

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 17 | 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

P-25

The Young and the Restless: Assessment and Intervention Strategies for Persistent, Sexually Violent Youth and Young Adults

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Despite the fact that the vast majority of youth who have engaged in abusive sexual behavior do not persist with their offending into adulthood, it is also known that about half of adults who have offended sexually report that their first sexual offenses occurred when they were adolescents. Therefore, there exists a small subset of adolescents and young adults—about whom little is yet known—that presents with a considerable and persistent risk for sexual violence and is responsible for a disproportionate amount of sexual harm. These individuals require special considerations with respect to evaluation and intervention. Drawing from the empirical literature on intervention, risk assessment, and forensic mental health, this presentation identifies some characteristics common to this persistently offending group of young individuals and discusses empirically based approaches for assessing risk and implementing targeted treatment.

Learning Goals:

- Become familiar with the research on the prevention of sexual violence.
- Become familiar with the known risk and protective factors for the perpetration of sexual violence by adolescent youth.
- Review empirically-supported treatment methods for youth and young adults who engage in sexually abusive behavior.
- Learn assessment procedures for identifying risk factors for persistent sexual violence based on offence dynamics, thought and arousal profile, and personality and coping characteristics.
- Learn strategies for enhancing treatment engagement in young clients with antisocial, compulsive and atypical sexual characteristics.
- Identify effective, evidence-based treatment methods for youth and young adults who engage in persistent sexual violence.

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Dr. Daniel Rothman is a clinical and forensic psychologist who specializes in the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents and adults with sexual, aggressive and antisocial behavior problems and is formerly an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Health Psychology, College of Medicine, at the University of Manitoba. He has provided assessment, consultation, and treatment services in child protection, hospital, and criminal justice settings and has served as an advisor to child welfare, forensic mental health, and law enforcement agencies across Canada and the United States. Daniel has special interests in the roles of trauma, attachment and developmental disabilities (including autism spectrum disorders) on child development; prevention initiatives for youth at risk for engaging in sexual offending; multisystemic and holistic approaches to intervention and risk management for high-risk youth; and how to tailor therapeutic relationships to enhance clinical outcomes. Daniel has written articles and book chapters on these and other topics and provides training for child welfare, mental health and criminal justice organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

Dr. Lawrence Ellerby is a forensic psychologist who has provided clinical services to violent and sexual offenders since 1987; working in correctional, mental health and community settings. He is the Clinical Director at Forensic Psychological Services, a practice specializing in the assessment and treatment of high risk/high need offenders. Lawrence is a consultant to the Canadian Center for Child Protection and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Crisis Negotiation Team. He co-Chairs the Clinical & Research Advisory Group for INTERPOL'S Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children and was previously Chair of the Sex Offender Management section of this Specialist Group. He is a past President of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and has served as a lecturer for the Canadian Police College. Lawrence is a Lecturer for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Manitoba, has published articles and book chapters related to working with violent and sexual offenders and has given invited addresses in Canada, the United States and Europe. He is a past recipient of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association's National Crime Prevention Award. Most importantly, he is a recent PaPa to the world's most extraordinary granddaughter, has an amazing family who keeps him on his toes and adores (most of the time) his insecurely attached dog, Jake.