

## VI. Conclusion

This study is the beginning of an important discussion about the unique and complex issues surrounding CSOs who commit suicide. By overlaying already established suicide theories with the complexities of child sex offending, the authors hope to highlight why some CSOs choose to commit suicide. With cognitive distortions no longer protecting them, some offenders cannot tolerate the pending catastrophic loss of job, family, and reputation and see suicide as their only solution. Similarly, the CSOs' suicide notes reflect individuals who felt trapped and found suicide to be the only way to regain control and escape the intolerable pain of being exposed to the world as a CSO.

While we were not able to assess the prevalence rate of CSO suicide, this chapter does help substantiate anecdotal reports of an increased risk for suicide among this population of offenders. In addition, even though analysis on this topic has been limited, possibly due to society's conflicting reactions about the suicides of those who live in ways counter to cultural and social norms, this chapter is a considerable first step toward establishing a more effective crisis response and mitigating the risk for suicide among CSOs (Hoffer, Shelton, Behnke, & Erdberg, 2010). Finally, by providing empirical data and multidisciplinary considerations, the authors hope to increase awareness of CSO suicide among the various entities which come into contact with this population of offenders.