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Viewing Sexual Violence Prevention from a Culturally Informed Perspective





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Metrolina Distinguished Scholar of Health & Public Policy
Associate Professor | Department of Health Management & Policy
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UNC Charlotte

Safe Society Foundation
July 2025


1

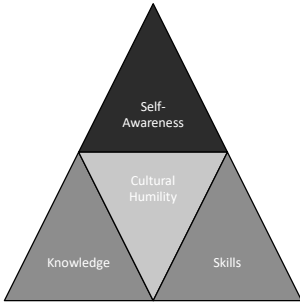
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Cultural Humility

-  Having an accurate view of self and greater awareness of limitations
-  Maintain a respectful, other-focused perspective
-  Open and aware mindset
-  Life-long commitment to self-examination and the redress of power imbalances

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Childhood Victimization, Poly-Victimization, and Adjustment to College in Women

Ann N. Elliott
Radford University
April A. Alexander
Florida Institute of Technology
Thomas W. Pence
Jeffrey E. Aspelmeier
Radford University
Jessica M. Richmond
University of Alaska

This study examined the relationships among poly-victimization (i.e., high cumulative levels of victimization), six categories of childhood victimization (i.e., property crime, physical assault, sexual abuse, witnessing, interpersonal violence, and child maltreatment), and current psychological adjustment in college females. Results indicated that exposure to multiple types of childhood victimization is common. Regression analyses revealed that poly-victimization accounted for a significant proportion of variability in scores for psychological adjustment in college. Findings suggest that exposure to multiple types of childhood victimization is associated with poor psychological adjustment in college. These findings have implications for research on the role of childhood victimization in the development of psychological adjustment in college. Findings also suggest that exposure to multiple types of childhood victimization is associated with poor psychological adjustment in college. These findings have implications for research on the role of childhood victimization in the development of psychological adjustment in college.

VPC

Polyvictimization, Childhood Victimization, and Psychological Distress in College Women

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The Family Learning Program

Home About Information About Sexual Abuse Eligibility Groups Family Therapy Resources Research Training Documents

Welcome to the Family Learning Program!

The Family Learning Program is dedicated to providing best practice psychological services to improve the lives of children, adolescents and families who have experienced neglect and/or abuse.

FLP provides sexual abuse treatment through the **Sexual Abuse Treatment Program** and contracted psychological evaluations through the **Dependency Evaluation Team** for children, adolescents and adults at risk for maltreatment and out of home placement, those having experienced neglect and/or abuse requiring removal from parent/caregivers and placement in the foster care/dependency system, and pre-adoption evaluations for children and families with a history of child maltreatment and disrupted placements.

Our Mission

The mission of the Family Learning Program is to provide best practice evaluation and treatment services for child and adolescent victims, their siblings, and their non-offending caregivers to promote healthy coping and reduce risk of revictimization.

Our Mission Statement: "The Family Learning Program is dedicated to providing best practice psychological services to improve the lives of children, adolescents and families who have experienced neglect and/or abuse."

It's our 25th Anniversary!!!

Established at the Florida Institute of Technology in 1991, the Family Learning Program has provided evidence-based sexual abuse treatment for children and adolescents, their siblings, and their caregivers for 25 years! We are proud to continue to provide no-cost individual, group and family therapy for Brevard families affected by child sexual abuse. Please call us at 321-604-5898 for more information about our program and services.

The Family Learning Program is happy to announce that we are partnering with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Paws & Stripes Comfort Dog Program to provide families, children, and veterans in need with a comfort dog to improve their mood and overall quality of life. Download this PDF for more information on the Comfort Dog Program.

The Family Learning Program
sexual abuse treatment, dependency evaluations, and pre-adoption evaluations

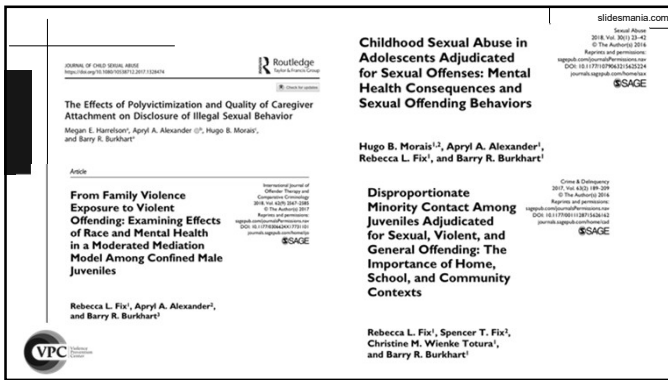
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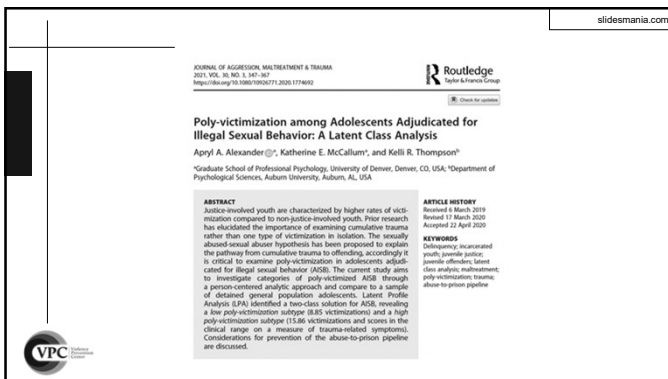
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Psychology, Public Policy, and Law

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1076-898X/16/030145-08

Quantifying the Decline in Juvenile Sexual Recidivism Rates

Michael F. Caldwell


University of Wisconsin - Madison

Data from several sources have indicated that violence in general (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2012; Finkelhor & Browne, 2005; Goldsmith & Pomeroy, 2014), and sexual recidivism in adult offenders (Dowse, 2014; Holmes, 2005; Wisconsin Department of Corrections, 2015), has declined substantially in recent decades. This finding is significant because the general effectiveness of public policies intended to reduce sexual violence in society rests in part on the best rate for recidivism of adjudicated sexual offenders. This study examined whether the recidivism base rate for juvenile sexual recidivism has undergone a similar decline in recent decades. We examined 106 studies from 98 reports or data sets involving 15,791 cases of adjudicated juvenile sexual offenders that were carried out between 1978 and 2014. Results showed a weighted mean base rate for sexual recidivism of 4.92% over a mean follow-up rate of 10.99 months ($QD = .0037$, $Median = .0275$). The rate of recidivism of the study predicted the



BASED ON THE REGISTRY

WATTS



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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

CRIMINOLOGY
& Public Policy

The sexual recidivism drop in Canada: A meta-analysis of sex offender recidivism rates over an 80-year period

Patrick Lussier^{1,2} | Evan McCullough³ | Jean Proulx^{2,4} | Stéphanie Chouinard Thivierge¹ | Julien Fréchette¹

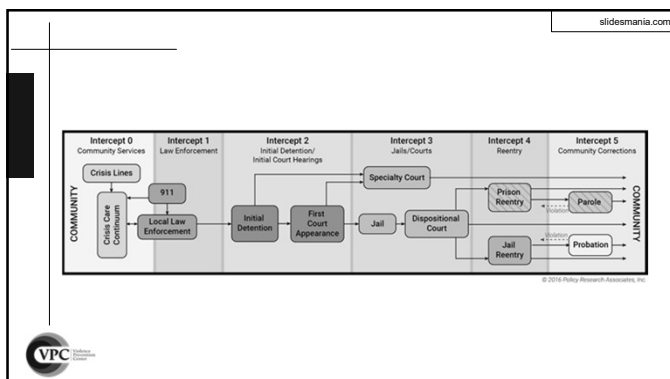
¹School of Social Work and Criminology, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada
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Funding information: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Grant/Award Number: 810-2012-1000

Abstract
Research summary: In the past, the Canadian government followed in the footsteps of the American counterpart by enacting "two offender laws." Since the 1990s, however, the Canadian criminal justice system has taken a different approach to the issue of sex offender recidivism (SOR), focusing on treatment, rehabilitation, and community risk management. This evidence-based approach has been criticized for not doing enough to prevent convicted offenders from sexually reoffending. This criticism has not been addressed empirically, leaving open the question of whether this Canadian policy shift is associated with changes in the rate of sexual recidivism. The present study uses a meta-analytic framework to look at 107 Canadian-based studies involving over 30,000 offenders, making it possible to combine 236 sexual recidivism rates. After controlling for factors such as follow-up length and the independence of samples, weighted pooled recidivism rates have declined since the 1970s by more than 60%. This trend may have gone unnoticed because it is not related to the year of publication but to the period in which the data were collected.

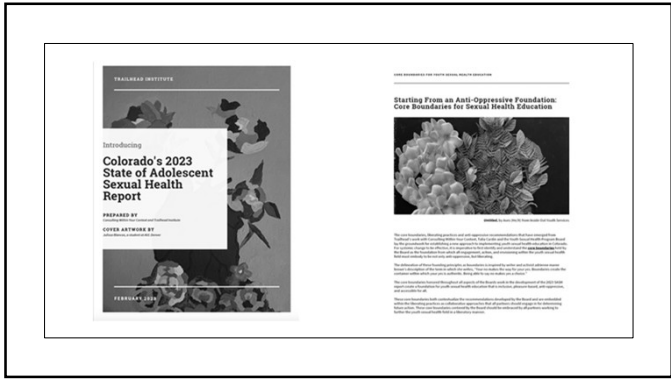
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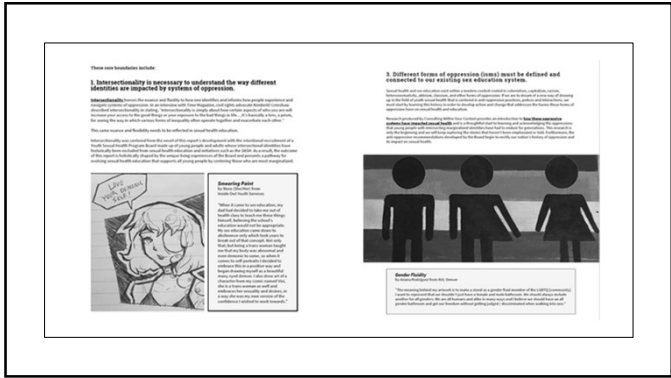
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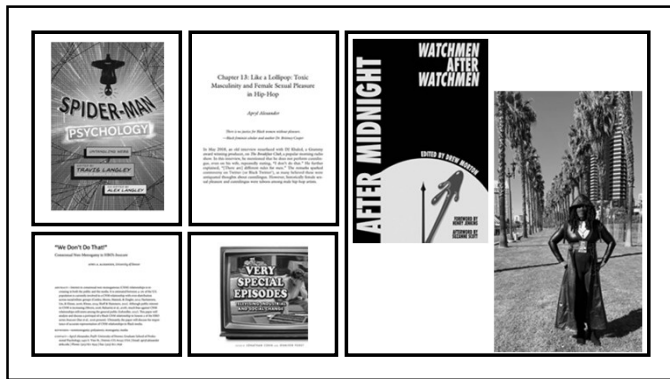
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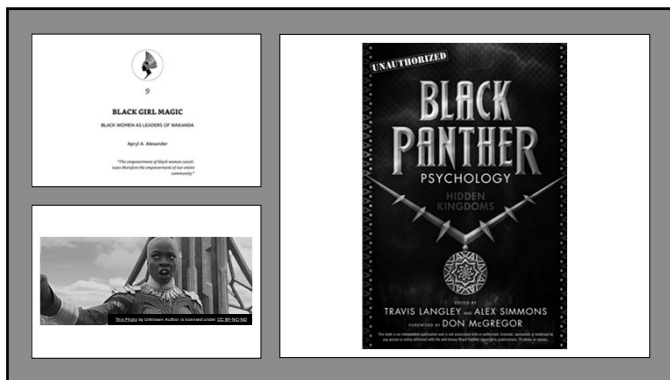
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Why did we write it?

In the decades since *The Handmaid's Tale* was originally published in 1985, the story has never ceased to capture attention, serving as a pit-in-the-stomach fear for many. The original novel has never gone out of print, and the television series has been extremely popular and award-winning. And perhaps there has never been a more important time for a psychological analysis of Atwood's world, given the modern political climate. Atwood's prescient vision has increasingly become a reality. Legislation shows us time and again that feminism is not welcome, that there is no real separation of church and state, and that women are second-class citizens – especially women of color, LGBTQ2A2S+ women, or women of other marginalized populations. Consider some specific examples. In Missouri, a rule was passed in 2023 requiring women to cover their arms inside the state's House of Representatives chamber.² The message: Women should dress modestly and conservatively, and men should decide how that is defined. Only about half of the states in the U.S. have banned sexual orientation "conversion therapy" for minors, despite its barbaric values, lack of empirical support, and incredibly harmful effects, essentially equating to torture in some cases.³ All over the country and elsewhere in the world, laws are being passed that ban trans people from participating in sports, going to work, or even going to the bathroom in spaces where they ought to feel safe.⁴ And of course, women's reproductive rights are more precarious than they have been in 50 years.

<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologist/why-gilead-personal>

THE
HANDMAID'S
TALE
PSYCHOLOGY



SEEING OFF RED

EDITED BY TRAVIS LANGLEY
CO-EDITED BY WIND GOODFRIEND

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NETFLIX
SEX EDUCATION



ADOLESCENCE



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What do you
like to be
called?



Hello
my name is



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Guest Editorial

Promoting Accurate and Respectful Language to Describe Individuals and Groups

Journal of Interpersonal Violence
33(10)
October 2018
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SAGE

ARTICLE IN PRESS
Why call someone by what we don't want them to be? The ethics of labeling in forensic/correctional psychology
Corinna M. Wilkins
School of Psychology, The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

ABSTRACT

Labeling a person for their past behavior in a criminal conviction is controversial throughout forensic and correctional psychology. Labeling someone as a "sex offender," "fire setter," "murderer," "psychopath," and "violent offender" are all examples of labels that are often used to describe individuals and groups. However, these labels are often used in a way that is stigmatizing and can have negative consequences for the individuals and groups being labeled. This article discusses the ethical implications of labeling and offers suggestions for how to use language more accurately and respectfully.

KEYWORDS

labeling
stigmatization
forensic psychology
correctional psychology
ethics
language
communication

VPC

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AT-RISK YOUTH → AT-PROMISE YOUTH

In 2019, California Governor Gavin Newsome signed a law removing "at-risk youth" from California's Education and Penal Codes and replaced the term with "at-promise youth."

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What Are Our Options?

- Persons with sexual offense histories
- Individual who has been adjudicated for...
- Child/adolescent with sexual behavior problems
- Child/adolescent adjudicated for illegal sexual behaviors
- Person with pedophilic interests

Each acknowledges the behavior, and we can still hold a person accountable for that behavior! Language change doesn't change the other amazing work we're doing.

JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE
33(10)
October 2018
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ARTICLE IN PRESS
Poly-victimization among Adolescents Adjudicated for Illegal Sexual Behavior: A Latent Class Analysis
Angela A. Alexander, D. Katherine A. McGillicuddy, and Kelli B. Thompson
Graduate School of Professional Psychology, University of Denver, Denver, CO, USA; Department of Psychological Services, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, USA

ABSTRACT

This study examined the prevalence and consequences of poly-victimization among adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior. A latent class analysis was conducted to identify groups of adolescents based on the number of victimization experiences. Results indicated that a significant portion of the sample experienced multiple victimization experiences, which had negative consequences for mental health and functioning. The findings suggest the need for comprehensive interventions that address the needs of these adolescents and their families.

KEYWORDS

poly-victimization
adolescents
adjudicated
illegal sexual behavior
latent class analysis

VPC

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ATSA

Research.Treat.Prevent.

●●●

ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL ABUSERS (ATSA)

ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT & PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE (ATSA)

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Sex Offender Management Board Votes to Change Language in Standards & Guidelines for Treatment Providers

November 19, 2021

- The Colorado Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) voted today to use "adults who commit sexual offenses" in place of "sex offenders" in the standards and guidelines used by treatment providers who assess, evaluate and treat people convicted of sexual offenses.

After discussion and public comment, the board voted 10-6 to make the language change to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Assessment, Evaluation, Treatment and Behavioral Monitoring of Adult Sex Offenders*. This revision to the Standards will be open for public comment for 20 days. The Board will then review the public comment, discuss any adjustments based on the public comment, and notify the language revision during the Board's next public meeting.

Members of the public can submit their comments using this form by December 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

The language change applies only to the SOMB Standards; the term "sex offender" will continue to be used in Colorado statute and the criminal justice system, including courts, law enforcement and the Colorado Sex Offender Registry. The name of the SOMB itself will also remain unchanged.

The SOMB is a 25-member board created by the Colorado General Assembly in order to establish "evidence-based standards for the evaluation, identification, treatment, management, and monitoring of adult sex offenders and juveniles who have committed sexual offenses at each stage of the criminal or juvenile justice system to prevent offenders from reoffending and enhance the protection of victims and potential victims."

Members of the public and the media can review the minutes, discussions and votes of SOMB meetings, including video recording of past board meetings, by browsing the [SOMB Public Records repository](#).

Recent

Statement on Referral of VSA Complaints to Colorado Attorney General

(February 16, 2022)

- Colorado's Constitution and statutes clearly define certain rights for victims of crimes. The Victim Rights Act (VRA), in particular, ensures that crime victims are treated with...

Governor Polis Proclaims January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day

(January 11, 2022)

- January is National

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NEWS · CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY · News

Colorado board reverses controversial change to "sex offender" label at urging of Gov. Jared Polis and his appointee

In November, the state Sex Offender Management Board voted to replace "sex offenders" with "adults who commit sexual offenses." Then the board opened that decision up to public comment, and that's where things went off track.

The Denver Post (2021, Dec 20)

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"The research is overwhelming that how we label people impacts their ability to build healthy, prosocial identities and lifestyles that are incompatible with sexual offending," Laurie Rose Kepros, director of sexual litigation for the Office of the State Public Defender, told The Denver Post. "The SOMB Standards provide the regulations that govern the professionals charged with supporting these positive changes, so the language should support that mission. Do we want these clients to reoffend or not?"

The Denver Post (2021, Dec 20)

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Apology to People of Color for APA's Role in Promoting, Perpetuating, and Failing to Challenge Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Human Hierarchy in U.S.

OCTOBER 2021

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Article

Sick and Shut In: Incarceration During a Public Health Crisis



Journal of Interpersonal Psychology
2020, Vol. 4(3), 147–154
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SAGE

Apriyl A. Alexander¹, Hailey Allo¹, and Hannah Klukoff¹

Abstract

COVID-19, the latest infectious coronavirus disease, was discovered in December of 2019 in Wuhan, China, and has rapidly reached pandemic levels. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, including hand washing, covering coughs, and social/physical distancing, but what happens to those who are incarcerated? Over 1.4 million adults in the United States are currently incarcerated in state and federal prisons and over 80,000 individuals are incarcerated in local jails. Correctional settings are often deprived, overcrowded, and unsanitary environments, which do not lend themselves to the prevention, treatment, or recovery from illness. Incarcerated individuals are at a much higher risk to become infected due to a variety of factors, such as generally higher rates of chronic conditions than the community and overall lack of screening for certain illnesses. The present article discusses how smart decarceration tactics, such as compassionate release, offer options to compensate for overcrowding in correctional facilities and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

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Article

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Translational Issues in Psychological Science

Addressing Mass Incarceration Amid a Pandemic: Psychology Informing Decarceration as a Racial Justice and Public Health Response

Apriyl A. Alexander¹, Hannah Klukoff¹, and Claire Gaglione²

¹Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
²Graduate School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

Incarceration and inequities are apparent to psychologists who work at the intersection of the criminal legal system. The COVID-19 pandemic raised many concerns surrounding the spread of over 1.4 million people incarcerated in jails and prisons in the United States. Correctional settings are often deprived, overcrowded, and unsanitary environments, which do not lend themselves to the prevention, treatment, or recovery from illness. Furthermore, it is difficult for incarcerated individuals to adhere to recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as hand washing and social/physical distancing. Disproportionate minority contact, which describes the overrepresentation of racial and ethnic minorities in the criminal and juvenile legal systems, also remains present, with Black people at risk for contracting COVID-19 at three times the rate of White people. Black people are more likely to be incarcerated and suffer from health conditions that increase their risk for infectious diseases. Those incarcerated are at an elevated risk of infection. In the American Psychological Association recently adopted a resolution to combat racism affecting structural and institutional racism within the criminal legal system. The present article discusses how psychologists can use social sciences to inform smart decarceration tactics to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and mass incarceration.

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View and we share

The Same Dynamics, Different Tactics: Domestic Violence During COVID-19

Erma A. Sizer, BS, and Apriyl A. Alexander, PhD

Opinion: Why too few Black women and girls report sexual violence

As we strive to prevent and end sexual violence, we must start by interacting with survivors in a supportive, empathetic, and trauma-informed manner.

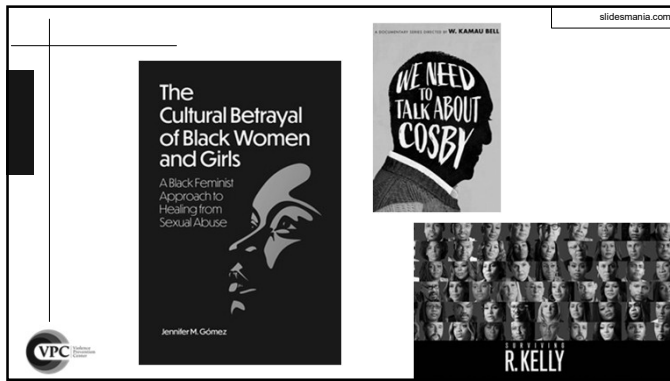
Apriyl Alexander | 228.684.9471 on April 2, 2020

"Where's the evidence?"

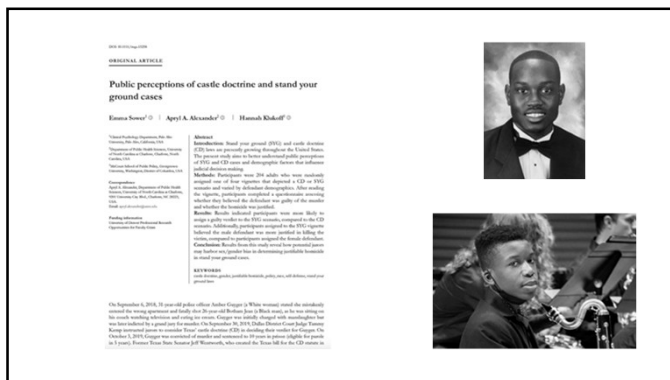
"Why doesn't she come forward?"

"Why didn't she call the police?"

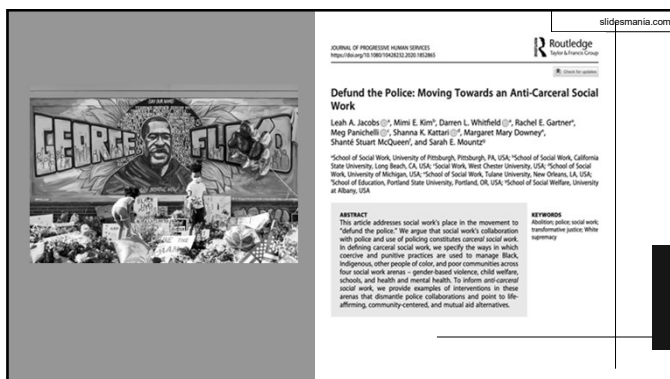
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Journal of Progressive Human Services





https://doi.org/10.1080/10439862.2020.1820685

Routledge

Taylor & Francis Group

Check for updates

Defund the Police: Moving Towards an Anti-Carceral Social Work

Leah A. Jacobs , Mini E. Kim¹, Darren L. Whitefield , Rachel E. Gartner², Meg Panchishvili , Shauna K. Kattari , Margaret Mary Downey³, Shantel Stuart McQueen⁴, and Sarah L. Mountz⁵

¹School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; ²School of Social Work, California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA; ³School of Social Work, West Chester University, USA; ⁴School of Social Work, University of Michigan, USA; ⁵School of Social Work, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA; ⁶School of Education, Portland State University, Portland, OR, USA; ⁷School of Social Welfare, University at Albany, USA

ABSTRACT

The article addresses social work's place in the movement to "defund the police." We argue that social work's collaboration with police and use of policing constitutes carceral social work. In defining carceral social work, we specify the ways in which coercive and punitive practices are used to manage Black, Indigenous, other people of color, and poor communities across four social work areas: gender-based violence, child welfare, schools, and health and mental health. To inform anti-carceral social work, we provide examples of interventions in these areas that dismantle police collaborations and point to life-affirming, community-centered, and mutual aid alternatives.

KEYWORDS

abolition; police; social work; transformative justice; white supremacy

Toward an Abolitionist Practice of Psychology: Reimagining Psychology's Relationship With the Criminal Justice System

Hannah Kludoff , Hahel Kanani¹, Claire Gaglione , and Apriy Alexander² 

¹Journal of Progressive Human Services, University of Michigan, USA; ²Journal of Progressive Human Services, University of Michigan, USA

ABSTRACT

The social justice springs that have stemmed from several recent highly publicized murders of Black people by police have shed increasing light on the systems of oppression, inequity, and white supremacy that have been the backbone of the United States' policing and criminal justice systems since their inception. The American Psychological Association, along with many professional organizations across the subfields of psychology, has released its statement outlining how psychology must contribute to the eradication of systemic racism and white supremacy. In this article, we address the need for psychology and its subfields to acknowledge our complicity in certain systems of oppression, such as our ties to law enforcement and the police, our support of mental health reforms that merely increase the scope of a punitive criminal justice system, and our complicity in the harm done by our current immigration policies. We argue that the best way, in fact the only way, for the profession to move toward an antiracist psychological practice is to embrace an abolitionist framework so that we may reimagine our relationships with historically oppressive institutions and rebuild our

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Journal of Progressive Human Services

https://doi.org/10.1080/10439862.2020.1820685

Routledge

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¹Journal of Progressive Human Services, University of Michigan, USA; ²Journal of Progressive Human Services, University of Michigan, USA

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ALAN J. DETTLAUF

Confronting the Racist Legacy of the American Child Welfare System

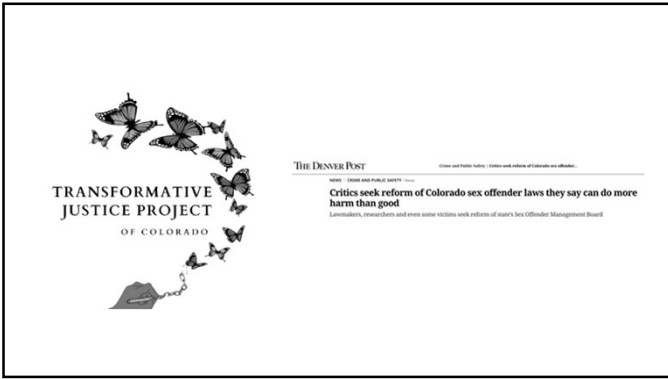


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TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT


OF COLORADO

Fears vs. facts

When affluent communities zone out sex offenders, they often do so because they share the widely held belief that living near sex offenders puts people, especially children, at greater risk. But there is little data to support those assumptions.

In a 2017 article published by the American Bar Association, sex-crime policy researcher Jill S. Levenson noted that, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, 93% of children who are victims of sex crimes are abused by family members, friends or acquaintances. "Sex offenders do not molest children because they live near schools. They abuse when they are able to establish relationships with children and their families and misuse positions of familiarity, trust and authority," Levinson wrote.

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TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

OF COLORADO

Homelessness is prevalent among sex offenders. In Sterling, a small city in northeastern Colorado, 11 of the city's 55 registered sex offenders are homeless. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation map shows a cluster of seven sex offenders living in an undeveloped area along the South Platte River in the town of Sheridan, where the average household income is just over \$40,000 and the poverty rate is 21.5%, according to Census data.

A lot of current treatment for sex offenders now focuses on reintegrating them into their community, said Apryl Alexander, an assistant professor at the University of Denver graduate school of professional psychology. Alexander is director of the [Denver Forensic Institute for Research, Service, and Training \(Denver FIRST\)](#) Outpatient Competency Restoration Program.

"When we have these residency restrictions, you're going to be displacing people," making it hard to forge those connections that help prevent offenders from committing additional crimes, she said.

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TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

OF COLORADO

Sex offender registration and notification act with adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior: a therapeutic jurisprudence perspective

Apryl Alexander¹, John Michael Falgout^{1*}, Cory Marchi¹, Erica Fleming² and Marissa Jennings³

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Abstract Adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior (ISB) are subject to the same Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) policies as adults with sexual offense histories despite current research documenting their relatively low likelihood of recidivism. Therapeutic jurisprudence is a perspective which suggests the law should value psychological well-being and strive to avoid imposing unnecessary consequences. The purpose of this article is to analyze the use of SORNA policies with ASB from a therapeutic jurisprudence perspective. Given the current literature documenting the potential consequences of SORNA on ASB and their families and the lack of efficacy in reducing recidivism, we argue SORNA should not be applied to children and adolescents. We conclude with a discussion of future directions for the juvenile justice system and public policy reform.

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In 2021, Governor Polis signed HB21-1064, which automatically removes youth from the sex offense registry when they turn 25 or seven years after their second offense, as long as they haven't gone on to re-offend as an adult

Also, in 2021, the Colorado Supreme Court (No. 19SC690 People in Int. of T. B.) stated it is unconstitutional to require youth convicted of repeat sex offenses to register for the rest of their lives—lifetime registration is cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th Amendment

Both The Courts And Lawmakers Have Ruled That Juvenile Sex Offenders Will No Longer Be Automatically Registered For Life

By Megan Holmes and Paula Garcia Jan 29, 2022, 4:02 am




The Colorado Supreme Court building in Denver

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Liberation

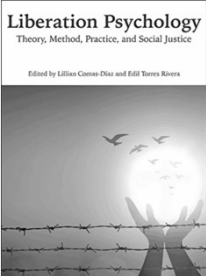


- Safety
- Security
- Belonging
- Love

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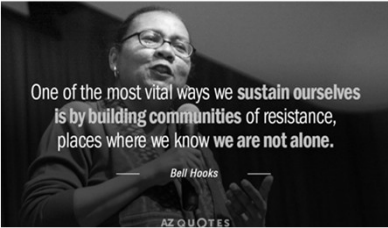
Liberation



- Safety
- Security
- Belonging
- Love

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One of the most vital ways we sustain ourselves is by building communities of resistance, places where we know we are not alone.

Bell Hooks


QUOTES

- Nurturing and caring for each other
- Providing a safe and supportive environment
- Recognizing humanity
- Multiple forms of healing and therapy

Liberation

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Concluding Remarks

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Challenging Road Ahead

HEALTH

HHS guts sexual violence prevention division, leaving local efforts adrift


APRIL 8, 2021, 3:10 AM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED


by Isadora Simmons-Duffin

3 Minute Listen

PLAYLIST TRANSCRIPT




bp washingtonpost



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DOJ cancels grants for gun-violence and addiction prevention, victim advocacy

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Concluding Remarks

- *There's still a lot to learn.*
- *The community has guided my work and will continue to do so.*
- *Education and truth-telling*
- *Realities of institutional and sociopolitical barriers*
- *Liberation through*
Direct Action. Litigation. Policy change.

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Thank you!

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