

# CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND ADULTS WITH AGGRESSIVE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

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# DEFINITION

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*Children, adolescents, and adults who are inappropriately or illegally sexually involved with children.*

# DEFINITION

*Adults: Defined by legal system  
DSM IV: Paraphilias*

*Adolescents: Defined by legal system  
(Delinquent)  
DSM IV: Paraphilias (16+)*

*Children: Inappropriately defined with legal terms*

# CHILDREN REFERRED TO AS. .

- *Mini-perps*
- *Children who molest*
- *Sexually reactive children*
- *Pre-ads*
- *Child perpetrators*

# RECOMMENDED

- *Children with sexual behavior problems*
- *Children with inappropriate sexual behavior*
- *Children with aggressive sexual behavior*

# CURRENT RESEARCH

	<u>AM</u>	<u>AF</u>	<u>AdM</u>	<u>AdF</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>CF</u>
<b>Characteristics</b>	****	*	**	*	*	*
<b>Typologies</b>	**		*		*	*
<b>Etiology</b>	*				*	*
<b>Assessment Instrument</b>	**		*		*	*
<b>Treatment Outcome</b>	***		*		*	*

# SIMILARITIES-AGE/GENDER

- *Sexual acts*
- *Heterogeneous populations*
- *Lower recidivism rates than public perception*
- *Group treatment found effective*
- *Various treatment settings available*

# DIFFERENCES-AGE/GENDER

- *Gender of client (A)*
- *Gender of victim (A/G)*
- *Cognitive development (A)*
- *Moral reasoning (A)*

# DIFFERENCES-AGE/GENDER

- *Social/Emotional development (A)*
- *History of sexual abuse (A/G)*
- *Predictive value of history of sexual abuse (A/G)*
- *Settings for treatment (A/G)*

# DIFFERENCES- AGE/GENDER

- *Habit strength of behavior (A)*
- *Arousal patterns (A)*
- *Risk for non-sexual illegal behavior (A/G)*
- *Degree of perceived dangerousness (A/G)*
- *Legal consequences (A/G)*

# SIMILARITIES IN TREATMENT

- *Group approaches found useful*
- *Issues addressed are similar*
- *Focus on supervision*

# DIFFERENCES IN TREATMENT

- *Focus of treatment*
- *Issues addressed differently due to cognitive differences*
- *Length of treatment*
- *Habit strength differences*
- *Focus on non-sexual illegal behavior*
- *Assumption of cure vs. no cure*

# EFFECTIVE TREATMENT APPROACHES

<u>AMSO</u>	<u>AFSO</u>	<u>AdMSO</u>	<u>AdFSO</u>	<u>CMSBP</u>	<u>CFSBP</u>
CBT	-----	MST	-----	CBT	CBT
HM		CBT		DPT	DPT
				MRP	MRP
				ET	ET

# SUMMARY

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- *Severity of effects documented*
- *Effectiveness of treatment established for some types*
- *Children and adolescents different from adult offenders*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Continue focus on early intervention*
- *Develop more specific models of intervention for children and adolescents*
- *Research on treatment outcome with female and adolescent offenders*
- *Major focus needs to be on primary prevention of sexual offenses*

# NCSBY.ORG

- *Fact sheets on children and adolescents*
- *Selected references*
- *Assessment instruments*
- *Guidelines: Parents, Ethics*

# National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth

- *Established in 2001 by OJJDP*
- *Develop and disseminate information curricula on adolescent sex offenders and children with sexual behavior problems for multiple disciplines and the public*
- *Designed not to reflect the field, but to improve practice in the field*