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RECIDIVISM/REOFFENDING BY
SEXUALLY ABUSIVE ADOLESCENTS:
A DIGEST OF EMPIRICAL RESEARCH STUDIES
Years: 1943–2008

SUMMARY

85 RESEARCH STUDIES

TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH STUDIED = 13,034

RANGE OF RECIDIVISM RATES ACROSS
ALL STUDIES = 0% → 75%

MEAN RECIDIVISM RATE FOR ALL STUDIES = 7.73%

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Allan, et. al. {2003} conducted a retrospective evaluation of the files of 326 JSOs convicted in the Western Australia Children's Court from January 1990 to June 1998. Follow-up time from sentencing until the study was finished ranged up to almost 9 years with an average at-risk time of 4.2 years. Thirty-one JSOs or **9.5% of the youth were convicted of new sexual offenses** with six of the recidivists convicted of more than one subsequent offense. Of the 326 youth studied, slightly more than 66% were convicted of non-sexual offenses after conviction for a first sexual offense.

Alexander {1999} reviewed relevant studies on sex offender treatment and identified those reporting on a total of 1025 juveniles provided therapy for their offending behaviors and concluded there to be **reoffense rates of 5.8% for rapists, 2.1% for child molesters, and 7.5% for “unspecified” adolescent abusers** through follow-up periods of more than five years.

Atcheson & Williams {1954} reported that among 125 male adolescent sex offenders adjudicated in the Toronto Juvenile Court between 1939 and 1948 **3% had been arrested for a subsequent sexual offense** while they were still juveniles.

Awad & Saunders {1991} studied 108 male offenders at a Toronto Family Court Clinic between 1980 to 1988. **40% of the child molesters and 61% of the sexually assaultive youth had a history of previous sexual offenses.**

Barnoski {2008} completed a five-year follow-up of 319 Washington State low-, medium- and high-risk JSOs and found that **9% were convicted of a sex offense subsequent to release** from locked incarceration or staff-secure facilities. 59.6% of the sample was convicted of a later non-sex felony offense.

Barnoski {1997} reported on 266 JSOs adjudicated into the Washington State Special Sex Offender Diversion program and tracked convictions in juvenile or adult court, deferred prosecution, or diversion for youth during their first 18 months of ‘at risk’ in community placement. **1% of the 266 JSOs recidivated with a new sex offense.**

Becker {1990} provided follow-up data on 80 juvenile sexual offenders who were treated on an outpatient basis and followed for up to 2 years. Of the youth, **8% had sexually reoffended.**

Bonner {1992} reported that her review of the relevant JSO literature suggested, “The statistics on recidivism and preliminary treatment outcome... studies are encouraging, with **reoffense rates of 10% being typical**”.

Borduin *et.al.* {1990} compared treatment for JSOs via “Multisystemic Therapy” [MST] with traditional generic non-specialized individual therapy. A total of only 16 youth were studied and followed for an average of 3 years after treatment completion. **Youth receiving MST had recidivism rate of 12.5% for sex offenses, those who received individual therapy had a reoffending rate of 75%**. About 25% of MST youth committed new non-sexual crimes compared to 50% of those treated with individual therapy. *The extremely small sample size and disparities in training and experience of therapists between the two groups render these results tentative at best.*

Borduin & Schaeffer {2001} reported on a clinical trial comparing Multisystemic Therapy with “usual services.” Forty-eight youth were provided respective services and followed for 8 years. **12.5% of youth who participated in MST services recidivated whereas 41.7% of youth receiving ‘usual services’ reoffended.**

Brannon & Brannon {n.d.} and Brannon & Troyer {1991} studied 53 JSOs released from a residential treatment program emphasizing Adlerian psychological principles during 1987 and 1988 with a follow-up period up to 33 months. **1.9% of the offender sample committed a post-release sex offense.** Recidivism was determined only via reports from youths’ parole officers.

Bremmer {1992} followed up on 193 JSOs who had been discharged from a specialized residential treatment facility, with a study period ranging from less than 6 months to 8.5 years; approximately half the study group

was followed for 4 or more years. **Based on sexual offense convictions, an official 6% recidivism rate was found;** via questionnaire **the youth self-report sexual reoffense rate was 11%.**

Broadhurst & Loh {1997} examined the recidivism of 2785 Western Australian males apprehended for a first sexual offense between 1984 and 1994. Of the 410 non-Aboriginal JSOs they found a **recidivism rate of 6.8%** during a follow-up period averaging 5.7 years.

Caldwell {2008} compared 91 juvenile males who had been adjudicated for a sexual felony offense with 174 juvenile males who had no history of sexual offending. Both groups had been in a secured correctional treatment program and followed for an average of 71.6 months after release from custody. **12.1% of the JSOs and 11.6% of the non-JSOs committed a new felony sexual offense.** 69% of the JSOs and 88.4% of the non-JSOs were charged with any new non-sexual general criminal offense.

Caldwell {2007} accomplished a sample study of 2,029 male juvenile delinquents released between 1998 and 2000 from the same or similar secured institutions, comparing incarcerated teenage sex offenders to that of incarcerated general nonsexual delinquents. Both groups were released from custody in the same state at about age 17 and followed for 60.3 months. **6.8% of the adjudicated adolescent sex offenders (n=249) had a subsequent sex offense whereas 5.7% of the nonsexual delinquents (n=1780) were charged with a post-release sex offense** (a nonsignificant difference between groups). *Of note is that none of the sex offenders was charged with a homicide offense during the follow-up period but 54 of the non-sex offending delinquents were thusly charged and all three of the sexual homicides involved non-sex offending youth with no prior history of sexual offense allegations.*

Carpentier & Proulx {2008} studied a sample of 351 adolescent sexual aggressors who had been assessed at an outpatient psychiatric clinic in Montreal, Canada accomplishing a mean follow-up period of 96.8 months (range of 21 to 162 months). **10.3% of the subjects committed at least one new sexual offense subsequent to the index offense.** Overall, 45% had committed one new sexual or non-sexual criminal offense during follow-up.

Cooper {2000} studied 89 JSOs who had received specialized treatment {n=41} compared with youth who dropped out of treatment {n=23} or received assessment only {n=25}, following them for an average of 7 years. **Of the youth who received assessment only, reoffense rate was 4.0%; those who did not complete treatment reoffended at a 17.4% rate; and, those who completed treatment recidivated at a 2.4% rate.**

Cotton {1991} reported on 277 California youth adjudicated on sex offenses and sentenced to community-based outpatient treatment programs. Youth participated in 19 to 22 months of treatment during which time **2.5% were involved in a new sex-related arrest.** Of the youth, 11.2% were rearrested for non-sexual offenses following their index sex offense.

Doshay {1943} was the first investigator to report recidivism statistics on a large and diverse sample of male adolescent sexual offenders coming to the attention of New York City's Children's Court. He followed 256 youth for a period of from 4 to 6 years, and **of the 108 who had originally committed only a sexual offense only 2 or 1.85% were arrested for a subsequent sex offense.** Of the **remaining 148 adolescents who originally had records of both sexual and nonsexual offenses, 9.5% reoffended sexually.** *Of interest is the fact that study youth had been*

provided only very brief psychiatric counseling related to their sexual misconduct.

Elliot {1994} followed 66 self-reported JSO “rapists” all of whom were undetected and not subjected to either judicial or therapeutic interventions. With an interval of approximately fifteen years from first sexual offense, **22% reported having engaged in a later “sexual assault.”** Of the 66 individuals, 78% self-reported a non-sex felony in the year of the first sex offense or thereafter.

Epperson and colleagues {2004 & 2006} reported on 636 twelve to seventeen year olds adjudicated for sex offenses and under the jurisdiction of Utah juvenile courts between 1990 and 1992, this being a large and truly representative sample of the broad spectrum of juveniles in the state who offended sexually. **13.2% of the youth were charged with a new sexual offense prior to the age of 18.** Information on adult sexual recidivism, determined as a charge for a new sexual offense after age 18, was obtained through 2003 {and thus offenders ranging in age from 22 to 31 years old} yielded an **adult sexual recidivism rate of 9.1%.**

Garner, A. {2008} examined outcomes for 104 Indiana youth incarcerated for adjudicated sex offenses and released from custody in 2004. A total of two youth committed new sexual offenses during the three year follow-up period for a **recidivism rate of 1.9%.**

Green {2008} looked at data on 513 JSOs incarcerated in the state of Virginia and released from Fiscal Year 2002 through Fiscal Year 2006 and tracked from the date of release through Fiscal Year 2007. **2.53% of the youth were arrested and convicted of a new sex offense during the follow-up period.**

Gretton, et. al. {2001} reported on 220 adolescent males who had confessed to acts or been convicted under the Canadian Criminal Code relating to sexual offending. All youth had attended an outpatient treatment program with the follow-up period ranging from 7 to 106 months and an average of 55 months. **15% committed at least one sexual offense** during the study period; 30% committed violent non-sexual offenses and 51% did “general” nonviolent, nonsexual offenses.

Groth {1977} reported on 63 juveniles and adults evaluated and treated in a locked forensic facility for high-risk “Sexually Dangerous Persons.” His data indicated that **74.6% of the sample had prior known and adjudicated sexual offenses.**

Hagan, King & Patros {1994} analyzed recidivism rates for 50 youth who had been placed at a state juvenile correctional facility for committing a sexual assault against a child. Rates of recidivism were assessed two years after completion of an adolescent sexual offender treatment program and found **8% of the youth reoffended against children.**

Hagan & Cho {1996} followed 50 youth who had been convicted of forceful sexual assaults (i.e., rape) against victims their own age or older and after a two to five year follow-up period determined that **10% of the rapist youth had sexually reoffended.** 54% of the youth had committed nonsexual crimes during the follow-up period.

Hagan & Gust-Brey {1999} extended the study by Hagan & Cho {see above} of 50 incarcerated rapist youth up to a 10-year period post-release and found that **16% had been convicted of another sexual assault.** Note that among this violence-prone JSO sample, after a 10-year follow-up 90% of the adolescent rapists had been involved in one or more crimes of a non-sexual nature.

Hagan, et. al. {2001} followed 50 JSOs who molested children and 50 JSOs who assaulted a peer or older victim; the youth had participated in a correctional facility specialized treatment program and followed for eight years. **20% of child molesters and 16% of rapists were convicted of a sexual assault** subsequent to being returned to the community. Among the 50 youth incarcerated for non-sex offending crimes, 10% were convicted of a sexual assault after release to the community.

Hechler, et. al. {2002} examined juvenile and adult arrest and conviction data for a period of 10 to 12 years on a sample of 54 JSOs. During the follow-up period **11% committed a subsequent sexual offense**.

Heinz, et. al. {1987} studied 28 JSOs who completed a comprehensive residential treatment program for a minimum one year but otherwise an unspecified follow-up period; they reported a **7% recidivism rate**.

Hendriks, J. & Bijleveld {2008} examined recidivism after residential treatment for 114 Netherlands male adolescents. Youth were treated for an average period of 28 months with the median time at risk after leaving the residential institution being nine years. **11% o the young men committed a subsequent sexual offense**; 27% committed some non-sexual violent offense and approximately 33% reoffended with a range of other criminal acts.

Hiscox, et. al. {2007} conducted a validation study of a risk assessment tool involving 231 New Jersey males adjudicated for a sexual offense with follow-up periods ranging from 41 months to 161 months for a mean period of 8 years, 6 months. Recidivism was defined as any charge for a variety of sexual offenses. **Overall 16% were arrested for a new sex charge**. The researchers divided the youth into predictive categories of Low, Medium and High risk for reoffending and found 11% of low risk, 19% of medium risk and 25% of high risk youth sexually

recidivated. Of the 231 youngsters, 52% were arrested for a new nonsexual charge.

Hunter, et. al. {2004} reported on a “wraparound” community-based program for adjudicated JSOs in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Youth remained enrolled in the program an average of 16.5 months; sexual reoffense rate for 202 youth while enrolled was 8%. Youth (N=100) followed for one year after discharge from the program **recidivated sexually at a rate of 2%** and at 23% for nonsexual offending.

Kahn & Chambers {1991} provide data on a retrospective follow-up on 221 juvenile sex offenders treated in 10 programs, both outpatient and residential, in the state of Washington. Youth were followed for an average of 20 months with a sexual **recidivism rate of 7.5%**. Of the youth, 37% committed nonsexual offenses during the study period.

Kahn & Lafond {1988} reported on 350 adolescent offenders treated and released from a juvenile correctional facility between 1981 and 1986. The authors stated that approximately **9% reoffended** during a follow up period ranging from a few weeks to 6 years.

Kemper & Kistner {2007} looked at three samples of JSOs based on the type of victim they engaged in illegal sexual behavior: [1] with children (n=198), [2] with peers or adults (n=77), and [3] with both (=21). After an average of 5.22 years the **sexual recidivism for the three samples were 8.16% for abusers of children, 1.32% assaulters against peers or adults, and 4.76% for mixed type offenders. The overall average reoffense rate for the entire sample was 4.74%**. The average reoffense rate for nonsexual criminal behavior was 40.3%.

Kennedy, et. al. followed 156 youth adjudicated in Florida for felony sexual crimes and “given maximum sentences” of incarceration and intensive treatment; the JSOs were characterized as very seriously conduct

disordered and “predatory”. The sample was followed for at least one year following release from incarceration and some for up to 10 years with a mean follow-up of more than three years. Five youth or **3.2% committed new felony sex offenses** whereas 32.1% were re-committed for non-sexual person, property and drug-related felony offenses.

Kenny, et. al. {2001} studied 70 JSOs in New South Wales, Australia who were awaiting court disposition on sexual offending charges. Of their sample **42.8% of the youth were recidivists**, having been criminally charged with previous sexual offenses.

Knopp {1985} reported recidivism data derived from informal follow-ups lacking criminal records checks from two residential JSO treatment programs and a community-based JSO program. The two residential programs followed-up for approximately 5 years with one reporting a **0% reoffense rate** among 12 offenders post-treatment and the other disclosing that of 62 youth **3.2% committed a sexual offense after treatment discharge**. The community-based program reported a **0% reoffense rate** over a 3-year follow-up period with 80 youth.

Knopp {1991} later reported on a Minnesota JSO outpatient program following 200 youth who completed the specialized treatment with **6% known to have recommitted a sexual offense**.

Kolko, D. J. {2006, 2008} reported on a sample of youth from an outpatient treatment program for adjudicated adolescent sexual offenders and followed 171 youth for 2-plus years after program discharge. Based on official juvenile court records and self-report it was found that **1.63% of youth recidivated sexually** and nonsexual reoffending at a rate of 9.5%.

Lab, Shields & Schondel {1993} reported on 46 youth who received a court-based sex offender treatment intervention. Their analysis indicated a sexual **recidivism rate of 2.2%** for the group of youngsters. A comparison group of 109 youth assigned to non-sex-specific interventions had a sex offense recidivism rate of 3.7%.

Langstrom & Grann {2000} conducted a retrospective study in Sweden of 46 youth adjudicated for sexual offenses from 1988 through 1995 who also were subjected to court ordered forensic evaluation. With an at-risk period averaging six years, **20% of the youth sexually reoffended** and 65% of the sample committed nonsexual criminal offenses. *The authors believe the recidivism rate may have been unusually elevated due to the large number of exhibitionists in the sample, a behavior believed to have a very high likelihood of persistence.*

Langstrom {2002} extended his 2000 study {above} to include 117 JSO subjects adjudicated for a sexual offense and referred for forensic psychiatric evaluation with an average follow-up time of 115 months. **29.9% of youth were convicted of at least one sexual re-offense** and the vast majority who reoffended did so within the first four to 5 years of follow-up with only 6% reconvicted beyond the initial the 5-year mark. 66.7% of the youth had reconvictions for any non-sex, nonviolent offense and 41.9% for at least one violent non-sex offense. *The author suggested the high base rate for sexual recidivism may in part been due to the high number of rapists and youth with significant psychiatric morbidity in the sample.*

Lantz {cited in Davis & Leitenberg, 1987} reported preliminary study results that out of 28 adolescents who had successfully completed treatment, only **7% reoffended sexually** during a 12-month follow-up period.

Leidecke & Marbibi {2000} followed a cohort of 72 JSOs who together represented all those released in one year after being detained in state

correctional facilities. The study traced re-arrest data for the first three years after release and found **14.16% of the youth sexually reoffended.**

Letourneau, E. et. al. {in press-a} looked at 1,275 South Carolina adolescent male youth convicted as minors for sexual offenses between 1990 and 2004 with a follow-up averaging 9 years. **7.5% of the sample was charged with new sexual offenses with 32 youth or 2.5% convicted of new sexual offenses.**

Letourneau, E. {in press-b} compared matched samples of 111 JSO youth required to submit to sex offender registration in South Carolina with 111 JSO youth who were exempt from registration for various reasons. Time at risk ranged from 2.5 years to 10.8 years with an average follow-up of 4.32 years. Among the registered youth, two sexually reoffended while none of the non-registered youth committed subsequent sexual offenses for an **average recidivism rate of 0.9%**. The combined samples' non-sexual criminal reoffending rate was 39.2%.

Letourneau, E.J., et. al. {2008} studied children and adolescents treated with Multisystemic Therapy for serious general delinquency and behavior problems whom caregivers rated as having sexual behavior problems. At intake the mean age of participants was 14 years and at the criminal records follow-up—which varied from 29 to 68 months posttreatment—the mean age was 19.6 years. **Of the 612 youth with sexual behavior problems 2.0% had at least one posttreatment sexual offense and of the 1,032 nonsexual behavior problem youth 2.6% had a posttreatment sexual offense charge.**

Mayeda {2008} looked at 31 juveniles adjudicated in Hawaii family courts from 1997 to 2006 on charges of first and second degree sex assault and thus meeting the original criteria for Adam Walsh Act SORNA requirements for sex offender registration. Time at risk ranged from a

minimum of 22 months to a maximum of nearly eleven years. Only one youth (who had been followed for the maximum period) sexually reoffended for a **recidivism rate of 3.23%**. Slightly more than 32% of the sample committed nonsexual offenses subsequent to the sex offense adjudication.

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services {2007} looked at a cohort of 110 adjudicated JSOs released from residential facilities during fiscal year 2005 with a follow-up time of one year after release. **0% of the youth were “re-referred” to the juvenile justice or adult criminal justice systems for a sex offense.** 20% of youth were either re-adjudicated or convicted of a later non-sexual criminal offense. A total of 146 adjudicated JSO youth were released from probation in fiscal year 2001 and followed for a full two years with **4.1% re-adjudicated for a repeat sex offense.**

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services {2005} followed 88 adjudicated JSOs for two years following their release from secure and non-secure residential programs in fiscal year 2001. **10.2% of youth were re-adjudicated for another sex offense.**

Mazur & Michael {1992} tracked for six months after discharge 10 JSOs who had participated in a four-month outpatient program. Based solely upon youth and parent reports of “relapse,” **0% of the youth reoffended.** *The very small sample size and reliance only upon self-reports render results questionable.*

McConaghy, et. al. {1989} reported on a three to six year follow up of 6 JSOs, ages 14 to 19, that included two homosexual pedophiles, one heterosexual pedophile, two fetishists and one exhibitionist. The youth were provided behavioral and/or pharmacological treatments. Given this very difficult to treat sample of JSOs, they reported a **50% rate of “new charges”** for sexual crimes based upon self- and third-party reports.

Milloy {1994} studied a sample of 59 convicted male offenders who served sentences in Washington State rehabilitation or reformatory facilities. Most of the youth had sexually abused a child known to them, **15% had been adjudicated more than once for multiple sex offenses by the time this study was initiated**, 70% of the youngsters received sex offender-specific treatment. At the end of a 3 year study period **0.0% of the JSO's had sexually reoffended**. Of the JSO's studied, 44% had committed non-sexual new crimes.

Milloy (2006) reported on 21 JSOs ranging in age from 16 to 27 years who were identified as possibly meeting the statutory criteria and thus recommended for civil commitment petitions from July 1, 1990 to December 31, 2003. Despite being considered very high risk for reoffending, petitions were not filed for the 21 individuals and they were released and in the community for at least 46 months before the end of the follow-up period. **38% were convicted of subsequent sexual offenses**, seven for felony sexual offenses which they committed as adults, and one youth adjudicated for a misdemeanor sex offense as a juvenile.

Miner, *et. al.* {1997} followed 97 juveniles who participated in the Minnesota Department of Correction JSO program, the follow-up period being 19.3 months. **8.3% were arrested for a new sex offense** whereas 38% of the sample committed nonsexual offenses after release from incarceration.

Miner, {2002} reported on a sample of 86 JSOs treated in a corrections-based program (see Miner, 1997) between March 1993 and January 1996 with an average time at risk of 4.3 years. **8.1% sexually reoffended** and 55% committed nonsexual criminal offenses.

Nisbet {2002} & Nisbet *et. al.* {2005} studied 303 males who were adjudicated on sexual offenses as adolescents in New South Wales,

Australia between 1989 and 1996. The average observation period between adjudication as adolescents and follow-up as adults was 7.6 years with many subjects followed for up to 10+ years. **25% of subjects received further convictions for sexual offenses prior to age 18 as adolescents. Upon reaching adulthood, 9% came to attention of police for further alleged sexual offenses with 5% receiving convictions for sexual offenses.** Overall, slightly more than 61% of subjects received convictions for nonsexual offenses as adults.

Parks & Bard {2006} examined records for 156 male JSOs who had been adjudicated, placed in a secure correctional facility in Oklahoma and provided specialized sex offender treatment. Youth's time at risk for reoffending spanned 134 months. Based upon both juvenile and adult recidivism data, **9.8% of youth who had offended against peers or adults (n=51) reoffended, whereas 4% of JSOs who molested children (n=74) recidivated for an overall reoffense rate of 6.4%.** Slightly more than 30% of the study youth committed a nonsexual offense after release from custody.

Prentky, et. al. {2000} followed 75 treated and clinically discharged JSOs for a one year period and found that **4% sexually reoffended.**

Rasmussen {1999} found that among 170 youth convicted of a sex crime in three Utah juvenile court jurisdictions during 1989, **14.1% committed a new sexual offense** and 54% reoffended non-sexually. *Of the 170 JSOs, nearly 48% either failed to complete or else were not referred for treatment. As with the Schram, et.al. study [below], results here indicate first-time JSOs have less recidivism when they are treated in community-based programs as opposed to more restrictive settings.*

Reitzel & Carbonell {2006} performed a Meta-analysis statistical procedure including published and unpublished data from nine studies

on JSO treatment effectiveness. Data included 2986 youth and an average 59-month follow-up period. **Overall recidivism rate for sexual reoffending was 12.53%.** *Of considerable importance is the finding of “a statistically significant difference between sexual recidivism rates for those juvenile offenders receiving sexual offender treatment (7.37% recidivism, unweighted average) versus those receiving no treatment (18.93% recidivism, unweighted average).”*

Rodriguez-Labarca & O’Connell {2007} studied 22 JSO youth considered as higher risk serious offenders for five years after release from locked- or staff-secure institutional settings. At the end of the five year follow-up period, nine youth or **41% had been rearrested for a subsequent sex offense.**

Rojas & Gretton {2008} reported on the criminal outcomes of 359 Canadian Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youths referred to a sexual offender treatment program in British Columbia between 1985 and 2004. Recidivism was determined via convictions prior to and following discharge from treatment until the end of 2005. Follow-up time averaged 10.24 years, ranging from 2 months to 19.5 years. **Sexual recidivism rate was 12.0%.** 31.8% of the youth reoffended with violent offenses and 48.5% with non-violent offenses.

Rubinstein, Yeager, Goodstein & Lewis {1993} followed 19 juveniles who had been adjudicated and incarcerated for having committed extremely violent assaultive sexual crimes. The youth were followed into adulthood until at least 24 years of age or for 8 years after release from incarceration. Of the youth **37% had an adult criminal record of one or more sexual assaults** subsequent to discharge from juvenile corrections. *The JSOs in this study were not representative of most JSO youth in that they had committed very violently assaultive offenses.*

Schmidt & Heniz {1996} followed 33 youth court-ordered into their outpatient treatment program for sexually aggressive youth with a study period of from 12 to 54 months subsequent to treatment completion. Whereas **9% were charged with a sexually related offense, 3% of the youth were convicted of a new sex offense.**

Schram, Milloy & Rowe {1991} provide one of the best available recidivism studies ever conducted on adolescent sex offenders. Of 197 youth who received varied treatments focused on their sexual misconduct, **12.2% of the boys were arrested for new sex offenses and 10.2% were convicted.** *This study followed the 197 male juveniles for a median of 6.8 years, found that youth who had been institutionalized reoffended at a significantly higher rate than those treated in the community and that 4% of the original sample could be classified as chronic, repetitive sex offenders likely to perpetrate on into adulthood.*

Schram & Milloy {1995} checked on 14 convicted JSOs released from juvenile correctional facilities between March 1990 and December 1993 who were then subjected to the highest, or most serious, level of community notification in Washington State. With a follow-up period and, thus, the potential opportunity to reoffend ranging from 7 to 54 months, **43% of the youth committed new sex offenses.**

Seabloom, Seabloom, Seabloom, Barron & Hendrickson {2003} discussed an innovative and intensive outpatient treatment program for 122 adolescent male JSOs and their families and follow-up on the youth for from 15 to 24 years with the average time followed of 18 years. **None of the youth who completed the program were arrested or convicted of sex-related crimes.** 8% of the youth who “withdrew” from treatment prior to completion were later convicted of a sex crime.

Shapiro, Welker & Pierce {2001} reported on the effectiveness of an 18-month long residential treatment program for 26 sexually aggressive

boys. The follow-up period was for only one year and rather than using arrest and conviction data the authors queried parents and professionals working with the youth regarding known instances of aggressive and antisocial behavior. There were no adjudications of any youth for sexual offenses during follow-up but detailed inquiry revealed **8% of the youth engaged in sexual aggression, specifically molestation of a younger child.**

Sheridan, *et.al.* {1998} reported on a group of 22 JSOs who completed a specialized treatment program in Ireland with a follow up period ranging from 12 to 48 months. The authors indicated that **none of the youth had reoffended.** *Their conclusions are limited as they were based upon anonymous self-report without benefit of criminal or social service records.*

Sipe, *et.al.* {1998} researched the reoffense rate of 124 JSOs in Idaho with a follow-up period ranging from 1 to 14 years with an average period of 6 years. The subjects thus ranged in age from 18 to 32 years, with an average age of 24 years at the time of data collection. The authors found the JSOs to have **a sexual recidivism rate of 9.7% as an adult,** although 22.6% of the youth were arrested for other types of crimes as well.

Smets & Cebula {1987} followed 21 JSOS for up to three years following their admission to a group therapy program and reported one youth reoffended for a **5% reoffense rate.** *Besides a small sample size, the article really is more of a treatment program description rather than a genuine recidivism study and thus their results are of questionable utility.*

Smith {1984} and Smith & Monastersky {1986} studied 223 sexually aggressive youth over an average of 20 months with juvenile justice records revealing that **7% had committed another sex offense.** In a subgroup of 112 youths followed for a longer period (minimum of 17

months), **14% were found to have committed a subsequent sexual offense**. The youth had been provided some form of treatment ranging from a few sessions of family therapy to many months of individual therapy; none received any single systematic JSO treatment program. Of the 112 JSOs studied, 35% committed subsequent nonsexual crimes.

Steiger & Dizon {1991} compiled criminal reconviction data for all male youth released from Washington State Juvenile Residential Facilities in 1982 for a follow-up study period of six and a half years. Of 105 JSOs **12% were reconvicted for a sex offense** whereas 55% were convicted for a nonsexual offense during the follow-up period.

Vandiver {2006} completed a retrospective study of registered male sex offenders in Texas who were juveniles at the time of their initial sexual offense. A random sample of 300 individuals was obtained from a larger population of JSOs and investigated for all arrests occurring during the first 3 to 6 years of their adulthood. Only **4.33% were arrested for a sexual offense during the study period**; more than half the sample was rearrested at least once for a nonsexual offense.

Waite, Pinkerton & Wieckowski {2002} investigated reoffense rates for 253 very high-risk adolescents who received specialized JSO treatment operated by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice from 1992 to 1998. Each youth was retrospectively assigned to high and low/moderate risk categories with a follow-up period of from one month to nine years. For both high- and low/moderate-risk youth, **4.3% were re-arrested for a sex offense within the first three years following release from treatment with no subsequent sex offense re-arrests beyond three years**.

Waite, et. al. {2005} further reported on the above Virginia study involving 256 highly delinquent incarcerated male JSOs who either successfully

completed a treatment program or who dropped out of treatment or who were treatment failures. Youth were followed for an average of almost 62 months and the **actual re-arrest rate for sexual offense for all study youth was 4.7%.**

Walker, G. {1998} Reported on 138 adjudicated Australian youth treated in the MAPPS program with a **5% reoffense rate over up to a 4.5 year period at risk.**

Wiebush {1996} reported on a multi-site study of 366 court-referred JSOs in Maryland {n=213}, Ohio {n=188} and California {n=91} with a minimum follow-up of 18 months and extended follow-up to 35 months. **4% of the youth committed a new sex offense at 18 months; from 3.2% in Ohio, 4.2% in Maryland and 5.5% in California did so by the end of the extended follow-up period.** Arrests for non-sex offenses ranged from 21% to 51% across samples.

Williams & Finkelhor {1992} conducted an exhaustive study of 118 incestuous biological fathers and 116 non-incestuous fathers. Their findings indicated that **men who sexually abused or offended as juveniles were 5.44 times more likely to commit an incest offense as an adult** than were the men who did not offend as juveniles. 34% of incestuous fathers sexually offended as juveniles whereas only 9% of non-incest fathers did so. *No information was available regarding sex offender treatment afforded the juveniles, but specialized treatment was largely unavailable at the time the men first offended as juveniles.*

Worling & Curwen {2000} reported their excellent study of 58 adolescent offenders who had completed at least 12 months of a specialized treatment program in Canada and compared their reoffense rate as based on sexual assault *charges* [not convictions] *to* that of 90 youth who received only an assessment, or refused or else dropped out of

treatment. The follow-up period ranged from 2 to 10 years, with an average follow-up being 6 years. Approximately 5.2% of the treated youth recidivated whereas nearly 18% of the untreated adolescents reoffended.

Zimring, et. al. {2007} utilized data on juvenile and young adult offending available in the statistical archives of the 1958 Philadelphia Birth Cohort Study--13,160 boys and 14,000 girls--and examined patterns of juvenile sexual offending and the impact of a JSO police contact on the risks of offending in young adulthood and continuation of sexual offending in the eight years following the JSOs' 18th. birthday. 204 juvenile boys and 17 girls were identified as having been charged for sex offenses. Only two of the 17 females with a first juvenile sex contact have a second such contact during the juvenile period, and none of the 17 had any sex offenses during the eight years after their 18th. birthday. 10.3% of the males with juvenile sex offense contacts had an adult sex offense record in the eight year follow-up period after their 18th. birthday. Of interest is that 81% of all adult sex offense 'careers' started within the first four years after the 18th. birthday.

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