

Mike Wilson re request for info from city council member, Cañon City, Co.

*1. What is the science behind individuals choosing to commit sex crimes against children?*

The science for why individuals choose to commit sex crimes against children has its basis in several different venues. [Lack of empathy](#), [prior abuse](#) (pg. 1292), and [early developmental experiences](#) (see Introduction, specifically) and [cognitive dissonance](#) all play role in those who harm children.

*2. What evidence based programs are there that do indeed reduce repeat offenses?*

An overall article that highlights evidence based programs that reduce repeat offences, would be the blog [Effective \(and Ineffective\) Treatments for Sexual Offenders](#). It provides a high level overview of what works and what does not. Overall evidence based programs treatments [do indeed reduce repeat offences](#), specifically where CBT, or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, is involved. Greater levels of CBT training for treatment providers and CBT programs are associated with larger effectiveness (pg. 2).

A concise [article](#) the Best Practices for Sex Offenders on page 2 details of summary of typical CBT treatments. A more robust description of CBT treatments of sex offenders are [detailed here](#).

*3. What evidence based programs/systems/culture change can be done to help prevent sexual assaults on children in the first place?*

There are several evidence-based programs in effect that can, in part, help diminish and prevent child sexual assaults. Because of time and space constraints I'd like to suggest the one that seems the most promising. The [Prevent It!](#) has an evidence-based education program for adults about childhood sexual abuse. It is designed to create a cultural awareness in community leaders and volunteers where child sexual abuse may be present. It is expected the volunteers learning the Prevent It! curriculum will return to their local neighbourhoods and increase awareness of child sexual abuse.

Please let us know if we can be helpful in providing other information,

Mike W for NARSOL – National Association for Rational Sex Offender Laws