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Presentation title: Outcomes and participant experiences of sex offender treatment in Sweden - mixed method findings

Research on sexual offender treatment programs struggles with methodological limitations, partly due to difficulties conducting randomized controlled trials (RCT's) within the prison and probation setting and dark figures complicating accurate estimates of recidivism. Thus, there is a need for additional approaches when investigating sexual offender treatment programs. One such angle of investigation is the impact of sexual offender treatment on criminogenic needs, i.e. dynamic (changeable) risk factors for re-offending. Qualitative studies of participants' own experiences of participation in treatment programs is another important source of information. The aim of the first study was to test whether dynamic criminogenic risk factors change after participation in a pilot run of a new cognitive-behavioral treatment program (SEIF) adhering to the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model, within a group of adult men convicted of sexual offences in Sweden. Three psychometric tests from approximately 26 participants were completed. Therapists rated 46 participants using the Therapist Rating Scale-Revised (TRS-2). Participants reported a significant decrease in hypersexuality, small to medium effect size, a non-significant, increased, internal locus of control, but no change regarding attachment styles, posttreatment. Therapists rated significant decrease in all treatment needs posttreatment, medium to large effect size. Results indicate the treatment program may reduce problems related to increased risk of recidivism, especially hypersexuality, motivating further implementation. However, to draw conclusions concerning effectiveness, more research, using stronger designs and larger samples, is necessary. In the second (ongoing) study, adult individuals convicted of sexual offences in Sweden are interviewed regarding their experiences of participating in Sexual offender program with an Individual Focus (SEIF). Preliminary results from a thematic analysis will be presented.