Child Pornography Offending is a Diagnostic Indicator of Pedophilia

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2. Methods

PARTICIPANTS

We obtained data for 685 patients assessed at the Kurt Freud Laboratory of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). This laboratory provides comprehensive evaluation services to males referred as a result of illegal or clinically significant sexual behaviors. The primary source of referrals to this facility were parole and probation officers (36%), followed by lawyers (24%), self-referral through a physician (21%), and correctional institutions (18%).

Child Pornography Offenders: 100 men had charges for child pornography offenses;

Offenders Against Children: 178 men had no history of charges for child pornography but did have a history of one or more sexual offenses against victims who were ages 14 or younger;

Offenders Against Adults: 216 men had no history of charges for child pornography or sexual offenses against child victims but did have a history of sexual offenses against victims who were ages 17 or older;

General Sexology Patients: 191 men had no history of charges for child pornography or sexual offenses.

Child pornography offenders were distinguished into those with no known sexual offenses against children (n = 57) and those who had sexual offenses against one or more children (n = 43). Offenders against children and offenders against adults were distinguished into those who had 1, 2, or 3+ victims.

MEASURES

Offense histories from file information and semi-structured clinical interview.

Phallometric testing of sexual arousal to stimuli varying in age and gender, using slides accompanied by audiorecorded narratives presented through headphones. There were seven categories of slides, six of them depicting nude models representing the following combinations of sex and age: Female adults, female pubescent children, female prepubescent children, male prepubescent children, male pubescent children, or male adults. The seventh stimulus category was neutral slides depicting landscapes.

The data reduction process yields seven phallometric test scores, one for each of the seven stimulus categories. A pedophilic index was calculated for each patient: The pedophilic index was the difference between his greatest response to any of the four child categories and his greatest response to either of the two adult categories.

3. Results

Figure 1. Proportion Of Child Pornography Offenders, Offenders Against Children, Offenders Against Adults, And General Sexology Patients Identified As Pedophilic Using The Phallometric Test.

Figure 2. Maximum Phallometric Responses To Child Stimuli And To Adult Stimuli By Child Pornography Offenders, Offenders Against Children, Offenders Against Adults, And General Sexology Patients.