

An Exploration of the Constructs Related to Institutional Sexual Misconduct in a Sample of Incarcerated Female Sexual Offenders

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This study utilized a factor analytic procedure to explore the latent constructs associated with institutional sexual misconduct using a sample of women incarcerated for sexual offenses (N=81). The STATIC-99 was used (not to predict recidivism) to account for offender characteristics. As found in a previous study by two of the authors using the same sample, the participants who violated institutional rules by engaging in sexual misconduct were younger, had a greater number of sexual offenses and had stranger victims(s). They also had a greater number of prior incarcerations, non-sexual institutional conduct reports, and total STATIC-99 scores. By utilizing a factor analysis, the current study identified three underlying constructs (Youthful Stranger Aggression, Nonsexual Violence and Criminal Repetition) related to institutional sexual misconduct. Predictive validity analyses found that two of these factors significantly predicted whether female sexual offenders were going to engage in institutional sexual misconduct. That is, Youthful Stranger Aggression and Criminal Repetition were predictive. The results suggest that incarcerated female sexual offenders who violate institutional policies and procedures related to sexual misconduct are younger and display overall antisocial characteristics.

Brad Allen is a licensed psychologist with advanced degrees in psychology, sociology, law and epidemiology. In addition to having extensive experience in the treatment and assessment of sex offenders, he has an eclectic research background publishing in the areas of developmental disabilities, gerontology and sex offenders.