

MINDHUNTERS



EXPLOITING OFFENDER PSYCHOLOGY IN PROACTIVE OPERATIONS AND ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

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INTRODUCTIONS

- AP Joseph D. Remy, Burlington County (NJ) Prosecutor's Office
- Robert Peters, National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C)
- Dr. Timothy Saar, Saar Psychological Group, PLLC



THE PROBLEM

- Amanda Todd Story



PEDOPHILIA PREVALENCE

Adapted from Internet Sex Offenders by Michael Seto, Table 1.2

Study	Sample	Potential Prevalence
2013	1,978	4% viewed adult-child sex
2011	367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.5% -- sexual fantasies with children • 6% -- masturbation fantasies with children • 3.8% -- sexual contact with children
2009	373	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4% sexual contact • 9% fantasies • 6% masturbating to fantasies
1991	582	3% had sex with child
1991	60	5% interested in sex w/ girl under 12
1980	94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62% fantasized about sex with young girl • 3% fantasized about sex with young boy

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

- Child pornography cases tripled from 2001 to 2009 (Seto p. 13)
- DOJ: 2 ops (Fairplay and Roundup) found over 20 million IP addresses accessing known CP files on P2P networks (Seto p. 21)
 - “Slightly less than half” were American-registered
- Three of top P2P terms refer to CP
- Majority of one sample of online offenders were never charged, “though 95% admitted they had viewed” CP
- Another sample: $\frac{3}{4}$ of CP only offenders had no record
- Only a few cases will be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted

IMPORTANCE OF...

- Prioritizing resources
- Proactive methods
- Psychological insight

WHY SHOULD I CONSULT WITH A PSYCHOLOGIST FOR UC OPS AND ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS?

- Psychologists have spent decades studying sex offender dynamics in order to better understand their behaviors.
- Forensic psychologists perform a number of assessments for court involving sex offenders and can help the investigator avoid pitfalls that threaten their undercover operation.
- The accumulated data and experience in working with sex offender cases provides insight for the investigator before and during the operation.

PROACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS AND PSYCHOLOGY

- In a proactive operation, there is usually no targeted individual who has already tipped off investigators.
- Crafting the undercover persona and conducting the communications can benefit from child development information and sex offender research.
- When the operation has concluded, forensic interviewing techniques protect your case and structured interviews of the perpetrator will guide future operations.

KNOW YOUR ADVERSARY:

Who is on the other end of the communication?
What are they looking for? How will they try to trip you up?



The dividing lines sometimes blur, but sex offenders generally have an age group and a gender they focus on, and those who want cyber contact and pictures don't necessarily want to meet the child.

KNOW YOUR ADVERSARY:

- Many sex offenders have committed nonsexual crimes
- The onset of sexual offending typically occurs after the onset of nonsexual offending
- Identified sex offenders are more likely to commit new nonsexual than sexual offenses over time



KNOW YOUR ADVERSARY:

- General theories about crime do apply – low self-control, opportunity, antisocial and criminal behaviors predict sexual offending
- Some factors are unique to sex offending – atypical sexual interests, high sex drives, sexualized coping, sexual offense justifications (it doesn't hurt anyone, I'm helping them learn about sex), interpersonal problems, social skills deficits, loneliness, anxiety, intimate relationship problems, childhood sexual abuse, early exposure to sex/pornography

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHILD PORN OFFENDERS (CPO), SOLICITATION OFFENDERS AND CONTACT OFFENDERS?

- Most are male
- Up to half of child pornography offenders, but not all, have committed contact sexual offenses
- A majority, but not all, are pedophiles
- Up to half, but not all, of contact sex offenders are pedophiles and have a greater risk of sexual offending
- ** Risk is increased by antisocial traits, but this is not necessarily a predictor of sexual offending.

SOLICITATION – CPO –CONTACT OFFENDERS

- Research is sparse – there's a lot of overlap in these areas
- 1 in 8 online offenders have a prior contact offense
- Solicitation and porn offenders are similar to exhibitionists – they seek sensation and are compulsive
- Solicitation offenders have lower dynamic risk for reoffending, lower deviant sexual practices and sex drive

Proactive investigations are the most effective prevention of child porn offenders progressing to solicitation.



CONTACT-SOLICITATION-CPO

Contact Offenders

- **Younger**
- **Less likely to have been married**
- **Their need is more dangerous – sex with children**
- **Use porn for grooming or as a souvenir**

CONTACT-SOLICITATION-CPO

Contact Offenders:

- 75% of the minors presented as 14 yr old girls,
- All of the offenders were male.
- Half had been married
- 35% had children



SOLICITATION – CPO - CONTACT

Fantasy vs Contact (vs Duel):

- Seeking sexually explicit chat
- Sending photographs
- Webcam masturbation – exhibitionism
- If they meet, it's usually not for sex, but to provide a camera, etc



SOLICITATION – CPO - CONTACT

Child Porn Offenders:

- No significant difference in paraphilia from Solicitation offenders
- No significant difference in DSM5 mood disorders
- Solicitation offenders more likely hypersexual



CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENDER TYPOLOGIES

Looking Beyond the Screen: A Critical Review of the Literature on the Online Child Pornography Offender (Henshaw et al)



SOLICITATION-CPO-CONTACT

Solicitation Offenders

- **75% have a DSM5 Disorder – usually depression**
- **50% have a personality disorder – usually narcissistic**
 - **Most have no prior felony history**
- **Most are not pedophiles (contact over 14)**

SOLICITATION-CPO-CONTACT

Solicitation Offenders

- **Have other kinds of problematic or risky behaviors (sexual regulation)**
- **High levels of masturbation**
- **Soliciting adults online, as well**
- **One-night stands**
- **Sex with prostitutes**



HOW DOES PORNOGRAPHY IMPACT BEHAVIOR?

- Men are more aroused by visual or written depictions of sex.
- Men who already have hostile feelings toward women can be impacted by violent porn, which strengthens their attitudes.
- Exposure to child porn may serve as a trigger for other thoughts and emotions about children and sexuality.
- Experiencing sexual arousal while viewing porn impact the individual's reaction to otherwise neutral cues and triggers.
- Positive reinforcement via masturbations/social



IS THERE A LINK BETWEEN PORN AND SEXUAL OFFENDING?



High-risk people seek out pornography, particularly violent porn and then have a greater reaction.

Those who seek sexual content in one form often seek it out in another

The accessibility of porn on the Internet facilitates contact with the variety of materials.

The need for increasingly effective stimuli may lead individuals to seek out sexual contact once porn has lost its impact.

MYTHBUSTING

- **1 in 7 youths have been solicited online – most by peers or someone they know. Relatively small proportion are solicited by strangers/adults.**
- **Only 5% of adult offenders pretend to be teens.**
- **Generally, offenders do not lie about their intentions. The youths know they are meeting for sex, but may mislead about romantic intentions**
- **Solicitation rarely involves violence and abduction is rare**
- **In researched cases, kids under 12 weren't solicited**
- **Kids aren't as naïve as adults think.**



WHAT ABOUT THE “VICTIM?”

- Children tend to be vulnerable to grooming/ seduction
- They use more online methods of communicating
- They generally aren't cautious about providing personal information and can be more easily tricked into providing this information
- They are vulnerable to authority and power and will more easily be dominated by the predator
- They are vulnerable to someone showing an interest in their activities, likes and personal lives

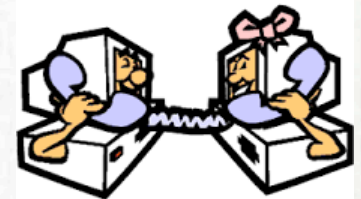
YOU HAVE TO PUT ASIDE YOUR COP THINKING AND BECOME THE CHILD

More often than not, the minor knows they are communicating with an adult. They are sexually curious and open to the relationship.



73% of those who have face-to-face encounters did so more than once.

Online relationships tend to develop more quickly and intensely than in-person, peer-to-peer romantic relationships. The anonymity of the Internet promotes riskier behaviors.



VICTIMS – WHO ARE THEY?

Many youths who have been the victims of physical or sexual abuse are more vulnerable to online relationships – they look for attention and affection and act out in more risky sexual ways.

It's not the posting of personal information that leads to victimization, but the willingness to talk to strangers online.



CRAFTING UC PERSONAS

- Who can you (persuasively) be?
- What personas work?



WHO WILL YOUR UC OPERATION LIKELY CATCH?

- More online molesters are caught than those soliciting actual youths (more are caught soliciting UC officers)**
- Those online tend to be more middle class and older
- They are less likely to have had prior arrests
- One in Eight will have committed a crime against actual youth

**Those caught by stings are more naïve about law enforcement techniques

PSYCHOLOGY IN THE INTERVIEW ROOM

- Forensic psychologists have extensive sex offender interview experience
- Classify your suspect — 4 primary presentation styles
- Interviewer dominance = poor confession rate (Kebbell)
- Create environment that allows suspect to talk (Hill)

Despite all the press coverage of online predators, sex offending against children has not increased.



AFTER THE UC OPERATION:



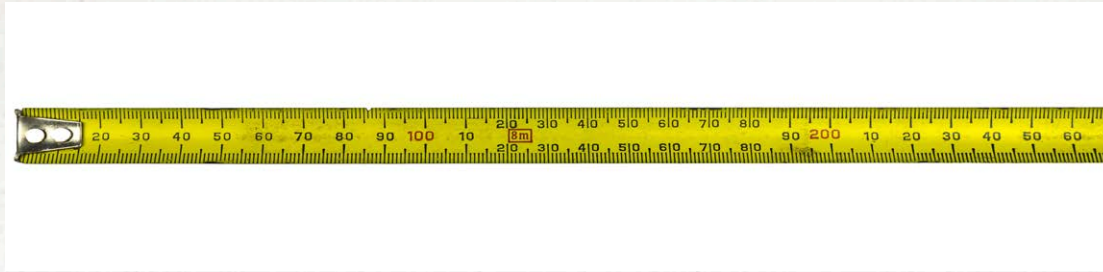
The more information that can be gathered about what drew the person to the victim, their other activities and the demographic information about who they are, the more good intel will be available in the future.

SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENTS

- Child Exploitation Rips the Fabric of our Society **BUT** not Every Defendant Need be Incarcerated.
- Goals of a Sex Offender Risk Assessment:
 - Rehabilitative:
 - Does the Defendant Need Treatment?
 - What Kind?
 - For How Long?
 - Penological:
 - Criminal Sentencing: Jail? (When Paroled?) Probation?
 - Community Notification under Megan's Law. Tiering?
 - Civil Commitment for Extended Treatment of Select Sex Offenders.
- TYPES:
 - Minn. Sex Offender Screening Tool (R), Stable 2000 (2007), Risk Matrix 2000 (2007), ACUTE 2007, SONAR, Static 99(R), CPORT (V2)



SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENTS



- No Risk Assessment Tool can Accurately Predict the Risk Posed by a Particular Individual.
- Tools Demonstrate that Individuals who Share Specific Characteristics Tend to Cause Harm, Reoffend or be Reconvicted at Particular Rates.
 - Stable Dynamic Factors: personal skill deficits, predilections, and learned behaviors that correlate with sexual recidivism but that can be changed through a process of “effortful intervention” (i.e., treatment or supervision).
 - Acute Dynamic Factors: highly transient conditions that only last hours or days. These factors are rapidly changing environmental and intrapersonal stresses, conditions, or events that have been shown by previous research to be related to imminent sexual re-offense.
- Value of any Risk Assessment Tool Depends on the Skill of those Using it.

SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENTS



- Where We See Abuse:
 - Bias of the Professional
 - Skill / Knowledge about the Tool
 - Experience Performing Assessment

SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENTS

- Sex Offender Needs Assessment Rating (SONAR)
 - Combines STABLE (2000→2007) Assessment Measuring 16→13 Stable Dynamic Factors with ACUTE Assessment measuring 8 Acute Dynamic Factors
 - STABLE FACTORS
 - Significant Social Influences
 - Intimacy / Deficits (Lovers/Intimate Partners, Emotional Identification with Children, Hostility Towards Woman, General Social Rejection/Loneliness, Lack of Concern for Others)
 - Capacity for Relationship Stability
 - Sexual Self Regulation (Sex Drive/Pre-Occupation, Sex as Coping, Deviant Sexual Interests)
 - Attitudes Supportive of Sexual Assault (Sexual Entitlement, Rape Attitudes, Child Molester Attitudes)
 - Hostility Towards Women
 - Cooperation with Supervision
 - General Self Regulation (Impulsive Act, Poor Cog Problem Skills, Negative Emotionally/ Hostility)
 - ACUTE FACTORS
 - Sex/Violence Score: Victim Access, Hostility, Sexual Preoccupation, Rejection of Supervision,
 - Gen. Recid Score: Emotional Collapse, Collapse of Social Supports, Substance Abuse

SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENTS

Question Number	Risk Factor	Codes		Score
1	Age at release	Aged 18 to 34.9 Aged 35 to 39.9 Aged 40 to 59.9 Aged 60 or older		1 0 -1 -3
2	Ever Lived With	Ever lived with lover for at least two years? Yes No		0 1
3	Index non-sexual violence - Any Convictions	No Yes		0 1
4	Prior non-sexual violence - Any Convictions	No Yes		0 1
5	Prior Sex Offences	<u>Charges</u> 0 1,2 3-5 6+	<u>Convictions</u> 0 1 2,3 4+	0 1 2 3
6	Prior sentencing dates (excluding index)	3 or less 4 or more		0 1
7	Any convictions for non-contact sex offences	No Yes		0 1
8	Any Unrelated Victims	No Yes		0 1
9	Any Stranger Victims	No Yes		0 1
10	Any Male Victims	No Yes		0 1
	Total Score	Add up scores from individual risk factors		

SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENTS

	CPORT Risk Factors	Case Details Provide support for your score of 0, 1 or unknown.	Item Present: 0=No 1=Yes ● Unknown
1.	Offender age at time of index investigation: 35 or younger	Details and sources:	
2.	Any prior criminal history?	Details and sources:	
3.	Any failure on conditional release, including charge at index?	Details and sources:	
4.	Any contact sexual offending, including a charge at index?	Details and sources:	
5.	Indication of pedophilic or hebephilic interests If using CASIC to score this item (due to the absence of admission or diagnosis of sexual interest), you must have a CASIC score of 3 or more to score positively	Details and sources:	
6.	More boy than girl content in the child pornography material (≥ 51%)	Details and sources:	
7.	More boy than girl content in the nude/other child material (≥ 51%)	Details and sources:	
<p>We do not recommend scoring CPORT if there is more than one item missing (substituting Item 5 with the CASIC score would not be counted as a missing item).</p>			<p>TOTAL SCORE (0 to 7)</p>

SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENTS

CASIC Score (Correlates of Admitted Sexual Interest in Children)

Date Completed:

Completed by:

Information Sources:

Name:

Case Number:

Item Present 0=No, 1=Yes, ●=Unknown	Item	Notes
	1 Never married	
	2 Had child pornography videos	
	3 Had child pornography text stories	
	4 Child pornography activity spanning two or more years	
	5 Volunteering in a role with high access to children	
	6 Engaging in online sexual communications with a minor or undercover officer posing as a minor	
	Total Score	

EXAMPLES

Mr. ██████ case is an unusual one. He is not a normal individual. He presents as a passive, socially isolated man who historically has been taunted and mocked by peers for his obvious psychological and social impairments. He has both Tourette's syndrome and Asperger's disorder. His Tourette's syndrome is evident in soft subvocalizations and tics. His Asperger's disorder is evident in his childlike, simplistic thinking and his impaired social skills. Asperger's disorder is an autism spectrum disorder characterized by:

- impaired social interaction, particularly not grasping social cues
- impaired nonverbal behavior, such as lack of eye contact
- failure to develop friendships
- unusual repetitive behaviors (in ██████ tics)
- heavy reliance on routine and structure

What distinguishes Asperger's disorder from more severe autism spectrum disorders is that in Asperger's disorder cognitive and language abilities are more highly developed, and the social impairments are not as pronounced as they are in more severe autism spectrum disorders. Asperger's disorder is therefore sometimes referred to as high functioning autism.

On the one hand, there are certain elements of the discovery materials that raise concerns. In ██████ statement to the police, he informed them that he had searched the Internet using terms such as PTHC and Raygold, terms that are clearly associated with child pornography. In addition, there is his Windows Live profile, reportedly including sexually oriented comments he made concerning pictures of individuals perhaps in their midteens. In his statement to the police he acknowledged having chatted with minors over the Internet. Finally, there is the issue of the

Consequently, during the entire development of the RRAS, we never discussed or considered how Internet offenders might be scored. I cannot speak for the other members of the development task force, but certainly my recollection is that we were focusing on contact offenders (or at least individuals who had not contact offenses with actual victims, such as exhibitionists), not individuals who were engaged in viewing child pornography. Consequently,

³ On the RRAS, 0-36 = Low Risk Range, 37-73 = Moderate Risk Range, and 74-111 = High Risk Range.

Mr. [REDACTED] is estimated to present a **low re-offense risk** on the RRAS. Additionally, several factors were identified during this evaluation which suggest that Mr. [REDACTED] is a **low risk for sexual re-offending**, including:

- The offense did not include any physical harm to the victim;
- There is one victim as opposed to multiple victims;
- He does not evidence any signs that he has sexualized his feelings of anger or aggression;
- He presents with a stable, positive support network;
- He has the capacity for relationship stability;
- He does not evidence signs of emotional identification with children;

(3) Review of:

- Arrest report
- Criminal complaints
- Affidavit of probable cause
- Affidavit in support of search warrant
- Statement of [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Investigation Report
- Electronic Evidence Analysis Report

FILENAME:

____ARRESTA____kdv-brothers (14years).mpg

DESCRIPTION:

This video is 9 minutes and 23 seconds in length and depicts two male children approximately 12-14 years old each taking out their penises. The two children then engage in oral sex with each other. The two children then kiss each other and rub their penises together.

specifically to assess risk of individuals with charges for child pornography. The CPORT is the only risk assessment scale I am aware of that was developed specifically on individuals with child pornography convictions.

CPORT

	CPORT risk factors	Case details	Item present 0=no 1=yes ?=unknown
1	Offender age at time of investigation (35 or younger)	25 years old at the time of his arrest.	1
2	Any prior criminal history?	None.	0
3	Any failure on conditional release (including index charge)?	Not present.	0
4	Any contact sexual offending, including index charge?	Not present.	0
5	Indication of pedophilic interests?	Mr. [REDACTED]'s score on a related instrument assessing pedophilic interests, the CASIC, was three points: never married, child pornography interests span two	1

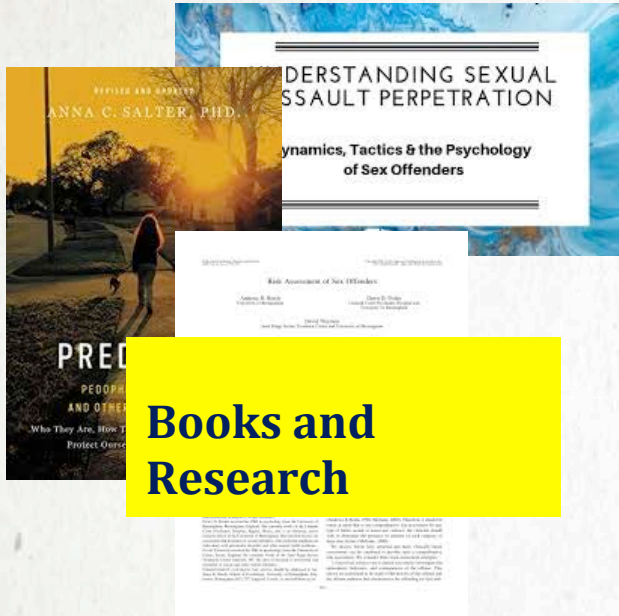
		years or more, possession of child pornographic videos. A CASIC score of three or more points is required to give Mr. [REDACTED] one point on this criterion.	
6	More boy than girl content in child pornographic materials (>50%)?	Not present. The limited discovery materials I have reviewed suggests that the image is focused on underage females, not males.	0
7	More boy than girl content in the nude/other child material (>50%)?	Not present.	0
		Total (0-7)	2

¹ The State further questions the integrity of the psychosexual evaluation, in particular the SVR-20, in which Dr. ■■■ equates well over 100 items of child pornography as a “relatively small quantity of child pornography,” raising questions about the integrity of the evaluation. These questions further are heightened when Dr. ■■■ never examined the items of child pornography, nor asked for a file listing that would have enabled him to complete the CPORT. Lastly, Dr. ■■■ cites studies showing that consumers of child pornography are less likely to be hands on offenders but neglects that this research does not equate to a lack of recidivism on the consumer for internet related crimes.

Questions / Comments



RESOURCES:



<https://www.fbi.gov/resources>

<https://www.theiacp.org/resources/policy-center-resource/sex-offenders>

<https://www.nw3c.org/>

Organizations

Contact Dr. Saar:

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