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2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | POSTER

Exploring the Relationship Between IQ and Static and Dynamic Risk Factors in a Sample of AISB

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Adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior (AISB) are distinct from youth that commit general offenses, with AISB being more likely to have learning disabilities, difficulties with peers, and lower IQ (Seto & Lalumiere, 2010). Additionally, risk factors for sexual recidivism for AISB include poor cognitive abilities, previous sexual problems, history of sexual abuse, and difficulties in interpersonal relationships (Mulder, Brand, Bullens, & van Marle, 2010; Mulder, Vermunt, Brand, Bullens, & van Marle, 2012; Worling & Curwen, 2000).

However, AISB are a heterogeneous group themselves, presenting with different psychological, biological, psychosocial, and individual characteristics (Everhart-Newman, Larsen, Thompson, Cyperski, & Burkhart, 2018). Mulder and colleagues (2010) identified two distinct AISB subgroups that were distinct in their risk for offending and recidivating: those with both sexually problematic behavior and social and cognitive deficits (SPB+SC group) and those with sexually problematic behavior only but with normative social and cognitive abilities (SPB only group).

These groups have been associated with different sexual risk factors. The 'SPB only' group was more likely to have an additional non-sexual serious offense before treatment (e.g., manslaughter) compared to the 'SPB+SC group.' Mulder and colleagues (2010) hypothesize that the former group may be more likely to have antisocial characteristics, while the latter group may be more characterized by social and cognitive deficits (Mulder et al., 2010). Antisocial characteristics are often encompassed within scales that assess for static risk factors, those risk factors which are historical and do not change over time. Conversely, dynamic risk factors are those more associated with current behaviors, thoughts, feelings, attitudes, interactions, and relationships, which can change over time. If the SPB only group is more likely to have antisocial traits, they would likely have an increase in static risk factors, whereas the SPB+SC group would be likely to have an increase in dynamic risk factors. One well-validated risk assessment instrument that is useful in distinguishing between dynamic and static risk factors is the Juvenile Sex-Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II; Prentky & Righthand, 2003). The J-SOAP-II has two scales that evaluate dynamic factors (i.e., Intervention and Community, Stability and Adjustment) and two scales that evaluate static factors (i.e., Sexual Drive and Preoccupation, Impulsive/Antisocial Behavior).

The present sample consisted of 567 male AISB evaluated before the onset of treatment in a residential setting. The average age of participants was 15.79 (SD=1.482). The WASI-II was used to evaluate Full Scale IQ. The average FSIQ was 84.90 (SD=13.544). Correlations revealed that FSIQ was significantly negatively related to J-SOAP-II static risk

factors ($r = -.091, p < .05$) and not related to dynamic factors. A hierarchical regression revealed that race and grade level contributed significantly to the regression model, $F(2, 564) = 5.374, p < .05$, accounting for 1.9% of the variation in IQ. The addition of the static risk factors explained an additional 0.9% of the variance in IQ, [$F(1, 563) = 5.257, p < .05$].

These data suggest that FSIQ is not a significant predictor in dynamic risk factors for AISB, but may be a good predictor of static risk factors. This is inconsistent with previous literature that hypothesized that a unique subgroup of AISB may be those with cognitive and social deficits, while those without cognitive or social deficits may demonstrate antisocial tendencies. It may be that FSIQ is not the best predictor of dynamic or static factors, as juvenile offenders often have significant discrepancies between their verbal and non-verbal abilities, making the FSIQ a poor predictor of their overall intellectual abilities (Isen, 2010). Further exploration of the relationship between verbal and non-verbal IQ and risk factors is warranted.

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