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## Introduction

Research on sexual crimes has focused predominantly on male perpetrators. However, with media attention on female teachers accused of sexually assaulting younger students in recent years, an increased awareness of female sexual offenders has surfaced (Center for Sex Offender Management [CSOM], 2007). Due to the historical focus on male sexual offenders, the field of female sexual offender research is approximately 20 years behind that of male sexual offender research (Cortoni, 2010). One area of concern is the number of new criminal offenses that are committed by re-offenders; specifically, the rate of recidivism for sexual and nonsexual offenses. Research has shown that female sexual offenders have much lower rates of recidivism than do their male counterparts. Researchers have reported an observed general recidivism rate of 19% to 24% for female sexual offenders after 6.5 years from original conviction (Cortoni & Hanson, 2005; Cortoni, Hanson, & Coache, 2010), compared with a general recidivism rate of approximately 36% for adult male sexual offenders after 5 years (Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005).

Prior researchers have compared criminogenic factors of female sexual offenders to other groups of female violent or general offenders or non-offending female groups at the time of the index offense (Vandiver & Walker, 2002; Vandiver, 2006, Johansson-Love & Fremouw, 2009). Criminogenic factors are behaviors and attributes that can be targeted for change through intervention and risk management (Blanchette & Brown, 2006). These factors are often associated with changes in the likelihood of recidivism, but further research is needed with female offenders to produce a specific link between criminogenic factors and predicting recidivism.

This poster includes preliminary findings from a larger ongoing research project exploring multiple facets of recidivism in female sexual offenders. In the current study, we compared a group of female sexual offender recidivists and female sexual offender non-recidivists on criminogenic and various characteristics. Due to this study being exploratory in nature, no formal hypotheses were offered at this time. Criminogenic and various characteristics that were compared include demographic information, type of index sexual offense, new crimes following the index sexual offense, offense characteristics (i.e., solo or co-offending), victim characteristics, and historical report by offender of childhood abuse.

## Sample and Procedure

The study included 61 female offenders who were previously or are currently on community supervision for a sexual or sexually motivated crime. This study excluded female offenders who were charged solely with prostitution and/or noncontact sexual offenses. Data for this study were obtained from community corrections case files from agencies throughout the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area.

In contrast to other female sexual offender recidivism studies, the definition of recidivism was defined as supervision violations, arrests or charges, and convictions. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze criminogenic and various characteristics including demographic information, type of index sexual offense, new crimes following the index sexual offense, offense characteristics (i.e., solo or co-offending), victim characteristics, and historical report by offender of childhood abuse.

## Results

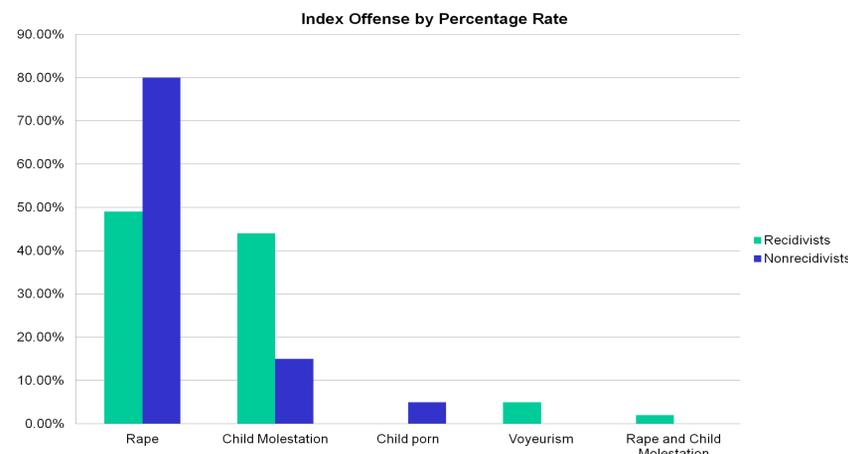
### Similarities

Characteristics	Recidivists	Nonrecidivists
Age at time of Index Offense	<i>M</i> = 29.7	<i>M</i> = 29.9
Victims of Child Sexual Abuse	55%	55%
Co-offender vs. Solo	Solo: 73% Co-Offender: 24% Both: 2%	Solo: 75% Co-Offender: 25% Both: 0%

### Differences

Characteristics	Recidivists	Nonrecidivists
Educational Attainment	High school level or lower: 80.5% Higher education 12.2% Unknown 7.3%	High school level or lower: 55% Higher education 40% Unknown 5%
Ethnicity	Caucasian: 82.9% African American: 2.4% Asian: 2.4% Hispanic: 7.3% Native American: 5%	Caucasian: 65% African American: 5% Asian: 5% Hispanic: 15% Native American: 5%
Prior Sentencing Dates	Zero: 58.5% One: 22% Two: 9.8% Three: 4.9% Four: 2.4% Eleven: 2.4%	Zero: 85% One: 5% Two: 5% Three: 5%
Child Victims (13 or lower)	43.9%	15%
Adolescent Victims	51.2%	75%
Male Victim*	53.7%	70%

\*Three females had both a male and a female victim, and they each recidivated with a new crime.



### Findings reveal that:

- ❖ When exploring criminogenic and demographic characteristics between female sexual offender recidivists and nonrecidivists, recidivists tend to be Caucasian, have a lower level of education, and higher number of prior sentencing dates.
- ❖ Recidivists additionally had a higher percentage of child victims and were more likely to be indiscriminate on the sex of their victim at the time of the index offense when compared to nonrecidivists.
- ❖ Recidivists and nonrecidivists were similar in age at the time of their index offense. They were also equally likely to be a victim of child sexual abuse.
- ❖ No significant differences were found between solo versus co-offender as to discriminate characteristics describing recidivists and nonrecidivists

## Summary

### Limitations

- ❖ The overall sample of female sexual offenders was gathered from the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. Therefore this sample may not be representative of a larger demographic sample of female sexual offenders.
- ❖ The data provided was based off of descriptive statistics, therefore no statistical significance can be reported.
- ❖ Due to recidivism being coded dichotomously in this study, information of the magnitude for all categories of recidivism may have been compromised.

### Implications for Research and Practice

- ❖ Analysis as to whether or not criminogenic and demographic differences between female sexual offender recidivists and nonrecidivists are statistically significant should be further explored.
- ❖ Analysis as to whether differences between the two groups of offenders are predictive of recidivism should be further explored.
- ❖ Educational attainment (e.g. obtaining a GED or higher education) may be a consideration for treatment or supervision of female sexual offenders in the community.

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