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healthy adult-child relationship. Craven et al. Sexual grooming is “not dissimilar to innocent behavior intended to broaden a young person’s experiences,” as stated in 2006 the motivation behind the behavior may be the only difference. p. 292). In point of fact, according to Bennett & O’Donohue (2014), a person who intends to commit a sexual offense will probably want to appear to be engaging in typical behavior in order to avoid detection. For instance, it is not necessarily alarming for an adult to give a child a present or play games with them that are similar to those of a child, but these actions are also regarded as sexual grooming strategies.

It is essential for the detection and prevention of CSA to be able to differentiate between harmless caring behaviors and sexual abuse-related behaviors and strategies. Winters and co. (2020) hypothesized that there may be a number of ways to distinguish between sexual grooming behaviors and adult-child interactions. First, there might be some behaviors that are more concerning and, as a result, more indicative of sexual grooming (i.e., behaviors that are more severe or “red flags”). This probably includes things like showing child pornography, undressing around a child, or using inappropriate sexual language with a child during the desensitization to sexual content and physical contact stage. Second, the child may engage in the behaviors frequently. Using a variety of sexual grooming techniques (high number of behaviors) or specific techniques (high occurrence), such as frequently engaging in activities with a child away from other adults, giving a child numerous gifts or compliments, or texting or communicating with a minor frequently, are examples of high frequency behaviors. Thirdly, there may be certain clusters of behaviors that end up being more troubling, such as engaging in a variety of behaviors throughout each of the five stages of SGM [6-8].

## Conclusion

Importantly, none of the aforementioned hypotheses have

been empirically tested. Therefore, it is necessary to gain a better understanding of how these sexual grooming behaviors may differ from typical adult interactions with children in order to develop prevention methods that can identify sexual grooming before abuse occurs. Using the SGS-V, we aimed to determine if there are any red flag behaviors that are more common in cases of CSA compared to Non-CSA (severe or red flag behaviors) and if these vary depending on relationship to the child (family, non-family, or community member); and if there are more sexual grooming behaviors used in cases of CSA compared to Non-CSA (high number of behaviors).