

Juvenile Sex Offenders

By Eileen P. Ryan, John A. Hunter, and Daniel C. Murrie.
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\$55.00.

Juvenile Sex Offenders is a handbook written by three leading practitioners in the fields of child and adolescent psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and psychology, and sexual offending. The book emphasizes practicality and utility and is geared toward psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals who are already skilled in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of children and adolescents but are new to the areas of forensic evaluation and sexual offending. Each of the book's nine well-organized chapters contains a preface and separately captioned sections that make it easily readable. Most chapters start with an overview of the topic and end with a summary and a list of references.

The introductory chapter, "Changing Perceptions of Juvenile Sexual Offending in Society and the Legal System," takes note of the increased attention that sexual offending has recently received. It summarizes the basic epidemiological data on adult and juvenile sexual offending, defines the terminology, and outlines the legal and political changes that have marked the approach to sexual offending over the past several decades. Several observations that are discussed in subsequent chapters are articulated in this introductory one. These include the heterogeneity of the juvenile offending population and the fact that juvenile sex offenders, as a whole, are far more similar to generally delinquent youths than to adult sex offenders. They are noted to be more amenable to treatment than adult sex offenders. Most juveniles who molest children do not develop pedophilia and do not continue sexual offending into adulthood. The relevance of sexually violent predator laws and related court decisions to the juvenile sex-offending population is briefly discussed.

The book contains an overview of the (somewhat limited) literature on normative sexual behavior in children and adolescents. In children, common childhood sexual behavior (typically forms of self-stimulation) is contrasted with sexual behavior toward others that usually indicates a history of sexual victimization. Data on the age of the first intercourse and on other sexual behaviors in adolescents are pre-

sented, as well as regional and ethnic differences in these activities.

Data regarding sexually problematic behavior in youths are presented separately for prepubescent children, adolescent females, and adolescent males. A typology of offending behaviors is suggested, and external and internal risk factors are summarized. The book contains case vignettes that illustrate the psychiatric comorbidity of sexually offending behavior. The authors describe the interaction between various psychiatric conditions and offending behavior and discuss the extent to which psychiatric disorders can explain such behavior in a particular individual.

The authors delineate the differences between forensic and clinical evaluations and highlight the potential pitfalls a clinician who is not forensically trained may fall into when asked to provide a forensic opinion about a patient. Elements of a forensic psychiatric evaluation, including guidelines for interviewing, evaluating, and conducting risk assessments of sexually offending youth; report-writing; and testimony are outlined.

Psychological assessment instruments used in the evaluation of juvenile sex offenders are described. The authors note that, in contrast to the assessment of adult offenders, there is no generally applicable tool that aids in providing initial risk estimates for the sexual reoffense of juveniles. There is a detailed discussion of the structured instruments for assessing juveniles, including the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol-II (J-SOAP-II) and the Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sex Offender Recidivism (ERASOR). Data on the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL:YV), an adult assessment modified for use in the juvenile population, are presented and discussed.

The last two chapters of the book are devoted to the management and treatment of juvenile sex offenders. The authors discuss available treatment venues (levels of care), examine the core areas of therapeutic focus, and describe two model community treatment programs (the Wraparound Milwaukee and Norfolk (VA) Juvenile Court). The shortage of youth treatment outcomes studies impedes our ability to identify the most effective rehabilitation options for these youths. There is up-to-date information about the biological and pharmacologic treatments of sexually aberrant behavior. Given the dearth of scientific literature on biological treatment of juvenile sex offenders, most of the literature re-

viewed in this chapter involves studies of adult offenders. Principles of pediatric pharmacology are reviewed, and general principles of biological and psychopharmacologic treatment of children and adolescents are outlined. The chapter also includes a brief review of the biological and hormonal mechanisms involved in the control of sexual behavior.

Overall, the book provides a condensed, yet clear, comprehensive, and very useful overview of the field of juvenile sex offender evaluation and treatment. The relevant research is presented in an objective and dispassionate way. As a forensic psychiatrist who often evaluates adult sex offenders, some of whom have only offended as juveniles, I found the book a valuable source that helped me to supplement my knowledge of the adult-sex-offender-related literature.

Michal Kunz, MD
New York, NY

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The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Forensic Psychiatry

Edited by Robert I. Simon, MD, and Liza H. Gold, MD. Second edition. Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., 2010. 702 pp. \$133.00.

The editors, Robert I. Simon, MD, and Liza H. Gold, MD, are Clinical Professors in the Program in Psychiatry and the Law at Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C. They have assembled a solid team of experts in forensic psychiatry, forensic psychology, and mental health law to produce the second edition of *The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Forensic Psychiatry*. The comprehensive text covers the foundation of forensic psychiatry, civil matters, criminal forensic psychiatry, and special topics in its 23 chapters.

The importance of this book may be best illuminated from a historical perspective. During my medical and residency years, there were few resources available to enlighten health care students and professionals about the practice of forensic psychiatry. Today, there are many publications of varying quality that fill the gap.

This textbook may serve as an invaluable resource for general psychiatrists and senior psychiatry resi-

dents who have an interest in forensic psychiatry or as a basic and concise introductory text for a forensic psychiatry residency program. However, as many chapters caution, the book by itself will not prepare a psychiatrist to practice forensic psychiatry. As with many multiauthored books, some topics are more thoroughly developed than others. Each chapter is self-contained, and readers may select specific topics to review without reading the entire book. Thus, there is some repetition of basic concepts throughout the book.

The text is well-organized, clearly written, and free of excessive jargon. Most chapters include an introduction that contains a list of fundamental lessons, one or more case vignettes, a conclusion section, a key points section, a practice guidelines section, and several references. This layout facilitates the acquisition and comprehension of important forensic psychiatric concepts, especially for those with no or limited prior exposure to or experience in forensic psychiatry. Most of the textbook readily held my attention, and experienced forensic psychiatrists will find some new and interesting information as they review basic concepts.

Nonetheless, some chapters were particularly noteworthy for their selection and presentation of foundational material. “Rediscovering Forensic Psychiatry” describes fascinating aspects of forensic practice that make the field attractive to many psychiatrists. Two chapters, “Introduction to the Legal System,” and “Ethics in Forensic Psychiatry,” which cover historical, basic legal, and ethics-related aspects of forensic psychiatry, provide stimulating reading in some of the most pedantic of subject areas. Although the authors of the chapter titled “Forensic Assessment of Sex Offenders” explicate well, they leave the reader wanting more information about sex offenders and the Internet. The “Special Topics” section covers a variety of important topics in forensic psychiatry, including forensic practice and geriatric psychiatry and child and adolescent forensic psychiatry. The chapters that address malingering, risk assessment instruments, and psychological testing offer the seasoned forensic psychiatrist the largest amount of new information.

Overall, the second edition of this book has succeeded in its principal mission of illuminating forensic psychiatry for mental health clinicians and psychiatry residents and may serve as a reference for more experienced psychiatrists who teach, are preparing for board recertification, or wish to review