

Profiles of individuals seeking support for Child Sexual Exploitation Material Offending

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Friday August 29th, 2025 (2:30PM-3PM)
IATSO, Poznań, Poland



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Research Team

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- Odran Doherty

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Secondary Prevention



Targets at-risk individuals pre-offense or pre-conviction.



But there is a lack of data on client characteristics and needs in prevention programs.

Study Aims



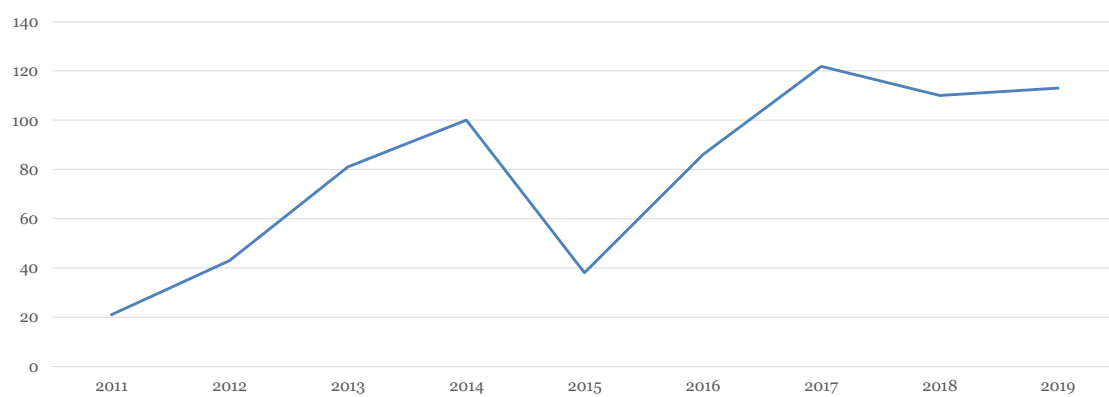
1. Describe demographics and offence profiles of service clients
2. Analyse temporal trends (2011–2020)
3. Identify subtypes via Latent Class Analysis (LCA)
4. Compare subtypes on key variables and evaluate service needs.

Methods

- 828 male clients, 2011–2020
- Stopitnow! Scotland
- Variables: Demographics, offence data, mental/physical health, trauma, etc.

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Number of Clients ($n = 828$)



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Sample Characteristics

- Age: 41.7 years old (SD = 14.6)
- 45% Married, 45% single
- For those with offences:
 - Delay between offence and service contact: 3.5 yrs (SD = 4.9)
 - 67% presentence, 23% post-conviction

Type of Client	%
CSEM	87.5
Dual/mixed	2.9
Grooming	5.0
Contact	0.5
Not offended	1.2

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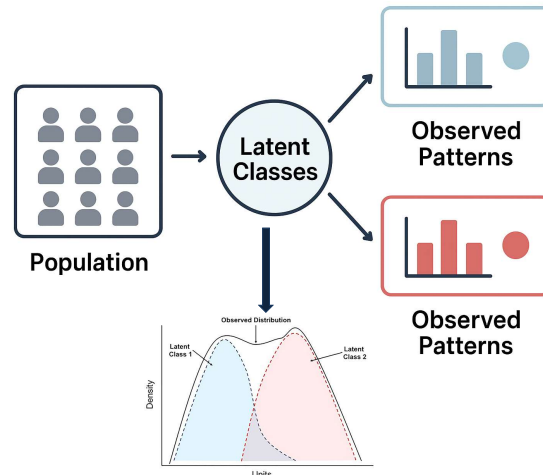
Notable Temporal Trends (from 2010 to 2020)

- ↑ in self and family referral source (and reduction in police referral)
- ↑ in grooming offences and non-offending clients, CSEM still the most frequent
- ↓ in time between offending and contact with the service (a good thing)
- **Are there different need profiles amongst clients?**

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Latent Class Analysis

- Are there meaningful subgroups in your data?



Steps:

1- run LCA on indicators

2- check validity of classes using new outcomes

LCA Indicators

1. Suicidal thoughts/behaviour
2. Mental health issues
3. Childhood trauma
4. Sexual interest in children
5. Physical health issues

LCA

- Are there meaningful subgroups? **Yes.**

Classes	AIC	AIC Δ	BIC	BIC Δ	G ²	χ ²
1	1499.32	46.93	1517.72	17.06	70.03	94.05
2	1460.18	7.79	1500.66	†	47.99	103.25
3	1452.39	†	1514.95	14.29	26.47	28.05
4	1457.62	5.23	1542.27	41.61	20.02	20.81
5	1462.90	10.51	1569.62	68.96	17.61	17.57

Model selection

Note. †: select class solution. AIC: Akaike information criteria. BIC: Bayesian information criterion. Lower AIC/ BIC indicate the better fitting model. AIC/BIC difference Δ: 0-2 weak evidence, 2-6 positive evidence, 6-10 strong evidence, and >10 very strong. G²: Likelihood ratio/deviance statistics. χ²: Pearson chi-square goodness of fit statistic.

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Estimated Class Conditional Probabilities

Variable	Class	Probabilities Scoring Yes
Any suicidal thoughts or behaviour	1	.234
	2	.471
Any childhood trauma	1	.202
	2	.508
Any other mental health issues	1	.000
	2	1.000
Any physical health issues	1	.151
	2	.173
Any reported sexual interest in children	1	.786
	2	.947

- Class 1 (33.4%): ↓ needs (lower trauma, suicidality, MH issues)
- Class 2 (66.6%): ↑ needs across all indicators
 - Sexual interest in children: 79% (Class 1) vs. 95% (Class 2)

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Outcome Analyses

Variable	Class 1	Class 2	t/ χ^2	Cohen's d
	Mean(SD), n/% (n/N)	Mean(SD), n/% (n/N)		
Age	46.28 (14.65), 99	42.28 (13.65), 194	2.31, p = .021	.29
Referral source				
Self	74.7% (74/99)	68.6% (133/194)	5.48, p = .241	.26
Family	6.1% (6/99)	11.3% (22/194)		
Police	12.1% (12/99)	8.2% (16/194)		
Helpline	5.1% (5/99)	6.7% (10/194)		
Others (e.g., social work)	2.0% (2/99)	5.2% (10/194)		
Offending Behaviour				
CSEM	87.9% (87/99)	83.0% (161/194)	2.13, p = .712	.15
CSEM and contact	3.0% (3/99)	5.2% (10/194)		
Grooming	7.1% (7/99)	8.2% (16/194)		
Non-contact (excluding CSEM)	2.0% (2/99)	3.1% (6/194)		

Note. Likelihood ratio (LR) χ^2 test presented. Phi from LR test converted using $d=2r\sqrt{1-r^2}$.

Class 1 (lower needs) were older, more likely to be self-referred, had more CSEM but lower contact offences than Class 2



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Class 2 (lower needs) had less concern about contact offence and more addiction issue (this despite having similar albeit more previous convictions and contact/grooming offence than Class 1)

Variable	Class 1	Class 2	t/ χ^2	Cohen's d
	Mean(SD), n/% (n/N)	Mean(SD), n/% (n/N)		
Any previous sexual convictions	14.1% (13/92)	17.4% (27/155)	0.47, p = .494	.08
Relationship status ^a				
Single	34.3% (34/99)	45.0% (86/191)	4.43, p = .219	.24
Married/Partner	50.5% (50/99)	44.0% (84/191)		
Separated/Divorced	15.2% (15/99)	10.5% (20/191)		
Widowed	0.0% (0/99)	0.5% (1/191)		
Employment ^a				
Unemployed	9.1% (9/99)	18.9% (36/190)	7.83, p = .0496	.32
Student	6.1% (6/99)	5.8% (11/190)		
Employed	75.8% (75/99)	71.6% (136/190)		
Retired	9.1% (9/99)	3.7% (7/190)		
Concerns about thoughts (Yes)	13.5% (7/52)	10.2% (6/59)	0.059, p = .808	.10
Concerns about contact (Yes)	8.6% (5/58)	1.8% (1/56)	2.91, p = .088	.30
Addiction issues (Yes)	12.8% (6/47)	41.3% (19/46)	9.52, p = .002	.30

Note. Likelihood ratio (LR) χ^2 test presented. Phi from LR test converted using $d=2r\sqrt{1-r^2}$. ^aRelationship status and employment status presented on file, if charge present on file.



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What does this mean?

Heterogeneity
across client
exists

Some (Class 2:
higher need
class) were
significantly
younger, were
more likely to be
unemployed,
and had greater
addiction issues
than Class 1.

Although both
classes were
most often self-
referred, Class 2
were more likely
to be referred
from family
members than
Class 1 who were
more likely to be
referred to by
police.

Class 2 were less
frequently
worried about
contact sexual
offending (2%)
compared to
Class 1 (9%).

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Key Take Home Findings

- Increase in higher-needs clients over time
- Clients are increasingly accessing services earlier after offending
- Typologies support tailored interventions in prevention programs
- Class 2 may represent harder-to-reach population

VARIABLE	CLASS	PROBABILITIES
		SCORING YES
Any suicidal thoughts or behaviour	1	.234
	2	.471
Any childhood trauma	1	.202
	2	.508
Any other mental health issues	1	.000
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Any physical health issues	1	.151
	2	.173
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	2	.947

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Implications

- Trauma-informed approach
- Mental health: responsiveness issues.
- Program adaptations needed for complex-needs group
- Standardized, assessment battery is crucial
 - Allows for harmonized evaluation frameworks across services.

Limitations

- Inconsistent and incomplete data recording
 - Missing data may distort prevalence of key characteristics in overall analyses
- LCA on low # of cases (n = 288) and only adequate indicator variable

Proposed Data Recording Standards

- Reconsider each variable and its function
- Reconsider how much detail and differentiation is required
- Align variable selection with (1) tasks and (2) relevant literature
- Record yes/no where possible
- Record missing data as separate from absent variable
- If recording pattern change, add variables as opposed to changing definition of variables throughout
- Avoid string text where possible, only to provide highly relevant contextual information
- Provide coding manual and coding training, and offer coding calibration; engage in regular coding reliability checking
- Monitor missing data and database completion rates; Enable database to be completed at later date if initial assessment incomplete

Take Home Messages

- One of the largest analyses of CSA prevention program clients ($n = 828$)
- Profiles of clients changed across time (more complex)
- LCA identified meaningful subtypes
 - One-fit-all approach is not ideal
 - Guide service development based on the profiles of your clients
- Reinforces need for improved data and evaluation standards

Thank you.

Questions?



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<https://carleton.ca/sexuallyharmfulbehaviourslab/>



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Support for family and friends of Stop it Now!
Flanders (BE): Evaluation and future opportunities.

29/8/2025 – Alana Schuerwegen & Minne De Boeck, SiN! Flanders & University Forensic Centre (UFC) –
IATSO Conference 2025, Poznan, Poland

STOP IT NOW!
0800 200 50
anoniem voor naasten

STOP IT NOW!
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www.stopitnow.be
gratis anoniem

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SUPPORTING FRIENDS & FAMILY

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Helpline



Online support

Website
Self-help modules
Start to talk – manual
Online forum



Support group

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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- ▶ Recognition
- ▶ Support (shared experiences & concerns)
- ▶ Psychoeducation
- ▶ Safety & confidentiality
- ▶ Two professionals (University Forensic Centre & SiNI VL)
- ▶ Intake
- ▶ Limited number of participants
- ▶ Limited number of meetings

2023

2 groups started

2024

2 groups finished

3 groups started

Goal for 2025

2 groups started

25

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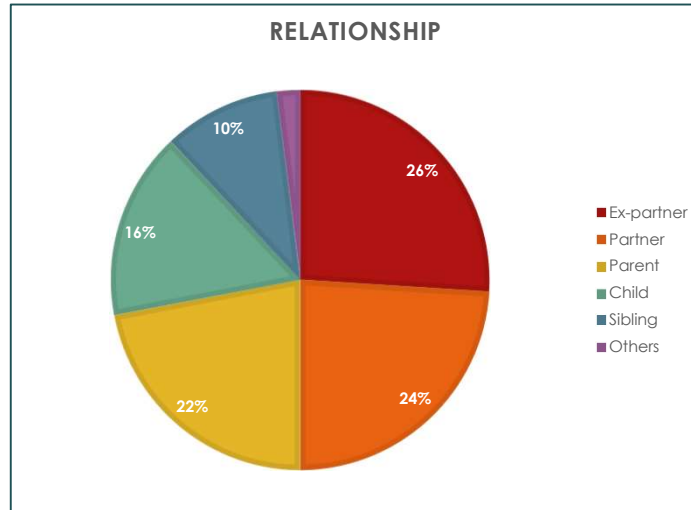
TOPICS

- ▶ Motivations for (online) child sexual abuse (CSA)
- ▶ Functions of watching CSEM
- ▶ The judicial process
- ▶ Impact on you and others
- ▶ Risk and protective factors
- ▶ Safety plan
- ▶ Intimacy
- ▶ Coping with grief and loss
- ▶ Responsibility and guilt
- ▶ Impact of media
- ▶ ...

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WHO ARE THEY?

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RESEARCH & EVALUATION

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EVALUATION

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Post support group



Survey

Expectations
Impact on their personal life
Take home experiences
Additional needs

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EVALUATION

-EXPECTATIONS-

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Recognition



Social support



Feeling less alone



Sharing experiences



Connection



Feeling less ashamed

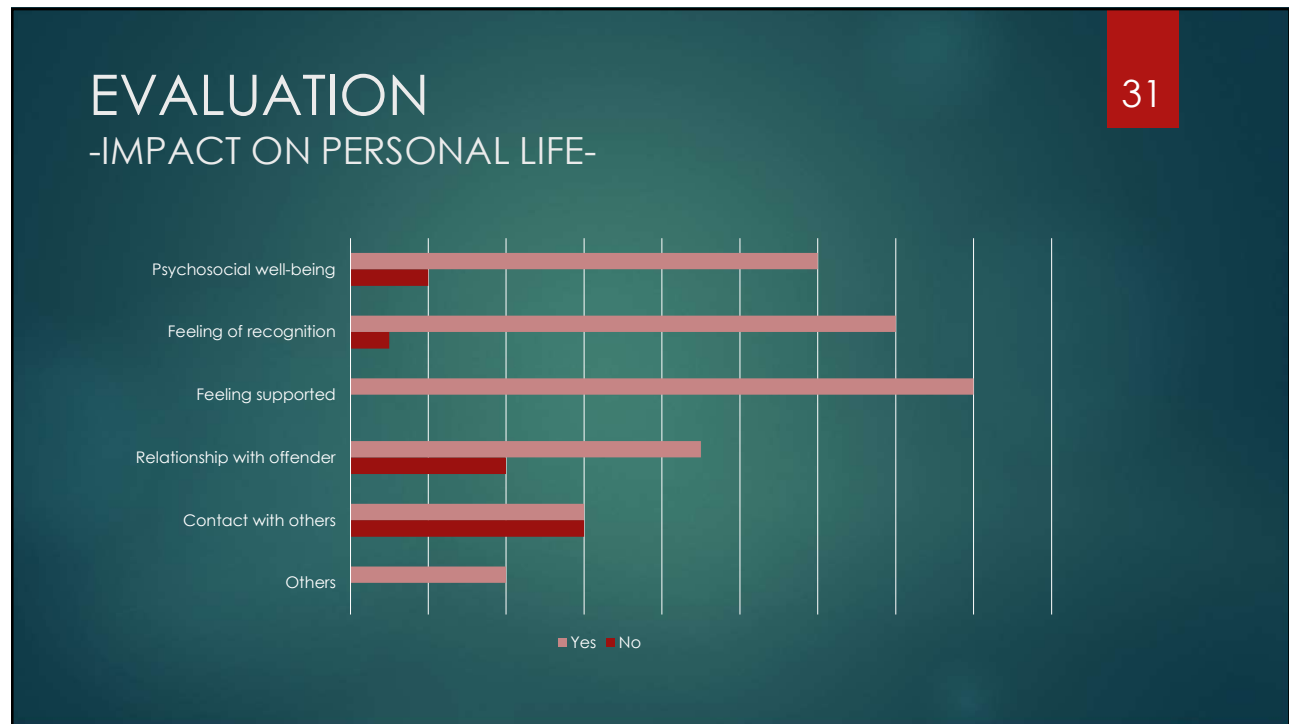
Expectations fulfilled



84% 16%

Yes No

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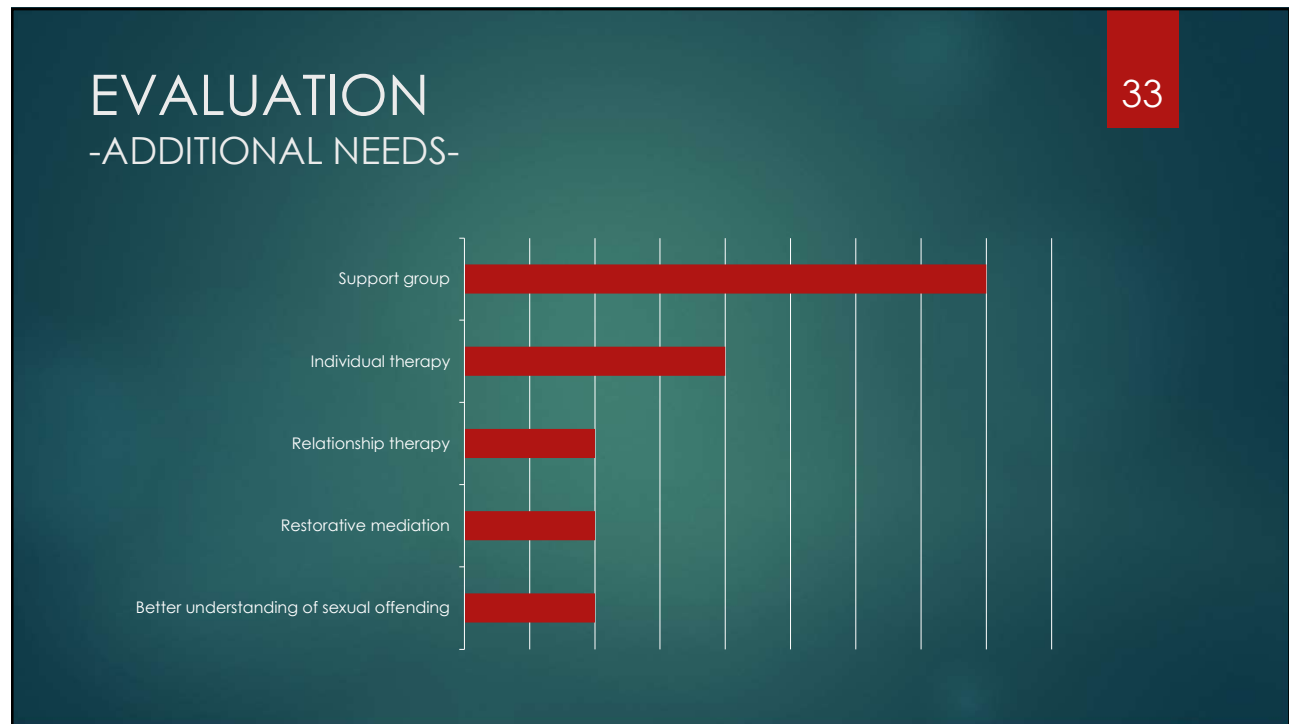
EVALUATION

-TAKE HOME EXPERIENCES-

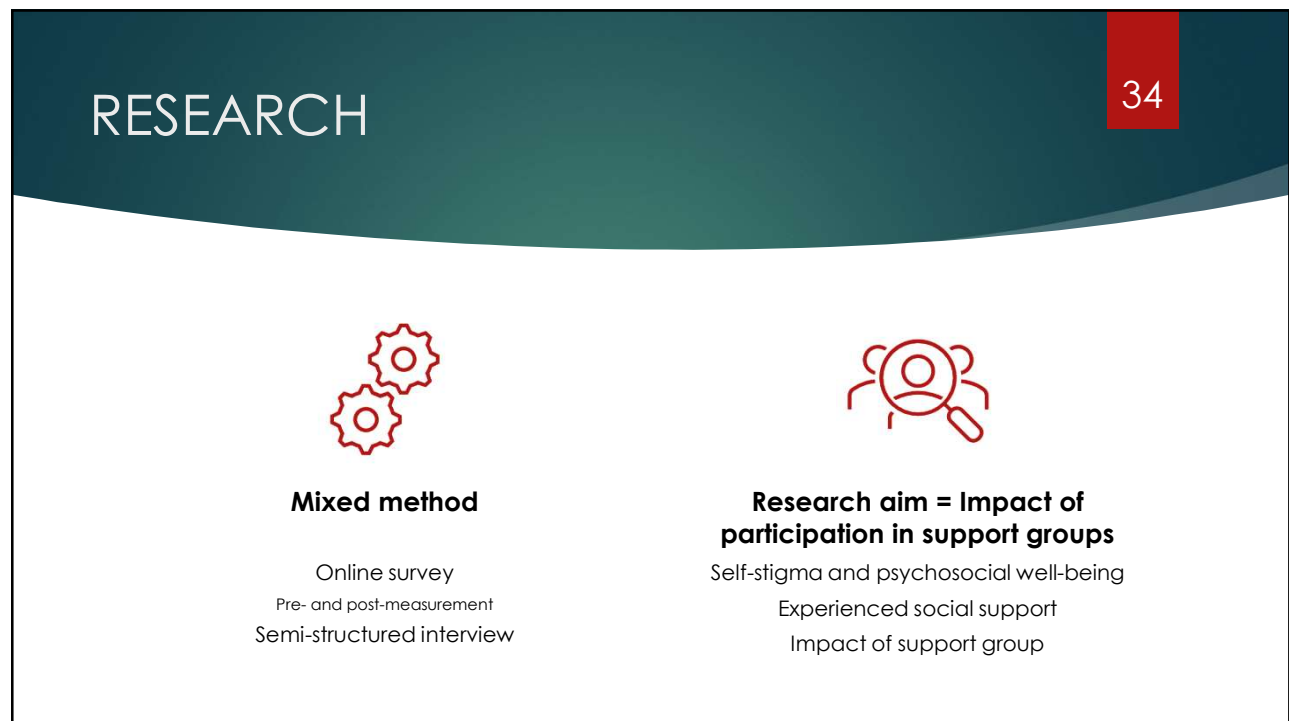
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- ▶ Knowing they're not alone
- ▶ Potential friendships
- ▶ Connection between participants
- ▶ Feeling understood
- ▶ Importance of peers and professionals
- ▶ It's about more than breaking ties with the offender
- ▶ Necessity of continued support
- ▶ Accurate information about CSA

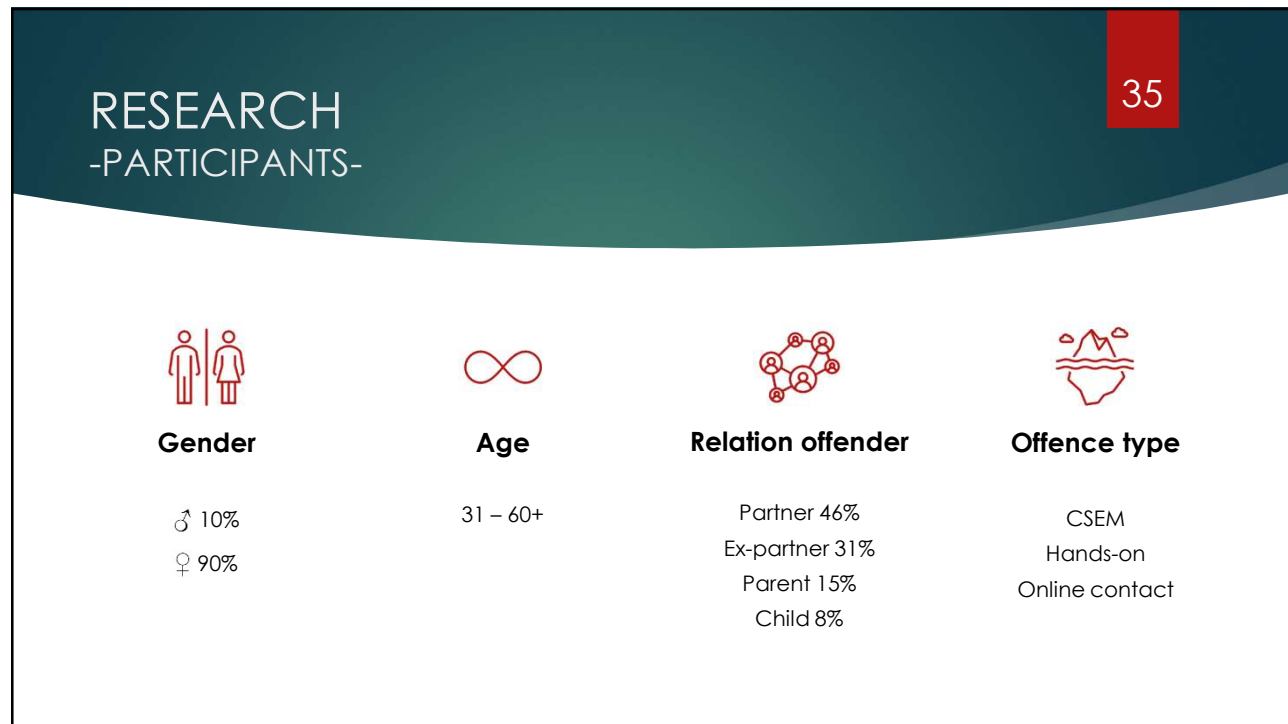
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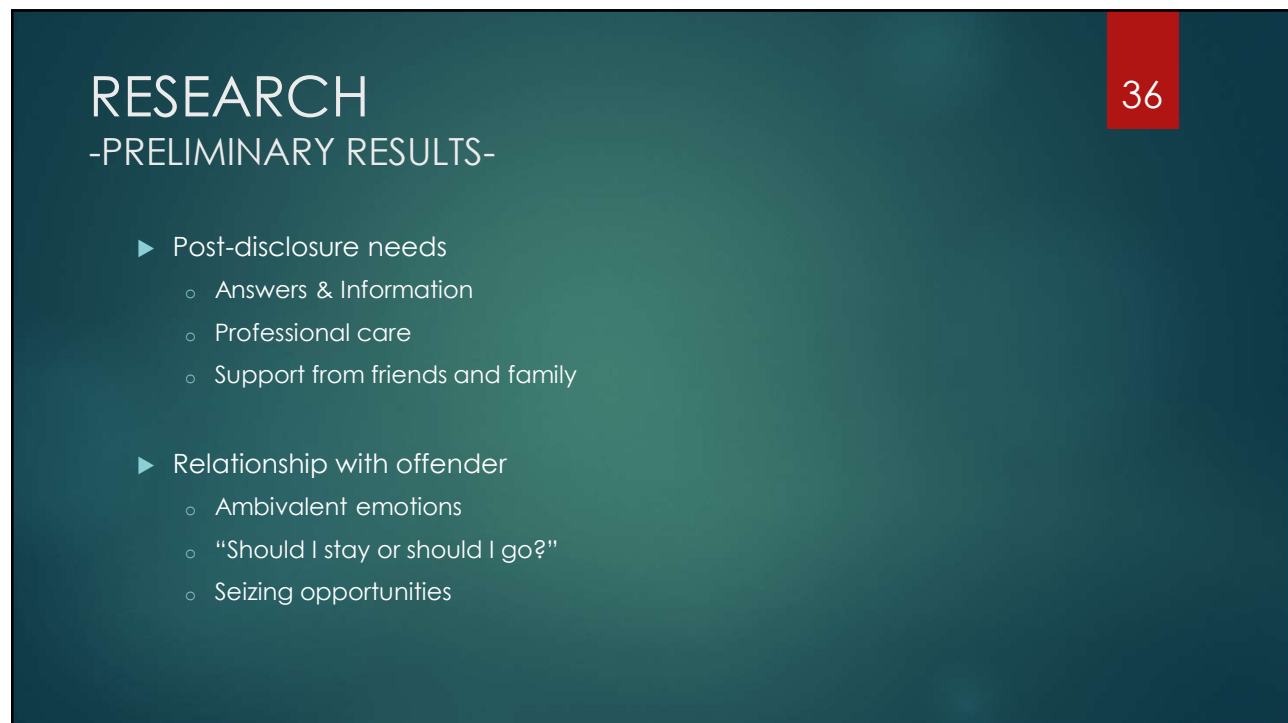
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RESEARCH

-PRELIMINARY RESULTS-

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- ▶ Experiences with professionals
 - Mixed experiences
 - Lack of specialised care
- ▶ Stop it Now! support group
 - "A place to feel at ease"
 - Safety
- ▶ Further needs
 - Accessible care
 - Recognition as "secondary victims"
 - Awareness & breaking the taboo

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CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

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- ▶ Practical organisation
 - Online support group
 - Active waiting list
- ▶ Financial insecurity & stability of the project
- ▶ Specific groups
 - Children
 - Parents
 - Related to victim & offender

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THANK YOU

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<https://naasten.stopitnow.be/>

<https://stopitnow.be/>



www.ufc.be/



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Circles ReBoot: Feasibility Study and Preliminary Outcome Evaluation



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ONLINEPROTECT RESEARCH GROUP

RIANA TAYLOR AND LIZ HICKEY, CIRCLES UK

**International Association for the Treatment of Sexual
Offenders**

Poznan, 2025

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What are Circles

- Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA) originated in Canada, now worldwide
- Quaker principles of restorative justice and community reintegration of those who have committed contact sexual offending.
- Trained, supervised Volunteers work as a group with individuals assessed as high risk of sexual harm (Core Member)
- The Circle offers supports over 12-18 months whilst holding the individuals accountable for their behaviour
- Evidence base of effectiveness in reducing sexual recidivism, e.g. Wilson, R. J., & McWhinnie, A. J. (2016).
- Adopted by UK Ministry of Justice in 2008 and operates in partnership with Police, Probation and MAPPA.



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Why Circles ReBoot

- Escalation in online CSAM offences overwhelmed conventional law enforcement and treatment services
 - Thousands of UK men per month major online sexual threat to children
 - Most CSAM offenders are actuarially low risk, but numbers are vast
 - Risk Need Responsivity principles -> shorter, lighter touch approach
 - ReBoot focuses on building strengths and working towards achievable goals to support desistance and community reintegration
- recognise strengths encourage self-efficacy build resilience overcome obstacles
optimise wellbeing twelve sessions

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ReBoot pilot recruitment and operation

- Over 18, CSAM conviction, recruited mainly through police and probation
- Most Coordinators and Volunteers previous experience of 12 months COSA
- Reboot offers 12 sessions over 6-month with a more structured format, focused on fostering skills and developing achieving (pro-desistence) goals.
- The Core Member (CM) is the expert on themselves; no-one is teacher but rather a joint working group.
- CMs work on specific goals between each meeting. Tools are introduced which the CM can use and practice in their daily life.
- CM feedback and reflection on progress at each meeting is crucial → amend / refine goals and strengths.

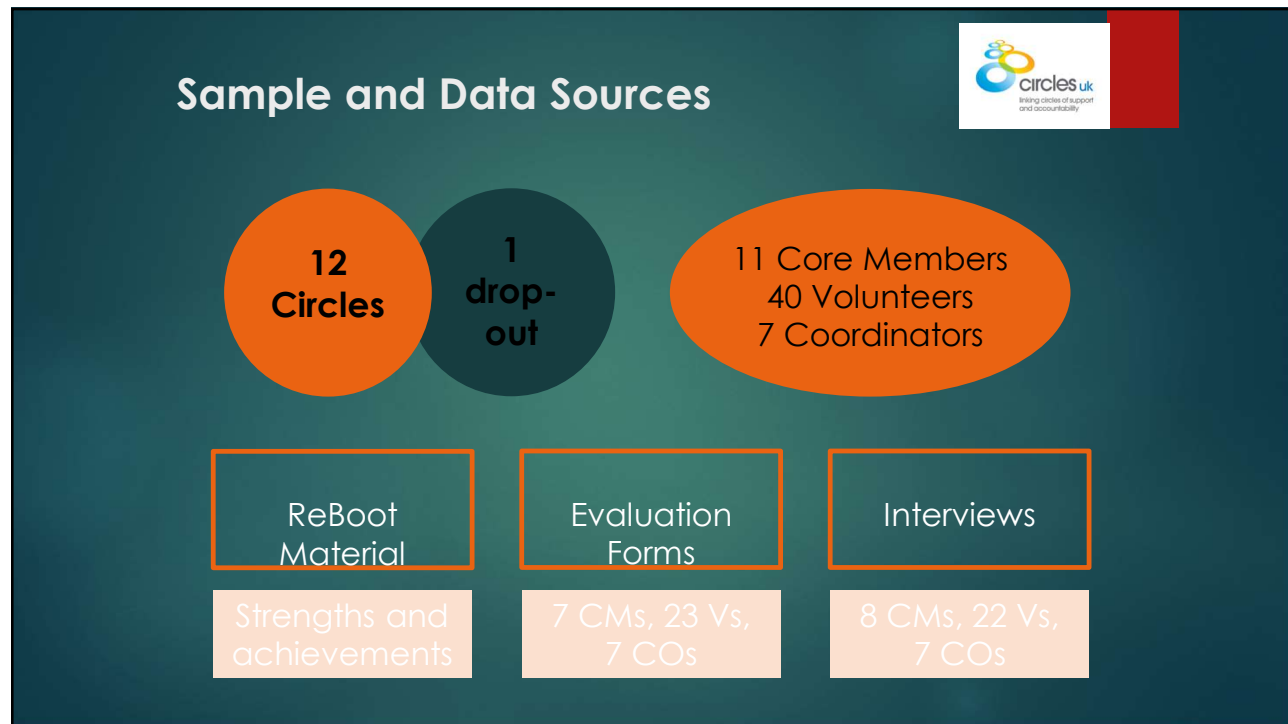
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ReBoot Session Overview

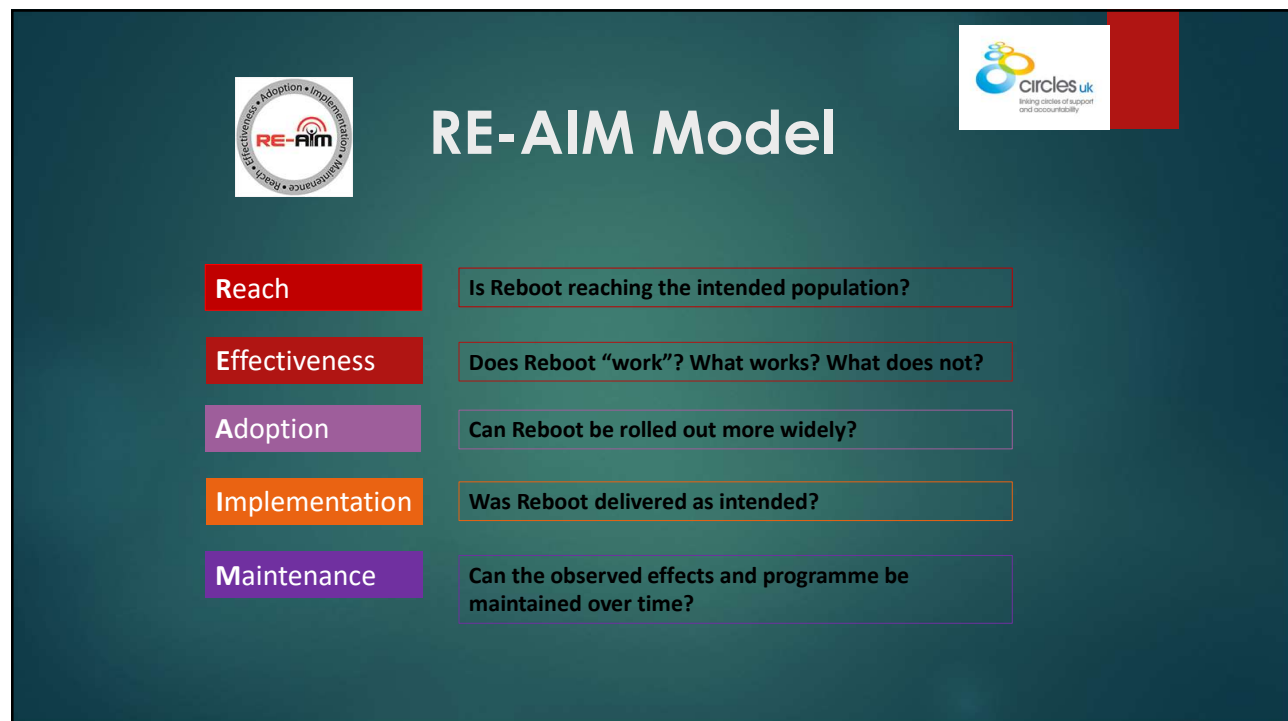
Everyone introduced to Keys for Change (Liz Hickey) to help CMs work towards their (pro-desistence) goals

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Beginnings | 7. Getting Out of my Comfort Zone |
| 2. Recognising Strengths | 8. Self-Awareness: How I Cope with Difficult Thoughts and Feelings |
| 3. Introduction to Goal Setting | 9. Being in the Moment |
| 4. Me and My Goals | 10. Building Resilience |
| 5. Identity: Who Am I in all This? | 11. Sustaining Change |
| 6. Different Point of Views | 12. Unlocking the Future |

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Outcome and Future developments

- ▶ Positive outcomes, only tentative results for maintenance
- ▶ Slight modifications to the sessions content
- ▶ More 'get to know you' time with volunteers
- ▶ More gradual fade out at the end
- ▶ Opened to slightly higher risk individuals
- ▶ Theory of change model developed
- ▶ Longer term evaluation with control groups

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Some quotes

"The last thing I was expecting to get out of it was confidence, which is something I haven't had my whole life and I'm actually really confident after this whole course" – Core Member

- ▶ *"I think any time spent supporting a person who's isolated and just opening up that bubble that they're in and putting some oxygen in there is just such a powerful thing" – Circles ReBoot Volunteer*

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THANK YOU!

We would welcome hearing from
you

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