

- **Definition** – The use of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult p. 113
 - o The use of sex by an adult to gain power, dominance and control over a child
- **Statistics**
 - o 97% of offenders are male
 - o 77% of the victims are females, 1 in 3 girls are thought to be molested by the time they are 18
 - Girls are more likely to be victims of incest or sexual abuse within the family.
 - o 1 in 7 boys are molested by age 18, some researchers suggest that it may be as prevalent as girls
 - Boys are more likely to be victims by perpetrators outside the family
 - o 250,000 to 300,000 children are abused every year in the United States
 - Median age is 9-10 years old, but children are vulnerable at all ages including infancy
- **Types of Sexual Abuse**
 - o Voyeurism
 - o Exposure
 - o Suggestive or “Dirty” Talk
 - o Pornography (showing or involving a child)
 - o Fondling
 - o Masturbation – both from and towards victim
 - o Rubbing genitals on the child
 - o Penetration
 - o Rape – Any sexual activity in which force, threats of force, or threats in general are used. Penetration does not have to occur.
- **Offender Characteristics**
 - o Offender Preconditions
 - Motivation – emotional congruence, sexual arousal, blockage of normal outlets
 - Lack of Internal Inhibitors – Alcohol, Psychosis, Senility, Impulse Disorder
 - Lack of External Inhibitors – The victim’s mother, lack of privacy, isolation
 - Child’s Resistance – Children who have poor self-concept, lack of knowledge, powerlessness
 - o Offender/Perpetrator characteristics
 - Usually older, possesses more knowledge about sex compared to victim, more powerful than the victim, the act is primarily for the sexual gratification of the offender
 - o 50-70% of male sex offenders were offended when they were children
 - o Poor attachment is a root contributor of offending as an adult
 - o Usually manipulative, low self-esteem, poor social skills, unable to achieve intimacy
- **Consent and Free will**
 - o Informed Consent – means the child must have a full understanding of the significance of the sexual encounter
 - o A child cannot give informed consent because
 - Not developmentally mature enough to have a full understanding
 - Is not really free to say no
 - Since the perpetrator uses illegitimate power when initiating sexual contact, submission on the part of the child cannot be viewed as voluntary
- **Incest**
 - o Legally defined as sexual intercourse between two persons so closely related that marriage is prohibited by law
 - o Socially defined – sex between step-parents and children or between step-siblings
 - o Under-reported/ Under-treated
 - For every reported cases 25 cases go un-reported
 - Disclosure is problematic

- Absence of visible scars, victim tends to accept responsibility for the abuse, strong emotional bond between the child and the perpetrator, identification is contingent upon the actions of the victim and family members

o Myths

- Limited to rural sections of country, it's just a one or two time occurrence with a single child, it's just another normal deviation in a varied sex life, the incest taboo limits incest, incest is less traumatic than assault by a stranger, children may be responsible for the incestuous encounter

- **Factors contributing to Sexual Abuse**

- o Cultural norms that allow adults to impose their will on children, support male dominance/sexuality
- o Childhood Experiences (70% of male offenders were offended as children).
- o Vulnerable role relationships – Step, foster, and adopted children, and Non-custodial or single parents
- o Partner characteristics – Rejection, ridicule or defiance by a partner, Infidelity, Withholding sex
- o Factors that make the child readily available to the abuser - Crowded living conditions, Sleeping arrangements, Parents work different shifts, Child care arrangements
- o Factors affecting self-esteem - Loss of a job, Unemployment, Injuries/Illness, Disabilities, Rejection by peers or family members
- o Child Factors
 - A child who has been sexually abused in the past, who is neglected or deprived, is from a single parent family, has mental disabilities, has few friends
- o Family Factors
 - Family problems, Parental incapacity, Marital Status (single parent at higher risk)
 - Characteristics: Alcoholism/Drugs, Authoritarian fathers, Social isolation of the family

- **Categories of familial sexual abuse.**

- o Single Event Family – not generally known to the public service system, appear normal
 - Opposed to multi-problem families with a long history of public involvement
- o Patterns
 - Dyadic – Most common, involves two people: perpetrator and victim
 - Group Sex – Single/Multiple Offender and single/multiple victims
 - Sexual Exploitation – Children are used to produce pornography or sold as prostitutes
 - Sex Rings – Boys are more likely to be victimized, generally developed by pedophiles
 - Ritualistic Sexual Abuse – Private: Occurs frequently and in the same manner, Group: Involves more than two persons and is likely to include occult practices

- **Defense Mechanisms**

- o Behavioral – Feign sleep, Hide, Withdrawal, Submission, Some might report the abuse
- o Psychological – Denial, Repression, Regression, Rationalization, Dissociation
- o Child Incest Victims – Internal/External Behavior Problems, Psychological problems, Physical symptoms, Age inappropriate sexual behaviors, Reluctance to be with a certain person, PTSD
- o Adult Survivors – Frigidity, Promiscuity, Delinquency, Depression, Suicidal ideation/attempt/complete, Phobias, Psychosis, Eating disorders, Anxiety attacks, PTSD, Dissociative disorders (Multiple personality, Identity dissociate disorder, 95% of people with DI's have a history of sexual abuse).

- **Philosophies**

- o Child Protection Movement – Sees sexual abuse as the third form of child maltreatment
 - Sees protection of the child as paramount and the family is responsible for it
- o Feminist Movement – Considers the assault of children as representative of societal values
 - Because of the patriarchal structure, women and children have inferior status and are subject to male dominance

- **Progression (phases) of sexual abuse**

- o Process - May begin with the adult disrobing or appearing nude in the presence of a child
 - Grooming – Perpetrator tries out behaviors to measure the child’s comfort
 - Kissing/Fondling will follow
 - Masturbation/ Oral Genital Contact
 - Frottage/Dry Intercourse involves rubbing penises against the child
 - Adult will then either digitally or penilely penetrate the vagina or rectum
- o Engagement phase – perpetrator gains access to the child, engages him/her, and conveys to the child that the behavior is acceptable
 - Pressured Sex - Perpetrator uses enticement
 - Entrapment – makes the child feel indebted or obligated
 - Forced Sex - Involves the threat of harm or use of force
 - May use intimidation
 - Usually only used when necessary
 - Rape usually requires anger and the need for power
- o Sexual Interaction and Secrecy Phases
 - 2nd/3rd phases
 - The longer the abuse goes on, the more advanced it becomes
 - Secrecy phase ensures the abuse can continue
- o Disclosure phase
 - May or may not occur during childhood
- o Suppression Phase
 - Final phase – occurs when family tells the child to recant or forget the abuse

- **How society sets up children as Victims**

- o Girls – Taught by society to be vulnerable to feel guilt and shame, to be clean and attractive, to be manipulative, and to please others
- o Boys – Taught to believe they are powerful, not to be seen as victims, that molestation may lead to homosexuality, think it’s cool to be initiated by a female, to fear no one will believe them, taught to be free and that freedom will be repressed if molestation is reported to parents

- **Differences in Boys and Girls**

- o Girls – may start with oldest daughter, unable to say no, more likely to disclose abuse
- o Boys – abused at a younger age, for shorter amounts of time, usually takes place outside the family, from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds than girls, less assertive boys are more likely to be victimized
 - Usually express anger outward, whereas females are inward

- **Degree of Trauma**

- o Type of Abuse – some victims are more affected by incest than by abuse outside the family
- o Identity of Perpetrator – When the perpetrator is close the victims are more traumatized
- o Duration of the abuse – Most abuse takes place from 1 to 3 years, longer abuse creates more trauma
- o Extent of abuse – A child who is taken further along the progression claims more trauma
- o Age – Each interrupted developmental stage will cause effects
- o Reactions – If the child is not believed they might experience more trauma
- o Disclosure – Children who aren’t believed may not disclose until adulthood
- o Personality –

Incest

- What is the most common for adult perpetrators and child victims (1) number-wise; (2) percentagewise?
 - o Biological fathers/daughters is most common, Stepfathers/moms boyfriends are most common
- What is the most common type of incest overall?
 - o Sibling incest – 5x more common than father/daughter incest