

Sexual Offences

class 4

Victims of sexual offenses
And the treatment of sexual offenders



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Introduction

Abuse is abuse

- ▶ No one „asks" to be abused
- ▶ Not all sex offenders are the same
- ▶ Sexual offence is defined as any crime that involves sexual intercourse or any other sexual act. The main crimes in this category are rape, assault by penetration, and sexual assault. There are also a range of offence governing sexual activities with children.
- ▶ It follows that sexual crimes are linked not only to passion but also to violence, anger and power.
- ▶ Punishment- only responses to sexual abuse don't reduce risk

The right treatment can work

- ▶ There is a big controversy in research whether the treatment works and the one thing that all people agree on is that people who complete treatment programs specifically targeting sexual violence really do reoffended lower rates more on that later
- ▶ And the right treatment with the right supervision can work even better

Persons who are victimized

- ▶ As many as 90% of persons reporting sexual victimization know the offender
 - ▶ 2/3 or more of known offenses occur in the person's own home
 - ▶ As many as 90 % of persons who are victimized fail to report their abuse to authorities or others in a position to help -These decisions are for them extremely complicated
1. **Myth of stranger/danger-** two-third of or more of known offenses actually occur in the person's own home or area they know. So the old myth of stranger danger is something that we probably need to forget. Because statistically there is probably a higher likelihood that we could be abused by someone we actually know.
 2. The vast majority of sexual abuse really does happen within the context of a relationship
 3. It isn't just a sexual violation but it is also a relationship violation, physical violation

Persons who are victimized

- ▶ No victim „profile”- there is no profile of the average victim
- ▶ Although some level of dependence on is common
- ▶ Most people do not report for variety reasons

Sexual violence can have psychological, emotional, social and psychical effects on a survivor and it is hard to understand how complicated the effects of abuse actually can be

- ▶ Looking sexy is not the same thing as wanting sex
- ▶ Very often we can see comments about victims tempting, seducing and leading offenders on.
- ▶ But it is only offenders fault and we can't put the blame on victim in any circumstances. Doesn't matter how the victim looks or what she/he wears. We can wear whatever we want- of as long as it is appropriate. No clothing, no outfit can be an excuse for rape.

Media - real problem

- ▶ Reactions to being abused can vary widely
- ▶ Sexual abuse poses an unacceptable risk of harm (the nature of harm is unpredictable).
- ▶ But sexual abuse poses an unacceptable risk of harm and sometimes the harmful aspects of sexual abuse can actually take place beyond the victims awareness.
- ▶ Sometime the elements of the harm of sexual abuse can actually take place beyond the awareness of the person who's been harmed
- ▶ **Legal proceedings can themselves cause harm:** So this is important to protect people who have been harmed from potentially harmful effects of the legal system and proceedings.

Media - real problem

- ▶ Sex offenders commonly portrayed as persistent in their behavior despite punishment and rehabilitation
- ▶ The media can „affect public perception of sex crimes by over-reporting single incident behaviors



Treatment

People who complete treatment programs do re-offend at lower rates

- ▶ 26.3 % reduction in the most recent study
- ▶ Are they cured? or is there a cure for sex offending?
- ▶ They can learn to change their behavior.
- ▶ Rehabilitation/ treatment instead of cure - There is no cure for those things but by introducing rehabilitation and treatment it possible to change and control sexual urges

What court/parole officers can do to support treatment?

- ▶ It is important to point to the offender that *their behavior is going to determine how probation/parole goes.*

Treatment of sexual offenders

- ▶ The real goal of therapy is safety of the community. Obviously community safety is the highest priority

Cognitive-Behavioral:

- ▶ Treatment of sexual offenders should be cognitive - behavioral
- ▶ At its core this means **changing thought patterns and behaviors** but it should also include the development of **pro- social non offending attitudes and beliefs**.
- ▶ It's about Building skills for managing risks
- ▶ Than, later pharmacological interventions

Medical method- medication is used to reduce the amount of testosterone in the sexual offender. The goal of medication treatment is to reduce or suppress the deviant sexual urges or fantasies. The medication only works while the drug is being taken.

Castration- it is also one of medical ways. By surgically removing the testicles of a sexual offender this will take away the sexual urge.

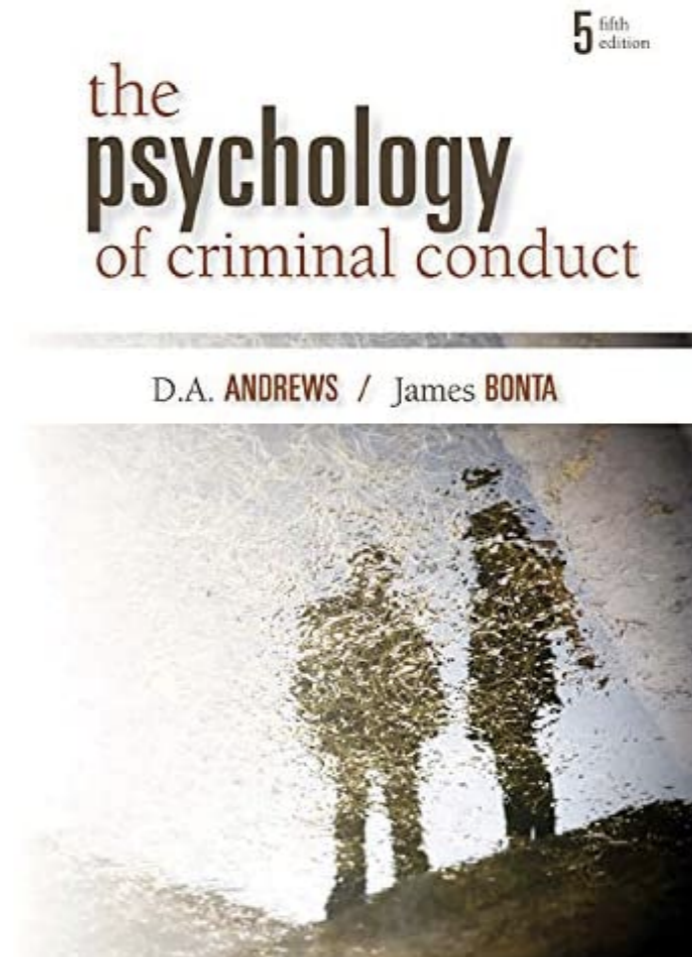
Andrews & Bonta

Three principles:

- ▶ Risk
- ▶ Need
- ▶ Responsivity

Authors say about four big risks factors:

- ▶ Antisocial values and attitudes
- ▶ Antisocial behavior
- ▶ Antisocial personality structure
- ▶ Antisocial peer affiliation



The risk principle

The Risk principle: basically give the highest intensity to offenders who pose the highest risk

- ▶ Effective programs match the level of treatment intensity to the level of risk posed by the offender
- ▶ High risk= high intensity

- ▶ Environmental & situational elements + personal elements = risk

The need principle

The Need principle:

- ▶ The most effective programs target identified criminogenic needs
- ▶ Sometimes there are a lot of things that they need to work on - like anger, substance abuse and so on.
- ▶ These are treatment goals identified in the research as having something to do with actual reoffence process.
- ▶ Sexual offenders require treatment programming individualized and specific to their needs.

Individualized treatment approach and programs are the most important:

- ▶ Other programs may result in some additional gain, but the risk for sexual recidivism likely will not be reduced

The Responsivity principle

Maximize the offender's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention by providing cognitive behavioural treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the offender.

- ▶ Environmental & situational elements + personal elements = risk

Indicators of quality of treatment

1. Attendance
2. Engagement in program
3. Completion
4. Quality relationship with service provider
5. Respect, positive attitude
6. Showing change on the intermediate targets

Supervision

1. Supervision and treatment are often tightly linked.
2. More risk= more supervision.
3. Officers should also remember that all people can change.

Treatment obstacles

Treatment Obstacles

Sex offenders are often found to face difficulties forming meaningful relationships with other individuals:

- ▶ The public wants to see these people locked up and punished
- ▶ Society causes obstacles because they are not willing to provide money for these types of programs
- ▶ Most of the money provide money for these types of programs goes for community based programs
- ▶ This may lead to untreated sexual offenders being released back into society without any treatments.
- ▶ Many sex offenders describe themselves as “loners,” reporting feelings of loneliness and social isolation as a common experience therapeutic and rehabilitation activities are focused also on social readaptation.
- ▶ The literature has revealed that social isolation can affect the rehabilitation of sex offenders after serving their sentence.
- ▶ Sex offenders may experience stigmatization by fellow prisoners and correctional staff that can result in being treated negatively. They report more social isolation during imprisonment compared with nonsex offenders.
- ▶ Criminological theories outline the importance of having meaningful relationships, because strong social bonds have been found to reduce offending

Summary

- ▶ If we can find an effective form of treatment which will reduce the recidivism rate of sexual offenses it will be a win situation for the public, for future victims, for the correctional facilities and the sexual offenders themselves.

- ▶ Treatment impact is not the same:
 1. Those offenders who respond to treatment do better than those who do not respond well
- ▶ Effective programs do not just influence sexually motivated problem behavior; they also have a broader impact on criminality
- ▶ Sex offender treatment also has an effect on general recidivism

Special issues

- ▶ Female re-offence rates of 1- 5 %
- ▶ and this is for sure an underestimate
- ▶ the study of sex offenders is still a developing, growing,
- ▶ According to criminal statistic 75% of sexual predators are males and 25% are females

