Risk and Protective Factors for Recidivism
Among Juveniles who have Offended Sexually
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Introduction
• The past two decades have witnessed escalating concern about recidivism among juveniles who have committed sexual offenses (JSOs) and the enactment of punitive laws intended to manage this risk (Zimring, 2004)
• Because these laws allow for outcomes such as lifetime sex offender registration (Tibbits & Repucci, 2002), accurate assessment of JSOs’ risk of reoffending is critical
• Worling and Langstrom (2006) reviewed “supported”, “promising”, “possible”, and “unlikely” risk factors for sexual offending, but few studies have examined whether these factors predict sexual recidivism among juveniles
• Further, research has neglected to investigate protective factors that decrease risk
• To address these research needs, the present study investigated the relationship of risk and protective factors to sexual aggression during treatment, repeat offending, and sexual recidivism among JSOs

Method (Cont’d)
• Statewide juvenile justice records were used to assess recidivism about recidivism among juveniles who have committed sexual
• File information was used to assess sexual aggression and repeat offending
• Consistent with Worling and Langstrom’s (2006) review of “supported”, “promising”, “possible”, and “unlikely” risk factors, no “unlikely” factors predicted reoffending either, with the exception of opportunities to reoffend
• Several factors predicted sexual aggression and differentiated repeat from non-repeat offenders, including obsessive sexual interests and indiscriminate choice of victims
• Clinicians who work with youth who sexually offend may wish to focus on these factors, along with opportunities to reoffend
• Although no protective factors examined using the SAVRY predicted sexual offending, these factors protect against general violence and further studies are needed to examine whether different factors protect against sexual offending
• Even more critically, future research should continue to investigate the validity of risk assessment approaches in predicting sexual reoffending among JSOs
• Given current laws allowing for the involuntary commitment and lifetime sex offender registration of JSOs, there is a need to investigate the contributions clinicians can make in predicting adolescents’ risk of reoffending sexually

Q3 Which factors were associated with sexual aggression during treatment?
• Multiple victims correlated $\rho = .19, p < .01$
• Obsessive sexual interests correlated $\rho = .17, p < .05$
• Having a male victim correlated $\rho = .19, p < .01$

Discussion
• Multiple victims correlated $\rho = .19, p < .01$
• Obsessive sexual interests correlated $\rho = .17, p < .05$
• Having a male victim correlated $\rho = .19, p < .01$

Results
Q1 Which risk and protective factors were associated with recidivism?
- Opportunities to reoffend: $\rho = .18, p < .05$
- No protective factors were associated with recidivism

Q2 Which factors were associated with repeat offending?
- Prior sanctions for sexual assaults: $\rho = .26, p < .01$
- Multiple victims: $\rho = .28, p < .01$
- Problematic parent-adolescent relationships: $\rho = .21, p < .01$
- Obsessive sexual interests: $\rho = .30, p < .01$
- Having a male victim: $\rho = .17, p < .05$
- Indiscriminate choice of victim correlated $\rho = .26, p < .01$
- No protective factors were associated with sexual aggression during treatment

Research Questions
• Q1: Which risk and protective factors are associated with sexual recidivism?
• Q2: Which factors are associated with repeat offending (i.e., having previously committed a sexual offence)?
• Q3: Which factors are associated with sexual aggression during residential treatment?

Method (Cont’d)
Participants
• N = 169 male adolescents admitted to a residential treatment program for sexually abusive adolescents

Procedure
• Treatment files were coded for risk factors using:
  • The ERASOR for “supported”, “promising”, and “possible” risk factors
  • File information for “unlikely” risk factors
  • The SAVRY for protective factors