



# Teenage Problematic Sexual Behaviors

*Jenika Scott, Department of Political Science*

*Jacquelynn Duron, PhD, LCSW, Department of Social Work*

**RUTGERS**

Ronald E. McNair  
Postbaccalaureate  
Achievement Program

## Research Purpose

**Purpose Statement:** This proposal sought to examine the impact that social factors can have on influencing a child or teenager to engage in Problematic Sexual Behaviors and how they can cause or prevent recidivism.

## Research Question(s):

1. What impact do Social Factors (Individual, Family, Community and society) have on a Child or Teenager's Development?
2. In teenagers between the ages of 5 and 13, how does the exposure of social factors on an individual, family, community and society level influence Sexual problematic behaviors in this population?

## Research Rationale

- PSB occurs in 42 to 73 percent of children by the age of 13
- long-term effects on their social, emotional, behavioral development, and long-term adjustment.
  - 50% of children engage in some form of sexual behavior before the age of 13
    - Normative (Sex Play)
    - Problematic
- if behavior is not controlled, they may even become incarcerated.
- ½ PSB have no History of abuse, trauma or psychological implications

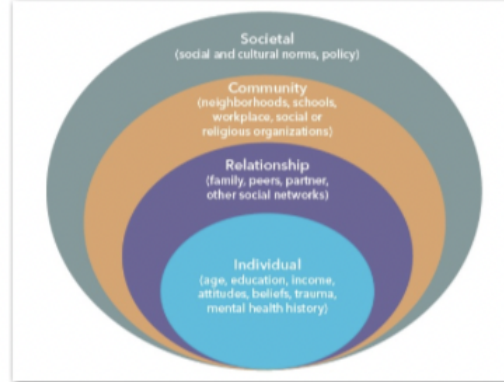
## Methodology:

- Research Design
  - Qualitative Delphi Survey
- Participants
  - Thirty (30) experts, therapists worked with teenagers with PSBs
- Research Instrument
  - Questionnaire
- Software
  - Qualtrics
  - Nvivo

## Interview Protocol

- Questionnaires in three rounds via Qualtrics
1. What familial challenges (related to the client's family) have you identified in the lives of the clients you work with?

2. What are the individual needs of the clients you work with?
3. What new challenges are youth experiencing during the COVID19 pandemic? These may pertain to personal, familial, community, or societal levels.
4. What new needs are youth experiencing during the COVID19 pandemic? These may pertain to personal, familial, community, or societal levels.
5. What strengths or strategies are you experiencing that aid in your provision of services to youth during the COVID-19 pandemic?



**Social-Ecological Model**

## Quotes

- "Sexual behavior problems are progressively developing in children and youths; occurring in 42 to 73 percent of children by the age of 13" (Silovsky and Niec 2002; Kellogg 2010).
- "who initiate behaviors involving sexual body parts (i.e., genitals, anus, buttocks, or breasts) that are developmentally inappropriate or potentially harmful to themselves or others" ( p.200)
- Normative (Healthy) Sexual Behavior is viewed as a child or teenager's sexual exploration that comes from curiosity, low frequency (does not interfere with normal childhood activities), similar age range, spontaneity, and mutuality.
- Schaefer and Lamm (1997) define social institutions as "organized patterns of beliefs and behavior centered on basic social needs. They re-affirmed that institutions are organized in response to particular needs.

## Context about the Study / Demographic Information

- The interview is surrounding clinicians and experts in the field of Social work who have worked with teenagers with Problematic Sexual Behaviors
- Individuals between the age of 5 and 13 years of age
- Survey the various opinions of clinicians and practitioners in the field of Problematic Sexual Behaviors among youths across the U.S. It is a three staged process that involves three rounds of questionnaires.

## Initial / Major Findings

- The researcher hopes to prove that through socialization, the social factors surrounding a child or Teenager can have both a positive and negative impact on their lives. That is it can have a psychosocial impact on the development of a child
- If there are positive social indicators a child can either not engage in these problematic behaviors to begin with or if diagnosed with this behavior will not later recidivate
- Further work is needed to fully understand and explore social factors in the social sciences arena outside of psychology and their implications on child development.
- Further research might explore the concept of positive engagement on an individual, family, community, and society level

## Acknowledgements

I want to express my extreme gratitude to the Mc Nair Program for allowing me this opportunity to part take in this research. Secondly, I would like to thank Dr. Duron for trusting me to share in her amazing work and research and encouraging me to pursue my own perspective on the topic. I also would like to thank Dr. Jaffe and Dr. Garcia for finding my research.