

Abstract

- Juvenile courts frequently over-supervise youth that engage in crimes of a sexual nature, despite youth overwhelmingly desisting from these behaviors, which impacts youth quality of life and recidivism.
- Research on Problematic Sexual Behavior in Adolescents (PSB-A) identifies several risk factors, such as early trauma, attachment issues, exposure to pornography, deviant interests, social skills, family experiences, and emotional regulation (Yoder et al., 2022).
- The purpose of this project was to develop a typology tool using a five-class model to inform targeted interventions and improve outcomes and life quality for youth with problematic sexual behavior.
- This study will examine correlations between this tool and two other common risk classification instruments used by the juvenile court under study.
- This research has implications for those working with youth who have engaged in PSB and for creating safer, healthier communities.

Methods

- The study followed a phased approach to develop and validate a youth PSB typology tool. It involved question development, pilot testing, data collection, statistical analyses (EFA, CFA, LCA) and the creation of a scoring guide.
- Current tools used by the court are the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) measuring general delinquency, and the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol (JSOAP), which includes sex specific criteria. These are widely used juvenile risk/need tools.
- Here bivariate correlations between existing OYAS and JSOAP total risk scores and the new typology tool’s subscales are examined to explore convergent and discriminant validity.

Classification Tool for Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior (CTY-PSB): Sample Questions

- Youth watched deviant pornography (violent/child).
- Youth gets sexually aroused and has committed a sexually abusive behavior while watching pornography.
- Parent/family members deny, justify, or minimize client’s PSB.
- Past trauma appears to influence aggression or violent behaviors.
- Past trauma appears to normalize sexually abusive behaviors for youth.
- Remorseful and able to recognize the harm they have caused.
- Youth blames external forces or people or past events for problem sexual behavior.
- Grooming towards both the victims and victim caregivers.
- Planning is elaborate and victim-specific.
- Exploits/manipulates others for personal gain.

Discussion

- The strongest relationship with general delinquency risk is non-sexual aggression & coercion/power/aggression in PSB.
- The strongest relationship with sexual risk is victimization history & non-sexual aggression.
- Deviant arousal, pornography, young victims/grooming & planning NOT correlated with sexual risk.
- This tool allows for a more tailored approach to court decision-making, supervision and treatment planning as interventions can vary by typological distinction and needs identified via the subtypes.

Results

Discriminant & Divergent Validity of CTY-PSB Subscales

Subscales	OYAS	JSOAP
Deviant Arousal	.162	.128
Pairing Deviant Arousal and PSB	-.105	.119
Pornography	-.046	.010
Family History of Victimization	.415**	.497***
Characteristics of PSB: Trauma linked to PSB and frequency of offending	.217	.354***
Lack of Treatment Empathy	.409**	.370**
Lack of Empathy	.113	.306*
Accepting Responsibility	.417**	.324*
Grooming/Young Age of Victims	-.153	-.186
Planning	-.160	-.057
Coercion/Power/Aggression in PSB	.426**	.251*
Non-Sexual Aggression	.478***	.504***
Factors		
Inappropriate Sexual Expression	.157	.291*
Limited Understanding of Victim Impact	.393**	.396**
Level of Planning in Commission of PSB	-.171	.073
Power and Control	.505***	.436***
Typology Total		
Total Typology Score	-.089	.162

References available upon request

