

Relation between cognitive distortions and attributional bias in child molesters

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruiting
Health condition type	Other condition
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON33731

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

cognitive distortions in child molesters

Condition

- Other condition
- Personality disorders and disturbances in behaviour

Synonym

sex offences, sexual delinquency

Health condition

zeden delicten

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: attributional bias, child molesters, cognitive distortions, implicit measures

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

relation between cognitive distortions (outcome of implicit association task) and hostile and rejection attributional bias. Relation between cognitive distortions (outcome of implicit association task) and childhood trauma experiences.

Secondary outcome

Group differences with respect to cognitive distortions.

Study description

Background summary

Understanding cognitive processes underlying the initiation, maintenance, and justification of sexual offending is a vital prerequisite to the understanding of sexual offending and the development of successful treatment programs. Cognitive distortions (offence related beliefs that facilitate sexual offences against children, such as the belief that children want sex with an adult) are an important factor in the aetiology of child sexual abuse. Cognitive distortions are hypothesized to cluster together, to form a network of beliefs that are unified into an underlying schema, referred to as an implicit theory (IT). Some implicit theories, like *the world is dangerous* have no reference to a sexual act. An important step in understanding the mechanisms through which IT*s without specific references to a sexual act become sexualized is to study how cognitive distortions influence interpretations.

Study objective

The present study will test 1) how the two versions of the dangerous world IT are related to attributional biases, i.e. hostile attributional bias and rejection attributional bias; 2) whether both versions of the dangerous world IT are related to the incidence of childhood trauma*s (physical, emotional and sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, and peer victimization); 3a) whether child molester score higher on the belief that adults are dangerous and children are safe as compared to rapists and non offenders; 3b) whether rapists score higher on the belief that everybody is dangerous as compared to child molester and non offenders.

Study design

The study has a cross-sectional design. There are two sessions. During the first session, participants will fill in some questionnaires, and during the second session, participants will complete a computer task (the implicit association task).

Study burden and risks

Subjects have no immediate benefit by participating in this study other than the monetary reward (€10-15). There are no risks involved in this study. The only disadvantage is the time it takes to fill in the questionnaires

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

age between 18 and 70 years

male

sufficient comprehension of the Dutch language

experimental groups: child abusers and rapists of adult females

control groups: no offence history or violent behavior

Exclusion criteria

insufficient comprehension of dutch language

underage

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Basic science

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	09-02-2009
Enrollment:	165
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	23-01-2009
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL25844.078.08