

## Is specific prison treatment necessary for child sex offenders in Spain?

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**Introduction:** Current treatment in Spanish penitentiary centers is addressed to both people convicted for adult (PCASO) and minor sexual offending (PCMSO) (Garrido and Beneyto, 1996). However, the last program update was made fifteen years ago (Rivera, et al., 2006). Therefore, the need for an evidence-based review of the program is proposed in order to check whether there are differences between PCASOS and PCMSO in variables such as self-esteem, personality, crime assumption, sexual fantasies and sexual victimization in childhood. In case there are, this will justify a different and specific prison treatment for each group of convicted sex offenders.

**Methods:** The sample consisted of 70 men (Mean=42.70; SD=13.29) convicted for adult sexual offending (N=23), minor sexual offending (N=26) and non-sexual crimes (N=21) (control group).

**Results:** The data obtained indicate that there are significant differences between the groups in self-esteem ( $H= 48.00$ ;  $p=.006$ ), personality ( $\chi^2= 20.19$ ,  $p=0.01$ ), crime assumption ( $\chi^2= 19.46$ ;  $p< .001$ ) and sexual fantasies ( $\chi^2=8.589$ ;  $p=0.014$ ). In addition, it was found, in the PCMSO group, that having been a victim of sexual abuse was significantly related to having sexual fantasies with minors ( $\chi^2=6.005$ ;  $p=0.014$ ).

**Discussion:** We discuss the implications that these results may have when considering a specific treatment for PCMSO according to their needs and characteristics.

### References:

Garrido, V. and Beneyto, M. J. (1996). *Control of sexual assault. A treatment program for sex offenders in prison and in the community.*

Rivera, G., Romero, M.C., Labrador, M.A., and Serrano, J. (2006). *Sexual Assault Control: Prison Intervention Program: A Treatment Program for Sex Offenders in Prison: Therapist's Manual.* General Secretariat of Prison Institutions, Ministry of the Interior. Spain.