Sex Offenders: What Judges, Lawyers, Investigators and Child Advocates Should Know

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Workshop Topics

- **First Session:**
  - The “math” of child abuse.
  - How sex offenders become sex offenders.
  - Reporting and detection rates
  - “Cross over” or “crime switching behavior.”
  - “Recidivism” vs. re-offense rates
  - Sex Offender MO, SES, or “Grooming” Tactics.

- **Second Session:**
  - Decision Making in Cases of Child Sexual Abuse
“You Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Flinch.”

- Training originally designed for LEA
- If you have a history of abuse, talk to someone.
- Disturbing but important information that could help us protect children and raise fewer offenders.
- May challenge your beliefs.
- Broad base of information relevant to law enforcement, child protective services/child advocates, courts, youth service organizations and risk management professionals.
- Video clips and quotes/client confidentiality
Why does grooming work?
- Most adults don’t know what to look for.
- Most adults don’t want to see it or believe it.

How does grooming work?
- By targeting specific children, families and communities to exploit.
- Seducing the child/ren and adults.
- Preparing for disclosure/confrontation
- Learning from experience.
**Polygraph Testing Leads to Better Understanding of Adult and Juvenile Sex Offenders** (Hindman, J. & Peters, J., 2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Offenders</th>
<th>Pre-polygraph</th>
<th>Post-polygraph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ave. # of Victims</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually Abused As Child</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually Abusing As Child</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>76%</td>
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Children and Problematic Sexual Behavior

- Experts estimate that 1 in 10 children have engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior with other children.
- 35% to 40% of all sexual crimes against children are committed by juveniles.
- 40% of “acquaintance rapes” are committed by juveniles.
- Adult offenders report that the average age of their first criminal sex offense was at age 14.
Offender Typologies

- 65% adult offenders
  - Rape III
  - Child molesters
  - Pedophiles (30%)
  - Exposers/peepers
  - Rapists
  - Child pornography offenders
  - Sexual sadists

- 35% juvenile offenders
  - Juveniles who are becoming sexually deviant persistent offenders
  - Juveniles who are offending out of curiosity/immaturity
Offender Views of the Beginning

- “As a small child, I had a 4-year-old sexual friend with whom I enjoyed many childhood sexual experiences. Our friendship lasted four or five years and my victims reminded me of my childhood friend. “
- “As a kid, I developed a sexual draw to young girls that stayed with me as I grew older.”
- “I got better and better at finding victims.
- “After I was abused, I became really sexual and it didn’t take much to trigger my desires, it was both pleasurable and fun.”
- “Once it got started, it snowballed and became commonplace in my life.”
Are cognitive distortions associated with denial and minimization among sex offenders? (Nunes & Jung, 2012)

“Sexual crimes are acts of secrecy, and denial is a place where offenders often seek psychological refuge.”
Common Characteristics of Child Molesters

- Deviant sexual arousal
- Pro-offending attitudes
  - Pedophilic
  - Hebephilic
  - Voyeurism/exhibitionism
  - Aggression/violence
  - Sadism
- Sex as a coping strategy.
- Narcissism/Criminality
- Adverse family backgrounds
- Attachment problems.
- Intimacy deficits
- Emotional problems
- Social competency problems
- Poor coping skills and impulse control.
Distorted Attitudes & Deviant Fantasies About Children

- Children are sexual.
- Children enjoy sexual activity.
- It’s just a form of love and affection.
- Children are not harmed by sexual activity with adults.
- Children can give consent.
- It can be mutual.
Sexual Crimes Among Males

- 5% to 33% of males have committed at least one sexual offense (Grotpellier & Elliot, 2002; Koss, 1987; Lisak & Miller, 2002, Abbey, et al. 2001).
- 1% to 2% of the adult male population will be convicted of a sexual crime (California Office of the Attorney General, 2004; P Marshall, 1997).
- Between 5% and 10% of adult males have molested children (Lewis, 1986 & DOJ, 1997).
- In 2012, one out of every 84 men was a registered sex offender (Oregon State Police, 2009).
- 4% to 7% “Dunkelfeld” offenders in population (Abel, 2012)
Sexual Interest in Children

- 4% of college women reported at least one sexual experience that met the criteria for sexually abusing a younger child at least <5 yrs (Fromuth & Conn, 1997)
- 6% of college students admitted they felt “more attracted” to children than teens adults (Smith, 1993 & 2011)
- 9% of college students admitted to having sexual fantasies about children, 5% admitted masturbating to sexual fantasies about children (Briere & Runtz, 1989).
- 10.4% of adult males expressed a sexual interest in prepubescent children, 9% reported sexual fantasies about children, 6% admitted masturbating to fantasies about children and 4% admitted sexual contact with children (Ahlers, 2011).
- 19% of adults said they would engage in sexual contact with children if they were assured they would not be punished (Wurtele & Klebe, 1995)
Women that Molest Children (Carson, 2006)

- **Teacher/Lover** - “Mary Kay Letourneau” – offender seeks a loving sexual relationship with victim, usually an adolescent male who is troubled and needy.

- **Seducer** - “Debra LaFave” – offender seduces victim for lust, power, revenge, or simply recreational sex.

- **Molester** - Abuses younger children, possible own children, aroused to children, more likely pedophilic, personal abuse history.

- **Helper** - Offender aids or collaborates with another person to offend, may procure victims, observe, or actively participate

- **Coerced** - In abusive relationship, dominated or controlled by another person, past victim of abuse.
Incidence vs. apprehension rates

- Criminally adjudicated
- Detected or reported
- Actual sexual abuse
Average Crime Statistics

- 100% / 30% / 30% (Dept of Justice, 1996)
- Only 3% of crimes had been reported & prosecuted (Abel, 1986).
- 52% of offenders reported that children had told, people had discovered, but no one contacted authorities. (CBI, 1992)
- Offenders commit an average of 119.7 sex crimes before they are caught (Weinrott, 1998).
- Men who primarily abuse boys, abuse twice as many (CBI, 1992).
Why Polygraph Examinations are Always Necessary

- Ahlmeyer et. al. (2000)
  - Sex offenders in TX and on supervision in Colorado
  - FD polygraphs
  - Less than 1% of victims had been identified in official records.

- Grubin, (2010)
  - Sex offenders in TX and on supervision in United Kingdom
  - Offenders in TX and required to pass FD
  - Reported 14X more crimes than originally detected
Using Polygraph Testing to Assess Deviant Sexual History of Sexual Offenders (O’Connell, 1998)

- Average of 28 deviant sexual incidents in official records.
- Clinical interview increased number to 65 incidents.
- An average of 198 incidents disclosed after polygraph.

- Mean number of felony sex offenses reported in referral reports was 22.
- 24 disclosed during clinical interview.
- 45 more disclosed during polygraph.
- Mean of 7 types of DSB disclosed.
- 30% admitted 9 or more DSB.
How Many Do We Catch?

100 incidents of CSA

12 to 18 cases reported

3 to 6% convicted


“Crossover” or “Crime Switching”

- Some exposers and peepers target children.
- Some exposers and peepers go on to rape.
- Some rapists molest children.
- Some Rape III offenders molest children.
- Some child porn offenders molest children.
- Some child molesters abuse boys and girls.
- Most offenders cross “relationships”
Crossover Between Sexual Assault and Child Sexual Abuse

- 70% of offenders admitted both child and adult victims with poly (Heil, 2003)
- 64% of rapists sexually assaulted a child with poly (O’Connell, 1998)
- 50% of rapists admitted sexually assaults against children, no poly (Abel, 1992).
- 32% of rapists sexually assaulted a child, no poly. (Weinrott & Saylor, 1991)
Gender Cross Over and MC = Proxy for Pedophilia

- 36% of child molesters abuse both boys and girls (Heil, 2003).
- 23% of child molesters whose known victims were girls, admitted boy victims and 63% of child molesters whose known victims were boys admitted girl victims (Abel & Osborn, 1992).
- Offenders who abuse young children are 3X more likely to cross genders (Levenson, et al. 2008).
“Incest” and “Out of Home” Child Victims

- 66% of incest offenders admitted out of home child victims (Abel, 1992).

- 69% of intra-familial offenders offended outside the home (O’Connell, 1998).

- 64% of men whose convictions were related to “incest” also admitted abusing children outside of the home (Heil et al., 2003).
Combination of Polygraph and Treatment Reveals Many Sex Offenders Offend Across Multiple Relationship, Age, Gender & Crime Type Categories (English et al., 2000)

- Office of Research and Statistics, Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Public Safety

- 180 Convicted Sex Offenders
Crossover by Gender & Age
Female Teen (14-17) Victim

Age & Gender

MC 0-5
FC 0-5
MC 6-9
FC 6-9
MC 10-13
FC 10-13
MC 14-17
FC 14-17
M 18+
F 18+
M Elderly
FA Elderly
Crossover by Gender & Age
Male Child (6-9) Victim
Studies that included self report data indicated that approximately 55% admitted previous crimes (Seto, Hanson & Babchishin, 2010).

Pre-sentence Investigation Reports indicated that 46% of the men had “hands on crimes.” After treatment and polygraph examination, 80% admitted hands on crimes against an average of 27 child victims each. (Hernandez, 2000).

After polygraph and treatment 85% of CO offenders admitted hands-on sex crimes against children (Bourke & Hernandez, 2008).
Meta-analysis redirected the debate to an “empirical platform.”

Results suggest the exposure produces a variety of “substantial negative outcomes.”

Users suffer increased risk for:

- Sexual deviancy, sexually criminal, or aggressive attitudes and behavior (31-37%).
- Increased intimacy disorders (20-39% increase)
One quarter of 181 sex offenders with unrelated child victims used pornography.

- 50% showed pornography to victims
- 30% took pictures of victims
- 9 men involved children in distributing porn.
Psychopaths: Another Type of Crossover
Without Conscience (Hare, 2002)
Snakes in Suits (Babick & Hare, 2007)

- 20% of sex offenders.
- Lack empathy, guilt, conscience and remorse.
- Grandiose sense of self-importance.
- A talent for reading people.
- Identify and play up to people’s vulnerabilities.
- Charm people into submission or support.
- Can be highly successful or a drifter/moocher/parasitic.
- May be prone to stimulus/thrill seeking.
- Low tolerance for frustration.
## Estimated Sexual Recidivism Rates Hanson, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Follow-up</th>
<th>Observed/Detected</th>
<th>Estimated</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5yrs</td>
<td>10-15%</td>
<td>30-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>15-25%</td>
<td>30-45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20yrs</td>
<td>30-40%</td>
<td>40-55%</td>
</tr>
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The ATSA Collaborative Meta Analysis

- The ATSA MA indicated that “good treatment” has the potential to significantly reduce recidivism.
- However, several major studies have shown “no effect” and the largest, most empirically sound study ever conducted demonstrated a negative treatment effect (Marques, et al. 2005).
- Drug companies and pharmaceutical research
- Oregon’s system does not always support good treatment via adequate supervision or long term management.
# Contact/Reunification: Is It Safe?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offender Status:</th>
<th>Low Risk</th>
<th>Moderate Risk</th>
<th>High Risk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treated</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un-treated</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Unlikely</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tx &amp; Risky</td>
<td>Unlikely</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tx &amp; Re-offended</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
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Offender Relationship to Victim
Huot, 1999

- 1652 sex offenders
- 95% were under 18.
- Majority of victims were under 12 years old.

- Biological parent 16%
- Stepparent 14%
- Other relative 16%
  (Grand, uncle, sib)
- Friend of parent 26%
- Person in authority 22%
  (clergy, teacher, coach)
- Stranger 05%
- Other 01%
Legal Definitions

“Grooming is the process of cultivating trust with a victim and gradually introducing sexual behaviors until reaching the point where it is possible to perpetrate a sexual crime against the victim.” (Piercefield v. State, 2007)

“...the process of eroding a victim’s boundaries to physical touch and desensitizing them to sexual issues.” (State v. Berosik, 2009)
Motivational VS Operational Goals and Behaviors

- **Pre-Offending Behavior**
  - Public/family image
  - Engagement with child and family
  - Control and ongoing access

- **Offending Behavior**
  - Gradual desensitization and sexualization

- **Post Offending Behavior**
  - Denial, alignment, escape

- **Place self in situation or relationship to have sexual contact with child/ren.**
- **Avoid disclosure, detection and reporting.**
- **Enhance sexual/intimate experience with victim.**
- **Enhance the “thrill of getting away with it.”**
- **Be able to pursue new victims**
FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit
Offender Typology - Grooming

- Identity potential target
  - Availability – Vulnerability – Desirability

- Gather information about needs and vulnerabilities
  - Via communication or interaction/observation with others

- Establish a connection
  - Access via relationship, activity, and/or organization (alienate or ingratiate caretakers)
FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit
Offender Typology - Grooming

- Fill needs and vulnerabilities
  - Core grooming behaviors, influenced by offender’s skill and child’s reaction
- Lower inhibitions (the “pay off”)
  - Introduce sexualized talk, touch, play, nudity, porn, etc.
- Preserve the process
  - Prevent disclosure, repeat victimization, encourage victim compliancy/collaboration
FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit
Offender Typology - Grooming

- Constellation of behaviors
- Offender supplies both emotional and tangible things, may try to fill “void” in victim’s life/situation.
  - Attention, recognition, affection, kindness, romance, intimidation
  - Gifts, staples, drugs/alcohol, privileges, relax rules, allowing the forbidden, breaking down roles/boundaries that usually exist between children/adults, student/teacher, coach/player
FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit
Offender Typology - Grooming

- Grooming is tailored to specific victims and families/agencies (via church – offender may portray self as extremely religious)
- Adolescent males
  - The 3 D’s - driving, drinking, dirty pictures
- Boys and girls
  - Attention, affection, assets
How to practice child love

Presented by The Mule

Child love explained by professionals
Targeting Communities and Institutions

- Picking a community or institution
  - Setting provides access to children.
  - Offender is “unknown” or “unsuspected.”
  - Atmosphere of “tolerance and acceptance.”
  - Community appears “gullible, naïve and non-confrontive.”
  - Has fluid or “loose” boundaries.
Family Offenders: More or Less Dangerous?

- Chronic deception with intimate partner.
- Unique degree of access and control.
- Unique ability to undermine child’s relationships, activities, and isolation.
- Unique ability to twist other people’s perception of child’s credibility.
- Unique ability to create greater fear of disclosure.
- Unique ability to control child’s response to disclosure or detection.
The Non-Offending Parent

- Some were abused as children.
- Few knew their children were being abused.
- Were also manipulated by offender.
- Most react with shock, disbelief and guilt.
- Feel caught in the middle.
- Fear future.
- Need support.
Running spouse/parents down

- Criticizing other parent in front of victim
- Becoming the favored/more trusted/more fun/hipper parent/friend.
- Creating an “us against them” mentality.

“If someone is paying more attention to your child than you are, be concerned.”
Targeting Families

Family
- Single, absent or “uninvolved” parents,
- Gullibility, stress, poverty.
- Lack of bonding, lack of supervision, lack of boundaries,
- Lack of assertiveness
- Prior victimization of parent/s.
- Disabilities or other vulnerabilities.
- Parents who don’t seem to understand normal relationship boundaries.
Victim Selection

- Gender and tanner stage
- Personality characteristics
- Relationship with caretakers/support system
- Protective Factors (self-esteem, assertiveness, awareness and instincts)
- Personal, physical boundaries
- Bargaining power
Choosing “At Risk” Children

- Less believable
- Lower level of supervision
- Needier for attention/affection
- May have been abused “broken in” before
- Less willing to risk telling on teacher, coach, minister, favorite parent/uncle.....
- More bargaining power..........

Children who have been molested are more likely (3-6X) to be re-abused by a new offender (Finkelhor, 2007).

Healthy adults ignore or seek help for children with sexual behavior problems.

Offenders may sexualize children they know, or suspect, have been abused.
“False” Allegations versus “Mistakes”

- Do children lie?
- The “pee” story.
- The “coat in the hall closet” story.
- The “Michael Jackson” story.
- “Unfounded” versus “False”
- Divorce/custody cases.
- 2 to 12% depending on age.
Things to Consider:

**Victims**

- Child victims may not know/understand what is happening
- May love/feel protective of offender
- Been conditioning by grooming
  - Threats/fear
  - Feel responsible/seduced
- May not know what/how to tell
- Feel embarrassed/ashamed and avoid talking about it
- May know that if they tell, people will be upset and someone will go to jail

**Offenders**

- Been doing this most of their lives, have distorted attitude about what they are doing.
- Part of the excitement for offenders is the secrecy/sneakiness
- If the abuse is discovered people will be angry/hurt
- Offender could go to jail
- Lose job/housing
- Feel ashamed/guilty
- Public humiliation
Research on Grooming 80’s to now

- How Sex Offenders “Lure” Children (Lang & Frenzel, 1988)
- What Sex Offenders Tell Us About Prevention Strategies (Conte, Wolf & Smith, 1989)
- Modus Operandi: Accuracy in self-reported use of threats and coercion. (Kaufman et al. 1993)
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us. (Elliot & Brown, et al., 1995)
- Child Sexual Abuse: Offender Characteristics and Modus Operandi (Smallbone & Wortley, 2001)
- Modus Operandi of Sexual Offenders Working or Doing Volunteer Work with Children and Adolescents (Leclerc, et al. 2005)
- Examining the modus operandi of sexual offenders against children and its practical implication (Leclerec, et al. 2009)
“Sometimes I offered to babysit while my girlfriend did the shopping and pushed the notion that she needed to take time for herself once in a while.”

“I made sure I was the one who read them bedtime stories and tucked them in.”

“I offered to take him on special outings.”

“I drugged the mother so she got sleepy early.”
“Study and Befriend”

- “Everybody liked me and people were comfortable with my interactions with kids.”
- “I treated them like they were adults.”
- “I acted like a big kid.”
- “I complimented them and bought them things.”
- “I stuck up for them and helped them with their chores.”
- “I never disciplined them.”
- “I paid lots of attention to them and gave them lots of affection.”
- “Kids liked me and adults thought I was good with kids.”
Seduction of Children

- Engagement, desensitization and sexualization.
  - Study and befriend the child.
  - Develop a peer relationship or elevate the child to an “adult status” in the relationship.
  - Promote physical contact - “wrestling, hugging, tickling, kissing, massages, lap sitting and backrubs.”
  - Test child’s ability to “keep secrets.”
  - Expose child to sexual jokes and pornography
Victim statement

“It was surprising how quickly he was able to control me. It started with him inviting me to sit on his lap. Then he started fondling me.”

Rob Hastings

Newsweek, 3/28/14

Boarding School Predators
Goals – The Uncle/Neighbor

■ To “test the water”
  ● “the frog in a pot of boiling water.”

■ Create an illusion of trust/safety/affection
  ● “Andy of Mayberry.”

■ Avoid suspicion

■ Deflect accusations

■ Separately, behaviors look innocent, taken together, they look more sinister.
“I found Jesus on the way to court.”

- Remorse can be faked.
- Remorse can be self-centered/self-serving.
  - Angry/sad victim rejected or told on them.
  - Believe victim led them on or didn’t resist.
  - Angry/sad they got caught and punished
  - Victim was equally to blame for what happened.
  - Believe they were the person most harmed.
  - Don’t really appreciate harm to victim.
  - Angry/sad about ongoing consequences to themselves, “not a day goes by that I don’t live with the consequences of what I did.”
More “Seduction.”

“I’d do some of those things in front of other adults or the kid’s parents just to get everybody comfortable with my interactions with kids.”

“When I got ready to push for sex, I’d test the kid by touching them on their private parts to see how they would react. If they stiffened up or acted scared, I’d back off and try again later.”
“In order to normalize what I was doing to her, I’d playfully grope her mother in front of her.”

“I would leave the bathroom door open and let them see me masturbating.”

“I found them looking at a porn site and let them keep looking at it instead of punishing them.”

“I would put on a porn video and started rubbing myself while she was in the room, you wouldn’t believe how curious 11 year old girls are about stuff like that.”
Progression of Sexual Contact

- Fondling
- French kissing, body kissing and licking, oral sex
- Digital Penetration
- Simulated or Actual Intercourse
- Orgasm
- Posing for “sexy” pictures.
“Some victims will be sexually aroused, which they confuse with consent.”
Godsi, 2014

- Make it feel good to child
- Don’t hurt child (20-40%)
- Ask child if they “like it?”
- Tell child it makes offender feel good, thank them
- Make it a game.
- Do it at night or when no one else is around.
- Make child “want it” by “we don’t have to do this if you don’t want to.”
Avoiding Discovery (Victim)

- Bribe, threaten or guilt trip child into protecting offender.
- Create a bond of friendship and loyalty.
- Divide and conquer, damage relationship with other adults.
- Make the child responsible for protecting the secret.
Keeping Children From Telling

- Tell them it’s “not a big deal and everyone already knows.”
- Suggest “no one will believe them.”
- “Rope them into doing something bad so they won’t want everything to come out.”
- “I said people would blame them, and it would hurt our family.
- “I told her we would get a divorce and the other kids would lose their dad.”
- “I told him the other students would hate him.”
Seducing Adults – Exploiting our Strengths and Weaknesses.

- “My persona was upstanding, law abiding, bill-paying, intelligent and kind.”
- “I made myself out to be a pillar of the community”
- Verbalized “hatred” toward sex offenders.
- “I was always helpful and polite.”
- I’d “set things up to make the kid look like a liar.”
- If “head of the household,” he may be controlling, run his wife down, interfere with her relationships with children/victims.
“Lying, it’s easy.”

“I said I couldn’t’ believe people would believe I was the kind of person who would do something like that.

“I said I would not admit to something I didn’t do.”

“I said I was never alone with her and they believed me.”

“I said my wife was out to get me and coached her.”

“I said my brother in law always wanted me out the family and this was his way of doing it.”
Recommended Books and Videos

- **Tools of the Trade**
- **Truth, Lies and Sex Offenders** by Anna Salter
  - Available via Specialized Training Services ($79)
  - 1-800-848-1226

- **Close to Home** by the Mark McGwire Foundation
  - Available via Amazon.com ($30)

- **A Very Touching Book** & **There is No Sex Fairy**.
  - By Jan Hindman
  - www.janhindman.com

- **Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists & Other Sex Offenders** by Anna Salter.
- **Identifying Child Molesters** by Carla van Dam.
- **The Socially Skilled Child Molester** by Carla van Dam