

Understanding the PPG

Elizabeth Griffin, MA, LMFT
elizgrif@gmail.com
www.internetbehavior.com/PPG

The PPG

- Introduction
- Thoughts
 - The PPG
 - Outpatient vs Civil Commitment
 - More Scrutiny
 - Intense Court Involvement
 - More Conservative Approach

OVERVIEW

The PPG

- Originally used by Kurt Freund to check the truthfulness of claims of homosexuality in the Czech military. (1957)
- One of the most misspelled words
- The PPG measures male sexual arousal defined as blood flow to the penis
- Specifically measures changes to the circumference of the penis as the penis become engorged with blood (arousal)

The PPG

- Freund introduced the volumetric method
 - Considered more accurate
 - Penile circumference will actually drop during initial lengthening phase of sexual arousal
 - However not used in US because...
- Fisher (1965) and Bancroft (1966) adapted a circumferential method

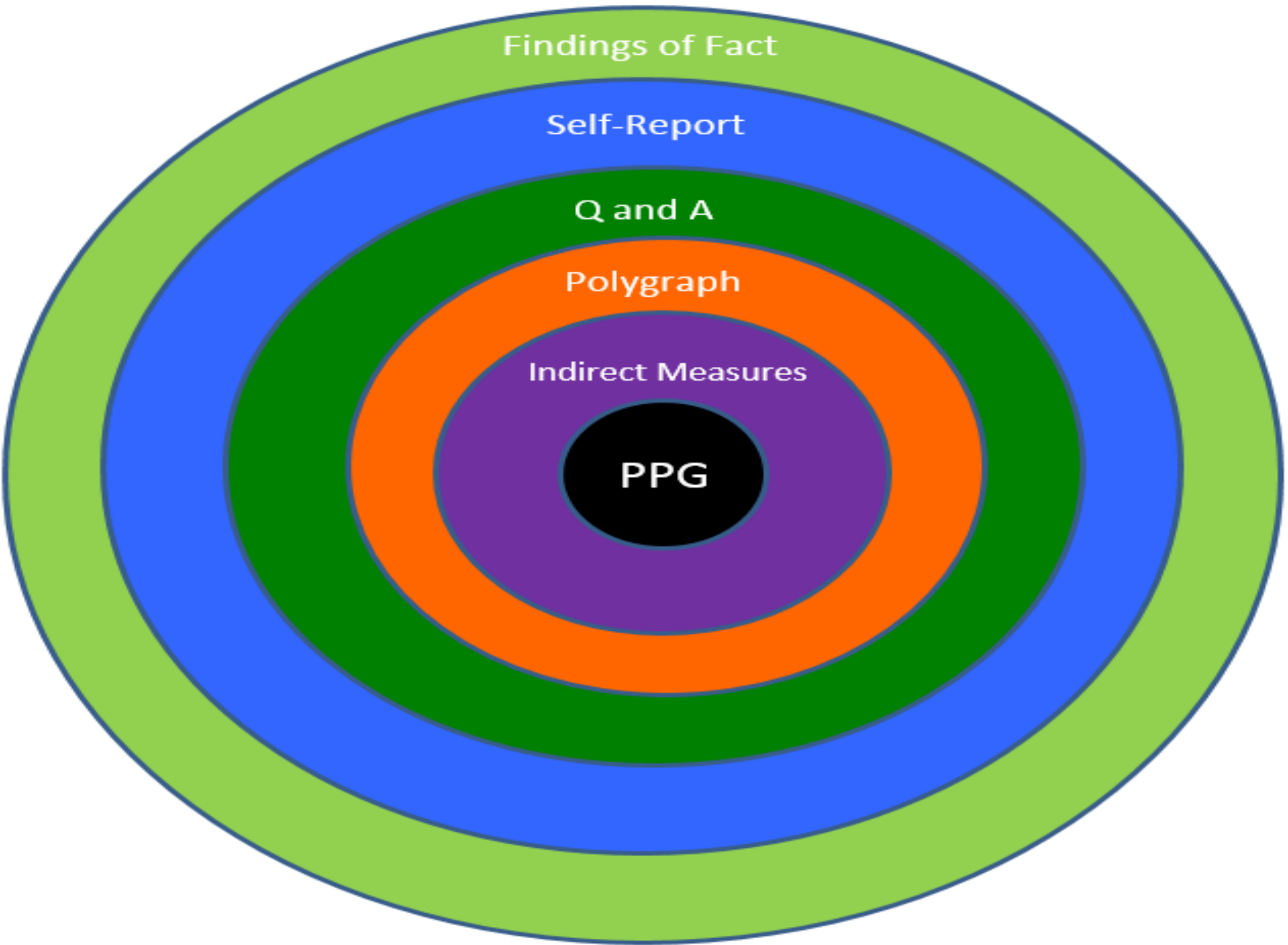
The PPG

- Specificity vs Sensitivity
 - Specificity – Ability of test to identify those without the disease
 - True Negative
 - Wingsman (2017) reported that most studies report specificity to be around 95%
 - **Does not mean....**
- Sensitivity
 - True Positive
 - Sensitivity is typically 40% to 95% across studies, with the highest sensitivity to be in studies assessing men who offended against children, especially boys
 - In a recent study by Babchishin et al. (2017) four out of five men who had committed sexual offenses against children were not able to suppress their sexual arousal in relation to children during PPG testing.

The PPG

- Limitation and Challenges

- Standardization Issues
 - In US, by law nudes of children cannot be used
 - Attempts to standardized the process
- Responses in the lab may not reflect real world responses
 - A PPG high risk profile doesn't automatically equal a high risk in reality
 - Assessment of risk involves more than one piece of data**
- Sexual arousal not necessarily a trait
 - May vary over time and across situations
 - DSM-IV Language
- Limited information related to “normal” arousal to
 - Research indicated all males have some sexual curiosity/interest/arousal to all ages of preferred gender
 - Some interest in forced sexual activity



The PPG

- Limitation and Challenges
 - Standardization Issues
 - Stimulus/Procedure/Type of PPG/Canada/US
 - Attempts to standardized the process
 - Responses in the lab may not reflect real world responses
 - A PPG high risk profile doesn't automatically equal a high risk in reality
 - Assessment of risk involves more than one piece of data**
 - Sexual arousal not necessarily a static trait (Technology Example)
 - May vary over time and across situations
 - DSM-IV Language
 - Limited information related to “normal” arousal to
 - Research indicated all males have some sexual curiosity/interest/arousal to all ages of preferred gender
 - Some interest in forced sexual activity

The PPG

- Arousal to Violence
 - There is research data behind distinguishing arousal to sadistic violence vs no arousal to sadistic violence on the Rape Stimulus Set
 - Data suggests it is difficult to distinguish concerns related to coercion/non sadistic violence using standard PPG stimulus material

The PPG

- Despite limitations...
 - The PPG continues to be the **best** objective measure of male sexual arousal especially with individuals aroused to prepubescent children
 - Research over the last 40 years has shown that deviant sexual responding sexual **(arousal more to prepubescent/pubescent children than to adults)** via the PPG is a significant predictor of sexual recidivism
 - Research would indicate that the PPG should be an integral part of a sex offense specific program, especially treatment programs treating individuals who are considered high risk
 - Important to remember the limitation and stay within the parameters of the research

The PPG

- While some clients may not be able to obtain full penile erections, the PPG does not require a full erection (10%) for a significant response.
Therefore most clients should be considered for the PPG at the appropriate time
- PPGs are most helpful when clients...
 - motivated/interested in understanding their sexual arousal
 - attended the PPG Module
 - feel like all questions/concerns have been answered
 - do not feel forced to participate in a PPG
 - feel like it is a collaborative process

The PPG

- Exceptions
 - Significant Mental Health Issues
 - Health Services
 - Psychologically Fragile
 - Actively Psychotic/Suicidal/Severe PTSD
- Significant Health Issues

MONARCH SYSTEM

The PPG

- Standard Stimulus Set
- DDMR Stimulus Set
- Rape Stimulus Set

The PPG

- Standard Stimulus Material
 - Beep/Picture
 - 90 seconds of audio story (no pictures) with beeps
 - 40 seconds of pictures with stars
 - 25 seconds of “D” time (Actual 30 because of 5,4,3,2,1)
- DDMR Stimulus Material
 - Beep/Picture and Story together through entire set
 - Story is the same as story in the Standard set

The PPG

- Stimulus Material (Standard/DDMR) (Web Site)
 - 17 Segments/16 Core Segments
 - Neutral
 - 2 Female Pre-Pubescent (Persuasive/Coercive)
 - 2 Male Pre-Pubescent (Persuasive/Coercive)
 - 2 Female Pubescent (Persuasive/Coercive)
 - 2 Male Pubescent (Persuasive/Coercive)
 - 2 Female Teens (Persuasive/Coercive)
 - Clearly Post-Pubescent
 - 2 Male Teens (Persuasive/Coercive)
 - Clearly Post-Pubescent
 - 2 Female Adult (Persuasive/Coercive)
 - 2 Male Adult (Persuasive/Coercive)

The PPG

- Can Choose 5 Additional (Standard)
 - Male Infant or Female Infant (Stories and Pictures)
 - Female Violent/Male Violent (Stories and Pictures)
 - 2 People in Pics – Hitting/Holding Down/Tied Down
 - Child Violent (Stories and Pictures)
 - Child tied up in chair, child with bruises, adult grabbing child
 - Female Adult Exhibitionism (Stories and Pictures)
 - Female Internet Chat/Male Internet Chat (Story and Pictures)
 - Chatting with 14 year old female/male
 - Internet Pornography (Story and Pictures)

The PPG

- Can Choose 5 Additional (Standard)
 - Female Adult Normal
 - Friendship/Intimacy/Sex/Most Relational of All Adult Stimuli
- Female/Male Challenge I
 - Images Only
 - Older Pictures/Semi Nude or Nude
 - Non Relational....however no violence or force
- Female/Male Challenge II
 - Images Only
 - Newer Pictures/No Nudes
 - Non Relational...however no violence or force

The PPG

- Can Choose 5 Additional (DDMR)
 - Female Adult Exhibitionism
 - Female Adult Violent
 - Male Adult Violent
 - Female Infant
 - Male Infant

The PPG

- Button Pushing (Standard/DDMR)
 - Above 90 on Attending (Beeps and Stars) is good
 - Above 80 on Processing (Persuasive or Coercion) is good
 - Twice for Persuasive/Once for Coercion
 - If there is a “square” scored as extra push
 - There is a beep at the very beginning and sometimes clients push button when they hear that beep. It will give you an extra button push on final count. There will be a square at the very beginning of segment.

The PPG

- Rape Stimulus Set
 - No Pictures
 - Audio Only
 - Male and Female Actors
 - Only variable
 - Consenting/Non consenting
 - 12 Segments
 - Always set/Can't vary

The PPG

- Rape Set - 12 Total Stimulus Segments (Web Site)
 - Neutral
 - Muted Sadism
 - Consenting Male Initiated (Male/Female)
 - Pervasively Angry
 - Superficial Consenting (Non Deviant)
 - Opportunistic LSC
 - Non Sadistic
 - Vindictive
 - Opportunistic Non Consensual
 - Sadist Overt
 - Opportunistic HSC
 - Consenting Female Initiated (Female/Male)

PPG DEMO

The PPG

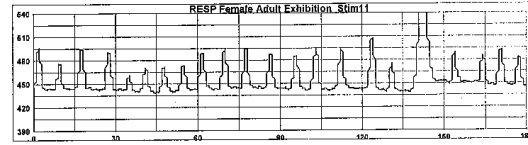
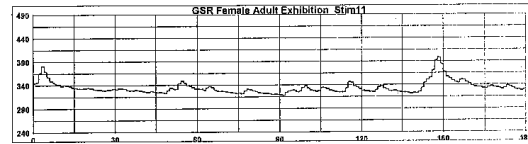
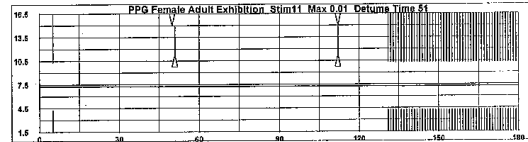
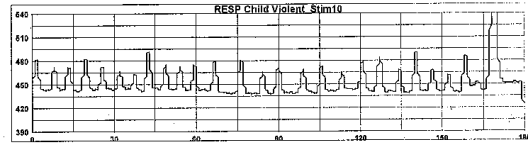
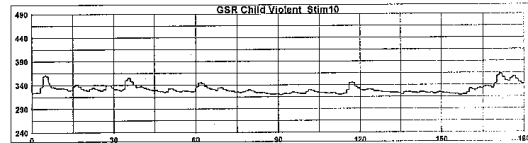
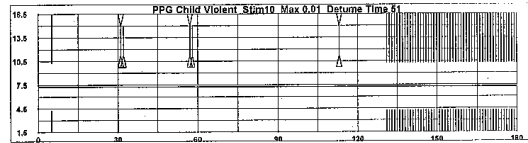
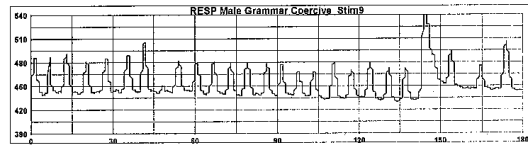
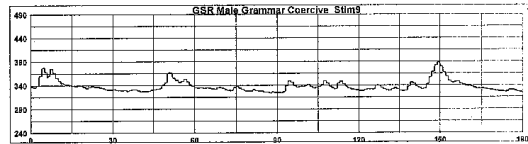
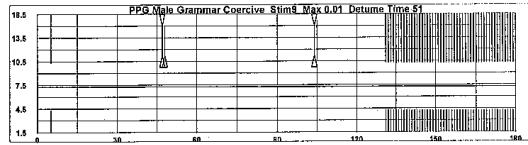
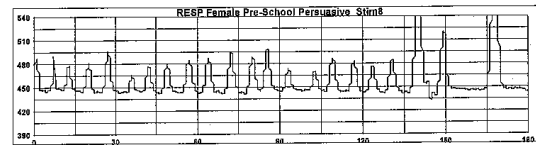
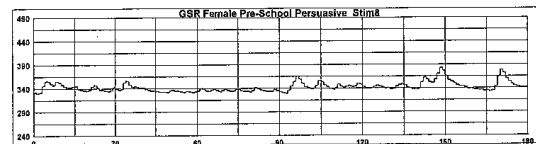
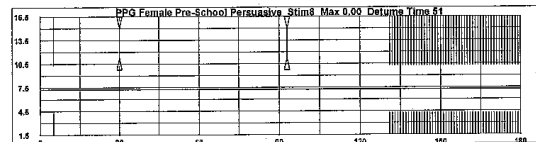
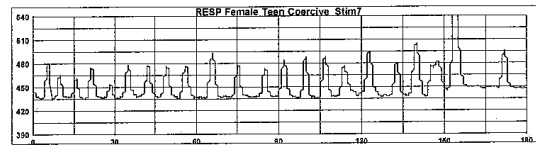
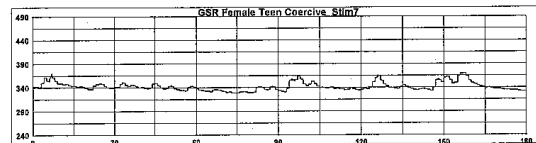
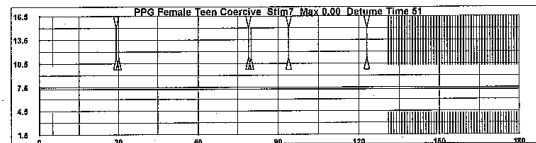
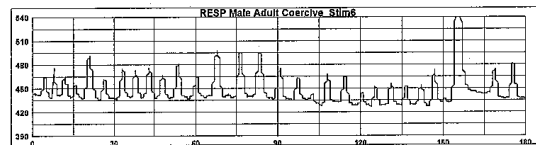
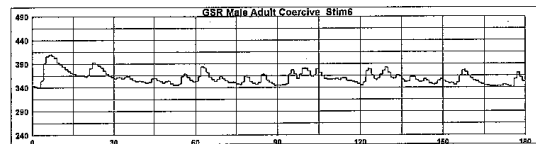
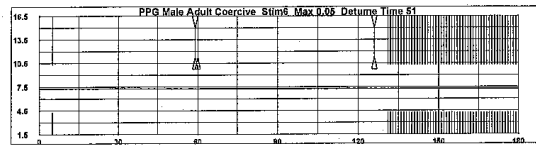
- The Assessment Process
 - Complete Paperwork
 - Penis Measurement - Important to a Valid Assessment
 - Gauge
 - Resting Value of Gauge
 - Calibration
 - Respiration Belt/GSR
 - Headphones
 - Penile Gauge
 - Button Pusher
 - Instructions
 - Camera
 - Assessment
 - Tech Notes
 - Debrief

THE PENILE TRACE RESULTS & INTERPRETATION

The PPG

- Penile Trace
 - Importance of Neutral Stimulus Segment
 - Resting Value vs Starting Baseline
 - If the same
 - Gauge is likely too big
 - Client doesn't have gauge on
 - If trace remains flat "as glass"/no movement at all there is a **chance** client doesn't have gauge on penis**
 - If trace is under the resting value
 - Gauge is most likely too big
 - Inaccurate Measurement
 - If trace is over more than 1 to 1.5 **
 - Chance of arousal in Neutral
 - Gauge is tangled/caught in fold of penis
 - Inaccurate Measurement
 - Garbage In = Garbage Out

Flat Penile Trace



The PPG

- Penile Trace
 - Importance of Neutral Stimulus Segment
 - Resting Value vs Starting Baseline
 - If the same
 - Gauge is likely too big
 - Client doesn't have gauge on
 - If trace remains flat "as glass"/no movement at all there is a **chance** client doesn't have gauge on penis
 - If trace is under the resting value
 - Gauge is most likely too big
 - Inaccurate Measurement
 - If trace is over more than 1 to 2.0
 - Chance of arousal in Neutral
 - Gauge is tangled/caught in fold of penis
 - Inaccurate Measurement
 - Garbage In = Garbage Out

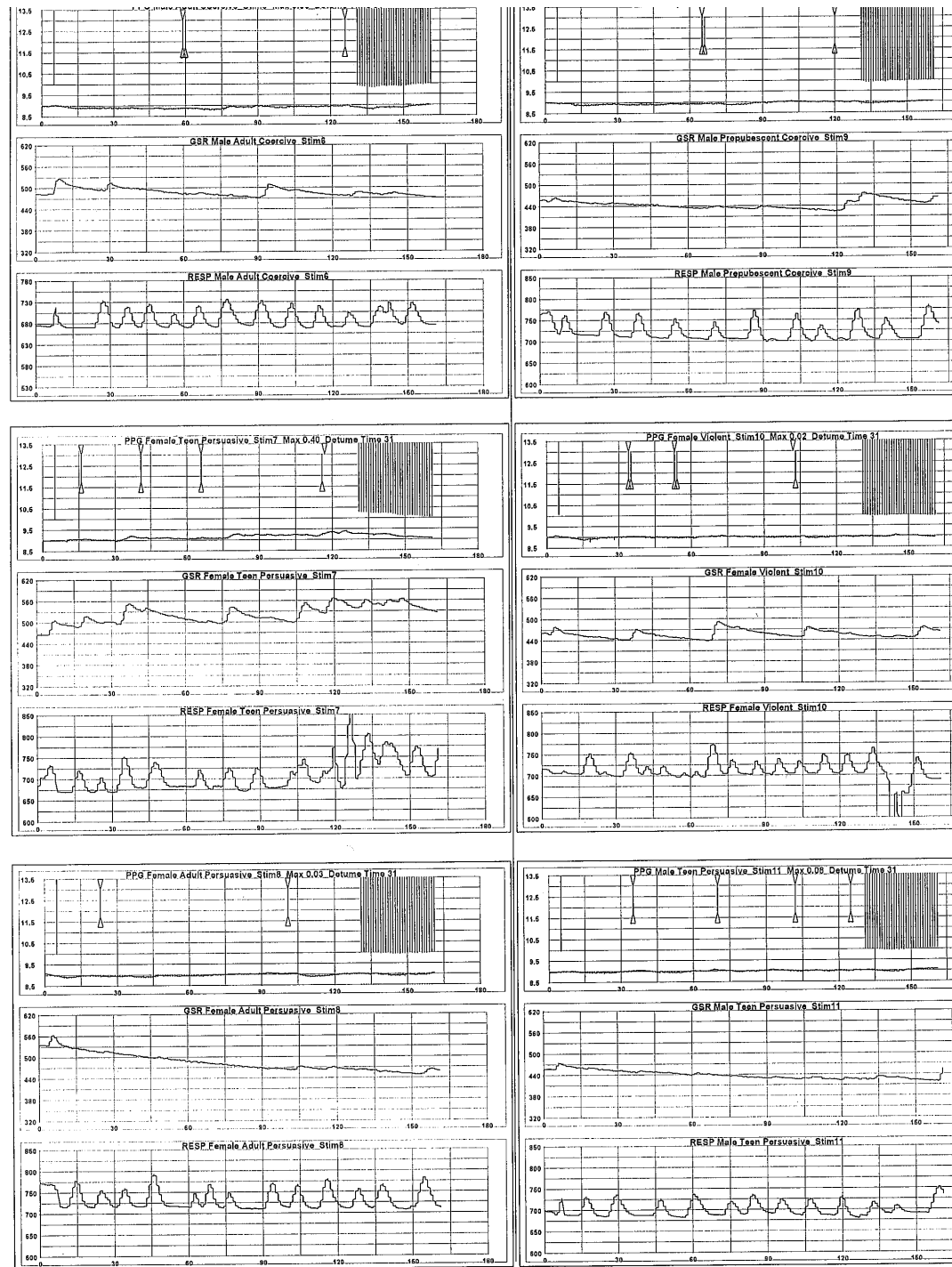
Client #1

Gauge was a 8.5

Resting Value
Was 7.0

Penile Trace
had movement

Penile Trace
consistently came
back to 9.0 **



The PPG

- Coming Back to Baseline
 - Try for baseline consistency however
 - Balancing act
- Sometimes the absolute measure of baseline is not as important
 - The spongy penis - can't change that fact
 - Test fatigue can become factor if you stay true to baseline consistency
 - Not able to return to baseline almost always happens when there is responding so not as relevant
- Distracting techniques
 - Something that requires them to hold a map in their head
 - Counting backwards with numbers and ABCs
 - If these don't work, note and move on

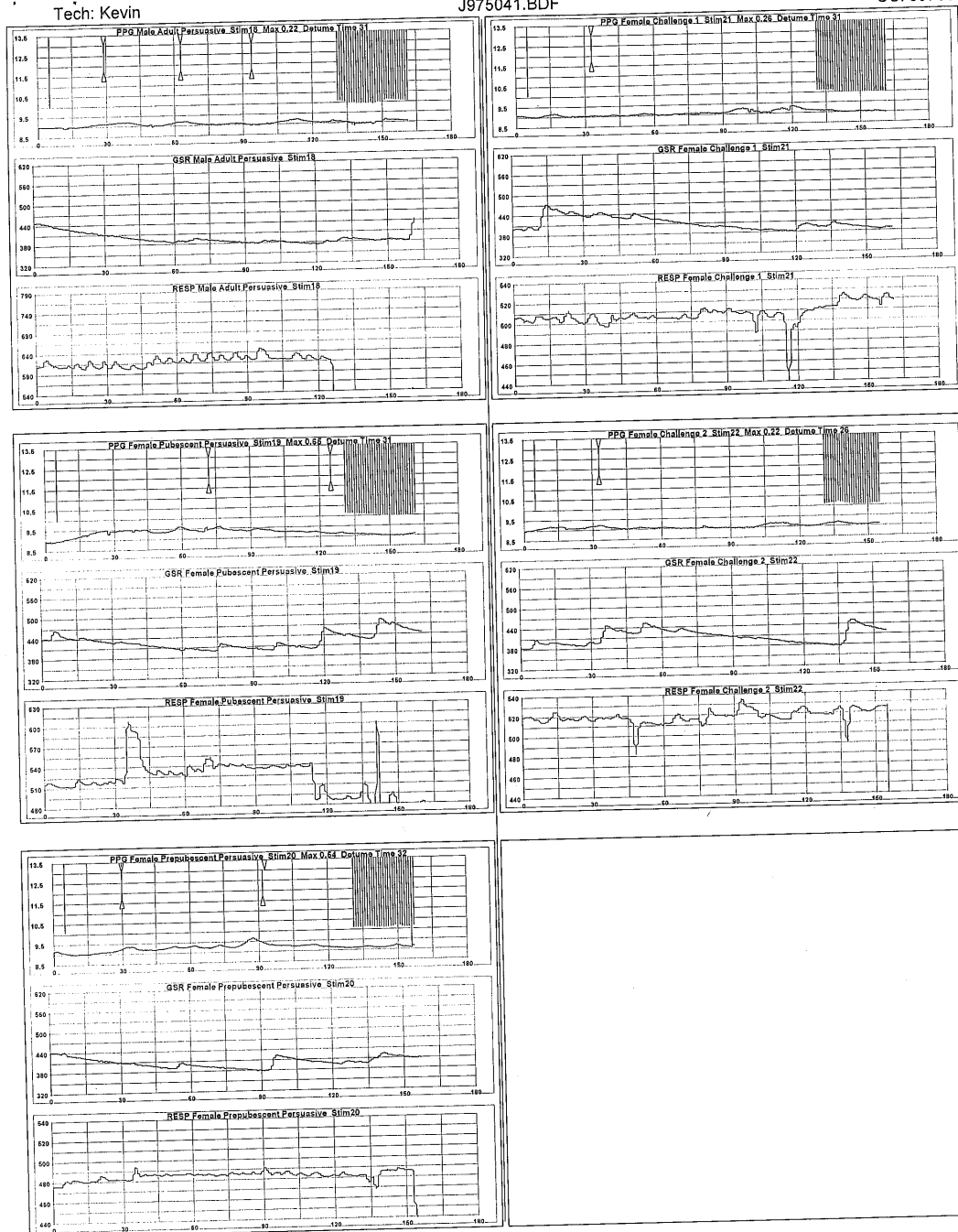
Client #1

Clear
Arousal to
2 segments

Tech: Kevin

J975041.BDF

CC: J97504

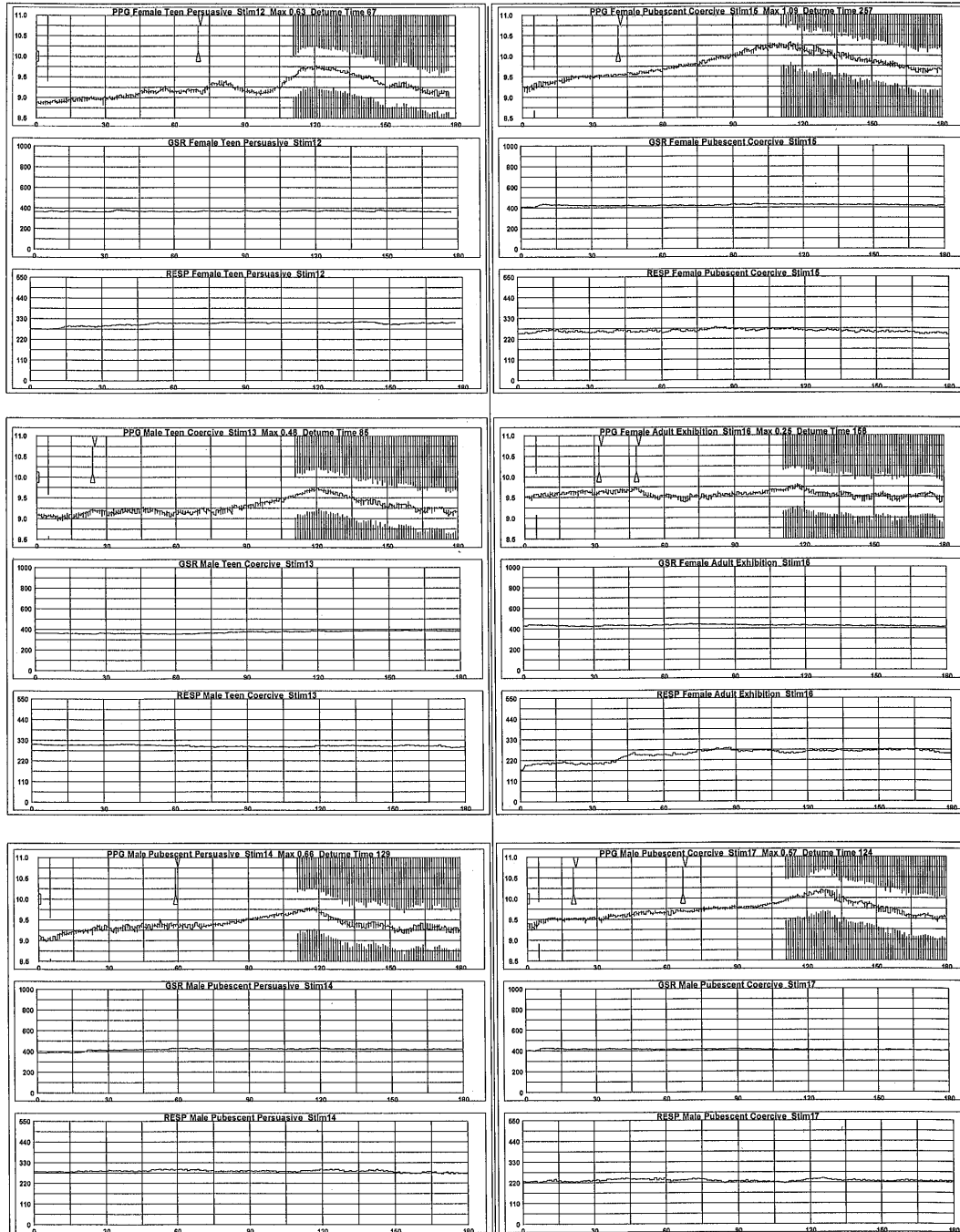


Other Arousal Traces

Tech: Mark

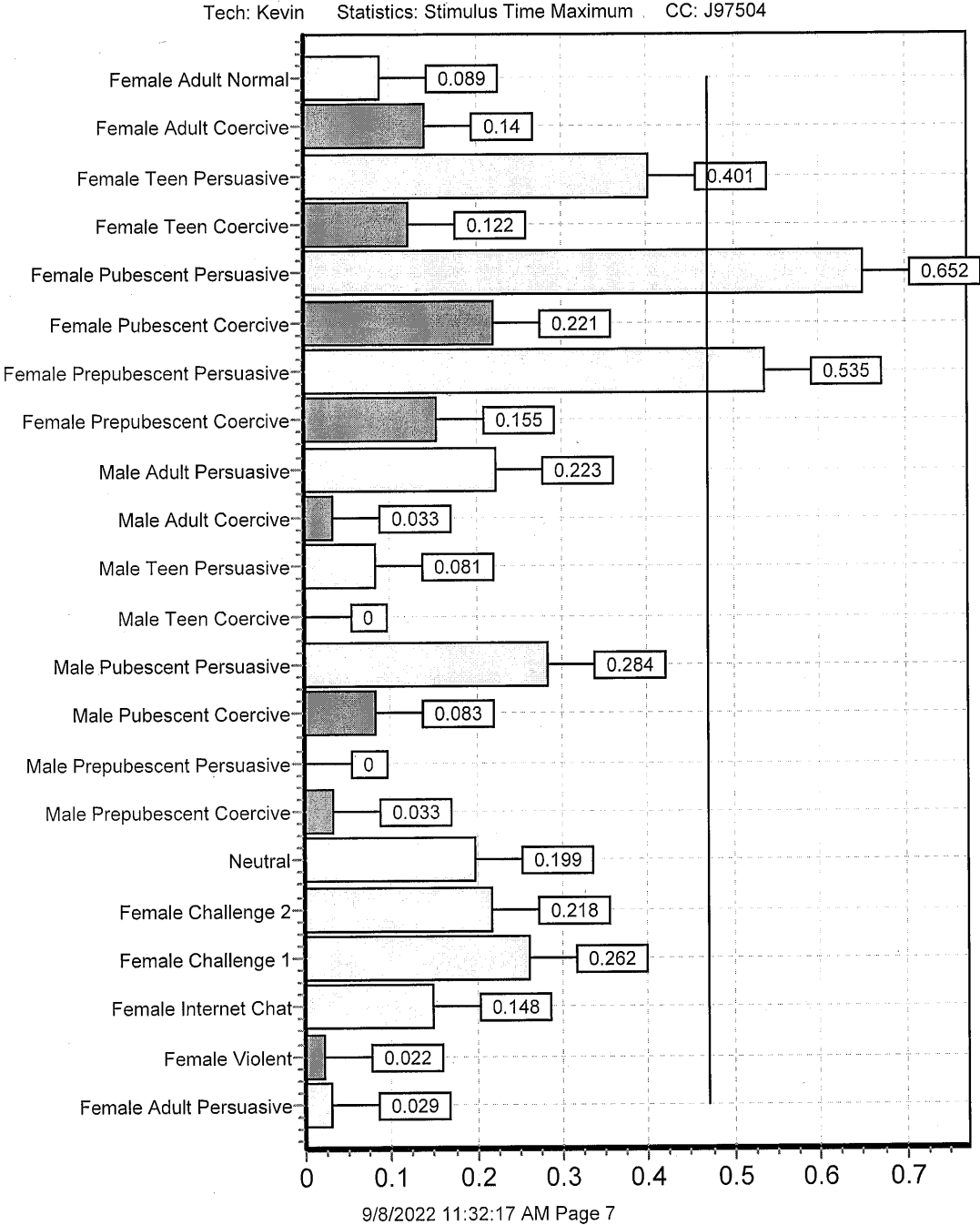
M806492.BDF

CC: M80649



Client #1

Stimulus Time Maximum Chart

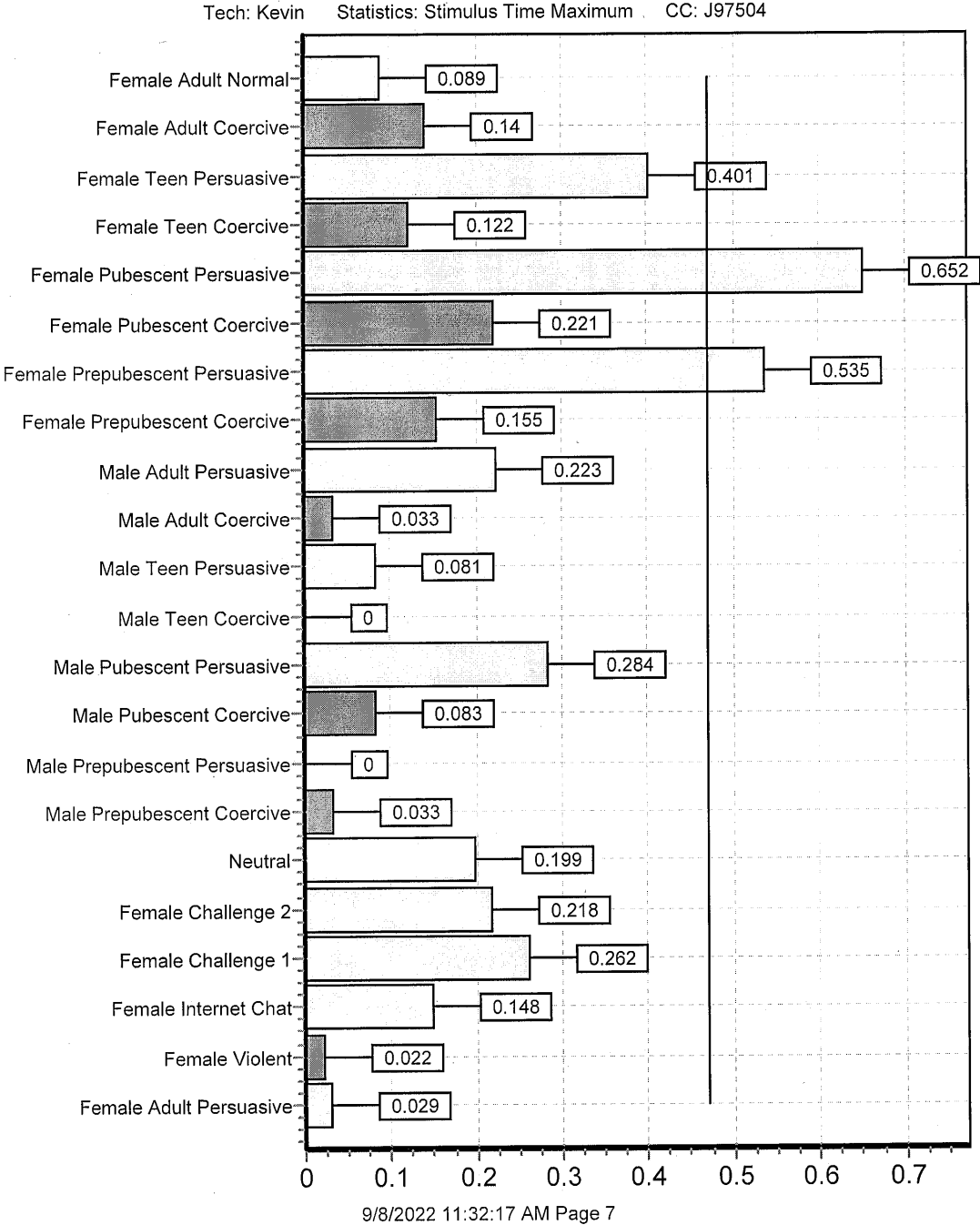


The PPG

- Level of Significance
 - Starting January 1, 2015 lower level of significance
 - .470 cm compared to .675 cm
 - 10% (PFE) as Significant vs 15% with .675 cm
 - Normative data from Howes (2003) indicated 95% of a male population estimate, achieve a full erection within 4.7 cm of circumference increase. (Howes, 2003). 95% sure that a .47 cm maximum score from a given client is *at least* 10 PFE.
- Has reduced number of non-responders
- No longer have “Trending Responses”

Client #1

Stimulus Time Maximum Chart



Client #1

Deviance Differential
-05616 (Chart)

Sexual Violence Index

Great Job!

Tech: Kevin

J975041.BDF

CC: J97504

PPG Resting Value 7.0

Deviance Differential (age) -0.5616

Sexualized Violence

Pedophilia Assault Index: 0.3387

Rape Index: 0.6263

Adult Assault Index: 0.0968

Button Stats

Total Buttons: 59

Button Hits: 59

Button Extras: 0

Attention (%): 100

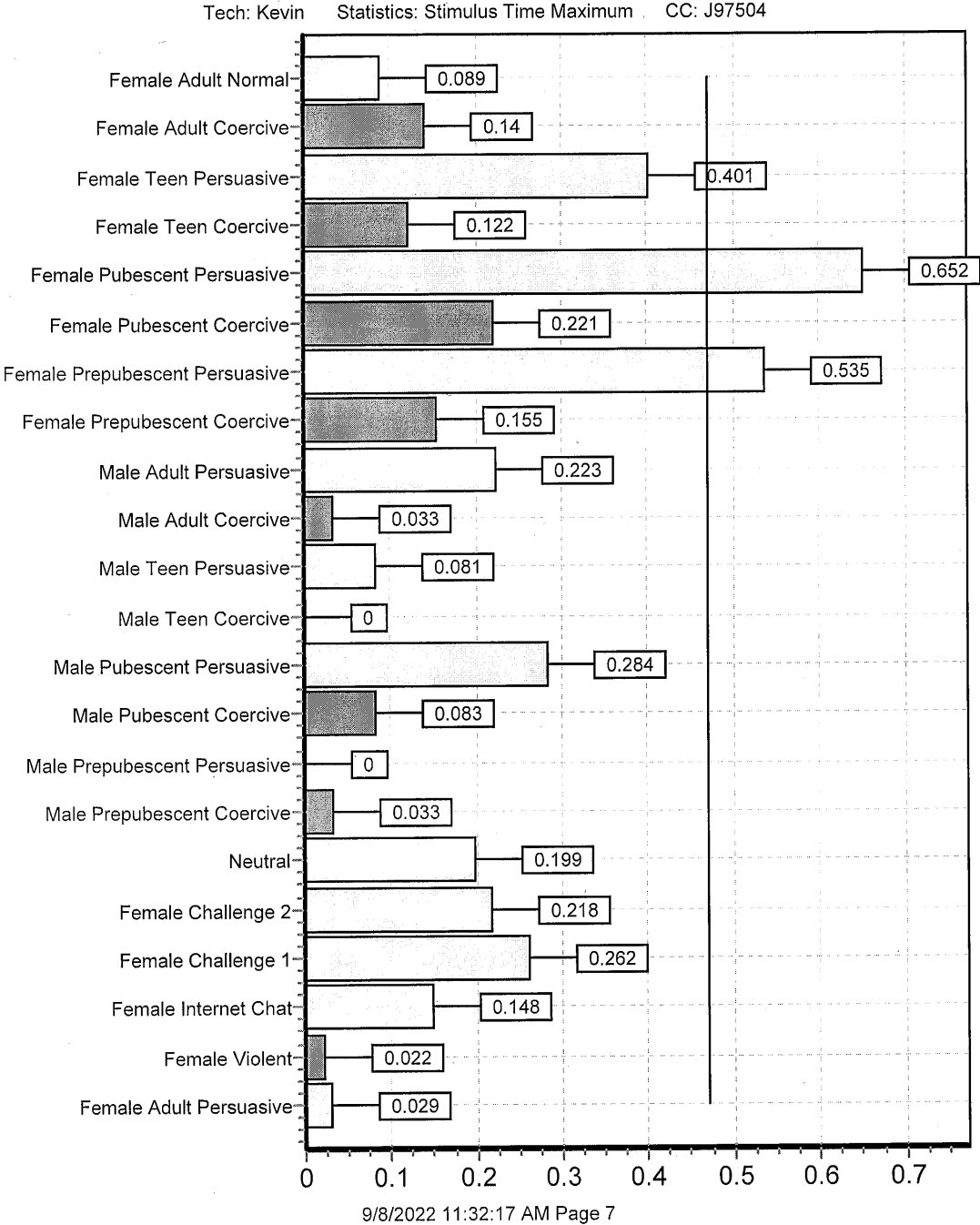
Process (%): 96

The PPG

- For Standard/DDMR
 - PPG involves systematic comparison of an individual's sexual arousal to adults versus their sexual arousal to children (prepubescent/pubescent)
- This comparison is called the Deviance Differential and is the “empirical heart” of the PPG Assessment
- Face Value vs Deviance Differential

Client #1

Stimulus Time Maximum Chart



Client #1

Deviance Differential
-05616 (Chart)

Sexual Violence Index

Great Job!

Tech: Kevin

J975041.BDF

CC: J97504

<u>PPG Resting Value</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>Deviance Differential (age)</u>	<u>-0.5616</u>

<u>Sexualized Violence</u>	
Pedophilia Assault Index:	0.3387
Rape Index:	0.6263
Adult Assault Index:	0.0968

<u>Button Stats</u>	
Total Buttons:	59
Button Hits:	59
Button Extras:	0
Attention (%):	100
Process (%):	96

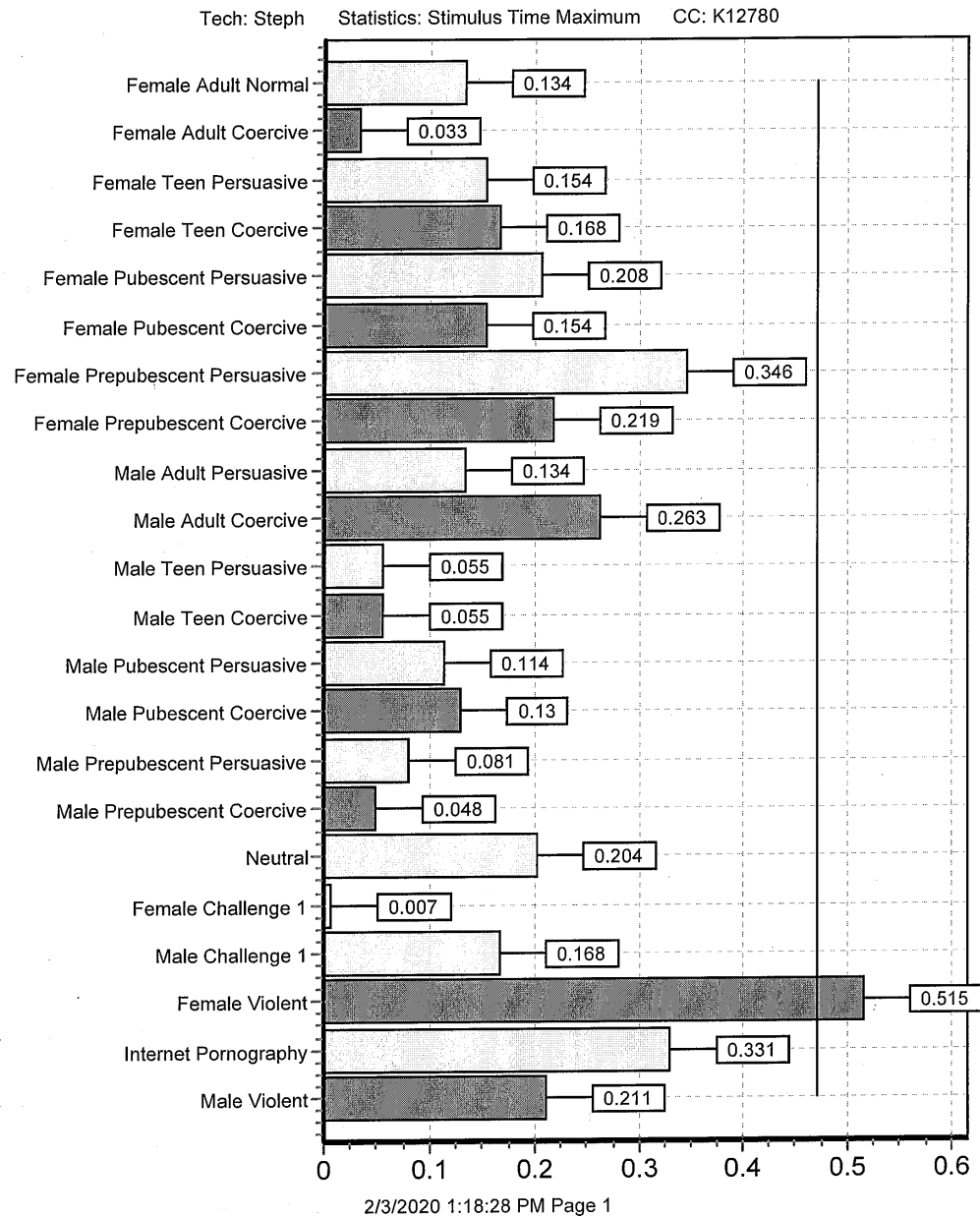
The PPG

- Deviance Differential (DD)

- Formula based on mean of **Adult Z Scores** minus the mean of **Children Z Scores** with the **AUC Z Scores** factored in as well. Significant responses to Teens are not factored into calculating DD
- Need at least one significant response on the 16 core stimuli for a DD score to be generated. **
- If **Teen** is the only one that crosses the line, DD will still be calculated because there was at least one significant response in Core 16. Provided enough variability for stats to feel comfortable in looking at variance in other categories
- The specialty stimulus sets do not have matching items related to children therefore not scored
 - Be careful about comments

Response not
part of Core 16

Feedback Session



Client #1

**Deviance Differential
-05616 (Chart)**

Sexual Violence Index

Great Job!

Tech: Kevin

J975041.BDF

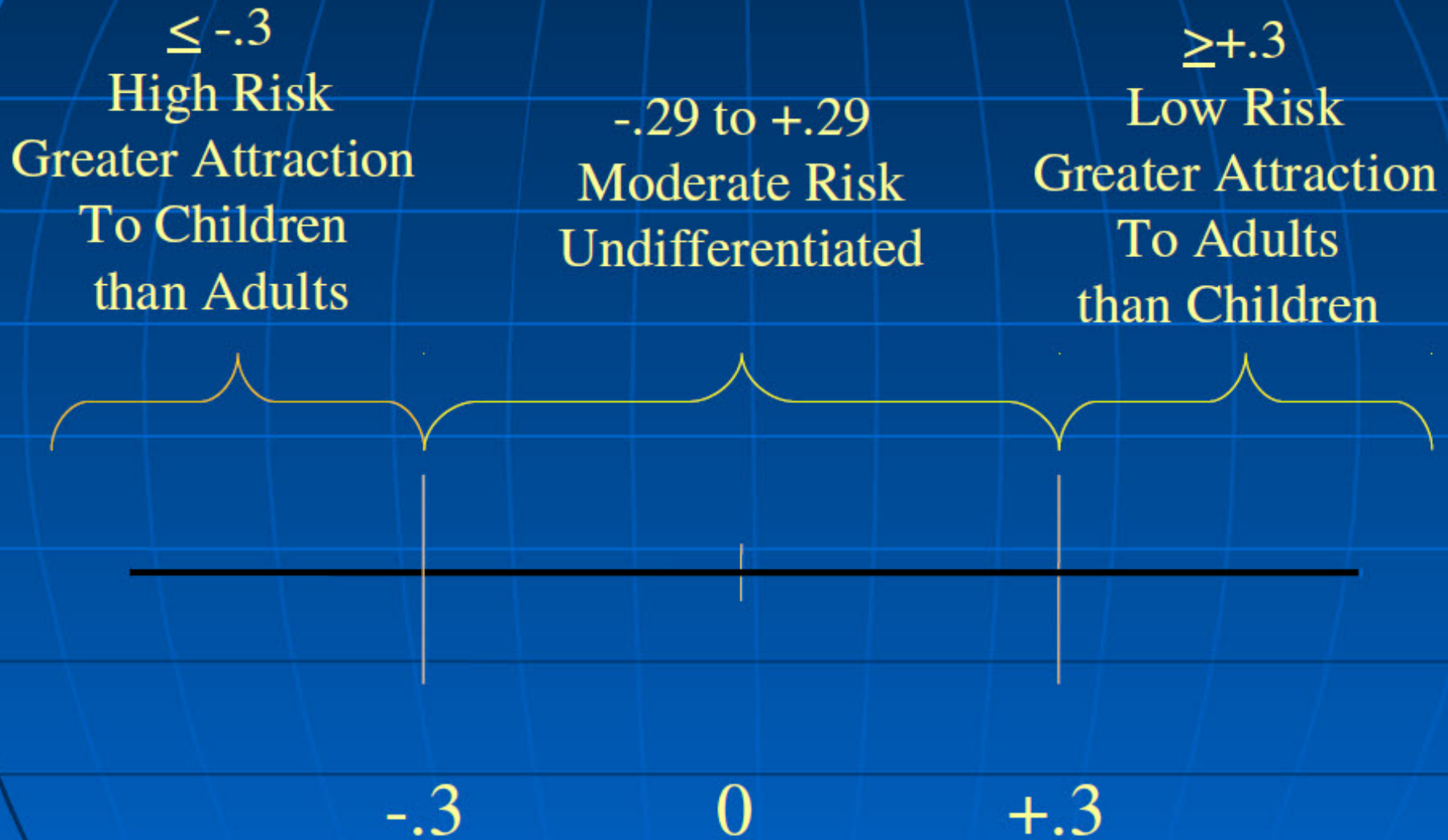
CC: J97504

<u>PPG Resting Value</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>Deviance Differential (age)</u>	<u>-0.5616</u>

<u>Sexualized Violence</u>	
Pedophilia Assault Index:	0.3387
Rape Index:	0.6263
Adult Assault Index:	0.0968

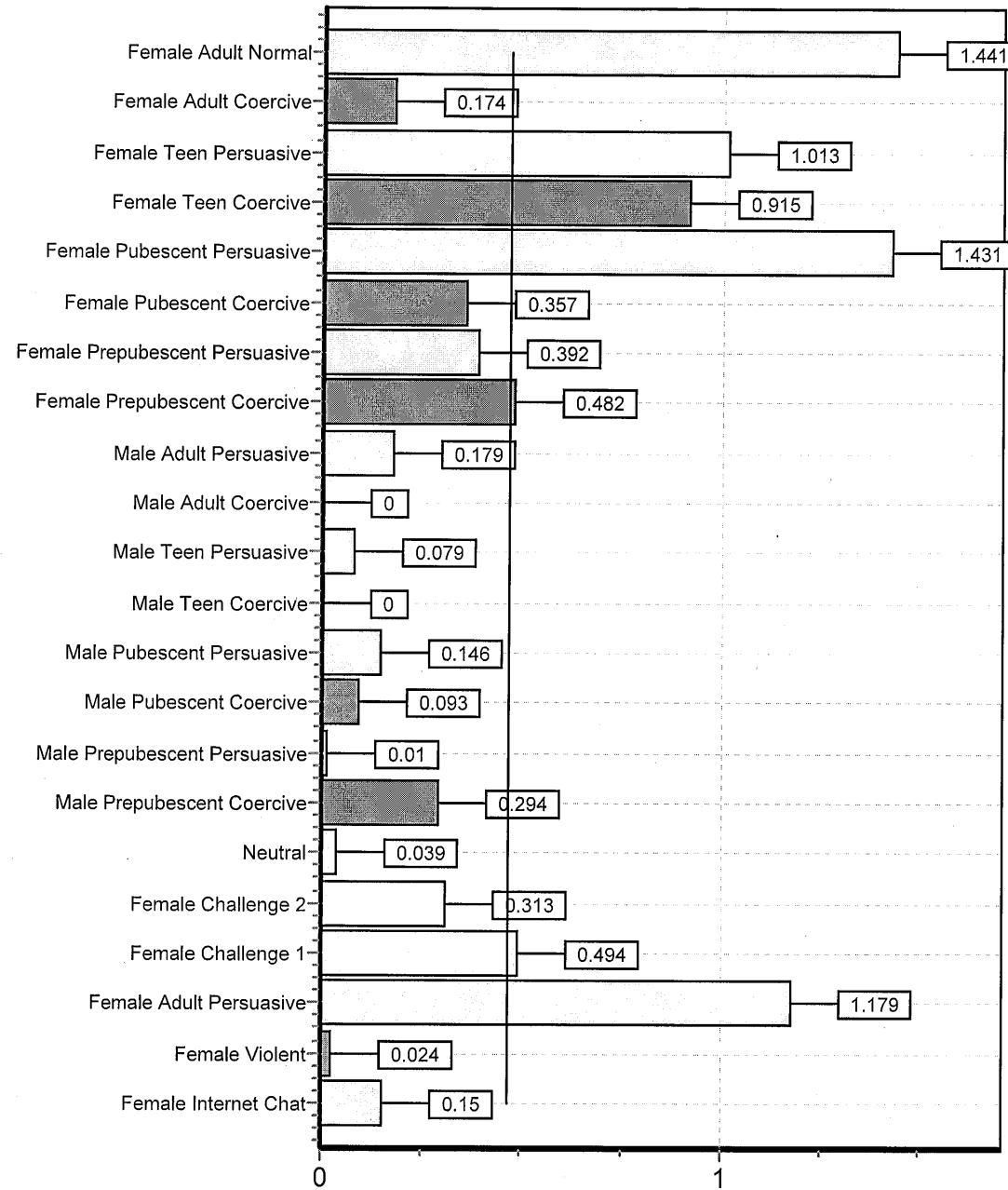
<u>Button Stats</u>	
Total Buttons:	59
Button Hits:	59
Button Extras:	0
Attention (%):	100
Process (%):	96

Empirical Findings Guidelines



The PPG

- Could have a client who has significant sexual arousal to one of the consenting adult segments on PPG Assessment
- No significant arousal to children but “almost” significant arousal to many of the pre-pubescent/pubescent children segments
- Could have a DD of -0.3 or higher



PPG Resting Value 7.9

Deviance Differential (age) -0.2221

Sexualized Violence

Pedophilia Assault Index: 0.3368

Rape Index: 0.1207

Adult Assault Index: 0.0165

Button Stats

Total Buttons: 59

Button Hits: 58

Button Extras: 0

Attention (%): 98

Process (%): 53

Client #1

Deviance Differential
-05616 (Chart)

Sexual Violence Index

Great Job!

Tech: Kevin

J975041.BDF

CC: J97504

<u>PPG Resting Value</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>Deviance Differential (age)</u>	<u>-0.5616</u>

Sexualized Violence

Pedophilia Assault Index:	0.3387
Rape Index:	0.6263
Adult Assault Index:	0.0968

Button Stats

Total Buttons:	59
Button Hits:	59
Button Extras:	0
Attention (%):	100
Process (%):	96

The PPG

- Sexual Violence Index
 - Monarch based Sexualized Violence Calculations upon Kingston, et al. (2010) finding that these responses are significantly related to sexual recidivism in a sample of 586 sexual offenders.
 - Caution until more research
 - Currently not considering or commenting on.

Client #1

Deviance Differential
-05616 (Chart)

Sexual Violence Index

Great Job!

Tech: Kevin

J975041.BDF

CC: J97504

<u>PPG Resting Value</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>Deviance Differential (age)</u>	<u>-0.5616</u>

<u>Sexualized Violence</u>	
Pedophilia Assault Index:	0.3387
Rape Index:	0.6263
Adult Assault Index:	0.0968

<u>Button Stats</u>	
Total Buttons:	59
Button Hits:	59
Button Extras:	0
Attention (%):	100
Process (%):	96

The PPG

- Attention
 - Press the button when you see a star
- Processing
 - “When you hear a beep, if the person telling the story sound like he is being nice or friendly, press the button twice when you hear the beep”
 - “If the person telling the story sounds forceful or aggressive, press the button once when you hear the beep”

PPG PROFILES

The PPG

- Profiles (Standard/DDMR)

- Adult Profile = arousal to adults females/males (Persuasive/Coercive)
- Teen/Adult = arousal to post-pubescent females/males and adult females/males (Normal as long as teens fairly equal to or less than adult) (PC)
- Teen Only = arousal to teen females/males only (PC)
- Child/Adult = arousal to prepubescent/pubescent females/males and adults (PC)
 - Arousal to adults is protective factor

The PPG

- **Child** = arousal to prepubescent/pubescent females/males (PC)
 - Classic pedophilic profile
 - Absence of arousal to adults
 - Concerning
- Non-discriminating = arousal to majority of stimuli regardless of offending pattern
 - Consider Hypersexuality
- Arousal to Coercive Only

The PPG

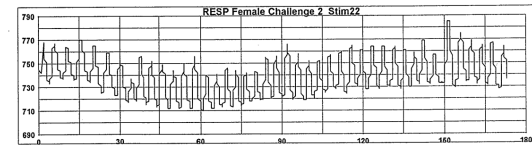
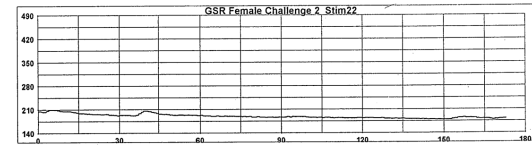
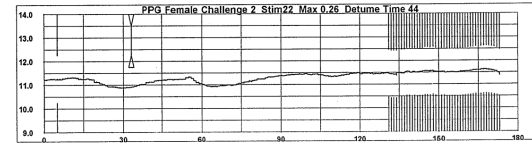
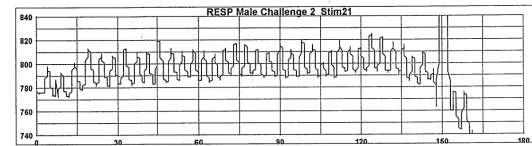
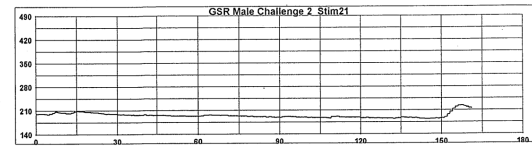
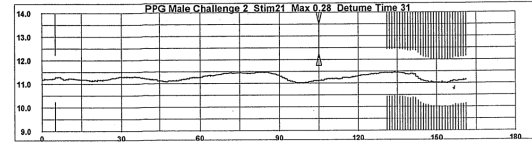
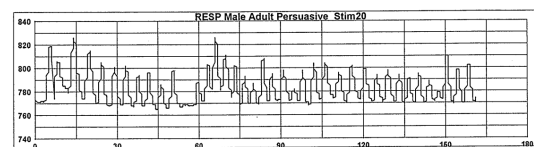
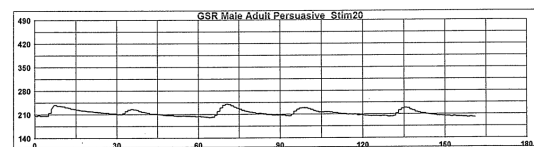
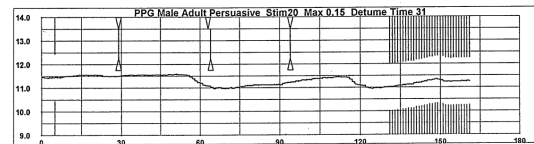
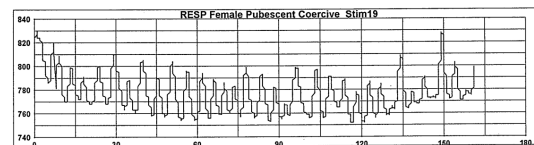
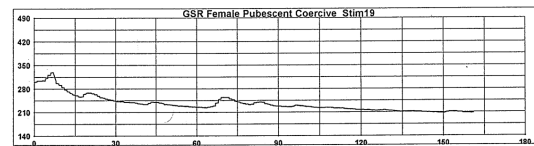
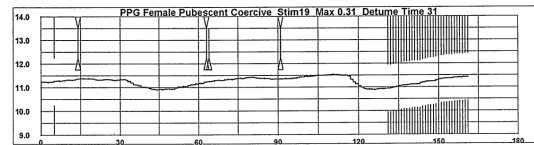
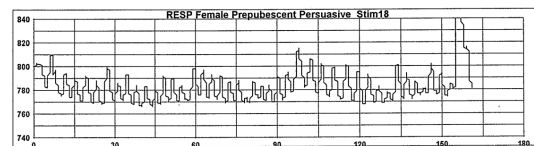
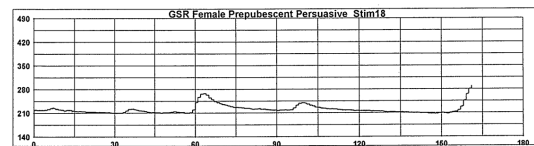
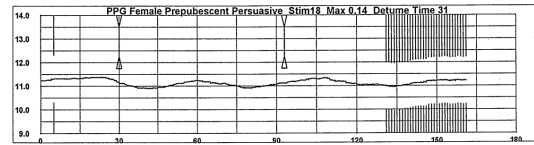
- **Must** put into context of client's history
 - Offending History
 - Age/Gender of Victims
 - Force/Violence
 - Personal Victimization History
 - Age/Gender of Perpetrator
 - Hypersexuality/Compulsive
- Client
 - History of victimizing females
 - PPG Profile
 - Teen Females/Adult Females
 - Pre-pubescent Males

CONCERNING PENILE TRACES

The PPG

- Concerning Penile Traces
 - Trace increases at least .5 cm then decreases at least that much, then increases again to or above the .5 cm level during stimulus or visible detumescent time **
 - Often attempting to control/inhibit arousal
- Spikes
 - Pumping/Movement

Decrease
&
Increase

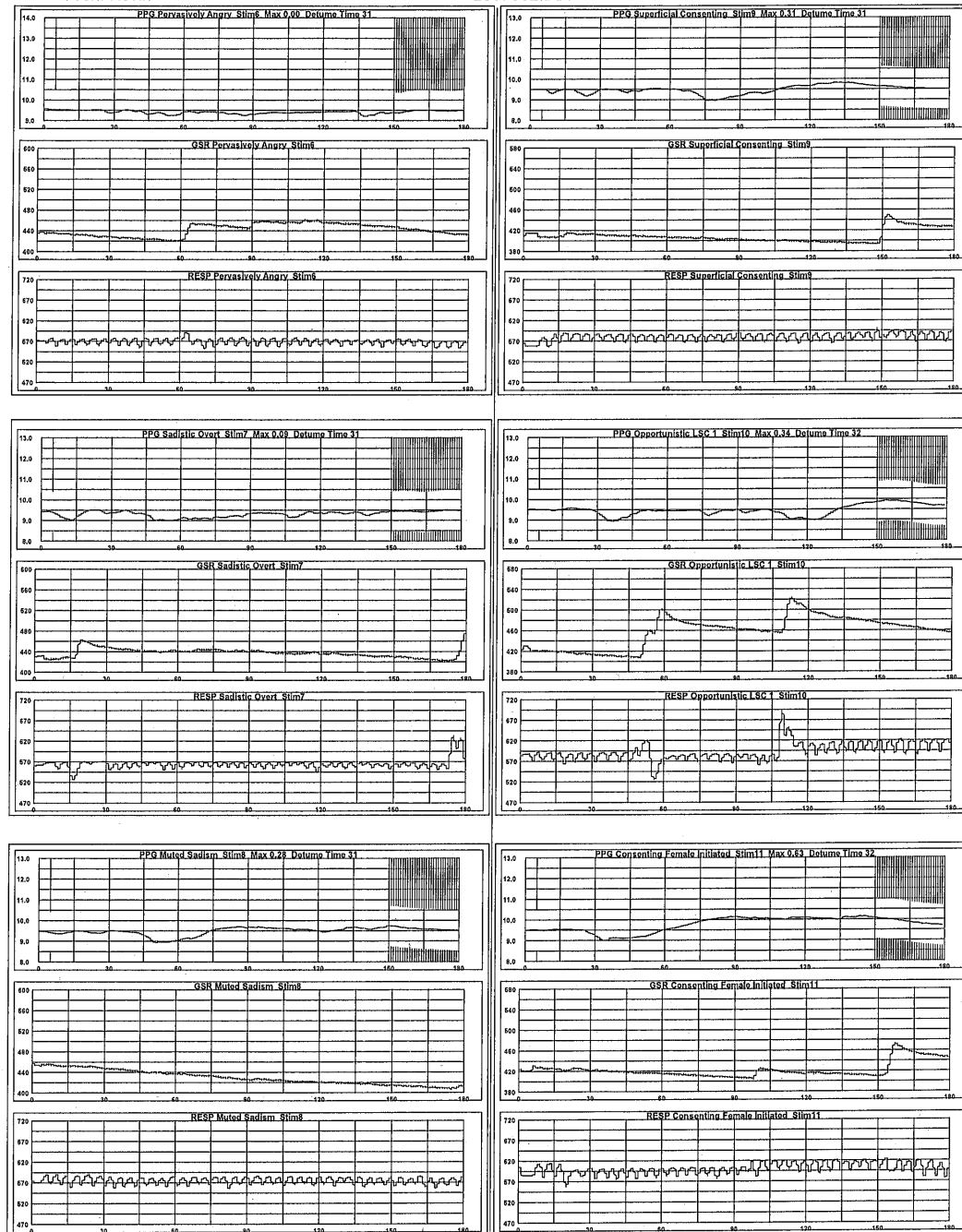


Decrease
&
Increase

Tech: Kevin

2067502.BDF

CC: 206750



Response Interference

Tech: Kevin

2067502.BDF

CC: 206750

RI Segments

PPG Resting Value 8.2

Rape Differential 1.4798

Consenting Female Initiated

Consenting Male Initiated

Muted Sadism

Opportunistic LSC 1

Superficial Consenting

Sexualized Violence

Pedophilia Assault IndeN/A

Rape Index: N/A

Adult Assault Index: N/A

Button Stats

Total Buttons: 0

Button Hits: 0

Button Extras: 0

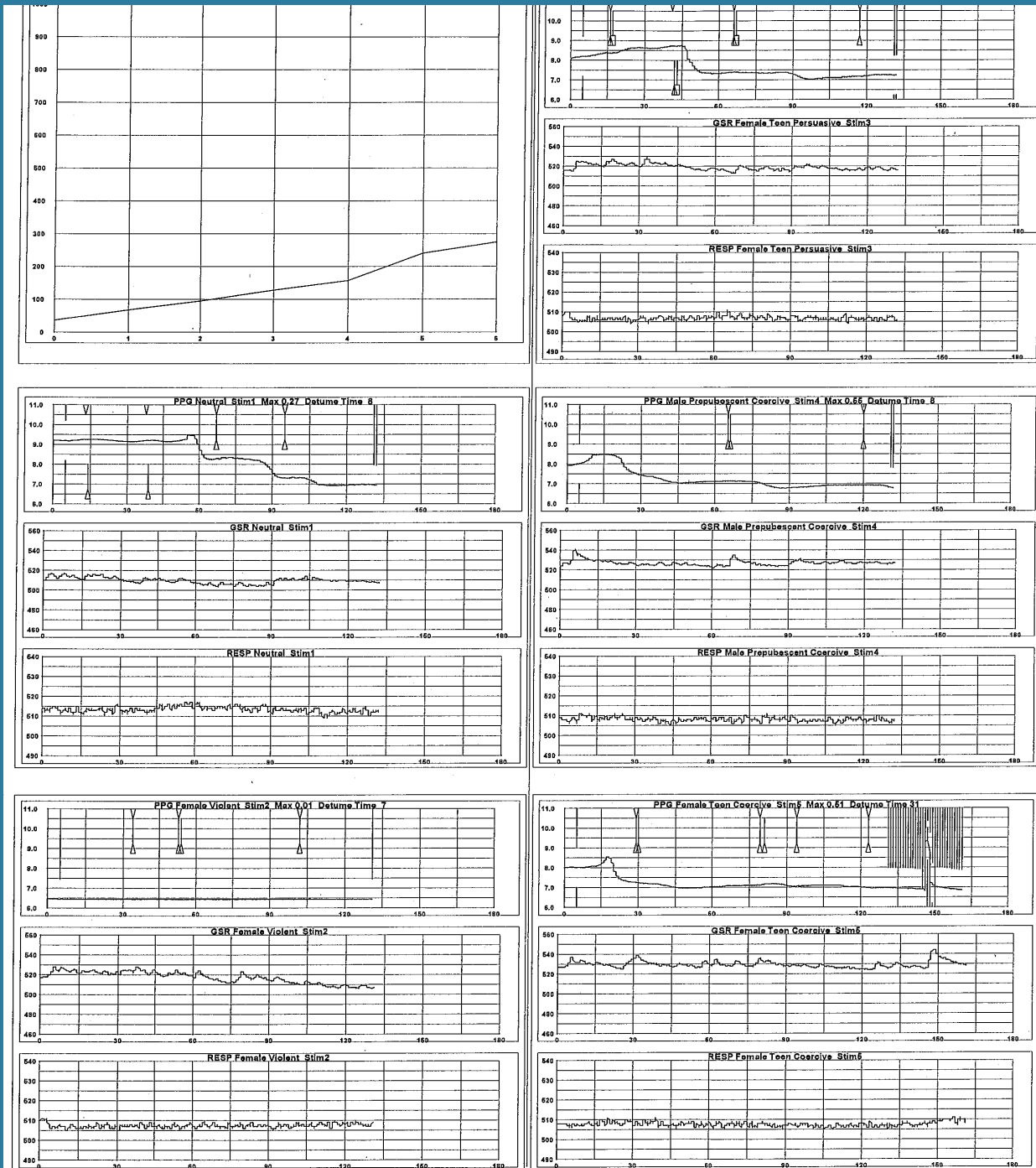
Attention (%): 0

Process (%): 0

The PPG

- Concerning Penile Traces
 - Trace increases at least .5 cm then decreases at least that much, then increases again to or above the .5 cm level during stimulus or visible detumescent time **
 - Often attempting to control/inhibit arousal
 - Spikes
 - Pumping/Movement

Unusual Traces



The PPG

- “D” Time
 - Typically don’t interpret anything in “D” time however...
 - Although arousal in D time isn’t factored into scores, if a non responder and shows increase of at least .2 in D time at least twice then you should comment
 - It is of note that in the following segments, Mr. XXX demonstrated an increase in his penile trace indicating sexual arousal during D times. The treatment team should explore this finding with Mr. XXX

RESPIRATION & GSR TRACES

The PPG

- Respiration Trace
 - Measures changes in a client's breathing rate/volume
 - Typically ignore respiration trace
 - Not always accurate
 - Placement/movement of belt
 - Interference with clothing.
 - Difficult to interpret
 - If making note of the respiration trace, consult!

The PPG

- GSR Trace
 - Measures changes in electro dermal activity
 - It is **important** not to interpret the GSR Data
 - Rise that last at least 15 seconds
 - Maybe indicated stress/tension...to be expected
 - Often does not work

RAPE DD

The PPG

- Rape DD

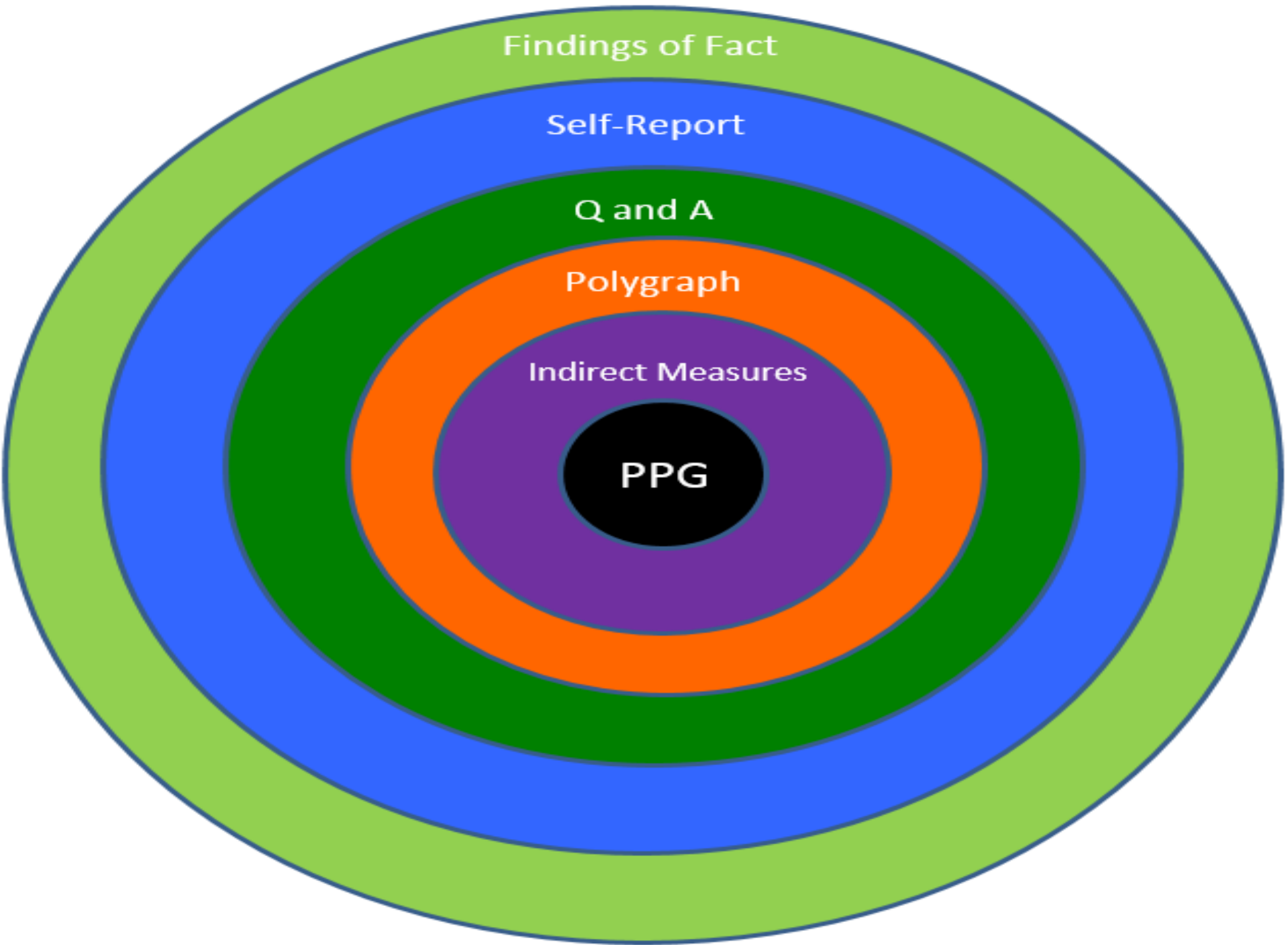
Consensual Average – Nonconsensual Average = Rape DD

Positive is Healthy (more arousal to consenting)

Negative is Deviant (more arousal to non-consenting)

The PPG

- Results on the PPG
 - Are not good/bad
 - They provide us with information
 - Provide information for treatment
 - **PPG is not a risk assessment/nor a diagnostic tool**
 - One piece of information *
- **Without Results**
 - **No Information**
 - Individual who do not meet level of significance (.470)
 - About 10% to 25% are non-responders
 - Variety of reasons for nonresponding
 - DO NOT ASSUME



Findings of Fact

Self-Report

Q and A

Polygraph

Indirect Measures

PPG

The PPG

- Results on the PPG
 - Are not good/bad
 - They provide us with information
 - Provide information for treatment
 - **PPG is not a risk assessment nor a diagnostic tool**
 - One piece of information **
- **Without Results**
 - **No Information!**
 - Individual who do not meet level of significance (.470)
 - About 10% to 25% are non-responders
 - Variety of reasons for nonresponding
 - DO NOT ASSUME

The PPG

- Factors Influencing Nonresponse (NR)
 - Health Issues/Medication **
 - Excess Belly Fat
 - Penile Gauge
 - Gauge too big
 - Incorrect placement of PPG gauge
 - Anxiety/Depression/Stress/Fatigue/Sexual Satiation

The PPG

- Medications that Limit/Attenuate Sexual Arousal
 - Statins and Fibrates (Cholesterol Meds)
 - Blood Pressure Meds
 - Antidepressants
 - Antipsychotics
 - Benzodiazepines
 - H2 Blockers (Gastrointestinal Disorders, Reflux Disease, Ulcers)
 - Anticonvulsants (Epilepsy, Chronic Pain, Migraines, Bipolar)
- Remember we don't need full erections
 - Research with clients on Depo/Lupron 20% to 30%

The PPG

- Factors Influencing Nonresponse (NR)
 - Health Issues/Medication
 - Excess Belly Fat
 - Penile Gauge
 - Gauge too big (Measurement Process)
 - Incorrect placement of PPG gauge
 - Anxiety/Depression/Stress/Fatigue/Sexual Satiation

The PPG

- Factors Influencing Nonresponse (NR)
 - Brain Injury
 - Sexual arousal difficulties seen in 57% of individuals
 - Chronic Global Hyposexuality
 - Suppression – Deliberate or Result of TX
 - Catch 22 for Client
 - If they are successful in TX.....
 - Stimulus Material is Not a “Hit”

The PPG

- Factors Influencing Nonresponse
 - Faking and Manipulation (Response Interference, RI)
 - Not Wearing Gauge
 - Resting/On Something Else
 - Holding “it all in”
 - Using “pumping” technique for “appropriate arousal”
 - Forcing penis to get larger with pelvic striated muscular contractions – Voluntarily and involuntarily
 - Sudden spike in trace
 - Not Looking at Stimuli

The PPG

- Interpretation
 - No report writer **KNOWS** the answer to NR/RI
 - It is all speculation
 - Do not overreach
 - Stay with the facts
 - Past statement....it is surprising....
 - Remembernot everyone who molest children has sexual arousal to children....about 50/50..however CC population is higher

Providing Feedback

Understanding the PPG

Elizabeth Griffin, MA, LMFT
elizgrif@gmail.com
www.internetbehavior.com/PPG