CHAPTER – II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Letourneau, E. J., Harris, A. J. et al. (2018) in the research paper entitled “Effects of Juvenile Sex Offender Registration on Adolescent Well-Being: An Empirical Examination” had compared registered and nonregistered children on several key domains in an effort to evaluate the unintended consequences of juvenile registration and notification. The researcher surveyed 251 boys receiving treatment services for inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour, of whom 73 (29%) were or had been subjected to registration requirements. As predicted, Registered children reported more problems or fewer strengths on in the domains of mental health, peer relationships, and experiences with safety and victimization. Most notably, relative to Nonregistered children, Registered children reported significantly more severe suicidal cognitions and had higher odds of having recently attempted suicide in the past 30 days. Likewise, Registered children were 5 times more likely to have been approached by an adult for sex in the past year. Unexpectedly, Registered children also reported significantly greater perceived social support, perhaps reflecting efforts by family members and others to mitigate the harmful effects of registration. In combination with the available literature indicating that these policies do not improve public safety, the results of the study offer empirical support for the concerns expressed by those calling for the abolition of juvenile registration and notification policies.

van Den Berg, C et al. (2017) in the article entitled “The juvenile sex offender: criminal careers and life events” had investigated on the life events of marriage, parenthood, and employment were associated with general offending for a Dutch sample of 498 juvenile sex offenders (JSOs). In previous empirical studies, these life events were found to limit adult general offending in the population as well as high-risk samples. A hybrid random effects model is used to investigate within-individual changes of these life events in association with general offending. The researcher also investigated whether the findings differed for child abusers, peer abusers, and group offenders, as they have distinct background profiles. Results showed that JSOs make limited transitions into the state of marriage, parenthood, and employment, showing overall stagnating participation rates. For the entire sample of JSOs, employment was found to be associated with a decrease in offending. Group offenders benefited most from employment. Marriage and parenthood were not associated with the general offending patterns, whereas for child abusers, parenthood was associated with an
increase in offending. The study concluded that policies aimed at guidance toward employment, or inclusion into conventional society, may be effective for JSOs.

_Sandler, J. C., Letourneau, E. J. et al. (2017)_ in the research paper entitled “Juvenile Sexual Crime Reporting Rates Are Not Influenced by Juvenile Sex Offender Registration Policies” had used National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data on juvenile sexual crime reports originating in 4 states to assess the association between 4 different juvenile sex offender registration policies and juvenile sexual crime reports. In the study autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) analyses revealed no significant changes from before to after the implantation of juvenile registry requirements, suggesting that none of the tested policies influenced juvenile sexual crime reports. These results are commensurate with the only study evaluating juvenile sex offender registration on first-time sexual crimes and with the broader literature evaluating (and failing to find) an association between juvenile sex offender registration enactment and juvenile sexual offense recidivism rates. Juvenile sex offender registration policies were implemented with the primary aim of improving public safety. To date, no published studies support any public safety effect associated with juvenile sex offender registration policies. The findings states that when coupled with the larger literature base, support efforts to exclude juveniles from state and federal registration policies.

_Leroux, E. J., Pullman, L. E., Motayne, G., & Seto, M. C. (2016)_ in the research paper entitled “Victim Age and the Generalist versus Specialist Distinction in Adolescent Sexual Offending” states that more knowledge is needed about the etiology and treatment needs of adolescent sex offenders. The study compared adolescents who had offended against children (defined as below the age of 12 and at least 5 years younger than the adolescent), adolescents who have offended against peers or adults, and adolescents who had victims in both age groups. Based on Seto and Lalumière’s meta-analytic findings, participants were compared on theoretically derived factors, including childhood sexual abuse, atypical sexual interests, sexual experience, social competence, psychiatric history, and general delinquency factors (past criminal history, substance abuse history, and offense characteristics). The study sample consisted of 162 court-referred male adolescent sexual offenders aged 12 to 17 years. Of the six identified domains, groups significantly differed on five of them; the exceptions were variables reflecting social competence. The results further support the validity of distinguishing adolescent sex offenders by victim age.
Stucky, T. D., & Ottensmann, J. R. (2016) in the research paper entitled “Registered Sex Offenders and Reported Sex Offenses” studies the geographic restrictions on registered sex offenders (RSOs) have become commonplace. Such policies generally assume that sex offenses are likely to be higher near RSOs. Yet, few ecological studies have examined the question empirically. The study examines whether incidences of reported sex offenses are higher in proximity to the addresses of RSOs. The study examines whether there is a relationship between the number of reported sex offenses and the number of RSOs living in square grid cells (and in 1,000, 1,500, and 2,500 ft radii of the cell centroid) in Indianapolis. Count models indicate that the number of RSOs in an area is not a robust predictor of reported sex offenses, net of controls.

Dekker, L.P., et al. (2015) in the research paper entitled “The longitudinal relation between childhood autistic traits and psychosexual problems in early adolescence: The Tracking Adolescents’ Individual Lives Survey study” suggests that, Individuals with autistic traits are considered to be prone to develop psychosexual problems due to their limited social skills and insight. The study investigated the longitudinal relation between autistic traits in childhood (T1; age 10-12 years) and parent-reported psychosexual problems in early adolescence (T2; age 12-15 years). In a general population cohort study (n = 1873; the Tracking Adolescents’ Individual Lives Survey (TRAILS)), autistic traits and psychosexual problems were determined. Logistic regression analyses were used to investigate whether childhood autistic traits, in individuals displaying no psychosexual problems in childhood, predicted the presence of psychosexual problems in adolescence, while controlling for pubertal development and conduct problems. Higher levels of autistic traits at T1 significantly predicted mild psychosexual problems at T2, above and beyond pubertal development and conduct problems. Particularly two dimensions of autistic traits at T1 were significant predictors; i.e. ‘reduced contact/social interest’ and ‘not optimally tuned to the social situation’. Children with autistic traits – especially those with limited social interest and social regulation problems – showed to have a higher risk to develop psychosexual problems, albeit mild, in early adolescence as reported by parents. Although the study showed that autistic traits predict psychosexual problems, it is only one of multiple predictors.

DeLisi, Matt (2015) in the research paper entitled “Adolescent Drug Users Fare the Worst-Onset Type, Juvenile Delinquency, and Criminal Careers” states that although substance abuse often accompanies delinquency and other forms of antisocial behavior, there is less
scholarly agreement about the timing of substance use vis-à-vis an individual’s antisocial trajectory. Similarly, although there is extraordinary evidence that onset is inversely related to the severity of the criminal career, there is surprisingly little research on the offense type of onset or the type of antisocial behavior that was displayed when an individual initiated his or her offending career. Drawing on data from a sample of serious adult criminal offenders ($N = 500$), the study examined 12 forms of juvenile delinquency (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft, arson, weapons, sexual offense, drug sales, and drug use) in addition to age at arrest onset, age, sex, race to explore their association with chronicity (total arrests), extreme chronicity (1 $SD$ above the mean which was equivalent to 90 career arrests), and lambda (offending per year). The only onset offense type that was significantly associated with all criminal career outcomes was juvenile drug use. Additional research on the offense type of delinquent onset is needed to understand launching points of serious antisocial careers.

McCuish, E., Lussier, P., & Corrado, R. (2015) in the research paper entitled “Criminal Careers of Juvenile Sex and Non-Sex Offenders: Evidence from a Prospective Longitudinal Study” states that developmental criminologists have criticized typologies of juvenile sex offenders (JSOs) for assuming that JSOs involved in nonsexual offending are a homogenous group. However, the criticism has remained largely conceptual. To help empirically address the validity of the criticism, offending trajectories from age 12 to 23 were measured for a sample of male JSOs ($n = 52$) and juvenile non-sex offenders (JNSOs; $n = 231$) interviewed as part of the Incarcerated Serious and Violent Young Offender study. Within the predominantly Caucasian sample, whether offender status (JSO/JNSO) or risk factors were better indicators of trajectory group membership was examined. Four unique offending trajectories emerged, namely, a low-rate offending trajectory, a bell-shaped offending trajectory, a slow-rising chronic trajectory, and a high-rate chronic trajectory. The relatively equal distribution of JSOs in each trajectory indicated that the criminal behavior committed by the group was not expressed by just one pattern. Further, the prevalence of JSOs in each trajectory mirrored the prevalence of JNSOs in the same trajectory, suggesting that having a sex offense in adolescence was not informative of general offending patterns. Individual and familial-level risk/needs factors were better indicators of trajectory membership. Implications for existing typologies of JSOs are discussed.

Miccio-Fonseca, L. C., & Rasmussen, L. A. L. (2015) in the research paper entitled “Sexually Violent and Predatory Youth” had applied are empirical findings supporting the
authors’ previously presented nomenclature identifying two subsets of sexually abusive youth overlooked by most contemporary risk assessment tools: sexually violent and predatory sexually violent youth. The cross-validation findings on an ecologically framed risk assessment tool, MEGA (Multiplex Empirically Guided Inventory of Ecological Aggregates for Assessing Sexually Abusive Children and Adolescents [Ages 19 and Under]) (N = 1,056 male and female sexually abusive youth, ages 4-19, including youth with low intellectual functioning), from the United States, Canada, England, and Scotland, were utilized. Findings provided normative data, with cut-off scores according to age and gender. Most contemporary risk assessment tools have three levels (low, moderate, and high), which may in fact be limited in assessing the range of risk level. The MEGA cross-validation established a new range of risk level, with the fourth level (very high) definitively identifying the most dangerous youth, thus empirically supporting the nomenclature of sexually violent and predatory sexually violent youth.

Maniglio, Roberto (2015) in the research paper entitled “Significance, Nature, and Direction of the Association between Child Sexual Abuse and Conduct Disorder” elucidates the significance, nature, and direction of the potential relationship between child sexual abuse and conduct disorder, all the pertinent studies were reviewed. Ten databases were searched. Blind assessments of study eligibility and quality were performed by two independent researchers. Thirty-six studies including 185,358 participants and meeting minimum quality criteria that were enough to ensure objectivity and to not invalidate results were analyzed. Across the majority of studies, conduct disorder was significantly and directly related to child sexual abuse, especially repeated sexual molestation and abuse involving penetration, even after controlling for various socio-demographic, family, and clinical variables. The association between child sexual abuse and conduct disorder was not confounded by other risk factors, such as gender, socioeconomic status, school achievement, substance problems, physical abuse, parental antisocial behavior or substance problems, parent–child relationships, and family disruption, conflict, or violence. Evidence for a significant interactive effect between child sexual abuse and monoamine oxidase “A” gene on conduct disorder was scant. Early sexual abuse might predispose to the subsequent onset of conduct disorder which, in turn, may lead to further sexual victimization through association with sexually abusive peers or involvement in dangerous situations or sexual survival strategies.
McCuish, Evan C. et al. (2015) in the research paper entitled “Examining Antisocial Behavioral Antecedents of Juvenile Sexual Offenders and Juvenile Non-Sexual Offenders” states the prospective longitudinal studies of juvenile offenders; the presence of multiple developmental pathways of antisocial behaviors has consistently been identified. An “antisocial” type of juvenile sex offender (JSO) has also been identified; however, whether antisocial JSOs follow a different antisocial pathway has not been examined. The study, differences in antisocial pathways within JSOs and between JSOs and juvenile non-sex offenders (JNSOs) were examined. Data on Canadian male incarcerated adolescent offenders were used to identify whether behavioral antecedents differed within JSOs and between JSOs \((n = 51)\) and JNSOs \((n = 94)\). Using latent class analysis (LCA), three behavioral groups were identified. For both JSOs and JNSOs, there was a Low Antisocial, Overt, and Covert group. Overall, there were important within-group differences in the behavioral patterns of JSOs, but these differences resembled differences in the behavioral patterns of their JNSO counterpart. Risk factors including offense history, abuse history, and family history were more strongly associated with the Overt and Covert groups compared with the Low Antisocial group. Implications for JSO assessment practices were discussed in the study.

Klein, V. et al (2015) in the research paper entitled “Protective Factors and Recidivism in Accused Juveniles Who Sexually Offended” explains that till date, research on juvenile sexual offender recidivism has tended to focus on risk factors rather than protective factors. Therefore, very little is known about protective factors in the population of juveniles who sexually offended. The aim of the present study was to examine the impact of protective factors on non-recidivism in a sample of accused juveniles who sexually offended \((N = 71)\) in a mean follow-up period of 47.84 months. Protective factors were measured with the Protective Factor Scale of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY), and the Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk (SAPROF). Criminal charges served as recidivism data. The internal scale of the SAPROF, in particular, yielded moderate predictive accuracy for the absence of violent and general recidivism, though not for the absence of sexual recidivism. No protective factor of the SAVRY did reveal predictive accuracy regarding various types of the absence of recidivism. Furthermore, protective factors failed to achieve any significant incremental predictive accuracy beyond that captured by the SAVRY risk factors alone. The potential therapeutic benefit of protective factors in juvenile sexual offender treatment is discussed.
Wurtele, S. K., Simons, D. A., & Moreno, T. (2014) in the research paper entitled “Sexual Interest in Children Among an Online Sample of Men and Women” states that men and women in the general population report sexual interest in children and to examine distinct developmental experiences associated with self-reported sexual interest. Participants (262 females and 173 males) were recruited online and completed a questionnaire assessing sexual interest and adverse childhood experiences. Among men, 6% indicated some likelihood of having sex with a child if they were guaranteed they would not be caught or punished, as did 2% of women. Nine percent of males and 3% of females indicated some likelihood of viewing child pornography on the Internet. Overall, nearly 10% of males and 4% of females reported some likelihood of having sex with children or viewing child pornography. Males and females with any sexual interest in children reported higher likelihoods of engaging in other antisocial or criminal behaviors and also reported more dysfunctional childhoods (i.e., histories of sexual abuse, insecure parent–child attachments). Theoretical implications of the findings and suggestions for preventing the sexual victimization of children are provided.

Jordan, Kareem L. (2014), in the article “Juvenile Status and Criminal Sentencing” examines the impact of juvenile status on sentencing in the adult criminal justice system. The study includes four years (2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006) of national level data from the State Court Processing Statistics. The sample is comprised of over 35,000 offenders who were convicted in criminal court. In using multilevel modeling, the results indicate that juveniles are punished both equally and more harshly than adults, depending on the age of the adults and the specific sentencing outcome. The findings are partially consistent with existing research that suggests a juvenile penalty at the sentencing stage of criminal court proceedings.

Powell, M. et al. (2014) in the research paper entitled “Police Officers' Perceptions of Interviewing Offenders on Sex Offender Registries” states that offenders form is an important component of the sex offender registry monitoring process. The study provides an analysis of police professionals' perceptions of the benefits and process of interviewing offenders on sex offender registries. Participants were a heterogeneous sample of 24 Australian police personnel whose roles were primarily associated with the operation of sex offender registries across three different jurisdictions. Participants' perceptions of sex offender registry interviews were elicited using non-directive prompts in focus groups of between two and five officers. Transcripts of these focus groups were analysed and key themes identified. Reported benefits related to the identification and correction of misunderstandings about registry
requirements and elicitation of information to assist ongoing management and investigation of new offences. Further, establishing a sound relationship enabled proactive support of the offender in his/her attempt not to re-offend. Interview procedures emphasised the importance of genuine engagement and a relationship based on trust. The findings highlighted several challenges to interviewing and directions for further training, support and research. Participants' responses underscore the significant role that interviews play in the effective implementation of sex offender registries and emphasise the need for successful engagement of offenders during these interviews to improve the utility of registry schemes. The study was the first study to examine the strengths and challenges of interviewing offenders on the registry from a policing perspective.

Aebi, M., et al. (2014) in the research paper entitled “Criminal History and Future Offending of Juveniles Convicted of the Possession of Child Pornography” describes that most child pornography is distributed online. It is estimated that 3% to 15% of child pornography consumers are juveniles. The present study analyzed a consecutive sample of 54 male juveniles convicted of the possession of child pornography. Demographic characteristics, criminal history, and subsequent offending were assessed from criminal files and official reports. Juvenile possessors of child pornography were compared to three different groups of juveniles: Juvenile possessors of other illegal pornography (n = 42), juveniles who committed a sexual contact offense against a child (n = 64), and juveniles who committed a sexual contact offense against a peer or adult (n = 104). Juvenile possessors of child pornography were found to have downloaded the illegal material more frequently and over a longer time period than juvenile possessors of other illegal pornography. Furthermore, juvenile possessors of child pornography differed from juveniles who had committed a sexual contact offense in terms of demographics and showed fewer previous and subsequent offending than juveniles who sexually offended against a peer or adult. The study conclude that juvenile possessors of child pornography need a specific target intervention focusing on dysfunctional Internet use and sexually deviant arousal.

Mancini, Christina (2014) in the research paper entitled “Examining Factors That Predict Public Concern About the Collateral Consequences of Sex Crime Policy” suggest that sex crime policies have been associated with unintended effects. One involves harassment of registered sex offenders. Despite the finding, and the prominent role of the public in re-entry efforts, few studies have examined public opinion about the collateral consequence. By
extension, virtually no scholarship has investigated predictors of concern. From a utilitarian perspective, it follows that among those who rely on the registry or who feel sex offenders are driven to reoffend, concern about the registry’s unintended effects will be reduced. In testing hypothesis, the study draws on responses from a national public opinion poll conducted in 2005, a critical time when state registries and online registry websites became increasingly available. Findings support an instrumental or utilitarian argument. Use of the registry and pessimism about offender rehabilitation significantly decreased public concern about registries’ negative outcomes. Implications for research and offender re-entry debates are discussed.

Jennings, Wesley G. et al. (2014) in the research paper entitled “An Empirical Assessment of the Overlap Between Sexual Victimization and Sex Offending” provides an assessment of victim-offender overlap among a large sample of male prisoners with a focus on the cycle of violence hypothesis. Bivariate results reveal a considerable degree of overlap between sexual victimization and sex offending, and multivariate results estimated from a series of bivariate probit models simultaneously assessing both outcomes suggest that experiencing emotional abuse early on in the life-course is a robust risk factor for experiencing sexual victimization and demonstrating sex offending behavior. The study concludes that, being physically neglected and witnessing family violence also emerged as significant risk factors for sexual victimization. Study limitations and policy implications are also discussed.

Marini, Victoria A. et al. (2014) in the research paper entitled “Victimization, Substance Use, and Sexual Aggression in Male Adolescent Sexual Offenders” examines the Relations among childhood victimization, substance use prior to the commission of a sexual offense, and force used during a sexual offense in a sample of residentially based, male juvenile sex offenders (n = 406; M age = 16.6). According to Marshall and Marshall’s (2000) theory of sex offending proposes that childhood victimization, among other factors, creates a vulnerability to offend, which when paired with disinhibition (e.g., from substance use) may lead to sexual offending. Guided by the theory, the researcher examined whether substance use prior to the commission of a sexual offense mediated the relation between trauma and force used in sexual offending. Six mediation analyses were used to examine subtypes of childhood victimization and the effects of cumulative victimization. Results provided support for partial mediation of substance use prior to a sexual offense on the effects of cumulative victimization on force used during a sexual offense. Theoretical and clinical implications are discussed.
Wijkman, M., et al. (2014) in the research paper entitled “Juvenile female sex offenders: Offender and offence characteristics” states that almost all research on juvenile sex offending pertains to adolescent males. The study comprises all female juveniles convicted for sexual offences in the Netherlands between 1993 and 2008 ($N = 66$). From analysis of their court files and their criminal records, these female offenders are described in terms of demographics, family background, (psychiatric) disorders, victim characteristics and co-offending patterns. Heterogeneity in offending patterns and offending motives are studied, by using a reconstruction of the sexual offences. Almost 60 percent of the juvenile female sex offenders committed the abuse with someone else. Summarizing the offender motives as they emerged from offender and victim statements, five offender subtypes are identified. The findings are discussed in terms of implications for research and treatment.

Caldwell, Michael F. (2013) in the research paper entitled “Accuracy of Sexually Violent Person Assessments of Juveniles Adjudicated for Sexual Offenses” reviewed the records of 198 juveniles who were committed to secured custody after being adjudicated delinquent for a sexually violent offense that qualified them for possible commitment under a Sexually Violent Person’s (SVP) civil commitment law. For an individual to be committed, the statute requires that the individual have a qualifying mental disorder and is “likely,” to commit a future act of sexual violence. Each youth was screened by at least two expert examiners in a two-step process. Fifty-four of the youth were found to meet the commitment criteria in an initial examination and were subject to an SVP petition. The remaining 144 were screened out. Subsequent criminal charges were collected over a 4.97-year mean follow-up. The results showed that the prevalence rates for general sexual offending and felony sexual offending did not differ between youth who were screened out and those who were subject to a petition. Among petitioned youth, 11.76% were charged with a new sexual offense including 9.80% who were charged with a felony sexual assault. By comparison, 17.36% of the youth that were screened out were charged with a sexual offense including 13.19% who were charged with a felony sexual assault, a non-significant difference.

Van Der Put, C. E., et al. (2013) in the research paper entitled “Short-Term General Recidivism Risk of Juvenile Sex Offenders” states that it is important to examine whether general risk-assessment instruments developed for non-sex offenders can also be applied to sex offenders, because juvenile sex offenders are much more likely to reoffend with a nonsexual offense than a sexual offense. The study examined to what extent the Washington State
Juvenile Court Prescreen Assessment (WSJCPA) can be used to assess the risk for general recidivism among different types of juvenile sex offenders. The predictive validity of the WSJCPA was examined separately for the following subgroups: boys convicted for a misdemeanor sexual offense against a peer ($n = 381$), boys convicted for a felony sexual offense against a peer ($n = 282$), boys convicted for a sexual offense against a younger child ($n = 521$), and girls convicted for a sexual offense ($n = 71$) and two comparison groups of male ($n = 15,155$) and female ($n = 5,811$) juvenile non-sex offenders. The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve scores for general recidivism ranged between .64 and .73. The WSJCPA proved to be at least equally predictive of general offending among juvenile sex and non-sex offenders’ groups.

Maniglio, Roberto (2013) in the research paper entitled “Child Sexual Abuse in the Etiology of Anxiety Disorders” elucidates that there is considerable controversy about the role of child sexual abuse in the etiology of anxiety disorders. Although a growing number of research studies have been published, these have produced inconsistent results and conclusions regarding the nature of the associations between child sexual abuse and the various forms of anxiety problems as well as the potential effects of third variables, such as moderators, mediators, or confounders. The article provides a systematic review of the several reviews that have investigated the literature on the role of child sexual abuse in the etiology of anxiety disorders. Seven databases were searched, supplemented with hand search of reference lists from retrieved papers. Four meta-analyses, including 3,214,482 subjects from 171 studies, were analyzed. There is evidence that child sexual abuse is a significant, although general and nonspecific, risk factor for anxiety disorders, especially posttraumatic stress disorder, regardless of gender of the victim and severity of abuse. Additional biological or psychosocial risk factors (such as alterations in brain structure or function, information processing biases, parental anxiety disorders, family dysfunction, and other forms of child abuse) may interact with child sexual abuse or act independently to cause anxiety disorders in victims in abuse survivors. However, child sexual abuse may sometimes confer additional risk of developing anxiety disorders either as a distal and indirect cause or as a proximal and direct cause. Child sexual abuse should be considered one of the several risk factors for anxiety disorders and included in multifactorial etiological models for anxiety disorders.

Jeglic, Elizabeth L. et al. (2013) in the research paper entitled “An Examination of Suicide Attempts among Incarcerated Sex Offenders” examines the rates of nonfatal suicide
attempts among a sample \((N = 3,030)\) of incarcerated male sex offenders. Overall, the researcher found that 14\% of sex offenders in the study sample had made a suicide attempt at some point in their lives. Of those, 11\% had reported a suicide attempt prior to incarceration, 0.5\% had made a suicide attempt while incarcerated, and 2.5\% made suicide attempts both prior to and during incarceration. Sex offenders who made suicide attempts were significantly more likely than those who did not make suicide attempts to have had an abusive childhood, a history of psychiatric problems, intellectual impairment, male victims, and related victims. Suicide attempters also scored higher on actuarial risk measures than non-attempters. No differences were found in attempter status between sex offenders who committed sex offenses against children and those who committed sex offenses against adults. A history of psychiatric problems and treatment as well as childhood abuse/neglect and perpetration against male victims predicted suicide attempter status. These findings are discussed as they pertain to suicide prevention, risk assessment, and the collateral consequences of sex offender legislation.

Letourneau, Elizabeth J. (2013) in the research paper entitled “Sex Offender Registration and Notification Policy Increases Juvenile Plea Bargains” aims to test the hypothesis that South Carolina’s sex offender registration and notification policy influenced juvenile sex offense case plea bargains. Two types of plea bargains were examined: initial sex offense charges amended to non-sex offense charges and amended to lower severity charges. Comparison analyses were conducted with juvenile assault and robbery offense cases. Archival data on cases involving 19,215 male youth charged with sex, assault, and/or robbery offenses between 1990 and 2004 informed analyses. Of these youth, 2,991 were charged with one or more sex offense, 16,091 were charged with one or more assault offense, and 2,036 were charged with at one or more robbery offense. Generalized estimating equations (GEE) were used to model changes in the probabilities of plea bargain outcomes across three time intervals: before policy implementation (1990 to 1994), after initial policy implementation (1995 to 1998), and after implementation of a revised policy that included online registration requirements (1999 to 2004). Results indicate significant increases in the probability of plea bargains for sex offense cases across subsequent time periods, supporting the hypothesis that South Carolina’s initial and revised registration and notification policies were associated with significant increases the likelihood of plea bargains to different types of charges and to lower severity charges. Results were either non-significant or of much lower magnitude for the comparison assault and robbery analyses. Suggestions for revising South Carolina and national registration and notification policies are discussed.
Aebi, Marcel (2012) in the research paper entitled “Offender Types and Criminality Dimensions in Male Juveniles Convicted of Sexual Offenses” described juveniles who sexually offended (JSO) as a rather heterogeneous population. In consequence, different typologies of JSO have been proposed for a better understanding of the causes and interventional needs of JSO. Three previously described types have received support in previous studies, namely, the victim age type (JSO offending against children vs. adolescents or adults), the co-offender status type (JSO offending as singles vs. in groups), and the crime history type (JSO with vs. without a previous history of crime). The validity of these types is tested in a consecutive sample of 223 criminal male adolescents, who had been convicted of a sexual offense between 2000 and 2008 in the Canton of Zurich (Switzerland). By analyzing nine offender characteristics, four victim characteristics and six offense characteristics, the best evidence is found for the victim age–based type. The co-offender status and the crime history types are less well supported. However, all three types are related to each other and do not provide a comprehensive characterization of JSO. Therefore, an additional principal component analyses is performed searching for basic dimensions of juvenile sexual delinquency and leading to the following factors: “single offender with severe molestation of a related child,” “persistent general delinquent with migrant background,” “older offender with alcohol use and familial constraints,” “multiple and aggressive offender with social adversities,” and “offender with unselected and multiple victims.” These five dimensions reflect different relevant factors of sexual offending behavior in male juveniles and may have further impact on forensic and clinical practice.

Wanklyn, Sonya G. et al. (2012) in the research paper entitled “Distinguishing Juvenile Violent Sex Offenders, Violent Non-Sex Offenders, and Versatile Violent Sex Offenders Based on Childhood Risk Factors” describes the Understanding and developmental precursors of juvenile violent sex offending can contribute to the promotion of effective early intervention and prevention programs for high-risk children and youth. However, there is a lack of research on the early characteristics of adolescents who commit violent sex offenses. Drawing on the literature regarding the generalist and specialist positions of criminal behavior, the aim of the present study was to compare childhood risk factors for three groups of juvenile offenders: (a) pure sex offenders (PSO; n = 28); (b) violent non-sex offenders (VNSO; n = 172); and (c) versatile violent sex offenders (VVSO; n = 24). Nineteen risk factors comprising four life domains (individual, family, peer, and school) were identified from a file review. Three hierarchical logistic regression analyses examined associations between risk factors and
offender groups. The results reflected the underlying heterogeneity of the sample, offering support for both the specialist and generalist positions of criminal behavior. PSOs differed from VNSOs on the basis of higher odds for precocious sexual behavior. Second, VVSOs differed from VNSOs on the basis of higher odds for precocious sexual behavior, criminal family members, and an adolescent mother, as well as lower odds for poor school behavior. Third, PSOs were marginally more likely to have engaged in early overt antisocial behavior compared with VVSOs. Fourth, many of the childhood risk factors examined were not associated with any offender group. In conclusion, VVSOs appeared to differ on the greatest number of risk factors from VNSOs, suggesting that VVSOs share a more similar developmental pathway with PSOs. The prevention and future research implications of these findings are discussed.

**Socia, Kelly M. (2012)** in the research paper entitled “The Efficacy of County-Level Sex Offender Residence Restrictions in New York” states that residence restrictions seek to protect community members from registered sex offenders (RSOs) re-entering society following incarceration. These policies, first passed in 1995 at the state level and in 2005 at the county and local levels, have become extremely popular throughout the United States but without proof that they are effective. The research on these policies has been extremely limited and has largely focused on the unintended consequences that these policies cause for RSOs. The study examines whether county residence restrictions were associated with reduced sex crime arrest rates in New York State. In doing so, the study draws on the limited prior research regarding the effectiveness of residence restrictions and on the extensive literature regarding the incapacitation and deterrence of crime through public policy measures. Results indicate that residence restrictions were not associated with significantly reduced arrests for sex crimes committed either by RSOs (regardless of victim) or by non-RSOs against child victims. However, results suggested that these policies may be associated with a general deterrence effect, resulting in a decrease of sex crimes against adults by first-time sex offenders (non-RSOs). Implications for future research and policy making are discussed.

**Lussier, Patrick. et al. (2012)** in the research paper entitled “A Developmental Taxonomy of Juvenile Sex Offenders for Theory, Research, and Prevention” investigates the offending trajectories of juvenile sex offenders (JSOs) across and beyond adolescence. In doing so, the study examines the number, the rate, and the shape of nonsexual and sexual offending trajectories in a sample of JSOs followed retrospectively and prospectively from late childhood to adulthood. Using semi-parametric group-based modeling, the study reveals the presence of
five distinctive nonsexual offending and two sexual offending trajectories: adolescent-limited and high-rate slow disasters. The study does not find strong evidence of synchronicity between nonsexual and sexual trajectories, suggesting that the taxonomy of antisocial behaviors may offer a limited perspective on sex offender types. Furthermore, sexual trajectories do not differ much across sex offender types, suggesting that the findings might be generalized to child and peer abusers. The study findings offer supporting evidence for the presence of two distinct JSO types with important implications for theory, research and interventions.

**Maniglio, Roberto (2012)** in the research paper entitled “The Role of Parent–Child Bonding, Attachment and Interpersonal Problems in the Development of Deviant Sexual Fantasies in Sexual Offenders” understands the origin, development, and functions of deviant sexual fantasy in sexual offenders, the present article investigates three areas of the literature on sexual offenders (i.e., parent–child relationships, attachment, and interpersonal problems), hypothesizing a possible path through which dysfunctional parent–child relationships might lead to deviant sexual fantasies. The review of the literature provides indirect evidence that an insecure attachment style developed in response to dysfunctional parenting practices may generate feelings of inadequacy and inferiority to others and a lack of the self-confidence and social skills to initiate or maintain consensual intimate relationships with appropriate others. It is hypothesized that such problems, in turn, might promote low levels of intimacy and satisfaction in romantic relationships and serious and chronic emotional loneliness, withdrawal, and negative attitudes (such as anger and hostility) toward potential partners, leading to a progressive retirement from the real world and refuge in an internal world of deviant sexual fantasies in order to satisfy attachment-related needs for intimacy, emotional closeness, or power. Such a combination of insecure attachment, interpersonal problems, and use of deviant sexual fantasies as a means to achieve the intimacy, power, or control absent from reality might predispose to sexual offending.

**Heide, Kathleen M., et al. (2012)** in the research paper entitled “Male and Female Juveniles Arrested for Murder: A Comprehensive Analysis of U.S. Data by Offender Gender” states that murders committed by juveniles remain a serious concern in the United States. Most studies on juvenile homicide offenders (JHOs) have used small samples and have concentrated on male offenders. As a result, little is known about female JHOs and how they differ from their male counterparts on a national level. The study utilized the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) database to examine more than 40,000 murders committed by male and female
juvenile offenders from 1976 to 2005. The research effort, the most expansive, replicates previous findings with respect to gender differences using bivariate and multivariate analyses. As predicted, six variables used to test eight hypotheses with respect to male and female JHOs in single-victim incidents were significant (victim age, victim–offender relationship, murder weapon, offender count, victim gender, and homicide circumstance). Regression analysis revealed that all variables remained significant when entered into the model. The article concludes with a discussion of our findings and directions for future research.

Walsh, Wendy A. et al. (2012) in the research paper entitled “Do Parents Blame or Doubt their Child More When Sexually Abused by Adolescents Versus Adults” describes the importance of parental support for child sexual abuse victims is well documented, the nature of parental support for victims sexually abused by adolescents is less understood. The exploratory study examines whether parents differ in their levels of blame or doubt for their child when sexually abused by adolescents versus adults. Data included 161 reports of child sexual abuse. Parental blame toward their child was higher when sexually abused by an adolescent versus an adult suspect. In the bivariate and multivariate analysis, parental blame was significantly higher as victim age increased, for Black, non-Hispanic children, and when there was an adolescent suspect. Practitioners need to recognize that high levels of blame and doubt could exist for adolescent victims of sexual abuse and when children are sexually abused by adolescents.

Van Vugt, Eveline., et al (2012) in the research paper entitled “Assessment of Moral Judgment and Empathy in Young Sex Offenders: A Comparison of Clinical Judgment and Test Results” describes that professional decision making in forensic clinical practice may have lifelong consequences for offenders. Although information on moral development is important for prediction of reoffending and referral to adequate treatment, conclusions regarding moral development are still largely based on unstructured clinical judgment instead of assessment instruments. The researcher examined to what extent unstructured clinical judgment of both moral judgment and victim empathy concurred with test results in a group of young sex offenders. Moral judgment was measured with the Socio-moral Reflection Measure–Short Form (SRM-SF), whereas victim empathy was measured with an extended version of the Basic Empathy Scale (BES). No significant associations were found between clinical judgment of moral judgment and the mean scores on the SRM-SF. However, clinical judgment of victim empathy was significantly associated with victim empathy on the Victim Empathy Scale but
not consistently in the expected direction. Juvenile sex offenders, who were judged by clinicians to show little victim empathy, displayed lower mean scores on the Victim Empathy Scale than juvenile sex offenders who were evaluated to lack victim empathy or to have intact victim empathy. The study showed unstructured clinical judgment of moral development not to concur with test results. To improve decision-making processes regarding moral development, clinicians are advised to rely on instruments that assess moral development to inform clinical judgment. Further research is needed to examine which predictions are more accurate and to establish the predictive validity of moral development evaluations.

Fanniff, Amanda M. & Kolko, David J. (2012) in the research paper entitled “Victim Age-Based Subtypes of Juveniles Adjudicated for Sexual Offenses: Comparisons across Domains in an Outpatient Sample” stated that adolescents adjudicated for sexual offenses are a heterogeneous group. The identification of more homogeneous subgroups of offenders may enable improved treatment, as the specific risks and needs presented by each group could be more effectively targeted. The study examines three subgroups derived based on the age of victim(s), a popular method of subtyping that has mixed empirical support, using a sample of 176 males adjudicated for a sexual offense and court-ordered to participate in a community-based collaborative intervention program that integrates treatment and probationary services. Differences expected between groups based on theories regarding victim-age based subtypes are examined, in addition to differences consistently identified in prior research. Results indicate that these three subgroups are more similar than different, although some expected differences were found. Juveniles with child victims were more likely to have male victims and biologically related victims. Juveniles with peer/adult victims were more likely to have poor monitoring by their parents and more likely to have been arrested again. Juveniles with mixed types of victims appeared similar to juveniles with child victims on some variables and similar to those with peer/adult victims on others. Treatment implications and future directions for research are discussed. Typologies based on clinical characteristics of the youth rather than offense characteristics may have more promise for identifying meaningful subgroups.

Yeater, Elizabeth A., et al. (2012) in the research paper entitled “Predictors of Sexual Aggression Among Male Juvenile Offenders” had studied by conducting a longitudinal examination of predictors of sexual aggression among male juvenile offenders. Four hundred and four adolescent males between the ages of 14 and 17 years were recruited from juvenile probation offices to take part in a prospective study of substance use and sexual risk. At
baseline, participants completed a series of questionnaires that assessed putative risk factors for sexual aggression. They then completed a measure of sexual aggression at the 6-month follow-up period. Correlational analyses revealed that participants who reported hard drug use, more frequent alcohol and marijuana use, and less severe offenses reported engaging in more severe sexual aggression. In addition, participants who reported higher impulsivity, sensation seeking, and externalizing behaviors also reported participating in more severe sexual aggression. When these variables were included in a regression analysis, only externalizing behaviors and severity of offense uniquely predicted severity of sexual aggression at the 6-month follow-up.

Young, Myla H. et al. (2012) in the research paper entitled “A Comparison of Rape and Molest Offenders in Prison Psychiatric Treatment” explains the differences in offense history, brain functioning, and psychological functioning of rape ($n = 45$) and molest offenders ($n = 15$) who were receiving psychiatric treatment while in prison were evaluated. Significant differences were found in each of these domains. Rape offenders were more likely to have histories of high violence offenses other than sexual offense, including murder, serious juvenile offenses, and both juvenile and adult sexual offenses. Rape offenders were more likely to show lower intellectual functioning and diffuse brain dysfunction associated predominantly with temporal and prefrontal brain cortices. Rape offenders were also more likely to display psychological functioning associated with illogical thinking and disordered attachment but less immature self-focus and fewer feelings of alienation than demonstrated by molest offenders. Implications for treatment and social policy for sexual offenders are suggested. Logistic regression demonstrated that these neuropsychological measures resulted in 71.7% accurate prediction and Rorschach measures resulted in 79.2% accurate prediction in differentiating rape from molest offenders. Implications for theoretical understanding of sexual offending are discussed.

Stinson, Jill D. et al. (2011) in the research paper entitled “Self-Regulatory Deficits as Predictors of Sexual, Aggressive, and Self-Harm Behaviors in a Psychiatric Sex Offender Population” suggested new directions in the literature describing etiology and treatment of sexual offending have suggested that self-regulation and self-regulatory deficits are an important component in the development of these behaviors. Here, the authors discuss the proposed relationships among self-regulatory deficits, dys-regulation and maladaptive behavior, including problematic sexual behavior. Emotional, cognitive and behavioral dys-
regulation were evaluated in a sample of 256 psychiatric inpatients with a history of illegal sexual behaviors in both community and residential care settings. Factor analysis assisted in identifying categories of dys-regulation, including emotional and cognitive dys-regulation from psychiatric variables and behavioral dys-regulation from histories of criminality, sex offending, and suicidal behaviors. Regression procedures demonstrated predictive relationships among these variables. The results indicate that emotional and cognitive dys-regulation are differentially predictive of different types of maladaptive behavior. A discussion of findings and relevance to the literature is included.

Mulder, E., et al. (2011) in the research paper entitled “Risk Factors for Overall Recidivism and Severity of Recidivism in Serious Juvenile Offenders” aimed at finding risk factors that predict both overall recidivism and severity of recidivism in serious juvenile offenders. Seventy static and dynamic risk factors associated with family characteristics, peers, psychopathology, substance abuse, psychological factors, and behavior during treatment were assessed with the Juvenile Forensic Profile in a sample of 728 juvenile offenders. Official reconviction data were used to register recidivism with a minimum time at risk of 2 years. Severity of offending was categorized according to the maximum sentence for the offense committed combined with expert opinion. Several risk factors for recidivism were found: past criminal behavior (number of past offenses, young age at first offense, unknown victim of past offenses), conduct disorder, family risk factors (poor parenting skills, criminal behavior in the family, a history of physical and emotional abuse), involvement with criminal peers, and lack of treatment adherence (aggression during treatment, lack of coping strategies). Having an unknown victim in past offenses, criminal behavior in the family, lack of treatment adherence, and lack of positive coping strategies were predictive of serious (violent) recidivism. The results are discussed in terms of their use for risk assessment and in improving treatment effect. Targeting poor parenting skills, involvement in criminal environment, lack of treatment adherence, and problematic coping strategies should reduce the severity of recidivism.

Freiburger, Tina L. & Burke, A. S. (2011) in the research paper entitled “Status Offenders in the Juvenile Court: The Effects of Gender, Race, and Ethnicity on the Adjudication Decision” stated that prior research suggests female status offenders are often treated more harshly than male status offenders in juvenile court processing. The finding of the study is often explained by the traditional role perspective which suggests that the juvenile court is attempting to protect the sexuality of girls. In addition, there is theoretical and empirical evidence that the
effect of gender may vary by race/ethnicity. The study examined the joint effects of gender and race/ethnicity in the adjudication of status offenders. The findings suggest that Native American boys are the most likely to be adjudicated followed by Black girls and Hispanic girls. Examination of the treatment of girls separately found that White females were the least likely to be adjudicated and Hispanic girls were significantly more likely than White girls to be adjudicated. For males, Native Americans, followed by Hispanic males, were the most likely to be adjudicated. Implications of the results are further discussed.

‘t Hart-Kerkhoffs, Lisette A., et al. (2011) in the research paper entitled “Juvenile Group Sex Offenders: A Comparison of Group Leaders and Followers” aims to investigate group sex offenses with regard to the role of leaders versus followers and to compare both groups on levels of psychopathology, intelligence, and psychosocial and offense-related characteristics. Eighty-nine adolescent group sex offenders (mean age = 14.9, SD = 1.4) referred by the police to the Dutch child protection agency were examined. Psychopathology, intelligence, and psychosocial and offense-related characteristics were assessed by means of standardized instruments, and criminal careers of the participants were ascertained from official judicial records. Although leaders and followers were similar on many characteristics, some remarkable differences were found. During their sexual acts, followers reported using excessive force more frequently than leaders. Furthermore, leaders reported more emotional problems, whereas followers were characterized by higher levels of problems in the social relational domain. As the findings indicate that juvenile group sex offenders constitute a group with specific mental health needs, diagnostic investigation is important to recognize risk factors and (treatable) problems. The absence of some expected differences between leaders and followers could be due to the method of classification or because group offending constitutes a dynamic process without clearly defined roles for individuals.

Kemper, Therese S. & Kistner, Janet A. (2010) in the research paper entitled “An Evaluation of Classification Criteria for Juvenile Sex Offenders” states that victim age is commonly used in the classification of juvenile sexual offenders (JSOs). The results of studies comparing JSOs who offend peers (peer offenders) with those who offend children (child molesters) are variable and inconclusive. Reasons for the variability include the lack of attention to JSOs who offend both children and peers (mixed offenders) and the variability across studies in the classification criteria used to assign JSOs to subgroups. Some studies use victim age, others use offender—victim age discrepancies, and still others use a combination
of victim age and age discrepancies to classify JSOs. These variations may result in samples of JSOs that are not comparable across studies. The primary purpose of the present research was to examine the strength of the relationship between JSO subgroup membership (child, peer, and mixed offenders) and personal, criminal history, and offense history variables using several different classification methods commonly used in JSO research. Patterns of relationships between subgroup membership and the dependent variables were then compared across the classification methods to determine whether changes in classification criteria changed the pattern of results. The results indicated that the pattern of relationships between subgroups and the dependent variables changed little when classification criteria varied. Consequently, variation in classification criteria is unlikely to be contributing to the inconsistencies of the findings when comparing victim age based subgroups of JSOs.

Letourneau, Elizabeth J., et al. (2010) in the research paper entitled “The Effects of Sex Offender Registration and Notification on Judicial Decisions” examines whether South Carolina’s sex offender registration and notification (SORN) policy was associated with changes in judicial decision making concerning adult sex crime cases. Outcomes pertained to reduced charges (e.g., sex to non-sex crimes) and final case dispositions. State-wide crime data from 1990 to 2004 corresponded with three time periods of interest: the 5 years immediately preceding enactment of SORN (Year Group 1; 1990—1994), the first 4 years of SORN implementation (Year Group 2; 1995—1998), and the subsequent 6 years of SORN implementation, which included Internet notification (Year Group 3; 1999—2004). Uni-variate and generalized estimating equations methods were used to model patterns of charging and disposition decisions with respect to year groups. Results indicated that defendants were more likely to have charges reduced from sex to non-sex crimes over time, with a 9% predicted probability of reduced charges in Year Group 1, a 15% predicted probability in Year Group 2 (corresponding with initial implementation of SORN), and a 19% predicted probability in Year Group 3 (corresponding with Internet notification). Results also indicated that the probability of a guilty disposition changed at each year group, with a predicted probability in Year Group 1 of 55%, increasing to 65% in Year Group 2, and then declining to 60% in Year Group 3. The final decline was more pronounced when pleaded cases were removed from analyses. South Carolina’s SORN policy shares several characteristics with the federal Adam Walsh Act (AWA). Thus, both state and national policy implications of these findings are discussed.
Letourneau, Elizabeth J., et al. (2010) in the research paper entitled “Sex Offender Registration and Notification Requirements Deter Juvenile Sex Crimes” examines whether South Carolina’s sex offender registration and notification (SORN) policy was associated with a general deterrent effect on juvenile sex crimes. Using juvenile justice data from 1991 through 2004, trend analyses modeled the intervention effects of 1995 (the year South Carolina’s SORN policy was initially implemented) and 1999 (the year the policy was revised to include online registration). Initial results suggested a significant deterrent effect of SORN on first-time juvenile sex crimes. However, comparison analyses with non-sex offenses identified a similar effect on first-time robbery crimes. Follow-up analyses indicated that the apparent declines identified for first-time sex and robbery offenses were due to another legislative change, also enacted in 1995, that moved the prosecution of 16-year-old defendants from juvenile to adult court. When these cases were included in the database, follow-up analyses indicated no significant effect for the 1995 intervention year. Thus, South Carolina’s SORN policy was not associated with a general deterrent effect on juvenile sex crimes. Specific policy changes are suggested regarding the application of registration and notification requirements to juveniles.

Alexy, Eileen M., et al. (2009) in the research paper entitled “Pornography Use as a Risk Marker for an Aggressive Pattern of Behavior among Sexually Reactive Children and Adolescents” describes that sexually reactive children and adolescents (SRCAs), sometimes referred to as juvenile sexual offenders, may be more vulnerable and likely to experience damaging effects from pornography use because they are a high-risk group for a variety of aggressive behaviors. The purpose of the study is to describe the characteristics of those who use pornography and those who do not and to examine the associations between pornography use and aggressive behaviors among SRCAs. The secondary analysis used a descriptive, exploratory design to study 160 SRCAs. Chi-square and individual odds ratio analyses were employed to examine the associations between use of pornography and aggressive behaviors. SRCAs that used pornography were more likely to display aggressive behaviors than their non-using cohort. Recommendations for nurses and mental health professionals encountering these children and adolescents are offered.

Letourneau, Elizabeth J., et al. (2009) in her research paper entitled “Effects of Sex Offender Registration Policies on Juvenile Justice Decision Making” examines effects of sex offender registration policies on juvenile judicial decision making. Prosecutor decisions
and disposition outcomes are examined across a 15-year period. Results indicate that prosecutors are significantly less likely to move forward on both serious sexual and assault offense charges after registration implementation, with the estimated effect nearly twice as large for sexual offenses. There also is increased likelihood of guilty findings for sexual and assault offenses over time. As new policies legislate harsher consequences for juvenile offenses, prosecutors become less likely to move forward on sexual and assault charges. The effect is especially strong for juvenile sexual offenders, who face reforms targeting both violent and sexual crimes. Results suggest that state and national policies requiring long-term public registration of juveniles might unintentionally decrease the likelihood of prosecution. If replicated, the results indicate a need to reform registration policies as applied to juveniles.

Grabell, Adam S. & Knight, R. A. (2009) in the research paper entitled “Examining Childhood Abuse Patterns and Sensitive Periods in Juvenile Sexual Offenders” describes the findings in sexual aggression literature on the link between childhood sexual abuse and future sexual coercion have been inconsistent. In adult sexual offenders, studies have found that the relation of sexual abuse to sexual coercion is mediated by sexually related deviant cognitions, but the mediation is not found when replicated on juvenile sexual offenders. In the study it is hypothesized that the link will be found in juvenile sexual offenders when their sexual abuse history is stratified into discrete developmental epochs. It is further hypothesized that the age range of 3 to 7 years, when children rapidly acquire inhibition and cognitive flexibility skills, will be the most potent predictor. A sample of 193 juvenile sexual offenders is used to examine whether sexual abuse specifically in the discrete period, as opposed to other periods, predicts subsequent sexual fantasy. The results confirm that sexual abuse correlates with later adolescent sexual fantasy only during the 3- to 7-year epoch.

Caldwell, Michael F. (2010) in the research paper entitled “Study Characteristics and Recidivism Base Rates in Juvenile Sex Offender Recidivism” elucidates the results of a review and meta-analysis of 63 data sets that examine sexual recidivism among juvenile sex offenders. The studies include a total of 11,219 juvenile sex offenders, followed for a weighted mean of 59.4 months ($SD = 36.1$ months). Recidivism is identified through official records of arrest or conviction. The weighted mean sexual recidivism rate is $7.08\%$ ($SD = 3.9\%$). The weighted mean rate of general recidivism is $43.4\%$ ($SD = 18.9\%$). Studies that examine sexual recidivism during adolescence find monthly sexual recidivism rates that are more than 4 times higher than those found in studies that rely only on adult recidivism records. Neither the level
of secured placement (community, residential, or secured custody) nor the use of arrest versus conviction as an outcome significantly influences sexual recidivism rates.

**Zakireh, B., et al. (2008)** in the research paper entitled “Individual Beliefs, Attitudes, and Victimization Histories of Male Juvenile Sexual Offenders” examined the individual beliefs and attitudes (e.g., sexuality, aggression, criminality) and victimization histories of 100 male youths who were divided equally into four demographically similar groups: (a) sexual offenders in residential placement, (b) sexual offenders in outpatient treatment, (c) nonsexual offenders in residential placement, and (d) nonsexual offenders in outpatient treatment. There were also other noted differences between the two groups of sexual offenders as well as between youths with histories of sexual offenses and juvenile offenders with no such histories. The implications of these findings for research, theory, treatment, and risk assessment are discussed.

**Van Wijk, A. Ph., et al. (2007)** in the research paper entitled “Juvenile Sex-Only and Sex-Plus Offenders: An Exploratory Study on Criminal Profiles” done an extensive study on the criminal profiles of a large group of juvenile sex-only and sex-plus (sex and other offenses) delinquents ($N = 4,430$) in the Netherlands. Information’s had been collected from police records. Results show that sex-plus offenders start their careers earlier, that more of these offenders are of non-Dutch origin, that they commit more crimes, and will partly continue their criminal career after their adolescence. Juvenile sex-only offenders rarely go on committing crimes. In sex-plus offenders, sexual crimes play only a minor role in their total crime repertory. As time goes by, their criminal career will develop into the direction of property crimes. Finally, the implications and limitations of the study will be discussed.

**Bijleveld, C. J. H., et al. (2007)** in the research paper entitled “Group Sex Offending by Juveniles: Coercive Sex as a Group Activity” studied the sex offences carried out by groups of juveniles, focusing on offender characteristics and the interaction patterns within offender groups and between offenders and victims. Using reconstructions of offences from court files as well as information retrieved from personality screenings, we conclude that perpetrators generally had below-average intelligence, and otherwise a fairly average personality profile. Group size was on average four. Offences were generally not planned as such. In some cases, offenders had agreed to have sex with a victim, although without discussing how to arrange that. In other cases, offenders seemed to know what was going to happen without discussing it beforehand. In one-third of the groups, a leader orchestrated the offence during the
perpetration. The group either was instrumental or functioned as a public to witness the debasement of the victim. The offence itself is often regarded as entertainment. In most offence situations at least one vaginal rape took place. In many cases the victim was threatened, even after completion of the offence.

van Wijk, A., et al. (2006) in the research paper entitled “Juvenile Sex Offenders Compared to Non-Sex Offenders” finds juvenile delinquency is to what extent juvenile sex offenders resemble non-sex offenders with respect to individual, familial, and environmental characteristics. The article reviewed published studies (1995-2005) comparing sex offenders with non-sex offenders. The 17 articles meeting the inclusion criteria suggest that differences exist between sex offenders and non-sex offenders on personality characteristics, behavioral problems, history of sexual abuse, nonsexual offending, and peer functioning. Inconsistent results were found for demographic factors, family functioning and background, antisocial attitudes, and intellectual and neurological functioning. Although it is likely that sex offenders can be differentiated from non-sex offenders on a number of characteristics, caution is warranted because of methodological differences between studies and small samples size. Also, studies show that sex offenders are a heterogeneous group. Further research should take into account the heterogeneity by including sex offenders from clearly circumscribed groups and investigating characteristics specifically related to sexual behavior.

Vandiver, Donna M. & Teske, R. (2006) in the research paper entitled “Juvenile Female and Male Sex Offenders: A Comparison of Offender, Victim, and Judicial Processing Characteristics” examines 61 juvenile female sex offenders in terms of their offending patterns, demographics, and victim characteristics; these findings are compared to 122 juvenile male sex offenders. Relying on sex offender registration data and criminal history records, bivariate analyses are conducted to assess male-female differences. Logistic regression is also employed to further assess group membership (male and female). Females were typically younger than males at the time of their arrest for a sex offense. Female offenders also chose male and female victims proportionately, whereas males were more likely to choose female victims. Logistic regression analysis revealed two significant predictors of the offender's sex: victim's sex and length of sentence. The research, therefore, indicates different modalities of offense characteristics for males and females, which predicates different management strategies in terms of identification for these groups of offenders.
Vandiver, Donna M. (2006) in the research paper entitled “A Prospective Analysis of Juvenile Male Sex Offenders: Characteristics and Recidivism Rates as Adults” assesses the recidivism rates of a sample of 300 registered male sex offenders who were juveniles at the time of their initial arrest for a sex offense. The sample is followed for 3 to 6 years after they reached adulthood; recidivism rates are assessed during their adulthood only. The typical juvenile is a 15-year-old Caucasian male who was arrested for sexual assault or indecency with a child. The majority of the victims are females with an average age of 8. Although only 13 are rearrested during the follow-up period for a sex offense, more than half of the sample is arrested at least once for a nonsexual offense. The results of a Cox regression indicate that victim age, offender age, and victim sex are significant predictors of recidivism during adulthood.

Van Wijk, A., et al. (2005) in the research paper entitled “Violent Juvenile Sex Offenders Compared with Violent Juvenile Non-Sex Offenders: Explorative Findings from the Pittsburgh Youth Study” states that only a limited number of studies have compared the psychosocial characteristics of juvenile sex offenders and non-sex offenders. The results of these studies have often been contradictory. Furthermore, studies in normal population groups are rare and most of those studies have been conducted in specific populations. The paper reports on the findings of a prospective, longitudinal study, the Pittsburgh Youth Study, in which violent male sex offenders (n = 39) were compared with violent non-sex offenders (n = 430) based on 66 demographic and psychosocial characteristics. The findings show that the sex offenders resembled the non-sex violent offenders with respect to nearly all child, family, peer and demographic risk factors. Some suggestions are made with regard to future research.

Freeman, Kurt A., et al. (2005) in the research paper entitled “Comparing Personality Characteristics of Juvenile Sex Offenders and Non-Sex Offending Delinquent Peers: A Preliminary Investigation” states that there exists a paucity of research on psychopathology among Juvenile Sex Offenders (JSOs) as measured by standardized instruments, particularly as compared to nonclinical and other clinical populations. The investigation involved a comparison of scores on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-Adolescent Version (MMPI-A) between a group of JSOs and non-sex offending delinquent peers. Thirty-six youth from a staff-secure residential facilitate participated, 18 JSOs and 18 non-sex offending delinquent peers. Results revealed that the mean score on clinical Scale 4 (Psychopathic Deviant) was in the clinically significant range for non-sex offending peers and not for JSOs, although the difference between the mean scores was not statistically significant. Chi-square
analysis indicated that a significantly greater number of non-sex offending delinquents had scores in the clinical range on the scale as compared to JSOs. Results are discussed in the context of the research on psychopathology among JSOs.

Lussier, Patrick (2005) in the research paper entitled “The Criminal Activity of Sexual Offenders in Adulthood: Revisiting the Specialization Debate” where two major hypotheses have been put forward to describe the criminal activity of sexual offenders in adulthood. The first hypothesis states that sexual offenders are specialists who tend to repeat sexual crimes. The second hypothesis describes sexual offenders as generalists who do not restrict themselves to one particular Type of Sexual Crime Committed. The prevalent state of knowledge provides empirical support for both the specialization and the generality hypothesis. The presence of both generality and specialization in the offending behavior of sexual offenders is not as contradictory as it may first appear. However, methodological problems limit the possibility of drawing firm conclusions. Indeed, the specialization hypothesis is based on just one parameter of criminal activity, that is, recidivism, which only takes into account two consecutive crimes. The generality hypothesis is focused mainly on two criminal activity parameters, participation and variety, which do not take into account the dynamic nature of criminal activity over time. Developmental criminology provides a new paradigm to explore the issue of generality and specialization in the offending behavior of sexual offenders.

Letourneau, Elizabeth J. et al. (2004) in the research paper entitled “Children and Adolescents with Sexual Behavior Problems” states that youth with substantial sexual behavior problems (n = 166) were compared with youth from the same sample with few sexual behavior problems (n = 413) and with no sexual behavior problems (n = 943). It was hypothesized that youth with significant sexual behavior problems would be characterized by higher rates of sexual and physical abuse and higher rates of internalizing problems relative to youth without sexual behavior problems and that all youth would evidence a positive treatment response to multi-systemic therapy. Relative to youth with no sexual behavior problems, youth with significant sexual behavior problems were more likely to have been sexually or physically abused and had higher rates of internalizing and externalizing behavior problems. These youths were also more likely to include girls, were younger, and had more social problems than youth with no sexual behavior problems. Youth in all groups responded with clinically relevant and statistically significant reductions in problem behaviors at post treatment.
Hunter, John A., et al. (2003) in the research paper entitled “Juvenile Sex Offenders: Toward the Development of a Typology” states that adolescent males who sexually offended against prepubescent children were contrasted with those who targeted pubescent and post-pubescent females. As hypothesized, path analyses revealed that the former group had greater deficits in psychosocial functioning, used less aggression in their sexual offending, and were more likely to offend against relatives. Theorized relationships between developmental risk factors, personality mediators, and sexual and nonsexual offense characteristics were assessed in both groups of juvenile sex offenders. Deficits in psychosocial functioning were found to mediate the influence of childhood exposure to violence against females on adolescent perpetration of sexual and nonsexual offenses. Additional univariate analyses were conducted to further explore some associations among early risk factors, personality mediators, and outcomes. Childhood physical abuse by a father or stepfather and exposure to violence against females were found to be associated with higher levels of comorbid anxiety and depression. Non-coercive childhood sexual victimization by a male nonrelative was found to be associated with sexual offending against a male child. Clinical and theoretical implications of the findings are discussed.

Breda, Carolyn S. (2003) in the research paper entitled “Offender Ethnicity and Mental Health Service Referrals from Juvenile Courts” stated that Juvenile courts play a critical role in facilitating access to mental health services for the large number of offenders with or at risk of emotional or behavioral problems. The research examines the decision of the court to refer offenders to treatment and whether offender ethnicity affects the referral decision. Results suggest that ethnicity has no independent effect on treatment recommendations. Rather, ethnicity modifies the effects of other variables, particularly legalistic variables such as petitioning and adjudication. Implications of the findings for research on ethnic disparities in juvenile court decision making as well as for Black offenders who are disproportionately involved in the juvenile justice system are discussed.

Curwen, Tracey (2003) in the research paper entitled “The Importance of Offense Characteristics, Victimization History, Hostility and Social Desirability in Assessing Empathy of Male Adolescent Sex Offenders” empathises thus focusing on works of sex offenders; however, there are a limited number of studies supporting it as a deficit. The study investigated the reliability and validity of 3 scales of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI)—Empathic Concern [EC], Perspective-Taking [PT], and Personal Distress [PD]—within a
clinical sample. These scales were also used to examine the differences in empathy among groups of sex offenders. One hundred and twenty-three male adolescent sex offenders (ages 12-19) completed a battery of psychometric measures that included the IRI during a sex-offender-specific assessment. Moderate internal consistency and convergent validity was established for IRI scales. Age and social desirability were related to IRI scores. Victim empathy was not related to IRI scores. Justifications and acceptance of sexual and interpersonal violence were negatively correlated to EC and positively correlated to PD. Offenders committed violent offenses reported more EC and PT; however, a generally hostile temperament was negatively related to these scales. Group differences were not found when contrasted with respect to a history of sexual or physical victimization or denial. Researchers using the IRI with male adolescent sex offenders should be cautious of the influence of age and socially desirable responding.

Veneziano, C., & Veneziano, L. (2002) in the research paper entitled “Adolescent Sex Offenders” explains the research which was done for 20 years indicates that adolescent sex offenders account for a significant number of child sexual abuse perpetrators. Studies indicate that the group has a variety of severe family problems, including neglect and physical and sexual abuse. Academic and behavior problems, psychopathology, and social isolation tend to characterize adolescent sexual offenders. The research also indicates that juvenile sexual offenders are a heterogeneous population with diverse characteristics and treatment needs. A number of typologies have been developed to classify various types of offenders, but more empirical research is needed. Because of the diversity of the population, careful assessment is needed before treatment plans are developed and implemented. Most treatment programs have been modeled after treatment programs found to be effective with adult sex offenders, but new programs are aimed more specifically at juveniles. Based on the research, recommendations are made with respect to important target areas for treatment.

Hamilton, Catherine E., et al. (2002) in the research paper entitled “The Link between Recurrent Maltreatment and Offending Behaviour” considers recurrent maltreatment and offending behaviour. The sample was 60 males and 19 females (11 to 18 years) resident within a secure institution in England and considered a risk to themselves and/or others. Overall, 20.8% had not experienced maltreatment, 6.5% had experienced a single incident, 11.7% were repeat victims (same perpetrator), 6.5% were re-victimised (different perpetrators), and more than half (54.5%) had suffered both repeat and re-victimisation. Of those who had committed
a violent and/or sexual crime, 74% had experienced some form of re-victimisation, compared to 33% of those who committed nonviolent offences. Those young people most likely to have committed violent and/or sexual crimes were those who had been victims of recurrent extra-familial maltreatment (many of whom had also experienced recurrent intra-familial maltreatment). Thus, in the sample, re-victimisation was associated with serious crimes. However, these findings are preliminary, and prospective research with a larger sample is needed.

Zolondek, Stacey C., et al. (2001) in the research paper entitled “The Self-Reported Behaviors of Juvenile Sexual Offenders” had gathered information from 485 males younger than 18 being evaluated as possible juvenile sex offenders. More than 60% reported involvement in child molestation, more than 30% in pornography and 10 to 30% in exhibitionism, fetishism, frottage, voyeurism, obscene phone calls and phone sex. Compared with adult males, juveniles had greater frequencies of fetishism, obscene phone calls, child molestation, and phone sex. Juveniles reported engaging in between 9 and 46 acts of sexual offenses. The average age of onset for the sexual offenses was between 10 and 12 years. Juveniles unwilling to admit violations of common social mores reported fewer sexual offenses than juveniles willing to admit such violations. Of the boys who reported never being accused of child molestation, 41.5% reported they had molested a younger child. Findings are discussed as they pertain to the assessment and treatment of juvenile sexual offenders.

Murphy, William D. et al. (2001) in the research paper entitled “An Exploration of Factors Related to Deviant Sexual Arousal among Juvenile Sex Offenders” states that there has been limited literature on the measurement of sexual arousal in adolescent sex offenders. The data that exist have been somewhat mixed in terms of factors related to deviant sexual arousal in the group. The present study, with 71 adolescent sex offenders, investigates the relationship between offender and offense characteristics, including gender of victim, history of sexual abuse, history of physical abuse, race, and interactions between these factors in the prediction of physiologically measured sexual arousal to deviant and non-deviant stimulus categories. A number of variables significantly predicted sexual arousal. The most consistent predictors were gender of victim, race, the interaction of race and gender of victim and to some extent the interaction of offender abuse history and gender of victim. Caucasian subjects tended to respond more than African American subjects did, and the has not been reported previously in the literature. The data are discussed in terms of consistency with other literature, suggesting
that those juvenile offenders who target male victims and have been abused themselves may be a high risk group. Limitations of the study are also addressed.

Peugh, Jordon & Belenko, Steven (2001) in the research paper entitled “Examining the Substance Use Patterns and Treatment Needs of Incarcerated” studied using data from Bureau of Justice Statistics' national prison inmate survey, analyzes alcohol and drug use and abuse patterns among men incarcerated in state prison for sex crimes. Of the 13,986 inmates in the sample, 11.5% were incarcerated for a sex offense. Two thirds were substance-involved, meaning that they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of their crime, had committed a crime to get money for drugs, had histories of regular illegal drug use, had received treatment for alcoholism, or shared some combination of these characteristics. The level and type of substance-involvement was related to age and race, to history of victimization, and to victim characteristics. We discuss the implications of these findings for correctional program interventions, including assessing drug and alcohol problems, availability of substance abuse treatment for sex offenders, and the conjunction of such treatment with other programs.

Butz, C., & Spaccarelli, S. (1999) in the research paper entitled “Use of Physical Force as an Offense Characteristic in Subtyping Juvenile Sexual Offenders” stated that Juvenile sexual offenders were grouped based on whether they had ever used physical force or threats of force to commit an offense using self-reports on the Multiphasic Sex Inventory (MSI) and clinical records review. Subjects were 101 male offenders, 12 to 19 years, residing at a residential treatment facility. Cross-tabulation of self-report and records review were done to define three groups of offenders: rapists (i.e., those who used force), non-rapists, and deniers. These three groups were compared using the MSI and Jesness on other variables assessing offense patterns, sexual deviance, delinquent attitudes, perceived social competence, and offense-related cognitions. Rapists reported significantly more sexual assault fantasy/predatory behavior, greater preoccupation with children, and more paraphilias than did non-rapists and deniers. In comparison to deniers, rapists also reported more obsessive thinking about sex, and a greater willingness to participate in treatment. These findings are discussed with a focus on the apparent validity and usefulness of subtyping juvenile offenders based on whether or not they have used physical force or threats of force in committing a sexual offense.
Caputo, Alicia A., et al. (1999) in the research paper entitled “Family Violence and Juvenile Sex Offending: The Potential Mediating Role of Psychopathic Traits and Negative Attitudes toward Women” where Juvenile sex offenders were compared to other juvenile offenders in the degree of violence against women they witnessed in their families of origin. Poor impulse control, a callous and unemotional interpersonal style, and sexist attitudes toward women were tested as potential mediators of the relation. Participants were 70 incarcerated juvenile males, ages 13 to 18, from three offender categories: 23 sex offenders, 17 violent offenders, and 30 noncontact offenders. Results indicated that the witnessing of severe domestic violence was related not only to juvenile sex offending but to contact offending in general. There were no group differences on measures of poor impulse control or sexist attitudes toward women. However, sex offenders were found to have more callous and unemotional traits than other offenders. Therefore, although these traits do not mediate the effects of witnessing family violence, they do seem to be important in distinguishing juvenile sex offenders from other juvenile offenders.