**Use of Person-Identifiers in Sexual Abuse Research Across 35 Years:
Preliminary Results of the Sexual Abuse Terminology Project**

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In recent years, questions have risen regarding the language used to describe those who are supervised by the criminal justice system, participating in mental health services, and examined in research. This has resulted in recommendations to reduce labelling bias, as is evident from the recent editions of the APA Publication Manual (2009, 2019), editorials (Willis & Letourneau, 2018), and ethics discussions (Willis, 2018). In 2016, the United States Department of Justice adopted a policy of referring to their detainees and supervisees using person-first language, such as "individual who has offended," rather than referring to individuals based on the nature of their offenses. With these developments, recent research has increased our focus on the way professionals identify those involved in the criminal justice system, how our labels impact these individuals, and the sociocultural implications of our language use (e.g., Denver, Pickett, & Bushway, 2017).

The poster presents preliminary results of the sexual abuse terminology project, which examines professionals' use of language to identify and describe individuals who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviors, the sexually abusive behaviors themselves, and sexual interests associated with abusive behavior, between 1981 and 2020. This poster will specifically highlight person identifiers across five-year intervals from 1981 through 2015 (as data collection from publications in 2020 will still be ongoing at the time of presentation), demonstrating trends is language use over time. For this analysis, 1,223 peer-reviewed studies were evaluated for language use. Eighty-three label categories (e.g., abusers, individuals, offenders, etc.) were identified, with 410 specific labels (e.g. intrafamilial child sexual abusers, men with sexual behavior problems, deviant patients, etc.) identified in total. While "offender" labels are the most consistently used terms across all years, trends in term use over time will be presented across five-year intervals. Trends in terminology usage will be graphically depicted, and hypotheses for changes in terminology used will be discussed.

Michael P. Lasher, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist practicing at the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation for sexually violent individuals in Burkeville, VA. In addition to Virginia, he has worked in correctional and secure psychiatric mental health, primarily with individuals who sexually offend, in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Vermont. He is also involved in research, including the study tracking treatment progress, interprofessional relationships, and sex offender risk assessment methods.

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.

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