Veterans who Commit Sexual Offenses: What Do We Know About Their Characteristics, Risk Factors and Treatment Needs?

Level
Introductory

CE
CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER/MCLE

Track
Sex Offender/Legal

Bio
Stephanie Brooks Holliday, PhD
Stephanie is a clinical forensic psychologist and behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation. Her work has focused on a wide range of topics, including best practices in forensic mental health assessment, risk assessment, adherence to the risk-need-responsivity model and the evaluation of diversion and reentry programs. She has also conducted research related to justice-involved veterans, with a focus on using administrative data to examine the characteristics of veterans who have committed sexual offenses. Prior to RAND, Stephanie completed her PhD at Drexel University and her clinical internships and postdoctoral fellowship at the Washington DC VA Medical Center.

Shoba Sreenivasan, PhD
Shoba is a forensic psychologist with extensive experience in conducting SVP evaluations having done so since the inception of the law in California in 1996 (as a contract provider and independent expert for many years, and as a state employee since January of 2019).

Shoba received a PhD in clinical psychology from UCLA in 1986 and completed a forensic post-doctoral fellowship at USC in 1987. She has testified in SVP in California and the State of Washington. Her current position is as an SVP Evaluator for the California Department of State Hospitals, Forensic Services Division. Shoba also had the privilege of serving our nations veterans for over 28 years when she was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Greater Los Angeles VAMC. She has held an academic position through the Keck USC School of Medicine and faculty member of the USC Institute of Psychiatry, Law and Behavioral Sciences since 1987 where she teaches and trains forensic post-doctoral psychiatry fellows. In addition, Shoba has numerous peer-reviewed publications concentrating on SVP topics, military veterans, and ethical issues.

Narrative
Although veterans have lower incarceration rates than civilians, large national surveys find higher rates of incarceration for sexual offenses among veterans compared to non-veterans. However, there remain questions as to the factors associated with sexual offending behavior among veterans, whether these veterans have unique treatment needs, and whether their

likelihood of reoffending differs from civilians. In this presentation, we will review the findings of a series of studies aimed at exploring these questions, including analyses of data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics to examine differences between veteran and civilian sexual offenders, as well as longitudinal analyses of veterans forensically housed under the California Sexually Violent Predator statute in California. We will describe clinical and offense-related characteristics, patterns of recidivism and factors associated with recidivism within this unique subpopulation.

Learning Objectives
Describe the characteristics of veterans who have been incarcerated for sexual offenses.

Identify veteran-specific factors associated with repeat sexual offenses among veterans compared to civilians.

Describe the characteristics of veterans who have been forensically housed under the California Sexually Violent Predator statute in California.

Identify predictors of sexual recidivism among veterans who have been forensically housed under the California Sexually Violent Predator statute in California.