Psychopathy is a serious personality disorder that is defined by a constellation of affective, interpersonal, and behavioral characteristics (Hare, 1996). In adult samples, the construct demonstrates a well-established nomological net, conceptual coherence, and predictive utility (Hart, Watt, & Vincent, 2002). Fueled, in part, by the extensive empirical support for the utility of adult psychopathy in predicting negative outcomes (e.g., recidivism, violence, aggression; see generally Salekin, Rogers, & Sewell, 1996), a growing body of research has begun to explore the manifestation of psychopathic traits in youth. Despite this emerging research interest in examining psychopathic traits in adolescents, researchers and clinicians currently question whether these traits can be accurately measured in youth, and if so, whether they should be, given the potential for harm to youth who may be labeled as “psychopathic” (Edens, Skeem, Cruise, & Cauffman, 2001; Edens & Vincent, 2008).

Adding another layer to the complexity of the assessment of psychopathy in adolescents is the use of this label with adolescents with sexual behavior problems (ASBP). In this population, the potential for harm and misuse of the construct is magnified. At this time, a majority of states have adopted the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), which—for the first time—applies consequences typically reserved for adult sex offenders (e.g., registration and notification) to youth. Under SORNA requirements, ASBP are evaluated for risk (e.g., sexual reoffending, violence), and the court often uses these results to inform the risk level the youth is assigned. These risk levels, in turn, affect the scope of registration and notification requirements imposed on the youth. Given the major implications of these determinations on ASBP, it is critical that these judgments are based on information from well-validated measures.

While the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL:YV; Forth, Kosson, & Hare, 2003) shows some utility in predicting general and violent recidivism in adolescent samples, it shows decreased predictive validity in ASBP samples for nonsexual recidivism.
Moreover, outside of a handful of isolated studies with more violent young offenders, the PCL:YV does not predict sexual recidivism in ASPB—primarily due to extremely low overall rates of sexual recidivism in adolescent samples (Caldwell, 2002; Nonetheless, the PCL:YV is used in risk assessment with ASBP (Caldwell, Ziemke, & Vitacco, 2008). This continued use of the measure in light of a lack of empirical support and the potential for harm and misuse of the construct in ASPB demands further research. Thus, the current study seeks to examine the predictive validity of the PCL:YV across recidivism outcomes and demographic subgroups to inform the use of PCL:YV in ASPB.

We examined the predictive validity of the PCL:YV for youth and adult criminal reoffending in a sample of over 600 adjudicated ASBP who completed a specialized residential treatment program for sexual behavior problems. In this sample, the PCL:YV significantly predicted general and violent, but not sexual, reoffending in the aggregate sample over an average follow-up period of five years with some group differences according to age and ethnicity. Total and factor scores for both the 13-item (i.e., Cooke & Michie, 2001, 3-factor) and the 20-item (i.e., Hare et al., 2003, 4-factor) models were also examined. Overall, the Antisocial factor contributed to the most variance in the prediction of recidivism outcomes. We examine these results in relation to the use of the PCL:YV to inform clinical decision-making and risk determinations with ASBP in forensic assessment and treatment.

**Learning Goals and Objectives:**

- Describe the literature relating to the assessment of psychopathic traits in adolescents generally and to inform the assessment of risk in juvenile justice samples.
- Describe the literature relating to use of the PCL:YV in risk assessment for ASBP youth.
- Provide a better understanding of the relationship between the PCL:YV and recidivism outcomes in ASBP samples generally and more specifically from dimensional perspective.
- Identify areas for future research to inform clinical decision-making and risk determinations with ASBP.
- Provide recommendations for the use of the PCL:YV for risk assessment in ASBP samples.
An Exploration of Psychopathy in Youth Charged With Sexual Crimes

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Juveniles under the age of 18 have been estimated to commit 15-20% of all reported sexual assaults (e.g., FBI's Uniform Crime Report, 2001; Puzzanchera, 2009). Despite this high prevalence, research has yet to establish a reliable, measurable distinction between adolescent sexual and nonsexual offenders (e.g., Butler & Seto, 2002; Seto & Lalumière, 2010; Worling & Långström, 2006). However, psychopathic traits in juvenile sexual offenders have been linked to both violent and nonviolent recidivism (e.g., Gretton et al., 2001), marking it as a promising, albeit unexplored, contribution to adolescent sexual deviance. To date, research using self-report measures of psychopathy has found no or little difference between sexual and nonsexual juvenile offenders (e.g., Boonmann et al., 2015; Morell & Burton, 2014). Research utilizing clinically measured psychopathy traits using the PCL-YV may offer a different outcome. As such, via exploratory analysis, the present study aims to fill the crucial gap in sexual offender literature regarding psychopathic traits and youth-perpetrated sexual abuse.

Facilitated by an international relationship between researchers and clinicians, a data sample of 94 juvenile offenders was obtained for analysis in partnership with the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. Original files including demographics, independent difference measures and criminal charges were compiled and digitized. Of this sample, 14 male juveniles were charged with one or more crimes of a sexual nature (e.g., sexual assault, lewd acts with a child). In comparison to nonsexual juvenile offenders, those charged with a sexual offence had significantly higher overall psychopathy and facet one scores. For a more precise examination, case-match analysis paired juveniles charged with a sex-related criminal charge to an equal number of juveniles charged exclusively with nonsexual violent offences according to age (within 1.5 years), gender and race. Consistent with preliminary findings, juveniles with a sex-related criminal charge scored significantly higher in psychopathy overall, but also on facets one and four specifically. Follow-up discriminant function analysis revealed that using scores restricted to facet one and four, sexual offences could be predicted with 71.4% accuracy, and nonsexual offences with 64.3% accuracy in the juvenile sample. Juveniles charged with a sexual offence were also compared to juveniles charged with a homicide-related crime (i.e. murder, intent to murder or manslaughter; n=13) on psychopathy, revealing higher scores in the former. Further, these distinct groups of juvenile offenders were found to significantly differ on facets three and four of psychopathy. Specifically, those charged with sexual offences scored higher. Scores on facets three and four were found to significantly predict group membership as a sexual
or homicidal offender; such charges could be forecast in juveniles with 71.4% and 76.9% accuracy respectively.

The sample within the present dataset is growing, allowing for supplementary analyses in the future. Present results however, support a potential “red flag” for young sexual offenders – psychopathy – and in particular, unique and deviant interpersonal (e.g., manipulative), lifestyle (e.g., irresponsible behavior), and antisocial (e.g., criminal diversity) characteristics. In regards to prevention, intervention and treatment, these findings will inform best practice for frontline workers within the youth criminal justice system by identifying the unique motivations, thoughts and behaviours likely appearing in juvenile sexual offenders. As such, clinicians may consider using the PCL-YV as a contributing assessment tool for risk evaluations, facilitating further research in this area.

**Learning Goals and Objectives:**

- **To highlight psychopathic traits in youth as being useful “red flags” for perpetration of sexual abuse in adolescence.**
- **To tease apart the specific, problematic personality characteristics of young sexual offenders in contrast to their nonsexual criminal counterparts based on the four facets of psychopathy as measured by the PCL-YV.**
- **To acknowledge and support literature for adolescent sexual offenders as heterogeneous group of juvenile delinquents who differ from youth committing other serious crimes (i.e., homicide).**
- **To highlight the need for juvenile sexual offenders to be treated differently than juveniles committed of a nonsexual violent crime in terms of preventative measures, intervention strategies, and treatment programs.**
- **To bring together “different roles” with the “same goals”.** This presentation will unite two bodies, one academic and one government agency, in achieving all of the above listed goals and objectives. The University of British Columbia – Okanagan (UBCO) and the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) have developed a co-operative relationship; The OJA coordinates and applies innovative, preventative programs for juvenile delinquency to which UBCO upholds its responsibility to contribute through empirical research. This presentation will be the first step in sharing preliminary findings with researchers and clinicians.