

Juvenile Sex Offenders

Little attention was devoted to the sexually abusive adolescent until quite recently, but new and compelling developments during the last decade make it difficult to continue to ignore the reality of sexual aggression in this age group. (Knopp, F.H., (1982). *Remedial Intervention in Adolescent Sex Offenses: Nine Program Descriptions*, Orwell, VT: Safer Society Press, (pp.4-5).

Currently, it is estimated that juveniles account for up to one-fifth of all rapes and almost one-half of all cases of child molestation committed each year (Barbaree et al, 1993, Becker et al, 1993, Sickmund et al, 1997). Center for Sex Offender Management. A project of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.). http://www.csom.org/about/f_ojp.html

Adolescents age 13 to 17 account for the vast majority of cases of rape and child molestation perpetrated by minors (Davis and Leitenberg,1987). Center for Sex Offender Management. A project of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.). http://www.csom.org/about/f_ojp.html

A majority of Juvenile Sex Offenders offend solely against children. Weinrott, M.R. (1996, June). (*Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/cspv/FS-002.html>

The first offense is most likely to occur when the perpetrator is about 13 or 14 years old. (*Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/cspv/FS-002.html>

Victims are most likely to be female acquaintances or siblings; rarely are they strangers. (*Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/cspv/FS-002.html>

Significant minority of youthful child molesters have both female and male victims. (*Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/cspv/FS-002.html>

Most offenses by a child molester could be construed as coercive rather than violent. (*Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/cspv/FS-002.html>

Adolescent male child molesters tend to be shy if not socially isolated, lack self-esteem, and are aroused to children but are attracted to girls their own age. (*Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). (Weinrott, M.R. (1996, June). *Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado.). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/cspv/FS-002.html>

Serious delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, and interpersonal aggression are relatively uncommon among teens who molest only younger children; however there has been a high prevalence of conduct disorder in some samples of child molesters. Weinrott, M.R. (1996, June). *Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). (Weinrott, M.R. (1996, June). *Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado.). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/papers/CSPV-005.html>

Juvenile rapists vary considerably from juvenile child molesters. They use threats, force and violence, they are likely to have suffered from parental neglect, they are less prone to social isolation, and there is little evidence of antisocial personality or lifestyle. However, they have been found to show arousal to aggressive sex, harbor condescending and adversarial attitudes toward women, and are likely to have used alcohol prior to the assault. Weinrott, M.R. (1996, June). *Juvenile Sexual Aggression: A Critical Review*. (CSPV-005). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado). <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/papers/CSPV-005.html>

In a research project on 411 adult offenders seen voluntarily at an outpatient clinic, 58% of the adult offenders reported the onset of deviant sexual interests in adolescence. (Abel, G., Mittelman, M., and Becker, J. Sex offenders: Results of assessment and recommendations for treatment. In *Clinical criminology: Current concepts*. J. Ben-Aron, S. Hucker, and C. Webster, eds. Toronto: M & M Graphics, 1985. Groth, A., Longo, R., and McFadin, J. Undetected recidivism among rapists and child molesters. *Crime and Delinquency* (July 1982) 28:450-58). <http://www.futureofchildren.org/index.htm>

Two other 1980s studies had similar results, with 56% of male child sexual abuse victims reporting a juvenile offender (Showers, J., Farber, E., Joseph, J., et al. The sexual victimization of boys: A three-year survey. *Health Values: Achieving High-Level Wellness* (1983) 7:15–18.) and 15% to 25% of female child victims reporting a juvenile offender. (Farber, E., Shower, J., Johnson, C., et al. The sexual abuse of children: A comparison of male and female victims. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology* (1984) 13:294–97.) <http://www.futureofchildren.org/index.htm>

Individual characteristics prevalent among juvenile sex offenders include a lack of assertive and social skills. (Awad, G., Saunders, E., and Levene, J. A clinical study of male adolescent sex offenders. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* (1979) 28,2:105–16. Fagan, J., and Wexler, S. Explanations of sexual assault among violent delinquents. *Journal of Adolescent Research* (1986) 3:363–85. Katz, R. Psychological adjustment in adolescent).
<http://www.futureofchildren.org/index.htm>

Low academic performance, learning problems, and learning disabilities have also been diagnosed in juvenile sex offenders. (Fagan, J., and Wexler, S. Explanations of sexual assault among violent delinquents. *Journal of Adolescent Research* (1986) 3:363–85.).
<http://www.futureofchildren.org/index.htm>

The most common scenario involves a 7- or 8-year-old victim. (Ryan, G. Juvenile sex offenders: Defining the population. In *Juvenile sexual offending*. G. Ryan and S. Lane, eds. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1991, pp. 3–8.).
<http://www.futureofchildren.org/index.htm>

Several characteristics of family environment have also been described in the research literature on juvenile offenders. These include unstable home environments, a sexual pathology within a parent, and the child viewing sexual interactions between parents or parent surrogates. (Smith, W., Monastersky, C., and Deisher, R. MMPI-based personality types among juvenile sexual offenders. *Journal of Clinical Psychology* (1987) 43,4:422–30.). (Smith, H., and Israel, E. Sibling incest: A study of the dynamics of 25 cases. *Child Abuse & Neglect* (1987) 11:101–8.). <http://www.futureofchildren.org/index.htm>

The Future of Children SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN Vol. 4 • No. 2 – Summer/Fall 1994 - **Judith V. Becker**

In a 1984 study of 401 child sex abuse cases, 56% of the male child victims and 28% of the female child victims reported being abused by a juvenile offender. (Rogers, C., and Tremain, T. Clinical interventions with boy victims of sexual abuse. In *Victims of sexual aggression*. I. Stuart and J. Greer, eds. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1984, pp. 91-104.). (SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN Vol. 4 • No. 2 – Summer/Fall 1994 - Judith V. Becker).

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<http://www.ncsby.org/pages/publications/ASO%20Common%20Misconception%20vs%20Current%20Evidence.pdf>

Adolescent Sex Offenders commit a substantial number of sex crimes, including 17% of all arrests for sex crimes. (U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations. (1999). 1998. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.) and approximately 1/3 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. <http://www.ncsby.org/>

Some Adolescent Sex Offenders have serious psychological problems, including conduct disorders, depression, and learning disabilities that need to be addressed during treatment. Weinrott, M. R. (Ed.). (1996). *Juvenile sexual aggression: A critical review*. Boulder, CO: University of Colorado, Boulder, Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence.). <http://www.ncsby.org/>

The number of children under 18 accused of forcible rape, violent and nonviolent sex offenses rose from 24,100 in 1985 to 33,800 in 2004. Violent offenses include attempted rape and sexual assault, while nonviolent offenses including fondling, statutory rape and prostitution. © MMVII The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/06/09/national/main2907551.shtml>

Only 28 percent of all violent sexual assaults are reported to police, according to a 1999 National Crime Victimization Survey. And cases of incest between siblings are widely thought to be underreported and may drive the numbers even higher. Sharon Araji, an Alaska Psychologist. © MMVII The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/06/09/national/main2907551.shtml>