

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | POSTER

### **Investigating the Sexual Histories and Sexual Fantasies of Adolescent Sex Offenders**

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Child sexual abuse (CSA) has been identified as a national health problem. While the focus of research in this area has been on adult perpetrated child sexual abuse, juvenile sexual offenders (JSO) have been found to account for a significant portion of sexual offenses (Finkelhor, Ormrod, & Chaffin, 2009; Snyder & Sickmund, 1999; Veneziano & Veneziano, 2002). An important treatment target for the JSO population is the role of sexual history and sexual fantasy in offending. At the same time, there is a critical gap in our knowledge about this topic, particularly given that the evaluation and treatment of JSOs has long been primarily based on adult sex offender research (Hunter & Becker, 1994). While Seto and Lalumiere (2010) point to the significant role of sexual history and fantasy in juvenile's sex offending in the theoretical literature, clinical practice is still relegated to making "educated guesses" about the importance of sexual history and fantasy related dimensions in JSO's treatment planning.

Critical to the assessment and treatment of JSOs, is the question of which sexual fantasies and behaviors are truly "deviant" and should be considered important treatment targets. A lack of controlled studies in this area has hampered our ability to draw conclusions that could guide treatment (Hunter & Becker, 1994; Leitenberg & Henning, 1995; Seto & Lalumiere, 2010). In fact, the only existing peer-reviewed studies (e.g., Fagan & Wexler, 1988; Daleidan, Kaufman, Hilliker, & O'Neil, 1998) comparing JSOs and JNSOs sexual history and/or sexual fantasy are now almost 26 and 16 years old, respectively, and were done at a time prior to the internet, smart phones, and easier access to pornography. It is important to further investigate the role of history and fantasy in sexual offending to determine its value as a treatment target for juvenile sexual offenders (Howitt, 2004).

With these limitations in mind, this investigation was designed to compare adjudicated JSOs and JNSOs on their sexual histories and fantasies as well as consider the role of offenders' own victimization in shaping these two critical dimensions.

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**Hayley Tews, MS, ABD:** Hayley Tews is a doctoral student in the program of Applied Community Psychology at Portland State University (PSU). She received her Master's degree in Applied Psychology from PSU in 2013. Her research interests include juvenile justice reform with a specific focus on the experience adjudicated adolescents and their access to resources and skill building opportunities. Additionally, she is interested in the prevention of child sexual abuse with a specific focus on risk factors and modus operandi of sexual offending behavior. Currently she works for the Oregon Youth Authority as an Operations Analyst with a focus on system reform.

**Judith Zatkan, MS:** Judith Zatkan is a 5th year doctoral student at Portland State University in the Community Psychology Program. She received her Master's degree in Applied Psychology from PSU in 2017. Her research interests include sexual violence prevention, campus sexual assault, modus operandi of child sexual abuse perpetrators, and public perceptions of sexual offenders. She is currently working on her dissertation, regarding public perceptions of sexual offenders.

**Keith L. Kaufman, PhD:** Dr. Kaufman is a Clinical Community Psychologist and a Professor of Psychology at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. He is a member of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's advisory board, the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Safety Task Force, and Big Brothers Big Sisters Nation Safety Committee. He is Past President of ATSA and recently received that organization's Significant Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Kaufman has provided assessment and treatment to both child sexual abuse victims and juvenile sexual offenders as well as their families. He has authored two books, a variety of book chapters, and numerous research articles addressing sexual violence and sexual violence prevention. His most recent edited book is *Preventing Sexual Violence: A Practitioner's Sourcebook* (NEARI Press, 2010). Dr. Kaufman is currently working on a \$1 million U.S. Department of Justice grant to develop a Campus Situational Prevention Approach to address campus sexual assault.