The Validity of the Sexual Interest Profiling System
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Introduction

• Sexual interest in children is an important cause of child sexual abuse and a key area of focus in assessment and treatment of child molesters
• Self-report measures of sexual interest can complement other more commonly used measures and are an easy way to collect information
• Sexual Interest Profiling System (SIPS; Laws, 1986):
 • The SIPS assesses self-reported sexual attraction to various descriptions of sexual behaviours (i.e., adult consenting sex, pedophilia, incest, rape, masochism, sadism, voyeurism, exhibitionism, and frottage)
• Research has found that the SIPS:
 • Can distinguish child molesters with male victims from child molesters with female victims (Laws, Hanson, Osborn, & Greenbaum, 2000)
 • Can add predictive accuracy above PPG when classifying child molesters as boy-object or girl-object child molesters (Laws et al., 2000)

Purpose of the current study
• Evaluate the discriminative and convergent validity of the SIPS

Method

Participants
• 34 child molesters with at least one index offence against a victim under the age of 12
 • 60.6% against at least one male victim and 39.4% offended exclusively against female victim(s)
• 21 non-sex offenders without any official or self-reported history of sexual offences
• Adult male inmates in federal prisons in Ontario, Canada

Table 1. *Sample Description*

	Non-Sex Offenders		Child Molesters	
	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)	N
Age at testing**	39.74 (13.15)	21	50.33 (12.50)	34
Total sentence length	4.57 (2.47)	12	5.28 (2.77)	22
Highest grade completed	10.80 (1.70)	20	10.10 (2.44)	31
SIR score**	1.15 (11.53)	20	9.69 (9.24)	32

Note. SIR = Statistical Information on Recidivism. Lower scores on the SIR indicate greater risk for general recidivism. Sample size fluctuates as a function of missing data. Sentence length was computed in years and does not include offenders with indeterminate sentences. Twelve child molesters and 9 non-sex offenders were serving indeterminate sentences.

**$p < .01$

Method

Measures administered during testing session:
• **Sexual Interest Profiling System** (SIPS; Laws, 1986)
 • Pedophilia Score = mean response of pedophilia and incest scales
 • Paraphilia Score = mean response of the voyeurism, exhibitionism, frottage, and tranvestism scales
 • Violence Score = mean response of the rape, sadism, and masochism scales
 • Differential score = the highest rated scale for children - the highest rated scale for adults
• **Viewing time**
 • Present pictures of nude adults and children from the Not Real People Stimuli (Gress & Laws, 2004)
 • Viewing time Differential score = mean of the longest viewed child group (either boys or girls) - mean of the longest viewed gender of the adult group (either women or men)

Measures scored from criminal files
• **Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests** (SSPI; Seto & Lalumière, 2001)
 • A four-item file based measure of pedophilia, with higher scores indicating greater likelihood of pedophilia
• **Denial and Minimization Checklist-III** (Langton, Barbaree, & Mcnamee, 2003)
 • Denial score ranges from 0 to 2 with higher scores indicating greater denial

Measures transcribed from offenders' criminal files:
• **PPG** (Quinsey Child Sexual Violence Assessment)
 • Physiological measure of sexual interest in children
• **STABLE-2000/2007 (**Hanson, Harris, Scott, & Helmus, 2007)
 • The Deviant sexual interests items of the Stable-2000 and Stable-2007
• **Static-99 (Hanson & Thornton, 2000)**
 • 10-item actuarial scale designed to measure risk of sexual recidivism

Results

Group difference in SIPS scales and total scores
• Child molesters (n = 34) were found to score significantly higher on the Adult Homosexuality and Voyeurism scale than non-sex offenders (n = 21)
• Child molesters scored significantly lower on the Adult Heterosexuality scale than non-sex offenders, see Table 2

Results

Table 2. *Group Differences on the SIPS*

	Non-sex offenders	Child Molesters	d	95% CI LL	UL
	Mean (SD)				
Adult Heterosexuality*	60.19 (13.27)	46.27(21.61)	**-0.74**	**-1.30**	**-0.18**
Adult Homosexuality*	10.67 (3.06)	24.53 (21.25)	**0.81**	**0.26**	**1.39**
Female Pedophilia	10.05 (0.22)	15.38 (13.48)	0.50	-0.05	1.05
Female Incest	10.00 (0.00)	13.82 (11.34)	0.42	-0.12	0.98
Male Pedophilia	10.29 (1.31)	16.18 (14.22)	0.52	-0.03	1.08
Male Incest	10.00 (0.00)	14.12 (11.15)	0.47	-0.08	1.02
Voyeurism*	10.05 (0.22)	15.21 (11.34)	**0.58**	**0.02**	**1.13**
Exhibitionism	10.10 (0.30)	14.88 (10.97)	0.55	-0.001	1.11
Frottage	10.19 (0.87)	13.71 (10.52)	0.42	-0.13	0.97
Rape	10.00 (0.00)	10.91 (3.16)	0.36	-0.18	0.91
Sadism	10.00 (0.00)	10.21 (0.77)	0.34	-0.21	0.89
Masochism	14.24 (5.33)	13.65 (6.29)	-0.10	-0.64	0.45
Transvestism	12.19 (4.70)	12.35 (5.09)	0.03	-0.51	0.58
Pedophilia Score	10.08 (0.33)	14.88 (11.35)	0.53	-0.02	1.09
Paraphilia Score	10.63 (1.16)	14.04 (8.49)	0.51	-0.05	1.06
Violence Score	11.41 (1.78)	11.59 (2.57)	0.08	-0.47	0.62
Differential Score*	-4.97 (1.31)	-3.41 (2.17)	**0.83**	**0.27**	**1.40**

*$p < .05$

• Both groups rated scenarios involving consenting adults as more sexually attractive than scenarios involving children
• Child molesters rated child scenarios relative to adult scenarios as more sexual attractive than non-sex offenders, as assessed by the Differential score (see Figure 1)
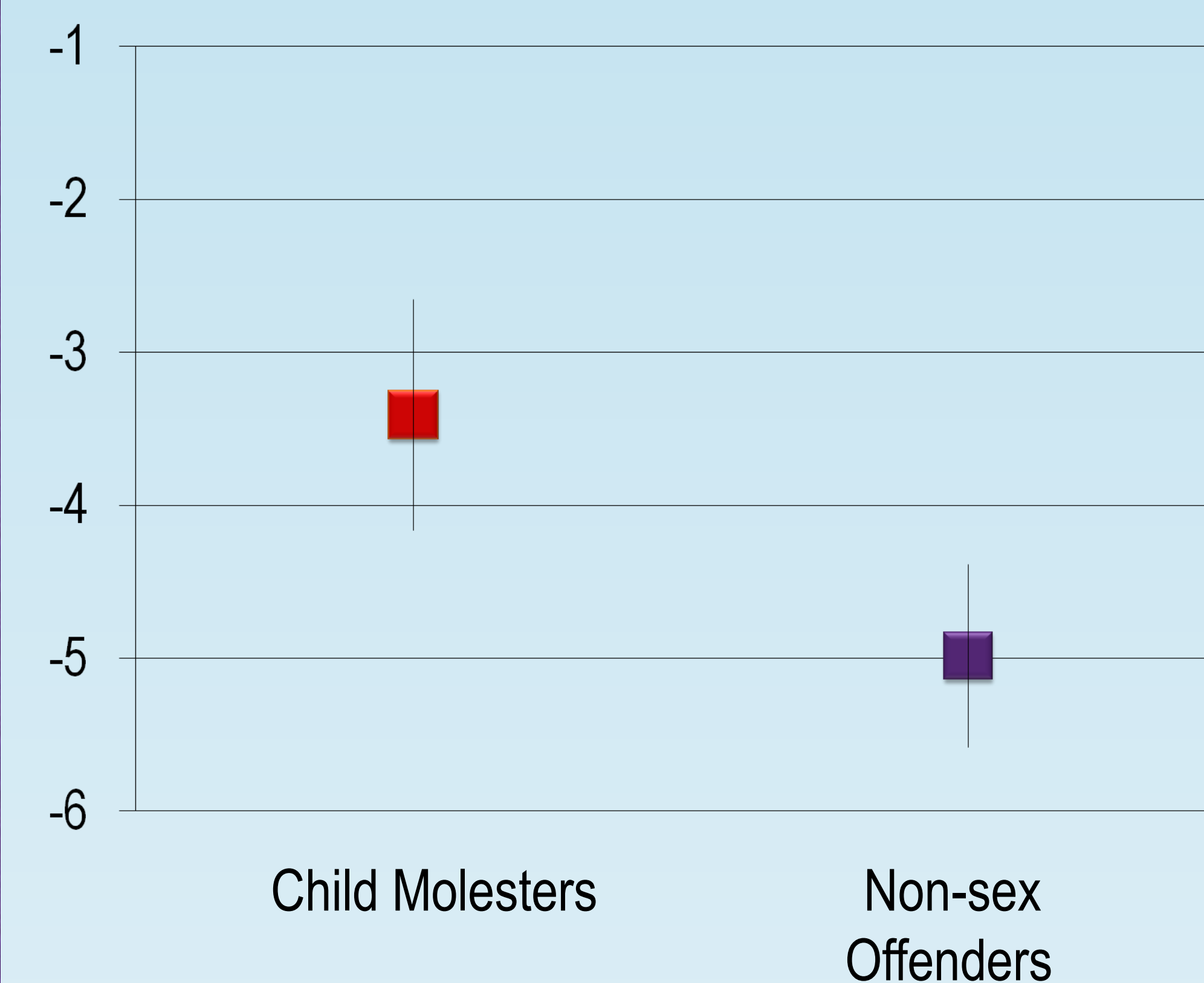

Figure 1. Group Differences on the SIPS Differential

Results

Convergent validity
• Despite medium sized correlation coefficients, the SIPS child scales were not significantly correlated to PPG
• Viewing time was correlated with the SIPS child scales
• SSPI was correlated with the male pedophilia scale

Table 3. *Convergent Validity of the SIPS*

	PPG	STABLE Deviant sexual interests item	Viewing Time Differential	SSPI
	r (n)			
Female Pedophilia	.30 (18)	.13 (28)	.40** (55)	.18 (34)
Female Incest	.33 (18)	.11 (40)	.37** (55)	.11 (34)
Male Pedophilia	-.33 (18)	-.16 (28)	.53*** (55)	.36* (34)
Male Incest	-.34 (18)	-.10 (28)	.50** (55)	.25 (34)
Pedophilia Score	.07 (18)	-.01 (28)	.50** (55)	.26 (34)
Differential Score	.10 (18)	-.13 (28)	.27† (55)	.03 (34)

† p = .05, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Other Variables of Interest
• The SIPS Differential score was not related to the Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding (BIDR; Paulhus, 1984) total score (r = .05), Impression Management score (r = .18), or Deception score (r = -.15), N = 55

Table 4. *Correlation between the SIPS Differential and other variables of interest*

	Static-99	Height	Number of older brothers	Denial
	r (n)			
SIPS Differential	.23 (23)	-.15 (32)	-.03 (26)	-.04 (34)

Discussion

• Both groups rated adult scenarios as more sexually attractive than child scenarios
• Child molesters rated child scenarios relative to adult scenarios as more sexual attractive than non-sex offenders, as assessed by the Differential score
• SIPS was correlated with the SSPI and the viewing time measure, suggesting convergent validity
• Despite medium coefficients, most other correlations were non-significant because of small sample sizes
• These findings generally support the discriminative and convergent validity of the SIPS, but further research is required to gain a more complete understanding of the relationship between physiological and self-report measure of sexual interest