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2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | POSTER

### **Informing Prevention: Building a Picture of Non Offending Individuals Who Self-Identify as Attracted to Children**

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Within the general population it is estimated that approximately 5% of men have a sexual interest in children (Seto, 2004). Clearly not all such men are committing crimes against children and there are communities of people who self-identify as having a sexual interest in children (minor attracted), often affirming their lack of offending behaviour. Non-offending minor attracted individuals are difficult to access and research investigating them is scarce (Schaefer et al., 2010) but it is imperative to explore the characteristics of such people to establish differences from what we know of offending paedophiles that could be useful in preventative or rehabilitative strategies. Additionally given the research on the mental health of those who self-identified as minor attracted has found high incidence of loneliness (Cash 2016) depression and anxiety (Wilson & Cox 1983) it is important to explore factors that contribute to wellbeing and the nature of this relationship. Therefore the aims of this study were to characterise those in the community self-identifying as minor attracted (whom we assume to be non-offending) and to assess contributing factors to wellbeing.

To this end the study surveyed the self-identifying minor attracted community online. A broad range of measures were taken such as demographics, sexual interest and relationships, types of support, mental health, employment, education, trauma and personality characteristics including shame, guilt, hope, self-control, suppression, coping strategies and wellbeing.

This paper will present results that characterise this population on these measures for comparison with offending paedophiles and predictors of wellbeing. Findings will be discussed in terms of possible preventative and rehabilitative implications and support for the well-being individuals who declare a sexual interest in children.

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