Risk assessment of child pornography offenders

Conference Paper · September 2016

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Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:

Understanding the puzzle of incest View project
Risk Assessment of Child Pornography Offenders

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Need for Risk Assessment

• Dramatically increasing numbers
• Evidence CP offending often reflects pedophilia or hebephilia
• Sexual interest in children is important risk factor for contact sexual recidivism
• Thus, concern about risk posed to children
Mixed or Solicitation Offenders

- Static-99/R in Canada and the US
- Risk Matrix 2000 in the UK

- Risk assessment for CP offenders?
Risk to Offend: Contact Offending in the Future

Follow-up period

Any Contact recidivism (%)

Seto et al. (2011 with updates)
Any sexual recidivism

Seto et al. (2011 with updates)
Child Pornography Offender Recidivism
(Seto & Eke, 2005)

Failure Any Violent Contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>No Priors</th>
<th>Prior Hx</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Sexual</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Graf & Dittmann (2011; Goller, Graft, Frei, & Dittmann, 2010)

- Sample of 4,658 CP offenders, Switzerland.
- Average 5-year follow-up

Overall sample:
2.9% CP offences
0.3% contact sex offence

CP only offenders:
2.8% for CP
0.2% for contact sex offence

Mixed offenders:
11.4% for CP
6% for contact sex offence
Faust et al. (2009)

• 870 federally sentenced diverse CP offenders
• Average follow-up = 4 years
• Sexual re-arrest rate of 5.7%
• Sexual re-arrest predicted by: single; lower education; non-Internet child pornography; no content depicting teens; prior sex offender treatment
Risk Measures: Wakeling et al. (2011)

- Modified Risk Matrix 2000 among 1,344 CP offenders
- **RM2000**: offender age, sexual and any sentencing history, male victim, stranger victim, ever live-in, any noncontact offenses
- Risk measure predicted sexual recidivism, though lower recidivism rates than for other sex offenders
- 3.1% sexual reconviction after two years
- Not predictive for CP-only offenders
RM2000 and Contact Sexual Recidivism

Only 26 in Very High
Other Risk Factors: Police Case Study
(Seto & Eke, 2015)

- 301 adult male CPOs (79% overlap with OSOR sample)
- Police files reviewed by RAs
- Criminal history, substance use, CP content, access to children, self-reported sexual interests
- Recidivism information obtained after file review completed
## Sample Characteristics

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td>37.7 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>84% high school or post-secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong></td>
<td>Median = skilled labor / white-collar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital status</strong></td>
<td>54% single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminal history</strong></td>
<td>39% any prior; 8% had juvenile record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15% prior sexual offense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5% prior CP offense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Index offenses</strong></td>
<td>99% possessed; 21% produced; 38% distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14% had concurrent sexual offense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Seto IATSO 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CP content</th>
<th>Girls &gt; boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prepubescent &gt; pubescent &gt; infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13% any infant girls; 2% any infant boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collecting</td>
<td>22% highly organized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43% used non-private computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40% had anime CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6% morphed images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance use</td>
<td>13% alcohol problems; 8% drug problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admits sexual</td>
<td>33% admitted pedophilic interest; 12% admitted hebephilic interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interest</td>
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Risk Assessment

• Pedophilia is not sufficient explanation for contact sexual offending

• Antisociality factors predict contact sexual & violent recidivism

• Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool (CPORT)
Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool (CSPORT)

• 266 convicted adult male CP offenders at risk
• Five years fixed follow-up
• Seven variables combine to predict any sexual recidivism in police case sample
• Coded dichotomously, no weights so possible score of 0 to 7

Seto & Eke (2015)
# CPORT Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPORT VARIABLE</th>
<th>% HIGHER RISK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offender age 35 or younger at index offense</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any prior criminal history</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any prior or index contact sexual offending</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any prior or index conditional release failure</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence pedophilic/hebephilic sexual interests</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy &gt;= girl content in child pornography</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy &gt;= girl content in other child content</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Offender age 35 or younger at index investigation

- From offender’s age at time of investigation leading to CP conviction; not necessarily CP investigation (e.g., contact allegation first)

- Age at arrest, charge, or conviction highly correlated with age at investigation ($r = .99$)
2. Any prior offenses

• Any prior criminal charges
• Whether sexual or not in nature
• Irrespective of outcome, e.g., acquittal
• Does not count self-reported crimes
• Does not count offenses resulting in index charges
3. Any prior or index conditional release failure

- Breach of bail, court order, probation or parole condition
- Any conditional release failure resulting in criminal justice response (e.g., revocation of bail, arrest)
- Excludes self-reported conditional release failures
4. Any prior or index contact sexual offending

- Contact or attempted contact
- Unlike previous item, includes index charges for contact sexual offending
- Irrespective of outcome, e.g., acquittal
- Does **not** count self-reported crimes
5. Evidence of pedophilic/hebephilic sexual interests

• Admission of sexual interest in prepubescent (pedophilia) or pubescent children (hebephilia) during interview(s)

• Includes admission of sexual arousal to corresponding child pornography, e.g., masturbating to content)

• Includes evidence of past diagnosis

• Does not include analysis of CP searches/content
6. Boy ≥ girl content in child pornography

• Content meeting legal definition, i.e., excluding child nudity or general child content
• Estimation of boy:girl content
• Content depicting both boys & girls counts towards both
• Adults not counted
• If 50%+ then usually 75%+; also, specific % didn’t produce better prediction
7. Boy ≥ girl content in other child content

- Excludes child pornography content
- Same coding rules as item #6
- Most offenders had both child pornography and other child content
CPORT Statistics

- Mean score = 1.94 (SD = 1.57), range 0 to 7
- 3% contact sexual recidivism
- 9% child pornography recidivism
Probability of Any Sexual Recidivism
CPORT Predictive Accuracy

- AUC = .74 for any sexual recidivism
- AUC = .74 for any contact sexual recidivism (but only 8 recidivists)
- AUC = .76 if no missing information (N = 254)
- AUC = .73 if missing child content or admission of sexual interests (4-item version)
- AUC = .63 (ns) for CP-only offenders
Since CPORT published

• Works in small cross-validation sample (N=80) ✔

• Alternate mini-scale for admission of interest ✔
  – Never married (54% of sample)
  – Had CP videos (64%)
  – Had CP stories (31%)
  – Collecting 2+ years (55%)
  – Volunteered in child serving role (7%)
  – Engaged in online communications with minor* (10%)
Using the CPORT

- Useful for research purposes
- Useful for prioritizing CP offenders
- Calibration uncertain, so caution regarding probabilistic estimates
- Currently developing CPORT scoring guide