

## TRAUMA AND VICTIMIZATION IN ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDERS

### **Just How Many Have Been Abused? A Meta Analysis of Childhood Victimization of Adolescent Sexual Abusers**

David Burton, PhD  
Rosa Town  
Kerry Duty, MSW

The victim to victimizer theory has been discussed and researched many times in articles and books on juvenile sexual abusers (Burton, Miller, & Shill, 200, Veneziano; Veneziano, & LeGrand, 2000), Yet, the rates of childhood sexual victimization of adolescent abusers are quite varied across studies, ranging from less than 10% (Fagan & Wexler, 1988) to over 90% (Veneziano, Veneziano, & LeGrand, 2000). Notably, these rates vary by study method. For example, studies of youth in residential facilities (e.g., Hunter, Figueredo, Malamuth, & Becker, 2003) tend to have higher rates—75%—than those of youth in community settings—39%— (e.g., Murphy, DiLillo, Haynes, & Steere, 2001), while studies in which youth were surveyed mid treatment report higher rates of victimization than those in which youth were surveyed at either intake or egress (Burton & Schatz, 2003), and average rates of victimization collected before and after treatment (from different samples and studies) also vary, more than doubling across treatment. However, while these studies and their results differ, it is clear and important for theory development and treatment design to recognize that not all sexually abusive youth have been sexually abused (Hunter, Figueredo, Malamuth, & Becker, 2003; Knight & Sims-Knight, 2004).

The current project is a meta analysis of studies of adolescent sexual abusers and has the goal of clarifying these rates and based on research by Burton & Duty (2006) determining treatment implications for those have been sexually abused.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

## **Trauma and Subsequent Non Sexual Criminality amongst Juvenile Sexual Offenders and Non Sexual Offending Incarcerated Youth**

Hillary Despres, MSW  
David Burton, PhD

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between trauma (family violence, community violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and emotional abuse) and subsequent criminal activity (assault, , theft, drug dealing, property damage, alcohol and drug use) among juvenile sex offenders and non-sex offending delinquents. A total of 332 adjudicated juvenile sex offenders and 160 adjudicated Juvenile non-sex offenders in six residential facilities in a Midwestern state participated in a confidential cross-sectional study. Participants were asked to complete the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) (Bernstein & Fink, 1998) and the Self Reported Delinquency (SRD; Elliot, Huizinga, & Ageton, 1985) measures. Relative to juvenile non-sex offenders, juvenile sex offenders reported significantly higher rates of general delinquency, and, more specifically, higher rates of property damage, felony theft, and felony assault. Relative to juvenile non-sex offenders, juvenile sex offenders also reported greater exposure to each type of trauma that was measured. Two types of trauma (physical neglect and emotional neglect) accounted for a significant portion of the variance in a regression model examining the relationship between trauma and non-sexual criminal behavior. Youth with greater physical neglect reported engaging in more criminal behavior while youth with greater emotional neglect reported engaging in less criminal behavior. Research and practice implications will be discussed.