ABSTRACT

This is a journal critique paper that observes ten articles in the fields of emotional disorders, criminal justice and interpersonal violence involving sexual victimization of college women, sex offenders against children, juvenile delinquency, peer relationship, animal abuse as a result of domestic violence and child sexual abuse perpetrated by the catholic priests.
Education and Treatment for Boys Who Set Fires

The article published by Kolko, Herschell and Scharf, looks at the Behavioral Disorders of young children with a tendency of lighting fires. Cognitive–behavioral treatment (CBT) and fire safety education (FSE), are the intervention methods fronted by the authors to help to examine the specificity of the disorder, predictors and potential moderators of recidivism. FSE offers precise knowledge on safety measures to be taken, while CBT indicates positive specific effects only on problem solutions. The moderators of FSE and CBT proposed included exposure to fire models, increasing the child’s general fire knowledge, and improving family functioning. Having a history of fire experienced by the child in an earlier stage, fire attraction, and show of externalizing behaviors are the indicators of fire setting recidivism. However, there are more predictors and moderators such as curiosity about fire for FSE, and child psychopathology history and parenting practices for CBT, that could not be examined because of the small sample size, thus need to be considered in future.

The sample size of 46 boys aged between 5 and 13 that was used in this study was relatively small and could not give a comprehensive view of the study. It was only feasible to examine a small set of moderators in a few exploratory analyses since the researchers had to minimise the number of statistical tests administered. This means that the sample size needed to be increased to produce comprehensive results. Similarly, the age bracket ought to have been increased to late teens and to include girls since not only boys’ cause fire but girls as well. In addition, the length of intervention was fairly brief, limited to about eight sessions in CBT or FSE and only two
sessions in fire-fighter home visit (FHV). This limitation together with lower sample size diminished the ability to identify group differences.

Stability of Psychopathy from Teenage into Adulthood

This article published in 2008 by Lynam, Loeber and Stouthamer-Loeber in the journal of criminal justice and behavior looks at the stability of psychopathy from teenage into adulthood through examining the relationship between the moderator of psychopathy evaluated at age 13 using Childhood Psychopathy Scale (MCPS) and psychopathy evaluated by PCL:SV at age 24. This study used a sample of 250 participants, gauged using 13 potential moderators including demographics like family structure, family socioeconomic status, race, and neighborhood, parenting factors such as physical chastisement, positive parenting, slack supervision, inconsistent discipline, and own delinquency or peer delinquency, plus other individual differences.

This study determined that there was a relationship in the psychopathy at teenage and at adulthood. For the moderators examined at age 24 and the four PCL: SV facets and realised 8 out of the potential 65 relations were statistically important. The sample size of 250 was large enough to facilitate quality study and comprehensive determination of results. The sample that considered boys at ages 10 – 13 and young adults from age 22 – 26 had relatively similar representations of African and White American boys, and used a variety of measures to evaluate the causes, and to correlates and
impacts of antisocial behavior. This allowed the researchers to identify individual differences and a wide range of variation to prove the reliability of the data obtained. However, other moderators that the study ought to have considered include; glib and superficial charm, need for stimulation, show of pathological lying, promiscuous sexual behavior, poor behavioral controls, failure to accept responsibility, Juvenile Delinquency, parasitic lifestyle of fully depending on others, proneness to boredom, several short-term marital relationships for the adults, and lack of realistic, no long-term goals.

The Violent and Sexual Victimization of College Women

This article on violent and sexual victimization of college women published in 2008 by Daigle, Fisher and Francis assesses the degree to which college women experience dissimilar forms of recurrence violent and sexual ill-treatment during an academic year. The study also aimed at providing descriptive information on the time period for repeat sexual and violent victimization instances and found that after an initial victimization, repeat instances of victimization usually recur quickly within a short period of time mostly within 1-2 months. In addition, study explored the pre-incident, situational, and post-incident characteristics of repeat instances and compares them to the characteristics of single incidents. This study revealed that most women who are sexually assaulted normally do not report their victimization to campus officials or the police, but may tell other people, especially friends.
This study was based on two national-level data determined that a small proportion of college women undergo large proportion of violent and sexual victimizations, but notes that women are more prone to experience recurrent sexual victimization than repeat violence instances. Most of the repeat victimization usually takes place within a span of one month from the time of initial victimization and most often the same type of victimization.

This study used a big sample of 8878 to provide extensive information. The strength of the study was based on the female interviewers, who well trained in general principles of survey and interview design. These skills enabled them to obtain sensitive information from respondents through the use of a computer-assisted telephone interview, with 4,432 females completing the NCWVV survey and 4,446, completing the NCWSV survey at 85.6% response rate. In addition, the interviewers needed to have employed telephone interviews to allow sensitive respondents to offer personal private information. Sexual victimizations the sexual victimization comprehensively covered include; (1) rape, (2) sexual coercion,(3) unwanted sexual contact with force such as fondling of breasts, buttocks, (4) unwanted sexual contact without force such as verbally, and (5) threats and other (6), Violence includes like robbery, simple assault, and aggravated assault.

**Juvenile Delinquency and Victimization: A Theoretical Typology**

This articles published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence by Cuevas, et
al (2007), showcased the possible forms of delinquents and victims common with such pathways. The researchers used the developmental victimization survey where a national sample of 1,000 children and youth aged between 10 and 17 underwent phone interview. There are three different types of delinquent-victims, (1) bully-victims, (2) delinquent sex/maltreatment victims, and (3) property delinquent-victims. However, the study evidences that there are groups of youths who are delinquent but not extremely victimized, and youth who are victimized but not delinquent.

The study employed demographic questionnaire and Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ) approach that permits an intense evaluation of childhood victimization. This is a measure that supports self-reported delinquency behavior. The study also utilized Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC) which is a measure that evaluates posttraumatic trauma related symptoms in children and adolescents.

The fact that the data in this study utilizes self-report measurement techniques, the outcome are vulnerable to social desirability issues and response sets. Similarly, the types of delinquency, victimization and mental health problems discussed limit the outcome of the study since it gives small representation, thus should have been extended. Moreover, the use of telephone interview as collection tool gives an indication that there could be high-risk groups like the homeless without phone who might have been underrepresented. The researchers therefore ought to have identified focus groups with higher possibility of not accessing telephone in order to conduct face to face interview.
Sexual Harassment Victimization during Emerging Adulthood

This article by Clodfelter et al 2008 looked at sexual harassment predictors in early adulthood in relation to the general theory of crime. The article looked at three forms of sexual harassment on a college campus, the nature of reporting preferred by the victims, and determines whether routine practices and self-control theories efficiently explain sexual harassment. The study found that one fourth of the respondent in the sample were sexually harassed, the assaulted victims are extremely improbable to formally report the victimization incidents. It is also found that the measures of routine practices theory are significant predictors of sexual harassment. To contain the effects of this vice and the repeat of the activity, prevention and education policies should be developed and should emphasis on increased reporting to university authorities and police and assisting students understand the circumstances and contexts in which these behaviors are may occur.

This study used a big sample of 750 college students who were enrolled during the fall of 2004 semester and were aged between 18 and 25 years. All students were invited via electronic mail and introduced to the study before they were issued with the link to the website that hosted the survey with the self-administered questionnaire whose completion time wad 5 and 30 minutes. The respondents were from diversified groups that included White, and heterosexual-most of them being females to give a wide coverage and the study determined that among the victims, approximately half of the respondents had previously been sexually harassed on campus. This therefore To supplement the online survey, the researchers needed to
have used telephone interview as well, which would be used to verify the data collected. This was very important for the validity and reliability of the information.

The Peer Relationships of Youths with Psychopathic Personality Traits

This article on the peer relationships of teens with psychopathic traits published by Munoz, Kerr and Besic 2008 examined relationship quality among peers with delinquency characteristics using a sample of teens aged between 12- to 15 years old who were either stably high or low on psychopathic traits in 4 years. The youths with high psychopathic traits were found to engage most often in antisocial actions with their peers. This made the authors to conclude that youths with psychopathic behaviours have prejudiced perspectives on their interactions with close peers.

This conclusion was arrived at after a community-based study was conducted in medium-sized city of Sweden, which involved school going children aged between 10 and 18, drawn from 12 different schools and ranging from grade 4 to grade 12. The study gathered information on important peers both in classroom and outside school for a period of four years and a total of 667 participants. It emerged that youths with high psychopathic traits had fairly stable bilateral friends. Peers, in turn chose youths high in psychopathic traits. Equally, such friends did not view their friendships as unsupportive or conflictual. The study determined that youths high in psychopathic behaviours often misperceived certain aspects
of relationships. The fact that this study has been repeated for four tears is to determine all the variations that may arise. The consistency of the information and the longer time span proved the validity of the conclusion made by the researchers. The sample size is also big enough to produce detailed comparison.

Female Sex Offenders Exploring Issues of Personality, Trauma, and Cognitive Distortions

The article by Strickland (2008) looks at the relationship between the personality, cognitive distortion and trauma being female sext offender. It is noted that the severity of childhood trauma especially from sexual abuse poses a significant risk for the future development of sexually aberrant behavior for females in adulthood. Findings show that women who developed to be sexual abusers experienced greater trauma in their child life, as well as more physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and more physical neglect, than female offenders of nonsexual crimes when were children.

The sample used in this study totalled to 130 participants and were obtained from the imprisoned female population in the State of Georgia U.S. This sample consisted 60 sexual offenders, and 70 nonsexual offenders. The group of female sex offender had committed a sexual crime against a child below age 18 years, with crimes that involved fondling and forcible rape. The study only considered those who have hands-on crimes, while the offenders who committed prostitution, exposure, and commercialized, or
other hands-off crimes were excluded in this study. Victims on the other hand were either male or female. It is worth noting that participation in the study by Strickland was strictly voluntary, thus the participant’s identities were kept confidential.

The sample size appears small. However, it is satisfactory based on the highly restricted place of study which is the prison department. Collection of data from this environment must be challenging due to the limited time, restricted telephone use, and lack of access to online communication. Primary data in this case gives first-hand information.

**Relationship between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse**

The principal aim of this article by Volant et al 2008 was to determine the relationship between the rates of animal abuse and domestic violence from both rural and urban settings and within a community. The secondary aims on the other hand was to determine the rate of women in crisis who have postponed exiting their violent home as a result of their concern for the welfare of their pets, and the data on the types of pet abuses committed by partners. This study comprised 204 participants divided into two groups. The first group involved 102 women who were recruited through twenty four domestic violence services in Victoria State and the second group of 102 participants who were non-domestic violence recruited from the community. The study determined that the frequency of pet abuse, the threats of pet abuse by family members were significantly higher in the
violent families in comparison to the non-domestic violence group.

This study was done by the use of telephone interview tool and included questions relating to types of abuses. The report indicate that rate of pet abuse was 52.9% in the violence group, but 0% in the non-violence group. Out of the percentage, the majority was by kicking, hitting and throwing. In addition, women in the domestic violence category recounted that their children had physically abused the pet. However, the study determined that there was no difference between the two groups in relation to threat towards the pets by the children. The study was also consistent to the findings of several previous researches that pet abuse is prevalent among partners experiencing domestic violence. This therefore needs professional interventions to minimize the domestic violence as well as clinical interventions for the pets.

The study sample size however ought to have been increased to gain more comprehensive information. The rate of abuse was high at 52.9% but may have been as a result of the small number interviewed. This could be met through conducting online questionnaire to reach more people unreachable by phone.

The Nature and Scope of Child Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church

This article on Stained Glass by Karen Terry 2008 reveals the intensity and nature of Child Sexual mistreatment that was perpetrated by the Catholic
Priests in many parts of the world, especially from 1950 to 2002. The study shows that 97% of the dioceses that covered 99% of diocesan priests and 83% of religious priests responded to the invitation for data. This resulted into 4,392 priests making 4% had accusations of abuse, where by 10,667 victims made claims prompting the church to pay $572.5 million for compensation, legal and treatment fees by the time this survey was completed. Over $1.3 billion has been paid by 2008 in claims.

The majority of these sexual abuse victims were male, since it is the males group the priests were allowed to spend most of their time without much restriction. This study is meant to reveal information concerning entire populace of abusers in a span of 50-year period. This database of criminal justice and gives widespread data about child sexual abusers, gives evidence on trends of reporting child sexual abuse instances among males and females and the situational contexts in which abuse occurred.

This study however had a number of limitations. For example, researchers relied on self-reported information from dioceses. This means that those not willing to reveal the information are likely to conceal the vice even further, including the victims who would feel it is embarrassing to report or many may just reveal the already reported information. There were also many people involved that affected the uniformity of the data collected during the survey. The researcher therefore needed to increase the reliability tests to authenticate that data collected since some may also claim to be victims of child sexual abuse while in actual since they are not.

**Sexual Murderers of Children**
Developmental, Precrime, Crime, and Postcrime Factors

This article published by Beauregard et al (2008) found out that the sexual murderers of children at adult stages are usually victims of sexual abuse during their childhood stages of life. This occurs at a result of cognitive distortion and trauma as a result of the defilement, making them to develop deviant sexual illusions and behaviors. The results indicated that sexual murderers of children normally use pornography before committing the crime. Most murderers usually have interaction with the victim prior to crime and may be a trusted person. Such crimes are mostly characterized by strangulation, premeditation, hiding the corpse among others.

The aim of this study was to determine if there were variances between sexual murders of children and sexual murder of adult women. The study determined that sexual homicides of children comparable form an identical group that to some extent matches a number of traits of the brutal offenders. The statistics of the sexual murderers is fully dependent on the number the state are in apposition of identifying and incarcerating. The sample size used in this study is also low based on the fact that the numbers study can only be carried out in a prison set up with has numerous restrictions ranging from time for interviews, limited access to telephone and in ability to answer to online questionnaires. The results of the study are not as comprehensive and need to be considered in the future studies. In addition, to boost the quality of result on this study, there should be collaboration across all the research centres, states and countries to increase the number sample that can comprehensively allow comparison.
CONCLUSION

The ten articles discussed above reveals a common theme that revolves around effects of interpersonal relations that bring about interpersonal violence and criminal activities perpetrated by members of the society. Some of the crimes caused as a result of behavioural disorders, juvenile delinquency and aggressions as a result of frustrations as seen in the case of pet abuse.