Future Directions in Sexual Offending

Is Treatment Effective?

Theresa A. Gannon
Mark E. Olver    Jaimee S. Mallion    Mark James
Impact evaluation of the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme

Aidan Mews, Laura Di Bella and Mark Purver
Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Justice Analytical Series
2017
Impact evaluation of the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme

Aidan Mews, Laura Di Bella and Mark Purver
Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Justice Analytical Series
2017
25% increase in sexual offending for TREATED group
Impact evaluation of the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme

Robert A. Forde

Aidan Mews, Laura Di Bella and Mark Purver
Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Justice Analytical Series
2017
“...sex offender programmes have been shown to be dramatically lacking in effectiveness”
“[Core] is very similar to those run throughout the Western world”

p. 273
Treatment Effectiveness (Meta-Analyses)

A New Meta-Analysis

Things to Think About
Treatment Effectiveness (Meta-Analyses)

A New Meta-Analysis

Things to Think About
Historical Timeline

Meta-Analysis  Single Study

Recidivism = Rearrest or Reconviction
Historical Timeline

All = Treatment Effect
BUT:
Comparisons seriously compromised

Hall (1995)
Alexander (1999)
Gallagher et al. (1999)
Hanson et al. (2002)  
43 studies  
12.3% vs. 16.8%  

Hall (1995)  
Alexander (1999)  
Gallagher et al. (1999)  

> 9,000 Offenders  
BUT:  
Included generic psychological treatment  

1990 2000 2010 2020
Hanson et al. (2002)
43 studies
12.3% vs. 16.8%

Lösel & Schmucker (2005)
69 studies
11.1% vs. 17.5%

Hall (1995)
Alexander (1999)
Gallagher et al. (1999)

> 20,000 Offenders
BUT:
Included generic & biological treatments
Hanson et al. (2002)  
43 studies  
12.3% vs. 16.8%

Hall (1995)  
Alexander (1999)  
Gallagher et al. (1999)

Lösel & Schmucker (2005)  
69 studies  
11.1% vs. 17.5%

SOTEP Randomised Control Trial (2005)  
704 Offenders  
No evidence of treatment effect
> 11,000 Offenders
BUT: Included generic treatment
No effect in prisons?

Hanson et al. (2002)
43 studies
12.3% vs. 16.8%

Hall (1995)
Alexander (1999)
Gallagher et al. (1999)

Lösel & Schmucker (2005)
69 studies
11.1% vs. 17.5%

Beech et al. (2015)
Schmucker & Lösel (2015)
27 studies
10.1% vs. 13.7%

SOTEP Randomised Control Trial (2005)
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Ministry of Justice Evaluation (2017)
Impact evaluation of the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme

Aidan Mews, Laura Di Bella and Mark Purver
Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Justice Analytical Series
2017

25% increase in sexual offending for TREATED group
Treatment Design?  
Poor Implementation?

SOTEP Randomised Control Trial (2005)

Ministry of Justice Evaluation (2017)
What's Missing?

Hall (1995)  
Alexander (1999)  
Gallagher et al. (1999)

Hanson et al. (2002)  
43 studies  
12.3% vs. 16.8%

Lösel & Schmucker (2005)  
69 studies  
12% vs. 24%

Beech et al. (2015)  
Schmucker & Lösel (2015)  
27 studies  
10.1% vs. 13.7%
What’s Missing?
Psychological Offence Focussed Treatment
Staffing
Programme Variables

Hanson et al. (2002)
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10.1% vs. 13.7%
What’s Missing?
Psychological Offence Focussed Treatment
Staffing
Programme Variables

Biological treatments are different!
General psych programs - not offence specific
What’s Missing?

Psychological Offence Focussed Treatment

Staffing

Programme Variables
What’s Missing?
Psychological Offence Focussed Treatment
Staffing
Programme Variables

Specialist Hypothesis
Psychological Expertise Required
Psychologists Should Treat
What’s Missing?
Psychological Offence Focussed Treatment
Staffing
Programme Variables

Specialist Hypothesis
Psychological Expertise Required
Psychologists Should Treat

Or

Generalist Hypothesis
Correctional Psychology Palpable
All Can Treat
What's Missing?

Psychological Offence Focussed Treatment

Staffing

Programme Variables
What's Missing?
Psychological Offence Focussed Treatment
Staffing
Programme Variables

Modality (Schmucker & Lösel, 2015)
Supervision
Arousal Conditioning
Polygraph Use
Treatment Effectiveness (Meta-Analyses)

A New Meta-Analysis

Things to Think About
A New Meta-Analysis

First update since 2010

Includes

Ministry of Justice Evaluation (2017)
A New Meta-Analysis

1. Does Psychological Sexual Offence-Specific Treatment Reduce Sexual Recidivism?

2. Is the Psychology Profession Needed?

3. What Programme Variables are Important?
Does Specialized Psychological Treatment for Offending Reduce Recidivism? A Meta-Analysis
Examining Staff and Program Variables as Predictors of Treatment Effectiveness

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and

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Pre-registered with OSF

- 70 Studies
- 47 Sexual Offending
- 23 Violence

Does Specialized Psychological Treatment for Offending Reduce Recidivism? A Meta-Analysis
Examining Staff and Program Variables as Predictors of Treatment Effectiveness

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Pre-registered with OSF

- 47 Sexual Offending

N = 41,476

Does Specialized Psychological Treatment for Offending Reduce Recidivism? A Meta-Analysis

Examining Staff and Program Variables as Predictors of Treatment Effectiveness

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Pre-registered with OSF

- 47 Sexual Offending

N = 41,476

Excluded ID, Adolescents, Mental Disorder Drop Out Controls

CODING MANUAL
Gannon, Olver, Mallion, and James

Pre-registered with OSF

- 47 Sexual Offending

N = 41,476

Excluded ID, Adolescents, Mental Disorder, Drop Out Controls

Detailed Coding Manual

CODING MANUAL
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Pre-registered with OSF

- 47 Sexual Offending

N = 41,476

Excluded ID, Adolescents, Mental Disorder Drop Out Controls

Detailed Coding Manual

Contacts Made: 2 E-mails Telephone Call 79%

Pre-registered with OSF

- 47 Sexual Offending

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Detailed Coding Manual

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Unpublished and Published Research

A New Meta-Analysis

1. Does Psychological Sexual Offence-Specific Treatment Reduce Sexual Recidivism?

2. Is the Psychology Profession Needed?

3. What Programme Variables are Important?
1 Does Psychological Sexual Offence-Specific Treatment Reduce Sexual Recidivism?

Recidivism = Arrests or Reconvictions

 Mostly CBT

No Impact of Design Quality

Smaller OR = Better Treatment Effect
Does Psychological Sexual Offence-Specific Treatment Reduce Sexual Recidivism?

Schmucker & Lösel 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Treated</th>
<th>Untreated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prison</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
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OR 0.66 (CI 0.53, 0.76)

Prison and Community Settings!
A New Meta-Analysis

1. Does Psychological Sexual Offence-Specific Treatment Reduce Sexual Recidivism?

2. Is the Psychology Profession Needed?

3. What Programme Variables are Important?
Is the Psychology Profession Needed?

How often did an independent registered psychologist facilitate treatment?

- Able to practice independently
- Inconsistently
- Unclear/None

OR: 0.64 (CI 0.52, 0.78)
OR: 0.74 (CI 0.57, 0.97)
OR: 0.43 (CI 0.23, 0.81)
Competent trained professionals more expert in responding to complex issues?
Transformation from Novice to Expert

Rigid rule adherence
Advanced rule adherence
Competency
Proficiency

Sharpless & Barber (2009)
A New Meta-Analysis

1. Does Psychological Sexual Offence-Specific Treatment Reduce Sexual Recidivism?

2. Is the Psychology Profession Needed?

3. What Programme Variables are Important?
3 What Programme Variables are Important?

Service Quality: RNR/ Evidence Based = Better

Setting: Community (vs. Institution) = Better
New Findings:
What Programme Variables are Important?

New Findings:

Modality:
Supervision:
Arousal Conditioning:
Polygraph Use:
What Programme Variables are Important?

New Findings:

**Modality:** Group (vs. Combined Group & Individual) = Better

**Supervision:** Staff Supervision (vs. None/Unknown) = Better

**Arousal Conditioning:** Yes (vs. None) = Better

**Polygraph Use:** No (vs. Yes) = Better
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Supporting Evidence
What Programme Variables are Important?

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Psychological Skills
Treatment Effectiveness

A New Meta-Analysis

Things to Think About
Things to Think About

- Meta Analysis
- Randomised Control Trials
- Quasi-Experimental
- Totally Uncontrolled Designs
Things to Think About

- Meta Analysis
- Totally Uncontrolled Designs
Things to Think About

Meta Analysis

Quasi-Experimental

Totally Uncontrolled Designs
Things to Think About

Meta Analysis

Randomised Control Trials

Quasi-Experimental

Totally Uncontrolled Designs
Things to Think About

- Meta Analysis
- Randomised Control Trials
- Quasi-Experimental
- Totally Uncontrolled Designs
Things to Think About

- Psychological Skills & Content
“[Core] is very similar to those run throughout the Western world”
Consistent Psychological Input

Conditioning Procedures
Effects of a Relapse Prevention Program on Sexual Recidivism: Final Results From California’s Sex Offender Treatment and Evaluation Project (SOTEP)

Janice K. Marques,1 Mark Wiedensand,1,3 David M. Day,1 Craig Nelson,2 and Alice van Ommeren1

Final results from a longitudinal investigation of the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral treatment with sexual offenders are presented. The study was a randomized clinical trial that compared the recidivism rates of offenders treated in an inpatient relapse prevention (RP) program with the rates of offenders in two (untrained) prison control groups. No significant differences were found among the three groups in their rates of sexual or violent reoffending over an 8-year follow-up period. This null result was found for both rapists and child molesters, and was confirmed in analyses using time to recidivism as the outcome and those controlling for static risk differences across the groups. Closer examination of the RP group’s performance revealed that individuals who met the program’s treatment goals had lower recidivism rates than those who did not. Although our results do not generally support the efficacy of the RP model, they do suggest a number of ways in which this kind of treatment program can be improved. This study also emphasizes the importance of including appropriate control groups in treatment outcome research. Additional controlled investigations are needed to address the many questions that remain about when and how treatment works for sexual offenders.

KEY WORDS: randomized clinical trial; sexual offender treatment; relapse prevention; treatment outcome; recidivism.

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2Atascadero State Hospital, Atascadero, California.
3To whom correspondence should be addressed at California Department of Mental Health, 1600 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814; e-mail: mwiedens@dmh.ca.gov.
Consistent Psychological Input

Conditioning Procedures
Psychology skills are important

- Therapeutic relationship
- Expertise and flexibility
- Active re-learning experiences
  - Arousal re-conditioning
  - Fantasy re-scripting?
Conclusions
Treatment Appears Effective!

Prisons and Community
Most Effective When…

Psychological Expertise “Hands on” & Consistent
Inappropriate Sexual Interest Tackled
Group Based
Supervision Provided
Polygraph Absent
Providing Good Psychological Input is EVERYONE’s business

Gannon & Ward (2014)
Special thanks to:

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<th>ATSA ListServe Members</th>
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Questions?