

Types of Sex offenders

‡Rapists

‡Child molesters

‡Internet and pornography offenders

‡Exhibitionists

‡Other paraphilic behaviors leading to norm violation (e.g., voyeurism)

Rapists: Theories and Typologies

Limited empirical validation

MTC Typology (Knight & Prentky)

Four primary types leading to nine overall types:

1. Opportunistic (impulsive; instrumental aggression)

2. Pervasively angry (gratuitous aggression)

3. Sexual: Sadistic (overt or muted) and non-sadistic

-Enduring sexual preoccupation

-fusion of sex and aggression

4. Vindictive

-hostility toward women; denigrate and humiliate women

High offense planning in sexual and sadistic category

High aggression and violence in pervasively angry, vindictive, and overt sadistic types

Other characteristics associated with rapists

- ‡History of truancy and/or poor school achievement
- ‡Deficits in employment history
- ‡Alcohol or substance abuse
- ‡Personality dynamics w/ power & control
- ‡Low self-esteem, anxiety, sexual inadequacy
- ‡Hypermasculinity

Characteristics associated with child molesters

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Some Sex crime statistics

More than 2/3 of sexual assaults involve children under 18

99% of victims are females

Level of harm=level of vulnerability

Rate of rape in the U.S. substantially higher than that in Germany (four times), Britain (13 times), and Japan (20 times).

Recidivism

- # Rates of reoffending (after already having been charged or convicted of a sexual crime) are far lower than commonly perceived
- # Lower compared to nonsexual violent and nonviolent crimes.
- # Individuals who commit sex offenses are not a homogeneous group, and manifest different trends toward a reoffense.

Recidivism

- # Major issue creating confused arguments
 - # The overall rate of sex crimes compared to other crimes and over time
 - # The varied rates of offending for subgroups of offenders.
 - # Difference between having multiple victims prior to being arrested and/or convicted, and continuing to offend after having been identified.
 - # Prevalence/incidence vs. recidivism

Recidivism

Recidivism

- Dynamic factors can be long-term or historical but have potential for changing through intervention
- Stable dynamic: persistent characteristics which can nevertheless change (e.g., sexual deviance; psychopathology; substance abuse proneness)
- Acute dynamic factors: rapidly changing characteristics (e.g., emotional states; intoxication; victims acquisition behaviors)

Static and stable dynamic factors associated with sex offending (Craig, et al., 2008)

‡Developmental factors

‡Juvenile sexual offense

‡Poor family background

‡Victim of sexual abuse

‡Age at first offense

‡Age at release (inverse)

Static and stable dynamic factors associated with sex offending (Craig, et al., 2008)

‡Victim factors

‡Extra-familial victim

‡Male victim

‡Stranger/unrelated victim

‡Multiple victims

Static and stable dynamic factors associated with sex offending (Craig, et al., 2008)

‡ Sexual interest factors

‡ Sexual arousal/preference for children

‡ Deviant sexual interests

‡ History of noncontact sexual offense

Static and stable dynamic factors associated with sex offending (Craig, et al., 2008)

‡Forensic factors

Static and stable dynamic factors associated with sex offending (Craig, et al., 2008)

‡Clinical factors

‡Lower IQ

‡Marital relationship (inverse)

‡Treatment drop-out/discontinuation

‡Diagnosis of personality disorder

‡Psychopathy

STABLE DYNAMIC FACTORS

1. SOCIAL INFLUENCES (Negative/Delinquent)
2. INTIMACY DEFICITS
 - Intimate partners
 - Emotional identification with children
 - Hostility toward women
 - General social rejection / Loneliness
 - Lack of concern for others
3. SEXUAL SELF-REGULATION
 - Sexual pre-occupation / Sex drive
 - Sex as coping
 - Deviant sexual interests
4. ATTITUDES SUPPORTIVE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
 - Entitlement attitudes
 - Attitudes congruent with sexual abuse of adults or children
5. COOPERATION WITH SUPERVISION
6. GENERAL SELF-REGULATION
 - Impulsivity
 - Poor problem-solving
 - Negative emotionality / hostility

Recidivism Studies

- ‡ Importance of Meta-analytic studies or large samples
- ‡ Hanson & Bussiere Metaanalysis (1998)
 - ‡ 61 studies; N=28,972 (offenders)
 - ‡ 4-5 year follow-up
 - ‡ Re-arrest (new charges) or reconviction
 - ‡ overall rate=13.4% (n= 23, 393)
 - ‡ Rapists=18.9%; child molesters=12.7%

Recidivism Studies

‡ Harris & Hanson (2004)

- ‡ 10 sub-samples from US, Great Britain; Canada N= 4724
- ‡ 7 to 32 years follow-up
- ‡ Re-arrest (new charges) or reconviction
- ‡ 5-15 year recidivism 14% to 24%
- ‡ After 20 years, 73% offense free
- ‡ 5, 10, 15, 20 years= 14%; 6%; 4%; 3%
- ‡ Previously convicted > First time offenders (37% vs. 19%)
- ‡ Boy CM > girl CM (35% vs. 16%)
- ‡ Rapists > Incest offenders (24% vs. 13%)
- ‡ Under age 50 > Over age 50 (26% vs. 12%)

Recidivism Studies

- ` Bureau of Justice Statistics; Langan (2003)
- ` Representative sample of sex offenders released from US State prisons (across 15 states) in 1994 (N=9691)
- ` Sample consisted of 2/3 of all sex offenders released from prison in US that year
- ` Follow-up=3 years
- ` Re-arrest rates: Any crime
 - ` Sexual offenders= 43%
 - ` Nonsexual offenders= 68%
- ` Re-arrest rates: Sexual crimes:
 - ` Sex offenders=5%
 - ` Nonsexual offenders= 1.3%
- ` BUT: Nonsexual offenders accounted for 87% of new sexual offenses
 - ` Larger size as a group

Recidivism Studies: Implications

- ` Overall level of recidivism lower than assumed by general public, media, even professionals
- ` Certain subgroups of sex offenders may be especially at risk with as high as 50% to 80% rates of recidivism
- ` Erroneous assumptions may lead to over-supervision of low risk offenders or to diversion

Myth: Risk assessment of sex offenders is not