

Index - CA/N Informational Sources & Key Points

- **Childhelp** – Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse: <http://www.childhelp.org/>
.....this is a GOOD site!
 - See info in file for MI chapter of this national org that was started in 1959
 - Data re the incidence and impact of abuse
 - <http://www.childhelp.org/resources/learning-center/statistics>
 - http://www.childhelp.org/types_of_child_abuse
 - Signs and symptoms of abuse
 - <http://www.childhelp.org/resources/learning-center/tips-and-articles>
 - Common misconceptions re. reporting abuse
 - <http://www.childhelp.org/resources/learning-center/following-simple-rules/misconceptions>
 - Child abuse quiz
 - <http://www.childhelp.org/resources/learning-center/child-abuse-quiz>
 - Resources for parents, professionals and kids
- **Child Maltreatment Reports:**
 - 2005: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/index.htm>
 - (FFY) 2005, an estimated 3.3 million referrals, involving the alleged maltreatment of approximately 6.0 million children, were made to CPS agencies
 - FFY 2005, an estimated 899,000 children in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect.
 - Children in the age group of birth to 3 years had the highest rate of victimization at 16.5 per 1,000 children of the same age group in the national population;
 - More than 60 percent (62.8%) of victims suffered neglect;
 - More than 15 percent (16.6%) of the victims suffered physical abuse;
 - Less than 10 percent (9.3%) of the victims suffered sexual abuse; and
 - Less than 10 percent (7.1%) of the victims suffered from emotional maltreatment.
 - Index of previous reports – Child Abuse and Neglect Research – 1995-2005: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm
- **Durity & Oxman, 2006**
Durity, Richard & Oxman, Amy
2006
Addressing the Trauma Treatment Needs of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and the Hearing Children of Deaf Parents

Suggested citation: National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2006). White paper on addressing the trauma treatment needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the hearing children of deaf parents. Los Angeles, Calif., and Durham, NC: National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2006, www.NCTSN.org.

- Restated statistics re. incidence of abuse as earlier presented by Sullivan, Vernon & Scanlan, 1987 + Skinner, 1991

- **MacDougall, 2000**

MacDougall, Jamie C.

Family Violence and the Deaf

Legal Education and Information Issues: A national Needs Assessment

Innovations, Analysis and Integration

Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) Program

Family Violence Initiative

Justice Canada

2000

Downloaded on 5-6-07 from:

http://www.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/fm/reports/fv_deaf.pdf

- Lack of trained professionals....“There is a lack of appropriately trained personnel in the field. Most hearing professionals do not know how to deal with deaf persons and many hold false stereotypes concerning deafness. Even where interpreters are used, often the overall communication situation is far from adequate (Barnett, 1999; Kennedy, 1992).”
- Lack of needed educational response...“Lack of sexual education in the school system whether in the residential school or in the mainstream setting is often mentioned as a significant factor to be addressed in terms of prevention of future family violence (Hill,1999a, 1999b, 1999c).”

- **Miller, Vernon & Capella, 2005**

Miller, Katrina, R – Vernon, McCay – Capella, Michele E.

Violent offenders in a deaf prison population

2005

Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, 10-4 Fall 2005, 419-425

- Examined criminality among deaf people + causes of aggression and sexual deviance...as reflected in a prison population
- Findings...
 - “In Texas prisons, for the year 2001, there were a significantly higher percentage of deaf violent offenders than hearing violent offenders in comparison to other types of offenses.
 - A lower percentage of deaf violent offenders committed robberies than did the hearing offenders, whereas a higher percentage of deaf violent offenders committed sexual assaults. A possible explanation for the lower percentages of robberies among deaf violent offenders could be the language barrier.”
 - “Substantially more deaf violent offenders were convicted of sexual assault than was the case with hearing violent offenders... Evidence exists, which indicates that deaf children are more likely to be sexually abused than those who are hearing (Schwartz, 1995; Sullivan, Vernon, & Scanlon, 1987). Sexually abused children are at a high risk to become sex offenders (“Natural born predators,” 1994).

- “In terms of reporting sexual abuse, deaf children who are language delayed may not possess the language skills to be able to identify body parts and actions taken against them.
- “Only small numbers of educators and service providers are aware of sign language that describes sexual behavior as used by deaf people (Harry, 1984; Job, 2004). Thus, sex education and knowledge of illegal sexual behavior is often lacking.”

- **Obinna, Krueger, Osterbaan & Sadusky, 2005**

Obinna, Jennifer, Krueger, Sarah, Osterbaan, Constance, Sadusky, Jane M, DeVore, Wendy

2005

Understanding the Needs of the Victims of Sexual Assault in the Deaf Community: A Needs Assessment and Audit

Downloaded from: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/212867.pdf>

...on 4/29/07

- “It is estimated that eighty-three percent of women with disabilities will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime (Stimpson & Best, 1991).”
- “Moreover, there is evidence to suggest that women with disabilities are abused by a greater number of perpetrators and are abused for longer periods of time than non-disabled women (Young, Nosek, Howland, Chapong, & Rintala, 1997).:
- “In addition, Deaf and hard of hearing men and women may be more likely to have a history of childhood sexual abuse than their hearing counterparts (Sullivan, Vernon, & Scanlan, 1987).”
- Why deaf indi are more likely to experience sexual abuse...
 - “If Deaf individuals as compared to hearing individuals have less information regarding sexuality and less terminology to discuss sexuality, it will be more difficult for them to engage both informal social supports and formal support systems.”
- Concluded that “Deaf people have been virtually excluded from our mental health care system due to bias, lack of knowledge and skills by professionals and significant language/communication barriers” (Gerber, as quoted in Schirmer, 2001).”

- **Shakeshaft, 2004**

Shakeshaft, Charol

Educator Sexual Misconduct: A synthesis of existing literature

2004

U.S. Dept of Education (purchase order ED-02-PO-3281)

Policy and Program Studie3s Service

Downloaded from:

<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/misconductreview/report.pdf>

on 4/29/07

- Focus upon “sexual misconduct” vs. “sexual abuse” in schools...legal vs. professional def of sexual abuse

Reference & Summary by H. Johnson

- Legal def of sexual abuse
- Meta analysis results of lit re. educator sexual misconduct...900 citations...19 of which were empirical investigations...results
 - 5-6% of sexual abuse cases “become known to social services of the police.”
 - Incidence of sexual abuse...13-34% for girls...7-16% for boys
 - Perpetrators of sexual abuse...21% by educators...79% by other students
 - Summary analysis...”9.6% of students are targets if sexual misconduct sometime during their school career presents the most accurate data available at this time.”
- Description of sexual abusers...educators...+ incidence...by job titles + average age, i.e., 28 yrs
- Cites lack of data re. the extent to which children with disabilities are sexually abused...but notes that they are more likely to be maltreated than students without disabilities...
 - “Using data tables in their report [Sullivan and Knutson, 2000], I calculated that 8.8 percent of students with disabilities vs. 2.8 percent of student’s without disabilities were sexually abused. Students with behavior disorders are more than five times as likely as non-disabled students to be sexually abused, with mentally retarded students more than three times as likely.”
- Description of how sexual predators trap students in abusive situations + how they select their victims + how they keep their victims from telling others of the abuse + the physical setting in which abuse is most likely to occur
- Behavioral patterns demo by many educators who sexually abuse students
- Pattern of how sexual abuse is reported in schools + the fact 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%).”
- “When alleged misconduct is reported, the majority of complaints are ignored or disbelieved (Shakeshaft and Cohan, 1994).”
- “Few students, families, or school districts report incidents to the police or other law enforcement agencies.”
- “**Response to allegations.** Robins (2000) found that the most common reason that students don’t report educator sexual misconduct is fear that they won’t be believed.”
- “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.”
- Impact of sexual abuse upon students...
 - “At least a third of students report behaviors that would negatively affect academic achievement:
 - Avoid the teacher or other educator (43%)
 - Do not want to go to school (36%)
 - Do not talk much in class (34%)

- Have trouble paying attention (31%)
- Stayed home from school or cut a class (29%)
- Found it hard to study (29%)
- "About a quarter of students who were targets of educator sexual misconduct report academic or discipline repercussions that they attribute to the incident."
- "Health effects such as sleep disorders and appetite loss were reported by 28% of students. A substantial number of students report negative feelings of self worth because of the abuse."
- "Child sexual abuse targets lose trust in adults and authority figures, suffer physical ailments and lowered immune systems and do less well in school (Finkelhor & Brown, 1985)."
- "They often drop out of or avoid school."
- "Sexually abused children are more likely than children who are not sexually abused to be substance users as adults and to have difficulty forming intimate relationships (Finkelhor, 2001)."
- Impact of being an abuser... "In an early study of 225 cases of educator sexual abuse in New York, all of the accused had admitted to sexual abuse of a student but none of the abusers was reported to authorities and only 1 percent lost their license to teach (Shakeshaft and Cohan, 1994). All of the accused had admitted to physical sexual abuse of a student but only 35 percent received a negative consequence for their actions: 15 percent were terminated or, if not tenured, they were not rehired; and 20 percent received a formal reprimand or suspension. Another 25 percent received no consequence or were reprimanded informally and off-the-record. Nearly 39 percent chose to leave the district, most with positive recommendations or even retirement packages intact."
- List of 14 recommendations to prevent sexual misconduct by educators

• **Sullivan, Brookhouser & Scanlan, 2000**

Sullivan, Patricia M., Brookhouser, Patrick, & Scanlan, M.
2000

Maltreatment of deaf and hard of hearing children, Ch. 7, pp149-184

In Hindley, Peter & Kitson, Nick (Ed.)

Mental Health and Deafness

Whurr Publishers, London & Philadelphia

- Def of "maltreatment"... "neglect"... "physical abuse" ... "sexual abuse" ... "emotional or psychological abuse"
- Note that reduced communication abilities result in an increase risk of abuse, i.e., children are unable to understand, respond, or tell others of the abuse
- Note that the greater the need for assistance in toileting, the greater the risk for abuse
- Noted the underreporting of incidences of abuse
- Incidence of abuse...
 - Abused children were 2.2 times more likely to have a disability than non-abused children.

Reference & Summary by H. Johnson

- Children with disabilities were at greater risk of interfamilial abuse than children without disabilities.
- Children with disabilities are 1.8 more likely to endure neglect, 1.6 times more likely to be physically abused, and 2.2 times more likely to be victims of sexual abuse than non-disabled children.
- Provided a rating scales concerning the severity of abuse experienced by the individual
- Noted that...
 - "...there is a strong association between duration of physical abuse and becoming a perpetrator and/or alcohol or chemically dependent among deaf and hard-of-hearing youth."
 - "For all abuse subgroups, a high percentage of sexual abuse was perpetrated by older children or peers"
 - "Deaf and hard of hearing children are at highest risk of physical abuse by parent or parent substitutes."
- describes how/why sexual abuse occurs...how abused children often feel/react...plus common pattern of administrative response
- describes existing and needed prevention efforts
- list eight administrative strategies that can/should be used to reduce the likelihood of abuse + effectively respond to instances when they occur
- describes possible "therapeutic techniques" + "communication issues" + "family issues" + "Outcome research"

• Sullivan, Vernon & Scanlon, 1987

Sullivan, Patricia M., Vernon, McCay, & Scanlan, John, M

Sexual abuse of deaf youth

1987

American Annals of the Deaf

32(4), 256-262

- Def of sexual abuse
- Rate of abuse...hearing....1 in 4 girls and 1 in 10 boys
- Cite the results of 4 studies concerning abuse as experienced by children who are deaf
 - 54% of deaf boys and 50% of deaf girls are sexually abused
 - Sexual abuse occurred in:
 - vans/busses going to/from school...the longer the ride, the less supervision...the more likely the abuse
 - bathrooms/beds
 - most mainstreamed students were abused at home
 - most residential students were abused at school
- List of behavioral and physical symptoms of sexual molestation
- When/how/to whom deaf children tell others of their abuse + problems they experience in this telling
- Major factors contributing to deaf children being abused:
 - "Deaf children who are conditioned to comply with authority, are in subordinate positions, are fearful of threats and are susceptible to

bribes and the promise of reward. They tend to be intensely curious and are usually highly naïve about sexual norms and values. Finally, children are also sensual beings who may respond willingly to intimate contact which they often associate with feelings of being loved and cared about. These dynamics can play a major role in children's vulnerability to sex abuse and reluctance to report it."

- While children may lie about not being sexually abused, they do not lie about being sexually abused
- Need to prepare parents and professionals to recognize and report possible instances of sexual abuse
- Need for educational response to pedophiles..."...it is urgent that schools and other programs for deaf youth introduce courses on human sexuality that teach deaf children and their parents how to identify pedophilic behavior, especially in its initial stages of touching, bribing, and setting up situations that create opportunities for sexual liaisons, such as overnight visits, camping trips, etc."

- **Vernon & Miller, 2002**

Vernon, McCay & Miller, Katrina
2002

Issues in the sexual molestation of deaf youth
American Annals of the Deaf
147(5), 28-35

- Def of "pedophiles"
- Characteristics of pedophiles
 - 1/3 of sexual abusers are below age 18
 - Average age of victims is 7 to 8 yrs.
 - Individual victimizes...on the average 117 indi...231 if the indi are boys
 - Average duration over which an indi is abuses is 2 yrs.
 - 49% of juvenile sex offenders where themselves sexually abused
 - Youth who are deaf are more often sexually abused than their hearing peers
- Info re. how org. historically/usually respond to "the problem of sexual abuse"
- Info re. how pedophiles get into schools
- Info re. how to prevent pedophilia in schools
- List of behavioral and physical symptoms of sexual molestation

- **Vernon & Rich, 1997**

Vernon, McCay & Rich, Steve
Pedophilia and deafness
1997

American Annals of the Deaf
142(4), pp 300-311

- Focus..."This paper will provide data and analysis of a group of deaf persons with pedophilia and will discuss the psychological and educational implications."

Reference & Summary by H. Johnson

- Use of force by pedophiles...“Data indicate that about three fourths of pedophiles do not use overt physical coercion (Bartol, 1995; Groth, Hobson, & Gary, 1982). Lanyon (1986), in a review of the research, concluded that violence is involved in about 10-15% of child sexual abuse cases.”
- How pedophiles approach children
- Impact of sexual abuse...at risk to become pedophiles, other psychological conditions are often present in victims, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, anxiety, rage, low self-concept, substance abuse, indiscriminate sexual behavior, including prostitution, and in some cases Dissociative Identity Disorder, formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder
- Treatment of pedophiles...“Whatever decision is made in the placement of pedophiles [jail, hospital, community, etc.] must be made with the realization that their sexual preference for children is likely to persist and to be acted out.”
- Need for educational response to pedophiles...“...it is urgent that schools and other programs for deaf youth introduce courses on human sexuality that teach deaf children and their parents how to identify pedophilic behavior, especially in its initial stages of touching, bribing, and setting up situations that create opportunities for sexual liaisons, such as overnight visits, camping trips, etc.”

- Willis & Vernon, 2002

Willis, Richard G., & Vernon, McCay
2002

Residential psychiatric treatment of emotionally disturbed deaf youth
American Annals of the Deaf
147(1), pp 31-37

- Significantly higher rates of “serious emotional disturbance” found in deaf vs. hearing children, i.e., 8-22% for deaf vs. 2-10% for hearing
 - This is due to three factors:
 - Brain damage
 - Communication problems inherent in deafness
 - Greater prevalence of sexual abuse experienced by deaf children