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## CSA and Sexual Offending

- Theories: childhood sexual abuse (CSA) plays a role in later sexual offending against children
  - e.g., Burton (2003); Johnson & Knight (2000); Kobayashi, Sales, Becker, Figueredo, & Kaplan (1995); Marshall & Barbaree (1990); Marshall & Marshall (2000); Seto (2008); Ward & Siegert (2002)
- Studies: CSA is associated with sexual offending against children
  - e.g., Jespersen, Lalumière, & Seto (2009); Seto & Lalumière (2010); Whitaker et al. (2008)



## CSA and Pedophilia



– e.g., Seto (2008)

- CSA is associated with pedophilia among sexual offenders
  - e.g., Freund & Kuban (1994); Freund et al. (1990); Lee, Jackson, Pattison, & Ward (2002); see Seto (2008) for a review



## CSA Characteristics Associated With Pedophilia

- Male abuser
  - e.g., Freund & Kuban (1994); Freund et al. (1990)
- Younger age at victimization
  - e.g., Freund & Kuban (1994)
- Unrelated abuser
  - e.g., Lussier, Beauregard, Proulx, & Nicole (2005)



## CSA and Sexual Recidivism

- CSA does not predict sexual recidivism
  - e.g., Hanson & Morton-Bourgon (2004); Mallie, Viljoen, Mordell, Spice, & Roesch (2011)
- Perhaps CSA is associated with sexual recidivism, but only in some circumstances or for certain offenders
  - e.g., male abuser, younger age at victimization, unrelated abuser, offenders' actuarial risk



## Current Study

- Examine if CSA and particular characteristics of CSA are associated with pedophilia and sexual recidivism
- Examine if the relationship between CSA and sexual recidivism varies depending on offenders' actuarial risk



### Subjects

- 462 with CSA data from an archival dataset of 570 adult male sexual offenders who were incarcerated in Canadian federal prisons (Motiuk & Brown, 1996; Motiuk & Porporino, 1993)
- Median youngest victim age category was 13 to 15 years old
  - ranged from 3 years old or younger to 50 years old or older



### Measures

- Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI; Seto & Lalumière, 2001)
  - Scored only for offenders with a victim 15 years or younger
  - Some modifications to scoring due to limited data
- Static-99R (Helmus, Thornton, Hanson & Babchishin, 2011)
  - Some modifications to scoring due to limited data



### Operational Definitions

- **Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA)**
  - “sexual acts which were committed against the offender before the age of 16 where the abuser was at least 5 years older than the offender”



- **Source of CSA report**
  - “offender’s self report” versus “offender’s self report corroborated by official documentation or official documentation only”
- **Sexual recidivism**
  - any post-release conviction for a sexual offence coded from criminal records obtained in 2009



### Results CSA and Risk

- Abused offenders did not differ significantly on Static-99R scores from offenders who had not been sexually abused as children



### CSA and Victim Age

- Abused offenders had significantly younger victims in their index or prior sexual offences (*Mdn* = 9-12 years old) than offenders who had not been sexually abused as children (*Mdn* = 16-18 years old) (Table 1)



Table 1 CSA and Age of Offenders' Victims

	CSA < 16 years old		Cohen's <i>d</i> [95% CI]
	No	Yes	
	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	
Youngest victim age category	4.41 (1.61) <i>n</i> = 324	3.46 (1.66) <i>n</i> = 121	-0.58* [-0.79, -0.37]
Self-report only	4.41 (1.61) <i>n</i> = 324	3.43 (1.64) <i>n</i> = 80	-0.61* [-0.86, -0.36]
Official documentation	4.41 (1.61) <i>n</i> = 324	3.55 (1.72) <i>n</i> = 40	-0.53* [-0.86, -0.20]

### CSA and Pedophilic Interest

- Abused offenders had significantly higher scores on the SSPI than offenders who had not been sexually abused as children (Table 2)

Table 2 CSA and Pedophilic Interest

	CSA < 16 years old		Cohen's <i>d</i> [95% CI]
	No	Yes	
	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	
SSPI	1.50 (1.50) <i>n</i> = 157	2.63 (1.71) <i>n</i> = 86	0.71* [0.44, 0.98]
Self-report only	1.50 (1.50) <i>n</i> = 157	2.53 (1.60) <i>n</i> = 58	0.68* [0.37, 0.98]
Official documentation	1.50 (1.50) <i>n</i> = 157	2.81 (1.96) <i>n</i> = 27	0.83* [0.42, 1.25]

### Abuser Gender and Pedophilic Interest

- Offenders who had been sexually abused by a male had significantly higher SSPI scores than those who had been sexually abused by a female (Table 3)

Table 3 Abuser Gender and Pedophilic Interest

	Gender of Abuser in CSA < 16		
	Female	Male	Both
	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )
SSPI	1.56 (1.51) <i>n</i> = 9	2.97 (1.72) <i>n</i> = 60	2.25 (1.49) <i>n</i> = 8
Pairwise Comparisons (Cohen's <i>d</i> [95% CI])			
	Female vs. Male	Female vs. Both	Male vs. Both
	-0.83* [-1.55, -0.12]	-0.46 [-1.43, 0.50]	0.42 [-0.32, 1.16]

### Age of Victimization and Pedophilic Interest

- Age at which offenders were themselves abused (*M* = 9.20 years, *SD* = 2.81) was not significantly correlated with the SSPI (*M* = 2.63 years, *SD* = 1.71)
- r* = -.19, 95% CI [-.39, .02], *p* = .08, *N* = 86

### Relationship of Abuser to Offender and Pedophilic Interest

- Offenders' relationship with their own abuser was not significantly correlated with SSPI
  - closest relationship between abuser and offender,  $r = -.01$ , 95% CI [-.22, .20],  $p = .90$ ,  $N = 86$
  - most distant relationship,  $r = .05$ , 95% CI [-.17, .26],  $p = .67$ ,  $N = 86$



### Sexual Recidivism

- Complete data on CSA and recidivism were available for 115 of the 241 offenders who had been assessed prior to conditional release
- CSA = 31.3% (36/115)
- Sexual recidivism = 31.3% (36/115)
  - Mean follow-up was 212.03 months ( $SD = 8.19$ ) and ranged from 187.00 to 228.43 months



### Predictors of Sexual Recidivism

- Significant
  - Static-99R
- Non-significant
  - CSA prior to age 16, abuser gender, age of victimization, relationship to abuser (closest and most distant), SSPI

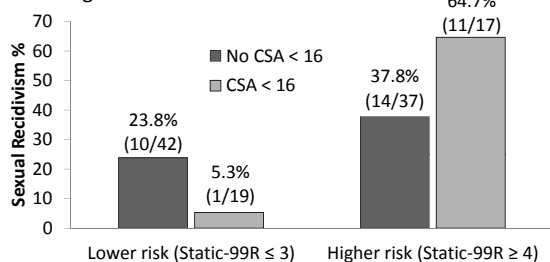


### Interaction of CSA and Risk

- For the lower risk group (Static-99R  $\leq 3$ ), CSA was non-significantly associated with less sexual recidivism (Figure 1)
  - odds ratio = 0.18, 95% CI [0.02, 1.50],  $p = .11$
- For the higher risk group (Static-99R  $\geq 4$ ), CSA was non-significantly associated with more sexual recidivism (Figure 1)
  - odds ratio = 3.01, 95% CI [0.91, 9.96],  $p = .07$

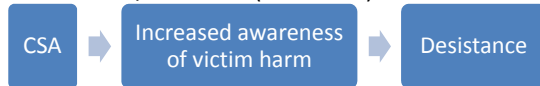


Figure 1. Sexual Recidivism Rates by CSA for Lower Risk and Higher Risk Sexual Offenders

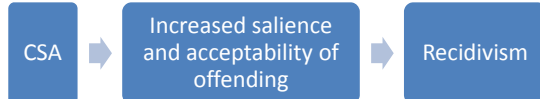


### Our Post-Hoc Speculation

Less callous/antisocial (lower risk) offenders



More callous/antisocial (higher risk) offenders



## Conclusions

- CSA is linked to sexual offending against children and pedophilic interests
- Gender of the abuser may be important, with CSA by a male being more strongly associated with pedophilic interests than CSA by a female



- CSA may play a role in sexual recidivism, with opposite relationships observed between CSA and sexual recidivism depending on offenders' actuarial risk
- If future research replicates this CSA by risk interaction and identifies the constructs and processes involved, CSA may be worth considering in risk assessment and treatment



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