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Improving Practices of Risk Assessment and Intervention Planning for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Who Sexually Offend

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Research Objective

The author conducted a systematic review of contemporary academic research on the subject of risk assessment and intervention practices with persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) who sexually offend. The purpose of this work was to seek out and highlight opportunities for improvement and areas of future study.

Method

This systematic literature review followed the suggested five-step method outlined by Parahoo (2006). First, two research questions were developed and considered central to this critical analysis of the literature. These were: What are unique challenges present in risk assessment and intervention planning for sexual offenders with ID? How are these challenges addressed? Second, search terms were selected as inclusion criteria. Third, literature was selected and accessed. Fourth, the quality and relevance of the literature was assessed. Finally, the included articles were read a second time and the analysis, critique, and synthesis of the literature was completed. This was completed by one person, written in outline and draft form, and subjected to two peer reviews at each stage. Discussion generated in the peer review process also prompted additional research.

Results

The author concluded that effective collaboration between support teams and clinical professionals, maximizing focus on individual risk factors and strengths, will improve outcomes of risk assessment and intervention planning for persons with ID who sexually offend.

Discussion

Proactive assessment and intervention planning should be undertaken in cases of sexual offending behavior by persons with ID. Although best practices in risk assessment for the general offender population are somewhat established, sexual offending behavior among individuals with ID is distinct. Research in effective specialized risk assessment and intervention planning for this client group is only an emerging area of focus at this time and a great deal of additional study is needed. An enhanced, fourth-generation, approach that embodies the collaborative framework of Person Centered Planning should be developed to bolster practices of risk assessment and intervention planning for persons with intellectual disabilities who sexually offend. This approach should further incorporate the unique factor considerations outlined by the counterfeited deviance hypothesis' (Griffiths, Hingsburger, Hoath, & Ioannou, 2013) and the good lives model (Birgden, 2002).

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Also see: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jppi.12149/epdf>

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