

CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION, PEDOPHILIC INTEREST, AND ANTISOCIAL ORIENTATION

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<http://carleton.ca/acbrlab>

OVERVIEW


- Childhood sexual victimization (CSV) is related to
 - Sexual offending
 - Pedophilic interest
 - Antisocial orientation
- The current study
 - Indicators of pedophilic interest
 - Indicators of antisocial orientation
- Research question #1
 - Results from 4 samples
- Research question #2
 - Results from 4 samples
- Discussion



CSV AND SEXUAL OFFENDING



Rate of CSV



Child molesters
(Sexual offenders against children)

Non-molesters
(Sexual offenders against adults)

(Jespersen et al., 2009; Seto, 2008; Whitaker et al., 2008)

CSV

?

Pedophilia?
Antisociality?

?

Sexual Offending
Against Children

(e.g. Burton, 2003; Freund et al., 1990; Lee et al., 2002; Lussier et al., 2005)

- Consistent association of pedophilic interest and antisocial orientation with sexual offending against children has been found
- There is some evidence that CSV is associated with pedophilic interest (Nunes et al., 2013; Seto, 2008)
- But less clear association between CSV and antisocial orientation (Gault-Sherman et al., 2009; Siegel & Williams, 2003)

PURPOSE OF CURRENT STUDY

To examine the relationship between CSV, sexual offending against children, indicators of pedophilic interest, and indicators of antisocial orientation

Research Question #1

- To what extent is childhood sexual victimization associated with sexual offending against children and indicators of pedophilic interest?

Research Question #2

- To what extent is childhood sexual victimization associated with indicators of antisocial orientation?

PARTICIPANTS

Sample 1	Sample 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 228 adult male child molesters ($M = 37.17$, $SD = 15.01$) ➢ Recruited from an outpatient service in Western Canada ➢ CSV (before age 13) was based on file review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 28 adult male child molesters ($M = 41.30$, $SD = 11.44$) ➢ Recruited from provincial and federal prisons, and outpatient services in Western Canada ➢ CSV (before age 12) was based on file review
Sample 3	Sample 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 24 adult male child molesters ($M = 34.58$, $SD = 6.78$) ➢ Offenders serving federal sentences within medium and maximum security prisons ➢ CSV (before age 12) was self-reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 16 adult male child molesters ($M = 44.38$, $SD = 9.47$) ➢ Offenders serving federal sentences within medium and maximum security prisons and a forensic psychiatric hospital ➢ CSV (before age 12) was self-reported

PROCEDURE

- CSV gathered from file review
 - Sexual contact prior to age 12 or 13 with someone at least 5 years older
- CSV from self-report
 - Before you were 12 years old, did you ever have sexual contact with a boy or man at least 5 years older than you at the time?
 - Before you were 12 years old, did you ever have sexual contact with a girl or woman at least 5 years older than you at the time?
- Offenders completed a self-report questionnaire under conditions of confidentiality
- Measures (i.e., SSPI, VRAG, CATS, etc.) were coded from files

INDICATORS OF PEDOPHILIC INTEREST

- Age of their youngest victim
- Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI; Seto & Lalumiere, 2001)
 1. Any male victims?
 2. More than two victims?
 3. Any unrelated victims?
 4. Any victims 12 or younger?

Total Score
(higher scores = more pedophilic interest)

INDICATORS OF PEDOPHILIC INTEREST

- Self-report pedophilic interest questions:
 - Have you ever been charged with a sex offence against someone under the age of 12?
 - How many boys under the age of 12 have you had sexual contact with when you were at least 5 years older than them?
 - How many girls under the age of 12 have you had sexual contact with when you were at least 5 years older than them?
 - Have you ever looked at child pornography?
- Responses to all of the above questions:

0 = None	5 = 5
1 = 1	6 = 6
2 = 2	7 = 7
3 = 3	8 = 8
4 = 4	9 = 9 or more

INDICATORS OF ANTISOCIAL ORIENTATION


- Childhood and Adolescent Taxon Scale (CATS; Harris et al., 1994)
 - Measures psychopathy (higher scores = more psychopathy)
- Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG; Quinsey et al., 2006)
 - Measures risk of violent recidivism (higher scores = greater risk)
- Statistical Information on Recidivism – Revised 1 (SIR-R1; Nafekh & Motiuk, 2002)
 - Measures risk of general recidivism (higher scores = lower risk)

INDICATORS OF ANTISOCIAL ORIENTATION

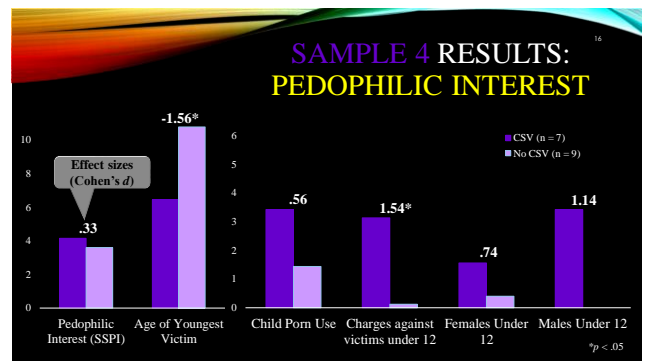
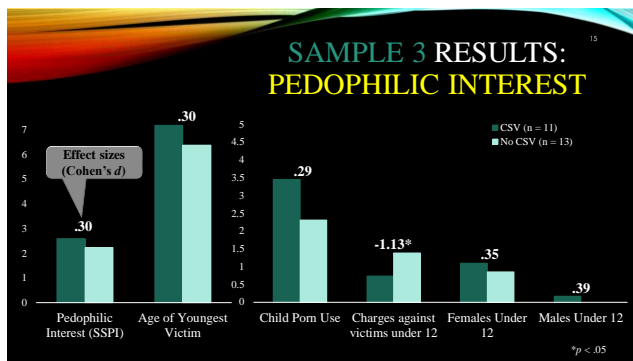
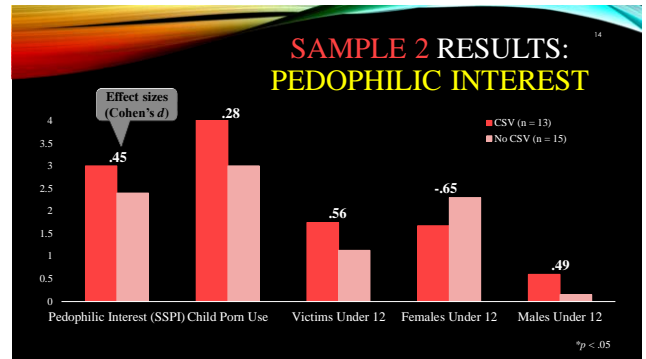
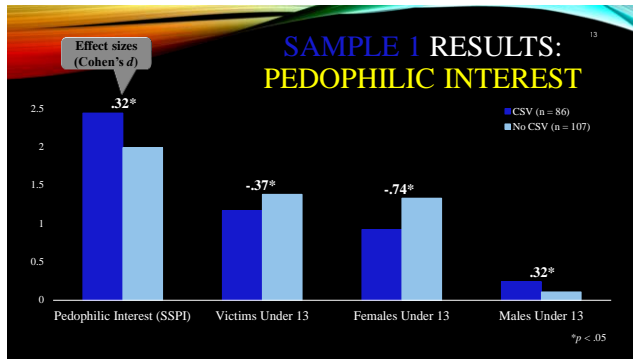
- Other official file information: number of total convictions, adult convictions, age at first conviction
- Self-report antisocial orientation questions:
 - Not counting the offences you're in prison (or hospital) for now, how many violent offences have you been convicted of?
 - How many times have you been sent back to prison (or hospital) because you violated the conditions of your bail, probation, parole, statutory release, or other type of conditional release?
- Responses to all of the above questions:

0 = None	5 = 5
1 = 1	6 = 6
2 = 2	7 = 7
3 = 3	8 = 8
4 = 4	9 = 9 or more

RESEARCH QUESTION #1

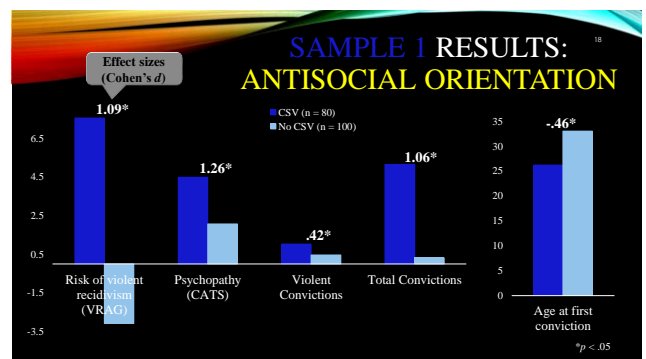


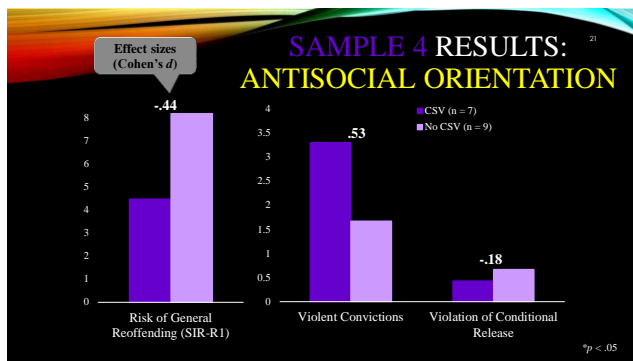
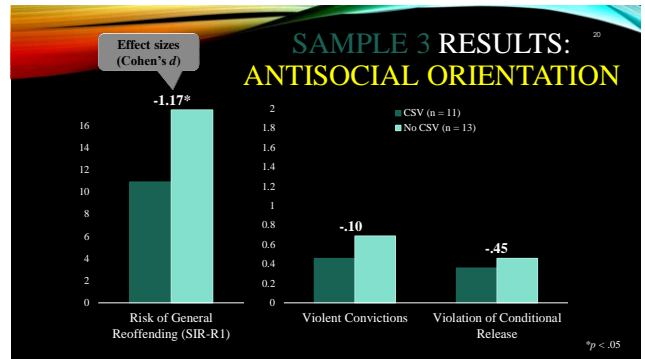
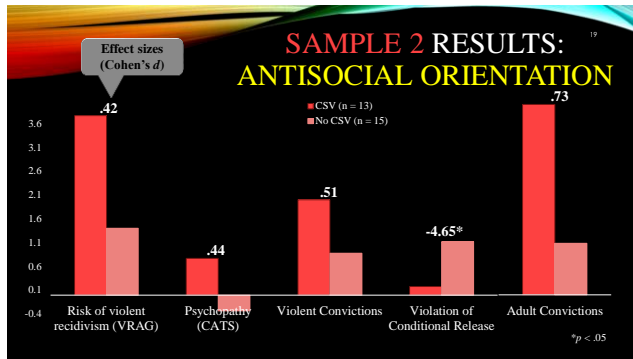
To what extent is **childhood sexual victimization** associated with **sexual offending against children** and **indicators of pedophilic interest**?



RESEARCH QUESTION #2

To what extent is childhood sexual victimization associated with indicators of antisocial orientation?





DISCUSSION²²

- Consistent with past research, current findings suggest that CSV is associated with greater **pedophilic interest**
 - Younger victims, male victims, SSPI
- Consistent with past research, current findings suggest that CSV is associated with more **antisocial orientation**
 - Psychopathy, risk of both general and violent recidivism, offending at a younger age, and generally more violent convictions

LIMITATIONS²³

1. CSV coding
 - Accuracy and completeness of both file and self-report information about CSV is unknown
2. Some variables were self-reported
 - But similar results have been found when official records are used (e.g., Jespersen et al., 2009; Seto & Lalumière, 2010)
3. Retrospective design
 - Direction of influence cannot be determined
4. Small sample sizes
 - Lower power
 - Generalizability?



CONCLUSION²⁴

- Current and past findings are consistent with the suggestion that CSV may lead to more pedophilic interest and antisocial orientation for some men, which may then lead to sexual offending against children
- But current findings only address the association with CSV, and cannot show a causal relationship or mediation
- More rigorous research is needed to demonstrate a causal relationship

