

Reference & Summary by H. Johnson

Vernon, McCay & Rich, Steve
Pedophilia and deafness
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p. 300

“Until recently, pedophilia was a hidden problem, rarely discussed or dealt with in an open, direct manner.”

“In the senior author’s own years of experience in schools serving deaf children, identified pedophiles were frequently asked to resign and promised good recommendations if they did so.”

“In recent years, agencies serving children have begun to report cases of pedophilia to the police. This has resulted primarily from legislation mandating the reporting of pedophilia, increased litigation, and media attention.”

p. 301

“Despite the possible magnitude of the problem, there has been no published study specifically addressing the topic of deaf individuals with pedophilia or deaf victims of pedophilia.”

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

...goes on to provide the detailed case studies of deaf individuals...their experiences, compulsions and crimes...difficult, yet very important stories to read

“A recent comprehensive review of the literature indicates some 50-80% of adult pedophiles began their deviant sexual behaviors as juveniles (Becker, 1994).”

p. 308

“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.”

“Their [pedophiles] approach to children is to seduce them, sometimes with bribes, often with a degree of genuine affection. But the most basic motive underlying their relationship with children is sexual exploitation. It is often coupled with a sensitivity to children’s needs, a capacity to relate to them, and, in many ways, a desire to help them.”

“...a large number of pedophiles were themselves sexually abused as children (Briere & Elliot, 1994). In addition to being 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. Unfortunately, the extent to which the

sexual abuse causes these problems, is correlated with them, or both, is unclear for most of the respective conditions.”

“The prevalence of pedophilia in females is unknown, but believed to be rate (Johnson & Shrier, 1987; and Lanning, 1992, p. 13).”

p. 309

“Research evidence and clinical judgment indicate that the sexual preference indicate that the sexual preference involved in pedophilia cannot be changed any more that a normal adult’s sexual preference can be altered (Berlin, 1996; Weinrott, & Blackshaw, 1989).”

p. 310

“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.”

“The evidence indicates that 20% of women and 5-10% of men experience some form of sexual abuse as children (Finkelhor, 1984). With deaf children, the rate is higher (Sullivan, Vernon, & Scanlon, 1987; & Table 1).”

“...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.”