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I32 Guidelines for the Evaluation of Sex Offenders and People With Problematic Sexual Interests

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The goals of this presentation are to provide: (1) a history and foundation of jurisprudence governing the evaluation and management of individuals who commit sex crimes; (2) Canadian and American approaches to providing practical, innovative, and effective strategies for the assessment of people with problematic sexual interests and individuals who commit sex crimes; and, (3) an overview of successful treatment strategies used among people with problematic sexual interests and individuals who commit sex crimes.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing education regarding paraphilic interests and sexual offending behaviors from a forensic psychiatry perspective within the context of current legal mandates and oversight. The forensic science community will learn about: (1) the history and foundation of jurisprudence as it applies to the psycho-legal evaluation and management of sex offenders; (2) components of sexual offender assessments conducted in Canadian and American evaluations; (3) innovative techniques used in the assessment of problematic sexual interests; and, (4) the varying approaches to the treatment of problematic interests and evidence that treatment of paraphilias does work.

Social responses to managing individuals who have committed a sexual offense often seek a balance of punishment for the act while also wanting treatment to prevent future offending. A combination of punishment, prevention, and community protection are at the core of criminal justice responses to sexual offending. The history and foundation of jurisprudence governing the evaluation and management of individuals who commit sex crimes will be discussed. This will provide attendees with an understanding of the evolution of public safety laws within the United States and the role of forensic psychiatry in risk determination and prevention of recidivism.

An overview of Canadian and American perspectives on current methods used to assess and treat individuals who commit sexual offenses and people with problematic sexual interests will be provided. First, an American perspective on the assessment protocol for the evaluation of sex offending behavior will be provided. The use of a tripartite approach with the components being clinical review, psychological/psychometric instruments, and physiological assessments will serve as the framework. The physiological element includes Penile Plethysmography (PPG), visual reaction-time measurement, and polygraphy. This will also include a discussion of the development and testing of innovative phallometric stimuli utilizing age- and gender-congruent voices.

The Canadian perspective of the assessment protocol for sex offenders will then be explored. A general overview of the routine and new innovative assessment approaches that are currently being used in the laboratory will be provided. Attendees will be provided with an overview of the Sexual Behaviours Clinic (SBC) of The Royal in Ottawa, Canada. Topics discussed include: referral sources, patient characteristics, objective measures of sexual arousal, as well as psychological measures that are currently being used in the laboratory. New and innovative clinical research projects will also be reviewed, including alternate and complimentary methods for the objective assessment of sexual arousal. These include functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) testing, eye-tracking,



Psychiatry & Behavioral Science - 2017

visual reaction time, Electroencephalograph (EEG), and objective assessment of female sexual arousal in forensic populations. Improvement upon PPG assessments with the use of novel stimuli sets will also be discussed.

In 2015, The Royal's SBC was awarded the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) prestigious "Gold Award" for a clinical research program of academic excellence. The SBC was unanimously selected from all the psychiatric programs in North America. In its newsletter, the APA noted that "the SBC's innovations have made it a model for treatment of sex disorders worldwide."¹ The successful treatment strategies used within the SBC will be discussed, including group therapy, individual sessions, and pharmacological treatments. Case examples and evidence illustrating that paraphilic disorders can be successfully treated will also be presented.

Reference(s):

1. American Psychiatric Association (October, 2015). Improving Community Safety by Providing Treatment to a Highly Marginalized Clinical Population. *Psychiatric Services*. 66:10, pp e1-e4. ps.psychiatryonline.org.

Sex Offender, Paraphilia, Evaluation