



## Understanding the Obstacles to Help-Seeking for Minor-Attracted Persons

Barry University, Inc  
R2 2017-2018  
\$49,854

This project surveyed minor-attracted persons (MAPs) to better understand the obstacles faced when seeking help. The data will improve and enhance effective, ethical counseling interventions for individuals who are concerned about their sexual attraction to minors as well as inform strategies for helping clinicians (and the public) to better understand MAPs. The goal is to prevent child sexual abuse through early intervention and access to services.

### Communities

Adolescents and young adults with sexual attraction to children

Adults

Boys

Girls

Men  
Non-binary  
Women  
Youth/Adolescents/  
Young Adult

### Products

Resource: 2017 ATSA Conference PPT Slides

Research: Preventing Sexual Abuse: Perspectives of Minor-Attracted Persons About

Seeking Help [Sexual Abuse]

Research: "I can't talk about that": Stigma and fear as barriers to preventive services for minor-attracted persons. [Stigma & Health]

### System:

Therapeutic/mental health

### Level:

National



### Enhance Partnerships

Partnered with Catholic University as a co-investigator.



### Provide Resources

A quantitative article about the project was accepted for publication in the journal Sexual Abuse, and a qualitative article is currently under review.



### Measure Impact

Conducted a qualitative and quantitative survey to create data for research findings (300 participant MAPs population goal).



### Learning Circles

Presented at several conferences: The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 2017 Annual Conference, as well as the 2017 Australia & New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse in Auckland, NZ. The investigators will be presenting their findings at the ATSA 2018 conference. Additional interest and invitations to present have been fielded for the B4UAct symposium in September 2018 as well as to participate on a Stop It Now! Webinar.

### What's next:

Next steps include developing training protocols for professional counselors and students in helping-profession graduate programs. The research survey is available for replication either on paper or online.

### Contact:

Jill Levenson  
Professor of Social Work  
305-899-3923  
jlevenson@barry.edu