

Chapter 4

Child Sexual Abuse

Overview

- Definitions
- Scope
- Risk Factors
- Consequences
- Prevention & Intervention



Question

- What is child sexual abuse?

Definitional Components of CSA

- 1) should include sexual experiences with children that involve both physical contact and noncontact activities
- 2) emphasize the adult's exploitation of his or her authority, knowledge, and power to achieve sexual ends
- 3) age or maturational advantage of perpetrator

An Operational Definition of CSA

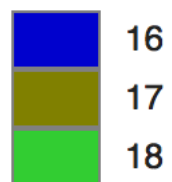
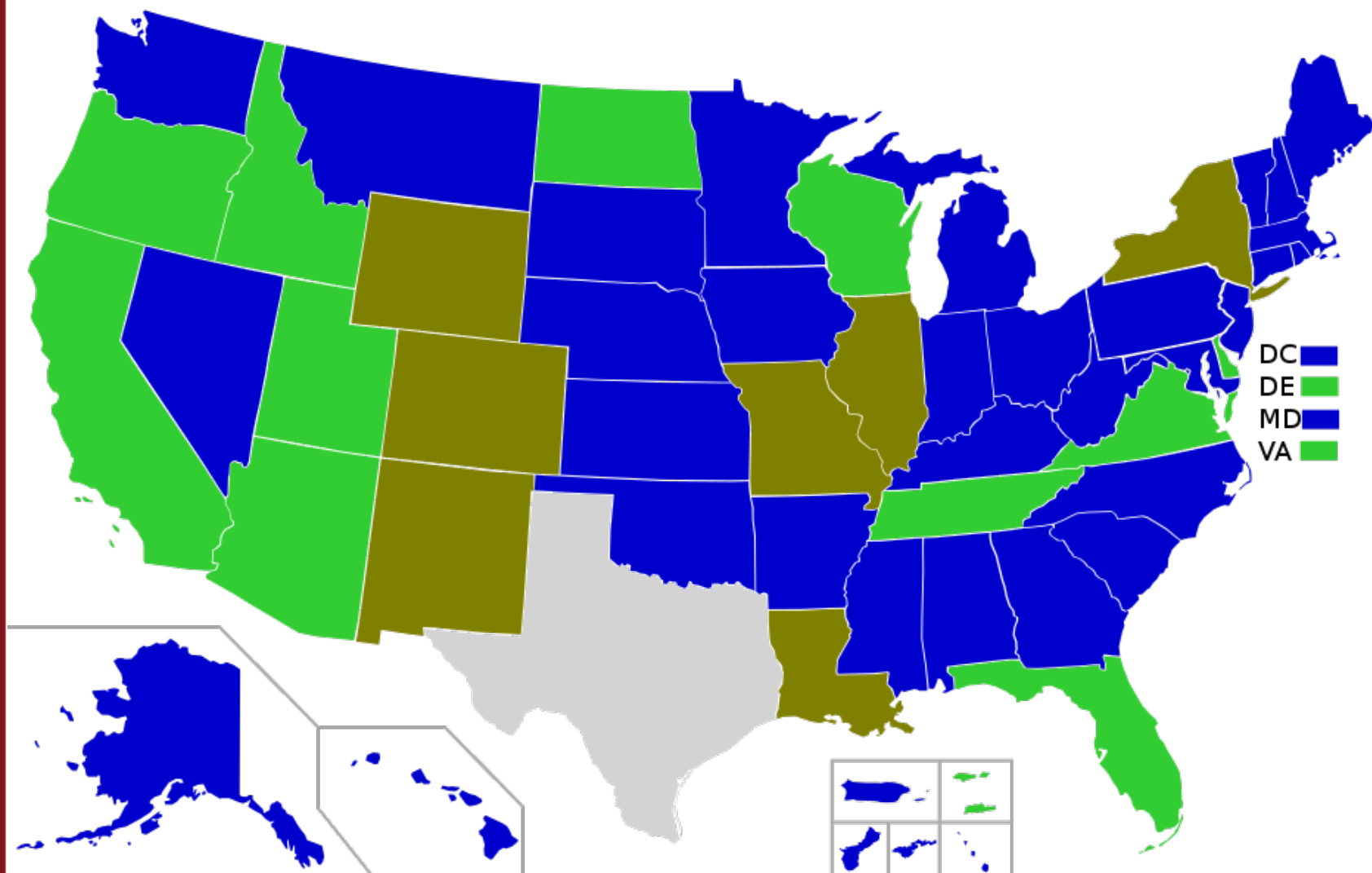
- “any completed or attempted (non-completed) sexual act, sexual contact with, or _____ of (i.e., noncontact sexual interaction) a child...”
 - CDC

Legal Perspectives in Defining CSA

- All U.S. states have laws prohibiting the sexual abuse of children, but the specifics of criminal statutes vary from state to state.
 - http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0450/cha_pter_0050/part_0060/section_0250/0450-0050-0060-0250.html

Legal Perspectives in Defining CSA

- The age of consent falls somewhere in the range from 14 to 18 years.
- Sexual contact between an adult and a minor who has not reached the age of consent is illegal.
 - http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/former-senior-high-teacher-gets-days-for-rape-of-student/article_b1f84190-ef23-5868-8799-b779c0421dc1.html



no data available / other

Scope of the Problem

- Official Statistics:
 - Approximately 60,000 total cases of CSA were substantiated (NCANDS, 2014)
 - .08% of the population (of children)

Scope of the Problem

- US
 - \geq ___% of women
 - 5-10% of men (Finkelhor, 1994)
- International
 - 20% of women
 - 8% of men

Table 4.1 Risk Factors Associated With Child Sexual Abuse

System Level	Risk Factor
Child	Demographic characteristics such as female sex, early adolescent age, sexual minority status
	Disability status including cognitive, physical, and mental health
	Psychological characteristics such as low self-esteem, susceptibility to persuasion/easily manipulated, emotional immaturity, behavioral difficulties, lonely, few close friends, passivity, quietness, trustingness, emotional neediness
Perpetrator	Demographic characteristics such as male sex, adolescent or early adulthood age, someone with a relationship with the child
	Childhood history variables such as a history of child maltreatment (sexual, physical, psychological, neglect), witnessing violence, poor parent-child attachment, early sexual experience including viewing pornography
	Sexual deviances, including sexual attraction to children and/or adolescents, fantasies about sexual activity with children, high sex drive
	Presence of disinhibitors, such as alcohol and drug use/abuse and cognitive distortions
	Social deficits, including low social skills/competence, empathy deficiencies, loneliness, difficulties with intimate relationships, emotional congruence with children
	Behavioral problems/disorders including externalizing (aggression/violence, criminal behavioral, anger/hostility, paranoia/mistrust, and antisocial personality) and internalizing (anxiety, depression, low self-esteem)
	Neurobiological/psychological markers such as deficits in IQ, increased frequency of childhood head injury, abnormalities in brain anatomy
Family	Family structural characteristics such as a female child living with a nonbiological father or single parent, absence of both parents
	Conflicted family relationships such as marital discord, divorce, intimate partner violence, absent and emotionally detached parenting, poor parent-child relationships, and absence of family cohesion, warm parenting, and family support
	Parent characteristics such as maternal lack of education, maternal unemployment, substance abuse, parental history of CSA, mental health problems
Society	Social attitudes that fail to recognize or understand CSA, sanctioning male/female power and status differentials
	Sexualization of children
	Sanctioning sexual relations between adults and children through media portrayals of children

Relationship to the Abused Child

- Approximately 60% of sexual abuse reported to authorities is committed by either a biological or non-biological parent/partner.
- However, self-report victimization surveys generally find that sexual victimization is more likely to occur outside the family.

Question

- What are some common consequences of child sexual abuse?

Table 4.2: Common Effects Associated With Child Sexual Abuse in Children, Youth, and Adults

Children and Youth	Physical	Emotional	Behavioral	Cognitive	Interpersonal	Psychiatric Disorders
	Adolescent pregnancy	Anger Depression Anxiety Low self-esteem	Sexual behaviour problems Aggression Self-harm Running away Substance abuse	Negative self-attributions Dissociation Suicidal thoughts Academic problems Cognitive distortions	Relationship problems	ADHD PTSD Eating disorders Major depressive disorder Substance use disorders
Adults	Physical	Emotional	Behavioral	Cognitive	Interpersonal	Psychiatric Disorders
	Chronic pain Gastrointestinal disorders Obesity Sleep disturbance Seizures Gynaecologic disorders Somatization	Anxiety Depression Anger/irritability Poor self-esteem	Substance abuse Suicidal behavior Self-harm Sexual dysfunction Risky sexual behavior	Cognitive distortions Suicidal ideation Negative self-attributions Dissociation	Relationship distress Sexual revictimization Partner violence	PTSD Borderline personality disorder Major depressive disorder Dysthymia Substance use disorders

References are representative rather than exhaustive: Bensley, Eenwyk, & Simmons, 2000; Chartier, Walker, & Naimark, 2007; Deblinger, Mannarino, Cohen, & Steer, 2006; Fergusson, McLeod, & Horwood (2013); Finkelhor, 2008; Friedrich, 2007; Goodyear-Brown, Fath, & Myers, 2012; Heneghan et al., 2013; Klonsky & Moyer, 2008; Noll, Shenk, & Putnam, 2013; Noll, Shenk, Yeh et al., 2010; Olafson, 2011; Sachs-Ericsson et al., 2010; Trickett, Negri, Ji, & Peckins, 2011; Trickett, Noll, & Putnam, 2011; Yancey & Hansen, 2010.

Intervention for Children and Nonoffending Parents

- trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT).

Interventions for Offenders

- Multi-Component CBT.
- Chemical castration.



Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

- Parent targeted approaches
- School-based empowerment programs
- Others target offenders
 - E.g., Stop It Now

Law & Policy

- Policies including _____, registration, and residency restrictions do not prevent sex offenders from repeating their crimes.