

The Rise and Fall of Child Sexual Abuse in Oklahoma

Child Abuse Prevention
Day
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CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Definition

Child sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child or adolescent for the sexual gratification of another person.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



Etiological/Associated Factors	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Psychological Maltreatment
Domestic Violence	X	XX		XX
One Parent Household	XX	XX	XX	
Poverty	XX	X	x	
Stress	X	XX	x	x
Lacking Education	XX	XX		X
Substance Abuse	XX	X	x	
Family Patterns	X	XX	X	X
Mental Disorders	x	x	XX*	?
- Parental Depression	X	XX		?
Social Factors	X	X	X	X
Social Isolation	XX	X	X	?
Unknown	X	X	XX	XX

* Includes paraphilias

SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS

- Voyeurism, exhibitionism
- Fondling
- Child prostitution, pornography
- Oral genital stimulation
- Intercourse – oral, vaginal, anal

RANGE OF EFFECTS

Minimal ——— Moderate ——— Severe

Short-Term ——— Mid-Term ——— Long-Term

EFFECTS DEPEND ON...

- Relationship with perpetrator
- Duration, severity
- Use of force, coercion
- Belief and support of non-offending parent(s)
- Resilience of child or adolescent

EFFECTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE ON CHILDREN

Most commonly documented symptoms:

- Fearfulness
- PTSD
- Aggressiveness
- Inappropriate sexual behavior

1980 - 1990

- Major public focus on increasing number of child sexual abuse reports
- Involvement by law enforcement and criminal justice system
- Children's Advocacy Centers established

1980 - 1990

- CSA prevention programs for young children
- Treatment programs for intra-familial CSA
- Many new professionals entered field
- CSA multi-victim cases in daycare centers

(McMartin)

1990 - 2000

- Backlash and increasing skepticism of CSA
- New legislation on sex offenders
- US Advisory Board disbanded
- National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect reduced to Office of Child Abuse and Neglect

1990 - 2000

- Major focus on interviewing children
- Law enforcement and legal system involved due to CSA
- Move to decrease time in foster care and increase permanent adoptions
- Prevention of CSA focused on potential victims rather than offenders

1990 - 2000: SUMMARY

- Research proliferated in child sexual abuse
- Multidisciplinary models utilized
- Child welfare system increasingly criticized
- Backlash affected public perception of field

2000 – 2010: National Decline

- CSA cases fell 60% from 1992 – 2010
- From 1990 – 2010, rates dropped from 23/10,000 in youth under age 18 to 8.6/10,000
- Rates have continued to decline since 2010

Sexual Abuse Cases in Oklahoma (1995 - 2012)



Factors Related to Decline

- Major decline in all types of crime
- Greater public awareness of CSA
- Increased prevention efforts
- Specialized law enforcement
- Deterrence due to active prosecution

Treatment in Sexual Abuse

- Previous focus on adult male offenders
- Major shift in 1990s to child and adult victims
 - Assumption that all children had major negative effects
 - No research available to guide intervention
- Strong focus on child's symptoms

New Treatment Approaches

- Focus on diversity of symptoms in children
- Major progress in research on effective interventions, such as Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Established that parental belief and support significantly related to child's mental health outcome
- Online training in TFCBT (>60,000)

Recent Research: TF-CBT

- Most vigorously evaluated treatment approach
 - 10 randomized trials
 - Current RCT for Dual Exposure
- Improvements in PTSD in children and parent's symptoms

Adult Male Sexual Abusers

- Typical Approach
 - Group, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) approach with adult incarcerated males
 - 10-year outcome showed no differences between treated and non-treated adults; recidivism rate was approximately 20%
- New approach: intervention tied to type of offense

Adolescent Male Sexual Abusers

- Typical approach:
 - Group, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
 - Research has established low recidivism rates (3-14%)
 - OUHSC program has 3% recidivism rate
 - New approach: Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

Ongoing Concerns in Oklahoma

- Cases continue to shock professionals and general public
- 7628 sex offenders are registered in Oklahoma
- Very few adolescents are on registry (N = <10)
- Legal restrictions may impede rehabilitation of offenders

Progress in Oklahoma

- Major focus by DMHSAS and DHS on training mental health professionals to provide evidence-based treatment approaches (PCIT, TF-CBT)
- OUHSC has nationally recognized trainers in PCIT and TF-CBT

Progress in Oklahoma (cont.)

- OKDHS awarded federal grants to implement a trauma informed child welfare system and develop early system for assessment and treatment for children in foster care
- Statewide system of Child Advocacy Centers
- Child Abuse Medical Examiner system provides training for medical professionals.

WHEN TO REPORT?

A report should be made when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child or adolescent has been abused or neglected or is in danger of being abused.

A report of suspected abuse is only a request for an investigation.

REMEMBER:

A report of suspected child abuse is a responsible attempt to protect a child.

Oklahoma Adult or Child Abuse Hotline:

1-800-522-3511

National Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-4-A-Child

(1-800-422-4453)

Conclusions

- Oklahoma's decline in CSA cases similar to national figures
- CSA cases continue to be highly problematic
- Decline in cases is promising
- Oklahoma making excellent progress in providing evidence-based treatment