Female Sex Offenders


Abstract:
Educator sexual misconduct has received increasing attention over the past decade. The attention has exposed a number of concerning issues, including a lack of formal research in the area and difficulties in recognizing and prosecuting cases. Public responses to high profile cases of sexual misconduct involving female teachers suggest that gender-biased views on sex offenders remain prominent in society. This article will review the literature on female teacher sexual misconduct in addition to what is known about grooming patterns and warning signs. Finally, current dilemmas in resolving cases of educator sexual misconduct will be discussed, and basic prevention strategies will be recommended.


Abstract:
This study examined the association between female sexual offending behavioral patterns, as delineated by Sandler and Freeman's (2007) typologies, and executive functioning. The sample included all referrals for sexual offender assessments within a women's maximum/medium security prison between January 2009 and October 2009. Each subject was administered the Stroop (Golden & Freshwater, 2002) and Trail Making Test (Reitan, 2004) and were assigned to a typological category. Nonparametric analyses were conducted to determine if there was an association between typology and performance on neuropsychological tests. Results yielded no significant associations between test scores and typological category. Subjects displayed average capacities for a subset of executive functions, suggesting that the mechanisms for sexually offending behavior in females may differ from males.


Abstract:
Although females represent a small proportion of the sex offender population, they occasionally appear before the courts under the current generation of laws intended to protect the public from high-risk sex offenders. In this context, practitioners are called upon to provide assessment of the risk these women pose for sexual re-offending. The primary issues addressed in this paper are related to the validity of conducting such risk assessments and providing professional opinions as to the risk of further sexual offences that may be committed by female offenders. The approach taken is to summarize briefly the available professional literature regarding female sex offenders, and then to present the findings of the relatively few empirical studies that address sexual recidivism in females. The final section examines the positions taken in the published works of various international experts regarding risk assessment with females, followed by conclusions and recommendations in light of the standards typically prescribed by community protection laws.


Abstract:
Risk assessment of Female Sex Offenders (FSOs) is an area of limited research, despite a foundation of empirical research on personality traits and typologies. Sexually Violent Persons (SVP) laws, which exist in fewer than half of the United States, allow certain individuals who have been convicted of a sexually violent crime to be civilly committed to a mental institution after their prison sentence has been served and until such time as they are deemed to no longer present a risk to the community. This paper examines the offense process of a small group of FSOs from Wisconsin who have been evaluated for the SVP commitment. The Iowa Sex Offender Risk Assessment (ISORA), a recidivism risk instrument, is applied to this sample and a comparison sample of non-980 referred FSOs in order to empirically validate their level of risk. Results indicate that the 980 referred group is a higher risk group than those who are not referred for this process. In addition, a vast majority of the sample had been sexually abused in childhood and led chaotic early lives. The most common offense pathway within this group was characterized by
clear intent, planning, and motivations of anger and/or misperceived intimacy with the victims. Although the conclusions made in this paper are theoretical and based on an extremely small sample, the incidence of this type of commitment consideration for females is so rare that an introductory examination of their offense process is useful in contributing to the literature on high risk FSOs.


Abstract: (from the jacket) From teachers, mothers, coaches, youth ministers, and others who abuse positions of trust, authorities in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada report up to 10 percent of sex crimes are perpetrated by females. What motivates these women to behave as they do? How do we safeguard children from their advances? What do schools need to be doing to assure that children and teens are safe from predatory females? In Female Sexual Predators: Understanding Them to Protect Our Children and Youths, social worker and therapist Karen A. Duncan helps adults be proactive so children will not fall prey to this violation. Studies and reports on female sexual offenders, vignettes pulled from news headlines, interviews with victims, and interviews with female sexual predators are used to help readers understand these crimes and the women who commit them, as well as the impact these crimes can have on victims. The women profiled were in positions of authority at churches, schools, sports institutions, and the home. Victims explain how these women exploited their positions of trust, planned their crimes, groomed their victims, deceived adults into not detecting their behavior, even when they recognized the danger to themselves and the harm they were causing their victims. Duncan addresses the issue of maternal sexual abuse answering questions about mothers who willingly sexually abuse their own children and at times commit child sexual abuse with other adults, as well as women who sexually abuse girls. Four types of female sex offenders are presented within the emerging research on this topic, along with questions regarding assessment, treatment, and management of female sex offenders in the community. It also addresses the controversial issues of female pedophilia and female sexual deviance within the context of what we know about human sexuality. Duncan also explores the behavior of women on college campuses who commit sexual offenses within their dating relationships as a new topic of female sexual offending.

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**Female sex offenders: Issues and considerations in working with this population.**

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Ford, Hannah J.

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Abstract:

(from the chapter) This chapter outlines some considerations in working with adult female sex offenders, focusing particularly on the assessment of risk and identification of treatment needs and some of the concomitant difficulties. It does not aim to offer a comprehensive 'how to' guide to the assessment of female sex offenders, as detailed discussions of key assessment areas and approaches have been provided elsewhere (e.g., Ford & Cortoni, 2008; Grayston & De Luca, 1999; Saradjian, 1996). Instead, it aims to outline some of the potentially broad-ranging needs of these women and question whether directly applying assessment procedures for male offenders to females is appropriate, as other researchers have done (e.g., Nathan & Ward, 2002; Saradjian, 1996). Throughout the chapter, suggestions are made for further areas of research to inform our understanding in this developing field and the chapter concludes by reflecting on some of the potential responses to working with female sex offenders and how these may play out in work with groups of sexual offenders.

Latent profile analyses of offense and personality characteristics in a sample of incarcerated female sexual offenders.

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This study examines characteristics of 90 female sexual offenders based on offense and personality traits. The study uses latent profile analysis to identify groups of female sex offenders who are similar to one another and different from participants in other groups. Results using the Personality Assessment
Inventory (PAI) indicate that there were three classes of offenders that differed with respect to the severity of their psychopathology. Upon analysis of predictors such as demographic information, offense characteristics, selected Trauma Symptom Inventory scores, Static-99 scores, abuse history, and PAI supplemental scales, several factors predicted group membership. These included marital status, sexual abuse in adulthood, and interpersonal relationship styles. Implications for assessment and treatment of female sex offenders are discussed.

A qualitative assessment of registered female sex offenders: Judicial processing experiences and perceived effects of a public registry.

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In this study, the effect that the sex offender registry has had on female sex offenders in two states is explored. In-depth personal interviews were conducted with nine registered female sex offenders from Illinois and Texas. Questions were asked about the arrest that led to registration and the effect that sex offender registration statutes have had on their lives. Braithwaite's crime, shame, and reintegration theory was relied on to assess the extent to which the processes described in his theory occurred in this sample. The focus of many of the questions included whether the women were able to reintegrate into their communities or if they were stigmatized. It was found that every respondent reported at least one negative effect on her life as a result of being identified on the public registry. Also, many of the stigmatization processes described by Braithwaite were applicable to the interviewed women.
Young female sex offenders: Assessment and treatment issues.

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Research on the characteristics and treatment of juvenile female sex offenders is limited. This article reviews the literature on female offenders and presents the results of a nationwide survey by mail of 250 mental health providers in private settings and residential treatment centers (RTCs), on approaches to diagnosing prior sexual abuse history and/or perpetration among juvenile females. Nineteen of the most experienced practitioners were also interviewed by telephone to provide further insight to the issues highlighted by the surveys. Key findings include the lack of research, tools, and literature on young female sex offenders and perceived differences between male and female offenders including history, treatment, and characteristics. Further study and awareness of this population is encouraged to address clinical needs.

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Personality assessment of female sex offenders: A cluster analysis.
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Sex offending has gained increasing attention in recent years, and concurrently, greater attention has been paid to female sex offenders. Very little research exists on this population. Previous personality studies of male sex offenders using the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory and cluster analysis techniques have identified consistent patterns. One is a clear distinction between two types, one with a fairly normal MMPI profile and one with a considerably more pathological profile. Another, most notable among incarcerated male offenders, is a tendency for the within-normal group to have a slight elevation on scale Pd. A third is a tendency for the more clinical group to elevate scales Pd and Sc. This study examines 60 valid profiles of incarcerated female sex offenders, along with limited demographic information. Notable demographic findings include high rates of physical and sexual abuse in the histories of these women, and a lower representation of minorities among these offenders than among the female prison population in
general. These findings are consistent with a 1993 unpublished doctoral dissertation on 76 female sex offenders. Cluster analysis suggests a four-cluster solution. As in the male sex offender studies, a clear, consistent difference emerges between a group with a within-normal, slight Pd elevation profile and a more pathological profile. As in the male offender studies, subjects tended to elevate scales Pd and Sc. Unlike the males, however, the female sex offenders showed a very consistent tendency to elevate scale Pa, suggesting suspiciousness but perhaps more importantly indicating sensitivity to criticism and a tendency to personalize situations. In addition, a unique profile emerged suggesting naive defensiveness, concrete and simplistic thinking, and social awkwardness and introversion. Mild depression was indicated for two of the groups. One feature that did not emerge among any groups was a very low scale Mf suggesting extreme