

New Development in Sexual Behavior Issues

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Forensic Interviews

"The Cornerstone"

Disclosure and Recantation

"Many childhood victims of sexual abuse do not readily report the abuse, and a fair number of them never report the abuse."

"Many children disclosed within a month of abuse and then many waited 1 year or more to disclose."

"We conclude that unless there are major external pressures on the child (e. g., removal from the family) most children do not retract previous disclosures when they are true."

London, Bruck, Wright, and Ceci (2008)

Methodology Matters!!!

Assessment Measures

- *Rapid Risk Assessment of Sexual Offense Recidivism (RRASOR)
- *Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP)
- *SVR 20, Version 3
- *Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG)
- *Sexual Violence Risk – 20 (SVR-20)
- *Structured Risk Assessment – Forensic Version (SRA-FV)
- *Matrix 2000 (only instrument with support for use with internet offenders)
- *Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool – Third Edition (MnSOST-3.1)

- *JSOAP-II, ERASOR, JSORRAT – II
- *Static-99R/Static 2002R (most commonly used measure, can use with 16-17 y.o. s)

Risk Factors

- History of sexual deviancy
 - *Persistence after punishment, victim selection
- Antisocial and/or criminal orientation
 - *Violations of mandatory supervision
- Treatment Failure
- Offenses "triggered" by drug/alcohol use (drug/alcohol abuse alone is not related to recidivism)
- Social support/relationship difficulties, employment difficulties, sig psychiatric issues

- *Low remorse, denial, lack of empathy, low self-esteem, being sexually abused as a child unrelated to sexual recidivism*

Baseline Rates and Recidivism Data

One of the earliest and most sophisticated analyses (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004) reviewed 95 studies involving 31,000 sex offenders, with an average follow-up period of 5 years. Significant findings include the following:

- Overall recidivism rate for new sex crimes: 13.7%
- Recidivism rate for child molestation: 12.7%
- Recidivism rate for child molestation within families: 8.4%
- Recidivism rate for rape: 18.9%

Harris and Hanson, 2004 (N = 4,724)

Known Recidivism Rates @ 5, 10, 15 years:

- Rapists (14%, 21%, 24%)
- Incest Offenders (6%, 9%, 13%)
- Girl Victim Child Molesters (9%, 13%, 16%)
- Boy Victim Child Molesters (23%, 28%, 35%)

Recidivism Continued

Hanson & Morton-Bourgon (2009):

- Reviewed over 100 studies ranging in dates from 1972 to 2008.
- Total sample size of over 45,000 sex offenders from 16 different countries (including U.S.)
- Average follow-up time was 70 months.

“The observed sexual recidivism rate was 11.5%...the sexual or violent recidivism rate was 19.5%...and the general (any) recidivism rate was 33.2%

Texas Recidivism Data

Boccaccin et al., 2009:

*N = 1st 1,928 offenders screened for possible CC

*Average follow-up of 4.77 years

*Recidivism based on only new Texas offenses

*3.9% of those discharged committed new sexually violent offense (vs. 1.4% under MS)

*4.3% of those discharged committed a new sexual offense of any kind (vs. 2.1% under MS)

Juvenile Recidivism Data

Research consistently shows lower sexual recidivism rates for juvenile sex offenders (as opposed to adult sex offenders).

Though rates vary from study to study, most juvenile recidivism figures fall between 5 and 13/14 percent.

As with adult sex offenders, always keep in mind that true recidivism rates are unknown.

Few More Thoughts on Juvenile Sex Offenders

Juvenile sexual offenders and adult sexual offenders are at completely different developmental, social, emotional, and behavioral stages in their lives. Adult sexually aggressive/violent behavior is prompted by a different set of experiences and contexts than that of children and adolescents.

Some sexually deviant or inappropriate behavior in children (e.g., obscene phone calls, voyeurism, lewd sexual gestures, genital exposure, and even frotteurism) can be thought of as developmentally appropriate.

Teenagers change. In some sense, we are trying to assess the risk of "moving targets" (Prescott & Levenson, 2007).

Who is this?

- Impulsive
- Egocentric
- Prone to boredom/Need stimulation
- Irresponsible
- Failure to accept responsibility
- Lack of realistic goals
- Disregard for social norms, rules, obligations
- Promiscuous sexual behavior
- Many short-term relationships
- Limited frustration tolerance
- Lack of remorse, lack of guilt
- Poor behavioral controls

Do Treatment and Supervision Work?

Although there has, over the years, been debate about the extent to which treatment is effective in reducing recidivism risk, the current consensus is that those offenders who fail to successfully complete treatment are at a higher risk for reoffending than offenders who successfully complete treatment programs. In addition, individuals who start (but fail to successfully complete) treatment generally have higher recidivism rates than those who never actually start treatment.

Texas study suggests that those individuals released without supervision are almost twice as likely to reoffend when compared to individuals under some type of Mandatory Supervision (Boccaccin et al, 2009).

Consider individualized treatment program.
