



I23 A Psycho-Criminological Profile of Child Sex Offenders

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Learning Overview: The goal of this presentation is to specify the psycho-criminological profile of perpetrators of sexual violence against minors and their respective dangers.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by improving understanding of child sexual assault and prevention of sexual abuse.

Based on a cross-sectional, observational case-control pilot study of the neuropsychological and criminological characteristics of convicted child sex offenders, this study explored and compared several variables to specify neuropsychological alterations and their relationship to the aggression. The results of the evaluations of 64 men convicted of child sexual assault were compared to the results of 64 males (control) matched by sex, age, and level of education. The usual psychiatric criteria were reported (antecedents, current diagnosis and lifetime, treatment), and the following parameters were assessed: level of depression via the Montgomery–Åsberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS), decision-making strategies via the Iowa Gambling Task (IGT), impulsivity via the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (BIS 11), inhibition (the Stroop test), working memory (N-back), cognitive distortions (the Bumby scale), social desirability (the Marlow Crowne scale), and level of insight via the Beck Cognitive Insight Scale (BCIS).

Criminologically, according to data, homosexual acts are more often conducted outside the family circle; whereas, when they occur within the family, they will be repeated more often.

The main statistical analyses highlighted five distinct profiles: (1) Impulsive deficiency—low IQ, poor inhibition, high level of impulsivity in all three dimensions (cognitive, motor, and planning), history of depressive disorders and violent suicidal behavior, prepubertal victim(s); (2) Incestuous stepfather—rather old, high social desirability, alcohol-smoking with intoxication at times of aggression, insight based on certainties with low introspection, low impulsivity scores, pubescent victim(s); (3) Pedophile—elderly, without a psychiatric history, without taking drugs during the aggressions, low impulsivity, capacity of introspection, extrafamilial victims, homosexual; (4) Opportunistic—rather young, married, without children, without addiction, negator, already convicted for sexual offending, smoker, assault with violence of pubescent victim(s); and (5) Predator—left-handed, low level of insight, assault with violence, lack of denial, prepubertal and heterosexual victim.

These results clearly show a polarization between perpetrators of sexual violence suffering from current or past psychiatric disorders, several times assaulting a prepubescent victim without violence in the family, versus violent sexual aggressors assaulting pubescent victims with violence outside the family.

In addition, these data account for the particular neuropsychological alterations of the perpetrators of pedosexual aggression, but especially of the heterogeneity of the profiles. The precise evaluation of these dimensions should allow the evolution of specific interventions by prioritizing specific objectives (depression, addiction, insight, cognitive distortions, impulsivity) for targeted treatment (anti-impulse treatment, libido control, cognitive remediation) in an integrative (psychological, educational, psychiatric) manner.

According to the observed deficits, the coordination of targeted interventions would increase the effectiveness of the treatment of the patient on the one hand, and also actively work toward the prevention of the recidivism of the perpetrators of sexual violence, on the other hand, according to the profile met.

Sex Offenders, Pedophilia, Risk Assessment