

ASOTP IN REVIEW

***ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDER
TREATMENT PROGRAM***

*KENT COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
GRAND RAPIDS, MI*

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the findings of a ten year program evaluation for the Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Program (ASOTP) through Kent County Juvenile Court (KCJC). It is a follow up to the research conducted by Weiks and Lehker (1988). The study examined case records of 655 youth, between the ages of eight and 17, referred to the court on sex related offenses. While a majority of these cases were for offenses involving sexual contact between perpetrator and victim, also included in this study were cases for non-contact offenses (i.e. window peeping, solicitation for prostitution, etc.). The recidivism rate for the last ten years stands at 5.9%. Recidivism was determined to have occurred if the client was at some point referred on a new petition for inappropriate sexual behavior occurring any time between the initial assessment appointment and their reaching the age of legal majority in Michigan, specifically age 17. Also included in this paper is a discussion of the factors which may have positively impacted this low rate including: collaborative efforts between various systems, programmatic structure and support from legal representatives. This information is provided in order for the program to be replicated elsewhere. Also discussed are implications for social work practice with this population.

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