The relationship between victim age and gender crossover among sex offenders.

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Some child molesters abuse children of both genders. The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between gender crossover and victim age. The authors hypothesized that offenders who molested children of both genders would be more likely to have very young victims and that offenders who molested very young children would be more likely to abuse children of both sexes than offenders with older victims. The sample consisted of 362 sex offenders being considered for civil commitment as sexually violent predators in Florida. Data were collected from file reviews. The relationship between victim age and gender crossover was examined using chi-square and multivariate logistic regression analyses. The proportion of offenders with victims of both genders significantly increased as the victims' ages decreased, and sex offenders with preschool-age victims were most likely to have abused both boys and girls. A sex offender with a victim 6 years of age or younger had more than 3 times the odds of having perpetrated sex crimes against both genders than a sex offender with only older victims. Sex offenders with victims of both genders had more than 3 times the odds of having preschool victims. The presence of a major mental illness increased the odds of gender crossover more than threefold. Pedophilia increased the odds of having victims younger than 6 more than 11-fold. Implications for practice are discussed.
This study investigated the degree to which independent variables predicted civil commitment selection in a sample of 450 sexual offenders evaluated for civil commitment as "sexually violent predators" under Florida's Jimmy Ryce Act. Using logistic regression, this study examined the relationship between the dependent variable, commitment recommendation, and several sets of independent variables. Results
revealed that the statistically significant predictors of recommendations for sex offender civil commitment were diagnoses of pedophilia and paraphilia not otherwise specified (NOS), psychopathy, actuarial risk assessment scores, younger age of victim, and nonminority race ($R^2 = .88$). Discriminant function analysis confirmed that these variables correctly predicted commitment recommendations in 90% of cases. Sex offenders recommended for commitment consistently met the criteria set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in Kansas v. Hendricks (1997): They suffered from a mental abnormality predisposing them to sexual violence, and risk assessment determined that they were likely to reoffend.

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An empirical study of characteristics and reoffence-risk factors in a sample of imprisoned sex offenders.

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Sex offences have great impact on their victims, as well as producing considerable public alarm, as periodically reflected in the mass media. In Spain, 5% of the total prison population are sex offenders, some of whom serve lengthy prison sentences, eventually being allowed to leave prison or move to an open...
regime. In such circumstances, it is important to make predictions about risk of recidivism as appropriately and accurately as possible. In this context there is a need for scientific research with Spanish samples in order to identify the most relevant risk factors. The principal aim of the case study presented here was to identify and describe the main personal and criminal career features of sexual offenders, as well as the how these are linked to risk of future recidivism. To this end, we assessed a large sample of sex offenders who had served prison sentences in Brian's prison in Barcelona (Spain). Noteworthy results emerging from the assessment of the sample of sex offenders were excessive alcohol and drug use, criminal careers averaging over six years, and global recidivism, including both sexual and non-sexual offences, of 32.2%. 

Looking beyond these average values, significant differences emerged between recidivists and nonrecidivists both in demographic variables (age at prison release, employment record and partner stability record) and criminal career variables (age at first recorded offence, number of convicted crimes, alcohol and drug use, type of victim, etc.). This study highlights the potential capacity of some of these variables for predicting future criminal behaviour.

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**Sex Offenders' Response to Treatment and its Association with Recidivism as a Function of Psychopathy.**

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This study examined the relationship between recidivism and ratings of response to specialized cognitive behavioral treatment conducted in a prison setting among 418 sex offenders released to the community for an average follow-up period of over 5 years. As well as testing for a main effect for treatment ratings, the potential role of psychopathy assessed using the Psychopathy Checklist--Revised (PCL-R) as a moderator of response to treatment was investigated. Ratings of response to treatment failed to predict either serious (violent including sexual) or sexual recidivism. For the more inclusive outcome of serious recidivism, there was no significant interaction between psychopathy and treatment ratings; however, the
ubiquitous effect of psychopathy on recidivism was found to be significant. For sexual recidivism, psychopathy was not significant as a main effect, but a significant interaction between psychopathy and treatment ratings was found. Among sex offenders with PCL-R scores of 25 or higher, those with ratings reflecting a more negative response to treatment recidivated sexually at a faster rate than others. This interaction effect was not significant when treatment noncompleters were removed from the data set. The results were discussed in terms of the methodology involved in the assessment of response to treatment among sex offenders.

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Sexual Offenders Against Children: The Influence of Personality and Obsessionality on Cognitive Distortions.

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US: Sage Publications

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Sexual offenders against children are generally inadequate in their social functioning and diverse in their psychopathology. The degree to which this inadequate functioning and psychopathology influences therapeutic interventions brings into question the belief that generic nonclinical programmatic treatment work is always appropriate for such a cohort. The Sex Offenders Assessment Package (SOAP) measures inadequate social functioning and sexual deviance, but has not been linked to broader individual differences and generic psychopathology. We collected information examining the relationship between the SOAP and standard measures of personality (the NEO-FFI) and obsessive-compulsiveness (MOCI) in a sample of 200 sexual offenders against children seen by the Probation Service. Factor analysis was used to reduce the SOAP to three reliable factors: emotional distress, cognitions supporting sex with children, and concern for others. These factors correlated respectively with higher Neuroticism and lower Extroversion; greater obsessive-compulsiveness on the MOCI, and trait Agreeableness, irrespective of whether or not one corrected for socially desirable responding. When partial correlation controlled for the influence of Neuroticism on the correlation between cognitions supporting sex with children and the MOCI, there was no
change in the association between these variables. These results show that negative affect and obsessional tendencies are important underlying influences on the feelings and behavior of sexual offenders, that the obsessionality of the group is not attributable to Neuroticism, and suggest useful additional foci to enhance the treatment of this diverse clinical group.

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**Lifetime Sex Offender Recidivism: A 25-Year Follow-Up Study.**

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Pettica, Rick, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, Canada
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Other Journal Titles:

Canadian Journal of Criminology
sex offenders; recidivism; lifetime recidivism rates
A sample of 320 sex offenders and 31 violent non-sex offenders, seen for psychiatric assessment between 1966 and 1974, were compared retrospectively on lifetime recidivism rates to 1999 over a minimum of 25 years. A number of criteria and data sources were used; RCMP records and hospital records were the best sources, albeit the RCMP had records for only 54.1% of the cases. Approximately three in five offenders reoffended, using sex reoffence charges or convictions or court appearances as criteria, but this proportion increased to more than four in five when all offences and undetected sex crimes were included in the analysis. Group differences in recidivism were noteworthy, with child sexual abusers and exhibitionists most likely to reoffend and incest offenders least likely. Time at large and time incarcerated played a relatively minor role overall in results, except in the case of offenders who were sexually aggressive against adult females, courtship disordered, or violent. The typical known criminal career spanned almost two decades, indicating that sex offence recidivism remained a problem over a significant part of the offenders’ adult lives.

Factors predicting recommendations for civil commitment of sexually violent predators under Florida's Jimmy Ryce Act.

Authors:
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US: ProQuest Information & Learning.

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This study investigated the factors considered by forensic examiners when evaluating sexually violent predators (SVP) for civil commitment under Florida’s “Jimmy Ryce Act.” The project was funded by a pre-doctoral research grant awarded by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). This study proposed two specific research questions. First, what is the direct relationship between actuarial risk assessment scores and recommendations for sex offender civil commitment? Second, which other variables are likely to influence SVP commitment decisions, and to what degree? The purpose of the study was to determine if risk assessment practices are evidence-based, and whether offenders selected for commitment meet statutory criteria. The purposive sample of 450 SVPs was drawn from the population of sex offenders evaluated for civil commitment in Florida between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001. Data were extracted from SVP evaluations provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families. Using multivariate logistic regression, this correlational research design examined the relationship between the dependent variable, commitment decision, and several sets of independent variables. The independent variables were derived from a review of the literature, and were grouped conceptually according to their degree of correlation with sex offense recidivism. Independent variables included diagnoses, actuarial risk assessment scores, empirically validated static and dynamic risk factors, consensus based risk factors, evaluator characteristics, and demographics. This study investigated the degree to which the identified variables predicted civil commitment decisions. Logistic regression results revealed that the statistically significant predictors of recommendations for sex offender civil commitment were actuarial risk assessment scores, diagnoses of Pedophilia and Paraphilia NOS, psychopathy, younger age of victim, and non-minority race. Discriminant function analysis confirmed that these variables correctly predicted commitment decisions in 90% of cases. It appears that civil commitment evaluators in Florida used empirically-based assessment procedures, and did not make decisions that were heavily influenced by extraneous factors. SVPs recommended for commitment consistently met the criteria set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in Hendricks v. Kansas (1997): they suffered from a mental abnormality predisposing them to sexual violence, and risk assessment determined that they were likely to reoffend.
Toward culturally affirmative **assessment** and treatment of deaf people with sexual offending behaviors.

**Authors:**


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sexual offenders; clinical issues; deaf; culturally affirmative treatment; sex offender assessment & treatment

**Abstract:**

(from the chapter) There are few topic as inflammatory and controversial as sexual offending. Imagine now that the alleged **sex offender** is a new deaf client. The author contends that we know little about how to work with deaf **sex offenders**. The only alternative is to familiarize oneself with two separate bodies of knowledge: knowledge of culturally affirmative treatment of deaf clients, and knowledge of **sex-offender assessment** and treatment. The synthesis of these two areas is the basis of the author's approach to assessing and treating deaf sexual **offenders**. This chapter describes the author's own experiences learning and working in this area, and gives some case examples that illustrate the clinical issues involved.

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Physicians who commit sexual offenses: Are they different from other **sex offenders**?

**Authors:**

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Glancy, Graham D.
**Assessment** of sexual & criminal history & personality & mental illness & neuropsychological & endocrine characteristics, male physician (mean age 47.95 yrs) vs nonphysician **sex offenders**

Determined if physician **sex offenders** differ significantly from other **sex offenders** by using standard **assessment** procedures. Nineteen male physician **sex offenders** (mean age 47.95 yrs) were compared with a control group, matched on offence type, age, education, and marital status. Both groups were compared with a general sample of 2,125 **sex offenders**. The 3 groups were compared on sexual history and preference, substance abuse, mental illness, personality, history of crime and violence, neuropsychological impairment, and endocrine abnormalities. Physicians showed more neuropsychological impairment and endocrine abnormalities and less antisocial behaviour than did the general sample of **sex offenders**, but did not differ from the matched control group. Physician offenders who sexually assaulted their patients did not differ from those who had nonpatient victims. Despite differences in age, education, and occupation between physician **sex offenders** and **sex offenders** in general, the same **assessment** procedures can be recommended for examining both groups.

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**Assessment** and treatment of adolescent **sex offenders**: A review from a cross-cultural perspective.

**Authors:**

Sciarrta, Daniel T., Hofstra U, Counseling Program, Hempstead, NY, US

**Source:**
multicultural perspective on assessment & treatment strategies, adolescent sex offenders

Reviews the assessment and treatment strategies for adolescent sex offenders (ASOs). Building on both the current literature and the author's own experience in working with this population, a multicultural perspective is utilized to enhance the rehabilitation of ASOs from non-dominant cultures. The necessity of family involvement is called for, and the culturally sensitive treatment for such families. An emphasis on the cultural dimensions in understanding and treating adolescent sex offenders is suggested.

A descriptive model of dysfunctional cognitions in child molesters.

Authors:

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Fon, Cristina
Hudson, Stephen M.
McCormack, Julie
development & reliability & validity of descriptive model of cognitions concerning offending behavior, 27–65 yr old male child sex offenders, New Zealand
Developed a descriptive model to classify sex offenders' cognitions concerning their offending behavior. Offense descriptions were obtained from 20 incarcerated male child sex offenders (aged 29–65 yrs) undergoing assessment for a sex offender treatment program. The resulting model consisted of 4 categories: offense chain, cognitive operations, cognitive content, and meta-variables. To determine its content validity and reliability, the model was applied to the offense descriptions of a sample of 25 incarcerated child molesters (aged 27–65 yrs) also undergoing pretreatment assessment. Results suggest that the model has provisional validity and adequate interrater reliability. Finally, the authors discuss the theoretical and clinical implications of the model.

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Denial and social desirability in clinical examinations of alleged sex offenders.

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Grossman, Linda S.
Hardy, Daniel W.


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denial of deviant sexual behavior & minimization or exaggeration of problems & social desirability &
personality factors, adult male alleged sex offenders

Studied the relationship between denial of deviant sexual behavior and minimization/exaggeration of
problems (i.e., response bias) during clinical evaluations in 59 alleged sex offenders. Data indicate that
patients who denied allegations of deviant sexual behavior showed significantly more minimization of
problems than did admitters, and patients who admitted allegations showed more exaggeration of problems
than did deniers. Alleged offenders who denied deviant sexual behavior were more likely to be defensive
about undesirable personality characteristics and to minimize problems than were those who admitted to
deviant sexual behavior. When defensive, alleged sex offenders were likely to minimize anxiety and
personality disorders. Data support the forensic utility of psychological testing in the assessment of alleged
sex offenders.

Assessment and treatment of Spanish-speaking sex offenders: Special considerations.

Authors:
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Source:
Describes the experiences in modifying and implementing a special program to accommodate the needs of Hispanic and primarily Spanish-speaking sex offenders. Beyond the problems posed by differences in sociocultural factors, assessment & group therapy, 39 & 43 yr old male Spanish speaking sex offenders.
language, there are transcultural factors that may impact on the evaluation and engagement of this patient population when they are also largely psychologically unsophisticated and of a low socioeconomic status (SES). Reticence to discuss sexuality in a group setting, the relationship between therapists and patients as determined by rules of social etiquette, and the reluctance to criticize other members in the group were prominent features attributed to religious and cultural factors. The necessity of being sensitive to these subtle nuances in order to provide adequate treatment is emphasized. Assessment and treatment protocols are described, and the cases of 2 male sex offenders (aged 39 and 43 yrs) illustrate the process of successful treatment.

### Personality characteristics of sex offenders: A review.

**Authors:**

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**ISSN:**

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**Language:**

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psychometric assessment of personality traits, sex offenders, literature review

Reviews research utilizing psychometric instruments to assess personality characteristics of sex offenders. It is argued that a methodological shortcoming of the existing research is the frequent use of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), which was originally developed as a measure of types of psychopathology and has not been validated as a personality test. Also, studies using tests other than the MMPI have seldom controlled for institutionalization and impression management, and little attention has been paid to criminal history. In the case of child molesting, there has been a failure to specify and/or control for age and sex of victim and degree of force used. Available results suggest that men who engage in rape and child molesting are guilt-ridden individuals who inhibit aggression.