Person-first Language: Does it Matter When Describing Persons Who Sexually Offend?

Harleen Cheema
Dr. Sandy Jung

PERSON-FIRST LANGUAGE

I AM A

PERSON-FIRST LANGUAGE

I HAVE

PERSON-FIRST LANGUAGE

SCHIZOPHRENIC → PERSON WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

PERSON-FIRST LANGUAGE

SCHIZOPHRENIC → **PERSON WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA**

SEX OFFENDER → **PERSON CONVICTED OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE**

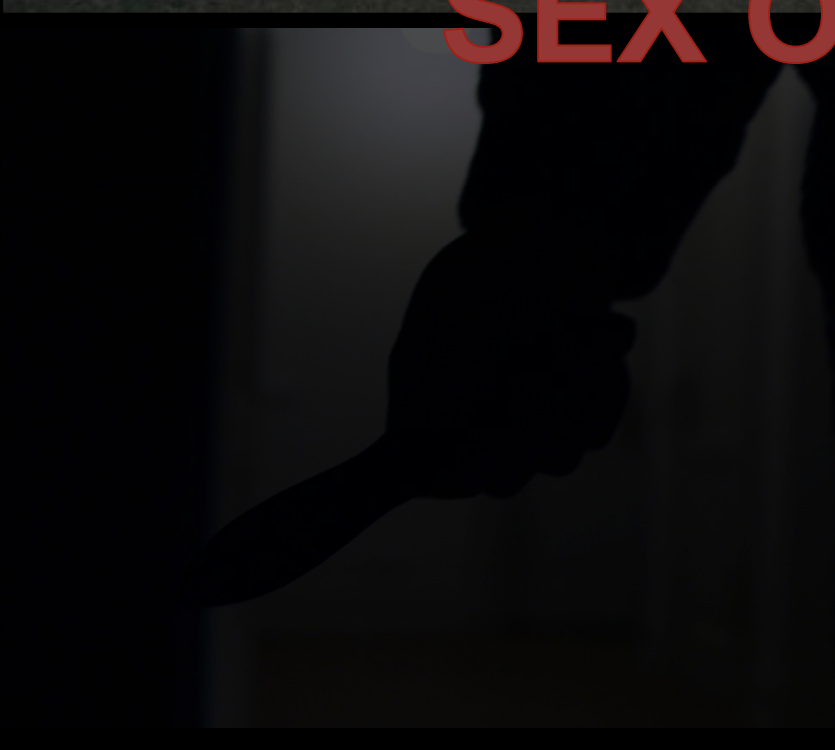| NEGATIVE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES	COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION	REOFFENDING	SAFETY
⬆	⬇	⬆	⬇

SEX OFFENDER

FREE CANDY

Violent sex offender captured

A violent sex offender who escap[ed] from a San Mateo County mental heal[th]

PERSON CONVICTED OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE

PAST ASSOCIATIONS

METHOD

N = 291 Canadian Adults

INDIVIDUAL MEASURES
1. ATTSO
2. CATTSO
3. IT-HN

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Person convicted of a sexual offense to be released poses risk to reoffend, police warn

Published on: March 12, 2017 | Last Updated: March 12, 2017 7:35 PM MDT

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Police are warning the public about a person convicted of a sexual offense that poses a risk to offend again in the community.

In the interest of public safety, ▮▮▮ Police Service is issuing the following warning: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮, 25, is set to be released from the ▮▮▮▮ Penitentiary after serving two years for a conviction of sexual assault against a child victim.

He is considered by police to pose a risk of reoffending in the community. ▮▮▮▮▮ will be residing in ▮▮▮▮▮ but will be monitored closely by a specialized police unit.

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Police are warning the public about a person convicted of a sexual offense that poses a risk to offend again in the community.

LABEL USED TO DESCRIBE PERSON CONVICTED OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE

In the interest of public safety, [____] Police Service is issuing the following warning: [____], 25, is set to be released from the [____] Penitentiary after serving two years for a conviction of sexual assault against a child victim.

AGE OF VICTIM

He is considered by police to pose a risk of reoffending in the community. [____] will be residing in [____] but will be monitored closely by a specialized police unit.

2 (VICTIM AGE: ADULT vs. CHILD) X 4 (LABEL: PF vs. SO-GENERAL vs. SO-SPECIFIC vs. DIAGNOSTIC

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Rapist to be released poses risk to reoffend, police warn

Published on: March 12, 2017 | Last Updated: March 12, 2017 7:35 PM MDT

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Police are warning the public about a rapist that poses a risk to offend again in the community.

In the interest of public safety, _____ Police Service is issuing the following warning: _____, 25, is set to be released from the _____ Penitentiary after serving two years for a conviction of sexual assault against an adult victim.

He is considered by police to pose a risk of reoffending in the community. _____ will be residing in _____ but will be monitored closely by a specialized police unit.

ADULT VICTIM

Person convicted of a sexual offense

PERSON FIRST

Sex offender

OFFENSE GENERAL

Rapist

OFFENSE SPECIFIC

Sexual sadist

DIAGNOSTIC

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Pedophile to be released poses risk to reoffend, police warn

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Police are warning the public about a pedophile that poses a risk to offend again in the community.

In the interest of public safety, _____ Police Service is issuing the following warning: _____, 25, is set to be released from the _____ Penitentiary after serving two years for a conviction of sexual assault against a child victim.

He is considered by police to pose a risk of reoffending in the community. _____ will be residing in _____ but will be monitored closely by a specialized police unit.

CHILD VICTIM	ADULT VICTIM
Person convicted of a sexual offense	Person convicted of a sexual offense

PERSON FIRST

Sex offender	Sex offender

OFFENSE GENERAL

Child molester	Rapist

OFFENSE SPECIFIC

Pedophile	Sexual sadist

DIAGNOSTIC

WILLINGNESS TO ASSOCIATE

0 ———————— 100

WILLINGNESS TO ASSOCIATE

0 —————————————— 100

PUNISH VS. TREAT

0 —————————————— 10

Rehabilitation   Punishment

WILLINGNESS TO ASSOCIATE

0 ——————————————————— 100

PUNISH VS. TREAT

0 ——————————————————— 10
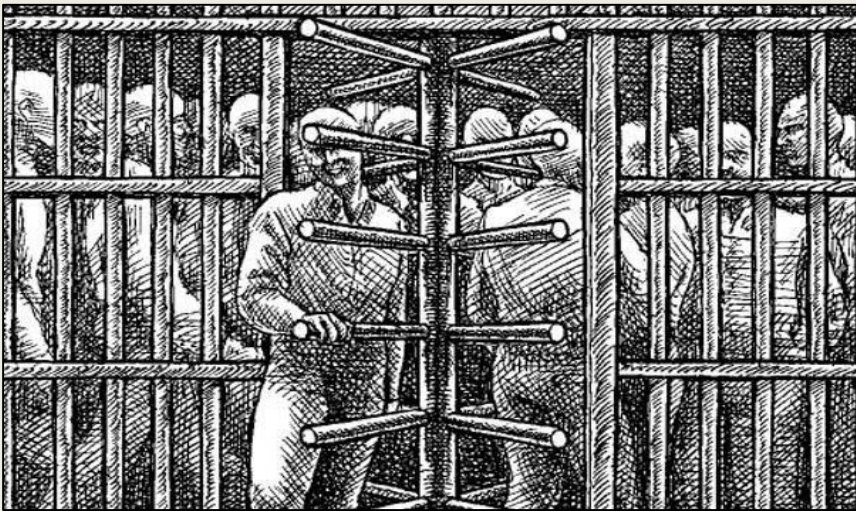
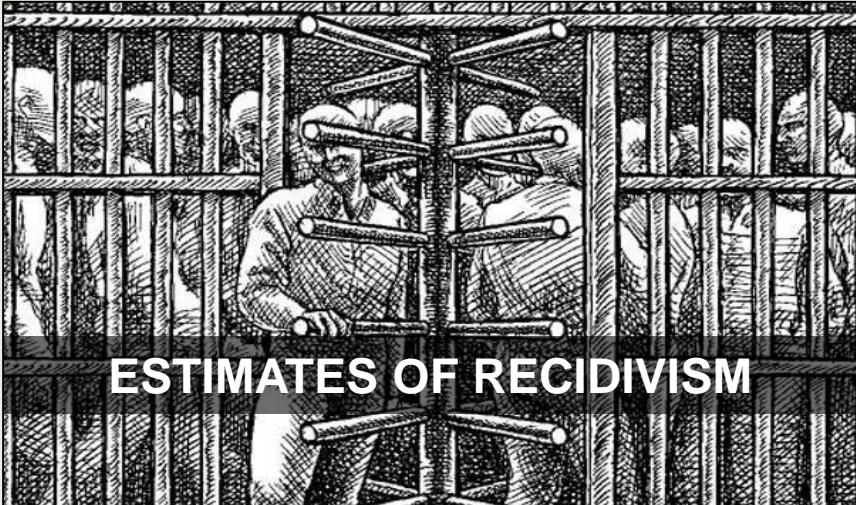Rehabilitation   Punishment
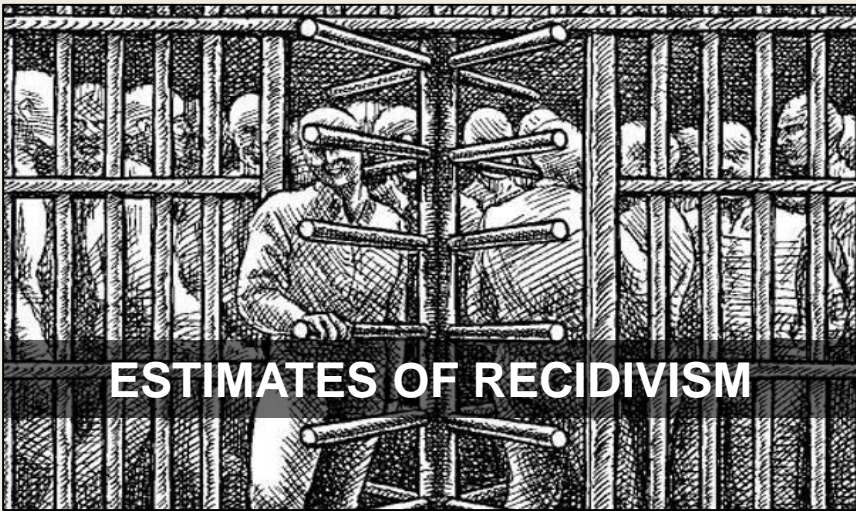
ESTIMATES OF RECIDIVISM

0% ——————————————————— 100%

WILLINGNESS TO ASSOCIATE

0 —————————————— 100

PUNISH VS. TREAT

0 —————————————— 10

Rehabilitation   Punishment

ESTIMATES OF RECIDIVISM

0% —————————————— 100%

TREATMENT AMENABILITY

1 —————————————— 7

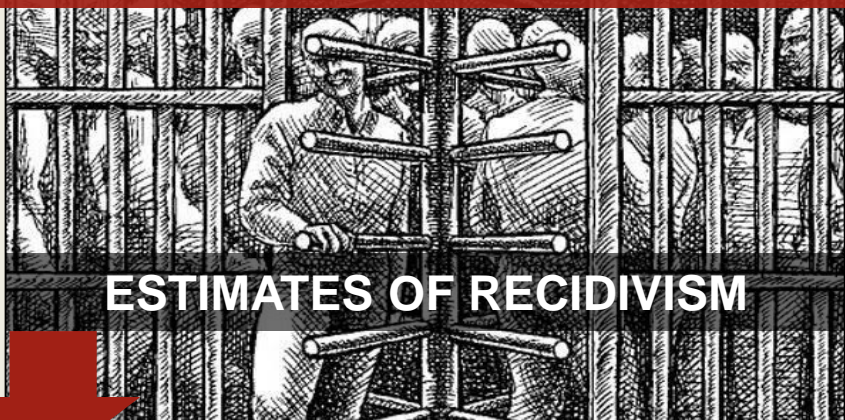Strongly disagree   Strongly Agree

HYPOTHESIS

WILLINGNESS TO ASSOCIATE

PUNISH VS. TREAT

PERSON CONVICTED OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE

ESTIMATES OF RECIDIVISM

TREATMENT AMENABILITY

RESULTS

WILLINGNESS TO ASSOCIATE

PUNISH VS. TREAT

ESTIMATES OF RECIDIVISM

TREATMENT AMENABILITY

RESULTS

TREATMENT AMENABILITY

OFFENSE SPECIFIC

↑ **PERSON CONVICTED OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE AGAINST AN ADULT**

RAPIST

DIAGNOSTIC

↑ **PERSON CONVICTED OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE AGAINST A CHILD**

PEDOPHILE

SUMMARY

➤ Maintained negative perceptions.

UNWILLING TO ASSOCIATE

PUNITIVE

HIGH RISK
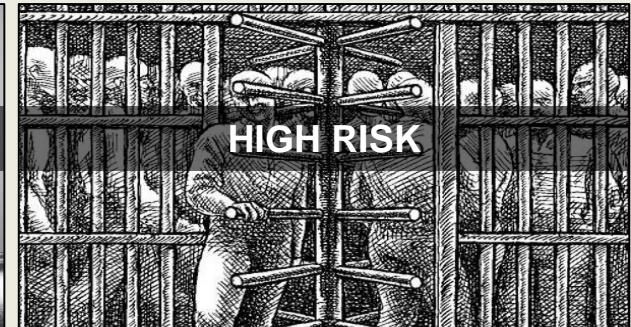
➤ Use of person-first labels important within domain of treatment.

TREATMENT AMENABILITY

➤ The language that we use is important.

REHABILITATION →

IMPLICATIONS

I AM NOT MY RECORD