

Table 1: Description of selected systematic reviews

General information	Objective	Search strategy	Inclusion criteria	Process
<p>Aos et al., 2006(Aos et al., 2006)</p> <p>Country US</p> <p>Support/funding NR</p>	<p>To assess interventions provided within adult corrections programs</p>	<p>Databases searched Research databases (<i>not specified</i>), using search engines (google, Proquest, ERIC, and SAGE)</p> <p>Search periods since 1970</p> <p>Other sources Reference tracking;</p> <p>Language restriction English</p>	<p>Population: adult sex offenders (<i>no details on characteristics</i>)</p> <p>Interventions: interventions provided within adult corrections programs (<i>no sufficient description for all</i>)</p> <p>Comparators: treatment as usual (<i>no description</i>)</p> <p>Outcomes: reduction in recidivism (<i>not defined</i>) rates</p> <p>Study designs: adult corrections outcome evaluation studies with non-treatment control group well matched to treatment group (random assignment and/or non-random assignment studies; quasi-experimental studies providing sufficient information to demonstrate comparability between groups on variables such as age, gender, and prior criminal history)</p>	<p>Procedures No details provided on who performed study selection, data extraction, and quality assessment. Selected studies were categorized using a 5-point scale (based on Maryland scale)</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour Included outcome evaluation studies rated at least 3 on the 5-point scale</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative and quantitative</p>
<p>Bilby et al., 2006 (Bilby et al., 2006)</p> <p>Country UK</p> <p>Support/funding NR</p>	<p>To examine quasi-experimental and qualitative research into psychological interventions for adult sex offenders and individuals showing abusive sexual behaviours</p>	<p>Databases searched Included Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Cochrane Schizophrenia Groups Register of Trials Related to Forensic Mental Health Services, MEDLINE, NCJRS, NCCAN, CINAHL, PsycINFO, EMBASE, SINGLE, etc</p> <p>Search periods 1861 to 2003</p> <p>Other sources Hand searches of relevant articles' reference lists, requests for additional information and/or unpublished data (experts, first authors of included research)</p> <p>Language restriction None</p>	<p>Population Adults (≥ 18 yr) treated in institutional or community settings for sexual behaviours which resulted in conviction or caution for sexual offences (incest, child molestation, rape, child pornography, child prostitution, sex tourism, indecent exposure), offences with a sexual element, or violent behaviours with a sexual element, and adults perceived to be at risk of offending;</p> <p>Interventions Psychological interventions for adult sex offenders and those showing abusive sexual behaviours (behavioural, cognitive behavioural, psychodynamic)</p> <p>Comparators Any drug treatment (as defined in BNF; BMA, 2003) administered outside of standard care specifically for sexual behaviour impulses and/or standard care (care a person would normally receive had they not been included in the research trial; it incorporated "waiting list control groups"); other broad class of psychological therapies</p> <p>Outcomes Recidivism (<i>not defined</i>) measured by any offence, time before reoffence, or nonsexual violent offence; adverse effects; death; global state; behaviour; mental state; engagement with services; prison and service outcomes; satisfaction with treatment; acceptance of treatment; leaving study early; QOL; economic outcomes</p> <p>Study designs Controlled trials, matched or non-matched</p>	<p>Procedures No details on who performed study selection, data extraction, and quality assessment. No clear information on quality assessment of included studies.</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour Included controlled trials, matched or non-matched.</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative</p>

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<p>Brooks-Gordon et al., 2006 (Brooks-Gordon B et al., 2006)</p> <p>Country UK</p> <p>Support/funding NR</p>	<p>To examine experimental research on psychological interventions for adult sex offenders and adults with abusive sexual behaviours</p>	<p>Databases searched Included Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Cochrane Schizophrenia Groups Register of Trials Related to Forensic Mental Health Services, MEDLINE, NCJRS, NCCAN, CINAHL, PsycINFO, EMBASE, SINGLE, etc</p> <p>Search periods 1861 to 2003</p> <p>Other sources Hand searches of relevant articles' reference lists, requests for additional information and/or unpublished data (experts, first authors of included research)</p> <p>Language restriction None</p>	<p>Population Adults (≥ 18 yr) treated in institutional or community settings for sexual behaviours which resulted in conviction or caution for sexual offences (incest, child molestation, rape, child pornography, child prostitution, sex tourism, indecent exposure), offences or violent behaviours with a sexual element, and adults perceived to be at risk of offending</p> <p>Interventions Psychological interventions for adult sex offenders and those showing abusive sexual behaviours (behavioural, cognitive behavioural, psychodynamic)</p> <p>Comparators Any drug treatment (as defined in BNF; BMA, 2003) administered outside of standard care specifically for sexual behaviour impulses and/or standard care (care a person would normally receive had they not been included in the research trial; it incorporated "waiting list control groups"); other broad class of psychological therapies</p> <p>Outcomes Recidivism (<i>not defined</i>) measured by any offence, time before reoffence, or nonsexual violent offence; adverse effects; death; global state; behaviour; mental state; engagement with services; prison and service outcomes; satisfaction with treatment; acceptance of treatment; leaving the study early; QOL; economic outcomes</p> <p>Study designs RCTs</p>	<p>Procedures Three reviewers independently elected studies and allocated them to three quality categories (A, B, C) by considering concealment of allocation as the key aspect of methodology. Data extraction performed independently by three reviewers.</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour Included RCTs described as category A or B using Cochrane Collaboration Handbook (2002) (category A: explicit good allocation concealment; category B: no explicit allocation concealment)</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative</p>
<p>Hanson et al., 2002 (Hanson et al., 2002)</p> <p>Country Canada and US</p> <p>Support/funding NR</p>	<p>To examine the effectiveness of psychological treatment for sex offenders</p>	<p>Databases searched PsychLIT and NCJRS</p> <p>Search periods Up to May 2000</p> <p>Other sources Reference tracking; request for additional or unpublished data from experts</p> <p>Language restriction English and French</p>	<p>Population Sex offenders (adults and adolescents; males and females)</p> <p>Interventions Psychological treatment (<i>no other details provided</i>)</p> <p>Comparators No treatment, alternate/alternative treatment, a form of treatment judged/considered inadequate/inappropriate.</p> <p>Outcomes Sexual and/or general (any) recidivism (<i>not defined</i>)</p> <p>Study designs Studies that compared recidivism rates (sexual or general) of treated offenders with a comparison group, using same recidivism criteria for both groups, and reporting rates for approximately same follow-up for both groups; combined sample of at least 10 offenders (5 in each group)</p>	<p>Procedures No information on who performed study selection. Selected studies were coded/rated based on study design by one trained rater using CODC manual (checked by one author/reviewer). Data extraction performed by one trained rater and checked by one author/reviewer.</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour Included controlled or comparative studies using same recidivism criteria for all subjects. Research design classification based on how offenders were assigned to groups (using CODC coding manual)</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative and quantitative</p>

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<p>Hanson et al., 2009 (Hanson et al., 2009; Hanson RK et al., 2009)</p> <p>Country Canada</p> <p>Support/funding NR</p>	<p>To examine if principles of effective interventions for general offenders also apply to SOT and to assess SOT effectiveness using only studies with a minimum study quality level</p>	<p>Databases searched PsycINFO, Web of Science, Digital Dissertations, NCJRS</p> <p>Search periods Up to 2008</p> <p>Other sources Reference tracking</p> <p>Language restriction English, French and German</p>	<p>Population Offenders with sexually motivated offences against an identifiable victim; adults or adolescents</p> <p>Interventions Psychological treatment (<i>no other details provided</i>)</p> <p>Comparators No treatment, an alternate treatment, less treatment, or established norms</p> <p>Outcomes Recidivism (<i>not defined</i>) rates (sexual, violent, or general)</p> <p>Study designs Studies comparing treated sex offenders with a comparison group of sex offenders, which met a minimum level of study quality</p>	<p>Procedures No details on who performed study selection. Data extraction and quality assessment performed independently by two reviewers. Quality of studies assessed using CODC guidelines.</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour Included controlled or comparative studies rated “weak”, “good”, and “strong” with CODC guidelines</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative and quantitative</p>
<p>Polizzi et al., 1999 (Polizzi et al., 1999)</p> <p>Country US</p> <p>Support/funding Supported in part by the Washington State Legislature Joint Audit and Review Committee</p>	<p>To evaluate prison- and non-prison-based SOT programs</p>	<p>Databases searched NR</p> <p>Search periods Publication date not clearly stated</p> <p>Other sources Request for additional research from experts</p> <p>Language restriction Not clear (<i>it appears study selection restricted to studies in English</i>)</p>	<p>Population Sex offenders (<i>no other details</i>)</p> <p>Interventions Prison- and non-prison-based SOT interventions</p> <p>Comparators NR</p> <p>Outcomes Reduced recidivism (sexual offence recidivism or any kind of future criminal behaviour)</p> <p>Study designs Study of the impact of SOT</p>	<p>Procedures No information on who performed study selection, data extraction, and quality assessment. Selected studies rated using a 5-point rigour scale (Maryland scale)</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour: Included impact evaluation studies rated at least 2 on Maryland scale</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative</p>
<p>Schmucker and Losel, 2008 (Schmucker & Losel, 2008; Losel & Schmucker, 2005)</p> <p>Country Germany (study carried out within framework of Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group)</p> <p>Support/funding NR</p>	<p>To systematically review controlled outcome evaluations of psychosocial and biological SOT</p>	<p>Databases searched 14 electronic databases including PsycINFO, MEDLINE, ERIC, The Cochrane Library, Social Services Abstracts, NCJRS, Dissertation Abstracts International, and UK National Health Service National Register</p> <p>Search periods Up to June 2003</p> <p>Other sources Hand searches of journals; request for additional/unpublished data from experts; searches of Internet sites of pertinent institutions</p> <p>Language restriction English, German, Dutch, French, and Swedish</p>	<p>Population Individuals who have been convicted of a sexual offence or have committed acts of illegal sexual behaviour that would have lead to a conviction if officially prosecuted</p> <p>Interventions Psychosocial and/or organic treatment modes (hormonal medication or surgical castration), which incorporated therapeutic measures</p> <p>Comparators No treatment, treatments “as usual”, another kind of treatment(differed from evaluated treatment in content, intensity and specificity)</p> <p>Outcomes Reduced recidivist behaviour (outcomes ranging from incarceration to lapse behaviour)</p> <p>Study designs Controlled outcome evaluations of SOT (experimental and quasi-experimental)</p>	<p>Procedures: No details on who performed study selection, data extraction and quality assessment. Quality of included studies rated with a 5-point rigour scale (adapted Maryland scale)</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour Included SOT evaluation studies rated at least 2 on the 5-point rigour scale</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative and quantitative</p>

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<p>White et al., 1998 (White et al., 2000)</p> <p>Country UK and Australia (CochraneReview)</p> <p>Support/funding Internal sources (Mental Health Unit, Queensland Health, Australia; Oxford University Department of Psychiatry, UK)</p>	<p>To determine the effectiveness of a range of management techniques to assist people who have disorders of sexual preference and those who have been convicted of sexual offences</p>	<p>Databases searched Biological Abstracts, the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group Register of Trials, The Cochrane Library, EMBASE, MEDLINE, and PsychLIT</p> <p>Search periods 1966 to April 1998</p> <p>Other sources Reference tracking, request for additional/unpublished data from experts and pharmaceutical manufacturers</p> <p>Language restriction Not clear (<i>it appears study selection restricted to studies in English</i>)</p>	<p>Population Individuals who have been convicted of sexual offences or who have disorders of sexual preference</p> <p>Interventions Anti-libidinal management techniques (drugs, surgery, psychological interventions)</p> <p>Comparators Placebo or standard care</p> <p>Outcomes Recidivism (defined as the occurrence of additional thoughts, urges or acts relevant to the disorders of sexual preference during the period of treatment); people lost to follow-up; death (suicide, all causes); other forms of criminal offence, measures of mental state, patient satisfaction, penile plethysmography, measures of resource utilization or cost benefit, and side effects</p> <p>Study designs RCTs</p>	<p>Procedures No details on who performed study selection. Data extraction and quality assessment performed independently by two reviewers. Selected studies allocated to three quality categories (A, B, C) by considering randomization as key aspect of methodology</p> <p>Standards of scientific rigour RCTs described as category A (randomization was described) and B (randomization was stated but not described) using Cochrane Collaboration Handbook (1997)</p> <p>Type of analysis Qualitative and semi-quantitative</p>

BNF – British National Formulary; BMA – British Medical Association; CBT – cognitive behavioural therapy; CODC – Collaborative Outcome Data Committee; NCCAN – National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect; NCJRS – National Criminal Justice Reference Service/System; NR – not reported; RCT – randomized controlled trial; SINGLE – System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe; SOT – sex offender treatment; UK – United Kingdom; US - United States of America