



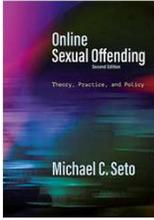
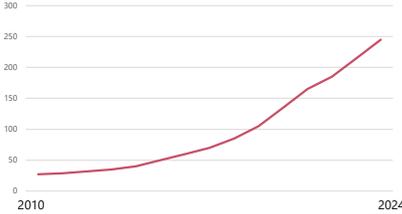
A Meta-analysis of Recidivism Rates Among Individuals Who Commit Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) Offending

Serra Baskurt, Kelly M. Babchishin, & Michael C. Seto
February 3, 2026



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People Keep Publishing Relevant Work



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Feeling overwhelmed?



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Purpose

Aggression and Violent Behavior 85 (2021) 103060

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Aggression and Violent Behavior

ELSEVIER

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Open access

A meta-analysis of recidivism rates among individuals who commit child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) offending^a

Serra Baskurt^a, Kelly M. Babchishin^{a,c}, Gabriella Hilkes^a, Michael C. Seto^b



Summarizing recidivism rates of individuals committed CSEM offences

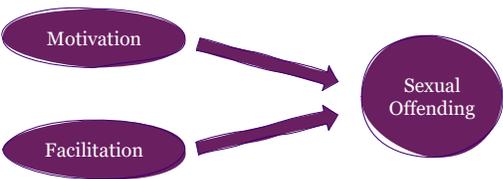


Examining moderators

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Quick Theory 101



Motivation

Facilitation

Sexual Offending

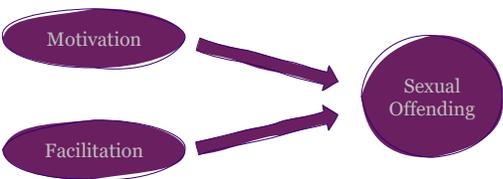
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Seto (2018). Motivation-Facilitation Model of Sexual Offending

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CSEM-EXCLUSIVE

- ✓ Sexual interest in children
- ✓ Problems in sexual domains



Motivation

Facilitation

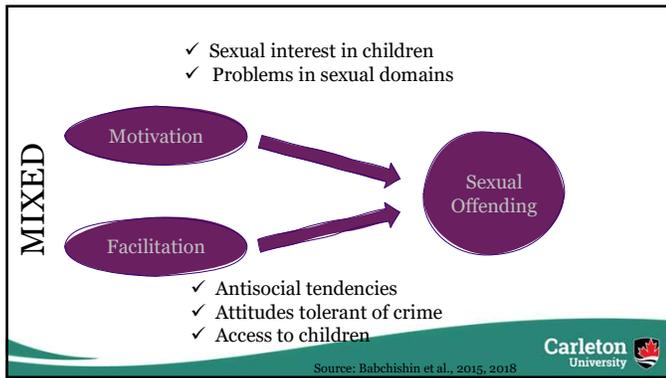
Sexual Offending

- ✗ Antisocial tendencies
- ✗ Attitudes tolerant of crime
- ✗ Access to children

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Source: Babchishin et al., 2015, 2018

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Recidivism Rates of men with CSEM offences

Past meta (Seto et al., 2011):

- Short follow-up
- Did not separate mixed from exclusively CSEM offending individuals

Time for an update

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What is a meta-analysis?

- A statistical technique for combining individual effects reported in studies addressing the same research question
- Output:
 - Produces a summary effect
 - Measures the variability between the individual studies

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Why Should We Conduct Meta-Analyses?



- Objective test for consistency in findings
- Provides a more objective review compared to the narrative review
- More statistical power than a study
- Can look at moderator variables
- Useful tool to influence future research as well as inform policy
- Follows iterative approach to knowledge building

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Today's talk

- Summarize:
 - What we did
 - What we found
 - General implications
 - Answer questions



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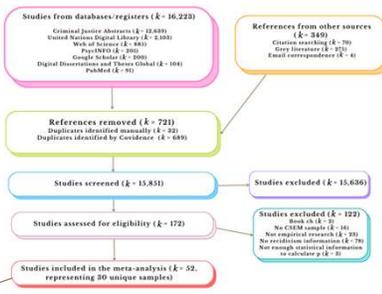
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Study Flow Chart



Studies from databases/registers (k = 16,223)

- Criminal Justice Abstracts (k = 12,639)
- United Nations Digital Library (k = 8,898)
- Web of Science (k = 6,611)
- PsycINFO (k = 305)
- Google Scholar (k = 2,000)
- Digital Dissertations and Theses Global (k = 1,044)
- PubMed (k = 30)

References from other sources (k = 3,649)

- Citation searching (k = 70)
- Email correspondence (k = 4)
- Grey literature (k = 375)

References removed (k = 721)

- Duplicates identified manually (k = 32)
- Duplicates identified by Covidence (k = 689)

Studies screened (k = 15,831)

Studies excluded (k = 15,636)

Studies assessed for eligibility (k = 192)

Studies excluded (k = 122)

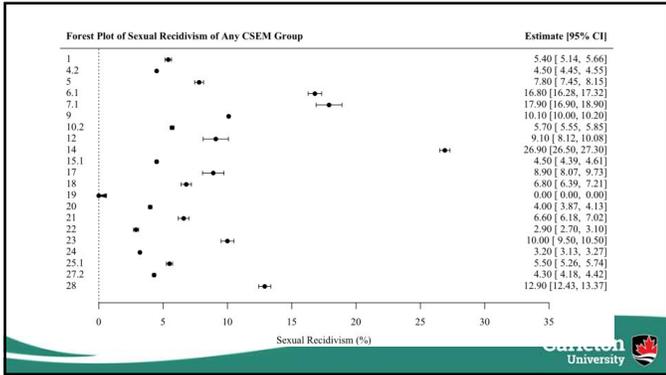
- Blank (k = 1)
- No CSEM sample (k = 16)
- Not registered offenders (k = 24)
- No recidivism information (k = 76)
- Not enough statistical information to calculate p (k = 3)

Studies included in the meta-analysis (k = 52, representing 50 unique samples)

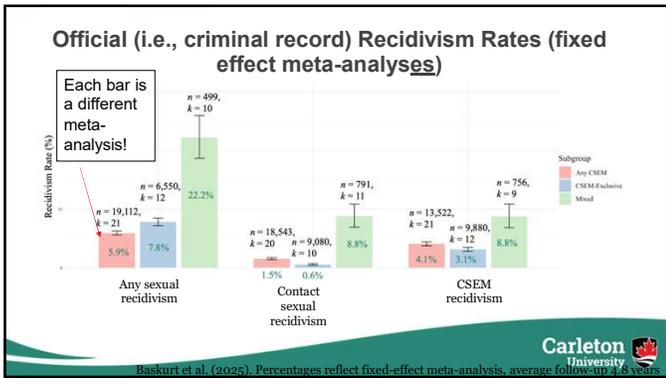
Any CSEM N = 19,112
CSEM-E N = 8,272
Mixed N = 6,267

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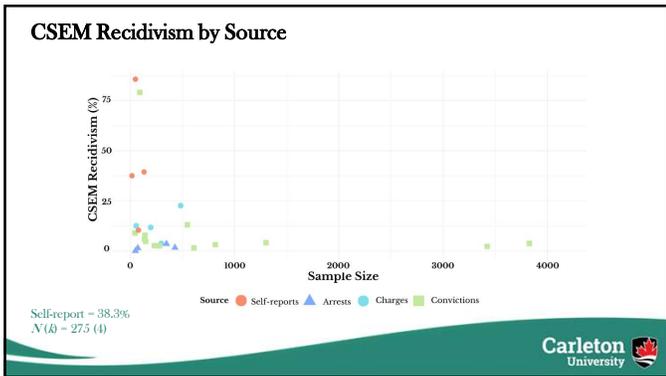
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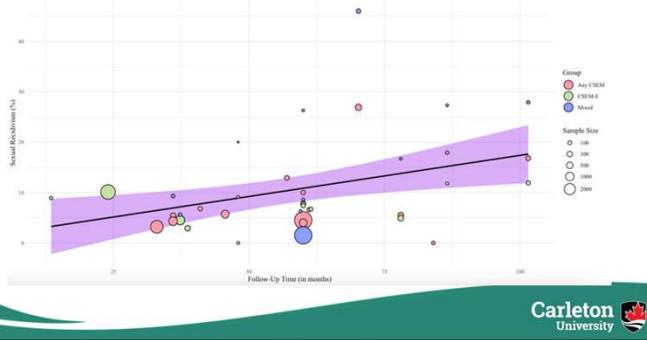
Self-report studies

- Are recidivism rates really 'that high'?
 - Unique treatment samples
 - No routine sample with this information
- Likely an overestimate



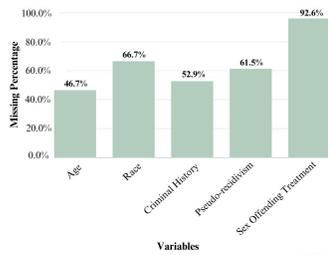
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Meta-Regression of Sexual Recidivism on Follow-up Time



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Key Elements Missing in Recidivism Studies



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Discussion



Groups Moderators Reporting



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Take home message

- Cohort/routine samples: about 2/3 are CSEM-exclusive (about 1/3 mixed)
- After an average 5 years of following, individuals with contact + CSEM offenses are more likely to sexually offend than CSEM exclusive offenses
- CSEM-exclusive: most will not reoffend with a contact sexual offense (0.6%) and instead with another CSEM offense (3.1%)
- Self-report rates are higher than official rates, but the self-report samples are unique (e.g., treatment samples)



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Thank you!

Questions?



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