

The Psychophysiological Profiling of Sex-offenders and Substance Abusers by Using Multiple Measurement Approaches

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The purpose of this study was to investigate psychophysiological responses and cognitive schema of two types of abusers (sexual offenders and substance abusers) under stress. 24 sex-offenders and 24 substance abusers were recruited as the experiment group, and another 24 non-addicted offenders were selected as the control group. All the psychophysiological responses induced in this study were collected by ProComp InfinitiTM. Moreover, while two types of abusers were under stressful conditions (indicated by their psychophysiological responses), the data of their cognitive schema was also collected. Therefore, three concrete goals were expected to be achieved:

1. To build up the baselines of psychophysiological response for two types of abusers under neutral and stressful conditions.
2. To compare and contrast their psychophysiological response with other non-addicted offenders in the different kinds of stress.
3. To explore and compare the cognitive schema of the two types of abusers while the stressful responses were created and the signals from biofeedback were indicated.

The data of this research contained some meaningful clinical implications for this study:

1. The biofeedback equipment (ProComp Infiniti TM) were good indicators to distinguish abusers' psychophysiological responses under neutral from stressful conditions.
2. Sexual offenders tended to have more hyper psychophysiological responses when under their offense related stimulus than substance abusers and other types of offenders. Moreover, most sexual offenders expressed much more cognitive distortion in denying their offense and blaming their victims .
3. Substance abuses tended to show higher psychophysiological responses when under math solving stress; they commonly reported that they were more inclined to elicit their relapse intention when seeing the film about a persons' injection of heroin. More importantly, most substance abusers explicitly indicated that they were not sure whether they would be able to resist the temptation of substances in the future.

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