

Understanding Who is High and Who is Low in Emotional Congruence with Children

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Why study ECWC?

- ECWC is a psychologically meaningful risk factor for sexual recidivism
 - (d = 0.42, 95% CI = 0.16, 0.69, k = 3; Mann, Hanson, & Thornton, 2010)
- Effective intervention
- ECWC alone is not a sufficient cause of child sexual abuse



Why Study ECWC?

- Typically examine ECWC as a criterion variable
- Need research examining the mechanisms that may lead to or are associated with ECWC
- Three mechanisms that could result in ECWC



Mechanisms of ECWC

- Blockage (e.g., Finkelhor, 1984)
 - Blockage from adult intimate relationships produces emotional and social loneliness (Fisher & Howells, 1993; Marshall, 1989)
 - Fear adult women: perceived as domineering, cold, and dangerous authority figures
 - Lack of social skills or interpersonal competence
 - Children are perceived as welcoming, warm, and affectionate and are easier to emotionally relate to (Howells, 1979).



Mechanisms of ECWC

- Sexual Deviance (Groth & Colleagues, 1979; 1978; 1982)
 - ECWC is a product of sexual attraction to children
 - · Typically begins in adolescence
 - Maintain lengthy relationships with children because of sexual attraction
 - · Offenders "fall in love" with children
 - Interpersonal type of SOC (MTC:CM3; Knight, Carter, & Prentky, 1989)
 - · Lack of impulsivity
 - Offence supportive beliefs

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Mechanisms of ECWC

- Psychological Immaturity (Finkelhor, 1984; Finkelhor & Araji, 1986)
 - · Offender has childish emotional needs
 - Failure to advance psychologically and experience themselves as children
 - Sexual interaction is a consequence of opportunity, rather than planning or intent to offend

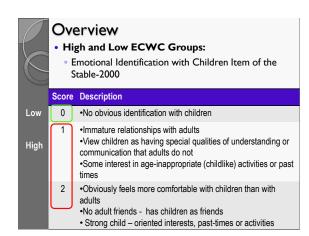


Summary & Purpose

- Research Questions: What psychological factors combine with or contribute to the development of ECWC to promote child sexual abuse?
- · Three potential mechanisms:
 - Blockage
 - Sexual Deviance
 - Psychological Immaturity
- Each mechanism has expected correlates...

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	Blockage	Sexual Deviance	Psychological Immaturity
	Loneliness or Social Rejection	Low general sexual regulation (e.g., using sex for coping)	Being younger
	Lack impulsivity	Lack impulsivity	Impulsivity
	Hostility towards women	Deviant sexual interests	Low social competence
	General lack of sexual deviance	Paraphilias	Poor cognitive problem-solving
	Compliance with authority figures	More deviant victims (i.e., young or male victims)	More female victims
	Lack of stable intimate relationships with adults	More prior victims and less stranger victims	Developmentally delayed
		Offence supportive beliefs	History of mental illness
		High rate of sexual	9





Overview

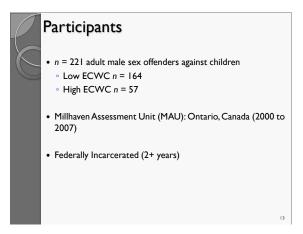
- Sex Offenders against Children:
 - One victim under the age of 14
- Examined differences on:
 - Demographic variables (e.g., age)
 - o Offence characteristics (e.g., number of victims)
 - Static risk factors (Static-99)
 - Psychological risk factors (Stable-2000)

An

Analyses

- Area under the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve (AUC) to examine group differences
- Can range from 0 to 1.00
- 95% CI do not contain .50 = significant
- AUCs < .50 = offenders low in ECWC evidence more of the factor (e.g., sexual deviance) relative to offenders high in ECWC
- AUCs > .50 = offenders high in ECWC evidence more of the factor (e.g., male victims) relative to offenders low in ECWC

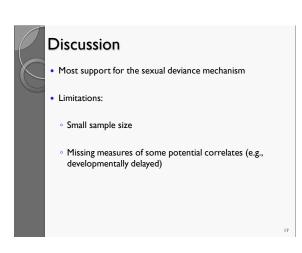
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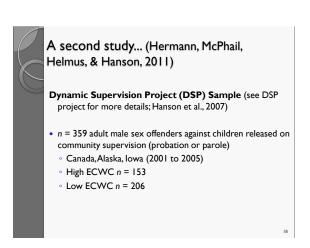


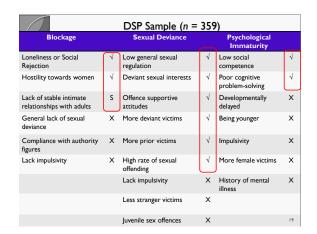
1			95%	CI
		AUC	LL	UL
	Demographic Variables			
	Age at time of offence	.42	.33	.52
	Offence Characteristics & Static Risk Factors			
	Number of victims	.49	.40	.57
	Prior sex offences	.46	.38	.55
	Any unrelated victims	.51	.42	.60
	Any stranger victims	.45	.37	.54
	Any male victims	.54	.45	.61

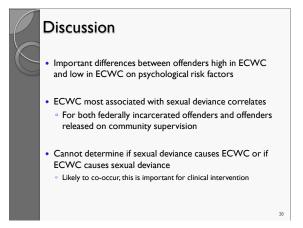
			95% CI	
		AUC	LL	UL
	Psychological Risk Factors			
	Significant social influences	.53	.44	.61
	Cooperation with supervision	.52	.44	.61
	Lovers/intimate partners	.54	.45	.62
	Hostility towards women	.51	.43	.60
	Poor cognitive problem solving	.51	.42	.59
	Social rejection/loneliness	.66*	.58	.73
	Impulsive acts	.38*	.30	.46
	Sex pre-occupation/sex drive	.60*	.51	.69
	Sex as coping	.62*	.54	.71
	Deviant sexual interest	.74*	.67	.82
	Child molester attitudes	.73*	.65	.81

Blockage		Sexual Deviance		Psychological Immaturity	
Loneliness or Social Rejection	V	Low general sexual regulation	1	Younger	Х
Lack impulsivity	√	Lack impulsivity	√	Impulsivity	×
Hostility towards women	X	Deviant sexual interests	√	Low social competence	$\sqrt{}$
General lack of sexual deviance	X	Offence supportive attitudes		Poor cognitive problem-solving	Х
Compliance with authority figures	X	More prior victims	Х	More female victims	X
Lack of stable intimate relationships with adults	X	Less stranger victims	Х	Developmentally delayed	?
		More deviant victims	Х	History of mental illness	?
		High rate of sexual offending	Х		16













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