Sexual Abuse in Australia and New Zealand

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

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Abstract

In this article we follow-up on previous works pertaining to separate models of sexual offending as these relate to assessment and treatment: the Good Lives Model of offender rehabilitation (Ward & Gannon, 2006; Ward & Stewart, 2003), the Self-Regulation Model of the sexual offence process (Ward & Hudson, 1998), and our reconstruction (Ward, Melser, & Yates, 2007) of the Risk/Need/Responsivity Model of correctional intervention (Andrews & Bonta, 2003). Recently, the Good Lives and Self-Regulation Models have been integrated into a combined approach to the treatment of sexual offenders (Ward, Yates, & Long, 2006; Yates & Ward, 2007). In this article, we fully integrate these models into a comprehensive case formulation approach for use in the assessment, treatment, and supervision of sexual offenders. We also reconstruct here the Self-Regulation Model based on shortcomings identified in the framework, application to practice since its development, and integration with the Good Lives Model. We argue that none of these models singly is sufficient to guide the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders, and that an integrated model that draws on research and practice in the development of case formulation, is most likely to be effective in achieving the goals of reduced recidivism, risk reduction, and reduced rates of sexual victimisation.

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Abstract

One of the key difficulties in engaging sexual offenders in treatment is responding to denial and resistance. Prevailing methods for treating resistance in these clients involve assessing treatment readiness and utilising motivational interviewing techniques. This paper discusses an ethical therapeutic style for use with resistant offenders drawn from Fisher and Ury's (1992) Principled Negotiation and Ury's (1991) work on negotiating with difficult clients. It provides a framework and techniques to enhance the working relationship by negotiating a path through resistance with the client. 'Principled negotiation' aims to separate the client from the problem, allowing the working relationship to focus on the problem, not the client. This 'problem' of resistance is further analysed through identifying mutual interests, options for mutual gain and using objective criteria for problem-solving. This practice is not intended to replace motivational interviewing techniques but rather allow for the development of a goal-focused working relationship as a precursor and adjunct to therapy for these clients.

Criterion and Predictive Validity of the Static-99 for Adult Males Convicted of Sexual Offences Against Children

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Abstract

Official demographic and offence history data and confidential self-report data obtained from adult males convicted of sexual offences against children were used to produce actuarial recidivism risk prediction (Static-99) scores, four sexual deviance and general criminological predictor variables, and four (official and unofficial) offence-related outcome variables. Static-99 scores applicable at the time of the current sexual offence conviction (n = 172) predicted sexual and nonsexual offending outcomes. Regression models were improved with the addition of sexual deviance and criminological predictors not included in the Static-99. Static-99 scores applicable at the time of the first sexual offence conviction for known recidivist sexual offenders (n = 40) predicted official nonsexual offence convictions and self-reported number of sexual offence victims, but not official sexual offence convictions or self-reported total period of sexual offending. Again, regression models were improved with the addition of other sexual deviance and criminological predictors. Results provide partial support for criterion and predictive validity of the Static-99. Applied risk assessments may benefit from consideration of key self-report and official data not included in the Static-99.

Phallometric Assessment of Sexual Arousal: A Review of Validity and Diagnostic Issues

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Abstract

While phallometric assessment of sexual offenders logically follows from sexual deviance theories of offending, we conclude that the evidence for this assessment process is inconsistent. A wide variety of methodologies, poorly specified and poorly chosen, or the absence of control groups has resulted in a fragmented literature in this area. Nonetheless, recent meta-analyses continue to portray sexual deviance (usually phallometrically determined) as the best predictor of future sexual violence. Recent studies have suggested that proxy measures of such deviance may provide sufficient evidence of deviance. We suggest that only by the use of research protocols with very rigorous methodology will the validity of phallometry be determined.

Short Term Reoffending by Child Victim Sex Offenders in New Zealand: A Comparison of Those With and Without Extended Supervision

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Abstract

Sexual offenders with child victims in New Zealand who are considered at high risk for reoffending are subject to an Extended Supervision Order. This allows for a period of supervision of up to ten years following release to the community. The present study examined 89 offenders given Extended Supervision Orders over the 33 month period since the legislation was enacted. All types of reoffending resulting in criminal convictions by this group were included. A matched sample of sexual offenders with child victims released prior to this legislation and a sample of offenders judged to be lower risk were compared to those under extended supervision. Offenders under extended supervision reoffended faster and at a higher rate for both sexual and general offences than those deemed lower risk, but at a lower rate than pre-extended supervision high risk offenders. The relationship between specialist treatment programme attendance and completion, actuarial risk level, and recidivism in the extended supervision sample were also investigated. These variables were found not to be significant predictors of sexual recidivism.

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