

# Abuse and Molestation Training

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# What do you think?

- How common is child abuse in the U.S.?
- What percentage of boys are sexually abused in the U.S.?
- What percentage of girls are sexually abused in the U.S.?

# Child Sexual Abuse Statistics

- There are over 60 million survivors of sexual abuse in the U.S. today
- One in ten boys is sexually abused
- One in four girls is sexually abused

# What is Child Sexual Abuse?

- Child sexual abuse is a criminal offense in all 50 states, but the precise legal definition varies from state to state.
- However, most definitions include any form of sexual contact or exploitation in which a minor is being used for sexual stimulation of the perpetrator.

# Child Sexual Abuse

- Sexual abuse may also be committed by a person under the age of 18 when the person is significantly older than the victim or when the perpetrator is in a position of power and control over the child.
- Child sexual abuse may be violent or non-violent.
- Child sexual abuse occurs in all demographic, racial, ethnic, socio-economic, & religious groups.

# Types of Sexual Abuse

- Touching
- Non-touching

# Sexual abuse that involves touching may includes:

- Fondling
- Oral, genital, and anal penetration
- Intercourse
- Forcible rape

# Sexual abuse that does not involve touching may include:

- Verbal comments
- Pornographic videos
- Obscene phone calls
- Exhibitionism
- Allowing children to witness sexual activity
- Explicit photography

# Symptoms of Molestation

- Physical
- Behavioral
- Verbal

# Physical Symptoms:

- Bruises on flanks, buttocks, or thighs; multiple bruises of multiple colors
- Lacerations
- Abrasions on the wrist, legs, or neck
- Nightmares
- Fractures or burns
- Bleeding or the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases

# Behavioral Symptoms

- Anxiety when approaching a particular place (where abuse has occurred or the abuser may be encountered) or person
- Nervous, hostile, or defiant behavior toward adults
- Sexual self-consciousness
- “Acting out” of sexual behaviors
- Withdrawals from social activities and friends

# Verbal signs may include statements such as:

- I don't like [a particular person]
- [A particular person] does things to me when we're alone
- I don't like to be alone with [a particular person]
- [A particular person] fooled around with me

# Factors that Affect the Impact of Sexual Abuse

- Intensity
- Duration
- Frequency
- Age at time of abuse
- Relationship to the perpetrator
- Violence
- Participation of victim

# Long-term Consequences

- Outcome studies of adult survivors of child sexual abuse suggest the following effects:
- Sexual dysfunction, eating disorders, substance abuse, promiscuity, disassociation from emotions, and possible perpetration of sexual abuse on others (Geffner, 1992)

# Recognizing a Molester

- It is very difficult to identify a child molester and there is no foolproof screening process
- The following statistics will provide some insight

# Statistics on Molesters

- Over 89% of the time, the abuser is someone known to the victim (Strangers account for less than 20 percent of the abusers)
- Most abuse takes place within the context of an ongoing relationship
- The usual offender is between the ages of 20-30 years

# Statistics on Molesters (2)

- 20% of sex offenders begin their activity before the age of 18
- Estimates indicate that when a known assailant commits the abuse, half of the time it is a father or stepfather, and the rest of the time it is a trusted adult who misuses his or her authority over children

# Statistics on Molesters (3)

- The average molester will abuse 117 children before getting caught.
- Child abusers are often married and have children.
- A 1990 study revealed as much as 56 percent of child molestation cases are committed by adolescents, mostly males.

# Methods of Operation

- Child molesters use seduction, trickery, and force to accomplish their sexual abuse.
- They use a process of grooming that correlates to the courting process.

# Typical Patterns of Offenders

- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding a child even when the child does not want this “affection”
- Overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child (example: talks about developing body, etc.)
- Seeks time alone with child
- Spends most of his/her time with children

## Typical Patterns (2)

- Regularly offers to babysit or takes children on overnight outings
- Buys children expensive gifts or gives them money
- Frequently walks in on children in the bathroom
- Allows children to consistently get away with inappropriate behavior

# Behavioral Profile of Molesters

- Research currently indicates that no one profile fits the various perpetrators of abuse.
- Kenneth Lanning, an FBI agent for 30 years, has determined that sexual offenders function along a motivational continuum that ranges from preferential sex offenders to situational sex offenders.

# Preferential Sex Offenders

- “Preferential” offenders have a particular sexual preference, often for children of a particular age or gender.
- Although few in number, a single preferential perpetrator can molest hundreds of children (some over 500 in a lifetime).
- Because of their predatory nature, they actively seek victims and will engage in bold and repeated attempts to molest children

# Preferential Sex Offenders (2)

- Develop long term patterns of abusive behaviors
- Are willing to invest significant amounts of time, energy, money, and other resources to fulfill their sexual needs
- Usually male, not married, and over 25

# Preferential Sex Offender (3)

- Moves frequently
- Excessive interest in children
- Lives alone or with parents
- Maintains pornographic collections and photographs children

# Preferential Sex Offenders (4)

- Spends an excessive amount of time socializing with children
- Intentional and selective concerning their victims
- May be hard working and skilled individuals in their everyday work life
- May even develop good relationships with the parents of the children they molest

# Situational Sex Offenders

## **Definition:**

A situational sex offender is an opportunist who engages in misconduct when a situation develops that makes the abuse possible.

# Situational Sex Offenders (2)

- Most offenders are situational
- They have fewer victims than preferential
- Often molest their own children
- Have a wide range of sexual interests
- Can be abusive with children or adults in other ways
- Does not fit any single profile

# Situational Sex Offenders (3)

- May use force or coerce their victims
- May be indiscriminate concerning whom they molest and act completely on impulse
- More likely to confess or feel remorse than are preferential molesters

# Detering Preferential and Situational Offenders

- The best way to ward off sex offenders is to develop an environment that puts the molester at risk rather than the children
- Develop a thorough screening process for both paid and volunteer workers
- Employ and maintain proper supervision and accountability

# Points to Remember

- Preferential offenders actively seek out children
- Situational offenders take advantage of opportunities that make abuse possible
- Remember most children know their abuser; therefore, “stranger danger” is not adequate prevention

# Responding to Allegations of Abuse

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# 1. Understand the problem

- Sexual misconduct poses a serious threat to churches and camps
- Sexual misconduct encompasses a broad range of actions

## 2. Provide a Caring Response

- First, be prepared mentally to receive an allegation. Do not express disbelief, minimize the complaint, or place blame on the victim.
- Second, be prepared for intense emotions from the complainant. Probing, but sensitive questions will be necessary to uncover some details.

# 3. Document the Allegation

- The name, age, gender and address of the victim
- The name, age, gender and address of the alleged perpetrator
- The nature of the sexual misconduct alleged to have occurred.
- How many times the alleged misconduct occurred.
- The date(s) and location(s) of the incident(s).
- The relationship between the victim and the alleged perpetrator.
- Other evidence that supports the allegation (eyewitnesses, medical exams, confessions, etc.)

## 4. Report the Allegation

- Immediately report the allegation to management
- They have the contact information for the state and will help you finish gathering any needed information

# Things to Avoid

- Minimizing or failing to follow-up on any and all allegations
- Contacting the alleged perpetrator before the Police or Social Services investigator has given permission
- Failing to keep the information confidential – information should only be shared with those with qualified privilege

# What Volunteers Should Do To Prevent Sexual Abuse

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# Provide Appropriate Supervision

- The level of supervision should correspond with the level of risk.
  - **General** supervision is appropriate for low risk activities; focus is on the group at large
  - **Specific** supervision is appropriate for higher risk activities; supervision is more direct and focused

# Assess Levels of Risk

- Assess the level of risk by examining the following three factors:
  - Isolation
  - Accountability
  - Power and Control

# Risk Factor 1 : Isolation

- Most sexual abuse occurs in isolated settings.
  - Four factors that affect isolation are:
    - The number of people present
    - The time of the activity
    - The location of the activity
    - The physical arrangements
- Minimize the isolation factor in all camp activities.

# Risk Factor 2: Accountability

- Accountability involves justifying one's actions.
  - Three factors that affect the accountability of supervisors
    - The personal character and integrity of the adult worker
    - The number of people present for the activity
    - The degree of openness and approval associated with the activity
- All activities should be properly supervised and approved

## Risk Factor 3: Power and Control

- Children are vulnerable to sexual predators because of the imbalance of power related to size, strength, control and authority.
  - Balance does not exist between a child and an adult abuser
    - Risk increases when there is a large age difference between children
- Provide a proper balance of power in all activities

- Child abuse and neglect are against the law in Pennsylvania, and so is failure to report it.
- If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it within 48 hours.

# REVIEW TIME



# Review

- Sexual abuse may be defined as any interaction between a child and an adult in which the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator.
- Child sexual abuse is a criminal offense in all 50 states
- Camps can be held liable for child sexual abuse

# Review

- Volunteers as well as paid staff members can be held liable for child sexual abuse.
- If you suspect sexual abuse, it should be reported immediately within 48 hrs.
- Twenty percent of the molesters begin their activity before age 18
- Sexual abusers may be male or female

# Review

- A sex offender often spends more time with children than with people his/her own age.
- In the U.S. 1 in 4 girls is abused
- Children molest other children – 1990 case found 56% of child molestation cases were committed by adolescents.

# Review

- A preferential child molester may have over 500 victims in a lifetime.
- The most prevalent type of offender is the situational offender.
- Isolation increases the risk of sexual abuse.
- Child abuse victims usually know their molester.

# Review

- Having two unrelated adults present at an activity lowers risk.
- Never express disbelief, minimize the complaint, or place blame on the victim when receiving an allegation
- All allegations should be documented and reported

# Review

- Allegations of sexual abuse should be shared only with those who have qualified privilege
- An alleged perpetrator should not be contacted immediately following an allegation – management will make contact after the state or law enforcement agency gives permission

# Review

- Non-touching abuse can include
  - Pornographic videos
  - Exhibitionism
  - Allowing children to witness sexual activity

# Review

- Physical signs of abuse may include
  - Bruising
  - Nightmares
  - Difficulty in urination

# Review

- Behavioral signs of sexual abuse may include
  - Anxiety
  - Nervous and hostile behavior towards adults
  - Withdrawal from social activities and friends

# Review

- Effects of child sexual abuse may include
  - Aggressive behavior
  - Sexual acting out
  - Depression

# Review

- Victims may suffer long-term effects including
  - Sexual dysfunction
  - Eating disorders
  - Substance abuse
  - Promiscuity

# TEST TIME

You can take the test online by following this link:

<https://testmoz.com/1998749>

(make sure to enter your Full Name)