SEXUAL DEVIANCE IN SEXUAL OFFENDERS AGAINST CHILDREN: A META-ANALYTIC REVIEW OF PHALLOMETRIC RESEARCH

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FIRST, SOME THANK YOUS

- To Sébastien Brouillette-Alarie, Jan Looman,, and Jean Proulx for providing additional data
- This project is exponentially enhanced by your contributions!!

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is phallometry a valid measure for discriminating between sexual offenders against children and other groups of offenders and non-offenders?
2. Is phallometry a valid measure for subgroups of sexual offenders against children?
3. What factors, if any, are associated with validity of phallometry?

METHODS – SEARCHING AND SCREENING

- Systematic Literature Review
  - PsycINFO, Web of Science, PubMed, MedLine, ProQuest Dissertations & Theses
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria:
  - SOC sample; comparison sample; present phallometric data; adequate statistical information

STATISTICS

- Cohen's *d* : magnitude of difference between SOC and comparison
  - *d* is positive when more deviant group (e.g., SOC, SOC-E) had stronger arousal than less deviant group (e.g., non-offenders)
  - 0.2 = 'small'; 0.5 = 'medium'; 0.8+ = 'large'
- I^2 : descriptive statistic of inconsistency
  - 25% = 'small'; 50% = 'moderate'; > 75% = 'large'
  - High = bad, studies are not consistently finding same effect and this is likely due to non-random error

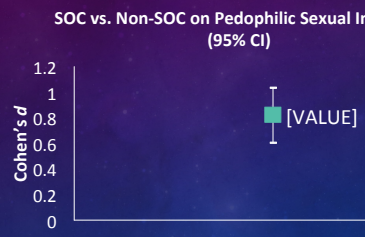
STUDY-LEVEL DEMOGRAPHICS

- Independent samples = 41 from 69 articles
- All from Canada and US
- Number of effects = 1,120
  - IRR for effects: ICC = .92; 79.5% agreement
  - IRR for other phallo variables: ICCs [.83 to 1.0]

RESULTS

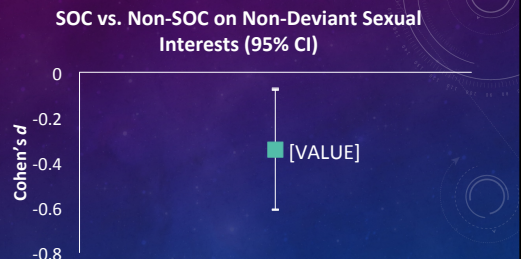
- Is phallometry a valid measure for discriminating between sexual offenders against children and other groups of offenders and non-offenders?

RESEARCH QUESTION ONE: FINDINGS



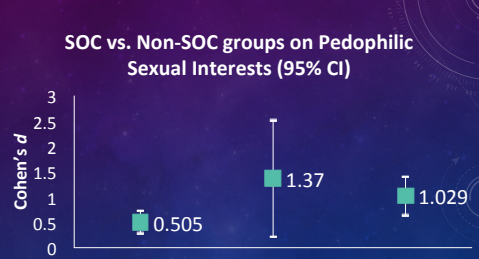
k = 25 (*N* = 5,232)
I^2 = 82.23

RESEARCH QUESTION ONE: FINDINGS



k = 8 (*N* = 2,740)
I^2 = 79.49

RESEARCH QUESTION ONE: FINDINGS



k = 12 (*N* = 3,036)
I^2 = 74.08

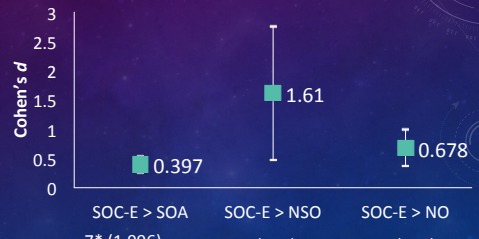
4 (230)
I^2 = 86.49

11 (1,847)
I^2 = 81.79

RESULTS

- Is phallometry a valid measure for subgroups of sexual offenders against children?

RESEARCH QUESTION TWO: FINDINGS

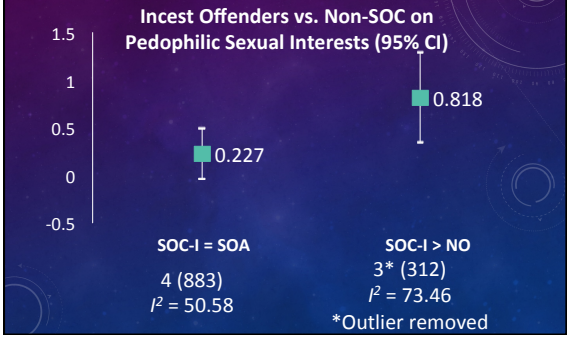


7* (1,996)
I^2 = 15.50
*Outlier removed

3 (185)
I^2 = 89.71

6 (448)
I^2 = 65.63

RESEARCH QUESTION TWO: FINDINGS



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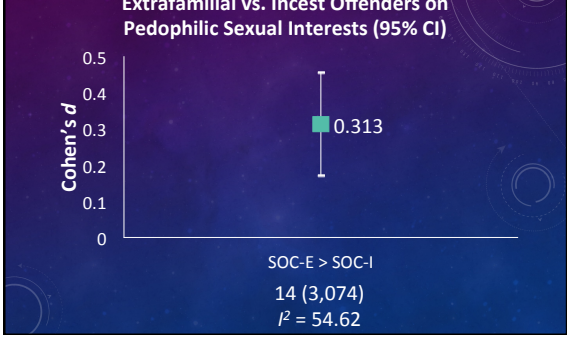
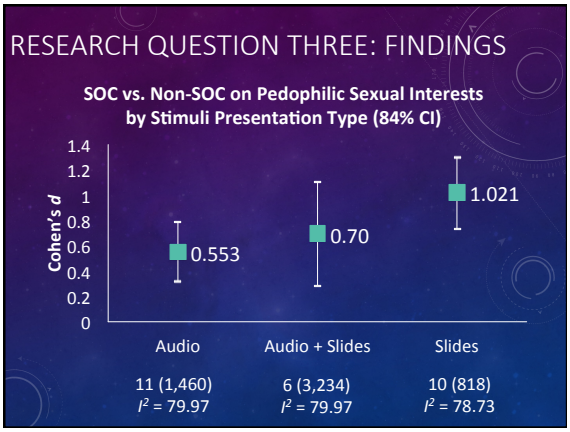


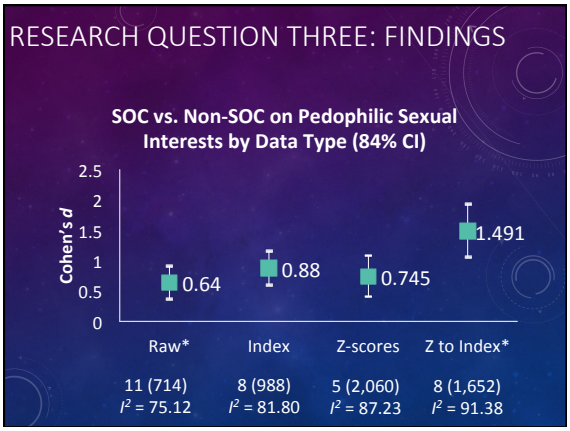
RESULTS

- What factors, if any, are associated with validity of phallometry?

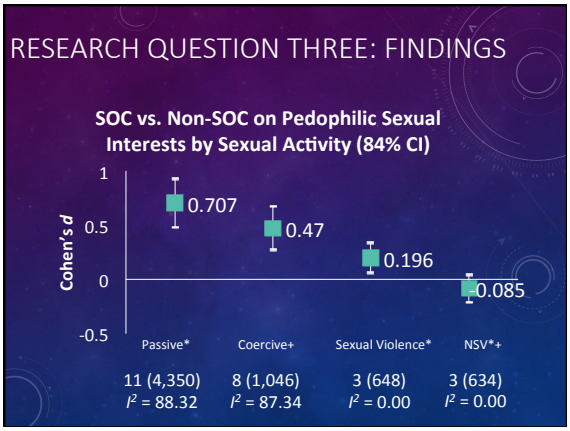
RESEARCH QUESTION THREE: FINDINGS



RESEARCH QUESTION THREE: FINDINGS



RESEARCH QUESTION THREE: FINDINGS



IMPLICATIONS

- Phallometry is a valid method of discriminating sexual offenders against children on pedophilic sexual interests
  - SOC exhibit less non-deviant arousal
  - Less evidence for incest offenders
- Phallometry distinguishes meaningfully between sexual offender against children subgroups
  - Extrafamilial offenders more pedophilic than incest offenders

IMPLICATIONS

- Method of stimuli presentation has little to no association with greater validity of phallometry
- Indices using z-scores associated with greater discrimination than raw/percent full erection
- NSV slides not valid; Sexual violence less valid than passive sexual activity

End Transmission

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http://nextgenforensic.wordpress.com/