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## What Every Threat Assessment Professional Needs to Know About Sexual Violence

## Overview

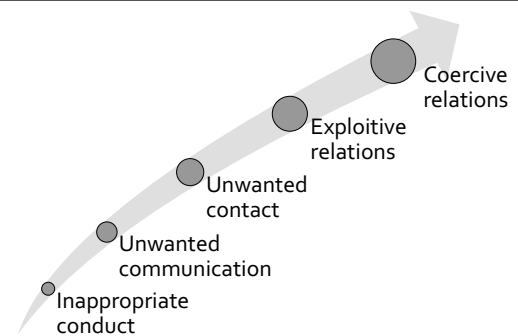
### Sexual Violence

- Actual, attempted, or threatened sexual contact with a person who is nonconsenting or unable to give consent

Behavior

Intent

Impact



### Prevalence

- Context
- Overlap with other forms of violence
- Narrow versus broad definitions

### Prevalence: United States

- 2011 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2011) victimization survey of 12,727 adults (Breiding et al., 2014)
- Lifetime prevalence, overall:
  - Rape = 19% of women, 2% of men
  - Other sexual violence = 44% of women, 23% of men
  - Stalking = 15% of women, 6% of men
- Lifetime prevalence, in context of IPV:
  - Rape = 9% of women, <1% of men
  - Other sexual violence = 16% of women, 10% of men
  - Stalking = 9% of women, 3% of men

## Prevalence: United States

- Campus Sexual Assault Study sexual violence victimization survey of 5,446 women from 2 higher education institutions in 2 states, prevalence during studies:
  - Rape = 12%
  - Any sexual violence = 19%
- Meta-analysis of 34 campus sexual assault studies conducted in United States, 2000-2015 (Fedina et al., 2018)
  - Any sexual violence = 14%

## Prevalence: Europe

- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014) sexual violence victimization survey of 42,000 women from 28 member states
- Lifetime prevalence since age 15
  - Sexual violence = 11%
  - Sexual harassment = 20%

## Prevalence: Europe

- European Commission (2012) sexual violence victimization survey of 21,5156 women from 34 higher education institutions in 5 member states, prevalence during studies:
  - Sexual violence = 30% to 47%
  - Sexual harassment = 47% to 69%
  - Stalking = 42% to 58%

## Legal Relevance

- Criminal law
- Plus...
- Employment or education law
- Occupational health and safety law
- Civil or human rights law

## Sexual Violence in TAM

- Outside of criminal justice:
- Fitness studio member
  - Security system installer
  - Elevator incident
  - Law firm
  - Cafeteria worker
  - Biotech worker
  - Surgical resident
  - Library incident
  - Teacher
  - Professor

## Complications in TAM

- Multiple hazards
- Parallel investigations
- Competing duties

## Risk Factors

### RSVP

- Hart, Kropp, Laws, Klaver, Logan, & Watt (2003)
- For comprehensive, management-oriented assessment of risk for sexual violence
  - Males or females, age 18 and older
- 22 risk factors in 5 domains

### Sexual Violence History

1. Chronicity of sexual violence
2. Diversity of sexual violence
3. Escalation of sexual violence
4. Physical coercion in sexual violence
5. Psychological coercion in sexual violence

### Psychological Adjustment

6. Extreme minimization or denial of sexual violence
7. Attitudes that support or condone sexual violence
8. Problems with self-awareness
9. Problems with stress or coping
10. Problems resulting from child abuse

### Mental Disorder

11. Sexual deviance
12. Psychopathic personality disorder
13. Major mental illness
14. Problems with substance use
15. Violent or suicidal ideation

### Social Adjustment

16. Problems with intimate relationships
17. Problems with non-intimate relationships
18. Problems with employment
19. Non-sexual criminality

## Manageability

- 20. Problems with planning
- 21. Problems with treatment
- 22. Problems with supervision

## Sexual Deviance

- A specific form of mental disorder, also known as paraphilic disorder, characterized by powerful and persistent sexual interest other than in (pre-) copulatory behavior with phenotypically normal, consenting adult human partners
  - Powerful and persistent
    - Preferred stimulus
  - Sexual interest
    - Images, urges, fantasies, arousal, activity
  - Abnormal stimulus
    - Biologically, psychologically, or socially inappropriate

## Examples of Paraphilic Disorder

- Fetishism: aroused by inanimate objects
- Zoophilia: aroused by animals
- Partialism: aroused by part of body
- Pedophilia: sexual attraction to prepubescent children
- Hebephilia: sexual attraction to pubescent children
- Gerontophilia: sexual attraction to elderly
- Exhibitionism: aroused by exposing part of body to nonconsenting person

## Examples (cont.)

- Voyeurism: aroused by observing nonconsenting people
- Frotteurism: aroused by rubbing (usually pelvis) nonconsenting people
- Toucherism: aroused by touching (usually hands) nonconsenting people
- Sadism: aroused by discomfort of others
- Masochism: aroused by own discomfort
- Bistophilia: aroused by committing rape
- Erotophonophilia: aroused by killing people

## Assessing Paraphilic Disorder

- Multiple methods
  - Interviews
  - Records
  - Erotic materials
  - Physiological evaluations
- Critical domains
  - Sexual history/adjustment
  - Intimate relationship history/adjustment

## Research Summary

- Hanson & Morton-Bourgon (2005)
  - Effect size estimates for risk factors related to sexual deviance (32 of 82 studies) had the highest mean effect size ratings among the 7 categories examined
  - Effect size for clinical ratings of sexual deviance (8 of 82 studies) was moderate in magnitude and higher than that of other indicators of sexual deviance

## Caveats

- Not all sexually violent people are sexually deviant, and not all people with sexual deviance are sexually violent
- Not all sexually violent people are motivated by sexual gratification
  - May be motivated by generalized anger, anger toward women, intimacy deficits, etc.
- Use of coercion does not necessarily mean a person is sexually aroused by coercion

## Approaches to TAM

### Actuarial

- SORA
- RM-2001S
- Static 99, 1, 2002R
- STABLE, ACUTE

*Intended only for use with people who have a history of formal criminal justice contact for sexual offenses*

### Structured Professional Judgement

- SVR-20
- RSVP

*Can be used with people who have no history of formal criminal justice contact for sexual offenses*

## SPJ Administration: RSVP

- Case information
- Presence of factors
- Relevance of factors
- Risk scenarios
- Management strategies
- Conclusory opinions

## Advantage of SPJ Approach

- Relevance/formulation
  - Facilitates explicit consideration of role of paraphilic disorder (and other mental disorders) and potential triggering of duty to accommodate
  - Helps to justify the necessity of various elements of management plans
- Scenario planning
  - Facilitates explicit consideration of the risk, broadly defined—nature, severity, imminence, frequency, and likelihood of various hazards
  - Helps to justify the necessity of various elements of management plans

## Conclusion

## Implications for TAM

- Sexual violence is a common and serious problem
- Risk for sexual violence is commonly encountered in TAM
  - Law enforcement, corrections
  - Civil and forensic mental health
  - Schools and workplaces
- Risk for sexual violence often overlaps with other problems
  - Child abuse
  - Intimate partner violence
  - Stalking
  - Bullying, harassment, and violence at school or work

### Implications for TAM (cont.)

- TAM professionals need to know about sexual violence
  - At least enough to know what they don't know
  - Ideally enough to deal with the issue themselves
- Assessing and managing risk for sexual violence requires some specific knowledge and skills
  - Sexual history and sexual deviation (paraphilic disorder)
  - Diverse motivations for sexual violence
  - Diverse scenarios of sexual violence
  - Local treatment options for relevant risk factors

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