

profit

**Child prostitution:** Involving children in sex acts for profit and usually with changing partners

**Pedophilia:** Literally means “love of child” and does not denote a type of sexual activity but rather the preference of an adult for prepubertal children as the means of achieving sexual excitement

## **Characteristics of Abusers and Victims**

Anyone, including siblings and mothers, can be sexual abusers, but a typical abuser is a man whom the victim knows. Offenders come from all levels of society; however, a higher risk of child abuse has been noted among families with incomes below the poverty level (Breyer and MacPhee, 2015). In addition, parents with a high school education are more likely than parents with a college education to be abusers (Breyer and MacPhee, 2015). Many offenders hold full-time jobs, are active in community affairs, and may not have prior criminal records. Offenders often are employed (or volunteers) in positions such as teaching or coaching that bring them into contact with young girls and boys. Offenders may commit many assaults before being caught.

Incestuous relationships between father or stepfather and daughter are generally prolonged, and the victims are usually reluctant to report the situation because of fear of retaliation and fear that they will not be believed. Typically, incestuous relationships begin later than other forms of child abuse. The eldest daughter is usually abused, but in her absence, another sister may be substituted. Sibling incest may also occur. Sexual abuse by relatives with a strong emotional bond with the victim, such as a parent, is often the most devastating to the child.

Boys are also victims of both intrafamilial and extrafamilial abuse. Compared with female victims, male victims are much less likely to report abuse, and they may suffer much greater emotional harm from incestuous relationships. Boys are likely to be subjected to anal penetration and oral–genital contact. They often have subtle physical findings and are abused by a father, stepfather, or mother's boyfriend.

Significant risk factors for child sexual abuse include parental