

SHAPING THE FUTURE

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Assessing Youths' Treatment Progress

The Juvenile Treatment Needs and Progress Scale Development and Implementation Project: An Update

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This presentation will describe a recent 3-year project designed to develop and implement a treatment needs and progress scale (TNPS) for juveniles who have sexually offended. Steps necessary for developing a preliminary version of the scale, integrating and testing it at 5 sites across the country, analyzing findings, and completing a final version will be discussed. The utility of such a scale will be emphasized as will the challenges involved in implementing the TNPS as well as the successes.

Learning Goals

- Increase awareness of the importance of assessment measures for identify treatment needs and progress.
- Learn about the development, implementation, and testing of a new Juvenile Treatment Needs and Progress Scale (TNPS) for youth who have sexually offended.
- Appreciate some implementation challenges providers and agencies face when implementing a new risk and needs assessment scale.

Dr. Sue Righthand is a psychologist with a Master's degree in Criminal Justice and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She has extensive experience working with children with problematic sexual behavior, adolescents and adults who have sexually offended, as well as individuals who have experienced or perpetrated child maltreatment and other forms of violence. She is affiliated with the University of Maine where she is an Associate Research Professor. Currently, Dr. Righthand is the Co-PI for the Office of Sex Offender Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Office's FY 16 ***Assessing, Treating, and Managing Juveniles with Illegal Sexual Behavior: The Juvenile Treatment Progress***

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Scale Development and Implementation Project. **She** is a consultant to the National Center for Sexual Behavior in Youth and the Maine Department of Human Services. Dr. Righthand provides training, consultation, and program evaluation throughout the country. She co-authored the *Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol II* and related research. Her recent collaborations include *Effective Intervention with Adolescents Who Have Offended Sexually: Translating Research into Practice* and *The Safer Society Handbook of Assessment and Treatment of Adolescents who have Sexually Offended*.

Mindy Ackerman has her Master's Degree from the University of Tennessee in Clinical Social Work and her license in the states of Georgia and Florida. She started her career working with victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and then transitioned into working with the offenders shortly afterwards. She has worked in the evaluation and treatment of sexual offenders for the last 20+ years and believes this is a very specialized population. She has worked in several states in out-patient, in-patient facilities and private practice. She has performed numerous Psychosexual evaluations and established the arousal management unit at the Florida Civil Commitment Center. She is currently the Sex Offender Treatment Services Administrator at the Department of Juvenile Justice and is responsible for the clinical supervision of the Sexually Harmful Behavior Program.

Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Treatment Progress Inventory for Adolescents

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The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers has set out *Practice Guidelines for Assessment, Treatment, and Intervention with Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behavior* (ATSA, 2017) with the explicit intent to support and guide those researchers and practitioners with a framework for working with this population. However, a strong guiding theory or framework alone has been found insufficient to adequately monitor treatment fidelity and compliance. Programs with strong theoretical guidance lacking fidelity measures were found to have weaker treatment effects (Zakarian et al., 2004). Adherence to treatment fidelity improves treatment retention, reduces attrition, and is associated with stronger treatment effects and better outcomes (Durlak & DuPre, 2008; Noel, 2006; Resnick et al., 2005). However, valid tools for effectively measuring treatment fidelity in this population are still needed to ensure treatment fidelity and compliance. The Treatment Progress Inventory for Adolescent Who Sexually Abuse (TPI-ASA; Oneal, Burns, Kahn, Rich, & Worling, 2008) was developed to measure and monitor nine core elements of specialized treatment models for youth who sexually abuse and serves as a clinically useful and psychometrically sound tool for tracking treatment progress. To the writer's knowledge though, the TPI-ASA has only had one initial validation

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study with promising results but the measure still needs more sophisticated psychometric validation.

The current paper serves as further validation of the TPI-ASA by presenting the results of a confirmatory factor analysis in a sample of 200 adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior (AISB). Participants were in residence at a treatment program housed at a high-security juvenile correctional facility in Southeast Alabama. Pre- and post-treatment evaluations provided data on the TPI-ASA as well as an array of personality inventories and risk assessment tools such as the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI; Millon, 1993) and the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol (JSOAP-II; Prentky & Righthand, 2003) to test for discriminant and convergent validity. Results indicate the TPI-ASA effectively accounted for significant treatment gains in the sample. Clinical applications and issues for treatment fidelity will be discussed. Valid assessment tools such as this are necessary to help providers when *shaping the future* of assessment and treatment for youth who sexually abuse.

Learning Goals:

- Review importance of valid assessment tools for tracking treatment progress and ensuring treatment fidelity.
- Review initial development and psychometric properties of the Treatment Progress Inventory for Adolescent Who Sexually Abuse (TPI-ASA).
- Learn about confirmatory factor analysis of the TPI-ASA and its use in a juvenile residential facility to track treatment progress.

Kelli R. Thompson is an Assistant Research Professor and Director of the Juvenile Delinquency Lab in the Department of Psychology at Auburn University. Her current research interests include the developmental pathways of delinquent behavior and the assessment, treatment-related outcomes and public policy issues facing justice-involved youth.