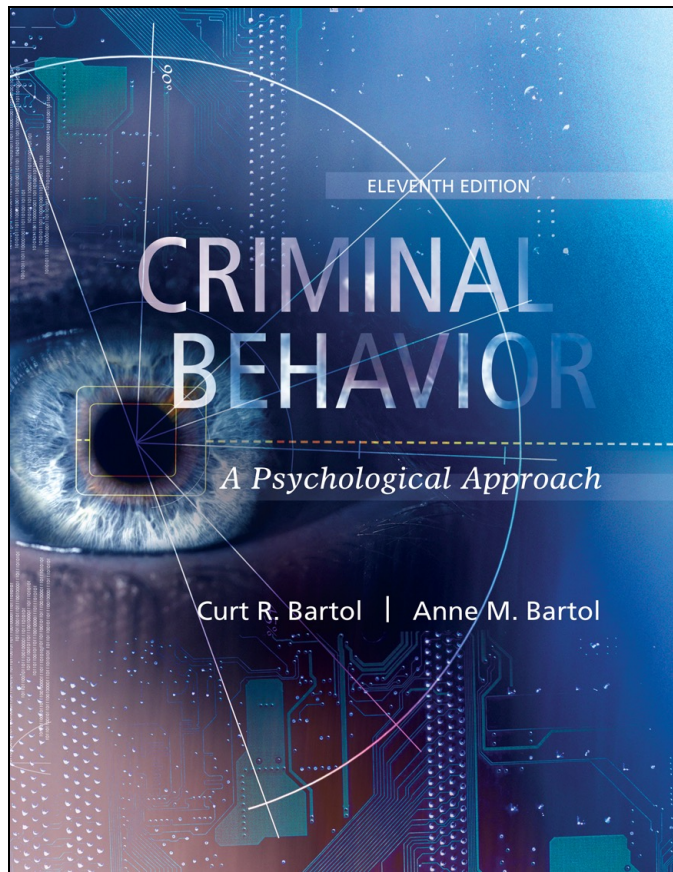


Criminal Behavior

A Psychological Approach

Eleventh Edition



CHAPTER 13

Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth

Chapter Objectives

- The material in this chapter is redundant to some other material presented so far. We will try to keep the focus on material that has not been presented thus far.
- Because of this, a very large portion of this presentation will draw from sources other than the class textbook to include the expertise of the instructor.

Definitions

- Child abuse:
 - How is child abuse differentiated from other crimes against children?
 - It is possible for someone to rape a 12 year old and it would not be classified as child sexual abuse
 - Child abuse requires some form of custodial relationship between the perpetrator and the victim
 - Parent, babysitter, sports coach etc.

Definitions

- Child abuse:
 - Cases of child abuse are investigated by BOTH the police and by a social services agency, usually called Child Protective Services (CPS), jointly
 - Usually, CPS is a civil enforcement agency
 - Can remove a child from a home but cannot criminally charge the perpetrator

Definitions

- This is done through a court process and trial very similar to a criminal trial but with a lower burden of proof required for the state to prevail
- Most states require additional training for a CPS worker to investigate allegations of sexual abuse

Definitions

- Pedophilia
 - DSM V estimates the prevalence of this disorder at 3-5% of the population, mostly males
 - A clinical condition that is not necessarily accompanied by action
 - See Criterion B next slide
 - If not accompanied by action must still cause the person distress

Pedophilia DSM V

- A. An individual who has had arousing fantasies about, urges for, or behaviors with a prepubescent child or children.
- B. The individual has acted out these sexual desires, **OR** is experiencing significant distress or difficulty as a result of these desires.
- C. The Individual is 16 years of age, and at least five years older than the child or children noted in Criterion A.

Does not include adolescents who are in an ongoing consensual sexual relationship with a 12 to 13 year old. However, this may be rape.

Definitions

- Hebephilia is a sexual preference for children in early adolescence between ages 11 and 14.
- Ephebophilia refers to an attraction for children in late adolescence, around 15 to 16 years old.
- Both of the above are disputed disorders by many mental health professionals and are not listed in the DSM V.

Definitions

- Note that neither of the above specify an age difference between perpetrator and victim. Should we consider a 19 year old high school student held back a year to have a mental disorder if he has a sexual relationship with a 17 year old classmate?
- Does it matter that some forms of child sexual abuse are not diagnosable disorders for most criminal justice professionals?

Definitions

- Intrafamilial child molestation (most common)
 - Sexual contact with minor child by someone within immediate family
 - Usually a father and minor daughter/step daughter
 - But not always
 - Sibling on sibling

Definitions

- When it is a parent, usually see a change in the power structure within the family
 - The victim child may start making more decisions on family activities than the mother
- Sometimes only one child out of several is abused

Definitions

- Extrafamilial child sexual abuse
 - Sexual contact with minor child by someone outside family
 - Usually someone close to the family
 - This accounts for a lot of abuse for boys
 - Coaches, group leaders
 - Women offenders of boys
 - As indicated previously, if done by a stranger, the highest risk for the child being killed

Definitions

- Exploitation:
 - Definition: Child exploitation is the act of using a minor child for profit, labor, sexual gratification, or some other personal or financial advantage (Legal Dictionary 2015)
 - Child exploitation often results in cruel or harmful treatment of the child, as the activities he or she may be forced to take part in can cause emotional, physical, and social problems.

Definitions

- Many individuals taking part in child exploitation do it because there is a large profit to be made.
- Others use children to create child pornography, or for personal sexual gratification.

Definitions

- Violators often justify the activity by stating that taking/viewing photographs does not physically harm the child **BUT**
 - At the time of sentencing, 74 percent of the men had no documented hands-on victimization. But by the end of treatment, 85 percent had admitted they had sexually molested a child at least once, with an average of 13.5 victims per offender (APA, 2009)
 - It also ignores the long-term psychological harm done

Child Sexual Abuser Interview



Incidence and Prevalence of Child Sex Abuse

- It is estimated that up to 1 in 4 adult females and up to 1 in 20 (some publications cite this rate as 1 in 6) adult males in the United States were sexually abused when they were children.
 - Rates are estimated because:
 - Reporting databases of criminal offenses often does not reflect who was victimized
 - A large number of sexual abuse cases are not reported by the victim or the victim's family
 - Why might the family know but not say anything?

Incidence and Prevalence of Child Sex Abuse

- Female adolescents with persistent antisocial behavior as well as adult female offenders have often experienced child sexual abuse.
 - BUT, most victims do not go on to become abusers themselves
- Victims of both sexes often have trouble making and sustaining healthy sexual/romantic relationships

Incidence and Prevalence of Child Sex Abuse

- Situational and victimization characteristics
 - Males generally abuse females
 - Text indicates that for male abuser/female victim is 90% of all sexual abuses committed by males.
 - However, male victimization is far less studied than female victimization
 - Studies have found that almost half of female abusers had a male accomplice

Incest

- Incest. Typical family characteristics
 - A relationship between the two parents that is characterized by conflict and lack of an intimate relationship between husband and wife.
 - Daughter often substitutes for wife
 - Family-tolerated reciprocal father-daughter nudity
 - Some sibling incest is consensual

Incest Survivor



Fondling Cases

- Types of sexual contact
 - Can include fondling
 - Often difficult to prove unless witnessed by a third party
 - No physical evidence
 - Some physical contact with very young children can be claimed to be routine bathing
 - Must be an erotic component to the act

Evidentiary Issues

- Physical penetration is only involved in a small percentage of cases
 - Limited, or no, DNA
 - Limited, or no, physical injury to the victim
 - Medical evidence is available in less than 5% of the reported case. Case must then rely on the child's testimony unless there was another witness
 - Even if DNA is found, unless it is sexually related material, it could have been left during normal intrafamily contact

Evidentiary Issues

- Block and Williams (2019) report that in an analysis of over 500 cases, less than 20% were prosecuted
- Family may not support victim
 - Do not want loss of primary provider income
- Child sexual assault victims frequently recant their accusations
- Infant victims preverbal
 - Genital contact occurs during regular bathing

Evidentiary Issues

- Victim frequently still loves the abuser
 - May not want them to get into trouble
 - This is a tool used by abusers to keep the victim silent
- Victim may have been threatened and is not willing to talk
 - Threat to kill other parent
 - Threat to kill siblings
 - Threat to kill pets

Evidentiary Issues: Why I Didn't Tell

(victim video)



Evidentiary Issues

- Items used as bribes can be claimed to be routine gifts
- Social stigma associated with the act may prevent the victim from reporting this at all
 - Male victims of male offenders often fear being branded as being homosexual if they didn't physically resist
 - Even in cases where the physical size difference indicates resistance would have been futile
 - Some male victims have a sexual climax during the assault

Evidentiary Issues

- Female victims also may not want the stigma of being a victim of this type of assault
 - May be branded as the instigator by family and friends
 - Also by defense in court though in many states this defense is prohibited
- Offenders often offered plea deals to keep the victim from having to testify
 - May deal to an offense that keeps them off sexual offender data bases

Evidentiary Issues

- Time factor
 - A number of cases are disclosed when the victim is an adult
 - Evidence that could have been collected is gone
 - Witnesses may be unavailable
 - If the case is tried, jury may not understand delayed disclosing
- Despite all of the above issues, about half of the cases that are prosecuted result in a conviction (Block & Williams) (10% do the math)

Evidentiary Issues

- For child pornography cases, depending on the laws of the state, may have to prove that the person pictured is under the age of 18.
 - This means having to identify exactly who is in the photo
 - This was the law in Virginia but it was changed to only having to demonstrate that the person appears to be under 18 or it is proffered in the title that the person is under 18. So someone could actually be convicted for possessing a photo of an 18 year old.

Evidentiary Issues

- In most of the child pornography cases, the photos are exchanged on the dark web and could have originated from anywhere, even outside of the U.S.
- The argument that opening the file was accidental.
- Can you show the photos to a jury?
 - Excessively prejudicial?

Characteristics of Child Sex Offenders

- There is no “one” psychological type of child sexual abuser
- Minnesota Department of Corrections cites 13 characteristics frequently found in child sexual abusers:
 1. Is usually married. A small number never marry and maintain a lifelong interest in children.
 - If married, usually problems within the marital relationship
 2. Most often an adult male; however, adolescents and women also molest children.

Characteristics of Child Sex Offenders

- 3. May relate better to children and feel more comfortable with their interests.
 - Socially incompetent with adults
- 4. May have few adult friends.
- 5. May talk with children as one would talk to an adult in order to equalize the relationship.
- 6. Usually prefers children in a specific age group and one gender over the other.
- 7. May work or volunteer with programs involving children in the preferred age group.
 - Boy Scouts, Little League

Characteristics of Child Sex Offenders

- 8. Pursues children for sexual purposes but may attempt to form emotional connections; for example, a mom's boyfriend spending time with a child and talking at length about his feelings for the child and his own loneliness in order to gain the child's sympathy.
- 9. May take photographs of victims: dressed, nude, or in sexual acts.
 - Can be used to blackmail them to keep quiet, or to make them recruit others, later on

Characteristics of Child Sex Offenders

- 10. May collect child erotica and child-adult pornography to lower the inhibitions of victims; fantasize when no victim is available; relive past sexual activities; justify inappropriate sexual behavior.
 - Show the victims that what is proposed is “normal”
 - For child pornography collectors, the likelihood of hands on offending is linked to the severity of the images depicting adult child sexual contact rather than the mere # of images

Characteristics of Child Sex Offenders

- 11. May give alcohol or drugs to potential victims to lower inhibitions or gain favor.
- 12. May seek out organizations that support sexual beliefs and practices.
 - NAMBLA
- 13. May offer to babysit or take children on trips in order to manipulate situations to be near or molest children.

Psychological Characteristics of Child Sex Offenders

- Other psychological characteristics include:
 - Unassertive
 - Poor self esteem
 - Fear of intimacy with adults
 - Low self control
 - Impulsivity
 - Fail to understand consequences across all their behaviors
 - For pornography collectors that cross over to physical assault, the # of non-pedophile offline adult contacts

Psychological Internal Defenses of Child Sex Offenders

- Cognitive distortions commonly used by child sexual offenders
 - Children are sexual active beings just like adults
 - Children, even really young ones, enjoy sex
 - Having a sexual relationship with a child can set a positive example for the child's future sexual contacts
 - Children have the ability to entice adults
 - Can see any abusive act as the child's fault for leading them on

Characteristics of Child Sex Offenders

- Backgrounds
 - Female offenders may have experienced more physical, emotional, and sexual abuse than female nonsexual offenders.
 - Juvenile sex abusers are also a varied group
 - Those that abuse siblings will differ from those that abuse children outside the family
 - Those that abuse outside the family are likely to be antisocial in all dealings with others

Recidivism and Risk Assessment

- A true pedophile prefers intimate and sexual relationships with children and periods of incarceration will not change that
 - Therapy may change the desire to act on those urges

Recidivism and Risk Assessment

- Since the majority of child sexual assaults are not prosecuted, the exact number of recurring offenses is not known
 - The textbook indicates that obtainable statistics indicate a 3.3% recidivism rate within 3 years of release
 - In England, the reported number is about 12%

Classification of Male Child Sex Offender Patterns

- The Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC)
 - The fixated type
 - The regressed type
 - The exploitative type
 - The aggressive or sadistic type
- This is what we will focus on in this class.
The other classifications build on this to break the factors into too many small parts and MTC provides sufficient differentiation between types

Classification of Male Child Sex Offender Patterns

- The Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC)
 - The fixated type
 - True Pedophile. Lifelong fixation on children as potential intimate partners. Has never had an intimate relationship of any type with an adult of either sex
 - Rarely marry because they cannot make sustainable relationships of any kind with adults
 - The hardest to treat and the most likely to recidivate
 - Many of this type do not want physical penetration acts. Fondling etc.

Classification of Male Child Sex Offender Patterns

- The Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC)
 - The regressed type
 - Had a normal development through adolescence.
 - Something occurred to cause this type to develop feelings of masculine inadequacy
 - Poor outcomes with dating: rejection
 - May have been married but probably has gotten divorced

Classification of Male Child Sex Offender Patterns

- Wants sexual intercourse with the child victim unlike the fixed offender
 - Child serves as a stand in for failed adult partner
- Generally feels remorse after the fact
 - This may make this person a good candidate for rehabilitation IF they can be treated while still in the regret stage

Classification of Male Child Sex Offender Patterns

- The Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC)
 - The exploitative type
 - Sees child only as an object to be used for their pleasure
 - Does not care if they hurt the child either physically or emotionally
 - Does not mind using physical force to including killing the child
 - A stranger in the child's life
 - Antisocial in all aspects of life
 - Impulsive

Classification of Male Child Sex Offender Patterns

- Poor interpersonal skills which is why he chooses children that are easier to manipulate
- Uses trickery to get the child to follow him to the location of the assault
- Because every aspect of this persons life is antisocial, therapy is unlikely to be successful

Classification of Male Child Sex Offender Patterns

- The Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC)
 - The aggressive or sadistic type
 - The rarest type
 - Similar to the exploitative type except that part of this persons' enjoyment and sexual gratification comes from actually inflicting harm to the child. The exploitative type will use violence if necessary, violence IS necessary for the aggressive sadistic type
 - Unlikely to benefit from therapy.

Female Offenders



**FEMALE
SEX
OFFENDER
EPIDEMIC?**

Dr. Grande

Female Offenders

- Female Offenders (Tozdan et. al. 2019)
 - The stereotype child sexual abuser is that of a male perpetrator abusing a female child
 - Still of all sexual offenses against children, only 3-5% are committed by females
 - Far less research on female offenders than on male offenders
 - So what is known only comes from a small number of cases where the perpetrator was caught and prosecuted
 - Some similarities with male offenders but some differences as well

Female Offenders

- Female Offenders (Tozdan et. al. 2019)
 - There is somewhat of a taboo about females abusing children.
 - Effects the believability of a victim if reported
 - Average age range for female child sexual abuse offenders is 26-36
 - Low SES
 - Low self esteem
 - Few employability skills

Female Offenders

- Female Offenders (Tozdan et. al. 2019)
 - More than 50% were sexually abused themselves
 - Mental health issues
 - Impulsive with low levels of self-regulation
 - Substance abuse
 - Frequently involved in abusive relationships

Female Offenders

- Female Offenders (Tozdan et. al. 2019)
 - Selection of victims:
 - Someone within their social circle
 - Own children, relatives, babysitting
 - Some preference for males but how much that exceeds a preference for females is not quantified
 - Age range of victims is 0-18

Female Offenders

- Female Offenders (Tozdan et. al. 2019)
 - Gender differences in punishment
 - In student studies, women who sexually abuse children were rated less harshly than were males who committed similar acts
 - Female teachers who had a sexual relationship with a student are dealt with less harshly than are male peers

Female Offenders

- Studies found that CPS has often dismissed male claims of sexual abuse by females as being wishful fantasies.
 - As a result, offender often maintains access to the victim

Victim Impact



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Additional Resources

- Hebephilia, (2020) Psychology Today Online.
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/hebephilia>
- Block, S.D. & Williams, L. The Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse: A Partnership to Improve Outcomes , (2019) Office of Justice Programs' National Criminal Justice Reference Service
- Minnesota Department of Corrections (2009) Characteristics and Behavioral Characteristics of Adults that Molest Children
- Tozdan.S, Priken, P & Dekker, A. (2019) Uncovering Female Child Sexual Offenders. Journal of Clinical Medicine 8(3) 401.
- Child Sexual Abuse: Why I Didn't Tell. (2018) Second Step.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIl_GPL3XcA
- A Psychopathic Sex Offender (2012).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7SYdi36D3g>

Additional Resources

- Female Sex Offending. (2019) Dr. Todd Grande
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAELIuje7Vo>
- Incestuous Sexual Abuse Survivor Says Parents 'Constantly Rewarded' Her In Exchange For Her Silence. (2019) Excerpt from Dr Phil TV Show <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9sXISZo-sM>
- Child Exploitation. (2015) Legal Dictionary.
<https://legaldictionary.net/child-exploitation/>
- Porn Use and Child Abuse. (2009) American Psychological Association. <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2009/12/child-abuse>
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