



STATISTICS ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND TREATMENT

Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse

- An estimated 104,000 children are reported as victims of child sexual abuse each year.
--United States Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior, 2001
- Most sexual abuse, nearly 85 percent, is never reported. (Kilpatrick, 1999.) Therefore, studies show a much higher incidence of abuse, than is evidenced by reports to authorities.
--Hanson, R.F., Resnick, H.S., Saunders, B.E., Kilpatrick, D.G., and Best, C. (1999) "Factors Related to the Reporting of Childhood Sexual Assault. Child Abuse and Neglect, 23:559-569.
- In the most comprehensive study to date, 2000 children aged 10-16 were surveyed about child sexual abuse, defined as "...a perpetrator touching the sexual parts of a child under or over the clothing, penetrating the child, or engaging in any oral-genital contact with the child." This study reports 500,000 children are sexually abused each year.
--Finkelhor, D, Dziuba-Leatherman J (1994) --Children as Victims of Violence: A national Survey; Pediatrics 94:413-420
- According to this same study, at least one in five girls and one in ten to twenty boys will be sexually abused at some point in their childhood. This means that if you attend a class or concert of 100 people, between 10 and 20 of those in the room were sexually abused as a child.
--Finkelhor, D, Dziuba-Leatherman J (1994) --Children as Victims of Violence: A national Survey; Pediatrics 94:413-420

Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse In Georgia

- 6,952 cases of child sexual abuse were reported in Georgia in 2002. 2,256 were substantiated.
- 82% of child sexual abuse cases in Georgia involved family and extended family members.
- In 75% of child sexual abuse cases, perpetrators were part of the child's immediate family.
 - 37% were the child's birth parents.
 - 22% were estimated to be siblings.
- The largest number of victims are 13-15 years old. The next largest group of victims ranges from 10 to 12 years of age.



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- 586 victims are under the age of 7.
- Of the sexual abuse cases in Georgia in 2002:
 - 1,206 were incidents of fondling.
 - 486 were incidents involving penetration.
 - 208 were incidents of sodomy.
 - 32 victims contracted a venereal disease.
 - 24 victims sustained genital injuries.

-- 2002 Georgia Protective Services Data System Report, Department of Human Services

Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

- A variety of psychiatric problems have been clinically associated with child sexual abuse, including: major depression, borderline personality disorder, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, and bulimia, according to studies.
 - Ferguson et al, (1996) Childhood sexual abuse and psychiatric disorder in young adulthood, II: psychiatric outcomes of childhood sexual abuse. *J American Academy of Child - Adolescent Psychiatry* 35: 1365-1374.
 - Polusny M., Follette, V. (1995) Long term correlates of child sexual abuse: theory and review of the empirical literature. *Applied Prev Psychology* 4: 143-166.
- 53% of adult survivors of incest said the abuse caused “some” or “great” long-term psychological effects.
 - Russell, Diane E.H., (1988) “The Incidence and Prevalence of Intrafamilial and Extrafamilial Sexual Abuse of Female Children,” in *Handbook on Sexual Abuse of Children*, ed. Lenore A. A. Walker, Springer Publishing Co.
- The duration of sexual abuse affects the severity of psychological trauma. The following percentages of survivors called their abuse “extremely traumatic:”
 - 73% whose abuse lasted more than 5 years
 - 62% whose abuse lasted 1 week to 5 years,
 - 46% who experienced one incident of abuse.
 - Russell, Diana E. H. (1988.)
- The rate of pregnancy among children and adolescents who have been sexually abused is significantly higher than that of non-victims.
 - Boyer, Debra, and Fine, David (1992) “Sexual Abuse as a Factor in Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Maltreatment,” *Family Planning Perspectives*.
- 66% of all prostitutes were sexually abused as children. Of those, two-thirds were abused by fathers, stepfathers, or foster fathers and 10% were abused by strangers.
 - Silbert, M. “Compounding Factors in the Rape of Street Prostitutes,” (1988) Cited in Wolbert-Burgess, A. *Rape and Sexual Assault II*: Garland Publishing, Inc., New York, p. 77.

Risk Factors for Child Sexual Abuse Victimization

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- Girls are at about 2.5 to 3 times higher risk than boys, though approximately 22% to 29% of all child sexual abuse victims are male.
 - Ferguson et al, 1996) Childhood sexual abuse and Psychiatric Disorder in Young Adulthood I: prevalence of sexual abuse and factors associated with sexual abuse. *J Am Acad. Child Adolescent Psychiatry*, 35:1355-1364; Finkelhor, (1993) Epidemiological factors in the clinical identification of child sexual abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 17: 67-70; Sobsey, et al, (1997) Gender differences in abused children with and without disabilities, *Child Abuse and Neglect* 21: 707-720; US Department of Health and Human Services (1998) *Child Maltreatment: 1996: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Washington DC: US Government Printing Office.
- Risk for Child Sexual Abuse rises with age:
 - Approximately 10% of victims are 3 and under;
 - 28.4% are between ages 4-7.
 - 25.5% of children aged 8-11 years are sexually abused
 - 35.9% of children 12 and older account for the remaining cases.
 - Finkelhor, D. (1993) Epidemiological factors in the clinical identification of child sexual abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 17:67-70; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (1998.)
- Family dynamics, especially the absence of one or both parents, is a significant risk factor.
 - Finkelhor, 1993
- The presence of a stepfather in the home doubles the risk for girls, not only for abuse by the stepfather but also by other men before the arrival of the stepfather in the home.
 - Mullen et al, (1993) Childhood sexual abuse and mental health in adult life. *Br. J. Psychiatry* 163:721- 732..
- Parental problems, especially maternal illness or alcoholism, extended maternal absences, serious marital conflicts, parental substance abuse, social isolation, and punitive parenting, have all been associated with increased risk in some studies.
 - Fergusson, et al, (1996): Childhood sexual abuse and psychiatric disorder in young adulthood, I: prevalence of sexual abuse and factors associated with sexual abuse. *Journal of American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* 35: 1355-1364. Mullen et al, (1993), Nelson et al, (2002) Association between self-reported childhood sexual abuse and adverse psychosocial outcomes : results from a twin study, *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 59: 139-146.

Perpetrators

- 85% of child sexual abuse victims know their sexual abusers.
 - Oesterreich, L. & Shirer, K. (2001) from Sexual abuse of children: Understanding abuse: National Network for Child Care. Online at <http://www.nncc.org/Abuse/sex.abuse.html> - Feb. 5, 2001
- Juveniles commit approximately one-third of all sex offenses against children.
 - Snyder, H.N., & Sickmund, M. (1999) *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



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- Even though as much as 85% of child sexual abuse is committed by someone familiar to the child, less than 5% involves school teachers, and less than 1% involves child caregivers.
--Oesterreich & Shirer, 2001

Treatment and Recidivism rates

- In a recent study of 23,393 offenders surveyed, a minority of 13.4% was known to have committed a new sexual offense within the average 4-5 year follow-up period examined in the study.
--Hanson, R. Karl, and Bussiere, Monique T. (1998) "Predicting relapse: A meta-analysis of sexual offender recidivism studies," *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 6: 348-364.
- Recent studies show treatment can work. In a study of 11,000 sex offenders participating in 79 offender-treatment studies, those completing treatment showed a 7.2% recidivism rate. Over 17.6% of untreated offenders re-offended. Most studies had a 3-5 year follow-up component.
--Alexander, M. (1999) "Sexual Offender Treatment Efficacy Revisited," *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 11(2) 101-117.
- Other research has shown that sex offenders who fail to complete treatment programs are at increased risk of offending sexually and generally.
--Hanson and Bussiere, (1998.)
- The costs of incarcerating offenders is significantly higher than treating them:
 - It has been estimated that one year of intensive supervision and treatment in the community can range in cost between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per offender, depending on the treatment used. The average cost for incarceration is approximately \$22,000 per year, excluding treatment costs.
-- Center for Sex Offender Management Database, August 2000.

Review Of Research On Adolescents Who Sexually Abuse

- Adolescents do not typically commit sex offenses against adults, although the risk of offending against adults increases slightly after an adolescent reaches the age of 16.
-- National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth, July 2003
- Approximately one-third of sexual offenses against children are committed by teenagers. Sexual offenses against young children, under 12 years of age, are typically committed by boys between the ages of 12 and 15 years of age.
-- Snyder, H. N., & Sickmund, M. (1999). *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.; Davis, G.E., & Leitenberg, H. (1987). Adolescent Sexual Offenders. *Psychological Bulletin*, 101, 417-427.



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- Adolescents who sexually abuse are very different from adult sex offenders in several ways:
 - Are considered to be more responsive to treatment than adult sex offenders and do not appear to continue re-offending into adulthood, especially when provided with appropriate treatment.
 - Have fewer numbers of victims than adult offenders and, on average, engage in less serious and aggressive behaviors.
 - Most do not have deviant sexual arousal and/or deviant sexual fantasies that many adult offenders have.
 - Most are not sexual predators nor do they meet accepted criteria for pedophilia.
 - Few appear to have the same long-term tendencies to commit sexual offenses as some adult offenders.
 - Across a number of treatment studies, the overall sexual recidivism rate for adolescent sex offenders who receive treatment is low compared to adults. Adolescents who offend against young children tend to have slightly lower sexual recidivism rates than adolescents who sexually offend against other teens.

-- Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). (2000). *The Effective Legal Management of Juvenile Sex Offenders.*; Miranda, A.O., & Corcoran, C.L. (2000). Comparison of Perpetration Characteristics Between Male Juvenile and Adult Sexual Offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 12, 179-188.; Hunter, J.A., Goodwin, D.W., & Becker, J.V. (1994). The Relationship between Phallometrically Measured Deviant Sexual Arousal and Clinical Characteristics in Juvenile Sexual Offenders. *Behavioral Research and Therapy*, 32, 533-538.; Becker, J.V., Hunter, J.A., Stein, R.M., & Kaplan, M.S. (1989). Factors Associated with Erection in Adolescent Sex Offenders. *Journal of Psychopathology & Behavioral Assessment*, 11, 353-363.; American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (4th Ed.). Washington, DC; Alexander, M.A. (1999). Sexual Offender Treatment Efficacy Revisited. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 11, 101-116.

Review of Research on Children with Sexual Behavior Problems

- Many Children with sexual behavior problems have not been sexually abused and MOST children who have been sexually abused do not have sexual behavior problems. Sexual behavior problems in children have multiple origins:
 - Family sexuality patterns,
 - Exposure to sexual material,
 - Other non-sexual behavior problems,
 - Exposure to family violence,
 - Physical abuse and/or severe neglect,
 - A history of sexual abuse.

-- National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth, July 2003



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- In research on school-age children with sexual behavior problems, about one-third were female. A recent study on preschool children found that a majority were girls (65%).

-- National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth, July 2003