



Reporting

I. Shakeshaft, 2004

A. sch are notified of instances of abuse in five ways...

" P. 34

o "Allegations. According to Shoop (2000), notice of educator sexual misconduct comes to the attention of school officials in five ways: (1) formal complaints; (2) informal complaints; (3) observed abuse; (4) observed suspicious behavior; and (5) rumors and/or anonymous reports."

o "Formal and informal complaints are most likely to originate from targets or parents of targets...Seldom is the abuse reported by a teacher, even if the child has told the teacher."

o "Several studies estimate that only 6% of all children report sexual abuse by an adult to someone who can do something

about it. The other 64% do not tell anyone or talk only to a friend."

o "AAUW data set found that 71.2% of students who had been targets of peer and/or educator sexual misconduct told someone, with 56.6% telling more than one person. Most students told a friend (69.7%), followed by someone else (44.9%), then a parent (31.8%), a teacher (14.6%), or another school employee (14.1%)."

1. **1. formal complaints**

2. **2. informal complaints**

3. **3. observed abuse**

4. **4. obs suspicious beh**

5. **5. rumors and/or anonymous reports**

6. **Results of reported instances of misconduct**

a. **most complaints are ignored or disbelieved...**

o "When students do report, they almost always report incidents of contact sexual abuse - touching, kissing, hugging, or forced intercourse. Verbal and visual abuse are rarely reported to school officials."

o "When alleged misconduct is reported, the majority of complaints are ignored or disbelieved (Shakeshaft and Cohan, 1994)."

(1) **many students do not report because they do not think they will be believed...**

o "Response to allegations. Robins (2000) found that the most common reason that students don't report educator sexual misconduct is fear that they won' be believed."

(2) **students are valid and reliable sources of info concerning abuse...**

o "In the Shakeshaft and Cohan (1995) study of 225 allegations of educator sexual misconduct, there was not one in which the actions reported weren't proved to have happened."

II. Sullivan, Vernon & Scanlon, 1987

A. **children who exp Sexual Abuse**

1. **more often than not will not discuss unless asked...**

"More often than not, children will not discuss sexual abuse unless specifically asked about it. This is especially true with deaf children. There are a variety of reasons for this (Sgroi, 1982). They may fear rejection, punishment, loss of parental love, or lame for the sexual incidents. Fears of retaliation, disease, pregnancy, going to a foster home or institution also exist. Many perpetrators foster fear in their child victims, warning them of horrible consequences for telling of the abuse."

B. **difficulty d/hh stu exp when they report...**

"The deaf child seeking to report sexual abuse faces another problem. Often the parent, teacher or other caretaker does not

know enough sexual signs (or sign language in general) to understand when the child does report sexual molestation."

1. **teachers/adults do not understand stu sexual signs**

C. **instances often go unreported due to...**

"...incidence of sexual abuse often go unreported because of ignorance of the law, refusal to believe the children reporting the abuse and attempts to deny or cover up the problem."

"Historically, schools (mainstream and residential) have tried to handle sex abuse "in house" to avoid publicity and conflict."

1. **ignorance of the law**

2. **refusal to believe the reporting children**

3. **attempt to deny or cover up the abuse**

4. **avoid negative publicity**

D. **children rarely lie...**

"...children rarely lie about being the victim of sexual abuse, although it may be easier to assume deception among children than to face the reality of what they are telling."

"Children may lie about not being sexually abused."

III. [DePanfilis, D. \(2006\).](#)

A. **mandatory reporting requirements...**

"Mandatory Reporters

" Mandatory reporters are individuals who are required by

law to report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect. They can face criminal and civil liability for not doing so. In approximately 18 States, anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect is considered a mandatory reporter.⁴⁶ In most States, mandatory reporters are required to make a report immediately upon having suspicion or knowledge of an abusive or neglectful situation. This initial report may be made orally to either CPS or a law enforcement agency. Examples of individuals who typically are listed as mandatory reporters include physicians, social workers, educators, mental health professionals, child care providers, medical examiners, and police. Every State has statutes that specify procedures for mandatory reporters to follow when making a report of child abuse or neglect. For more information about State laws regarding mandatory reporters, see http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/reporting/."

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