

POSTER

The Self-Regulation Model: Relationship between the Four Pathways and Static Risk

Elizabeth Stotler-Turner, B.A.
Michelle Guyton, Ph.D.,
Katherine Gotch, M.A.
Megan Carter, Psy.D.

Relapse prevention has been considered an important component in sex offender treatment, yet recently has received criticism for its narrow approach to treating this population. Relapse prevention places high importance on understanding the negative affect that accompanies violating a decision to remain abstinent from offending, and thus, a fundamental aspect of it is to assume that negative affect or interpersonal conflict is what induces offending behaviors (Laws, 1999; Carich & Stone, 2001). However, recent research has indicated that there is more than one affective pathway to offending (Ward, Hudson, & Keenan, 1998; Ward, 2000). The self-regulation model has identified four distinct pathways to offending (avoidant-passive, avoidant-active, approach-automatic, approach-explicit), each of which takes into account affect, goal, and the offenders ability to regulate these factors.

Actuarial risk measures, such as the STATIC-99, have been largely accepted for use in the field of sexual offender treatment, assessment, and research (Seto, 2005). The Static-99 is an actuarial risk assessment that assesses only risk factors that have been shown to be empirically correlated with sexual recidivism (Harris, Phenix, Hanson, & Thornton, 2003). Understanding the interaction between static risk for recidivism and the pathways to offending will assist in greater individualized treatment planning and supervision for those who have sexually abused.

This study will assess the prevalence of each of the self-regulation model offense pathways based on static risk as assessed with the STATIC-99 within a sample of adult male sex offenders on community supervision (n = 90). Recommendations regarding treatment and community supervision will be addressed.