Taking a
Criminal Career Perspective
to
Sex Offenders and Sexual Offending

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nscr
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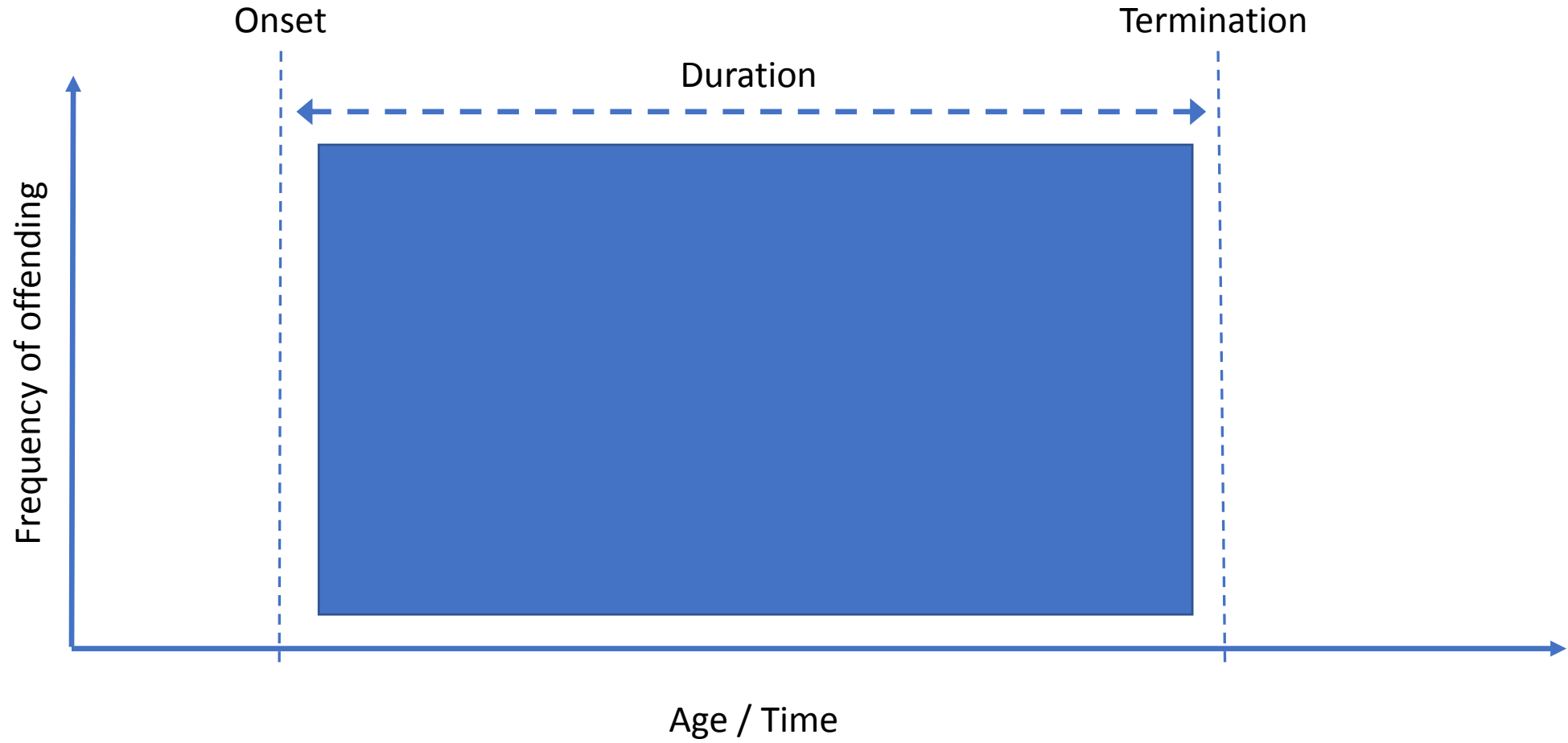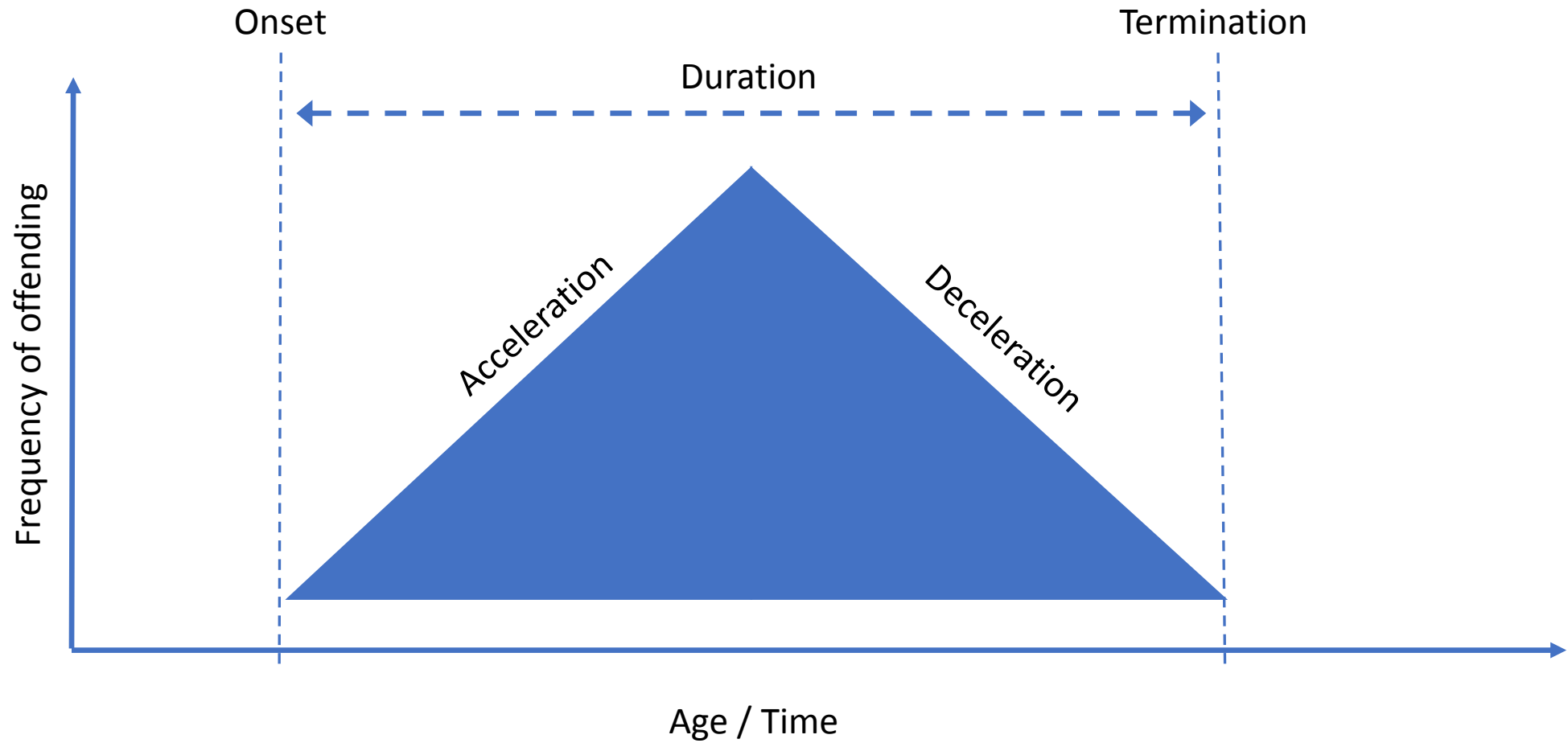
When did it start?

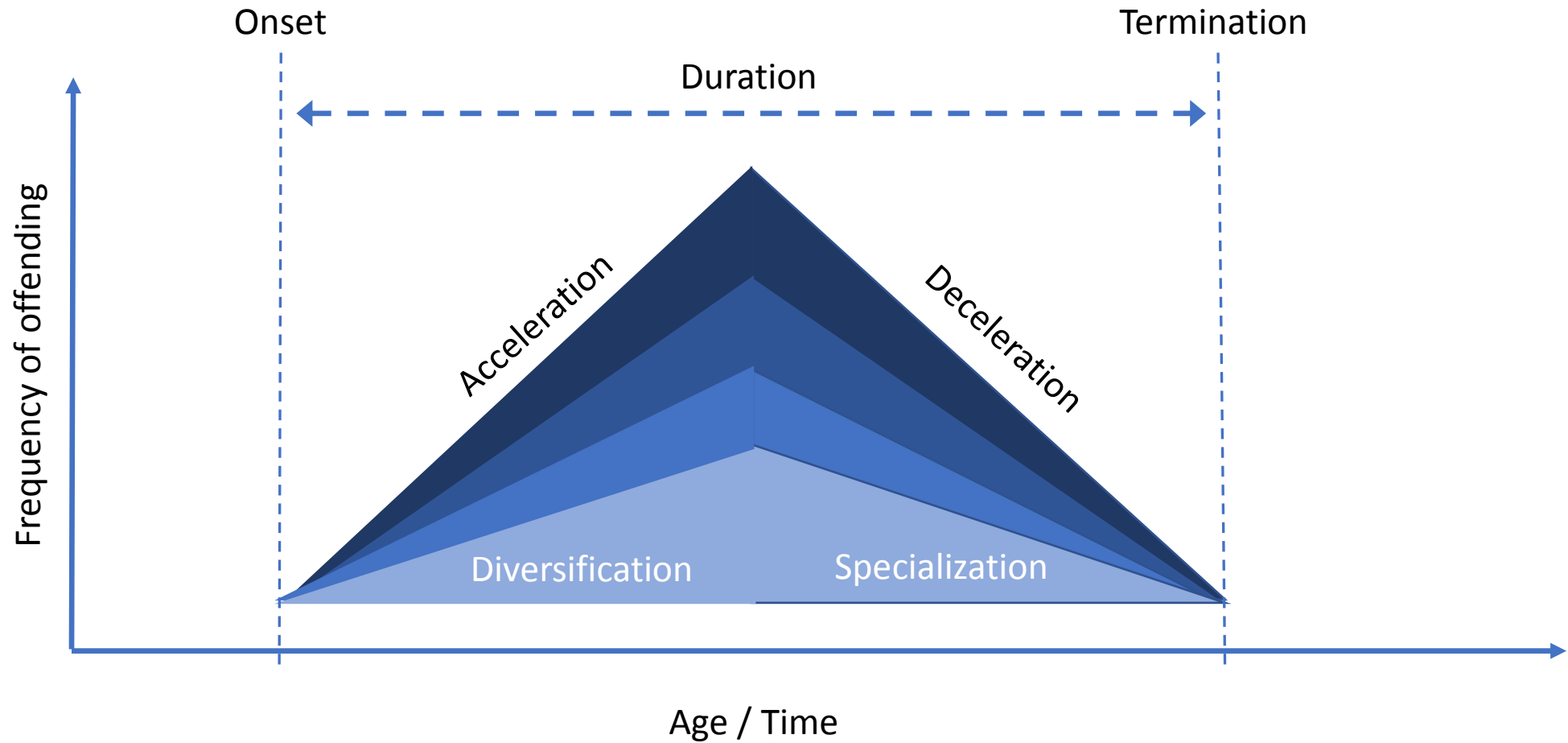How often?

How serious?

Any other symptoms?

The Criminal Career perspective

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Life-course criminology's 'accepted conclusions'

	General offenders
Participation	20-40%
Onset	9-14 years
Termination	20-29 years
Duration	5-10 years? Early onset predicts long duration.
Frequency	Early onset predicts frequent offending. Small subset of very frequent offenders responsible for disproportionate amount of crime.
Versatility	Versatile

Statistics Netherlands

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Legend:
- Non-Offenders
- Low Adolescence Peak
- Very Low Rate Chronic
- High Adolescence Peak
- High Rate Chronic

Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development: Farrington et al (2014)

Do the 'accepted conclusions' hold?

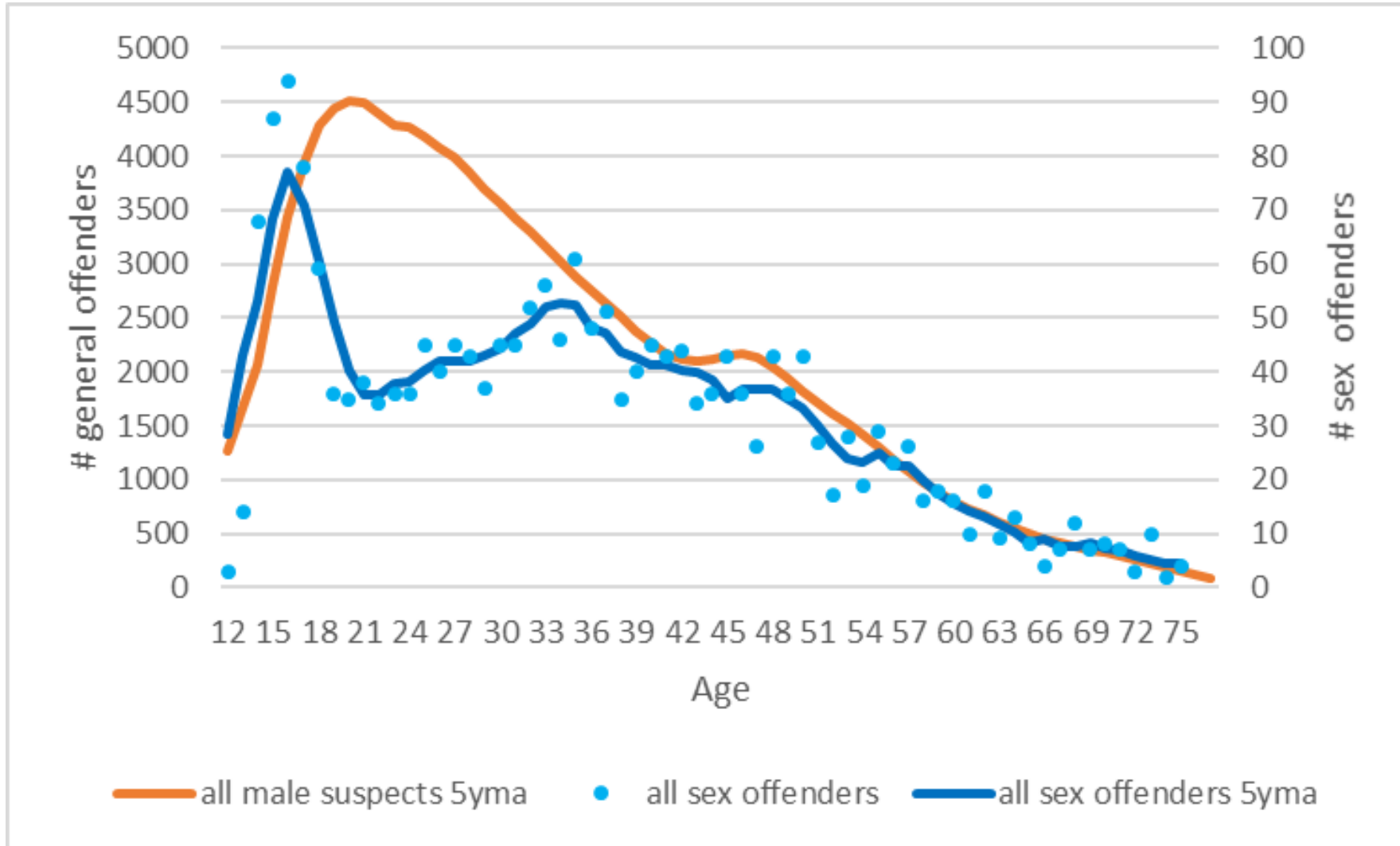|	General offenders	Sexual offenders	Sexual offending
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Participation by age

Statistics Netherlands 2017/ WODC 1997

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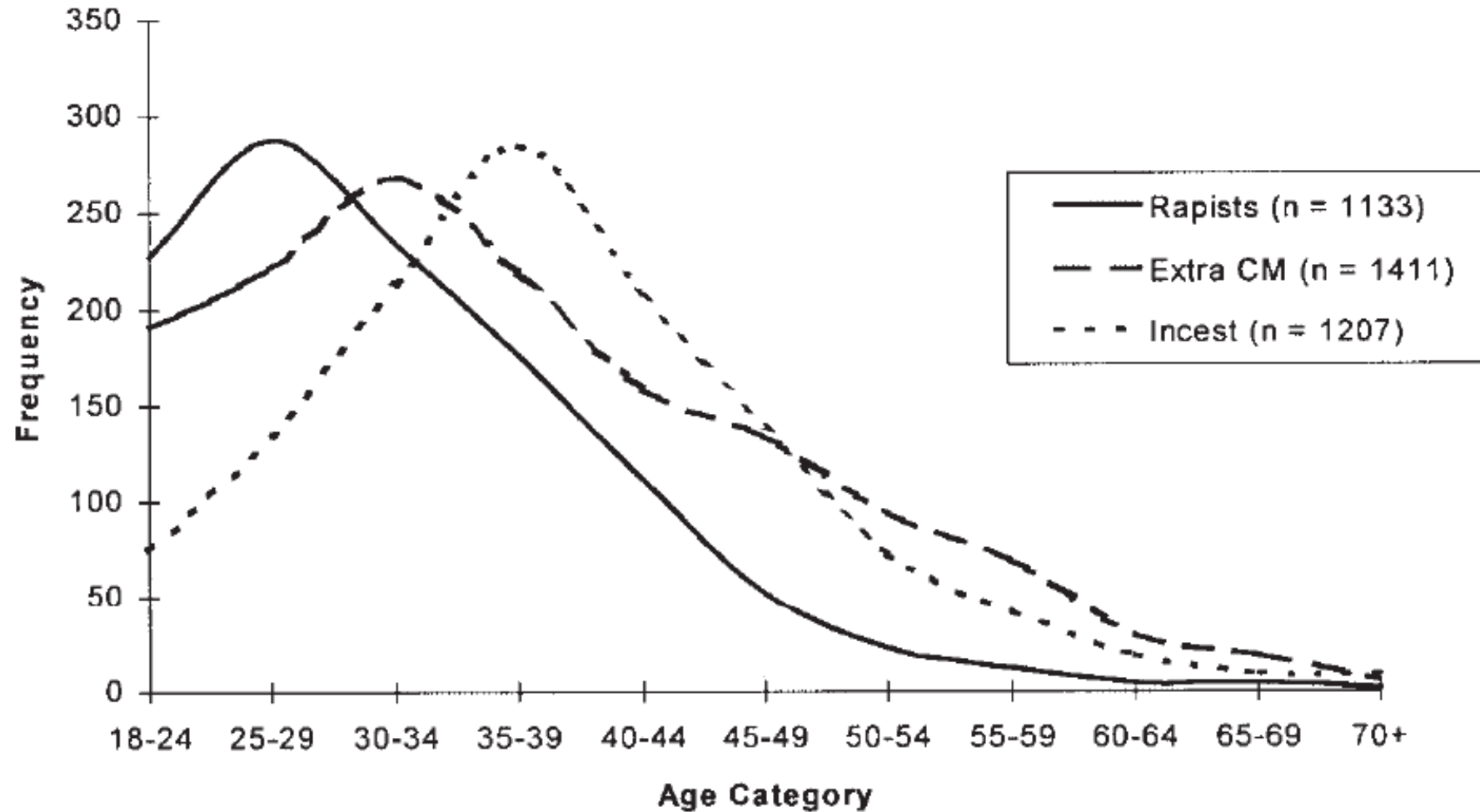|	General offenders	Sexual offenders	Sexual offending
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Participation by offense type

Combined sample: Hanson, 2002

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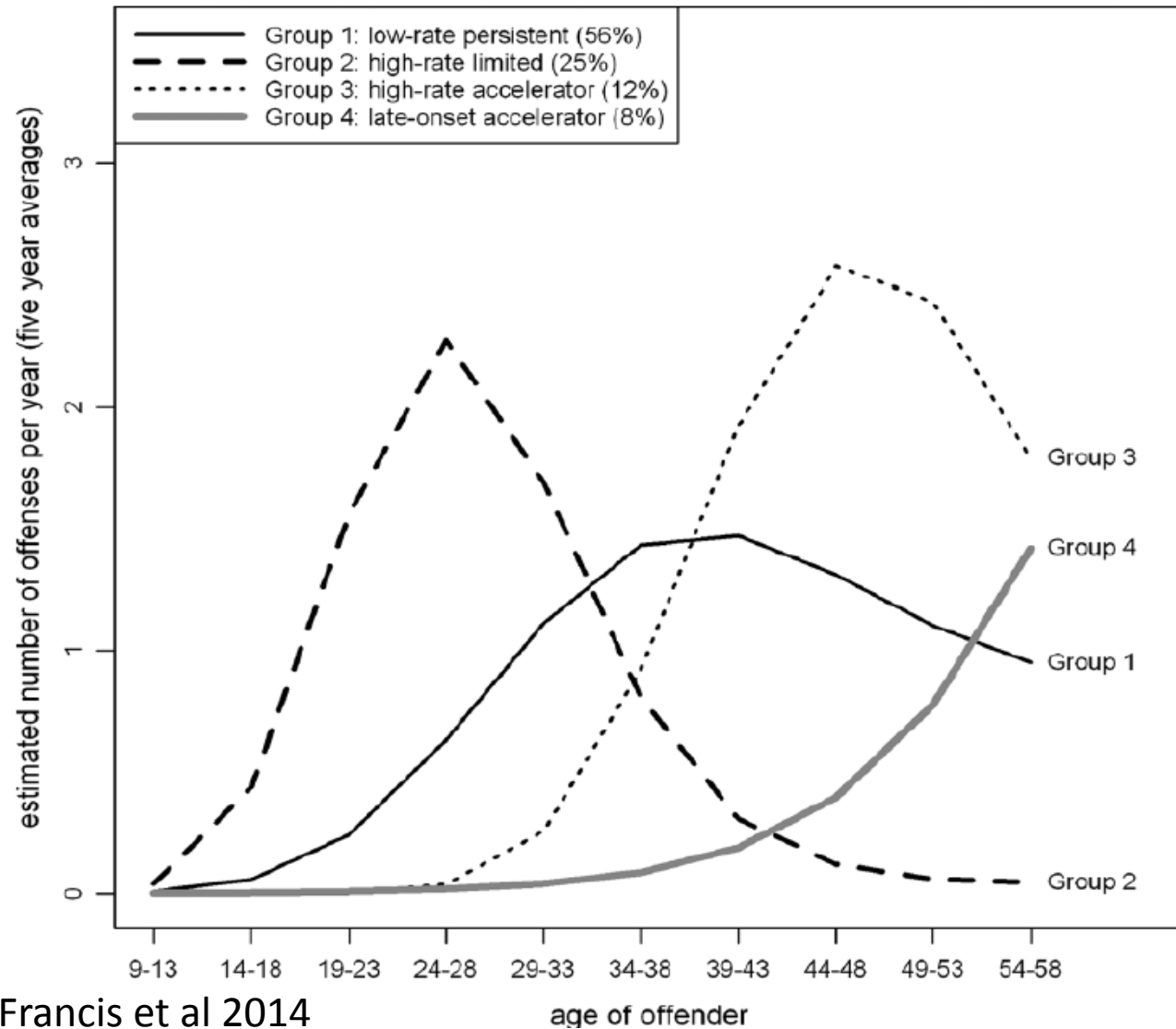|	General offenders	Sexual offenders	Sexual offending
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Patterns of onset, frequency, and termination in sex offending

780 convicted male ASO: Francis et al 2014

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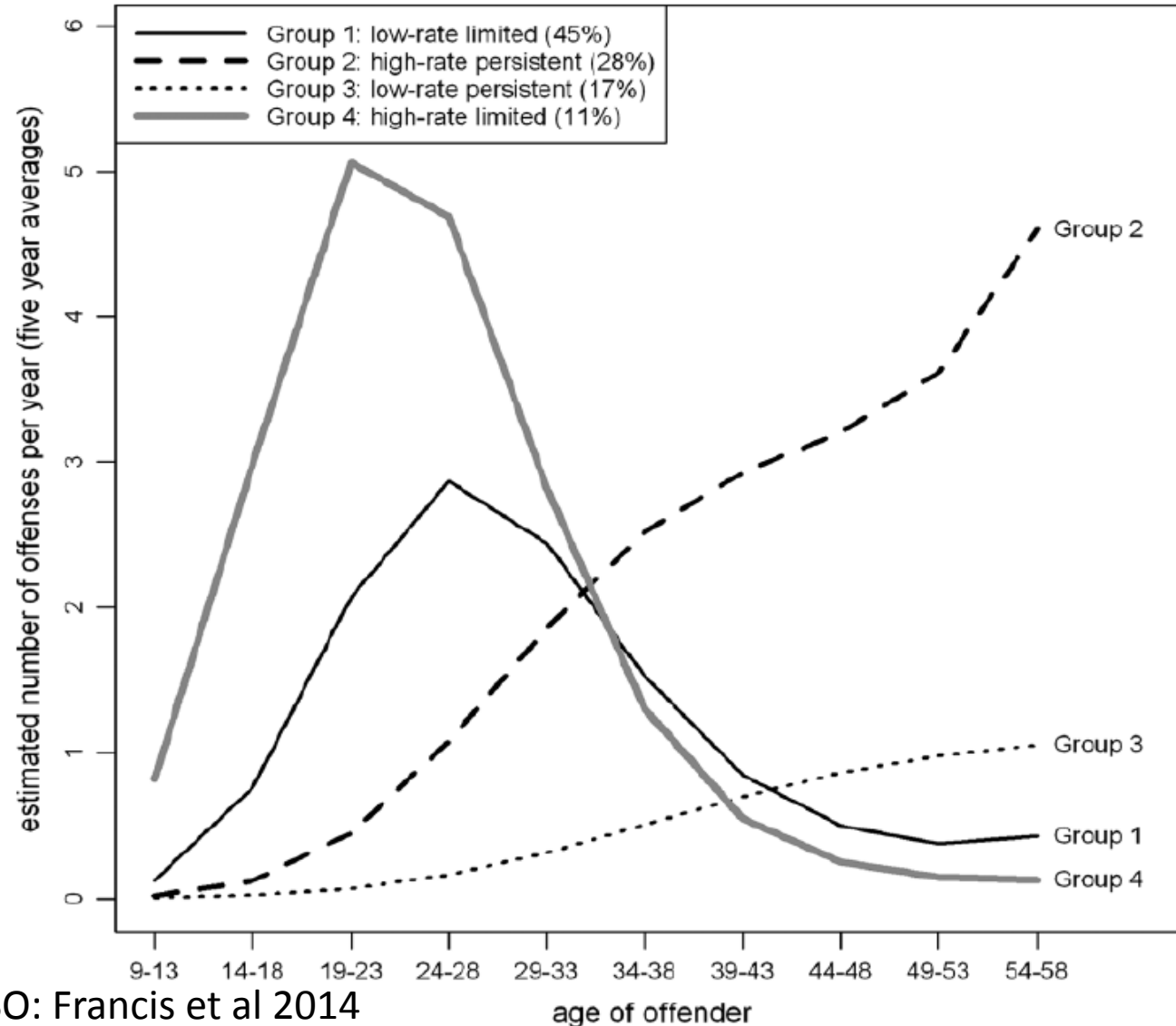|	General offenders	Sexual offenders	Sexual offending
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Specialization and diversification

748 police registered sexual offenders: Blokland & Van Wijk, 2007
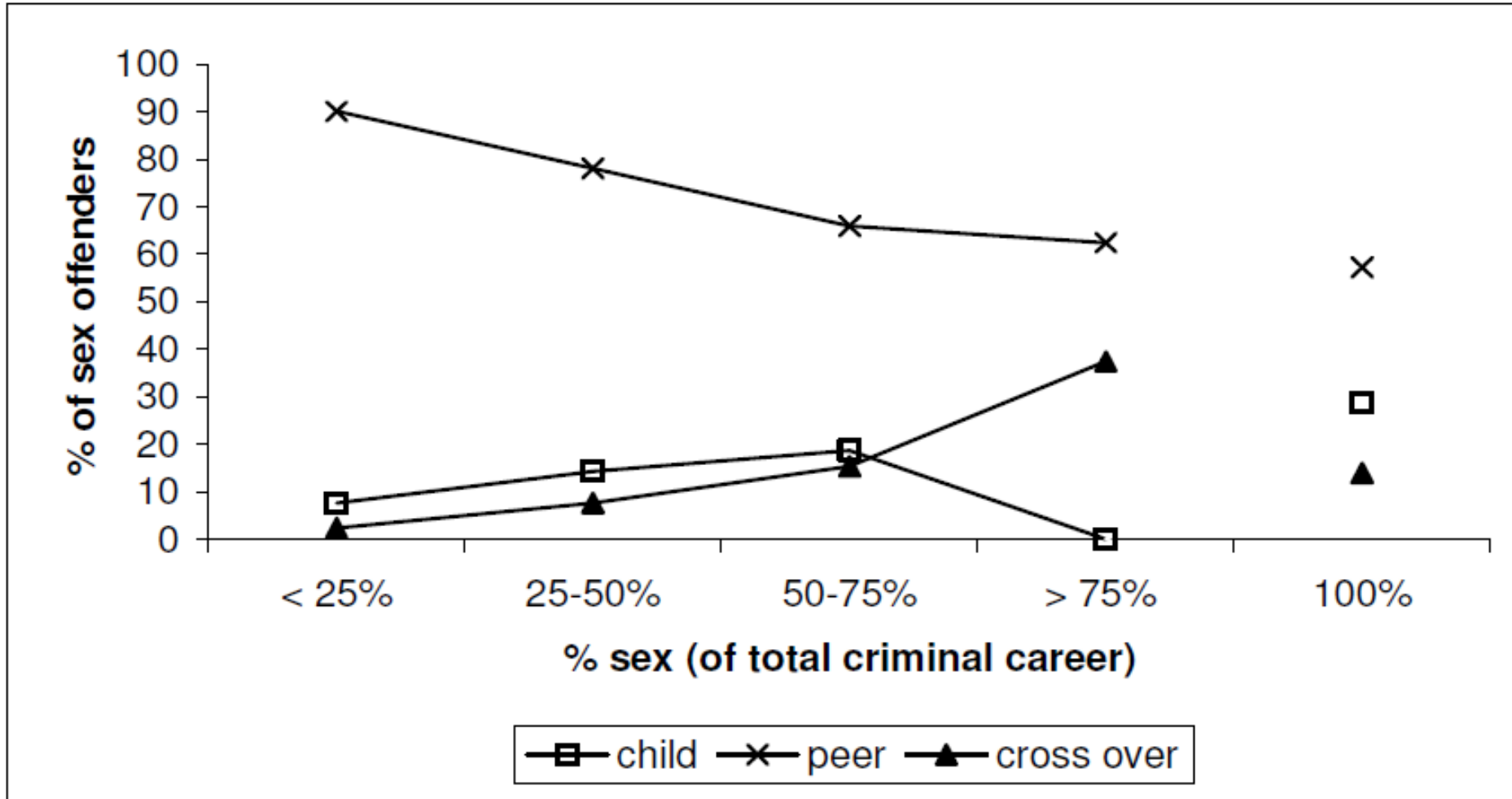
Future challenges

- Still a long way from 'accepted conclusions'.

- We therefore need:
  - Studies making use of **large, representative samples**
  - Studies with **long follow-ups**
  - Studies that rely on **multiple data sources**

  - **Theories** that allow for detailed, testable hypotheses regarding different sexual criminal career dimensions
  - To decide which **metric** is most relevant