

## **BETTER TOGETHER**

2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**T-11**

### **What Does the Future Hold for Youthful Offenders?**

#### **Emerging Adults Who Perpetrate Sexual Violence: Research and Implications**

Kurt M. Bumby, PhD  
Center for Sex Offender Management  
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Center for *Innovative* Public Health Research (CiPHR)  
Kimberly Mitchell PhD  
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It has been long established in the sex offender management field that adolescents and adults who commit sex offenses differ in important ways and that system responses, including policies, practice-level interventions, and prevention strategies, should vary accordingly. However, very little is known about the subgroup of “transition-age” individuals (e.g., 17-25 year olds) who engage in sexually abusive behaviors and who do not fall neatly into either the adolescent or adult classifications. With the growing recognition of this distinct developmental period – emerging adulthood – stakeholders system-wide (e.g., policymakers, judges, evaluators, treatment providers, other justice-system practitioners) are increasingly expressing questions and concerns about how best to intervene effectively and responsibly with this special population. The paucity of research on emerging adults who perpetrate sexually provides little to no evidence-informed guidance in this regard, leaving a considerable gap in the field.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Describe the profile of adolescent and emerging adult perpetrators who aggress against their romantic partners as compared to those who aggress on other people
- Consider the implications of blame attribution for why perpetration may occur as well as how it might be used to inform treatment efforts.
- Discuss the implications of our research findings for practitioners and other professionals working with adolescent and emerging adult perpetrators of sexual violence.

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**Kurt Bumby:** Dr. Kurt Bumby is a Senior Associate with the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP), where he oversees multiple national justice-related initiatives and is the Director of the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM). In this capacity, he provides training and technical assistance nationwide to diverse stakeholders and contributes to policy and practice briefs, handbooks, and training curricula, primarily focusing on evidence-informed sentencing, assessment, treatment, community supervision, release decision-making, and policy considerations specific to justice-involved adults and adolescents with problem sexual behaviors. Over the past two decades, Dr. Bumby has had a diverse career in the adult criminal justice, juvenile justice, and corrections fields, with roles as an administrator, clinician, researcher, and consultant in correctional institutions, forensic hospitals, juvenile justice facilities, outpatient settings, and court contexts. Prior to joining CEPP, he was the Clinical Director and Assistant Deputy Director for the Missouri Division on Youth Services, Assistant Director of Correctional Mental Health Services for a private behavioral health corporation, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Dr. Bumby is a Past President of ATSA, is an ATSA Fellow, and co-chaired the Professional Issues Committee that developed the 2014 ATSA Practice Guidelines. He currently serves on the International Advisory Committee for the Safer Society Foundation and the Advisory Board for the National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth.

**Michele Ybarra:** Dr. Ybarra has been the principal investigator of multiple federally funded grants focusing on sexual health and sexual violence that emerges during adolescence. Among her scientific interests has been the examination of under-examined populations, including females and younger youth. After earning her doctorate in child mental health services from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, she has been practicing this work for over ten years.

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### **The Redemption of Adolescents Adjudicated for Sexual Offenses**

Michael F. Caldwell, Psy.D.  
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How long does an individual who was adjudicated for sexual misconduct as an adolescent have to be offense free before they are no higher risk than a non-offender? Recent research has established that static risk of violence erodes over time as the person is free of repeated sexual misconduct. The “redemption threshold” has been defined as the point at which a group of individuals adjudicated for sexual violence are no higher risk for sexual recidivism than are groups of individuals adjudicated for non-sexual misconduct. This symposium will describe a study of 4000 juveniles followed to determine the decline in risk over time. The study examined how long an individual needs to be offense free to pose not greater risk for sexual misconduct than the average adolescent who was adjudicated for non-sexual misconduct.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Participants will learn the concept of a “Redemption threshold” in risk assessment.
- Participants will learn the results of previous research on adolescent sexual misconduct redemption.
- Participants will learn the redemption threshold for individuals adjudicated for sexual misconduct as adolescents.

**Michael F. Caldwell, PsyD** is a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and a Senior Staff Psychologist at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center, and serves as President of the Wisconsin Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. Dr. Caldwell has conducted research into risk assessment methods and the effectiveness of treatment interventions. He is a Co-Investigator with the MIND Research Network, and has served as a consultant to the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Juvenile Justice, and the National Academy of Sciences Sackler International Scientific Forum on Neuroscience and the Law, Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law at Arizona State University, the Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas, the Mitchell Hamlin School of Law in St. Paul, the University of Oklahoma among many others. He has published over 35 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters related to risk assessment and treatment of violent adolescent delinquents.