

SEXUAL OFFENDERS

OFFENDERS WHO SEXUALLY ASSAULT ADULTS

In "Men Who Rape", Nicholas Groth concludes that rape is not an expression of sexual desire as much as it is an expression of other, non-sexual needs. Groth claims that rape is more than the result of sexual arousal that has no other opportunity for gratification.¹

Knight and Prentky classify rapists according to four primary motivations: opportunistic, pervasively angry, sexually motivated, or vindictive.²

One study revealed that the most common emotional experience of a rapist prior to a sex offense is anger: 88% experienced general anger; 77% experienced anger toward women.³

In cases of rape by adult males, the offenders typically gain control through three major methods: entrapment, intimidation, and/or physical force.⁴

CHARACTERISTICS

Although rape may cut across all diagnostic categories of psychiatric disorders, the majority of offenders are not insane.⁵

Less than 25% of sex offenders seen in outpatient treatment settings have serious diagnosable mental disorders.⁶

Approximately 30% of rapists would be diagnosed as having anti-social personality disorder.⁷

¹ Groth, A. Nicholas, "Rape: Myths and Realities", *Men Who Rape*, p. 5, Plenum Press, 1990.

² Knight, R.A. and Prentky, R.A. (1990). Classifying sexual offenders: The development and collaboration of taxonomic models. In Marshall, W.L., Laws D.R., and Barbaree, H.E. (Eds.), *Handbook of Sexual Assault: Issues, Theories and Treatment of the offenders* (p. 23-52) New York: Plenum Press.

³ Prentky, Robert. "Evaluating Sex Offender Programs." *The Advisor*, spring, 1991.

⁴ Groth, A. Nicholas, *Men Who Rape*, Plenum Press, 1990.

⁵ Groth, A. Nicholas, "Rape: Myths and Realities", *Men Who Rape*, p. 6, Plenum Press, 1990.

⁶ Abel, G.G., Mittelman, M.S., Becker, J.V., "Sex offenders: Results of assessment and recommendations for treatment. Ben-Aron, M.H., Hucker, S.J., Webster, C.D. (Eds.), *Clinical Criminology: The Assessment and Treatment of Criminal Behavior*, pp. 207-220, Toronto: M&M Graphics.

⁷ Abel, G.G., Mittelman, M.S., Becker, J.V., "Sex offenders: Results of assessment and recommendations for treatment. Ben-Aron, M.H., Hucker, S.J., Webster, C.D. (Eds.), *Clinical Criminology: The Assessment and Treatment of Criminal Behavior*, pp. 207-220, Toronto: M&M Graphics.

Offenders who molest children come nearly equally from all races, social classes and education levels.⁸

Incarcerated sex offenders are often products of large families and live in a disturbed home environment, as indicated by high rates of family psychiatric history, criminal history and substance abuse.⁹

Incarcerated sex offenders report having been sexually, physically and mentally abused as children.¹⁰

In a random study of state prison inmates:¹¹

- 17.5% of sexual offenders reported having been sexually abused;
- 21.4% reported having been verbally abused;
- 17.6% reported having been physically abused.

AGE

According to Bureau of Justice Statistics:¹²

- 10.9% of sexual offenders are 18 years of age or younger
- 8% are 18-20;
- 31.2% are 21-29;
- 40% are 30 or older.

The majority of adult sex offenders are in their teens, 20's or early 30's. They usually have a varied criminal background including such crimes as breaking and entering, theft, and physical assault and they usually began their career at an early age.¹³

The offenders who sexually assault significant older victims are predominantly young, white single males.¹⁴

OFFENDER'S RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM

80%-90% of offenders know the women they sexually assault.¹⁵

⁸ Harkisnowo, Harkristuti. "The Child Sex Abusers in the Texas Department of Corrections." Paper, 1989, citing Finklehor, 1984; Wyatt, 1985; Russell.

⁹ Bard, L.A., Carter, D.L. Cerce, D.D., Knight, R.A., Rosenberg, R., Schneider, B., Behavioral Sciences and the Law, *A Descriptive Study of Rapist and Child Molesters: Developmental Clinical and Criminal Characteristics*, Vol. 5, pp.203-220, 1987.

¹⁰ Seghorn, T.K., Boucher, R.J., Prentky, R.A. (1987). Childhood sexual abuse in the lives of sexually aggressive offenders, *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, Vol. 26, pp. 262-267, 1987.

¹¹ Haapasato, J. "Self-Reported Childhood Abuse Among Sex and Violent Offenders." *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 26, no. 4, p. 421-431.

¹² Bureau of Justice Statistics, (BJS) U.S. Department of Justice, p. 4.

¹³ Barbaree, Howard E., Marshall, William L., and Hudson Stephen M., "Sexual Assault in Society: The Role of the Juvenile Offender, in *The Juvenile Sexual Offender*, p. 4, The Guilford Press, 1993.

¹⁴ Groth, A. Nicholas, *Men Who Rape*, Plenum Press, 1990.

RESPONSE

A 1990 study found that less than 50% of all probation departments have regulations or guidelines for working with sex offenders and less than 25% of the probation officers surveyed thought there were good enough treatment programs for sex offenders.¹⁶

RECIDIVISM

During a three-year period following release from prison, 52% of convicted rapists and 48% of persons convicted of sexual assault were rearrested for a new crime.¹⁷

OFFENDERS WHO SEXUALLY ASSAULT CHILDREN

Adults who sexually assault children under the age of 18 are called child molesters or pedophiles:

- A child molester appears to engage in sexual activity which is driven by anger and hostility. To the child molester, the victim is more an object or a symbol to the offender rather than a person. Rather than committing repeated assaults against the same victim, the child molester attacks different victims in successive offenses.
- A pedophile is an adult who has a sexual deviation where there is a persistent preference for sexual behavior with children. A pedophile typically regards the victim less as an object and more as an individual with whom he identifies. The pedophile may be interested in maintaining an ongoing relationship with the child.

PREVALENCE

Adult child abusers have 10 times more victims than offenders who rape adults. Child abusers have an average of 76 victims; a rapist has an average of seven.¹⁸

49% of the incestuous fathers and stepfathers referred for outpatient treatment at their clinics abused children outside the family at the same time they were abusing their own children, and 18% were raping adult women at the same time they were sexually abusing their own child.¹⁹

¹⁵ Awad, George A. and Saunders, Elizabeth B. "Male Adolescent Sexual Assaulters: Clinical Observations." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Dec., 1991, citing Briere and Runtz.

¹⁶ Smith, Barbara E., Hillenbrand, Susan W. and Goretsky, Sharon, R. "The Probation Response to Child Sexual Abuse Offenders: How Is It Working?" Paper, American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section, 1990.

¹⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), U.S. Department of Justice, 1977; p. iii.

¹⁸ Metzner, Jeffrey L. "The Adolescent Sex Offender: An Overview." *Interchange*, January, 1988 citing Abel, 1983.

¹⁹ Abel, G., Becker, J., Cunningham-Rathner, J., Mittleman, M, Rouleau, J.L., "Multiple paraphilia Diagnoses Among Sex Offenders," *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, Vol. 16 (2), pp. 153-168, 1988.

In any gathering of 100 women, 4-5 have been sexually abused by a father figure.²⁰

CHARACTERISTICS

25% or less of intra-familial child sex abusers (incest perpetrators) are pedophiles.²¹

In a survey of college men, 21% reported some sexual attraction to children, with 7% saying they would be likely to have sex with a child if they could not be detected or punished.²²

In a phone survey, 10% of adult men admitted having sexually abused a child.²³

Of abusers who perpetrate against young children, 90% are male and 95% are heterosexual.²⁴

The majority of child sex offenders are heterosexual, and many are simultaneously involved in consenting adult relationships. In one study, 83% of the offenders were heterosexual, and 17% were bisexual. Some of these offenders abused both boys and girls. Heterosexual men who abused boys usually said they did so because they identified with the boy.²⁵

Diana Russell's study of the incestuous abuse of girls revealed:²⁶

- just under 26% (more than 1 out of 4) of the incest perpetrators were under 18;
- the average age of the incest perpetrator was 34; only 20% were over 46;
- the second largest age range was 36-45 years old;
- 32% of the perpetrators had upper class occupations;
- 34% had middle class occupations;
- 67% were white;
- physical force was used in 30% of the cases;
- incest is more likely to occur over a longer period of time if it is cross-generational;
- in 31% of the cases the victim said the perpetrator had sexually abused another relative; in 54% of the cases the victim reported there was no other abuse going on and in 15% the victim did not know;

²⁰ Russell, Diana E.H., *The Secret Trauma*, Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1986.

²¹ Longevin, R., Watson, R., "A Comparison of Incestuous Biological and Step-Fathers, *Annals of Sex Research*, Vol. 4, pp.141-150, 1991.

²² Awad, George, A., Saunders, Elizabeth B., "Male Adolescent Sexual Assaulters: Clinical Observations", *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Citing Briere and Runtz, 1991.

²³ Awad, George, A., Saunders, Elizabeth B., "Male Adolescent Sexual Assaulters: Clinical Observations", *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Citing Briere and Runtz, 1991.

²⁴ Holmes, W.C., M.D., MSCE, Slap, G.B., M.S., M.S., "Sexual Abuse of Boys," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol.280, No. 1; pp. 1855-1862, 1998 citing numerous studies.

²⁵ Groth, A. Nicholas, *Men Who Rape*, Plenum Press, 1990.

²⁶ Russell, Diane E. H., *The Secret Trauma*, Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1986.

- The perpetrator's primary strategy involved:
 1. force or threat of force – 27%
 2. surprise – 17%
 3. taking advantage through drugs/alcohol – 9%
 4. deception – 3%
 5. treat without force – 2%
 6. bribery – 1%
 7. manipulation – 1%
 8. other – 40%;
 9. 23% of the cases involved very serious abuse;
 10. 41% of the cases involved serious abuse;
 11. 36% of the cases less serious abuse;
 12. the average age of the incest perpetrator was 34 years old.

Offenders claim the ability to identify and use vulnerabilities in a potential victim to gain access to and maintain control over the child. Vulnerabilities were defined in terms of status conditions such as living in a single-parent family, emotional characteristics such as neediness, unhappiness, shyness and situational factors such as the child being young, alone, unsupervised, etc.²⁷

AGE

71% of child sex abusers are below the age of 35.²⁸

OFFENDER'S RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM

A probability sample conducted by Diana Russell revealed that uncles represented 25% (48) of incest perpetrators and fathers/step-fathers/adopted fathers represented 24% (47). Thirty-eight percent of these incest perpetrators were members of the nuclear family.²⁹

According to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, a natural parent was the sexual offender in 1 out of every 3 of its indicated cases. Parents and stepparents accounted for more than half of the offenders in sexual abuse cases.³⁰

- 83.4% of the offenders were male;
- 30% of the offenders were between the age of 30-40;
- 21% were under the age of 20;
- 63% of the offenders were white

²⁷ Conte, J.R., An Incest Offender: An Overview and Introduction. *Unpublished Manuscript*, 1989.

²⁸ Groth, A. Nicholas, *Men Who Rape*, Plenum Press, 1990.

²⁹ Russell, Diana E.H., *The Secret Trauma*, Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1986.

³⁰ Department of Children and Family Services, 1991.

81% of incarcerated incest offenders in one prison had sexually abused children between the ages of 9-18; 90% of the victims were girls: 38% were daughters and 30% were stepdaughters. Of the boy victims, 10% were stepsons and 4% were sons.³¹

RESPONSE

80% of all child sex offenders were granted probation. Of those 89% involve court-mandated treatment.³²

RECIDIVISM

One study of child sex offenders found that 43% of untreated offenders recommitted the offense, compared to 18% of the offenders who went through treatment. Of incest offenders, 22% of the untreated offenders recommitted a sex offense, compared to 8% of the treated offenders.³³

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL OFFENDERS

While the behavior is sexual in expression, adolescent sexual offending may have more in common with other coercive behavior such as bullying than with the satisfaction of sexual needs or curiosity.³⁴

PREVALENCE

Between 1980-1995 the arrests of children under the age of 12 years old have increased 125% for sex offenses (excluding rape) and 190% for forcible rape.³⁵

In 1992, the State of Washington's Department of Social and Health Services published a report identifying 691 sexually aggressive youth in state custody, 33% of whom were under the age of 12.³⁶

In Vermont, reported sexual abuse by children under the age of 14 increased 300% within 10 years. More than 40% of known child abusers that came to the attention of authorities were under the age of 20.³⁷

³¹ Owen, Greg and Steele, Nancy M. "Incest Offenders After Treatment," in *Family Sexual Abuse*, edited by Michael Quinn Patton, Sage Publications, 1991.

³² Smith, Barbara E., Hillenbrand, Susan W., and Goretsky, Sharon, r. "the Probation Response to Child Sexual Abuse Offenders: How Is It Working?" Paper, American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section, 1990.

³³ Smarshall, W.L. and Eccles, A. "Issues in Clinical Practice with Sex Offenders." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Vol. 6, No. 1, Mar., 1991, citing Marshall and Barbaree.

³⁴ Metzner, J.L., "The Adolescent Sex Offender: An Overview." *Interchange*, January 1988.

³⁵ Butts, J.A., Snyder, H.N. "The Youngest Delinquents: Offenders Under Age 15." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, p. 1-11, September 1997.

³⁶ Office of Children's Research, "A Comparison of Sexually Aggressive Youth Open/Active Department of Children and Family Services Caseloads, Comparing Youth Under and Over the Age of 12." Olympia, Washington: Department of Social and Health Services, 1992.

In a Utah survey of all sexual abuse perpetrators, 43% were youth under the age of 18, with 18% being under the age of 13.³⁸

40% of all sexual abuse of children is committed by youth under the age of 18.³⁹

30% of sexual assault of adults is committed by offenders under the age of 18.⁴⁰

The arrest rate for 13-14 year olds accused of sexual assault doubled between 1976-86.⁴¹

Adolescent sex offenders had committed an average of 6.8% sexually abusive acts.⁴²

Most adolescent sex offenders (61%) abuse more than one victim.⁴³

The average adolescent sex offender abuses seven victims, with some juveniles disclosing as many as 30 or more victims. Many perpetrators abuse the same victim more than once.⁴⁴

CHARACTERISTICS

91%-93% of adolescent sex offenders are male, and the average age is 14. The offender is likely to be white and living with two parents at the time of the offense. It is unlikely that he has a prior conviction for sexual assault but likely that this is not his first offense. He may have been a victim of sexual abuse or he may not. There is one chance in 3 that he has been convicted of a non-sexual delinquent offense. The activity is unwanted, involves genital contact and in 60% of the cases, penetration. The offense is usually accompanied by some type of coercion or force. The average victim is 7-8 year old child – more likely female – who is unrelated by blood or marriage.⁴⁵

³⁷ As reported in Gray, A., Busconi, A., Houchens, P. and Pithers, W.D. (1997). "Children with sexual behavior problems and their caregivers: Demographics, functioning, and clinical patterns." *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 9, pp. 267-290.

³⁸ As reported in Gray, A., Busconi, A., Hourchens, P., and Pithers, W.D. "Children with Sexual Behavior Problems and Their Caregivers: Demographics, Functioning, and Clinical Patterns."

³⁹ Pithers, W.D., Carey, A. "The Other Half of the Story: Children with Sexual Behavior problems." *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*, Vol, 4, No. 1/2, pp. 200-217, 1998.

⁴⁰ Bonner, Barbara L. "Adolescent Perpetrators: Assessment and Treatment." *The Advisor*, Vol. 4, Fall, 1991, citing Fehrenbach, 1986.

⁴¹ Awad, George A. and Saunders, Elizabeth B. "Male Adolescent Sexual Assaulters: Clinical Observations." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Dec., 1991, citing Briere and Runtz.

⁴² Abel, G.G., Becker, J.V., Mittleman, M.S. Cunningham-Rathner, J., Rouleau, J.L., Murphy, W.D. "Self-reported Sex Crimes of Non-incarcerated paraphiliacs." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Vol. 2, p. 3-25, 1987.

⁴³ Awad, G., Saunders, E., "Adolescent Child Molesters: Clinical Observations." *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, Vol. 19, pp. 195-206, 1989.

⁴⁴ Becker, J.B., J. Cunningham-Rather, and M.F. Kaplan. (1986) "Adolescent Sexual Offenders: Demographics, Criminal Sexual Histories, and Recommendations for Reducing Future Offenses." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (4): 431-445.

⁴⁵ Cavanaugh-Johnson, T. (1988) "Child Perpetrators: Child Who Molest Children." *Child Abuse and Neglects: The International Journal* 12 (2): 219-229.

26% of adolescent sex offenders had been victims of, or witness to sexual abuse in their families. This abuse included incest, prostitution, and forced observation of sex between adults.⁴⁶

In a study at one prison:⁴⁷

- 57% of incarcerated incest offenders were sexually abused as children;
- 14% were abused by at least one parent;
- 17% were sexually abused by a sibling;
- 9% were abused by another relative;
- 17% were abused by some one outside the family;
- 37% cited a climate of violence in their childhood homes.

The majority of persons who have experienced child sexual abuse do not become adolescent or adult sex offenders.⁴⁸

Some studies have failed to find sexual victimization more frequently in adolescent sex offenders than other delinquents.⁴⁹

Researchers have suggested that physical violence is more common in the background of young sex offenders than sexual victimization.⁵⁰

Parents of adolescent sex offenders in one study had high levels of victimization in their own childhood.⁵¹

A study of youth offenders found:⁵²

- Pedophilic youth molest children, usually female, who are significantly younger than they, and commit their first offense between ages 6-12.
- Adolescent sex offenders tend to molest females closer to their own age and usually commit their first offenses between ages 13-15; 60% of the youths were white; 59% came from lower socioeconomic settings; 78% of the sexual assault offenders and 44% of the pedophilic offenders came from single parent

⁴⁶ Awad, G., Saunders, E., "Adolescent Child Molesters: Clinical Observations." *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, Vol. 19, pp. 195-206, 1989. and Saunders.

⁴⁷ Owen, Greg and Steele, Nancy M. "Incest Offenders After Treatment," in *Family Sexual Abuse*, edited by Michael Quinn Patton, Sage Publications, 1991.

⁴⁸ Becker, J.V. "The Effects of Child Sexual Abuse on Adolescent Sexual Offenders." In G.E. Wyatt and G.J. Powell (eds.) *Lasting Effects of Child Sexual Abuse*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publication, pp. 192-207, 1988.

⁴⁹ Benoit, J.L., Kennedy, W.A. "The Abuse History of Male Adolescent Sex Offenders." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Vol. 7, pp. 543-548, 1992.

⁵⁰ Awad, G., Saunders, E., "Adolescent Child Molesters: Clinical Observations." *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, Vol. 19, pp. 195-206, 1989.

⁵¹ Kaplan, M.S., Becker, J.V., Cunningham-Rathner, J., "Characteristics of Parents of Adolescent Incest Perpetrators: Preliminary Findings." *Journal of Family Violence*, Vol. 3, pp. 183-191.

⁵² Graves, R. "Demographic and Parental Characteristics of Youthful Sexual Offenders." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* (4), 1996, p. 300-317.

households and many had families with substance abuse and mental health problems.

One study of male adolescent sex offenders found that:⁵³

- 97% had never been hospitalized for a psychiatric disorder;
- 72% were never arrested for non-sexual crimes;
- 79% had been arrested for a prior sex offense;
- 63% were pedophiles;
- 18% were sexually abused as children.

A study of 1,616 youths who were recognized or had a record as sexually abusive to other youths found:⁵⁴

- 41% reported they had been victims of physical abuse;
- 39% reported they had been victims of sexual abuse;
- 68% of these abuses involved penetrating and/or oral-genital behavior;
- 62% expressed little or no sympathy for their victim;
- 51% expressed no remorse or guilt;
- 91% of the victims were 3-6 years old, with an average age of 7.7 years;
- 38% were relatives of the abuser;
- 33% blamed the victim for the offense.

Approximately 50% of adult sex offenders report their sexually deviant behavior began in adolescence.⁵⁵

Mothers of adolescent incest perpetrators were significantly more likely to have been sexually victimized as children than other mothers.⁵⁶

Adolescent offenders seem to show all of the same variations of sexually abusive behaviors, as do older offenders.⁵⁷

In general, less violence is used by adolescent sex offenders than by adult sex offenders. A victim of an adolescent offender is 1/3 as likely to have had a weapon

⁵³ Metzner, Jeffrey L, "The Adolescent Sex Offender: An Overview." *Interchange*, January, 1988 citing, Abel, 1983

⁵⁴ Ryan, G., "Trends in a National Sample of Sexually Abusive Youths." *Journal of Academic Child Adolescent Psychiatry*, 35:1, January 1996.

⁵⁵ Abel, G. G., Mittleman, M.S., & Becker, J.V. (1985). Sex offenders: Results of assessment and recommendations for treatment. In M.H. Ben-Aron, S. J. Hucker, & C.D. Webster (Eds.) *Clinical criminology: The assessment and treatment of criminal behavior* (pp. 207-220). Toronto: M & M Graphics.

⁵⁶ Kaplen, M.S., Bexker, J.V. & Martinez, D.F. "A Comparison of Mothers of Adolescent Incest vs. Non-Incest Perpetrators." *Journal of Family Violence*, 5, pp. 209-214, 1990.

⁵⁷ Fehrenbach, P.A., & Monastersky, C., & Deisher, R.W. Adolescent sexual; offenders: Offender and offense characteristics. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 56, pp. 225-233, 1986.

used against her and 1/2 as likely to be physically injured. Yet, 1/3 of offenses perpetrated by adolescents result in physical injury.⁵⁸

The population of juvenile sex offenders is as heterogeneous as the population of adult sex offenders.⁵⁹

Non-deviant sexual experiences usually precede the juvenile's offending behavior.⁶⁰

AGE

Diana Russell's study revealed that almost 27% of the incest perpetrators were less than the age of 18. Thus, more than 1 out of 4 incest perpetrators was a juvenile.

A victim-based study of child sexual abuse investigations in Liverpool, England between 1989 and 1990 revealed that 36% of the perpetrators in the study were under the age of 18.⁶¹

OFFENDER'S RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM

More than 95% of victims of adolescent offenders know the perpetrator as an acquaintance, friend, neighbor, or relative.⁶²

RECIDIVISM

The average adolescent sex offender will, without treatment, go on to commit 380 sexual crimes during his lifetime.⁶³

CHILDREN WITH SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

Sexually aggressive children demonstrate deep feelings of anger, rage, shame and loneliness. Several professionals (Friedrich, Johnson and Feldmeth) have observed that those emotions are paired with sex, which has been paired with aggression.⁶⁴

⁵⁸ McDermott, M.J., & Hindelang, M.J., Juvenile criminal behavior in the United States: Its trends and patterns (Analysis of National Crime Victimization Survey Data to Study Serious Delinquent Behavior, Monograph No.1). Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

⁵⁹ Knight, R.A., Rosenberg, R., & Schneider, B.A., Classification of sexual offenders: Perspectives, methods, and validation. In A.W. Burgess (Ed.) *Rape and sexual assault*, pp. 23-52, New York: Plenum Press, 1990.

⁶⁰ Becker, J.B., J. Cunningham-Rather, and M.F. Kaplan. (1986) "Adolescent Sexual Offenders: Demographics, Criminal Sexual Histories, and Recommendations for Reducing Future Offenses." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (4): 431-445.

⁶¹ Horne, L., Celasgow, D., Cox, A., Calem, R. "Sexual Abuse of Children by Children." *Journal of Child Law*, Vol. 3, pp. 147-151, 1991.

⁶² Becker, J.B., J. Cunningham-Rather, and M.F. Kaplan. (1986) "Adolescent Sexual Offenders: Demographics, Criminal Sexual Histories, and Recommendations for Reducing Future Offenses." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (4): 431-445.

⁶³ Abel, G.G., Becker, J.V., Cunningham-Rathner, J., Rouleau, J., Kaplan, M., Reich, J., Treatment Manual: The treatment of child molester, Tuscaloosa, AL: Emory University Clinic, Department of Psychiatry, 1984.

Johnson and Feldmeth and Crisci and Brown report the motives behind children acting out sexually to include the need to reduce feelings of fear, anger, or loneliness, or to achieve power over victims through acts of coercion. Some professionals believe that a significant number of sexually aggressive children are also addicted to the behaviors.⁶⁵

CHARACTERISTICS

A study of children with sexual behavior problems found that:⁶⁶

- 84% had been sexually abused;
- 48% reported they had been victims of physical abuse;
- 33% had been emotionally abused;
- 18% had been neglected;
- 56% had been subjected to multiple forms of abuse, most often physical and sexual abuse.

OFFENDERS WHO ABUSE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- 33%– 40% of sexual offenders against persons with disabilities are service providers;
- 20% are friends and neighbors of the victims;
- 25% are family members;
- 10% to 40% are other persons with disabilities.

FEMALE OFFENDERS

Only 2%-4% of reported child sex offenses are committed by women.⁶⁷ However, this number may be low, since women are not traditionally viewed as offenders, even by victims, and because boys tend to underreport sexual abuse.

One half to 2/3 of incarcerated female offenders committed the crime in conjunction with a man. Almost all were acquainted with the children.

Fifty-percent of female sexual offenders have a history of mental illness (as opposed to 9% of male offenders).⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Sharon K. Araji, *Sexually Aggressive Children: Coming to Understand Them*, Sage Publication, 1997.

⁶⁵ Sharon K. Araji, *Sexually Aggressive Children: Coming to Understand Them*, Sage Publication, 1997

⁶⁶ Pithers, W.D., & Gray, A. "The Other Half of the Story: Children with Sexual Behavior Problems." *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*, Vol. 4, NO. 1/2, pp. 200-217, 1998.

⁶⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), U.S. Department of Justice, 1997, p. 13.

⁶⁸ Grayson, Joanne. "Female Sex Offenders." *Interchange*, June, 1989, citing Russell, Matthews, McCarty.