



Adolescents Who Engage in Problematic and Illegal Sexual Behaviors

A Bibliography

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**Championing and Strengthening the
Global Response to Child Abuse**

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Scope

This bibliography lists publications depicting the wide variety of issues related to adolescents who engage in problematic or illegal sexual behaviors.

Organization

Publications include articles, book chapters, reports, and research briefs and are listed in date descending order. Links are provided to full text publications when possible. However, this collection may not be complete. More information can be obtained in the Child Abuse Library Online.

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Adolescents Who Engage in Problematic and Illegal Sexual Behaviors

A Bibliography

Lussier, P., McCuish, E., Chouinard Thivierge, S., & Frechette, J. (2024). [A meta-analysis of trends in general, sexual, and violent recidivism among youth with histories of sex offending](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 25(1), 54-72. DOI:10.1177/15248380221137653

Recent research suggests that sexual recidivism rates have been declining, which contrasts with observations regarding general recidivism rates as well as perceptions of sexual reoffending risk. If sexual recidivism rates are in decline, it raises fundamental policy questions about the youth justice system's tendency to operate on the assumption that juvenile sexual offending is a risk marker for sexual reoffending in adulthood. A systematic review and a quantitative meta-analysis were conducted to determine the general, violent, and sexual recidivism rates of adolescent perpetrators of sexual offenses with data stemming from studies published worldwide between 1940 and 2019. A total of 158 empirical studies including 30,396 adolescent perpetrators of sexual offenses were retrieved to examine estimates of general, violent, and sexual recidivism. The study findings highlight that the risk of general recidivism (weighted pooled mean = .44) is substantially higher than violent (weighted pooled mean = .18) and sexual recidivism (weighted pooled mean = .08). The study did not observe convincing evidence that sexual recidivism rates for adolescent perpetrators are declining, but rather that these rates have been consistently low over the years. There was strong evidence that multiple study characteristics moderate the recidivism rates observed. Given the low weighted pooled sexual recidivism rate reported in the study, the use of adult-like strategies to increase public safety and prevent sexual recidivism seems misguided, not only because sexual recidivism is unlikely, but also because such strategies are not developed to address general criminogenic needs that may explain general recidivism rates observed.

Chouinard-Thivierge, S., Lussier, P., & Charette, Y. (2023). [The adult offending outcomes of adolescents who have perpetrated a sex offense: Is sexual offending in adolescence indicative of things to come?](#) *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 21(1), 3-26.
DOI:10.1177/15412040221123529

Being adjudicated for a sex offense carries significant social, legal, and penal implications that are almost unparalleled and adolescents are no exception to this differential treatment by the justice system. This highlights the relevance of providing criminal career information concerning future offending among adolescents who have a record for a sex offense as they age and become adults. Based on prospective longitudinal data collected from a sample of male adolescents enrolled in the Pathways to Desistance study (n = 1170), negative binomial regression models are conducted to investigate the relationship between having a juvenile record for a sex offense and the frequency of general offending in early adulthood (i.e., 18 years old and over). Results show that adolescents who have perpetrated a sex offense have significantly lower levels of involvement in offending during early adulthood, whether based on official or self-reported data. Findings are discussed in terms of policy and theoretical implications.

Kolko, D. J., Foster, K. T., Torres, E., Hart, J., Rounds, J., & Rumbarger, K. (2023). Sexual offense disclosure assessment in youth referred to community treatment: A latent class analysis. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 35(6), 716–747.
DOI:10.1177/10790632221139165

This study seeks to extend research evaluating tools to assess the disclosure of sexually abusive behavior. The subjects were 239 male youth (ages 10-20 years) who were court-ordered to participate in a community-based collaborative intervention for sexual offending that includes outpatient and probationary services. All youth participated in an interview to capture referral incident details about admission, responsibility, empathy, and remorse at intake, during intervention, and at discharge. Intake, treatment, discharge, and recidivism measures were also collected from multiple sources. Latent class analysis identified three classes based on the intake interview: Empathetic Admitters (22%), Unempathetic Admitters (38%), and Unempathetic Deniers (40%). Significant class differences were found on intake (e.g., use of physical force, caregiver denial of youth responsibility), treatment (e.g., any sanctions/violations), and discharge measures (e.g., successful treatment, probation officer ratings), but not in recidivism rates. The

findings extend efforts to identify and target different disclosure patterns whose clinical monitoring may support a comprehensive intervention.

Brown, A., & Yoder, J. (2022). Symptoms of posttraumatic stress and sexual concerns: The intermediary effects of executive functioning on profiles of youth who have sexually harmed. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(21-22), NP20236-NP20258. DOI:10.1177/08862605211050089

There are demonstrated links in the general population between developmental adversity, associated trauma symptoms, and executive functioning difficulties in children and youth. However, research on links among these indicators and their relationship to antisocial behavior more broadly in samples of youth who have sexually harmed is only beginning to emerge. Some research indicates that intermediary factors like sexual concerns may be critical in understanding this population. This study explored relationships between trauma symptoms, sexual concerns, executive functioning, and their relationship to non-sexual delinquency in a sample of 196 youth who committed sexual harm. Structural equation modeling revealed numerous direct and indirect effects on the path to delinquency and that executive functioning plays a key role among those with serious sexual concerns. The results are contextualized and implications are discussed.

Buker, H., Cohen, A., & Erbay, A. (2022). An exploration of the subtypes of male youth adjudicated for sex Offenses: A latent class analysis based on personal, offense, and victim characteristics. *Crime & Delinquency*. DOI:10.1177/00111287221137306

This study intended to explore possible variations among youth adjudicated for sexual offenses based on personal criminogenic factors, offense, and victim characteristics. Utilizing a data set collected from the juvenile court files in Turkey (n = 460), the Latent Class Analysis revealed that the study sample included three different subgroups with distinct features: “non-delinquent, peer victim-targeting,” “non-delinquent, younger victim-targeting,” and “delinquent, versatile” youth adjudicated for sex offenses. The first two of these groups were similar in terms of having low levels of delinquency, while the third group included the lowest number of youth with significantly broad delinquent activity patterns. These findings were in line with the results of previous studies, and the implications were discussed for future research and policy development.

Caldwell, M. F., & Caldwell, B. M. (2022). The age of redemption for adolescents who were adjudicated for sexual misconduct. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 28(2), 167-178. DOI:10.1037/law0000343

Although the fact that desistance from sexual misconduct is associated with age and maturation is well established, extant research has provided little information about the age at which individuals who were adjudicated for sexual misconduct as an adolescent pose no greater risk for future sexual misconduct than peers who were adjudicated for nonsexual misconduct. Policies requiring sex offender registration and related restrictions are typically structured to regulate these adolescents for decades or longer, suggesting that these individuals pose an elevated risk that is distinct from all other adjudicated youths that lasts for decades. This study compared the odds of future sexual offense charges between 349 participants who had been adjudicated for sexual offenses as adolescents with that of 1,711 participants who had been adjudicated for nonsexual misconduct as an adolescent. The groups were followed for up to 27.5 years (M = 19 years, 9.7 months, SD = 2.15 years). The odds that participants who were adjudicated for sexual misconduct as an adolescent would be charged with a new sexual offense in the future declined precipitously in the late teens and were not significantly greater than the comparison group by age 18.

Calleja, N. G. (2022). Developmentally-informed treatment for adolescent sex offenders: An effectiveness evaluation of the Forward-Focused Model. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 61(2), 106-120. DOI:10.1080/10509674.2021.2018379

The purpose of this pilot program evaluation is to examine the effectiveness of a developmentally-informed treatment model for adolescent sex offenders. To accomplish this, 62 adolescents receiving treatment as usual were compared to 68 adolescents receiving a specialized developmentally-informed treatment (i.e., Forward-Focused Model). A total of 130 adolescents who offended sexually and who were confined in secure residential treatment were included in the analysis. The specialized treatment emphasized the promotion of prosocial development and included cognitive behavioral interventions specifically adapted to meet the developmental needs of adolescents. Clinical interventions were delivered individually and in group therapy with an emphasis on identification and treatment of complex needs (i.e., trauma-related symptoms, substance misuse, serious mental health disorders). Recidivism was evaluated at three years following release from long-term residential treatment (i.e., incarceration). Treatment as usual

participants recidivated at almost double the rate of those participating in the Forward-Focused Model while the sexual recidivism rate for adolescents in the Forward-Focused Model was 2.9%.

Gervais, C. L. M., & Johnston, M. S. (2022). [Caregivers' considerations of remorse and responsibility among youth who sexually offend](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(21-22), NP19491-NP19521. DOI:10.1177/08862605211042815

When a youth sexually offends, most of the reactions and repercussions that follow are understandably negative. However, there is limited research about mixed reactions involving remorse and responsibility on the part of the adolescent who offended and their relatives. Based on qualitative interviews with 16 caregivers among 10 families in Canada, this article presents the parents' perspectives on the various processes, benefits, challenges, and outcomes related to expressions of remorse and experiences of responsibility among youth who sexually offended, their victims, and their parents. This study sheds particular light on how adolescent perpetrators of sexual harm and especially their caregivers do feel deeply remorseful and responsible for the impacts of sexual offending behavior, which is contrary to public scrutiny that negatively projects responsibility onto youth offenders and their parents. Thus, our findings emphasize the constructive and considerate ways in which remorse is felt and responsibility is assumed; and by extension, they point to the importance of restorative practices in efforts toward reconciliation and accountability.

Baglivio, M. T., & Wolff, K. T. (2021). [Adverse childhood experiences distinguish violent juvenile sexual offenders' victim typologies](#). *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(21), 11345. DOI:10.3390/ijerph182111345

Juvenile perpetrators account for over 25% of all sexual offenses, and over one-third of such offenses are against victims under the age of 18. Given empirical connections between adverse childhood experience (ACE) exposure and perpetration of violence, we create victim typologies based on the juveniles' relationship to their victims among 5539 justice-involved adolescents who have committed violent against-person sexual felonies. Multinomial logistic regression is used to assess which covariates, including individual ACE exposures and cumulative traumatic exposures, are associated with victim typologies. This approach allows for better targeting of violence

prevention efforts, as a more nuanced understanding of the increased likelihood to victimize specific victim groups leads to potential differences in treatment provision, beyond simplistic findings regarding ACE exposure increasing offending. Results indicate five classes of victim types, ranging from a low of 6.4%, with primarily strangers as victims, to 31.3%, with predominately acquaintances as victims, and only 12.9% with a diverse array of relationships to victims. Importantly, many demographic and individual risk factors, and specific traumatic exposures were related to victimizing one's sibling, while cumulative trauma as measured by an ACE score decreased the likelihood of victimizing classmates, while increasing the likelihood of victimizing siblings and other relatives compared to victimizing acquaintances.

Chopin, J., & Beauregard, E. (2021). Understanding the sexual victimization of children by juveniles: Identifying criminal event patterns. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 63(3-4), 1-22. DOI:10.3138/cjccj.2021-0016

The purpose of this study is to explore the crime-commission process involved in the sexual victimization of children perpetrated by juveniles. Specifically, this study aims to explore the interconnectedness of pre-crime, crime, and post-crime phases with victimological characteristics using a criminal event perspective. The sample used in this study consists of 185 cases of child sexual abuses perpetrated by juveniles. The first step of this study uses latent class analysis to explore the relationship between each step of the crime-commission process. As a second step, additional variables were used to test the external validity of our model. Results suggest that there are three different criminal event patterns: familiar sexually non-intrusive, familiar sexually intrusive, and stranger sexually non-intrusive. Moreover, we found that specific victimological characteristics were associated with each of the patterns. Practical implications in terms of situational crime prevention and victim assistance are discussed.

Krause, C., Roth, A., Landolt, M. A., Bessler, C., & Aebi, M. (2021). Validity of risk assessment instruments among juveniles who sexually offended: Victim age matters. *Sexual Abuse*, 33(4), 379-405. DOI:10.1177/1079063220910719

Research has identified meaningful subtypes among the heterogeneous population of juveniles who sexually offended (JSO). However, studies that test the validity of risk assessment tools with JSO subtypes are limited. This study compared JSO who offended against a child victim (JSO-C)

and JSO who offended against an adolescent/adult victim (JSO-A) with regard to rates of recidivism and the predictive validity of two risk assessment tools (Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism [ERASOR] and Juvenile Sexual Offender Assessment Protocol-II [J-SOAP-II]). Data were analyzed from case files of 185 JSO-C and 297 JSO-A aged 12 to 18 years ($M = 14.11$, $SD = 1.44$) from a consecutive sample of JSO with contact sexual offenses. A total of 34 (7.1%) juveniles reoffended sexually, with no significant difference between the subtypes. The present results suggest that the ERASOR, particularly the structured professional judgment, and to a lesser degree the J-SOAP-II are better suited to predicting sexual recidivism in JSO-A than in JSO-C.

Lillard, C. M., Cooper-Lehki, C., Fremouw, W. J. and DiSciullo, V. A. (2020), Differences in psychosexual development among child, peer, and mixed juvenile sex offenders. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 65(2), 526-534. DOI:10.1111/1556-4029.14194

Researchers have examined a number of typologies of juvenile sex offenders, including victim age. Using data from psychological evaluations and the Multiphasic Sex Inventory-II (MSI-II; [Psychological assessment of sex offenders, 2010]), this study compared child offenders (i.e., victims were more than 4 years younger), peer offenders (i.e., victims were 4 years younger or less), and mixed offenders (i.e., both child and peer victims) on variables including victim, offender, and offense characteristics, and psychosexual development. Peer offenders had more severe sexual offenses, prior status/nonviolent charges, and issues with sexual functioning. Mixed offenders began offending at a younger age and were indiscriminate in gender and relationship of the victim. Mixed offenders were also more likely than child and peer offenders to have prior sex offender treatment, meaning they had previously failed treatment. As juvenile sex offenders are a heterogeneous group, these research findings suggest that child offenders, peer offenders, and mixed offenders' treatment needs differ from each other.

Miccio-Fonseca, L.C. (2020). [Contemporary risk assessment tools: Should we use them for sexually abusive children ages 4 to 12 years?](#). *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 13, 141–151. DOI:10.1007/s40653-019-00267-z

Empirical findings are reported on an age group of sexually abusive youth (4–12 years) not commonly studied. Findings are from major studies employing the ecologically framed MEGA♫ risk assessment tool: MEGA♫Combined Samples Studies (N = 3901 [1979–2017] (Miccio-Fonseca *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse: Special Issue on Risk Assessment of Sexually Abusive Youth*, 2018a, *Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma*, 2018b) and MEGA♫Combined Cross Validation Studies (N = 2717). Samples consisted of male, female, and transgender-female, ages 4–19 with coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive youth, including youth with low intellectual functioning. Findings provided normative data, with cut-off scores according to age and gender, establishing four (calibrated) risk levels: Low, Moderate, High, and Very-High. The fourth risk level, Very-High Risk, sets MEGA♫ apart from other risk assessment tools by the ability to assess those few most seriously concerning and/or dangerous youth, whereas other risk tools (with three risk levels) do not make this differentiation.

Miccio-Fonseca, L. C. (2019). [Empirical findings on the preternatural: Sexually violent and predatory sexually violent youth](#). *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 12(4), 457-467. DOI:10.1007/s40653-018-0242-8

Applied are empirical findings from two major studies employing the ecologically framed MEGA♫ risk assessment tool: MEGA♫Combined Samples Studies (N = 3901 [1979–2017] (Miccio-Fonseca 2017a, d) and MEGA♫Combined Cross Validation Studies (N = 2717). Samples consisted of male, female, and transgender-female sexually abusive youth, ages 4–19, including youth with low intellectual functioning of borderline or low average. Findings further support a previously presented nomenclature identifying two subsets overlooked by most contemporary risk assessment tools: sexually violent and predatory sexually violent youth (Miccio-Fonseca and Rasmussen *Journal of Aggression Maltreatment & Trauma*, 18, 106–128, 2009, 2014). MEGA♫Studies provided normative data, with cut-off scores (calibrated) according to age and gender, establishing four risk levels: Low, Moderate, High, and Very High. The fourth risk level, Very High, sets MEGA♫ apart from other risk assessment tools for sexually abusive youth, which are limited to

three risk levels. Very High risk level definitively identifies the most dangerous youth, thus empirically supporting the nomenclature of sexually violent and predatory sexually violent youth.

Goulet, J. A. S., & Tardif, M. (2018). [Exploring sexuality profiles of adolescents who have engaged in sexual abuse and their link to delinquency and offense characteristics](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 82, 112-123. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.05.023

Very few studies have taken a specific interest in the various sexual dimensions, beyond delinquent sexual behavior, of adolescents who have engaged in sexual abuse (AESA). Those that went beyond delinquent sexual behavior have report mixed results, suggesting they are a heterogeneous group. The current study used cluster analysis to examine the sexuality profiles of AESA, which included information on several sexual dimensions (atypical and normative fantasies and experiences, drive, body image, pornography, first masturbation, onset of sexual interest and first exposure to sex). Participants (N=136) are adolescents who have engaged in sexual abuse involving physical contact, for which at least one parent also participated in the study. They were recruited from six specialized treatment centers and three youth centers in Quebec (Canada). Cluster analyses were performed to identify specific sexual profiles. Results suggest three clusters of AESA: 1- Discordant sexuality pertaining to adolescents who show mostly normative sexual interests, 2- Constrictive sexuality, characterizing adolescents who seem to be less invested/interested in their sexuality and 3- Overinvested sexuality for adolescents showing an exacerbated sexuality, including atypical sexual interest. Additional analyses (ANOVAs and Chi-square tests) reveal that five delinquency and offense characteristics were significantly more likely to be present in the Overinvested than the Constrictive cluster: non-sexual offenses, three or more victims, peer victims and alcohol and drug consumption. Advancing our knowledge on this topic can provide relevant data for clinicians to better target interventions.

Vargen, L. M., Weinsheimer, C. C., Coburn, P. I., Chong, K., & Connolly, D. A. (2018). Youth-perpetrated child sexual abuse: The effects of age at court on legal outcomes. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 24(2), 248-258. DOI:10.1037/law0000162

Drawing from a database of 4,237 cases of child sexual abuse (CSA) heard between 1986 and 2012, we examined 152 cases of youth-perpetrated CSA. We investigated differences in legal outcomes between accused that went to court when they were adults for CSA committed in

adolescence, and accused who were juveniles at court. Results indicated that accused who went to court when they were juveniles were less likely to be convicted and received shorter average incarceration sentences than accused who were adults at court. Using a vignette design, we then conducted an experiment with 144 male and female undergraduates to test several age-related questions. This yielded the same pattern of results as the archival analyses. Specifically, undergraduate participants reported that they were less likely to convict and assigned shorter incarceration sentences to accused who were juveniles at court compared with accused who were adults at court. These findings show a potential biasing effect of a defendants' age at court in cases where adults are tried and sentenced for crimes committed as juveniles. Addressing this bias is critical to protecting the rights of those accused of crimes committed during adolescence.

Baly, A., & Butler, S. (2017). [Empathy deficits and adolescent sexual offending: A systematic review of the evidence base](#). *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 36*, 81-97.
DOI:10.1016/j.avb.2017.07.007

Although empathy deficits are commonly assumed to contribute to adolescent sex offending, no systematic review of the evidence base has been undertaken. To rectify this omission, this review examines whether current evidence supports the existence of a relationship between empathy and adolescent sexual offending. A systematic search of the evidence base found sixteen relevant empirical studies, which provided evidence that was inconclusive or subject to methodological limitations. The review suggests that further systematic and methodologically-sound research is required to determine the extent and nature of the relationship between empathy and adolescent sex offending, that any relationship between the two is unlikely to be straightforward, and that explanations of the mechanisms involved should be integrated into wider multifactorial explanations for this behavior.

Falligant, J. M., Fix, R. L., & Alexander, A. A. (2017). Judicial decision-making and juvenile offenders: Effects of medical evidence and victim age. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 26*(4), 388-406. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2017.1296914

A growing body of evidence suggests that jurors place greater weight on DNA or other types of forensic evidence than non-forensic evidence (Cole & Dioso-Villa, 2009). For cases involving child sexual abuse, certain types of evidence, including forensic medical evidence, may be viewed

as more important or indicative of abuse than other types of evidence, such as victim statements or disclosure. The present study evaluated perceptions of juvenile offenders and victim credibility across four vignettes that systematically manipulated variables related to victim age and physical indicators of abuse. A sample of 636 participants read vignettes and answered questions pertaining to the vignette. Participants also provided demographic information and responded to a series of items assessing participants' judicial decision-making strategies and outcomes. Broadly, the presence of medical evidence significantly influenced participants' decision-making across a variety of variables, including verdict outcome, verdict confidence, confidence that the victim was truthful, and determinations involving sex offender registration and notification requirements. The influence of medical evidence and victim age on perceptions and sentencing of juvenile sex offenders across these and additional outcome variables will be discussed.

McKibbin, G., Humphreys, C., & Hamilton, B. (2017). "[Talking about child sexual abuse would have helped me](#)": [Young people who sexually abused reflect on preventing harmful sexual behavior](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 70, 210-221. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.06.017

Harmful sexual behavior carried out by children and young people accounts for about half of all child sexual abuse perpetration. The aim of this study was to draw on the insights of young people who had been sexually abusive to enhance the current prevention agenda. The study involved semi-structured interviews with 14 young people and six treatment-providing workers. Sampling was purposive and the young people had previously completed a treatment program for harmful sexual behaviour in Victoria, Australia. The young people were approached as experts based on their previous experience of engaging in harmful sexual behavior. At the same time, their past abusive behavior was not condoned or minimised. Constructivist Grounded Theory was used to analyse the qualitative data. Opportunities for preventing harmful sexual behavior were the focus of the interviews with young people and workers. The research identified three opportunities for prevention, which involved acting on behalf of children and young people to: reform their sexuality education; redress their victimization experiences; and help their management of pornography. These opportunities could inform the design of initiatives to enhance the prevention agenda.

Joyal, C. C., Carpentier, J., & Martin, C. (2016). Discriminant factors for adolescent sexual offending: On the usefulness of considering both victim age and sibling incest. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 54*,10-22. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.01.006

Understanding the pathways and circumstances of juvenile sexual offending is of utmost importance. However, juvenile sexual offenders (JSO) represent an especially diverse group of individuals, and several categorizations have been proposed to obtain more homogeneous subgroups. Victim age-based and family relation-based categorizations are particularly promising because they seem theoretically and clinically relevant. Empirical results however are still inconsistent, and most studies have not considered these two dimensions jointly. The first goal of this study was to further examine the value of subgrouping JSO according to the age of their victim. A second goal was to determine the supplementary value, if any, of considering sibling incest. Based on a sample of 351 male JSO, it was first confirmed that sexual abuse of children was more strongly related to asociality (social skill deficits) than sexual abuse of peers, the latter being more closely associated with antisociality (general delinquency). The relevance of considering mixed-type JSO (with both child and peer victims) separately was also confirmed. More importantly, multivariate statistical analyses demonstrated that adding sibling incest to the equation was useful. JSO of intra-familial child were significantly more likely to have been victimized during their own childhood compared to JSO with extra-familial victims. Nevertheless, adolescents who had committed sibling incest obtained middle ground results on most variables (except for crime severity), suggesting that they constitute a distinct but not extreme, subgroup. This study confirmed the utility of using both the age and the family relation with the victim in characterizing juvenile sexual offending.

Masson, H., Hackett, S., Phillips, J., & Balfe, M. (2015). Developmental markers of risk or vulnerability? Young females who sexually abuse—characteristics, backgrounds, behaviours and outcomes. *Child & Family Social Work, 20*(1), 19-29. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.01.006

This paper presents findings from a subsample of 24 young females aged 8–16 years who were referred to specialist services in England during the 1990s because of their abusive sexual behaviours. The characteristics, backgrounds and behaviours of the sample are summarized and compared both with the males in the total population studied and with findings from the limited international literature on young female sexual abusers. Key findings include the higher rates of

sexual victimization amongst females, their lack of prior criminal convictions, their somewhat younger ages at referral and their fewer victims. A smaller selection of case studies is used to illustrate the range of circumstances and behaviours leading to referral. Follow-up interviews with two female ex service users, who are now in young adulthood, indicate that their childhood sexually abusive behaviour is more a marker of vulnerability than of risk of abusive behaviour in adulthood. Their struggles now as parents, in adult relationships and their ongoing health difficulties are outlined.

Leroux, E. J., Pullman, L. E., Motayne, G., & Seto, M. C. (2016). Victim age and the generalist versus specialist distinction in adolescent sexual offending. *Sexual Abuse, 28*(2), 79-95.
DOI:10.1177/1079063214535814

More knowledge is needed about the etiology and treatment needs of adolescent sex offenders. The current study compared adolescents who had offended against children (defined as below the age of 12 and at least 5 years younger than the adolescent), adolescents who have offended against peers or adults, and adolescents who had victims in both age groups. Based on Seto and Lalumière's meta-analytic findings, participants were compared on theoretically derived factors, including childhood sexual abuse, atypical sexual interests, sexual experience, social competence, psychiatric history, and general delinquency factors (past criminal history, substance abuse history, and offense characteristics). The study sample consisted of 162 court referred male adolescent sexual offenders aged 12 to 17 years. Of the six identified domains, groups significantly differed on five of them; the exceptions were variables reflecting social competence. The results further support the validity of distinguishing adolescent sex offenders by victim age.

Mackaronis, J. E., Byrne, P. M., & Strassberg, D. S. (2016). Assessing sexual interest in adolescents who have sexually offended. *Sexual Abuse, 28*(2), 96-115.
DOI:10.1177/1079063214535818

Adolescents who have sexually offended have unique treatment needs. For mental health professionals to adequately address these unique needs, further research is necessary. To that end, we explored the assessment of sexual interest (which may play an integral role in understanding potential for sexual reoffending) in a sample of 103 male adolescents who have sexually offended. We compared results from a physiological assessment (MONARCH 21 penile plethysmography

[PPG]) and an actuarial assessment (Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interest [SSPI]), plus data from an unobtrusive assessment (Affinity, a viewing time measure) in a smaller subsample of 16 male adolescents. One finding that has particular relevance for clinical assessment is that the SSPI may have limited utility with adolescents. We also found evidence for some overlap between data from PPG and viewing time assessments, although whether or not PPG data are ipsatized may affect relationships with other assessment modalities.

Collin-Vezina, D., Fast, E., Hélie, S., Cyr, M., Pelletier, S., & Fallon, B. (2014). Young offender sexual abuse cases under protection investigation. *Child Welfare, 93*(4), 91-111.

This study uses a large, probabilistic administrative dataset of sexual abuse cases under child protection investigation, in order to (1) draw a portrait of the characteristics of sibling sexual abuse cases investigated by intake workers and (2) compare the findings from sexual abuse investigation that involve either alleged sibling or non-sibling young offenders. Its intent is to bring important knowledge to guide child protection decision processes at the investigation stage.

Bleil Walters, J., Hughes, T. L., Sutton, L. R., Marshall, S. N., Crothers, L. M., Lehman, C., Paserba, D., Vanessa Talkington, V., Rochelle Taormina, R., & Huang, A. (2013). Maltreatment and depression in adolescent sexual offenders with an autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 22*(1), 72-89.
DOI:10.1080/10538712.2013.735357

This study examined the self-reported presence and severity of abuse, neglect, and depressive symptoms for 43 adolescents adjudicated delinquent due to a sexual offense. Twenty-seven of the adolescent sexual offenders were also diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, and 16 did not carry an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Both groups reported moderate to high levels of abuse and neglect. Adolescent sexual offenders with an autism spectrum disorder reported significantly higher depressive symptoms than those without an autism spectrum disorder. Furthermore, of the group with an autism spectrum disorder, those reporting severe levels of emotional abuse and/or emotional neglect were more likely to also have depressive symptoms. Results suggest a need to tailor treatment programs to match the unique needs of sexual offenders.

Keelan, C. M., & Fremouw, W. J. (2013). Child versus peer/adult offenders: A critical review of the juvenile sex offender literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 18*(6), 732-744.
DOI:10.1016/j.avb.2013.07.026

Sexual offenses are serious crimes and it is believed that adolescents perpetrate 20% of all sexual assaults and 50% of all child sexual abuse (Barbaree & Marshall, 2006). To better understand the etiology of juvenile sexual offending, researchers have explored differences between those who offend children versus those who offend peers/adults. This paper critically reviewed 21 studies that compared juvenile sex offenders who abused children with those who abused peers/adults on a variety of variables including victim, offense, and offender characteristics; psychosocial variables; and predictors and rates of recidivism. Strengths and weaknesses of these studies as well as future directions for the literature are discussed. Common methodological limitations of victim-age based comparisons of juvenile sex offenders included inconsistent definitions, low-powered studies, lack of standardized measures, and recidivism data based solely on conviction rates. Overall, many inconsistent findings limit our ability to give overarching conclusions; however, the research does suggest that not only is it important to examine child and peer/adult offenders, but mixed offenders (i.e., offender with both child and peer victims) as a distinct group need to be included in comparisons as well.

Oz, S. (2013). Parents of minors who have sexually abused: Legal liability and clinical interventions. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 22*(1), 90-102.
DOI:10.1080/10538712.2013.744377

While children and adolescents generally do not have the right to vote, marry, or sign contracts independently, they are often held responsible for their crimes. In spite of this, some parents of minor victims file civil suits against parents of the youth responsible for the harm. The courts must then decide to what extent, if any, parents are legally liable when their minor children commit offenses. Since parents are essential to the successful rehabilitation of minors who have sexually offended, the impact of legal liability on parental engagement in therapy must be examined. This article will explore the conflicting issues of age, legal responsibility, parental responsibility, and therapeutic effectiveness in the Israeli context and propose a means for resolution.

Rasmussen, L. A. (2013). Young people who sexually abuse: A historical perspective and future directions. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 22(1), 119-141.
DOI:10.1080/10538712.2013.744646

This article presents a historical overview of research on sexually abusive youth. The evolution of the field over the past 30 years is discussed—from the initial development of treatment interventions to contemporary efforts of professionals to move from traditional, adult-oriented interventions toward developmentally sensitive assessment strategies and practice models. Focus is on two critical areas: risk assessment and trauma-informed care. The article reviews contemporary research on risk assessment tools, stressing the need for validated tools that can accurately assess youth and follow changes in risk over time. Etiological models for understanding effects of trauma (Trauma Outcome Process Assessment and Family Lovemap) are presented. Discussed are new ecologically based therapy models for working with sexually abusive youth that approach the youth holistically and are attuned to youths' needs, including providing interventions to address effects of past trauma.

Rasmussen, L. A., Lev-Wiesel, R., & Eisikovits, Z. (2013). Current perspectives on children and youth who sexually abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 22(1), 1-8.
DOI:10.1080/10538712.2013.744644

Reicher, B. (2013). Denying denial in children with sexual behavior problems. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 22(1), 32-51. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2013.735356

Denial in some form is almost always present in the assessment and therapy of children with sexual behavior problems. Although it can be a major element in the therapeutic interaction, denial has received scant attention, both in teaching programs and professional literature. It is as if the clinical community is “denying denial.” Despite its seemingly resistant nature, denial can be used to produce impressive inroads in data collection and in developing insight. This article offers an in-depth look at the construct of denial, especially its expression among children with sexual behavior problems. It will be argued that a more informed understanding of denial dynamics can creatively inform and direct treatment of children and adolescents with sexual behavior problems and considerably improve treatment outcome.

Riser, D. K., Pegram, S. E., & Farley, J. P. (2013). Adolescent and young adult male sex offenders: Understanding the role of recidivism. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 22(1), 9-31. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2013.735355

The current review explores the complex paths that can lead to adolescent and young adult males becoming sexually abusive. Because sexual abuse is an ongoing issue in our society that is often oversimplified, this article distinguishes between the various risk factors that predict sexually abusive behavior and types of sex offenders, particularly recidivistic offenders. It is imperative to focus on adolescents and young adults who sexually abuse because they represent a particularly important intervention point in preventing sexual abuse in comparison to older age groups and address the importance of differentiating among youths who sexually abuse, particularly between one-time offenders and recidivistic offenders. Implications for addressing these differences are discussed.

Spice, A., Viljoen, J. L., Latzman, N. E., Scalora, M. J., & Ullman, D. (2013). [Risk and protective factors for recidivism among juveniles who have offended sexually](#). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 25(4), 347-369. DOI:10.1177/1079063212459086

Literature on risk factors for recidivism among juveniles who have sexually offended (JSOs) is limited. In addition, there have been no studies published concerning protective factors among this population. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship of risk and protective factors to sexual and nonsexual recidivism among a sample of 193 male JSOs (mean age = 15.26). Youths were followed for an average of 7.24 years following discharge from a residential sex offender treatment program. The risk factor *opportunities to reoffend*, as coded based on the Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism, was associated with sexual recidivism. Several risk factors (e.g., *prior offending*; *peer delinquency*) were associated with nonsexual recidivism. No protective factors examined were associated with sexual recidivism, although *strong attachments and bonds* as measured by the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth was negatively related to nonsexual recidivism. These findings indicate that risk factors for nonsexual recidivism may be consistent across both general adolescent offender populations and JSOs, but that there may be distinct protective factors that apply to sexual recidivism among JSOs. Results also indicate important needs for further research on risk factors, protective factors, and risk management strategies for JSOs.

Vizard, E. (2013). Practitioner review: The victims and juvenile perpetrators of child sexual abuse—assessment and intervention. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 54(5), 503-515.

The assessment of victims of child sexual abuse (CSA) is now a recognized aspect of clinical work for both CAMH and adult services. As juvenile perpetrators of CSA are responsible for a significant minority of the sexual assaults on other children, CAMH services are increasingly approached to assess these oversexualized younger children or sexually abusive adolescents. A developmental approach to assessment and treatment intervention is essential in all these cases. This review examines research on the characteristics of child victims and perpetrators of CSA. It describes evidence-based approaches to assessment and treatment of both groups of children. A selective review of MEDLINE, Psycinfo, Cochrane Library, and other databases was undertaken. Recommendations are made for clinical practice and future research. The characteristics of CSA victims are well known and those of juvenile perpetrators of sexual abuse are becoming recognized. Assessment approaches for both groups of children should be delivered within a safeguarding context where risk to victims is minimized. Risk assessment instruments should be used only as adjuncts to a full clinical assessment. Given high levels of psychiatric comorbidity, assessment, treatment, and other interventions should be undertaken by mental health trained staff. Victims and perpetrators of CSA present challenges and opportunities for professional intervention. Their complex presentations mean that their needs should be met by highly trained staff. However, their youth and developmental immaturity also give an opportunity to nip problem symptoms and behaviors in the bud. The key is in the earliest possible intervention with both groups. Future research should focus on long-term adult outcomes for both child victims and children who perpetrate CSA. Adult outcomes of treated children could identify problems and/or strengths in parenting the next generation and also the persistence and/or desistence of sexualized or abusive behavior.

Ybarra, M. L., & Mitchell, K. J. (2013). Prevalence rates of male and female sexual violence perpetrators in a national sample of adolescents. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 167(12), 1125-1134. DOI:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.2629

Sexual violence can emerge in adolescence, yet little is known about youth perpetrators—especially those not involved with the criminal justice system. To report national estimates of

adolescent sexual violence perpetration and details of the perpetrator experience. Data were collected online in 2010 (wave 4) and 2011 (wave 5) in the national Growing Up With Media study. Participants included 1058 youths aged 14 to 21 years who at baseline read English, lived in the household at least 50% of the time, and had used the Internet in the last 6 months. Recruitment was balanced on youths' biological sex and age. Forced sexual contact, coercive sex, attempted rape, and completed rape. Nearly 1 in 10 youths (9%) reported some type of sexual violence perpetration in their lifetime; 4% (10 females and 39 males) reported attempted or completed rape. Sixteen years old was the mode age of first sexual perpetration (n = 18 [40%]). Perpetrators reported greater exposure to violent X-rated content. Almost all perpetrators (98%) who reported age at first perpetration to be 15 years or younger were male, with similar but attenuated results among those who began at ages 16 or 17 years (90%). It is not until ages 18 or 19 years that males (52%) and females (48%) are relatively equally represented as perpetrators. Perhaps related to age at first perpetration, females were more likely to perpetrate against older victims, and males were more likely to perpetrate against younger victims. Youths who started perpetrating earlier were more likely than older youths to get in trouble with caregivers; youths starting older were more likely to indicate that no one found out about the perpetration. Sexual violence perpetration appears to emerge earlier for males than females, perhaps suggesting different developmental trajectories. Links between perpetration and violent sexual media are apparent, suggesting a need to monitor adolescents' consumption of this material. Victim blaming appears to be common, whereas experiencing consequences does not. There is therefore urgent need for school programs that encourage bystander intervention as well as implementation of policies that could enhance the likelihood that perpetrators are identified.

Aebi, M., Vogt, G., Plattner, B., Steinhausen, H. C., & Bessler, C. (2012). [Offender types and criminality dimensions in male juveniles convicted of sexual offenses](#). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 24(3), 265-288. DOI:10.1177/1079063211420449

Previous studies have described juveniles who sexually offended (JSO) as a rather heterogeneous population. In consequence, different typologies of JSO have been proposed for a better understanding of the causes and interventional needs of JSO. Three previously described types have received support in previous studies, namely, the victim age type (JSO offending against children vs. adolescents or adults), the co-offender status type (JSO offending as singles vs. in

groups), and the crime history type (JSO with vs. without a previous history of crime). The validity of these types is tested in a consecutive sample of 223 criminal male adolescents, who had been convicted of a sexual offense between 2000 and 2008 in the Canton of Zurich (Switzerland). By analyzing nine offender characteristics, four victim characteristics and six offense characteristics, the best evidence is found for the victim age-based type. The co-offender status and the crime history types are less well supported. However, all three types are related to each other and do not provide a comprehensive characterization of JSO. Therefore, an additional principal component analyses is performed searching for basic dimensions of juvenile sexual delinquency and leading to the following factors: “single offender with severe molestation of a related child,” “persistent general delinquent with migrant background,” “older offender with alcohol use and familial constraints,” “multiple and aggressive offender with social adversities,” and “offender with unselected and multiple victims.” These five dimensions reflect different relevant factors of sexual offending behavior in male juveniles and may have further impact on forensic and clinical practice.

Pullman, L., & Seto, M. C. (2012). Assessment and treatment of adolescent sexual offenders: Implications of recent research on generalist versus specialist explanations. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 36(3), 203-209. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2011.11.003

Adolescent sex offenders (ASOs) are commonly considered a special kind of juvenile offender, with distinct risk and etiological factors from other adolescent offenders. However, a growing body of research suggests that ASOs are more similar to other adolescent non-sex offenders than they are different (e.g., Awad, Saunders, & Levine, 1984; Elliott, 1994; France & Hudson, 1993). The purpose of the present article is to review recent literature pertaining to the distinction between generalist and specialist adolescent sex offenders (ASOs). This article summarizes the findings from Seto and Lalumière’s (2010) metaanalysis on theoretically derived risk and etiological factors for adolescent sexual offending. Based on these findings, recommendations for the assessment and treatment of this population are made. The results of Seto and Lalumière’s (2010) meta-analysis suggests the majority of ASOs are generalist offenders who are similar to other adolescent non-sex offenders, while a minority of ASOs are specialist offenders, who have unique risk and etiological factors including childhood sexual abuse/maltreatment and atypical sexual interests. A clear distinction has been shown between generalist ASOs and specialist ASOs. Assessment measures and treatment targets geared toward one of these groups may be less effective with the

other group, which means that this distinction is clinically important. It is expected that if treatment is matched to ASO type, sexual and nonsexual recidivism will be reduced and positive changes in other clinically important areas will be evident.

Rice, M. E., Harris, G. T., Lang, C., & Chaplin, T. C. (2012). Adolescents who have sexually offended: Is phallometry valid? *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 24(2), 133-152. DOI:10.1177/1079063211404249

It is unclear whether deviant sexual preferences distinguish adolescents who commit sex offenses in the same way that such deviance characterizes adult sex offenders. We compared male adolescents (mean age = 15 at the time of a referral sex offense), matched adult sex offenders, and normal men (adult nonoffenders or nonsex offenders). We hypothesized the following: phallometric responses of the adolescents would be similar to those of adult sex offenders and would differ from normals; adolescents with male child victims would exhibit greater evidence of sexual deviance than those whose only victims were female children; among adolescents who had molested children, those with a history of sexual abuse would exhibit more evidence of sexual deviance than those with no such history; and phallometric measures would predict recidivism. With some notable exceptions or qualifications, results confirmed the hypotheses. Phallometry has valid clinical and research uses with adolescent males who commit serious sex offenses.

Kemper, T. S., & Kistner, J. A. (2007). Offense history and recidivism in three victim-age-based groups of juvenile sex offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 19(4), 409-424. DOI:10.1177/107906320701900406

This study compared subgroups of juvenile sex offenders (JSOs) who victimized children (child offenders), peers (peer offenders), or both children and peers (mixed offenders) on sexual and nonsexual offense history, treatment outcomes, and recidivism to determine if these are distinct and valid subgroups. Though the group of mixed offenders was small, results showed that they exhibited a more diverse and more physically intrusive sexual offense history than the other JSOs and were less likely to successfully complete treatment. Sexual and nonsexual recidivism rates of mixed offenders did not differ from the other subgroups despite subgroup differences in juvenile sexual and nonsexual criminal records. However, differences in sexual recidivism rates of child versus peer offenders were found when the mixed offenders were either excluded from the sample

or combined with child offenders. The results highlight the need to include mixed offenders in future research examining the etiology of sexual offending, treatment, and recidivism of JSOs.

Reitzel, L. R., & Carbonell, J. L. (2006). [The effectiveness of sexual offender treatment for juveniles as measured by recidivism: A meta-analysis](#). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 18(4), 401-421. DOI:10.1007/s11194-006-9031-2

Published and unpublished data from nine studies on juvenile sexual offender treatment effectiveness were summarized by meta-analysis ($N=2986$, 2604 known male). Recidivism rates for sexual, non-sexual violent, non-sexual non-violent crimes, and unspecified non-sexual were as follows: 12.53%, 24.73%, 28.51%, and 20.40%, respectively, based on an average 59-month follow-up period. Four included studies contained a control group ($n=2288$) and five studies included a comparison treatment group ($n=698$). An average weighted effect size of 0.43 ($CI=0.33-0.55$) was obtained, indicating a statistically significant effect of treatment on sexual recidivism. However, individual study characteristics (e.g., handling of dropouts and non-equivalent follow-up periods between treatment groups) suggest that results should be interpreted with caution. A comparison of odds ratios by quality of study design indicated that higher quality designs yielded better effect sizes, though the difference between groups was not significant.

Vandiver, D. M. (2006). A prospective analysis of juvenile male sex offenders: Characteristics and recidivism rates as adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 21(5), 673-688. DOI:10.1177/0886260506287113

This research assesses the recidivism rates of a sample of 300 registered male sex offenders who were juveniles at the time of their initial arrest for a sex offense. This sample is followed for 3 to 6 years after they reached adulthood; recidivism rates are assessed during their adulthood only. The typical juvenile is a 15-year-old Caucasian male who was arrested for sexual assault or indecency with a child. The majority of the victims are females with an average age of 8. Although only 13 are rearrested during the follow-up period for a sex offense, more than half of the sample is arrested at least once for a nonsexual offense. The results of a Cox regression indicate that victim age, offender age, and victim sex are significant predictors of recidivism during adulthood.

Hershkowitz, I., Horowitz, D., Lamb, M. E., Orbach, Y., & Sternberg, K. J. (2004). Interviewing youthful suspects in alleged sex crimes: A descriptive analysis. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 28(4), 423-438. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2003.09.021

To introduce and evaluate a structured interview protocol designed for investigative interviews of youthful alleged perpetrators of child sexual abuse. Seventy-two alleged perpetrators ranging from 9 to 14 years of age ($M = 12$ years) were interviewed by 1 of 13 experienced youth investigators, employed by the Israeli Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, about incidents that had been reported by alleged victims. All interviews were conducted as part of the investigators' regular work and followed the structured interview guide appended to this article. Interviewers questioned older and younger children similarly, but addressed fewer invitations, directive questions, and option-posing prompts to suspects who denied the allegations than to those who partially or fully admitted them. The total number of details provided by the suspects did not vary depending on their age or whether or not they fully or partially admitted the allegations. In both cases, more information was elicited using invitations rather than suggestive or option-posing prompts. Contrary to expectations, suspects who at least partially admitted their involvement provided considerable amounts of information and were very responsive to free recall prompts, although interviewers used more risky (potentially error-inducing) prompts when interviewing suspects rather than alleged victims.

Righthand, S., & Welch, C. (2004). Characteristics of youth who sexually offend. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 13(3-4), 15-32. DOI:10.1300/J070v13n03_02

Sexual abuse by juveniles is widely recognized as a significant problem. As communities have become more aware of juvenile sex offending they have responded with increasingly severe responses. This is despite recidivism data suggesting that a relatively small group of juveniles commit repeat sexual offenses after there has been an official response to their sexual offending. Research has shown that juveniles who commit sexual offenses are a heterogeneous mix, varying according to a wide range of variables. This article provides an overview of the characteristics of youths who have committed sex offenses. Factors that will be discussed include types of offending behaviors, family environment, histories of child maltreatment, social skills and interpersonal relationships, sexual knowledge and experiences, academic and cognitive functioning, and mental health.

Kubik, E. K., Hecker, J. E., & Righthand, S. (2003). Adolescent females who have sexually offended: Comparisons with delinquent adolescent female offenders and adolescent males who sexually offend. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 11*(3), 63-83.
DOI:10.1300/J070v11n03_04

Very little is known about adolescent females who commit sexual offenses. In this two-part exploratory study, a sample of 11 adolescent females with sexual offense histories is described. In Study I, the sample is compared to an age-matched sample of 11 adolescent females with non-sexual victim-involved offense histories. The sexually offending group had significantly fewer antisocial behavior problems, such as alcohol or drug use problems, problems with fighting, or problems at school. They began their offense behaviors at younger ages than their non-sex offending delinquent peers. Few differences emerged with respect to attitudes about offense behaviors, such as level of denial. In Study II, the same sample of females with sex offense histories was compared with a group of age-matched adolescent males with sex offense histories. The two sex-offending groups were found to be remarkably similar. There were few differences with respect to psychosocial and criminal histories, antisocial behavior, and variables related to clinical presentation and treatment (e.g., level of denial about offense). Likewise, the two groups are remarkably similar with respect to specific sex offense behaviors. The females, however, appear to have experienced more severe and pervasive abuse compared to the males.

Worling, J. R. (2001). Personality-based typology of adolescent male sexual offenders: Differences in recidivism rates, victim-selection characteristics, and personal victimization histories. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 13*(3), 149-166. DOI:10.1023/A:1009518532101

California Psychological Inventory scores from 112 adolescent male sexual offenders aged 12-19 (M = 15.59, SD = 1.46) were examined. A cluster analysis of factor-derived scores revealed four personality-based subgroups: Antisocial/ Impulsive, Unusual/Isolated, Overcontrolled/Reserved, and Confident/Aggressive. Significant differences were observed between groups regarding history of physical abuse, parental marital status, residence of the offenders, and whether or not offenders received criminal charges for their index sexual assaults. Subgroup membership was unrelated to victim age, victim gender, and offenders' history of sexual victimization. Recidivism data (criminal charges) were collected for a period ranging from 2 to 10 years (M = 6.23, SD = 2.02). Offenders in the two more pathological groups (Antisocial/Impulsive and Unusual/Isolated)

were most likely to be charged with a subsequent violent (sexual or nonsexual) or nonviolent offense. The four-group typology based solely on personality functioning is remarkably similar to that found by W. R. Smith, C. Monastersky, and R. M. Deisher in 1987 from their cluster analysis of MMPI scores. In addition to implications for risk prediction, the present typology is suggestive of differential etiological pathways and treatment needs.

Burton, D. L. (2000). [Were adolescent sexual offenders children with sexual behavior problems?](#). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 12(1), 37-48.
DOI:10.1023/A:1009511804302

This article compares responses of three groups of incarcerated adolescents who admitted to sexual offending in an anonymous survey project on measures of trauma, sexual offending, the relationship between trauma and perpetration, and adjudication status. The first group admitted to sexual offending before the age of 12 only (n = 48), the second after the age of 12 only (n = 130), and the third before and after the age of 12 (n = 65). More than 46% of the sexually aggressive adolescents began their deviant behaviors before the age of 12. Level and complexity of perpetration acts were more severe for the continuous offenders than for the other groups. Victimization and perpetration were significantly correlated for all three groups. This study supports a social learning hypothesis for the development of sexual offending by adolescents. Implications for research and clinical practice are drawn.

Hunter, J. A., Hazelwood, R. R., & Slesinger, D. (2000). Juvenile-perpetrated sex crimes: Patterns of offending and predictors of violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15(1), 81-93. DOI:10.1023/A:1007553504805

Criminal record reviews were conducted on 126 juveniles arrested for sex offenses against children (n = 62) or peers and adults (n = 64). Peer/adult offenders were found more consistently to offend against females who were strangers or acquaintances, more frequently to commit their crimes in a public area, and more often to act in a group with other offenders. Peer/adult offenders were also more likely to commit the sex crime in association with other criminal activity, and they evidenced higher overall levels of aggression and violence. In general, the aggression of child molesters tended to intimidation rather than physical force, whereas the aggression of peer/ adult offenders was more injurious, and perhaps gratuitous. Violence in peer/adult offenders, but not of child

molesters, was predicted by the interactive influence of the victim's gender, age, and level of resistance.

Prentky, R., Harris, B., Frizzell, K., & Righthand, S. (2000). An actuarial procedure for assessing risk with juvenile sex offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 12*(2), 71-93. DOI:10.1023/A:1009568006487

Assessments of juvenile sexual offenders that are intended to aid in dispositional decisions occur at a multitude of decision points within the juvenile justice system. Despite the ubiquity of decisions that include considerations of risk, relatively little empirical work has been done on the development and validation of a risk assessment procedure for these young offenders. In this article, we discuss our initial efforts in developing and validating an actuarial risk assessment protocol for juvenile sex offenders using a sample of 96 adolescents that had been admitted, treated, and discharged from the Joseph J. Peters Institute. We conclude with a critical discussion of problems associated with evaluating risk in this population, and of deficiencies and revision requirements in the present protocol.

Shaw, J. A., Lewis, J. E., Loeb, A., Rosado, J., & Rodriguez, R. A. (2000). [Child on child sexual abuse: Psychological perspectives](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect, 24*(12), 1591-1600. DOI:10.1016/S0145-2134(00)00212-X

This study describes the emotional and behavioral responses of children who have been sexually victimized by juveniles (CC) 17 years of age and younger compared to child victims of adults (CA) 18 years of age and older. A total sample of $N = 194$ children and adolescents participated in the study, with 26% ($n = 51$) comprising CC and 74% ($n = 143$) encompassing CA. The mother/caretaker was administered a demographic form, Achenbach's Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), and the Family Assessment Measure (FAM-P). The child was given the Family Assessment Measure (FAM-C) and the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC). The clinician completed the Parental Reaction to Incest Disclosure Scale (PRIDS). No differences were found between the two groups for the type of sexual abuse, penetration, or the use of force. CC were younger and more likely to be males who were abused in a school setting, home, or a relative's home by a sibling or a non-related male. CC endorsed clinically significant sexual preoccupations and manifested borderline clinically significant symptomatology. Children

victimized by other children manifested elevated levels of emotional and behavioral problems and were not significantly different from those who had been sexually abused by adults.

Worling, J. R., & Curwen, T. (2000). Adolescent sexual offender recidivism: Success of specialized treatment and implications for risk prediction. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 24*(7), 965-982. DOI:10.1016/S0145-2134(00)00147-2

To evaluate the success of specialized community-based treatment for reducing adolescent sexual reoffending and explore the predictive utility of variables assessed regarding sexual and nonsexual recidivism. Recidivism data (criminal charges) were collected for 58 offenders participating in at least 12 months of specialized treatment at the SAFE-T Program. Data were also collected for a comparison group of 90 adolescents who received only an assessment ($n = 46$), refused treatment ($n = 17$), or dropped out before 12 months ($n = 27$). Follow-up interval ranged from 2 to 10 years ($M = 6.23$, $SD = 2.02$). Offenders completed a battery of psychological tests to provide standardized data regarding social, sexual, and family functioning. Recidivism rates for sexual, violent nonsexual, and nonviolent offenses for treated adolescents were 5.17%, 18.9%, and 20.7%, respectively. The Comparison group had significantly higher rates of sexual (17.8%), violent nonsexual (32.2%), and nonviolent (50%) recidivism. Sexual recidivism was predicted by sexual interest in children. Nonsexual recidivism was related to factors commonly predictive of general delinquency such as history of previous offenses, low self-esteem, and antisocial personality. Results support the efficacy of treatment for adolescent sexual offenders and are consistent with the notion that sexual recidivism is predicted by unique factors unrelated to general (nonsexual) reoffending.

Mathews, R., Hunter, J. A., & Vuz, J. (1997). Juvenile female sexual offenders: Clinical characteristics and treatment issues. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 9*(3), 187-199. DOI:10.1007/BF02675064

The phenomenon of juvenile female sexual offending was explored through the study of 67 youths who had been referred for either community-based or residential treatment following a documented history of sexual perpetration. These youths were compared to a group of 70 juvenile male sexual offenders across three parameters: developmental and psychiatric characteristics, history of maltreatment, and sexual perpetration characteristics. Relative to the juvenile males, the

histories of the studied females reflected even more extensive and pervasive childhood maltreatment, with many of the youths exposed to the modeling of interpersonal aggression by females as well as males. The majority of these juvenile female sexual offenders demonstrated repetitive patterns of sexual offending with multiple victims, suggesting psychosexual disturbances equivalent in severity to the comparison group of males. The authors discuss typological impressions of this clinical population and their special treatment needs.

Cooper, C. L., Murphy, W. D., & Haynes, M. R. (1996). Characteristics of abused and nonabused adolescent sexual offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 8(2), 105-119. DOI:10.1007/BF02258004

The current study was designed to provide further information on characteristics of adolescent sexual offenders who have and have not experienced abuse. The subjects were approximately 300 adolescent offenders seen in a clinical treatment program. Abused and nonabused adolescent offenders were compared on a number of offense-specific variables and standardized instruments including the MMPI, Interpersonal Behavior Survey, Family Adaptation and Cohesion Evaluation Scale, and Self-Reported Delinquent Behavior Checklist. Results indicated that those offenders who were sexually abused had an earlier onset of their offending, had more victims, were likely to abuse both males and females, and tended to show more psychopathology and interpersonal problems, although no differences were found in terms of self-reported delinquent behavior or family functioning. The data are discussed in terms of their possible etiological significance and clinical implications.

Ryan, G., Miyoshi, T. J., Metzner, J. L., Krugman, R. D., & Fryer, G. E. (1996). Trends in a national sample of sexually abusive youths. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 35(1), 17-25. DOI:10.1097/00004583-199601000-00008

To describe sociodemographic factors pertinent to sexually abusive youths, to define common characteristics of the offending behaviors and victims, and to identify issues relevant to treatment recommendations. The Uniform Data Collection system (UDCS), developed by the National Adolescent Perpetrator Network, provided data from 90 contributors in 30 states on more than 1,600 juveniles referred to them for specialized evaluation and/or treatment following a sexual offense. The UDCS comprises four separate structured questionnaires that collect both factual

information and clinical impressions. Physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and loss of a parental figure were common in these youths' histories. Twenty-two percent of the youths, who had been victims of sexual abuse, reported that the perpetrator of their own sexual abuse was female. The youths committed a wide range of sexual offenses, with twice as many of the referring offenses involving female victims than male victims. The discovery of sexually abusive youths across both urban and rural areas supports the need for comprehensive service delivery and a continuum of treatment services to be available in all communities.

Vizard, E., Monck, E., & Misch, P. (1995). Child and adolescent sex abuse perpetrators: A review of the research literature. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 36(5), 731-756. DOI:10.1111/j.1469-7610.1995.tb01326.x

This paper reviews the existing literature on selected issues in relation to child and adolescent sex abuse perpetrators. The relatively recent recognition of this phenomenon and the multiple problems of definition in this field may have affected the figures for incidence and prevalence. Among known cases a high proportion of young sex abuse perpetrators have suffered earlier adversities such as sexual and physical victimisation, dysfunctional family relationships and peer isolation. Despite a slender research data base on which to draw, treatment programmes for this client group have proliferated and many of these have not been adequately evaluated. There is a pressing need for the adoption of agreed definitions of outcome targets and measures and establishing long term outcome studies with this group of children and adolescents.

Fehrenbach, P. A., Smith, W., Monastersky, C., & Deisher, R. W. (1986). Adolescent sexual offenders: Offender and offense characteristics. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 56(2), 225-233. DOI:10.1111/j.1939-0025.1986.tb02722.x

Descriptive data are presented on 305 adolescent sexual offenders. Types of offenses and the circumstances under which they occurred are described. Results suggest that adolescents commit an array of sexual offenses, that they are not typically isolated incidents, and that they are frequently indicative of more general adjustment difficulties.