

# *What Do We Know About Sexual Offending and Sex Offender Management and Treatment? Internet-Facilitated Sexual Offending*

April 20, 2015  
2:00-3:30 pm ET

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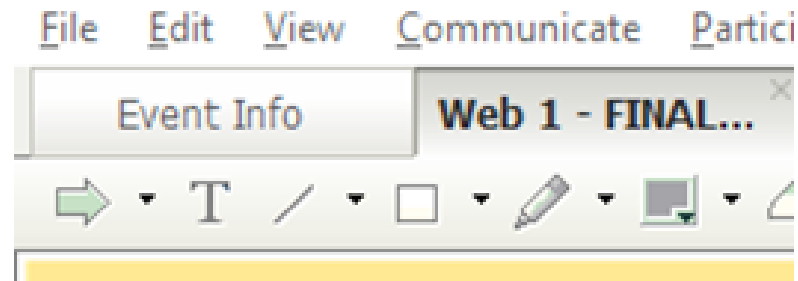
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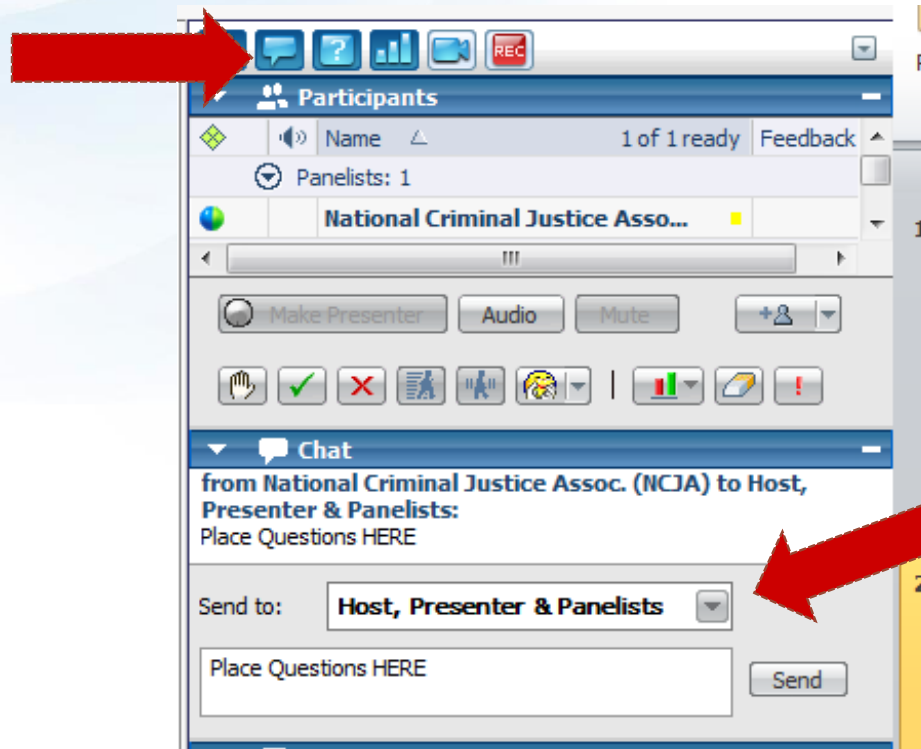
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## Presenters:

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# ***Combatting Sexual Offending and Victimization***



- Sexual offenders and the crimes they commit have received considerable attention from policymakers, practitioners and the public in recent years.
- Widespread recognition that crime control strategies, including those targeting sexual offenders, are more likely to be effective when based on scientific evidence.

## ***U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Role in Combatting Sexual Offending and Victimization***

- Since 1996, OJP has sponsored more than 100 research projects, publications, and training curricula related to sexual assault and sex offender management
- Grant programs have provided funds to approximately 200 state, local, and tribal jurisdictions to enhance sex offender management
- Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Office:
  - Established in 2006
  - Provides assistance to criminal justice professionals around the entire spectrum of sex offender management activities

# ***SMART Office Sex Offender Management Assessment and Planning Initiative***

- Goal is to identify research-supported programs for replication across the U.S.
  - Inform OJP funding decisions concerning sex offender programming and research
- Assess the state of research and practice of sex offender management
  - Work conducted by subject-matter experts through NCJA
- Review of the literature on sexual offending and sex offender management
- National inventory of sex offender management professionals
- 2012 Discussion Forum involving national experts



**NCJP**  
NCJA's Center for  
Justice Planning

# ***SMART Office Sex Offender Management Assessment and Planning Initiative***

Literature reviews on 8 adult and 5 juvenile topics

\*Important to distinguish between adults and juveniles\*

## **Adult Topics**

Incidence and prevalence  
Etiology  
Typologies  
Risk assessment  
Recidivism  
Internet offending  
Treatment effectiveness  
Management strategies

## **Juvenile Topics**

Etiology/typologies  
Risk assessment  
Recidivism  
Treatment effectiveness  
Registration and notification



# ***SMART Office Sex Offender Management Assessment and Planning Initiative***

## Key products:

- Summaries of the research available online at:  
<http://www.smart.gov/SOMAPI/index.html>
- Findings, policy implications, future research needs
- Research briefs
- Targeted conference presentations
- Webinars

# *Literature Review Methods*

- Source materials identified using abstract databases, internet searches, outreach to relevant organizations and subject matter experts
- Primarily studies conducted within the past 15 years
- Emphasis on individual studies that employed scientifically rigorous methods, as well as on synthesis studies – such as systematic reviews and meta-analyses

# *Introduction*

- US arrests tripled from 2000 to 2010<sup>1</sup>
- Fastest rising offender type in federal custody<sup>2</sup>
- Internet: Accessible, Affordable, “Anonymous”
- Range of crimes, including child pornography, sexual solicitation (luring), and conspiracy<sup>3</sup>
- Large majority of cases involve possession/distribution of child pornography
- Often cross-jurisdictional; international in scope

## ***Internet Offender Characteristics<sup>4</sup>***

- Most are male
- Disproportionately Caucasian
- Higher education than typical contact offenders
- Less criminal history than typical contact offenders
  - One in eight have official record for contact sexual offending<sup>5</sup>
  - 55% admitted to history of contact sexual offending

## ***Offender Motivations***

- Majority of child pornography offenders are pedophiles (sexually attracted to prepubescent children)<sup>6</sup>
- Solicitation offenders, in contrast, are predominantly interested in adolescent girls<sup>7</sup>
- Solicitation offenders might be distinguished as fantasy-driven (online interactions only) or contact-driven (seek to meet in real life)<sup>8</sup>

## ***Risk to Reoffend***

- Recidivism results available from 9 studies (total sample of 2,630 internet offenders)<sup>5</sup>
- Average follow-up of 3 years
- Sexual recidivism rate of 4.6%
  - 2% committed new contact sexual offense
  - 3.4% committed new child pornography offense

# ***Risk Assessment***

- Internet offender risk to sexually reoffend related to<sup>9-12</sup>:
  - Offender age at time of first arrest
  - Lower education level
  - Being single
  - Prior criminal history
  - Failure on prior conditional release
  - Admission of sexual interest in children
  - Ratio of boy to girl child pornography content

# *Intervention*

- Most programs modify existing sex offender treatments<sup>3</sup>
  - Example, Internet Sex Offender Treatment Programme in UK (i-SOTP)<sup>13</sup>
    - Modification of standard sex offender treatment
    - For internet-only offenders
    - Fewer individual or group sessions
    - More internet-related content



# ***Internet Sex Offender Treatment Programme (i-SOTP)***

- 70 treatment hours (35 sessions) in six modules:
  - Module 1: Motivation and Values
  - Module 2: What needs did offending meet
  - Module 3: Victim Awareness
  - Module 4: Emotional and Relationship Skills
  - Module 5: Community, Collecting & Compulsivity
  - Module 6: Relapse Prevention and New Life Plan
  
- Treatment targets mostly map onto dynamic risk factors: sexual & general self-regulation problems; offense-supportive attitudes & beliefs; interpersonal deficits

## ***Other Treatment Options***

- Sexual addiction/compulsivity based programs<sup>14</sup>
- Self-help via [croga.org](http://croga.org)
- Individual service providers via ATSA or [stopitnow.org](http://stopitnow.org)

\* *None of these interventions have gone through rigorous, peer-reviewed evaluation*

## ***Practical Implications***

- Increasing proportion of sex offender case loads: need more knowledge
- Different in some important ways from typical contact sex offenders
- Lower risk to reoffend therefore less intensive management required
- Some different treatment and supervision needs (e.g., being online)

## *Limitations & Future Directions*

- Most research has focused on child pornography offenders
  - Risk to reoffend and risk factors for solicitation offenders?
  - Characteristics of other online offenders, e.g., sexual trafficking, conspiracy, sexual assaults of adults?
  - Types of online offenders?
- Extent of overlap between online & offline offending?
- Internet offender risk assessment measure?

# Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Mitchell, K. J., (2012). *Trends in law enforcement responses to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes: The third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV3)* (Research Bulletin). Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center.
- <sup>2</sup> Motivans, M., & Kyckelhahn, T. (2007). Federal prosecution of child sex exploitation offenders, 2006. *Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin* (Report No. NCJ 219412). Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- <sup>3</sup> Seto, M. C. (2013). *Internet sex offenders*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- <sup>4</sup> Babchishin, K. M., Hanson, R. K., & VanZuylen, H. (2014). Online child pornography offenders are different: A meta-analysis of the characteristics of online and offline sex offenders against children [online first]. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
- <sup>5</sup> Seto, M. C., Hanson, R. K., & Babchishin, K. M. (2011). Contact sexual offending by men with online sexual offenses. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 23, 124-145.
- <sup>6</sup> Seto, M. C., Cantor, J. M., & Blanchard, R. (2006). Child pornography offenses are a valid diagnostic indicator of pedophilia. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 115, 610-615.
- <sup>7</sup> Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K. J., & Ybarra, M. L. (2008). Online “predators” and their victims: Myths, realities, and implications for prevention and treatment. *American Psychologist*, 63, 111-128.
- <sup>8</sup> Briggs, P., Simon, W. T., & Simonsen, S. (2011). An exploratory study of Internet-initiated sexual offenses and the chat room sex offender: Has the Internet enabled a new typology of sex offender? *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 23, 72-91.

# Notes

- <sup>9</sup>Eke, A. W., & Seto, M. C. (2012). Risk assessment of online offenders for law enforcement. In K. Ribisl & E. Quayle (Eds.), *Internet child pornography: Understanding and preventing on-line child abuse* (pp. 148-168). Devon, UK: Willan.
- <sup>10</sup>Seto, M. C., & Eke, A. W. (2005). The future offending of child pornography offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 17, 201-210.
- <sup>11</sup>Faust, E., Renaud, C., & Bickart, W. (2009, October). Predictors of re-offense among a sample of federally convicted child pornography offenders. Paper presented at the 28th annual conference of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Dallas, TX.
- <sup>12</sup>Wakeling, H. C., Howard, P., & Barnett, G. (2011). Comparing the validity of the RM2000 scales and OGRS3 for predicting recidivism by Internet sexual offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 23, 146-168.
- <sup>13</sup>Middleton, D., Mandeville-Norden, R., & Hayes, E. (2009). Does treatment work with Internet sex offenders? Emerging findings from the Internet Sex Offender Treatment Programme (i-SOTP). *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 15, 5-19. doi: 10.1080/13552600802673444
- <sup>14</sup>Carnes, P., Delmonico, D., Griffin, E., & Moriarty, J. (2007). *In the shadows of the Net* (2nd ed.). Center City, MN: Hazelden Foundation.

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- Briggs, P., Simon, W. T., & Simonsen, S. (2011). An exploratory study of internet-initiated sexual offenses and the chat room sex offender: Has the Internet enabled a new typology of sex offender? *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 23*, 72-91.
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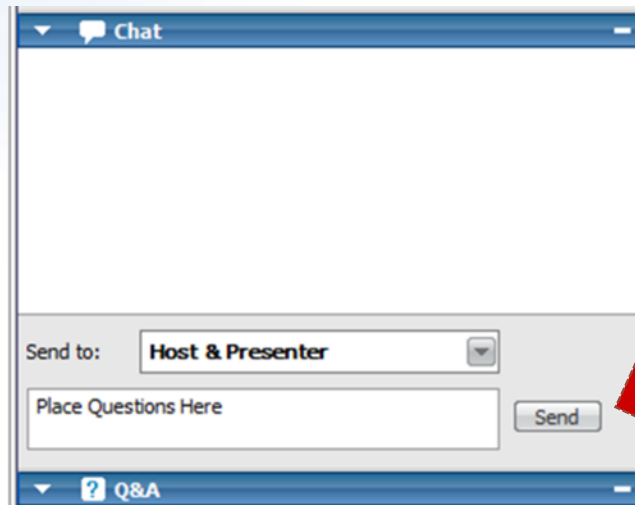
- Seto, M. C., & Eke, A. W. (2005). The future offending of child pornography offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 17*, 201-210.
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# Q & A

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# Q & A



## Moderator:

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## Presenter:

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## ***Thank You for Joining Us!***

Please join us for the next webinar in this series on May 11, 2015  
The topic will be Juvenile Risk Assessment & Juvenile Recidivism

Today's slides and a recording of this webinar will be available at:  
<http://ncja.org/webinars-events/sex-offender-mgt-webinars>

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