

NEARI NEWS:

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

An Essential Tool for Professionals Working with those who Sexually Abuse or... A Great New Way to Stay Current with Cutting Edge Sexual Abuse Research.



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Dear Colleague,

This month's issue discusses recent research giving us a deeper understanding of how and under what conditions sexual victimization might be a risk factor for future sexual abusing behaviors. The research clearly states that most children who are victimized by sexual abuse do not go on to sexually abuse others. However, the research findings did suggest that sexual victimization in boys over age 12 may be an important risk factor for this population.

We anticipate that this research may raise concerns and issues. Our hope is that we can reflect on what the research is showing, raise various points of view and in time, and bring more resources to those who are at risk to abuse rather than wait for another child to be harmed. If you have thoughts, let us know and we will try to include them in a future issue.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@nearipress.org or call us at 413-540-0712, ext 14.

Sincerely,
Joan Tabachnick and Steven Bengis

Gaining a Better Understanding of Sexual Victimization As a Risk Factor for Future Abusive Behaviors

by Steven Bengis, David S. Prescott, and Joan Tabachnick

Question

Do sex abuse victims have a greater likelihood of committing a sexual offense or becoming re-victimized?

The Research

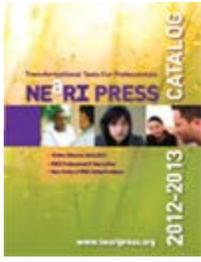
Australian researchers James Ogloff, Mary Cutajar, Emily Mann, and Paul Mullen followed 2,759 child sexual abuse victims for a period ranging from 13 to 44 years. This group was matched with a comparison group of 2,677 for both age and gender. These numbers make this the largest study of child sexual abuse cases conducted to date.

Their results indicate that although most sexual abuse victims did not have any official criminal record, they still were almost five times more likely than the general population to be charged with a criminal offense than the non-abused control group. The offenses were most likely to be sexual and/or violent. Of particular note, 9% of boys sexually abused after the age of 12 received charges for a sexual offense (although this was not the case for girls who had been sexually abused). For boys sexually abused prior to age twelve, the percentage dropped to 2.9%. Sexual victimization in boys over age 12 can be an important risk factor for this population.

Finally, sexual abuse victims were also more likely to have been victims of crime, particularly crimes of a sexual or violent nature. Girls who were sexually abused were much more likely to become a victim of a subsequent sexual violence than their male counterparts, and both were more likely to be victimized again than the general population.

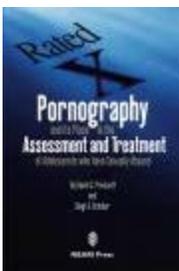
Implications for Professionals

The vast majority of people victimized by sexual abuse do not move on to sexually abuse others. This research lends further support to that understanding. But, particularly for the clinician working with youth who have abused, this large



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FEATURED NEARI RESOURCES



[Pornography and its Place in the Assessment and Treatment of Adolescents who have Sexually Abused](#)

by David S. Prescott
and Siegi Schuler

No one thinks that exposure to pornography is a good idea for adolescents who sexually abuse, but what do we actually know from research? In this groundbreaking booklet, Prescott and Schuler explore the implications of this research for the assessment, treatment intervention, and the risk management of adolescents living in a sexualized culture. Most importantly, the booklet covers how the clinician can work with an adolescent in treatment to help him or her build a healthier future.

ISBN: 978-1-929657-52-0
Paperback: \$3.75 + S&H

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study is a reminder to focus assessment and possible treatment on prior victimization. With these results now available, we can no longer ignore or underemphasize the relationship of the victim-to-victimizer trajectory. The default assumption should be that victimization may be harmful, may have significant developmental impact on the child or adolescent, and may require targeted treatment. In particular, it would be helpful to focus resources on males who are sexually abused after the age of 12 because of such a dramatic increase in the risk to sexually abuse.

Implications for the Field

This is the first large-scale study that did not involve retrospective self-report by adult offenders which can pose a problem with the validity of the results. The correlations from the study are profound, with significant implications both for public health and prevention initiatives. The results provide a strong message to policy makers to:

1. Focus resources for healing on children and adolescents who have been sexual abused, and in particular,
2. Focus resources on boys who have been sexually abused after the age of twelve with programs to address positive sexuality and healthy relationships and
3. Guide clinical practice towards assessment and possible treatment of trauma and other issues correlated with sexual victimization for youth known to have abused.

In addition, universal education, especially for boys over twelve should be considered as an important prevention strategy.

Abstract

Child Sexual Abuse and subsequent offending and victimization: The primary aim of the study is to examine the relationship between CSA and subsequent criminal offending and victimization by comparing 2,759 cases of CSA in both male and female victims with a comparative cohort of 2,677 people drawn from a sample of Victorians from the Australian Electoral Commission matched with CSA victims on gender and age range. Offense and victimization data were obtained from the Victoria Police databases. 23.6% of CSA victims had a recorded offence compared with 5.9% of control subjects.

Citation

- Ogloff, J., Cutajar, M., Mann, E., and Mullen, P. (2012.) Child sexual abuse and subsequent offending and victimisation: A 45 year follow-up study. *Trends*

Questions/Feedback

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NEARI Press Webinar
A Relational Based Approach in the Treatment of
Sexually Abusive Youth
JANUARY 8, 2013
2:00pm-3:00pm EST

In the next one-hour NEARI Press Webinar, Phil Rich will provide an overview of a relational based approach to the treatment of sexually abusive youth -- a perspective necessary for anyone choosing to work with this population.

Space is limited, so please register now to be guaranteed a spot! To register for this webinar, [click here](#). After you register, we will send you information about how to sign on.

There are six more webinars scheduled in our series, featuring internationally recognized experts such as Keith Kaufman, GERALD Blanchard, Su Robinson, Tom Leverage, and Pat Wilcox. If you would like to be a sponsor of this series and to help support these resources -- \$98 for individuals and \$250 for organization sponsors -- we will guarantee you webinar access for 2012-13 series and send you two of NEARI Press's popular titles: *Current Applications* and *Current Perspectives* with a value of \$149. Please see our website for more information at www.nearipress.org.