Policing Child Sex Offenders and Offending

A Rapid Review of the Evaluation Literature: Final Report

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Executive Summary

Background

This report provides a systematic rapid review of the evidence-base for policing approaches for child sex offenders and offending. The review had two inter-related aims. First, to ascertain and synthesise the evidence-base for risk management of child sex offenders by police. Second, to synthesise studies that assess the impact of any type of policing approach for child sex offenders and offending, with no limit on the outcomes used to evaluate the intervention.

Search Methods

We used a systematic review methodology to identify eligible studies. To be included in the review, each study needed to meet the following criteria:

- Include a quantitative impact evaluation of a policing response to child sex offenders or child sex offending;
- (2) Utilise either a randomised experimental research design, review and/or meta-analytic research design, or a high quality quasi-experimental research design;
- (3) Be conducted or published between 2004 and 2018 inclusive; and
- (4) Be written in English.

The initial search was conducted within the Global Policing Database and identified 1,936 potentially eligible citations. First stage title and abstract screening resulted in the removal of 1,369 records due to not being related to sex offending. The full-text for the potentially eligible titles and abstracts published between 2010 - 2018 were screened for final eligibility (n = 267), which resulted in a loss of 254 documents because (a) they did not report on an eligible intervention or a quantitative impact evaluation of an eligible intervention; or (b) because the study was focused on adult, mixed or unspecified sex offenders/offending. The final corpus of 12 eligible studies (reported in 13 documents) is comprised of no randomised controlled trials (RCTs), 2 reviews with or without meta-analyses, and 10 robust quasi-experiments. This level of attrition is common in systematic reviews of evaluation evidence in policing and is reflective of the scarcity of high quality evaluations of criminal justice interventions across the globe.

Results

The 12 eligible studies (reported in 13 documents) were predominantly conducted in the United States, however, a range of developing and developed countries were also represented in the corpus of studies. It is notable that there was no standalone impact evaluations of risk assessment approaches and none of the included interventions contained a risk assessment component. A third of the studies consider the impact of multiagency or collaborative policing responses for child sex offenders/offending (n = 4), whereas the remaining studies are distributed between training, investigative, and legislative/regulatory approaches. A recently conducted systematic review conducted by Eggins et al. (embargoed) identified an additional six studies that examine the impact of policing approaches for addressing child exploitation material offending. A range of outcomes were captured by the studies, including:

- Prosecutorial outcomes
- Rates of arrest or reporting to police
- Quality of investigatory interviews
- Amount of information gathered during investigations
- Knowledge of child protective behaviours

This rapid review provides a comprehensive preliminary understanding of the impact of policing responses for child sex offenders/offender on a range of policy and practice outcomes. It should be noted that this review only provides a narrative synthesis of robust impact evaluations of mental health co-response models conducted between 2010 - 2018 that met our inclusion criteria¹. Caution must be exercised when comparing the results of the single studies because meta-analysis was not used to quantitatively synthesise the outcome data reported in the component studies.

Key Observations

Key observations from our review include:

- Very little high quality evaluation evidence exists for policing approaches in the area of child sex offending/offenders.
- Although there is a vast amount of literature examining the psychometric qualities of

¹ But see Appendices for 2004 – 2009 potentially eligible studies and studies focused on adult, mixed, or unspecified sex offending/offenders.

various risk assessment tools, the review did not identify any police-focused impact evaluations of these tools.

- Rigorous impact evaluations of police use of risk management strategies in the field including risk assessment tools – are required to understand their effectiveness in the context of for child sex offending.
- Investigative, training and multiagency approaches show promise across a range of outcomes.
- Closer examination of adult or mixed sex offender evaluation evidence may provide a more comprehensive picture of the breadth of possible approaches for policing child sex offending/offences. However, caution should be exercised in extrapolating results across different sex offender populations due to differing typologies.

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1: Review Methodology

1.1 Introduction

The growth of evidence-based policy and practice in criminal justice has led to a growth in experimental research and systematic reviews as a means for identifying best practice. Randomised experiments and systematic reviews are considered the "gold standard" methods in the area of evidence-based policy and practice (Mazerolle & Bennett, 2011). Randomised experiments provide the most robust methods for establishing causality and establishing the impact of an intervention (Blumstein, 2013). Systematic reviews of interventions, which may or may not include a meta-analysis, expand single study evidence by utilising a series of standardised methodological stages to capture and synthesise impact evaluations of interventions (Liberati et al., 2009). Systematic reviews provide concise and comprehensive summaries of high-quality research evidence and are valuable tools for policy-makers and practitioners aiming to identify interventions that are most effective for particular problems and populations (Wilson & Tanner-Smith, 2014).

While systematic reviews are considered the highest quality evidence, they are time and labourintensive. As a result, scholars have developed alternative review methodologies to allow for expedited syntheses of empirical literature, including reviews of existing systematic reviews, overviews of reviews, scoping reviews, evidence maps, and rapid reviews (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brien, 2010; Snilstveit et al., 2016). The review reported here adopts a hybrid approach that draws on a range of review method frameworks. The overall aim is to provide a rapid and broad synthesis of the highest quality available evidence for the effectiveness of policing responses to child sex offenders/offending.

1.2 Review Methodology

This review adopts a hybrid approach that draws on traditional systematic review methodologies and also alternative review methodologies that permit expedited reviews of evaluation literature (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brien, 2010; Snilstveit et al., 2016). The initial stages of the review process utilised a standard systematic review methodology, beginning with a broad systematic search of academic and grey literature (unpublished) sources. All studies identified by the systematic search were then progressed through standardised sequential screening stages to ascertain whether each study met our pre-specified inclusion criteria. At the point of inclusion, studies were categorised to establish the breadth and depth of the evaluation literature. From the point of study

categorisation, this review adopts a narrative synthesis method which summarises the key characteristics of eligible studies across several overarching substantive content areas, representing the broad categorisation of policing approaches for sex offending and offenders. Within each of these sections, the evidence is summarised by reporting: (a) the overall number of studies by research design (review, RCT, quasi-experiment); (b) the geographical location of studies; (c) the specific type of policing approach; and (d) the type of outcome measures used to evaluate the intervention.

1.3 Search Methodology

Search Location: The Global Policing Database

We conducted a systematic search within the Global Policing Database (GPD), housed at the University of the Queensland. The GPD is searchable database designed to capture all published and unpublished experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations of interventions relating to police or policing that have been conducted since 1950. Using innovative systematic review technologies developed at The University of Queensland, the GPD is being compiled by systematically searching, retrieving and screening published and unpublished literature that reports on impact evaluations of interventions relating to police or policing from 1 January 1950. There are no restrictions on the type of policing technique, type of outcome measure or language of the research. A complex search string using a large number of search terms (free-text and controlled vocabulary) and several search fields (e.g., title, abstract, keywords) has been used to search more than 65 databases that collectively cover peer-reviewed and grey literature (see <u>www.gpd.uq.edu.au</u> for a full methodological protocol).

Search Terms

We developed a wide range of search terms to capture relevant literature by drawing on existing research, as well as seeking input from police practitioners and researchers. Because the systematic search underpinning the GPD utilises policing terms, the search terms for this review focused on sex offending terms. Previous syntheses in this area highlight how sex offending literature inconsistently specifies or separates child sex offenders from other types of sex offenders (Eggins et al., in press). For this reason, the search was not restricted by adding a clause of child-related search terms. However, a filter for capturing robust evaluation research was also used to refine the search results and expedite the review.

Table 1.1 lists the search terms used for the review, which were used to search the title and abstract fields of eligible studies indexed within in the GPD. Search terms were iteratively piloted before reaching this final set of terms in order to ensure that the search terms were not overly sensitive

(capturing a high proportion of irrelevant research) or restrictive (not identifying sufficient relevant research).

Sex Offence Search Terms Separated by Boolean OR	Robust Evaluation Filter Separated by Boolean OR		
abus*	random*		
contact*	*experiment*		
groom*	evaluat*		
incest*	trial*		
molest*	program*		
paedo*	meta*		
paraphil*	*review*		
pedophil*	comparison*		
penetrat*	control*		
rape*	matched		
rapist*	"propensity score*"		
sex*	effective*		
	efficacy		
	RCT*		
	interven*		
	treatment*		
	therap*		
Sex Offence and Evaluation Sets Combined with Boolean AND			

 Table 1.1 Rapid Review Search Terms

1.4 Criteria for Including Studies in the Review

To be included in this review, each document extracted from the GPD must have satisfied all inclusion criteria, which are outlined in the subsections below.

Research Timeframe

To provide the most up-to-date synthesis of literature pertaining to road policing interventions in the context of differing levels of jurisdictional centralisation, only studies which were published from January 2004 through to December 2018 were progressed through the systematic search and screening process. To provide the most up-to-date synthesis of the evaluation research, studies conducted between 2010 - 2018 inclusive are included in the narrative synthesis in the subsequent subsections of this report. However, Appendix A lists potentially eligible studies conducted between 2004 - 2009.

Population

To provide a comprehensive synthesis of the literature, eligible interventions were included if the participants were:

- Police practitioners or organisations;
- Organisations, businesses, or entities (including employees) working in partnership with police;
- Micro- or macro-places; or
- Citizens (e.g., victims, family members, general public).

Types of Interventions

To be eligible for inclusion in the review, each document must have reported on an impact evaluation of some type of policing response to child sex offending or child sex offenders. For the purposes of this review, we defined a policing response as some kind of a strategy, technique, approach, activity, campaign, training, directive, or funding / organisational change that involves police in some way (other agencies or organisations can be involved). Police involvement is broadly defined as:

- Police initiation, development or leadership
- Police are recipients of the intervention or the intervention is related, focused or targeted to police practices; or
- Delivery or implementation of the intervention by police.

We defined a child sex offender as an individual who is under investigation, arrest/charged, convicted or serving a sentence or probation for a sex offence against a child. Due to jurisdictional differences in the age of consent and definition of child sex offences, we deferred to study authors' definitions of child sex offences and/or attempted to seek clarification from legislation from the study's jurisdiction.

Types of Outcomes

No limits were placed on the types of outcomes that could be used by studies to evaluate the policing response to child sex offenders/offending.

Types of Study Designs

To synthesise the most rigorous research, the review included research designs that allow for reliable conclusions about intervention effectiveness. Specifically, systematic reviews and randomised experiments were prioritised for syntheses, as these designs are considered the "gold standard" for ascertaining intervention effectiveness. Eligible comparison conditions/groups include no treatment, placebo, "business-as-usual", waitlist control, or an alternative treatment.

While other research designs are less robust, they are often used due to the difficulties associated with conducting RCTs in criminal justice settings (Weisburd, 2000). In the absence of RCT evidence, "strong" quasi-experiments that attempt to minimise threats to internal validity can be used to provide preliminary causal evidence for the effectiveness of an intervention (see Farrington, 2003; Shadish, Cook, & Campbell, 2002). Threats to internal validity can be reduced through various approaches, including matching the characteristics of the treatment and comparison groups, controlling assignment of cases to treatment and comparison groups (regression discontinuity), or using difference-in-difference analyses (parallel cohorts with pre-test and post-test measures). Our narrative syntheses prioritises the evidence from systematic reviews and RCTs, yet each section also lists eligible quasi-experiments. However, the full corpus of RCTs and quasi-experimental studies are summarised at the end of each section of the report.

1.5 Screening and Coding Process

All search results were exported from the GPD into *SysReview*, a Microsoft Access database designed for managing systematic reviews (Higginson & Neville, 2013). Prior to screening, all efforts were made to remove ineligible document types (e.g., book reviews) and duplicate records. The subsections below provide a summary of the screening and coding protocol that was followed for the review.

Title and Abstract Screening

To refine the corpus of documents prior to more time and resource intensive full-text eligibility screening and coding stages, all records were screened on title and abstract to determine relevancy to sex offenders/offending. Trained research staff used a standardised screening companion to screen each record according to whether the record (title and abstract) was (a) unique (i.e., not a duplicate); and (b) focused on managing sex offenders and/or preventing/reducing sex offending. Potentially eligible documents then progressed to the full-text eligibility screening stage.

Full-Text Eligibility Screening

Wherever possible, a full-text electronic version was obtained for all eligible records flowing from the title and abstract screening stage. Trained research staff screened the full-text of each document in a two-stage screening and categorisation process, using a standardised screening companion according to criteria listed below for studies conducted between 2010 - 2018 inclusive. If documents were not excluded, they were considered eligible for the review and progressed to categorisation and coding. Upon determining whether the study reported on an evaluation of a policing response to child sex offenders or offending, studies were then categorised according to the type of sexual offending targeted by the intervention.

Full-Text Eligibility Exclusion Criteria

- Document is an ineligible document type (e.g., book review);
- Document is not unique (i.e. not a duplicate); and
- Document does not report on an impact evaluation of a policing response to sex offending/offenders.

Full-Text Categorisation Criteria

- Focused on child sex offenders/offending only;
- Focused on adult sex offenders/offending only; or
- Mixed offenders/offending or unspecified by study authors.

Full-Text Coding

A team of trained research staff coded each eligible study using to standardised guidelines to inform the qualitative syntheses within each review theme. Specifically, data were extracted for each study categorised as being focused on child sex offenders/offending according to the following domains:

- Citation information (type of document, publication date, authors etc.);
- Geographical location of the intervention;
- Research design (including comparison condition);
- Type of outcome measure(s) used to evaluate the intervention;
- Population description (e.g., sample size, type of practitioners, type of offending); and
- Intervention description (e.g. setting, focus, treatment components, intensity).

2.6 Search and Screening Summary

GPD Search Results

The systematic search identified 15,580 records (citations) prior to any systematic screening for presence of evaluations of interventions relating to police or policing. Of these records, 1,936 were extracted from the GPD for this review. The attrition of identified records is displayed in the PRISMA flowchart in Figure 2.1 (Moher et al., 2009). The extraction represents records (citations/documents) that had been (a) screened as potentially being about police or policing on their title and abstract, but could not be verified on full-text (n = 509); or (b) containing either a

preliminary indicator of a quantitative impact evaluation or verified quantitative impact evaluation of an intervention relating to police or policing (n = 1,427).



The results of the eligibility screening and coding phases for this review, after extraction from the GPD, are presented in the PRISMA flowchart in Figure 2.2 (Moher et al., 2009). Of the 1,936 records, 567 were screened as potentially being about policing sex offenders or sex offending, based on their title and abstract. The full-text of these eligible titles and abstracts published between 2010 - 2018 were screened for final eligibility (n = 267)². Of these 267 documents, 13 were categorised as impact evaluations of a policing response to child sex offending (representing 12 studies due to secondary reporting). These eligible documents were then categorised and coded, with a broad

² This excludes records where a full-text could not be sourced via institutional libraries (n = 168). The vast majority of these records were conference abstracts. The full list is provided in Appendix B. The full-list of potentially eligible documents dated 2004 – 2009 after provided in Appendix A (n = 132).

summary provided in Table 2.1. A further 31 studies were categorised as impact evaluations of policing responses to sex offending where the study focus was on mixed sex offenders/offending (n = 19) or adult sex offenders/offending only (n = 12). We also note that Eggins et al. have completed a systematic review and evidence and gap map of criminal justice interventions for child exploitation material offending, which contains a synthesis of 6 policing interventions. However, this review is under embargo with the funder (Australian Institute of Criminology) until mid-2020.



Figure 2.2. PRISMA Flow diagram for CSOR systematic search and screening.

Outcome Category	Results
Training $(n = 3)$	Systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses: $n = 1$ Randomised controlled trials: $n = 0$ Strong quasi-experiments: $n = 2$
Investigative $(n = 4)$	Systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses: $n = 0$ Randomised controlled trials: $n = 0$ Strong quasi-experiments: $n = 4$
Regulatory or Legislative $(n = 1)$	Systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses: $n = 0$ Randomised controlled trials: $n = 0$ Strong quasi-experiments: $n = 1$
Collaborative or Multiagency $(n = 4)$	Systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses: $n = 1$ Randomised controlled trials: $n = 0$ Strong quasi-experiments: $n = 4$
Child Exploitation Material Focused Interventions $(n = 6)$	Systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses: $n = 0$ Randomised controlled trials: $n = 0$ Strong quasi-experiments: $n = 6$

Table 1.2 Summarv	of $n = 12$ Studies by	Outcome Category	and Research Design
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2.7 References

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- Wilson, S. J., & Tanner-Smith, E. E. (2014). Meta-analysis in prevention science. In Z. Sloboda & H. Petras (Eds.), *Defining prevention science Defining Prevention Science* (pp. 431–452). New York: Springer.

2: Risk Assessment Approaches

While risk assessment approaches for child sex offending/offenders was a key area of interest for the New Zealand Evidence-Based Policing Centre, this review located no impact evaluations of this approach published between 2010 - 2018. In addition, of the eligible studies included in the review, no studies included a formal risk assessment component within the intervention.

3: Training Interventions

3.1 Introduction

A total of three studies examined the impact of police training in the area of child sex offenders/offending, represented by one systematic review and two quasi-experiments. No randomised controlled trials, which are considered the "gold standard" for ascertaining the effectiveness of an intervention, were identified for this intervention category. Please see Section 2.2 for the synthesis of these studies and Section 2.3 for a brief overview of the three studies.

3.2 Synthesis of Eligible Studies

Walsh et al. (2015) conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis examining school-based education programmes for preventing child sexual abuse. Although they included 24 studies in their analysis, only 1 study integrated police as part of the intervention. The eligible study was an randomised experiment of two different interventions using 148 primary school aged children in Berlin, Germany. The first intervention was a live 60-minute theatrical performance delivered by the Berlin Police. The second was a DVD recording of the above performance shown to the students. The performance emphasises building skills for uncomfortable interactions with adults and teaching the ability to seek help. Outcomes were assessed using vignette based knowledge of self-protective skills, such as distinguishing good or bad touches and secrets, getting help, and rejecting unwanted touch. Additionally, the study examined impact of the interventions on participants' fear of adults. Results indicate that both intervention conditions (live performance and DVD) had significantly higher scores than the control group. There was no significant difference between the two treatment conditions. The authors found no evidence that the intervention made participants more fearful of adults.

A quasi-experiment conducted by Cyr et al. (2012) evaluated the impact of post-interview feedback on compliance with specific child victim interview protocols and details elicited from child victims in an unmatched sample of 19 police officers who had received National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) training. Measures were taken before and after having completed the NICHD training, with 8 officers assigned to receive feedback (50% female) and 11 officers assigned to receive no feedback (36.36% female). The feedback groups were formed based on when the officers completed the NICHD training, with the feedback group trained in 2003 and the no-feedback group trained in 2006. The intervention group received individualised written feedback on interviews by an interview protocol expert, and this was further verbally discussed with participants with the goal of promoting appropriate interview utterances and more effective interview interactions. A significantly greater proportion of interviews conducted by officers in the feedback condition were compliant with the interview protocol (85%) than those conducted by officers who received no feedback (69%) across both pre- and post-NICHD training time points. Officers in the feedback group also required significantly less questions to elicit relevant details and elicited significantly more relevant details, especially through utilisation of invitation-style utterances, than those who received no feedback. The authors concluded that receiving detailed feedback on interview protocol compliance can promote more frequent and effective use of important interview techniques and, in turn, allow for more successful interviews with child victims of sexual abuse. Given the small samples within this analysis, these findings are not generalisable to other samples of police interviewees.

Cederborg et al. (2013) evaluated the effectiveness of investigative interview techniques used by Swedish police and civilian crime investigators during interviews with children regarding suspected abuse (physical, sexual, or other). This was assessed using a time-series analysis examining participants' (n = 104) interview techniques before, during and after a course to become trained interviewers. Interview techniques were categorised as invitations (prompting free recall), directive utterances (eliciting additional information from something the child previously mentioned), optionposing utterances (investigator-given options asking the interviewe to affirm/negate the details), and suggestive prompts (questions that communicated the expected or assumed details). The authors concluded that the training course had been successful in improving the quality of interview techniques over the study period. Specifically, 91% of the sample increased their used of invitational questions over time, while the number of directive, option-posing and suggestive utterances decreased.

3.3 Summary of Included Studies

Table 3.1 Studies Evaluating Impact of Training Approaches for Child Sex Offending/Offenders (n = 3)

Author(s)	Intervention Location	Research Design	Outcomes Measured	Reference
Walsh et al. (2015)	Berlin, Germany (eligible study only)	Review	Knowledge of self-protective behaviours; Fear of adults	Walsh, K., Zwi, K., Woolfenden, S., & Shlonsky, A. (2015). School- based education programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse: A systematic review. <i>Campbell Systematic Reviews</i> , <i>11</i> (1), 1-180. doi: 10.4073/csr.2015.10
Cyr et al. (2012)	Not reported	Quasi-experiment	Compliance with interview protocol; Questions asked to elicit details; Details obtained during interview	Cyr, M., Dion, J., McDuff, P., & Trotier-Sylvain, K. (2012). Transfer of skills in the context of non-suggestive investigative interviews: Impact of structured interview protocol and feedback. <i>Applied Cognitive Psychology</i> , <i>26</i> (4), 516-524
Cederborg et al. (2013)	Sweden	Quasi-experiment	Quality of investigative interviewing techniques	Cederborg, AC., Alm, C., da Silva Nises, D. L., & Lamb, M. E. (2013). Investigative interviewing of alleged child abuse victims: An evaluation of a new training programme for investigative interviewers. <i>Police</i> <i>Practice and Research</i> , <i>14</i> (3), 242-254.

4: Investigative Approaches

4.1 Introduction

A total of four studies were impact evaluations of investigative approaches or techniques in the area of child sex offenders/offending, represented by four quasi-experimental studies. No randomised controlled trials or systematic reviews, which are considered the "gold standard" for ascertaining the effectiveness of an intervention, were identified for this intervention category. Please see Section 3.2 for the synthesis of these studies and Section 3.3 for a brief overview of the three studies.

4.2 Synthesis of Eligible Studies

Feltis et al. (2010) analysed transcripts of police interviews with child witnesses from multiple Australian states to assess whether open-ended questions elicited more detailed accounts than 'specific' (e.g., closed) questions. A majority (82%) of these interviews were in regard to allegations of sexual crimes against the child interviewees. Using an unmatched control group design, the researchers coded interview questions as open-ended if they aimed to elicit detailed responses from the child without the police officer interviewer dictating the specific detail he or she sought from the child. These open-ended questions were compared to 'specific' questions, which included closed and cued-recall questions. Further comparisons were made between five subtypes of open-ended questions: 1) broad invitations (e.g., "what happened?"); 2) breadth questions (e.g. "what happened next?"); 3) depth questions (e.g., "tell me more"); 4) clarification questions (e.g., "what do you mean?"); & 5) anything else questions (e.g., request further detail). Feltis et al. (2010) examined the effect of the open-ended questions and subtypes on the number of story grammar elements (in other words, the components that make the witness's account logical and easily to follow) elicited during the interview. The authors found that open-ended questions elicited more story grammar elements during police interviews with child witnesses than did 'specific' questions. In terms of the analyses into question subtypes, the authors reported that broad open-ended questions elicited the most story grammar elements, although all subtypes were promising.

A quasi-experimental study by Lindholm, Cederborg and Alm (2014) evaluated the relationship between types of interview questions on the disclosure of information in adolescent victims of sex trafficking. Open questions in this instance refers to invitations and directives, which are invitations for free recall answers and then a focus on aspects of these responses for further detail, respectively. Focused questions including option-posing questions and suggestive utterances refer to questions regarding information not previously mentioned by the interviewee and questions assuming incident details not previously specified in such a way that communicates an anticipated response, respectively. Finally, summary statements that confirm previously stated information and statements of support and empathy were also examined. Disclosure of information occurred at a higher rate than non-disclosure in all three question types, however the rate was highest in focused questions (87%) than in summary or support statements (84%) or open questions (76%). Further, directives and option-posing questions were associated with more relevant responses to questions. Option-posing questions were associated with greater agreement and disagreement with questions warranting such responses. The authors concluded that whilst focused option-posing questions elicited a high rate of disclosure, the responses were limited in detail due to the specific nature of these questions. As such, the authors emphasised that open questions should be utilised as they can elicit greater detail and depth than suggestive or option-posing questions despite providing greater opportunity for nondisclosure.

Johnson et al. (2014) examine the influence of whether mock juror's confidence in guilt decisions for child sexual abuse are influenced by the setting of the interview or perceived quality of the forensic interview. Participants are all drawn from the University of California, Davis in the United States. The sample includes a diverse range of genders (approximately 63% female and 37% male) and ethnicities. Using an unmatched control design, the authors designed vignettes of forensic interviews that manipulated victim age, gender, and setting description (Children Advocacy Centre versus traditional police setting). The authors found was no significant difference between interviews conducted in Children Advocacy Centres or traditional police settings for mock juror's perceptions of interview quality, prior opinions about children's eyewitness abilities, credibility of child victim, or guilt decisions.

The final include study by Yii et al. (2014) used a multivariate model to assess the effectiveness of learning activities undertaken during police interview training on usage of open-ended questions in a mock interview. Specifically, 27 Australian police interviewers participated in a coding task and written quiz as part of their interview training. Their ability to use open-ended interview questions within a mock interview with a child relating to abuse was assessed by the study authors. Yii et al. (2014) reported that completing both a coding task and written quiz increased the proportion of open-ended questions within the mock interview. The authors found that, while both tasks lead to more open-ended questions, the coding task contributed to this more than the written quiz.

4.3 Summary of Included Studies

 Table 4.1 Studies Evaluating Impact of Training Approaches for Child Sex Offending/Offenders (n = 3)

Author(s)	Intervention Location	Research Design	Outcomes Measured	Reference
Feltis et al. (2010)	Australia	Quasi-experiment	Detail obtained during interviews	Feltis, B. B., Powell, M. B., Snow, P. C., & Hughes-Scholes, C. H. (2010). An examination of the association between interviewer question type and story-grammar detail in child witness interviews about abuse. <i>Child Abuse & Neglect</i> , <i>34</i> (6), 407-413.
Johnson & Shelley (2014)	United States	Quasi-experiment	Mock jurors' perceptions of interview quality, opinions about children's eyewitness abilities, credibility of child victim, or guilt decision	Johnson, J. L., & Shelley, A. E. (2014). Effects of child interview tactics on prospective jurors' decisions. Behavioral Sciences & the Law, 32(6), 846-866.
Lindholm et al. (2015)	Sweden	Quasi-experiment	Disclosure of information during interviews	Lindholm, J., Cederborg, A. C., & Alm, C. (2015). Adolescent girls exploited in the sex trade: informativeness and evasiveness in investigative interviews. <i>Police Practice and Research</i> , <i>16</i> (3), 197-210.
Yii et al. (2014)	Australia	Quasi-experiment	Proportion of open-ended questions during interviews	Yii, S. L. B., Powell, M. B., & Guadagno, B. (2014). The association between investigative interviewers' knowledge of question type and adherence to best-practice interviewing. <i>Legal and Criminological Psychology</i> , <i>19</i> (2), 270-281.

5: Regulatory or Legislative Approaches

A single quasi-experimental study examined the impact of a regulatory or legislative approach for child sex offenders/offending. No randomised controlled trials or systematic reviews, which are considered the "gold standard" for ascertaining the effectiveness of an intervention, were identified for this intervention category. While other studies investigated similar regulatory and legislative approaches, none utilised an eligible research design to allow for reliable conclusions about effectiveness to be made about the effectiveness of this approach.

A quasi-experimental time series analysis by Merken (2015)³ evaluated the impact of Megan's Law and associated residency restrictions for convicted child sex offenders on monthly arrest rates for rape in Alabama and Oklahoma (United States) from 1984 to 2012. Residency restriction laws mandate that released sex offenders' residential address (usually recorded with law enforcement agency) needs to be more than 2,000 feet from places where children congregate, with the aim of reducing the likelihood of reoffending through decreased exposure to potential victims. Data obtained from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Centre were utilised for time-series analysis, and changes in monthly rates of arrest before and after the implementation of residency legislation were examined whilst controlling for demographic and population variables. The rates of arrest for rape slightly decreased following the legislation implementation, but subsequently began increasing shortly thereafter. The authors concluded that the legislation had no notable impact on rates of arrest for rape or robbery. It is important to note that child-specific offenses were not analysed in this study and the rape arrest outcome measure included offenses committed against victims of all ages. As such, any benefits of child sex offender residency restrictions for preventing reoffending specifically against children could not be assessed in this study.

³ Merken, S. (2015). *The effectiveness of sex offender residency restrictions in Alabama and Oklahoma: Are we preventing crime in the Heart of Dixie and the Sooner State?* (Doctoral dissertation). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (UMI No. 3714762)

6: Collaborative or Multiagency Approaches

6.1 Introduction

A total of four studies (reported in five documents) examined the impact of collaborative or multiagency approaches in the area of child sex offenders/offending, represented by one systematic review and three quasi-experiments. No randomised controlled trials, which are considered the "gold standard" for ascertaining the effectiveness of an intervention, were identified for this intervention category. Please see Section 5.2 for the synthesis of these studies and Section 5.3 for a brief overview of the three studies.

6.2 Synthesis of Eligible Studies

A systematic review by Nwogu et al. (2015) evaluated the impact of Child Advocacy Centres (CAC) and multidisciplinary team (MDT) collaboration on the likelihood of prosecution and caregiver satisfaction in cases of child sexual abuse. Collaboration between CACs and MDTs involves victim advocates working with law enforcement to protect child victims from exploitation and further trauma by reducing the frequency and intensity of interviews and through the provision of information and support to the families of victims. The review identified six studies deemed eligible for the present report. The impact of collaboration between CACs and MDTs on rates of successful prosecution in child sexual abuse cases was evaluated in five quasi-experimental studies, all of which found significantly higher rates of prosecution when collaboration occurred. The sixth study examined the effectiveness of the intervention on caregiver satisfaction. Collaboration between the entities was seen to enhance the satisfaction of non-offending caregivers of child victims compared to matched control groups, with treatment participants reporting enhanced perceptions of investigators and interview experiences. The authors concluded that collaboration between child victim advocates, law enforcement and multi-disciplinary teams in child sexual abuse investigations may benefit case outcomes by increasing the satisfaction in non-offending caregivers of victims and the likelihood of successfully prosecuting child sex offenders.

A quasi-experimental study by Bracewell (2015, 2018) evaluated the effect of multidisciplinary team functioning on whether or not cases of child sexual abuse were accepted for prosecution in a sample of child sexual abuse cases drawn from a Child Advocacy Centre in Texas (N = 1,732). Multivariate analysis controlling for demographic and case specific variables was utilised to examine the influence of characteristics of case staffing meetings (i.e., law enforcement presence, law enforcement coordination with child protective services, and the overall multidisciplinary team presence within the context of case staffing meetings) on acceptance of a case by prosecution. The

multidisciplinary team members involved included: prosecution, law enforcement, child protective services (CPS), child advocacy centre staff, and mental health, medical, and family advocacy staff. Law enforcement presence at case staffing meetings and the degree of coordination between law enforcement and child protective services in meeting attendance (none, partial, and full) slightly increased the likelihood of a child sexual abuse case being accepted for prosecution, however these effects were particularly small and deemed negligible by the author. The amount of multidisciplinary team members present at case staffing meetings was significantly associated with a greater likelihood of prosecution acceptance, such that for each member of the team in attendance the odds of acceptance increased by approximately 30%. The authors emphasised this finding in regard to the importance of a team approach to investigation of child sexual abuse cases, and that overall team participation was more impactful than the simple presence of each team member type (e.g., police officer, child protective services, medical staff). These findings highlight the potential benefits of multidisciplinary approaches to child sexual abuse case investigation, and that a holistic team of relevant professionals may increase the likelihood of an allegation progressing to prosecutorial proceedings. An important caveat is that the research only examined contact at official points in time during staff cases, and that unofficial coordination may occur and impact outcomes but could not be captured in this study.

A quasi-experiment by Bailey et al. (2015) evaluated the impact of Operation RESET on rates of reporting and arrest for child sexual abuse in two remote Indigenous Australian communities. Operation RESET was a community engagement initiative that aimed to facilitate detection, responses and prevention of child sexual abuse (CSA) in remote Indigenous Australian communities through collaboration between government, law enforcement, community stakeholders and nongovernment organisations. Operation RESET focused on self-determination and capacity building interactions to empower families, communities and law enforcement to reduce CSA through increased reporting and expedited case processing. Further, the intervention involved law enforcement building rapport with remote communities, training for schools and community entities on the legalities and observable signs of CSA, and efficient reactive attendance by law enforcement at suspected cases of CSA. The intervention and comparison sampling occurred in Mid West Gascoyne and the Pilbara region for 18 and 20 months respectively. Rates of arrest and reporting for CSA cases were measured using administrative data from the Western Australia Police incident management system for the same durations before, during and after the intervention period. Arrests for CSA significantly increased from time 1 to time 2 and from time 2 to time 3 in the intervention locations but not in the comparison areas, suggesting that the program successfully enhanced police

responses to CSA. Further, reporting of CSA to police increased significantly increased from time 1 to time 2 in the intervention locations, and slightly decreased from time 2 to time 3. No notable changes in CSA reporting were found in the comparison areas. The authors concluded that Operation RESET successfully increased the rates of arrest and reporting for CSA cases, and that the slight decrease in reporting following the intervention period was minimal, and possibly due to changes in mandatory reporting laws for healthcare professionals during the study period. Overall, the authors emphasised the potential benefits of Operation RESET for child safety in Indigenous Australian communities and the importance of collaborative, culturally appropriate interventions for making tangible changes.

A quasi-experimental study by Herbert and Bromfield (2017) evaluated the impact of the Multiagency Investigation & Support Team (MIST) on investigative efficiency, child protective service involvement, disclosure of abuse, charges for contact offences, charges for juvenile offences and findings of harm compared to standard practice in Armadale, WA. The MIST approach involves co-locating the WA Police child abuse squad, standard law enforcement, child protection specialist interviewers, child protection workers, advocates for children and families and also therapeutic support in response to cases of child sexual abuse. The goal of MIST is to pair the investigation of suspected child sexual abuse with the facilitation of therapy and support for child victims and their families as a holistic approach. Cases of child abuse were included in the evaluation if they occurred during the study period, had a video recorded interview and consisted of an allegation of abuse falling within the purview of the child abuse squad. The sample of MIST cases (n = 126) exhibited shorter durations from time of reporting to police allocation, victim interview, suspect interview and investigation closure than those in the comparison condition (n = 276). There were no noticeable benefits of the MIST approach in terms of likelihood of abuse disclosure, likelihood of suspect interview, contact or juvenile charges, child protective service intake or response time, findings of significant harm or the substantiation of offences compared to standard practice. Further, MIST cases were significantly less likely to involve forensic medical examination of victims and demonstrated higher rates of attrition at points of non-disclosure and non-arrest. The authors concluded that these findings may have been due to MIST cases tending to be those which have been screened out of standard child abuse squad investigation due to significantly lower ratings of assessed risk, and that further research should occur to determine the utility of the MIST approach. Despite the findings showing a largely neutral impact, the authors emphasise that the enhanced efficiency of case progression, the focus on victim wellbeing and greater collaboration among agencies through the MIST approach show potential for improved victim outcomes.

6.3 Summary of Included Studies

Table 6.1 Studies Evaluating Impact of Collaborative or Multiagency Approaches for Child Sex Offending/Offenders (*n* = 5)

Author(s)	Intervention Location	Research Design	Outcomes Measured	Reference
Nwogu et al. (2015)	Multiple	Review	Prosecution; Caregiver satisfaction	Nwogu, N. N., Agrawal, L., Chambers, S., Buagas, A. B., Daniele, R. M., & Singleton, J. K. (2015). Effectiveness of Child Advocacy Centres and the multidisciplinary team approach on prosecution rates of alleged sex offenders and satisfaction of non-offending caregivers with allegations of child sexual abuse: A systematic review. <i>JBI Database of Dystematic Reviews and Implementation Reports</i> , <i>13</i> (12), 93-129.
Bailey et al. (2015)	Australia	Quasi-experiment	Rates of reporting child sexual abuse; Rates of arrest for child sexual abuse	Bailey, C., Mace, G., Powell, M., & Benson, M. (2015). Evaluation of a collaborative operation to improve child sexual abuse reporting in Western Australian Indigenous communities. <i>Criminal Justice and Behaviour, 42</i> (12), 1303-1315.
Bracewell (2015, 2018)	United States	Quasi-experiment	Prosecution decisions	Bracewell, T. (2015). <i>Children's advocacy centres' effect on the prosecutorial decision to accept or reject cases of child sexual abuse</i> (Doctoral dissertation). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (UMI No. 3725320)
				Bracewell, T. E. (2018). Multidisciplinary team involvement and prosecutorial decisions in child sexual abuse cases. <i>Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal, 35</i> (6), 567-576.
Herbert et al. (2017)	Australia	Quasi-experiment	Progression of child sexual abuse cases through systems; Rate of disclosures; Arrests and cautions; Forensic referrals	Herbert, J. L. (2017). <i>Multiagency investigation and support team</i> (<i>MIST</i>) <i>pilot: Evaluation report</i> : Adelaide, South Australia: Australian Centre for Child Protection.

Appendix A: List of 2004 – 2009 Studies

The following list of studies represents records extracted from the GPD with a publication date, data or intervention conducted between 2004 - 2009. These records were screened on title and abstract for this review as potentially being about policing approaches for sex offending/offenders. Not all of these citations have been verified as impact evaluations.

- Campbell, R., Bybee, D., Ford, J. K., & Patterson, D. (2009). A system change analysis of SANE programs: Identifying the mediating mechanism of criminal justice system impact (Document No. 226498). U.S. Department of Justice.
- A.C.T. Government. (2009). *A rollercoaster ride: Victims of sexual assault*. Canberra: A.C.T. Government: A.C.T. Victims of Crime Coordinator.
- Adderley, R. W. (2007). The use of data mining techniques in crime trend analysis and offender profiling. (Doctoral Dissertation) Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Thesis Global database. (UMI 301671381)
- Addington, L. A., & Rennison, C. M. (2008). Rape co-occurrence: Do additional crimes affect victim reporting and police clearance of rape? *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 24(2), 205-226.
- Atella, J., Ericson, B., Schauben, L., Ruhland, E., & Johnson, T. (2004). Low level offenses in Minneapolis: An analysis of arrests and their outcomes. Minneapolis, MN: Council on Crime and Justice.
- Beck, V. S., & Travis III, L. F. (2006). Sex offender notification a cross-state comparison. *Police Practice and Research*, 7(4), 293-307.
- Blok, D., Brown, J. (2005). *Gendered nature of policing among uniformed operational police officers in England & Wales*. United Kingdom: University of Surrey.
- Bonomi, A. E., Holt, V. L., Martin, D. P., & Thompson, R. S. (2006). Severity of intimate partner violence and occurrence and frequency of police calls. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 21*(10), 1354-1364.
- Bouhours, B., & Daly, K. (2008). Rape and attrition in the legal process: A comparative analysis of five countries (ASTR Report No. 5). Brisbane, Queensland: School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University.
- Bradley, R., Greene, J., Russ, E., Dutra, L., & Westen, D. (2005). A multidimensional meta-analysis of psychotherapy for PTSD. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, *162*(2), 214-227.
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- Carter Collins, S. (2007). Portrait in blue: A demographic and behavioural profile of police sexual harassers. *Women and Criminal Justice*, 18(1-2), 79-106.
- Clark, H. (2007). Judging rape: Public attitudes and sentencing. *Aware: ACSSA Newsletter, 14*(2), 17-25.
- Clay-Warner, J., & Burt, C. H. (2005). Rape reporting after reforms: Have times really changed?. *Violence Against Women*, 11(2), 150-176. doi: 10.1177/1077801204271566
- Cole, J. E. (2008). Factors influencing interprofessional collaboration on sexual assault response teams (SART) (Doctoral dissertation). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (UMI No. 3298816)
- Colussi, A., Viegas, M., Ortiz, M. I., Bozzo, W. R., & Lojo, M. (2009). Sexual assault cases related to unknown perpetrator: Almost 50% of the analysed cases corresponded to serial offenders. *Forensic Science International: Genetics Supplement Series*, 2(1), 143-144.
- Crime and Misconduct Commission. (2005). *Policing domestic violence in Queensland: Meeting the challenge (Report)*. Brisbane, QLD: Crime and Misconduct Commission.
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- Dandona, L., Sisodia, P., Kumar, S. P., Ramesh, Y. K., Kumar, A. A., Rao, M. C., ... & Kahn, J. G. (2005). HIV prevention programmes for female sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, India: outputs, cost and efficiency. *BMC Public Health*, 5(1), 98. doi: 10.1186/1471-2458-5-98
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(Report No. 257). Meppel, Drenthe: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

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Appendix B: List of Unsourced Documents

The following list of studies represents records extracted from the GPD where a full-text document could not be sourced. These records were screened on title and abstract for this review as potentially being about policing approaches for sex offending/offenders. None of these citations have been verified as reporting on a quantitative impact evaluation according to the GPD eligibility thresholds.

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Appendix C: List of Policing Evaluations Focused on Adult Sex Offending or Offenders

The following list of studies represents studies conducted between 2010 and 2018 which report on a quantitative impact evaluation of a policing intervention, but that are focused on adult sex offending or offenders only.

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Appendix D: List of Policing Evaluations Focused on Mixed or Unspecified Sex Offending or Offenders

The following list of studies represents studies conducted between 2010 and 2018 which report on a quantitative impact evaluation of a policing intervention, but that focus on mixed offenders/offending or do not specify the type of sex offender or offenders.

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