

Time-based Paradox of Arousal and Denial Problems Related to Sexual Offending

Whereas a common perception is that the passage of increased lengths of time since the last known offense represents an indicator of increased safety, this model attempts to outline underlying factors related to the mathematical reality that as time passes an increasing proportion of caught offenders will re-offend (i.e., move themselves from the category of non-recidivists to the category of recidivists) - meaning that as time lengths increase since the last re-offense risk level for recidivism may also increase.

Offending Period

Levels of deviant arousal are high, along with secrecy, and isolation. Trust from others may also be high, leading to low levels of scrutiny, vigilance, and accountability.

Caughtness - Involvement with the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems

Once caught, levels of deviant arousal tend to drop dramatically, though secrecy and isolation may remain high. Scrutiny, and vigilance from the legal system have the effect of improving the offenders accountability.

Sentence into Treatment and Probation

Once sentenced to probation and treatment, levels of deviant arousal begin to increase once again. Efforts of the treatment program may improve accountability and reduce secrecy and isolation, thereby successfully managing persistent deviant arousal, however there is a tendency for treatment providers to slip themselves into denial by believing that offenders no longer carry deviant sexual interest. Such denial, on the part of treatment providers as well as offenders, allows the gradual reemergence of higher levels of deviant sexual thoughts and feelings. The offender's ability to charm or "con" others into trusting him further decreases the quality of supervision and scrutiny and contributes to the offender's ability to secretly harbor deviant sexual interests.

Completion of and Discharge from Treatment to Probation in the Community

Levels of accountability, for past abuses and potential relapse, drops dramatically upon release from treatment. Offenders living on probation in the community typically attempt to meet the baseline and minimum standards for accountability that place them within easy reach of inappropriate stimulus and behaviors. Over time, levels of denial increase along with isolation and secrecy, followed by a return of higher levels of deviant sexual interest.

Completion of Probation

Once probation periods are completed, offenders are able to compartmentalize their previous involvement, and resulting stigma, with legal and therapeutic intervention around sexual offending. Such secreting results in a level of isolation that eventually matches pre-treatment levels, and contributes to a lifestyle that does not include adequate levels of accountability. This context allows the gradual and continuous reemergence of deviant sexual arousal and deviant behavior patterns as a means of meeting both sexual and non-sexual needs.