can be left behind. In some cases, as Kali Munro, an online psychotherapist, aptly describes it, the person may be participating in an "emotional hit and run" (K. Munro, unpublished observations, 2003).

SOLIPSISTIC INTROJECTION (*"It's all in my head."*)

Absent face-to-face cues combined with text communication can alter self-boundaries. People may feel that their mind has merged with the mind of the online companion. Reading another person's message might be experienced as a voice within one's head, as if that person's psychological presence and influence have been assimilated or introjected into one's psyche.

Of course, one may not know what the other person's voice actually sounds like, so in one's mind a voice is assigned to that person. In fact, consciously or unconsciously, a person may even assign a visual image to what he or she thinks the person looks and behaves like. The online companion then becomes a character within one's intrapsychic world, a character shaped partly by how the person actually presents him or herself via text communication, but also by one's internal representational system based on personal expectations, wishes, and needs. Transference reactions encourage the shaping of this perceived introjected character when similarities exist between the online companion and significant others in one's life, and when one fills in ambiguities in the personality of the online companion with images of past relationships, or from novels and film. As the introjected character becomes more elaborate and subjectively "real," a person may start to experience the typed-text conversation as taking place inside one's mind, within the imagination, within one's intrapsychic world—not unlike authors typing out a play or novel.

Even when online relationships are not involved, many people carry on these kinds of conversations in their imagination throughout the day. People fantasize about flirting, arguing with a boss, or honestly confronting a friend about what they feel. In their imagination, where it's safe, people feel free to say and do things they would not in reality. At that moment, reality is one's imagination. Online text communication can evolve into an introjected psychological tapestry in which a person's mind weaves these fantasy role plays, usually unconsciously and with considerable disinhibition. Cyberspace may become a stage, and we are merely players.

When reading another's message, one might also "hear" the online companion's voice using one's own voice. People may subvocalize as they read, thereby projecting the sound of their voice into the other person's text. This conversation may be experienced unconsciously as talking to/with oneself, which encourages disinhibition because talking with oneself feels safer than talking with others. For some people, talking with oneself may feel like confronting oneself, which may unleash many powerful psychological issues.

DISSOCIATIVE IMAGINATION (“It’s just a game.”)

If we combine the opportunity to easily escape or dissociate from what happens online with the psychological process of creating imaginary characters, we get a somewhat different force that magnifies disinhibition. Consciously or unconsciously, people may feel that the imaginary characters they “created” exist in a different space, that one’s online persona along with the online others live in an make-believe dimension, separate and apart from the demands and responsibilities of the real world. They split or dissociate online fiction from offline fact. Emily Finch, an author and criminal lawyer who studies identity theft in cyberspace, has suggested that some people see their online life as a kind of game with rules and norms that don’t apply to everyday living (E. Finch, unpublished observations, 2002). Once they turn off the computer and return to their daily routine, they believe they can leave behind that game and their gameidentity. They relinquish their responsible for what happens in a make-believe play world that has

The effect of this dissociative imagination surfaces clearly in fantasy game environments in which a user consciously creates an imaginary character, but it also can influence many dimensions of online living. For people with a predisposed difficulty in distinguishing personal fantasy from social reality, the distinction between online fantasy environments and online social environments may be blurred. In our modern media-driven lifestyles, the power of computer and video game imagination can infiltrate reality testing.

Although anonymity amplifies the effect of dissociative imagination, dissociative imagination and dissociative anonymity usually differ in the complexity of the dissociated sector of the self. Under the influence of anonymity, the person may attempt an invisible non-identity, resulting in a reducing, simplifying, or compartmentalizing of self-expression. In dissociative imagination, the expressed but split-off self may evolve greatly in complexity.

MINIMIZATION OF STATUS AND AUTHORITY (“We’re equals.”)

While online a person’s status in the face-to-face world may not be known to others and may not have as much impact. Authority figures express their status and power in their dress, body language, and in the trappings of their environmental settings. The absence of those cues in the text environments of cyberspace reduces the impact of their authority.

Even if people do know something about an authority figure’s offline status and power, that elevated position may have less of an effect on the person’s online presence and influence. In many environments on the Internet, everyone has an equal opportunity to voice him or herself. Everyone— regardless of status, wealth, race, or gender— starts off on a level playing field. Although one’s identity in the outside world ultimately may shape power in cyberspace, what mostly determines the influence on others is one’s skill in communicating (including writing skills), persistence, the quality of one’s ideas, and technical know-how.

People are reluctant to say what they really think as they stand before an authority figure. A fear of disapproval and punishment from on high dampens the spirit. But online, in what feels more like a peer relationship—with the appearances of authority minimized—people are much more willing to speak out and misbehave.

The traditional Internet philosophy holds that everyone is an equal, that the purpose of the net is to share ideas and resources among peers. The net itself is designed with no centralized control, and as it grows, with seemingly no end to its potential for creating new environments, many of its inhabitants see themselves as innovative, independent-minded explorers and pioneers. This atmosphere and this philosophy contribute to the minimizing of authority.

D. PROPERTIES OF THE INTERNET. (“It’s the Internet, stupid.”)

Griffiths (2003) found a number of factors that make online activities potentially addictive. They include (with some creative license by Dr. Simpson):

Accessibility. Increase accessibility to Internet activities enables the individual to rationalize involvement by removing previously restrictive barriers such as time constraints emanating from occupational and social commitments.

Affordability. Socializing, gaming, porn and gambling are all dramatically cheaper online.

Anonymity. The Internet allows users to behave without fear of being identified.

Convenience. Online applications provide convenient mediums to engage in online behaviors. A person’s behaviors occur in a familiar and comfortable environment, thus reducing the feeling of risk and allowing even more adventurous behaviors.

Escape. The Internet experience can provide an emotional or mental escape, which further reinforces the behavior.

Immersion and Dissociation. This can include losing track of time, feelings of being someone else, blacking out, and being in a trancelike state.

Disinhibition. The Internet makes people less inhibited (Joinson, 1998). Online users appear to open up more quickly online and reveal themselves emotionally much faster than in the off-line world.

Event frequency. The more a person goes online, the more familiar the places and behaviors become.

Interactivity. Interactions online allows for instant reactions from other humans.

Simulation. Many aspects of the Internet recreate real-world places but allow for the feeling of greater safety and control.

Associability. Ironically, the Internet can also create an asocial experience where an individual does not reveal their true self, but rather the “social self” they have created for online interactions.

E. Social Connection (“It’s a People-Thing.”)

“In 1985, the General Social Survey (GSS) collected the first nationally representative data on the confidants with whom Americans discuss important matters. In the 2004 GSS the authors replicated those questions to assess social change in core network structures. Discussion networks were smaller in 2004 than in 1985. **The number of people saying there is no one with whom they discuss important matters nearly tripled.** The mean network size decreases by about a third (one confidant), from 2.94 in 1985 to 2.08 in 2004. **The modal respondent now reports having no confidant; the modal respondent in 1985 had three confidants.** Both kin and non-kin confidants were lost in the past two decades, but the greater decrease of non-kin ties leads to more confidant networks centered on spouses and parents, with fewer contacts through voluntary associations and neighborhoods. Most people have densely interconnected confidants similar to them. Some changes reflect the changing demographics of the U.S. population. Educational heterogeneity of social ties has decreased, racial heterogeneity has increased. The data may overestimate the number of social isolates, but these shrinking networks reflect an important social change in America.” (McPherson, 2006)

Social Networking as a Symptom of Problematic Internet Use (PIU)

People with Problematic Internet Use (PIU) were more likely than others to go online to meet new people, talk to others with similar interests, seek emotional support, and use interpersonal functions such as chat rooms, forums, and interactive games. (Morahan-Martin, 2000, 2003)

"Social aspects of Internet use consistently differentiated those with more Internet use problems from others. Pathological users were more likely to use the Internet for meeting new people, emotional support, talking to others sharing the same interests, and playing socially interactive games. . . [Pathological users] are friendlier, more open, and more themselves and they report it is easier to make friends when online. They're more fun with people online than non-pathological users and are more likely to share intimate secrets online as well. . . For them, the Internet can be socially liberating, the Prozac of social communication." (Morahan-Martin and Schumacher, 2000, p 26)

Excessive and compulsive Internet use were both significant predictors of negative outcomes associated with Internet use; however, *"excessive use was one of the weakest predictors of negative outcomes, whereas preference for online social interaction, compulsive use, and [cognitive preoccupation] were among the strongest."* (Caplan, 2003, pages 637 – 638)

A more recent study found, *"For those participants who use the Internet to communicate with family and friends, heavy usage had little negative implications for PIU. In contrast, those who used the net to make new friends were much more likely to have high PIU scores."* (Kim and Davis, 2009, page 496)

Those with PIU . . .

- Spend most of their time online using interpersonal communication applications. Nondependent Internet users spend most of their time using e-mail and surfing websites. (Young, 1996)
- Are 26% more likely to go online in order to meet new people. (Scherer, 1997)
- Prefer online social interaction over face-to-face social interaction (Caplan, 2003; Davis, 2001; Morahan-Martin and Schumacher, 2000)
- Are more likely to use the Internet for interpersonal activities and to go online to meet people, form relationships and seek emotional support. (Morahan-Martin, 2007)

Problematic Internet Use (PIU) and Social Deficits

Compared to face-to-face context, computer mediated interpersonal communication affords greater anonymity, more time creating and editing verbal messages, and more control over self-presentation and impression management. (Walther, 1996)

Problematic Internet use is associated with social skill deficiency, loneliness, and social anxiety (Caplan, 2005, 2007; Morahan-Martin & Schumacher, 2000, 2003).

"In the case of introverted or socially anxious individuals, Internet use may serve as a way to avoid being alone and may intensify disconnection from face-to-face relationships" and that "introverted individuals using Internet communication as a substitute for face-to-face relationships seem unlikely to succeed in getting their interpersonal needs met" (Erwin, 2004, p. 631).

"In general, Internet addicts have difficulty forming intimate relationships with others and hide behind the anonymity of cyberspace to connect with others in a nonthreatening way. Through the exchange of online messages, users compensate for what they may lack in real life." (Caplan & High, 2007)

Social anxiety is associated with preferred online social interaction. *"Those who are chronically lonely and those who are socially anxious share many characteristics which predispose them to develop IA [Internet addiction]. Both are apprehensive in approaching others, fearing negative evaluations and rejection. They tend to be preoccupied with their perceived social deficiencies, which leads them to be inhibited, reticent, and withdrawn in interpersonal situations and avoid social interactions."* (Morahan-Martin, 2008, pages 5253)

Those with PIU . . .

- Are more social isolated and depressed. (Krant, 1997)
- Lonely. (Amichai-Hamburger & Ben-Artzi, 2003; Caplan, 2002; Morahan-Martin & Schumacker, 2003) Self-reported levels of loneliness predicted preference for online social interaction and experiencing negative outcomes. (Caplan, 2003)
- Socially anxious (Caplan, 2007). Individuals with social anxiety disorder experience greater comfort interacting on the Internet than face-to-face. (Erwin et al., 2004)
- Have lower self-presentational skills (Caplan, 2005)
- Use the Internet for mood regulation (Caplan, 2003, 2005, 2010)
- Have a cognitive preoccupation with the online world (Davis et al., 2002).

Adolescents

- Adolescents have the tendency not to distinguish between themselves and their avatars (Blinka, 2008). They pay less attention to differences between themselves and their game avatars, and consider success in the game their personal success. Adolescent players consider their avatars as an idealized, superior form of themselves. Individuals with lower self-esteem find MMORPGs very attractive – they provide a quick form of relief from the uncomfortable feelings of low self-esteem.
- There is a negative relationship between using social network sites and self-esteem. Frequent use of social networking was indirectly associated with adolescents' self-esteem and overall well-being. Negative feedback from social sites predicted lower self-esteem and well-being whereas positive feedback predicted healthier outcomes. (Valkenburg, Peter, and Schouten, 2006)
- Highly troubled adolescents are more likely to form close online relationships than those of healthy familial relationships (Wolak, Mitchell, & Finkelhor, 2003)
- Adolescents with traits of schizotypal personality disorder reported significantly less social interaction with real life friends who use the Internet for social interaction significantly more frequently than the control group. Severity of SPD and depressive

symptoms were positively correlated with the amount of time people spend in chat rooms and on Internet gaming. The study also found a negative correlation between participants use of real-life friends and time spent in Internet chat. (Mittal, Tessner, and Walker, 2007)

- A national survey of adolescents found those who reported depressive symptoms were more likely than their nondepressed counterparts to talk to strangers online, use the Internet more frequently for interpersonal communication, and be more self disclosing online (Ybarra, Alexander, and Mitchell, 2005).
- Instant messaging use among adolescents predicted increased depression but lower loneliness six months later. (van den Eijnden et al., 2008)

WHY? The Dynamic of Computer Mediated Communications

There are generally two theoretical paradigms to explain preference for *Computer Mediated Communications* (CMC).

CUES-FILTERED-OUT

An early theory was "*cues-filtered-out*" which emphasized channel limitations and limited information people obtained from nonverbal cues. It was argued that diminished nonverbal cues online limited effective relational interaction. (Culnan & Markus, 1987; Daft, Lengel, & Trevino, 1987; Kiesler, 1986; Kiesler, Siegel, & McGuire, 1984; Rice & Case, 1983, Short, Williams, & Christie, 1976)

CUES-FILTERED-IN

In contrast, the more modern "*cues-filtered-in*" theory contends that computer mediated communication is an especially effective channel for interpersonal communication. (Postmes, Spears, & Lea, 1998; Postmes, Spears, Lea, & Reicher, 2000, Walther, 1992, 1996, 2006, 2007) This view argues that computer mediated communication's diminished nonverbal cues and limited information transmitted online is actually an interpersonal advantage for some people. In fact, some theorists assert that computer mediated communication's unique properties allow online interactants to achieve more social success online than in face-to-face interactions. (Walther, 1996, 2006).

Social Information Processing (SIP)

This variation of Cues-Filtered-In theory rejects the assumption that computer mediation communication's lack of nonverbal cues limits communicators' capabilities. Instead, SIP theory argues that people adapt to the lack of nonverbal information online by putting more weight on the content, style, and timing of verbal messages (Walther, 1992, 1996). From this perspective, the cues that are available online carry information normally transmitted via a host of nonverbal cues in face-to-face exchanges. The key difference between exchange online vs. face-to-face, "*has to do not with the amount of social information exchanged but with the rate of social information exchanged.*" (Walther, 1996, page 10). Thus, the relative lack of nonverbal information in computer mediated communication does not necessarily limit the amount of information users can transmit; however, it does slow the rate of information transmission. After sufficient time passes and users exchanged numerous messages, levels of relational development in CMC will begin to equal those experienced in face-to-face interactions (Walther, 1993). People may need to invest more time in order to manage their online relationships, which could lead them to spend greater amounts of time online. (Young & Nabuco de Abreu, 2011, p. 43)

Social Identity Model of Deindividuation Effects" (SIDE)

This second variation of Cues-Filtered-In theory proposes that people adapt to the lack of nonverbal cues online (Postmes et al., 1998; Postmes et al., 2000). Rather than assuming people are constrained by fewer nonverbal cues online, SIDE posits that people focus their attention on contextual cues and information related to the social status of interactants (Lea and Spears, 1992; Spears and Lea, 1992). The theory hypothesizes that the anonymous or de-individuated conditions of CMC promote a social identity and strong group-based bonds. In the absence of personally identifying information, SIDE theory contends that people downplay their personal identities and emphasize the social identity they share with your fellow CMC conversants. Accordingly, people might emphasize identities related to shared group memberships or typographical styles. Rather than being an impersonal environment filled with superficial impressions, SIDE frames CMC as a socially rich environment in which group based cues are over attributed in the absence of individuated information (Spears and Lea, 1992, Young & Nabuco de Abreu, 2011, p. 43).

Hyperpersonal Perspective

This third variation of Cues-Filtered-In theory proposes that online interaction may be superior to face-to-face exchanges. The relative lack of nonverbal's online enhances interpersonal communication such that social goals can be more effectively pursued online than in face-to-face conversations. Computer mediated interaction affords actors the opportunity to adapt to and exploit the diminished nonverbal cues in CMC in ways that enhance their ability to attain interpersonal goals. (Dunthler, 2006; Walther, 1996, 2006). For example, the verbal content that dominates CMC exchanges is easier to control and strategically manipulate than nonverbal behaviors (Ekman and Friesen, 1969). Specifically, CMC requires people to type their

responses before sending them; a communicator is able to revise or abandon unfavorable messages more easily than in face-to-face conversations. (Walther, 1996, 2006, Young & Nabuco de Abreu, 2011, p. 44).

Computer mediated selective self-presentation may lead partners to form more favorable impressions than in face-to-face settings, which, in turn, leads to continued positive behavior by the sender. *"This may explain how such surprisingly intimate, sometimes intense, and hyper personal interactions take place in CMC. CMC provides an intensification loop."* (Walther, 1996, page 27).

Online, interactants can mask or edit undesirable and uncontrollable cues while magnifying preferred cues (Walther, 1996, 1997). By reducing the nonverbal cues that sometimes contradict verbal messages, partners in CMC are particularly likely to base their impressions of one another on the selectively presented information exchanged online. In fact, hyperpersonal theory speculates that receivers often over-attribute the selectively presented social information transmitted via CMC (Walther, 1997; Walther, Slovacek, and Tidwell, 2001). These over-attributions then result in idealized perceptions of relational partners. From this perspective, people engaging in online social interaction are likely to form idealized impressions based on limited but strategically filtered personal information. Walther (2006) suggests that hyper personal communication may foster higher levels of relational immediacy and affection than normal face-to-face interactions. Along these lines, scholars have documented that relational intimacy develops faster and reaches higher levels online than face-to-face. (Hian, Chuan, Trevor, & Detenber, 2004, Young & Nabuco de Abreu, 2011, p. 44-45).

The hyper personal perspective is especially useful for explaining why people with pre-existing psychosocial problems, such as social anxiety, prefer online social interaction (High and Caplan, 2009). These individuals may be drawn to the hyper personal communication online because they perceive it to be safer, easier, and more effective than ordinary face-to-face conversation. (Caplan, 2007; Erwin et al., 2004; Morahan-Martin and Schumacher, 2003).

"Online, social presence and intimacy levels can be controlled; users can remain invisible as they observe others' interactions, and can control the amount and timing of their interactions. Anonymity and lack of face-to-face communication online may decrease self-consciousness and social anxiety." (Morahan-Martin and Schumacher, 2003, page 659).

Advantages of Computer-Mediated-Communication (CMC)

- Hyper personal communication is common in online social interaction (Chester and Gwynne, 1998; Gibbs, Ellison, & Heino, 2006; Henderson & Gilding, 2004).
- One study examined preference for different interpersonal communication channels (computer mediated communication, face-to-face, and telephone) and found that people's preferences vary depending on how much self presentation risk they appraise the situation to have. Participants preferred mediated interpersonal channels when their self presentation was threatened. (O'Sullivan, 2000)
- Lack of nonverbal cues in CMC should enable communicators to free more cognitive resources to devote to message production, reception and exchange processes (Walther, 1996, 1997).
- In CMC contexts, communicators have more time to produce messages, are better able to organize their thoughts, and are able to better manage how they present themselves. (Dunthler, 2006)
- Online respondents take special care to strategically construct messages in CMC. (Henderson and Gilding, 2004)
- Scholars have noted that asynchronous communication allows people to organize, plan, edit and develop their thoughts more mindfully and deliberately than they can in temporally immediate media. (Dunthler, 2006; Hiemstra, 1982).

F. Eight Motivators “*One ring to rule them all.*”

In the early 1900s, Alfred Adler argued that all human behavior is goal-driven. For Adler, this teleological perspective was foundational to understanding why people make the choices they do. Human behaviors actually have “payoffs” – desired goals that are met through specific behaviors. Consider the following eight motivators and how one or more of them may be motivating someone’s Internet behaviors.

Motivator #1. *Excitement*

Physical excitement is a strong payoff for using the Internet. This can include sexual arousal to pornographic images, the thrill of sexting, or the adrenaline rush of dabbling in illegal material or discussions. Specifically this involves release of *adrenaline* and *dopamine* into the nervous system.

Motivator #2. *Comfort*

Going online can bring about relief from life stressors. Research shows that the Internet helps release *endorphins*, *oxytocin* and *vasopressin* into our nervous system, which are powerful chemical relaxants.

Motivator #3. *Escape*

Going online can provide a means of escape from the mundane “grind” of daily living. Is your life boring? Exotic fantasy worlds are just a click away on your personal computer. A central feature of the Internet experience is the creation of “*trance states of mind.*” Trance is a common everyday occurrence for all of us. Simply defined, it involves an intense focus on an image while becoming less aware of one's physical surroundings, allowing the mind to wander while the body is in a relaxed state. Chemically this involves the release of *endorphins*, *dopamine* and *norepinephrine* into the nervous system. Once in trance, a person’s normal inhibitions are relaxed and they are able to experience events that seem very real, and can include sight, smell, touch, relationships and deep emotions. Trance also has a way of putting “time” on hold – hours can pass in what can feel like mere minutes. In the privacy of their own computer, a person can disappear into alternate worlds that feel intensely real.

Motivator #4. *Affirmation*

A universal longing is to “matter” – to have our value affirmed by someone else.

Motivator #5. *Belonging*

We are social creatures and our natural state is to be socially connected with others.

Motivator #6. *Power*

Dominance and control can compensate for a person’s internal sense of inadequacy.

Motivator #7. *Helplessness*

Compulsive Internet use can affirm a person’s self-belief they are “inept” and destined to fail.

Motivator #8. *Revenge*

Cyber affairs, sexual violence, bullying and “flaming chat” can act as a means of revenge against perceived wounds in the past or in the present.

V. Internet Compulsion Assessment Tools

Internet Addiction Test (IAT)

The Internet Addiction Test (IAT), developed by Dr. Kimberly Young, is the first validated instrument to assess Internet addiction (Widyanto & McMurren, 2004). Studies have found that the IAT is a reliable measure that covers the key characteristics pathological online use. The test measures the extent of a client's involvement with the computer and classifies the addictive behavior in terms of mild, moderate, and severe impairment. The IAT can be utilized in outpatient and inpatient settings and adapted accordingly to fit the needs of the clinical setting. Furthermore, beyond validation in English, the IAT has also been validated in Italy (Ferraro, Caci, D'Amico, & Di Blasi, 2007) and France (Khazaal et al., 2008), making it the first global psychometric measure.

After all the questions been answered, add the numbers for each response to obtain a final score. The higher the score range, the greater the level of addiction, as follows:

Normal Range: 0-30 points

Mild: 31-49 points

Moderate: 50-79 points

Severe: 80-100 points

Once the total score for the client has been calculated and the category selected, to enhance the utility of the instrument, evaluate questions for which the client scored a four or five.

(See the next page for the IAT)

THE INTERNET ADDICTION TEST

Developed by Dr. Kimberly Young, www.netaddiction.com

Instructions: This questionnaire helps to determine to what degree your Internet use might be problematic. When answering, you should only consider your recreational use of the Internet; that is, ignore time spent online for work or school projects. Please be honest in your responses. Answer the following questions using the scales to the right.

	Not Applicable	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Often	Always
1. How often do you find that you stay online longer than you intended?	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. How often do you neglect household chores to spend more time online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. How often do you prefer the excitement of the Internet to intimacy with your partner?	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. How often do you form new relationships with fellow online users?	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. How often do others in your life complain about the amount of time you spend online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
6. How often do your grades or schoolwork suffer because of the amount of time you spend online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
7. How often do you check your e-mail before something else that you need to do?	0	1	2	3	4	5
8. How often does your job performance or productivity suffer because of the Internet?	0	1	2	3	4	5
9. How often do you become defensive or secretive when anyone asks me what you do online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
10. How often do you block out disturbing thoughts about your life with soothing thoughts of the Internet?	0	1	2	3	4	5
11. How often do you find yourself anticipating when you will go online again?	0	1	2	3	4	5
12. How often do you fear that life without the Internet would be boring, empty, and joyless?	0	1	2	3	4	5
13. How often do you snap, yell, or act annoyed if someone bothers you while you are online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
14. How often do you lose sleep due to late-night log-ins?	0	1	2	3	4	5
15. How often do you feel preoccupied with the Internet when off-line, or fantasize about being online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
16. How often do you find yourself saying " <i>Just a few more minutes</i> " when online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
17. How often do you try to cut down the amount of time you spend online and fail?	0	1	2	3	4	5
18. How often do you try to hide how long you been online?	0	1	2	3	4	5
19. How often do you choose to spend more time online over going out with others?	0	1	2	3	4	5
20. How often do you feel depressed, moody, or nervous when you are off-line, which goes away once you are back online?	0	1	2	3	4	5

Internet Sex Screening Test – Revised (ISST-R)

Internet Sex Screening Test – Revised (Delmonico and Griffin, 2006) is a 117 question assessment tool that is part of an excellent assortment of resources as part of a comprehensive "*Cybersex Clinician Resource Kit*." See www.Internetbehavior.com.

Directions: Place a mark next to any item below that is true or mostly true for you. Leave any item blank that is false or mostly false. Please think about the statements as they apply to your life over the past 12 months. Consider a statement to be true if the thought or behavior has occurred within the past 12 months, and false if it occurred more than 12 months ago.

- ☐ 1. I spend a great deal of time fantasizing about past online sexual experiences, online partners, or online pornography.
- ☐ 2. I have a specific credit card I use for my online sexual behavior.
- ☐ 3. I find myself thinking about engaging in online sex, even when I am not online.
- ☐ 4. I never thought about looking at something sexual while online.
- ☐ 5. When I am unable to access sexual information online, I feel anxious, angry, or disappointed.
- ☐ 6. I have accessed sexual sites from other computers besides my home.
- ☐ 7. I am afraid I may be caught engaging in illegal behavior online.
- ☐ 8. I use sexual humor and innuendo with others while online.
- ☐ 9. I can spend hours online and never interact with anyone online or offline.
- ☐ 10. I have never seen any sexualized content while online.
- ☐ 11. I work hard at keeping my online sexual behaviors secret from others.
- ☐ 12. The Internet is attractive because I don't invest emotional energy into it.
- ☐ 13. I have never been curious about sexuality on the Internet.
- ☐ 14. I am extremely good at keeping my online sexual behavior a secret from everyone.
- ☐ 15. My online sexual behavior is part of my social life.
- ☐ 16. I use my online sexual behavior to avoid people in my real life.
- ☐ 17. I have posted information that bordered on being illegal.
- ☐ 18. I seek comfort and encouragement from my online friends.
- ☐ 19. I have had physical sexual contact with someone I met online.
- ☐ 20. I prefer individual conversation with others rather than group conversations when online.
- ☐ 21. The Internet creates a place where I do not have to interact with others.
- ☐ 22. I am curious about online sexuality.
- ☐ 23. I have deleted files from my computer that bordered on being illegal.
- ☐ 24. Instant messaging is a distraction to what I really want to be doing online.
- ☐ 25. I have downloaded illegal sexual content from the Internet.
- ☐ 26. I have purchased pornographic videos or DVDs through the Internet.
- ☐ 27. I have engaged in online sexual behavior from my work computer.
- ☐ 28. I have met face to face with someone I met online for romantic purposes.
- ☐ 29. The Internet helps satisfy my sexual fetish interests.
- ☐ 30. I sometimes use cybersex as a reward for accomplishing something (e.g., finish a project, stressful day, etc.)
- ☐ 31. I look for images that border on being illegal.
- ☐ 32. Other than for online sex, the Internet is useless.
- ☐ 33. I have spent/received money online for sex.
- ☐ 34. I enjoy my online friendships more than my real life friendships.
- ☐ 35. I have sought help from a professional about my online sexual behavior.
- ☐ 36. I have accessed online sexual activity from a friend or colleague's computer.
- ☐ 37. I have talked to minors online about sex.
- ☐ 38. I like the fact that I can easily exit online relationships quickly and without consequence.
- ☐ 39. I have participated in sexually related chats.

(continues for a total of 117 questions)

The Cybersex Clinician Resource Kit
Delmonico and Griffin, www.internetbehavior.com

\$100 on CD, includes an excellent assortment of resources:

- Introduction to Cybersex Addiction - A basic article describing methods and venues used to access cybersex
- Cybersex Glossary / Chat Abbreviations
- Computer & Internet Disclosure Form
- *CyberHex and Cybersex User Categories - Assessment & Treatment Forms
- Two FAQ resource sheets on cybersex addiction / internet addiction (one for clinicians and one for clients)
- Selected Cybersex Bibliography
- The Internet Sex Screening Test (ISST) - a quickscreen for cybersex related problems (includes scoring guide)
- The Internet Sex Screening Test - Revised - more extensive assessment of cybersex problems (includes scoring guide)
- Internet Assessment Structured Interview - a 45 item interview protocol based on six themes revolving around cybersex addiction / internet addiction (also includes a Quickscreen form)
- Risk assessment white paper, bibliography, and risk checklist for child pornography users
- Instructions for using the *Hermes Web* - a treatment communication tool included with the kit.
- Treatment exercises: (1) Internet Health Plan, (2) Online Disinhibition Effect Analysis, (3) CyberHex Assessment.
- Various online links & resources for additional information related to cybersex behavior
- The workbook *Cybersex Unhooked* (on the CD for easy printing of workbook exercises)
- The Clinician Resource Kit on CD also includes a paperback, bound copy of the book *In the Shadows of the Net* (2nd edition) and one *Hermes Web* Communication Tool.

Cybersex Addiction Screening Test (CAST)

The **Cybersex Addiction Screening Test (CAST)** was developed by Rob Weiss and is recommended by the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health (SASH). It is a free resource that provides a profile of responses which help to identify men and women with sexually addictive disorders. **You can assign the CAST as a homework assignment. Have your client go to www.sexualrecovery.com to complete the questionnaire and obtain a score interpretation.**

Questions

1. Do you spend increasing amounts of online time focused on sexual or romantic intrigue or involvement?
2. Are you involved in multiple romantic or sexual affairs in chat rooms, Internet or BBS?
3. Do you not consider online sexual or romantic "affairs" to be a possible violation of spousal/partnership commitments?
4. Have you failed in attempts to cut back on frequency of online or Internet sexual and romantic involvement or interaction?
5. Does online use interfere with work (tired or late due to previous night's use, online while at work etc.)?
6. Does online use interfere with primary relationships (e.g. minimizing or lying to partners about online activities, spending less time with family or partners)?
7. Are you intensely engaged in collecting Internet pornography?
8. Do you engage in fantasy online acts or experiences which would be illegal if carried out (e.g. rape, child molestation)?
9. Has your social or family interactive time decreased due to online fantasy involvement?
10. Are you secretive, or do you lie about the amount of time spent online or type of sexual/romantic fantasy activities carried out online?
11. Do you engage with sexual or romantic partners met online, while being involved in marital or other primary relationship?
12. Are there increasing numbers of complaints or concerns from family or friends about the amount of time spent online?
13. Do you frequently become angry or extremely irritable when asked to give up online involvement to engage with partners, family or friends?
14. Has the primary focus of sexual or romantic life becomes increasingly related to computer activity (including pornographic CD ROM use)?

APPENDIX A: Internet Basics

Delmonico & Griffin. www.internetbehavior.com

In order to appropriately address the issue of cybersex, clinicians must have a basic working knowledge of technology and how it is used for Internet sexual activities.

This basic knowledge will help clinicians ask the right questions, and appropriately interpret client responses. Quayle and Taylor (2002) interviewed nine practitioners regarding their knowledge of the Internet and technologies used for Internet sexual activity. All nine reported feeling a general lack of knowledge and understanding of the Internet, as well as how to manage a caseload of sexual offenders who may now have access to the Internet.

One common misconception is the Internet and World Wide Web are synonymous. However, the World Wide Web is one small part of the Internet. In fact, the most explicit and illicit materials are typically found in areas other than the World Wide Web.

World Wide Web. The most common method for accessing the Internet is through the World Wide Web (WWW). Internet browsers (e.g., Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Opera, etc.) interpret and display text, graphics, and multimedia on a user's monitor. By pointing and clicking, the user has the ability to explore the Internet in a user friendly environment. Web pages can display various forms of multimedia (e.g., photos, videos, music, etc.) and facilitate the exchange of files between computers.

Social Networking Venues. The newest and most popular Internet areas are called social networking venues. These are web-based sites that allow users to chat, send and receive email, chat, send instant messages, post bulletins, photos, information about themselves and others, and file share. One of the hottest "combo places" is MySpace.com (and facebook.com). MySpace allows individuals to post information (including photos and videos) about themselves and create lists of 'friends' that they can then communicate with via the website – all for free. MySpace and similar social networking sites earn their revenue through advertising on the pages that are produced by members.

Newsgroups. This area serves as an electronic bulletin board system where individuals post and read text or multimedia (pictures, sounds, and video) messages. There are tens of thousands of newsgroups dedicated to specific topic areas, thousands of which are used to exchange messages with sexual content each day.

Email. Email is used for direct communication with other individuals or groups of individuals. In the case of cybersex, the message may be a sexual conversation, story, picture, sound, or video. Often individuals meet in other areas of the Internet and then begin communicating via email as a way to add more privacy and security to their sexual exchanges.

Enhanced Internet Chat. Casual users are familiar with chat programs such as Yahoo Messenger, ICQ, America Online's Instant Messenger (AIM), and MSN Chat. The evolution of standard text-based chatting was transformed by software programs that allow for the exchange of files (images, sounds, and programs), simultaneous web browsing, voice chat, and videoconferencing. These chat services might be termed Enhanced Internet Chat area of the Internet.

Internet Relay Chat. Internet Relay Chat (IRC) is the largest and oldest chat area on the Internet. It is largely unfamiliar to most casual users, and typically draws in the more tech savvy. In addition to standard text-based chatting, IRC includes a number of chat rooms that act as "file servers" to exchange various types of media, including pornography. These file servers allow users to access one another's hard drives and trade images, music, videos, etc. There are a host of file server rooms dedicated specifically to child pornography exchange.

Videoconferencing / Voice Chatting. Over the past five years technology enhancements and the widespread availability of high speed Internet connections have increased the demand for voice and videoconferencing hardware and software. When combined with sexual behavior, a high-tech, interactive peep show results. These technologies have also been used to broadcast live sexual abuse of children, and other exploitive behaviors.

Blog or Blogging. An online web site/service where anyone can post a journal of their thoughts on any subject. Basically, it is an open forum or communication tool that anyone, organization, or company can use to convey facts about themselves, their thoughts or opinions. Many Blogs have developed a daily following and are routinely used by corporations and political and social organizations to promote and inform on their products or cause. These can have an mature or erotic theme to them.

Virtual Social Networks. A new and lucrative area of the Internet are virtual worlds such as My Second Life, and the Habbo Hotel allow individuals to create their own persona and interact with others online in a virtual 3-d world. Members can purchase virtual property and services and earn virtual money through a variety of online acts. This type of social networking has caught the eye of corporate America and companies are now purchasing space in My Second Life and advertising and selling their products there. The Geek Squad, owned by Best Buy, Inc. is one such company.

The Red Light Center (Uthervers) is the adult MySpace and encourages members to upload explicit images and video's to their profiles. This site combines the search for live partners with a virtual world to give members an unique experience that can lead from a fantasy world to a real world meeting.

Peer to Peer File Sharing. Software packages such as Kazaa®, Bearshare®, and Limewire®, have made file sharing a popular hobby. Casual users of this software often exchange music files, but any file can be "shared" on the network. Many of the files on these networks are pornographic in nature. These pornographic files are numerous, easily found, and can contain illegal child pornography. In fact, one study reported that 42% of all Kazaa requests were for pornography (Brown, 2003).

Skype. Free software, with a more robust pay version, which is noted for its broad range of features, including instant messaging, file transfer (peer to peer), short message service, voice and video conferencing. Through its ability to use peer to peer technology to redirect Internet traffic away from servers and its strong encryption capabilities its usage continues to grow as people look for ways to communicate from any Internet access point with speed, reliability and the perception of being anonymous.

Winamp. Is freeware (software you can use for free) that plays all types of digital movies, video clips, and music files. It also has a peer to peer capability to search for files on the Internet that are available to share from others. Winamp like other peer to peer programs give users the ability to share any type of file with another user. Since the sharing of the file is direct from one computer to another it is difficult if not impossible for law enforcement to investigate illegal images such as child pornography being traded via the software.

Online Gaming. Online destinations such as Multi-User Dungeons (MUDs) encourage participants to take on various characteristics and play out their roles in a game-like setting. A portion of these game areas are sexually charged and offer places for participants to engage in sexual conversations. Some individuals become compulsive with the fantasy, role-playing aspect of these games, whether sexualized or not. A new breed of online gaming has also taken over the market, where individuals can play on teams against others on the Internet. Although not necessarily sexual, they can create compulsivity problems of their own.

Other Areas. Other methods used to engage in cybersex or offense behavior include: Bulletin Board Systems (BBS), file transfer protocol (FTP), and telnet. These represent some of the more archaic areas of the Internet and dialup technologies, but remain problematic nonetheless. BBS systems require a user to directly dial the phone number (or telnet address) of a specific computer that allows access to chat areas and file transfers. These BBS' can be dangerous since it is difficult for law enforcement to locate and monitor them. FTP is a method of transferring files over the Internet and makes a direct connection between two computers, again, making it difficult to monitor or infiltrate. Telnet is another method of directly connecting two computers, which can then exchange files, chat or execute software programs over the Internet.

Online Terms

To learn about terms and acronyms used online, go to www.netlingo.com or www.noslang.com.

Active	refers to sexual activity, are you/they “active”
a/s/l	a common question in chat rooms which means age / sex / location?
Avatar	image representation of oneself which can be used in real time chat rooms such as Yahoo, AIM, PalTalk and most services that provide chat capability
Avi	file extension referring to video clips
Chat	real time communication taking place on the Internet (synchronous communication) through your personal computer or cell phone with Internet access
Cookie	hidden message that is placed in a file to record when you visited a website
CuSeeMe	See You See Me; videoconferencing software that allows for live audio and video conferencing
Cyber	to engage in cybersex while online; typically talking sexually and masturbating while online; “Want to cyber with me?”
Cyberdildonics or bluedildonics	refers to the use of the sex toys whose operation is controlled from a distance over the Internet using Bluetooth technology
digital camera	camera which allows you to take pictures that are directly transferred to your personal computer or placed on the Internet. Most cell phones come with a digital camera
Emoticon	combination of typewriter characters that communicate emotion :-)
Erotica	common term used to refer to sexual content on the Internet
family fun	used in chat rooms or instant messaging to refer to having sexual relations with children
f2f – ftf	face to face; real life encounter while not online; “I met with Ray f2f on Saturday.”
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions; typically a file that answers common questions about a particular topic
Filter	option set up on certain software packages that allow you to filter out certain email messages and webpages
Flame	mean spirited message either in email or chat room
Fservers	file servers; areas of chat rooms that allow for the downloading of sexual images
FTP	File Transfer Protocol; a common way of uploading / downloading files from the Internet
gif / jpg	common file extension which refer to graphic images - not necessarily pornographic in nature
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language; set of instructions used to create and display webpages on your personal computer
IM’s	Instant Message; one to one conversations in real time via computer on the Internet or cell phones through the Internet or the cell phone company network
IRC	Internet Relay Chat; area of Internet that allows for real time conversation and file sharing
ISP	Internet Service Provider; a company that allows access to the Internet
Leetspeak	is a type of jargon that is used online and in text messaging by teens and regular people who chat and IM. It is made up by phonetically or graphically changing words using many different ways of creating the term. 143 for example means I love you d00d means dude, the list is endless and unknown terms can be found on web sites such as www.netlingo.com
Lurking	being present in a chat room or email discussion group without participating
mail list or list serve	group of individuals that can exchange email on a designated topic; not necessarily pornographic; does not take place in real time
MORF	a common question in chat rooms which means Male or Female?
MOTOS	Member of the Opposite Sex
MOTSS	Member of the Same Sex
MPEG	Motion Picture Expert Group; file type in which motion video is stored

MUD - MOO	Multi-User Dungeon; live chat area with certain themes; similar to a dungeon and dragon type game where you have certain powers while you navigate through virtual rooms
My Second Life	an online virtual world where people can create their own look, persona and interact with others in the virtual world
netiquette	Online etiquette; the unwritten rules of how to behave online
Newbie	someone who is new to the Internet or certain aspect of the Internet and is just learning how to use it
Nick	nickname, handle, username, screenname; name used online in email or chat rooms
Red light center	an online, live, 3d Internet site for sexual role play
Scanner	allows you to digitize images (photographs, etc.) and save them to your computer and placed on the Internet
Signature	text which is automatically attached to the end of an email; usually contains a person's name, address, phone number and other identifying information
Spam	sending / receiving unwanted email messages typically used to sell a product or service
Upload	send files (images, etc.) from personal computer, PDA or cell phone to the Internet
URL	Uniform Resource Locator; the official name for a webpage address
virtual Sex	another name for Cybersex but usually refers to sex via the Internet involving a web cam and instant messaging
virtual community	an online site that members interact in a virtual environment, many have adult themes such as My Second Life, Red Light Center, and Habbo Hotel
Wav	wave file; type of file which stores audio clips
web cam	a digital camera that is used for real time transmissions of video or still images via the Internet

APPENDIX B

Internet-Facilitated Sexual Offending

Adopted by the ATSA Executive Board of Directors on September 7, 2010

There has been increasing public and professional attention paid to Internet-facilitated sexual offending in recent years. Internet-related sexual offending includes different crimes: the largest number involve viewing, trading, or producing child pornography to be traded or posted on-line. Other offenders use the Internet to make contact with a child, adolescent or other vulnerable persons for sexual chat (electronic correspondence), exploitation such as convincing a child to view or produce pornographic images (e.g., having the child take and email a nude picture of him/herself), or to arrange face-to-face meetings to commit sexual offenses (sometimes referred to as “luring” or “traveler” offending). Both criminal justice and clinical data suggest there have been steady increases in the number of cases prosecuted and, subsequently, the number of clinical referrals for these behaviors.[i]

A primary concern for professionals who evaluate and treat Internet-facilitated sexual offenders is the risk these individuals may pose for direct contact offenses with victim(s) or future Internet-facilitated sexual offenses such as accessing and/or distributing child pornography. Accurate risk assessment is critical to decisions involving prioritizing cases by law enforcement and making appropriate recommendations for sentencing, treatment, and level of supervision. Across studies of Internet-facilitated child pornography offenders, approximately one in ten has an officially known history of contact sexual offending and; therefore, can be assessed using one of the established actuarial risk scales.[ii] However, the majority of Internet-facilitated sexual offenders have no known history of contact sexual offenses, although self-report evidence suggests a significant proportion of offenders have committed undetected contact offenses. There is currently no risk measure specifically developed for use with Internet-facilitated offenders who have no official history of contact sexual offenses.

Several overlapping, follow-up studies of child pornography offenders suggest these individuals present less risk for future hands-on offenses, on average, than undifferentiated samples of contact sex offenders.[iii] The study with the longer follow-up period revealed that 8.5% of the sample committed a contact sexual offense after an average “at risk” period of almost six years. Child pornography offenders also presented a relatively low risk to commit another child pornography offense. The preliminary results of follow-up research suggest criminal history, self-reported sexual interest in children, and unstable lifestyle (e.g., substance use problems) factors identify which child pornography offenders are more likely commit a contact sexual offense in the future.[iv] It is very likely that these same factors would also predict recidivism among so-called “luring” offenders or “travelers.” With regard to risk management, approximately a quarter of child pornography offenders breached a condition of bail, probation, or parole; a majority of these failures were for prohibited proximity or contact with a child or for using computers, usually to contact children or download more child pornography.[v]

A nationwide American study of “luring” offenders revealed that, contrary to the belief that young children are tricked by “sexual predators” into revealing personal information or meeting in person, all cases reported to police involved teenagers, approximately half of whom were ages 13 and 14, and the majority being female.[vi] In most cases, the teenagers were aware the perpetrator was an adult and was interested in a sexual relationship. Also, in most cases, the teenagers willingly met with the adult perpetrators (sometimes on more than one occasion) and described the interactions in romantic terms. This research suggests Internet “luring” is more similar to statutory rape type offenses than contact offenses involving physical coercion and/or young children.

Studies that have compared Internet-facilitated sex offenders to contact sex offenders have found consistent differences.[vii] These studies suggest Internet-facilitated sex offenders are less antisocial and are; therefore, less of a risk to commit a new offense or a probation violation than contact sex offenders. These studies also suggest Internet-facilitated sex offenders are similar to or score lower than contact sex offenders on measures of clinical needs including offense-supportive attitudes and beliefs, intimacy deficits, and emotional problems. At the same time, child pornography offenders are more likely to show pedophilic sexual arousal on penile plethysmograph assessment than are contact sex offenders.[viii]

Although researchers have suggested several typologies of Internet-facilitated offenders, we currently know very little about the treatment and supervision needs of Internet-related sex offenders. These typologies include individuals who are sexually interested in children, those who are more sexually indiscriminate, those who are curious, and those who opportunistically engage in Internet-facilitated offending (e.g., an adult male who uses the Internet to gain sexual access to adolescents). Effective intervention will need to be tailored to the type of offender and the risk they present. For example, an individual who viewed child pornography out of curiosity and is a low risk to offend in the future might require little (or no) treatment and minimal supervision while a pedophilic individual who opportunistically used the Internet to gain access to victims and who is a higher risk to offend in the future would require more intensive treatment and supervision. Regulation of access to the Internet would be expected to be a central consideration in treatment or supervision. Methodologically sound evaluation research is needed to develop effective treatment programs for Internet-facilitated sex offenders.

[i] e.g., Motivans & Kyckelhahn, 2007

[ii] Seto, Hanson, & Babchishin, in press

[iii] Seto & Eke, 2005; Seto, 2009; and Seto, Hanson, & Babchishin, in press

[iv] Seto, 2009

[v] Eke, Seto, & Williams, 2010

[vi] Wolak, Finkelhor, Mitchell, & Ybarra, 2008

[vii] e.g., Elliott, Beech, Mandeville-Norden, & Hayes, 2009; Neutze, Seto, Schaefer, Mundt, & Beier, 2010; Webb, Crassaiti, & Keen, 2007; and Babchishin, Hanson, and Hermann, in press

[viii] Seto, Cantor & Blanchard, 2006; and Babchishin, Hanson, and Hermann, in press

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About Dr. Paul Simpson

- Has provided CLE trainings for the State Bar of Arizona regarding:
 - *Child Sexual Abuse Allegations: What Every Attorney Should Know*
 - *Daubert Standard And Psychological Evaluations: What Every Attorney Should Know*
 - *Memory in the Courtroom: What Every Attorney Should Know*
 - *Mental Health Evaluations in Homicides and Crimes of Violence: What Every Attorney Should Know*
 - *Anatomy of a Psychosexual Evaluation: What Every Attorney Should Know*
- Since 2003 has provided over 300 full-day trainings in all 50 states for counseling professionals and probation officers on assessing/treating sexual and Internet compulsions.
- Has been an instructor for the Arizona Supreme Court in training competency evaluators.
- A former case manager with Child Protective Services, Dr. Simpson has extensive experience working with victims and perpetrators of sex crimes in outpatient and inpatient settings. Including individual, family and group counseling, and over 800 psychosexual evaluations.
- He is trained and/or certified in the Abel, Affinity 2.5, Look VTM, MEGA, Static 99R/2002R, Stable/Acute 2007, SVR-20, HCR-20, J-SOAP 2, ERASOR, and plethysmograph.
- In addition to being licensed to practice psychology in Arizona, he has also received a *Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ)* by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards
- He has been recognized by the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology
- Member and former state officer with the Association for Treatment of Sexual Offenders
- Taught a graduate course in Adolescent Psychology for Northern Arizona University.
- Author of *Second Thoughts*, a book that was instrumental in helping expose the false claims and dangers of 'recovered memory therapy.' Throughout the 1990's Dr. Simpson was a leading national educator on *False Memory Syndrome* and trained thousands of counseling professionals on standards of practice. He also served as an expert consultant to the *Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners*.
- Dr. Simpson has been a guest on *The Joan Rivers Show*, the *Leeza Gibbons Show*, *Parent Talk Radio*, *Focus on the Family*, *Frontline*, and *Fox News*. He has been a professional consultant to a number of national media, including *20/20*, *60 minutes*, *NBC News*, *Nightline*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Dateline*, *The Today Show*, *Focus on the Family*, and *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Don't tell anyone, but all of the above boring stuff is really a clever disguise to hide Dr. Simpson's true identity – a mandolin-picking, bluegrass jamin' nutcase. As a member of the *Desert Bluegrass Association* (www.desertbluegrass.org) he wastes all kinds of time and money on a tremendously un-cool obsession – much to the embarrassment of his two children. If you want to embarrass your children as well, come and sit in on a free Bluegrass Workshop he leads every Monday night on the eastside of Tucson.

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