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**SITUATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PREVENTION AND PREDICTION
OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

**The Sport Situational Prevention Approach:
Enhancing Safety in Olympic, Paralympic, and Youth Sports**

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In recent years, the need for sexual violence and abuse prevention within the contexts of amateur and youth sports has garnered increasing attention. While many new safety programs, mandates, and initiatives have begun to address this critical need, the application of a situational prevention approach to safety in sports stands out as a highly unique and promising direction.

In 2019, Dr. Keith Kaufman began a three-year collaboration with the U.S. Center for SafeSport to develop the Sport Situational Prevention Approach (SSPA) program. The SSPA provides a four-step framework to help sports organizations recognize and better understand potential safety risks in their athletic environment, and create actionable plans to promote positive safety outcomes. While an important focus of the SSPA is the prevention of sexual abuse, the model applies a holistic approach to athlete safety, and aims to help safeguard athletes from all forms of abuse and misconduct, including bullying, harassment, and hazing.

In its first 12 months of development and piloting, the SSPA was implemented with a diverse array of sports programs including both U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams as well as regional adaptive youth sports programs. The goal of this presentation is to describe the SSPA program and its implications for the prevention of sexual abuse and other types of athlete harms. Theories of prevention will be discussed with a focus on situational prevention as a strategy for environmental-level approaches toward enhancing athlete safety. Initial findings from the SSPA pilot will be reviewed, including practical lessons learned and implications for future prevention and research direction.

This paper is rated: Adult & Youth | General | Research

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Learning Goals

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe the SSPA program methodology, including activities, expected outcomes, and its application to different sport environments. To present the underlying theories of the SSPA with a focus on situational prevention theory;
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the underlying theories of the SSPA, especially situational prevention theory.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe key project findings related to the ongoing development and evaluation of the SSPA, including estimated program effectiveness and projected future directions.

Keith Kaufman, PhD is a Clinical Community Psychologist and a Professor of Psychology at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. He is Past President of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and recently received that organization's Significant Lifetime Achievement Award. He provides regular trainings and consultation focused on prevention and enhancing safety in organizational settings, and has worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the U.S. Olympic Committee, Boy Scouts of America, Interpol, and the Committee for Children. Dr. Kaufman's research has focused on organization prevention and safety, and etiological factors in sexual offending committed by adults and juveniles (e.g., modus operandi, sexual fantasy, sexual history). He is also a past recipient of the U.S. Office Of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention's Gould-Wysinger award for research excellence. He has recently completed a federally funded national project to create the *Campus Situational Prevention Approach* for use on college and university campuses to improve student safety. He is currently working on a national project through the U.S. Center for SafeSport to develop the *Sport Situational Prevention Approach* for use with Olympic, Paralympic, and younger elite athletes' teams. Dr. Kaufman has authored two books, a variety of book chapters, and numerous research articles addressing sexual violence etiology and prevention as well as strategies for strengthening organizational safety.

Erin McConnell, MS is a Research and Prevention Program Coordinator for the United States Center for SafeSport, and holds an M.S. in Psychology from Portland State University. Her research has focused on sexual violence and abuse prevention within the contexts of higher education, sports organizations, and youth services. She has over 5 years of cumulative experience working directly with youth and young adults in a variety of environments, including outdoor/recreational settings, residential care, college and university campuses, and most recently, Olympic and Paralympic sports. Currently, her work involves the design, implementation, and evaluation of situational prevention-based programming to improve safety outcomes within athletic environments, with an equal emphasis on adaptive and traditional sports.

Katie Hanna, MEd is the Chief Programs Officer for the United States Center for SafeSport. She has more than 15 years of experience working with youth and adults to prevent sexual assault at the local, state and national level. Previously, Hanna was a Visiting Fellow in the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) at the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to the fellowship she was the Executive Director of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and has provided counseling and advocacy on a college campus and in the community. She is the 2017 Visionary Voice Award recipient for Ohio from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

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Neighborhood Level Predictors of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: A Nested Case Control Study

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Intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) is a significant public health problem, with recent prevalence rates suggesting that 15.8% of women and 9.5% of men have experienced sexual assault by an intimate partner (Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019). Intimate partner sexual violence is referred to by various terms, all of which can include a range of sexually abusive behaviors that occur within the context of a current or former intimate relationship.

While there is a growing body of research documenting environmental influences on intimate partner violence (IPV) generally, (e.g., socioeconomic conditions, social disorganization, community violence, rurality, availability of firearms; Peterson and Krivo, 2009; Sampson et al., 2002; Voith, 2019) little research has focused solely on environmental influences on IPSV. Additionally, the majority of IPSV research has only examined individual-level predictors of IPSV (e.g., alcohol and drug use, education level, racial inequality, aggression; Bagwell-Gray, Messing, & Baldwin-White, 2015), while ignoring the possible community-level influences. The goal of the current study is to examine both a range of neighborhood and individual-level predictors to explore factors that may influence the occurrence of IPSV.

Data for this exploratory project were obtained from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's (TBI) online incident-based reporting system, which included reported IPSV cases in all 95 counties in Tennessee ($n = 86,567$). Additional community-level variables were retrieved from the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Neighborhood-level predictors include community violence, poverty, unemployment, income inequality, alcohol outlet density, rurality, and firearm permits. Individual-level variables include the relationship type (intimate, family, acquaintance), the age of the victim and perpetrator (under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65 and over), and ethnicity. Dependent variables include four categories of sexual assault (forcible rape, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, and forcible sodomy).

Due to the rare nature of sexual assaults, a nested case control design was used to evaluate the possible community- and individual-level factors impacting occurrence of IPSV. Each individual case of IPSV (four types of sexual assault; $n = 2,678$) were randomly matched to 5 simple assault cases ($n = 47,896$) that matched on age, race, and gender. Once cases are fully matched, multinomial logistic regression will be employed to determine the strongest community- and individual level-predictors of IPSV. At present, we are continuing to match cases and estimate this to be completed by May.

By assessing the relations among environmental and individual influences on IPSV, this study may potentially inform community-level interventions to prevent sexual violence. An intimate partner's susceptibility to sexual abuse may be influenced by their current environment, compounded further by known individual-level predictors of IPSV. Particularly true to IPSV, sexual assaults have been known to occur "behind closed doors," which makes enacting social change and employing specific interventions difficult. By understanding both the individual and larger community predictors of IPSV, legal, clinical, and policy interventions may be better tailored to address the occurrence of sexual assault.

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Learning Goals

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to determine the strongest neighborhood and individual level predictors of IPSV.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to disseminate research highlighting the complex nature of IPSV which will hopefully inform interventions at the neighborhood level.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to use a nested case-control design to examine rare event data.

Rachel K. Carpenter, MS is a Clinical Psychology graduate student at East Tennessee State University. Her research interests include severe mental health impairment, suicide in highly vulnerable populations, and interpersonal/domestic violence. Prior to being admitted to ETSU's doctoral program, Rachel completed a master's degree in Psychological Science with an emphasis on research and methodology at the University of North Florida (2018). She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from her hometown of Colorado Springs from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (2015).

Gabrielle L. Cook is a Clinical Psychology undergraduate student at East Tennessee State University. She is seeking to pursue her education to the doctoral level with research interests for drug addiction, mental illness, and domestic violence. Prior to transferring to ETSU, she earned an Associate's degree in Business Science at Walters State Community College of Morristown, TN (2017).

Jill D. Stinson, PhD, is a licensed psychologist and an Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Training at East Tennessee State University. She received her dual doctorate in Clinical Psychology and Psychology, Policy, and Law from the University of Arizona prior to serving as the Director of Sex Offender Treatment at Fulton State Hospital with the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Her research focuses on sex offenders with serious mental illness, personality disorders, self-regulatory problems, and histories of early childhood maltreatment, as well as issues related to sex offender community re-entry, stigma, and suicidality. Dr. Stinson has authored three books related to sex offender etiology, treatment, and motivation to engage in therapy. She serves as an Associate Editor for ATSA's official journal, *Sexual Abuse*, and has been on the Professional Issues Committee, Public Policy Committee, Membership Committee, and several Conference Planning Committees for ATSA, with an appointment of Co-Chair for the 2020 ATSA Conference in San Antonio, Texas.