


Deviant Sexual Interests and Sexual Offending: How do we Interpret the Evidence?

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Research question:

Are researchers appropriately sensitive to methodological rigour when drawing conclusions from research?

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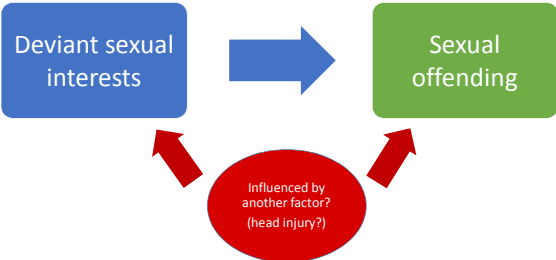
Method

- Individuals who had published an article in a journal on sexual offending were asked to:
 - Identify an important factor leading to sexual offending
 - Provide a research study demonstrating this relationship
 - Draw inferences from the results of the study they provided

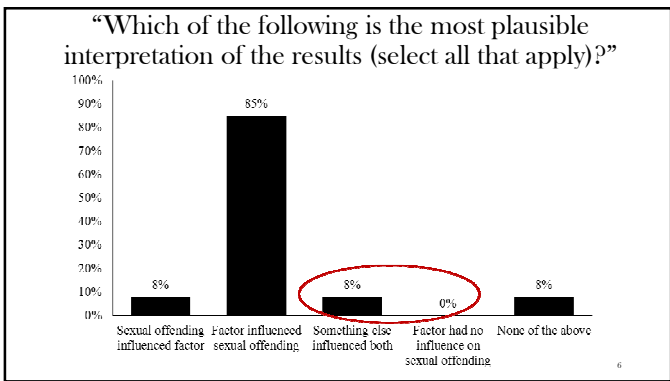
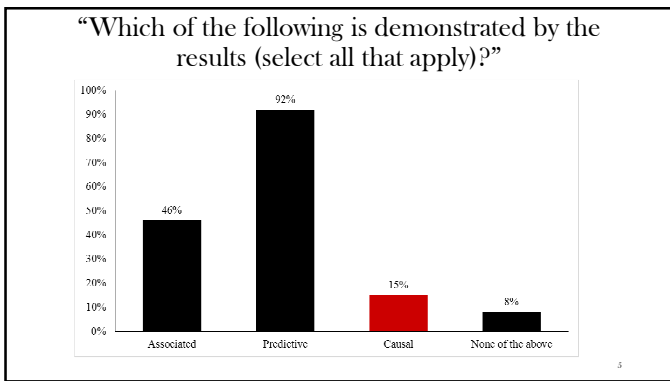
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Results

Single-wave longitudinal studies (N= 13)



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“What are the implications of the results (select all that apply)?”

This is an important factor to consider when estimating risk for sexual re-offending.
 92%

This is an important factor to consider when making decisions about sexual offender management.
 69%

Change on this factor can be expected to lead to change in the likelihood of sexual offending.
 38%

This is an important factor to target in treatment programs aimed at reducing the likelihood of sexual re-offending.
 46%

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Conclusion

Unsupported causal conclusions are sometimes endorsed in addition to accurate interpretations of research findings.

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Thank you!

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